

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION

Blue Foundry Charitable Foundation is dedicated to transforming its communities and enhancing the lives of its individuals and families. Our unwavering dedication to supporting community-focused organizations is evident through our grant funding, supply drives, and volunteerism in partnership with Blue Foundry Bank. We are proud to announce, in 2024 we distributed over \$264,000 to empower initiatives that support our Four Pillars: Affordable Housing, Education, Health and Human Services, and Youth Programs.

We are excited about the opportunities to further collaborate, support, and uplift our community. Together, we will continue to build a future that is healthy, economically secure and socially vibrant.

## Key Highlights

- **Total Distributions:** This year, the Foundation awarded \$264,997 in grants and donations to 37 organizations in 7 New Jersey counties.
- **Community Impact:** In collaboration with Blue Foundry Bank, the Community Impact program was launched with four volunteer opportunities for Blue Foundry Bank employees.



Women's Rights Information Center  
School Supply Drive

## FOUNDATION OFFICERS

Patrice Picard - President  
James D. Nesci - Vice President

Kenneth Gimbilas - Vice President and Treasurer  
J. Christopher Ely - Secretary

Boys & Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic Volunteer Event

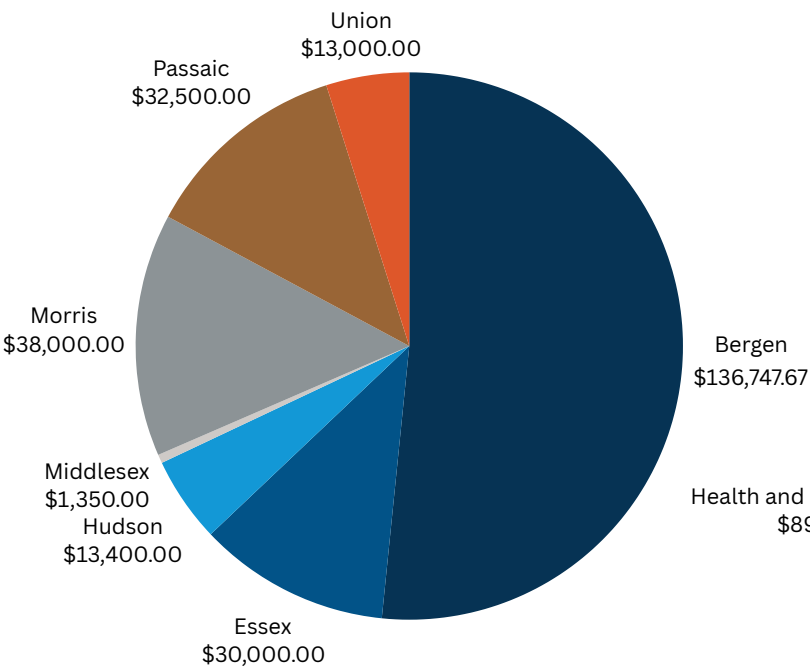


# Community Impact

The Foundation provides funding support to non-profit organizations to help grow their community impact. We take great pride in meeting with these organizations; witnessing first-hand the amazing work they do and learning more about the opportunities to help fulfill their missions. This year, Foundation representatives were able to **visit 18 organizations on site and coordinated 4 Community Impact volunteer opportunities** for Blue Foundry Bank employees.

