

Community Development Projects – Fayette County Cultural Trust

West Side Parking Project: The Fayette County Cultural Trust has partnered with Bradley Paint, the City of Connellsville, and the Garden Club to turn a vacant lot into business parking in the Downtown West Side Area. Currently the West Side only has street parking, and not enough adequate parking spaces for all the businesses in that area. This project will supply an additional 20 parking places right off our main street (Crawford Avenue) in the heart of our business area. This Community Development Project will also clean up an empty lot that was once surrounded by a rusty chain link fence, and will provide some decorative plantings to make the area more attractive for visitors and shoppers.

Community Gardens: Community Gardens offer a relatively easy-entry model for improving healthy food access and generating economic and community development. Community gardens tend to yield a high return-on-investments-estimated at a one to six ratio of dollars invested to value of produce raised- and are estimated to generate revenues of up to \$90,000.00 per acre.

Farmers Market: Our farmers market offers fresh local foods and goods. Our market stimulates local entrepreneurship and serves as a vibrant community gathering place that fosters social cohesion. We have given out \$10.00 vouchers to Low Income Individuals to increase their purchasing power. Our farmers market also accepts the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers (FMNP) and gives Seniors 60 years or over a place in our downtown to use the vouchers that are sometimes disposed of. Through the partnership between the Fayette County Cultural Trust and Republic Food Services our market is also able to accept the Federal Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) which are two federal programs that are designed to help low-income families meet their nutrition needs. The redemption of SNAP and WIC benefits at our farmers market provides an economic stimulus that impacts the broader community by offering additional spending opportunities.

Fayette County Cultural Trust Initiatives:

-Fayette County Cultural Trust Web Site

Downtown Connellsville – “Main Street Program” Downtown Initiative

- Provides matching funds for façade improvements up to \$1000.00
- Provides matching funds for business signage up to \$500.00
- Quarterly News Letter
- Downtown Connellsville Web Site

Connellsville Canteen –

- Fayette County WWII Museum & Harry Clark’s Indian Creek Valley RR Display
- Rotating Museum Quality Displays - Educational
- Laurel Highlands Ambassador Program – Historic/Tourism Education
- Lunch & Learn Program – Business Education
- Seaton Hill Tim Crain Lecture Series Education
- School Tours/Boy & Girl Scout Tours Education
- Connellsville Canteen Web Site Education

ArtWorks Connellsville –

- Special Needs Classes
- Lion's Kids Fest Outreach
- Art on the Yough Outreach

City Festivals/Events-

- 1st Annual Downtown Soup Walk
- Golden Reunion – Community Building
- Mum Festival – Community Building
- It's A Connellsville Christmas – Community Building

Connellsville Crossroads Magazine- Education/Community Building**Buildings Renovated/Sold - New Businesses –****2014 –**

- Amtrak Train Station – Water Street - 1.2 Million Dollar Investment
- Pechin Express – Expansion Project Grocery Store 232 North Pittsburgh Street
- Somerset Trust -904 West Crawford Avenue
- St. John's Church Improvements – New Roof
- Waive & Janes Grocery Expansion

2015 –

- Aarons Building- Private Investment approximately 2 million dollars -139 North Pittsburgh Street
- Bicycle Bistro- 806 West Crawford Avenue
- Clark Foundry Building – Yough River Park
- Coke Oven Grill – 510 West Crawford Avenue
- Greenhouse Winery – 316 West Crawford Avenue
- Lowry's This n That- 160 West Crawford Avenue
- Trail Side Treats – 415 West Crawford Avenue
- Senator Pat Stefano – Office located at 172 West Crawford Avenue
- Somerset Trust ATM Machine Pechin Express
- Somerset Trust ATM Highlands Hospital
- St. Rita's Church Improvements – New Roof
- Pechin Express – Bought the building next to their grocery store – opening two other retail businesses
- Handicap & Curb Cuts on the major sidewalks throughout the city

2016 –

- Amtrak – Connellsville Offers Carry –on/Walk-on/Walk-up bike service
- Cobblestone Hotel scheduled to open in the fall- 325 North First Street
- Fox Pizza – 121 North Pittsburgh Street
- Sidewinders Demolition – 225 North Water Street
- Sheetz Gas Station Expansion- 1002 West Crawford Avenue
- Double Dragon Restaurant New Owners – 142 North Pittsburgh Street

Rumors Bar & Grill – 125 South Pittsburgh Street
Casini & Geibig, LLC Attorneys at Law Office – 615 West Crawford Avenue

Neighborhood Partnership Program- Partners

Wesley Health Clinic: The Wesley Health Center in Connellsville provides free primary and preventative health care for uninsured and underinsured individuals and families. Some of the services offered are – Primary Care Services, Patient Education (Family Planning, Disease Management, Domestic Violence and Health Lifestyle), Health Maintenance (Chronic Disease, Diagnosis and Treatment), Oral Screening & Dental Services (palliative (emergency), initial exams, oral cancer screenings), X-rays, Cleanings and Referrals (if necessary) to a volunteer dental provider. In 2014, the Wesley Health Center provided health care services to 410 residents of southwestern Pennsylvania, a 42% increase over five years. There were 176 new patients and 234 return patients, averaging over 3.36 visits per person and accounting for a total of 1,379 clinic visits. Regardless of household size, more than half of WHC patients are living below the Federal Poverty Level; 77% at 150% of poverty or below.

Connellsville Carnegie Free Library: Through the Neighborhood Partnership Program, the Connellsville Carnegie Free Library was able to upgrade 14 computers and provide wireless internet access to the public. These computers are used by individuals who have no internet access.

Connellsville Community Ministries - Circles Program: The Connellsville Circles Program is a National Program adapted to Connellsville, through the Community Ministries, that helps low income individuals in Crisis Management and Stabilization, Education and Job Placement and Job Retention, Advancement and Economic Stability.

2014 – 12 Families were enrolled in the program

- 7 Families remain in the program today
- One person (Craig) went from homeless to employed, renting an apartment, owning a car, pursuing a CDL truck driving license.

2015 – 4 Families began training

- 3 Families completed 12 week training
- 1 Family obtained a better paying job

2016 – 10 Families began training

- 7 Families continue in the program

Connellsville Redevelopment Authority:

Programing/Partnerships –

Rural Arts Collaborative –

New Connellsville City Web Site -