



INDEPENDENCE FOUNDATION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



SUSAN SHERMAN





In 2024, after more than three decades of service, President & CEO Susan Sherman announced her retirement. Independence Foundation honors her extraordinary legacy.

We are grateful to Susan for her distinguished career and exemplary leadership.



Susan is an extraordinary leader whose wisdom, insight, and unwavering dedication have significantly impacted Philadelphia.”

— Jane Golden, Executive Director & Founder
Mural Arts Philadelphia



MISSION

The mission of the Independence Foundation is to build leadership, provide services, and encourage systems and cultural change through the support of organizations in the fields of healthcare, human services, legal aid, and the arts. The Foundation invests in people and programs that protect, improve and enrich the life experiences of residents of Philadelphia and its surrounding Pennsylvania counties, with a focus on the vulnerable and excluded. Its work is based on the belief that a region that promotes physical well-being, provides equal access to justice and services, and appreciates the value of the arts will thrive for generations to come.





VALUES STATEMENT

The following principles serve as important guidelines for Independence Foundation, and reflect the values of our board and staff. We are aware of the immense responsibility we carry and the privilege we hold as philanthropists, and want to ensure that our work reaches and benefits those in need through the prudent use of Foundation resources. We make a commitment to the community we serve that we will strive to uphold these values in all our decision-making.

Diversity, Equity, and Humanity

We celebrate diversity, in all its broad definitions. We know that our work, and the work of our grantees, is stronger when it is informed by a rich diversity of individuals, perspectives, viewpoints, and lived experiences.

We value people above systems, and we understand that underlying and historical systemic barriers have barred many individuals from equal access to opportunities and resources. We strive to understand and re-imagine those systems and support those people and programs whose work seeks to change them, thus enriching our collective humanity and increasing equitable access for all people.

Trust and Mutual Respect

We rely on the unique knowledge and experience of our grantees in making Foundation decisions on how to utilize grant money and resources to best address their needs. We trust their wisdom, and approach all grantees as partners in a mutual and collaborative effort.

Intellectual Humility

We strive to create a culture of openness and learning among our grantees, and are adaptable and curious in our own thinking. We welcome the expertise and knowledge of others. We listen before we speak. We recognize the power that comes with our position as philanthropists, and seek to understand and minimize the impact it may have on our honest and equal relationships with others.

Leadership Beyond Grantmaking

We appreciate our unique position to facilitate opportunities for sharing knowledge, creating connections and collaboration, and building leadership. We facilitate forums in which individuals engaged in meaningful work learn from one another. We share our knowledge freely, and believe that shared knowledge is beneficial for all.





INDEPENDENCE FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon. Phyllis W. Beck, Chair | **Loree D. Jones-Brown** | **Catherine C. Carr, Esq., Vice President** | **Vikram H. Dewan**
Derick Dreher, PhD, Secretary | **David Logan, Treasurer** | **Susan E. Sherman, President and CEO** | **Joyce Wilkerson**





INDEPENDENCE FOUNDATION

STAFF

Jennifer Bohnenberger, Chief Operating Officer & Director of Programs | **Katherine Fritz, Administrative Associate**
Heather McDanel, Senior Program Officer | **Kate Tejada, Administrative Director and Board Liaison**
Rose Tomlinson, Receptionist | **Ann Torregrossa, Senior Program Officer**





ORGANIZATIONS
FUNDED IN 2024





259

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024

L to R: HIAS PA | PROJECT HOME





**PAID IN
GRANTS
IN 2024**

\$3,548,692



THE CLAY STUDIO

ARTS & CULTURE





ARTS & CULTURE
GRANTS IN 2024

95



we support
a variety of
opportunities for
involvement and
participation in
the arts

**ARTS &
CULTURE
GRANTS
PAID IN
2024**

\$858,000



we strive to
support and
strengthen our
arts community

**paid in
support of 7
performing
arts fellows**

\$67,000



we strive to
support and
strengthen our
arts community

**paid in
support of 6
visual artist
fellows**

\$60,000



HEALTH CARE



HEALTH CARE
GRANTS
IN 2024

17





we prioritize
funding that
makes high
quality,
comprehensive
primary care
accessible

**HEALTH CARE
GRANTS
PAID IN 2024**



\$510,120

L to R: **CARIE** | **PREVENTION POINT** | **INTEGRATE FOR GOOD**



HUMAN SERVICES





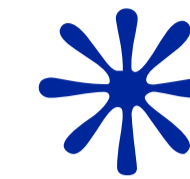
HUMAN SERVICES
GRANTS IN 2024

94





STUDENTS RUN PHILLY STYLE



we support
programs that
empower our
region's residents
to thrive

**HUMAN
SERVICES
GRANTS
PAID IN 2024**





LEGAL AID



LEGAL AID
GRANTS IN 2024

35





we fund organizations that address civil legal issues impacting individuals most in need of support

\$475,000

LEGAL AID
GRANTS
PAID IN 2024



\$609,859

PAID IN SUPPORT OF
12 PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

FELLOWSHIPS

IN 2024





L to R: BEYOND THE BARS | PAR RECYCLEWORKS





REENTRY, RECIDIVISM
& RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
GRANTS IN 2024