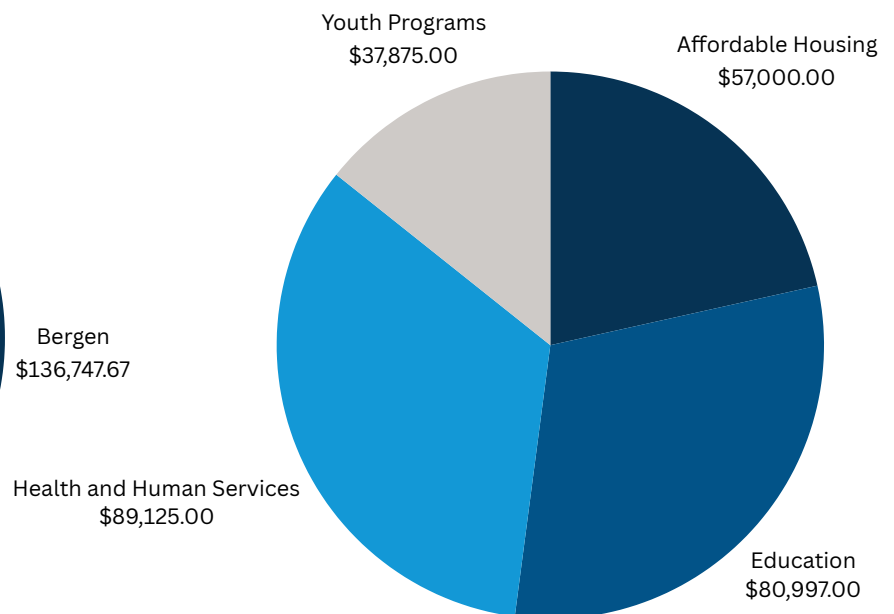
## 2024 Total Giving By County

- Bergen
- Essex
- Hudson
- Middlesex
- Morris
- Passaic
- Union



## 2024 Total Giving By Pillar

- Affordable Housing
- Education
- Health and Human Services
- Youth Programs



# GRANT SPOTLIGHTS

## The Four Pillars



Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative

### Health & Human Services

*Programs and institutions that are essential to the underlying medical care of the community, as well as initiatives that focus on physical and mental wellness.*

**Blue Foundry Charitable Foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to support the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI) 2025 Expansion Project.** This project includes adding staff resources to accommodate another 300 new patients at the Hackensack clinic and creating and sustaining clinical and patient support resources for the new Garfield clinic, which will open in January 2025.

The mission of the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative is to improve the health and well-being of uninsured, working, low-income residents of Bergen County by utilizing volunteer medical practitioners to provide high-quality primary medical care. The BVMI Healthcare Center in Hackensack treats over 900 patients annually.

### Youth Programs

*Programs that assist in improving the quality of life of children in the community or programs that foster education, learning and leadership.*

**The Foundation granted \$10,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Union** to support the Keystone Club, which creates future leaders by teaching participants, aged 14 – 18, a step-by-step process for action or advocacy in their local community. Through small group, peer-driven Leadership and Service clubs, members identify needs in their Club or community and create and implement service projects to address them. Keystone teaches leadership, inspires action, and creates change.

The Boys and Girls Club of Union County's mission is to inspire and enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. They provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.



# GRANT SPOTLIGHTS

## The Four Pillars



Morris Habitat for Humanity

### Affordable Housing

*Programs that provide, or encourage the creation of affordable, and/or low-income housing in the community are at the core of the Foundation's Affordable Housing pillar.*

**Blue Foundry Charitable Foundation provided a \$15,000 grant to Morris Habitat for Humanity (MHfH) to support core programs, including new home construction, home repair, and neighborhood revitalization. Additionally, grant funds will bolster the home repair program, enabling assistance to existing homeowners in need of critical repairs and renovations. By addressing maintenance issues and improving living conditions, MHfH will enhance the quality of life for countless individuals and families, ensuring that they can continue to thrive in their homes for years to come.**

Morris Habitat for Humanity is a beacon of hope in New Jersey, dedicated to transforming lives and communities through its impactful projects aimed at providing safe, affordable housing solutions. With a legacy spanning nearly four decades, MHfH has built a solid reputation as a leading developer in the region, serving lower- and moderate-income families with compassion and dedication.

