

2024 - 2025



# Center for COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

## Annual Report



Center for  
**COMMUNITY  
SOLUTIONS**  
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

**“Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept.”**

**- Joachim Prinz**

Emblematic of the University’s mission to develop graduates who succeed personally and professionally and contribute to the common good, the Office of External Relations works based upon the University’s role as an anchor institution within community and thus its moral responsibility to lead and serve its campus and broader community guided by sound ethical decision making and a genuine commitment to have a positive impact upon society and the lives of those who reside within it. The Center for Community Solutions (CCS), housed within the Office, is integral to the fulfillment of this aim.

CCS’ purpose is evident in its name, with the focus upon working to address community need through providing project-based, community-engaged learning experiences for students, enabling their applying knowledge and skills learned, and community partners value through achieving organizational goals and objectives with needed assistance at no cost to the community partners. The CCS is central to informing, growing, and sustaining the University’s community engagement and leadership as an institutional priority and demonstrating its genuine commitment to actualize its public mission.





# Community Partners

For Academic Year 2024-2025, the CCS is grateful to have generated mutually beneficial partnerships with the organizations listed below. The CCS would like to thank these community partners for giving WCU students the opportunity to expand their educational and professional skill sets and experience.

Arts Holding Hands and Hearts  
Borough of West Chester Administration  
Borough of West Chester Department of Parks & Recreation  
Chester County Community Foundation  
Chester County Food Bank  
Coatesville Community Education Foundation  
Community Warehouse Project of Chester County  
Crescendo Phoenixville  
East Miner Collaborative  
Exton Region Chamber of Commerce  
Launch of Philadelphia  
Neurodiversity Employment Network  
South Coatesville Borough  
Sow Good Now  
State Representative Chris Pielli, Battle of the Bulge Project  
The Newlin Foundation  
U.S. Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan, Veterans History Project  
West Chester Film Festival  
West Chester Green Team

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# Project Highlights

Through the Center for Community Solutions, faculty, staff, and community collaborations have deepened, including projects like a student's sustainability research presented to the Borough of West Chester Sustainability Advisory Council, directly informing local policy. Additional milestones include a Center alumna joining a nonprofit board and representation on a state-level nonprofit symposium panel, all underscoring the University's commitment to public engagement, equity, and experiential learning.

## West Chester Green Team



**WCU Student Yasir Kundi,  
Science and Applied Statistics Major**

Yasir collaborated with the West Chester Green Team to advance the sustainability of West Chester Borough by leading initiatives in two key areas: expanding urban tree coverage and reducing light pollution. His work contributed directly to the Green Team's broader mission by developing actionable strategies that support both environmental health and community well-being.



## Arts Holding Hands and Hearts (AHHAH)



**WCU Student Julie Stinson  
Business Management Major**

Julie Stinson supported AHHAH's mission to transform systems and uplift youth through her work on a variety of Restorative Justice programs and community events. She played a vital role in promoting and coordinating initiatives aimed at supporting the organization to build communities of mutual aid and support for marginalized youth, particularly those impacted by the juvenile justice system.



# CCS Impact:

# Community Partner Feedback

## Sow Good Now



Max has been instrumental in driving the mission of Sow Good Now forward through his passion for uplifting youth, his ability to bring data to life, his attention to detail when researching future opportunities, and for being an all around great team player. We thank Max for a wonderful year, but also thank you for the work you do in building bridges between need and support.

**- Mary Fischer-Nassib (President and Co-Founder)**

## Battle of the Bulge



The students' work was responsive, thorough, and has been advanced very effectively already as a significant work in progress. Communication and offers of support were consistent and always helpful as needed. The selection of quality student skills was spot on, and they were always enthusiastic and prompt.

**-Dr. Julie Mesaros (State Representative Chris Pielli, District Director)**

## South Coatesville Borough



August has been amazing to work with! She took initiative to learn our content management system quickly and hit the ground running. She not only created and updated pages with care and accuracy, but also developed a helpful reference sheet to support our staff moving forward. Her attention to detail, reliability, and positive attitude have made a real impact.

**- Shelly Eveland (Councilwoman)**

# CCS Impact:

## Student Partner Feedback

Yasir Kundi



My overall CCS experience was rewarding and impactful. It gave me the chance to apply my skills to real-world environmental issues, collaborate with experienced mentors, and contribute to meaningful change in the community. I learned a lot and truly valued the opportunity.

Jenna DeAngelis



The Center for Community Solutions has inspired me to stay involved in my local community even after the conclusion of my project experience, because of the deep connections I have made with others. This experience taught me invaluable lessons about fostering a strong community, especially for children, to evoke feelings of purpose and belonging.

Jasmine Stewart



The Mount Carmel Church STEM Academy was such an amazing and inspirational experience, and I've had nothing but support and love through the experience. It's motivated me to think about the possibility of teaching and being a mentor in the way I can do best, whether that's through social media or through getting my certification and going into the classroom.

# University Collaborations

The CCS collaborates with numerous University departments and centers toward such community collaboration and partnership, creating a network of mutually beneficial relationships serving the community. The CCS team sincerely appreciates the support and relationships with these entities in connecting University resources to meet community needs.

The Innovation Media Center (IMC) coordinates with the CCS to provide and assist students with the technology that they might need to complete their projects. For example, the IMC will extend equipment loans to these students, so that they can focus on the task at hand without having to use their personal devices and/or for having timely access. The IMC Equipment Technician has also offered one-on-one assistance to students and the CCS staff in areas such as technology training, software assistance, and troubleshooting.



The Office of Human Resources team oversees student employee recruitment and onboarding by answering student and hiring manager questions, monitoring hiring forms and I-9 verifications, setting up student employees in the payroll systems, and optimizing the use of federal work study funds. The Compliance team ensures our campus community is a safe place to learn and work. Student employees who must complete background clearances can visit the Office of Human Resources to complete the fingerprinting process, conveniently on campus, at no cost.



The Twardowski Career Development Center develops individual strategies to aid students and alumni in finding success by providing career and education counseling and facilitating recruiting and networking activities to build a bridge into the professional world. The CCS collaborates with the Twardowski Career Development Center to connect students with participating organizations providing impactful opportunities that allow students to apply academic knowledge and develop as professionals.





# OUR TEAM

The West Chester University Center for Community Solutions serves as a link between the University and the community. For information on how you can partner with CCS, please contact the following:



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Click for more information



The Center for Community Solutions serves the mission of West Chester University and the Division of University Affairs. University Affairs cultivates and maintains effective relationships with internal and external constituencies to enhance the overall visibility, reputation, and appreciation of West Chester University and its institutional priorities.