18





we support
programs working
to reduce the
harm caused by
incarceration to
individuals, families,
and neighborhoods

\$160,000

**REENTRY,
RECIDIVISM
& RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE
GRANTS
PAID IN 2024**

2024 GRANTEES

arts & culture

1812 productions
act ii playhouse
al-bustan seeds of culture
arden theatre company
artists u
artreach inc
azuka theatre collective
balletx
bearded ladies cabaret
bristol riverside theater
carpenters company of philadelphia
center for emerging visual artists
chester children’s chorus
clay studio
conservation center for art and historic artifacts
cosacosa art at large
eastern state penitentiary historic site
ego po
elmwood park zoo
enchantment theatre company
first person arts
free library of philadelphia
fringearts
greater philadelphia cultural alliance
hedgerow theatre
inis nua theatre company
interact
journey arts
lantern theater company
mann center for the performing arts
mighty writers
montgomery theater
network for new music
new paradise laboratories
opera philadelphia
partners for sacred places
peoples light
philadelphia ballet
philadelphia folklore project
philadelphia mural arts advocates
philadelphia orchestra
philadelphia theatre company
philadelphia young playwrights
philadelphia zoo

pig iron theatre company
power street theatre
rosenbach museum and library
smith memorial playgrounds
spiral q
taller puertorriqueno
team sunshine performance corporation
theatre exile
theatre horizon
theatre in the x
theatre philadelphia
village arts and humanities
walnut street theatre
weitzman national museum of american jewish history
wilma theater
world café live

health care initiative

carie
children first pa
community college of philadelphia foundation
face to face
jewish healthcare foundation
lch health and community services
penns village
pennsylvania health access network
prevention point

human services

achieveability
bernardine center
bethesda project
broad street love
canine partners for life
center for the blind and visually impaired
chester county food bank
chester eastside
community action agency of delaware county
community youth and womens alliance
connectedly
covenant house pa
cradles to crayons
deaf-hearing communication center
domestic abuse project
domestic violence center of chester county

eisenhower fellowships
episcopal community services
family promise montco pa
family service of chester county
food trust
friends association
habitat for humanity philadelphia
handi-crafters
hope springs equestrian
housing alliance of pennsylvania
integrate for good
ivins outreach center
lutheran settlement house
manna on main street
metropolitan area neighborhood nutrition alliance
multicultural community family services
murphy’s giving market
neighborhood gardens trust
neighborhood land power project
neighbors helping neighbors on the main line
network of victim assistance
norris square neighborhood project
pennsylvania horticultural society
peoples emergency center
philabundance
planned parenthood keystone
planned parenthood southeastern pa
project home
quest therapeutic services
red cross house
rolling harvest food rescue
seamaac
share food program
sparc services
special equestrians
students run philly style
urban creators
visionlink
womens center of montgomery county
womens resource center

legal aid

aclu pa
aids law project of pennsylvania
committee of seventy

community legal services
consumer bankruptcy assistance project
disability rights pennsylvania
education law center pa
esperanza immigration legal services
friends of farmworkers inc
hias pa
homeless advocacy project
juvenile law center
legal aid southeastern pennsylvania
legal clinic for the disabled
montgomery child advocacy project
nationalities service center of philadelphia
pennsylvania health law project
pennsylvania innocence project
pennsylvania institutional law project
pennsylvanians for modern courts
philadelphia lawyers for social equity
philadelphia legal assistance center
philadelphia vip
regional housing legal services
seniorlaw center
support center for child advocates
public interest law center
women against abuse
womens law project

reentry, recidivism & restorative justice

ardellas house
beyond the bars
books through bars
deaf can!
level up philly
making a change group
new leash on life usa
par recycleworks
pennsylvania prison society
sankofa healing studio
team up philly
uplift solutions
why not prosper
youth art & self empowerment project
youth empowerment for advancement hangout
youth sentencing & reentry project

2024 STATS

Organizations Funded

Arts & Culture	75
Health Care	14
Human Services	69
Legal Aid	30
Reentry, Recidivism & Restorative Justice	16

TOTAL **204**

Grants

Arts & Culture	95
Health Care	17
Human Services	94
Legal Aid	35
Reentry, Recidivism & Restorative Justice	18

TOTAL **259**

Total funded

Arts & Culture	\$858,000	
Arts Fellowships	\$127,000	paid in support of 13 fellows (7 performing, 6 visual)
Health Care	\$510,120	
Health & Human Services Fellowships	\$36,713	paid in support of 1 fellow
Human Services	\$772,000	
Legal Aid	\$475,000	
Law Fellowships	\$609,859	paid in support of 12 fellows
Reentry, Recidivism & Restorative Justice	\$160,000	

Total funded \$3,548,692

IN MEMORIAM

THE HONORABLE
PHYLLIS W. BECK

1927–2025





thank you

SHARE FOOD PROGRAM



wearefairtrade.org