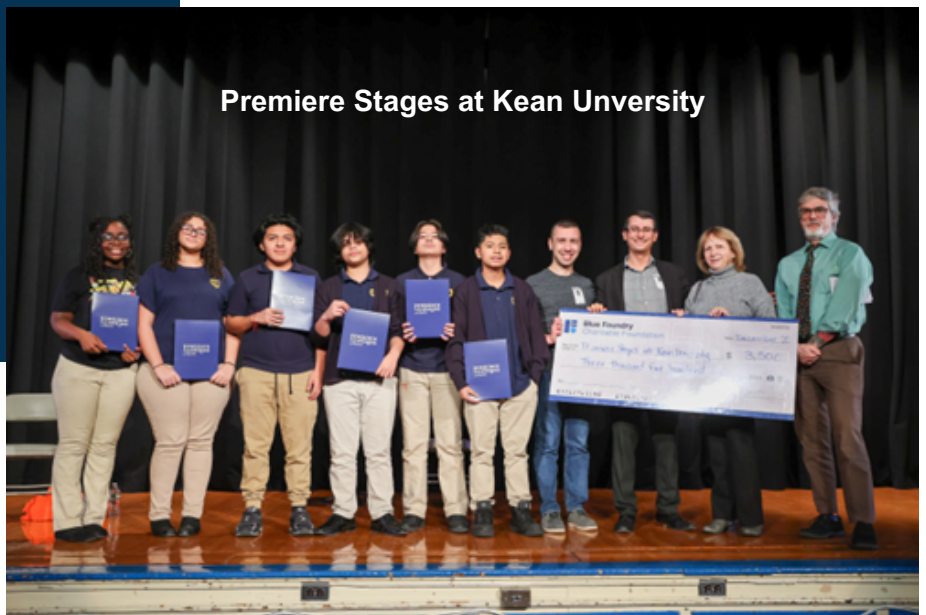
### Education

*Initiatives at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary school levels that raise the aspirations of students in the community and enhance knowledge in specific areas. These being economics, communications, business, and public speaking. We also sponsor initiatives that support the education process as a whole.*

**Blue Foundry Charitable Foundation gave More Than Bootstraps a grant of \$7,000, funding stipends that will enable three first-generation high school students and one college student to participate in the near-peer mentoring program in the underserved, low-income community of Passaic, New Jersey.**

The mission of More Than Bootstraps (MTB) is to build a community of first-generation, low-income, underrepresented students who empower each other to access and succeed in higher education. MTB employs a near-peer mentoring approach to increase access to and success in higher education for low-income, first-generation students. They train college students at institutions from Passaic County Community College to Dartmouth, to mentor their younger peers in their own community.

# Highlights & Milestones



Since its founding in 2021, Blue Foundry Charitable Foundation has distributed **254 grants to 186 local non-profit organizations totaling over \$1,370,000**. We are proud to be a community partner.

As Blue Foundry Bank continues to grow, so does the Blue Foundry Charitable Foundation. **In 2024, we awarded \$264,997 in grants to 37 organizations in 7 New Jersey counties**, home to the Blue Foundry Bank Headquarters and Bank Branches.

Beyond providing financial support, **the Foundation collaborated with Blue Foundry Bank to launch the Community Impact volunteer program**. This initiative organized four inaugural events, one per quarter, to assist local organizations through supply drives and volunteer efforts from Blue Foundry Bank employees.

This year, the Foundation was proud to approve its first grant request from the Dunellen Defender Fire Company, supporting our new community members in Dunellen, following the Dunellen Blue Foundry Bank Branch Grand Opening on November 8, 2023.

We look forward to meeting more organizations and continuing our commitment to support the needs of our neighbors and build strong communities next year.

# 2024 Grants and Donations

## Platinum Grants

Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative	\$50,000.00
	\$25,000.00*
Felician University	*Third installment of a multi-year grant totaling \$100,000

## Gold Grants

Center for Hope and Safety Inc.	\$15,000.00
Morris Habitat for Humanity	\$15,000.00
Interfaith Food Pantry	\$12,500.00
Women's Center for Entrepreneurship	\$12,500.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County	\$10,000.00
Great Swamp Watershed Association	\$10,000.00
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark	\$10,000.00
Horizons Newark	\$10,000.00

## Silver Grants

Hamilton Partnership for Paterson	\$7,500.00
More Than Bootstraps	\$7,000.00
Navigators Adaptive Sports Club	\$7,000.00
Bergen County CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates	\$5,000.00
Family Promise of Hudson County	\$5,000.00
P G Chambers School Inc.	\$5,000.00
Jersey City Fire Foundation	\$4,400.00
Boys & Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic	\$4,000.00
Eva's Village	\$4,000.00
Rebuilding Together North Jersey	\$4,000.00
The Hoboken Shelter	\$4,000.00
Passaic County Community College Foundation	\$3,500.00
United Passaic Organization	\$3,500.00
Bergen County LGBTQ+ Alliance	\$3,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey Inc.	\$3,000.00
Children on the Green Inc.	\$3,000.00
Preschool Advantage	\$3,000.00
Summit Health Cares	\$3,000.00
Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts	\$3,000.00
Literacy Volunteers of Morris County	\$2,500.00
Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization Inc.	\$2,500.00
Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Dept	\$2,000.00
Foundation for University Hospital A New Jersey Nonprofit Co	\$2,000.00
Dunellen Defender Fire Company No 1	\$1,350.00
Joan Angela D'Alessandro Memorial Foundation	\$875.00
Kate's Way	\$875.00

## In-Kind Donations

Women's Rights Information Center	backpacks and school supplies valued at \$997
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