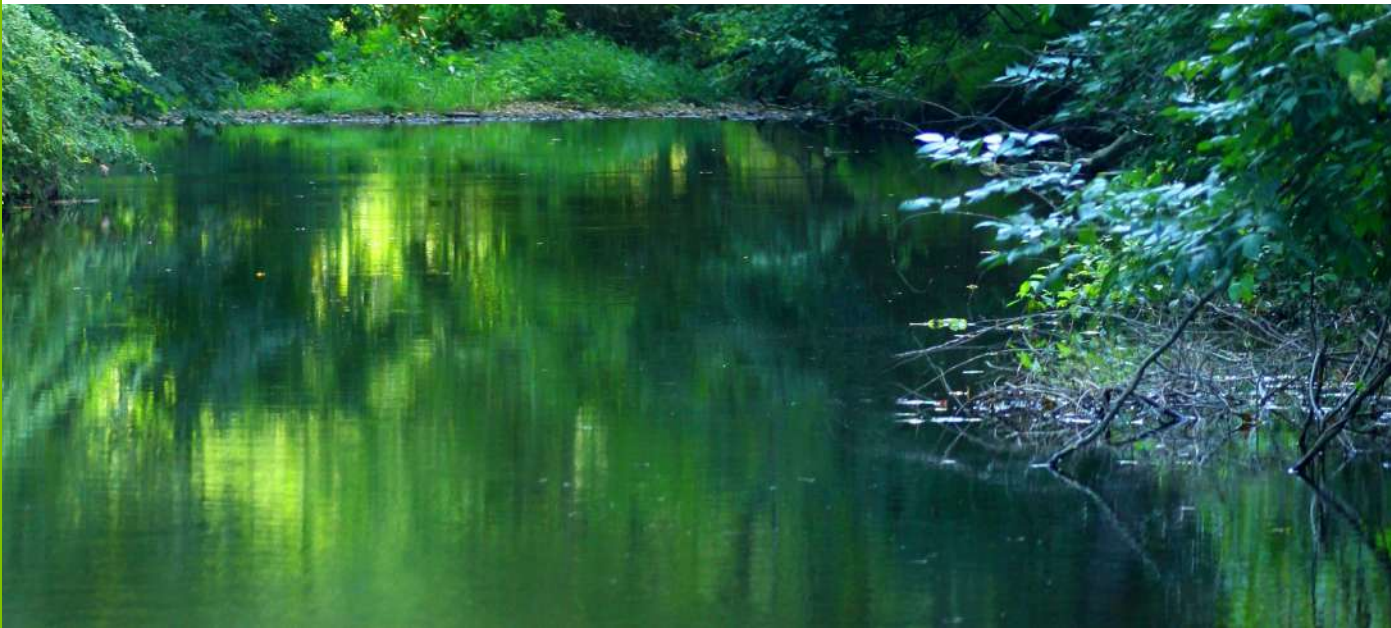
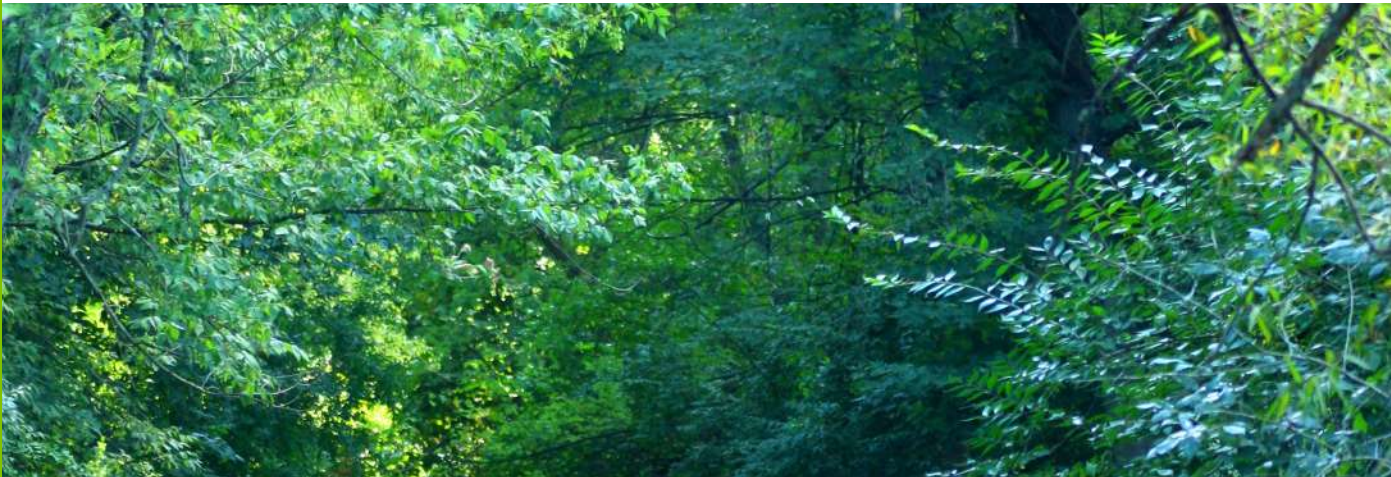




# Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association

2017 Community Update





## About CRC

### **Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association (CRC)**

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental organization devoted to the protection and restoration of our local water resources and the natural environment in and along the three major streams in the area; the Chester, Ridley, and Crum creeks and their tributaries. Our stewardship area encompasses 132 square miles and 42 municipalities in southeastern Pennsylvania covered with varying degrees of urban and suburban development, agricultural lands, and woodlands.

CRC is passionate about supporting, encouraging and promoting the enjoyment, restoration, conservation, protection and prudent management of the natural resources of the Chester, Ridley and Crum Creek Watersheds.





## A Letter from the President

Our little watershed association has ended a remarkable year! Not only did we plant a record number of trees and have our greatest volunteer turnout ever for the Streams Cleanup, we moved to an incredible new location and expanded our staff. We have a volunteer coordinator and staff responsible for the planning and execution of tree plantings, water quality monitoring, and overall program development.

All in all, a remarkable year. But that is just the start. CRC's Board spent a great deal of energy developing a strategic plan shaping the direction of the organization. We concluded that CRC needs to increase our visibility to the community regarding our programs and accomplishments by...

- Expanding our outreach to with our volunteers to enhance our stream cleanups and tree plantings
- Growing our collaborations with our municipal, corporate, institutional, and non-profit partners to support meaningful stream and ecosystem restoration
- Continuing to support environmental education especially with respect to informal educational outlets (e.g., with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, nature walks, in-field labs, etc.)
- Expanding our current water quality monitoring program to include both water quality and stream health assessments

Through these efforts, CRC will enhance our presence in, and support of, the community by expanding our capacity to conduct our core tree planting and stream cleanup programs, which are proven to improve watershed health and our human environment.

As a means to move these efforts forward, CRC has funded a volunteer coordinator program to link the park and open space maintenance and reforestation needs of our municipal partners with willing corporate, institutional and individual volunteers.

We are very excited with the prospects for the coming year! Please visit us at our new website, [crcwatersheds.org](http://crcwatersheds.org), our new location at the Garret Farm House on the Willistown Township's Okehocking Preserve, or any one of our fun events!

We look forward to enjoying the watersheds with you.  
Tracy Bouvette

President  
CRC Board of Directors



# Streams Cleanup 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A significant milestone occurred on Earth Day this year – our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual CRC Streams Cleanup! We were thrilled to continue our long tradition of caring for our local streams on April 22, 2017.

We are grateful to the extraordinary group of people (over 800!!!) who came together and volunteered on a chilly, drizzly, spring morning to remove an enormous amount of trash (over 10 tons!) from our streams and banks. We are also thankful for the financial support of local companies, organizations, and municipalities who share the same interests and values as CRC.

Each year, large, funky things are pulled from the streams and this year was no exception: Wire fencing, plastic and metal trash cans, plastic tarps, shopping carts, bicycles, microwave, car batteries, lawnmower, dishwasher, couch, V8 engine block, mattresses, fire pit, and even a kitchen sink. Sadly, year after year, we pull tires out of the streams, and this year was our highest count ever at 50. On a happier note, volunteers encountered beautiful wildlife - turtles, groundhogs, frogs, fish, a mama and baby fox heading into their den, a goose nesting, signs of beavers, and migratory and homebody birds chirping their melodies.





Following the Streams Cleanup, we gathered for a CRC Family Fun Picnic at Ridley Creek State Park. Everyone enjoyed sandwiches and snacks while participating in fun activities. Kids of all ages enjoyed an interactive Enviroscape, rock painting, fun environmental dress up photos, and face painting, and exchanging stream cleanup stories!

Hats off to Chris Townend, Streams Cleanup Chair, Gwenn Prinbeck, Family Fun Picnic Chair, and 32 Site Coordinators for their exceptional work, countless hours, and their passion to make a difference!

Overall, in 20 years we have removed 320 tons(!) of trash from our streams in the Chester, Ridley, and Crum Creek Watersheds. Together we are improving the quality of our drinking water, enhancing aquatic habitat, and boosting the overall health of our watersheds.



We



Clean  
Streams



# The best time to plant a tree was twenty



## Planting Trees

CRC is proud of our past and current tree plantings. Since 2005, CRC, our volunteers, and partners, have planted nearly 8,000 trees and shrubs in riparian and upland areas to slow and reduce stormwater runoff, reduce erosion and sediment load to our streams, filter groundwater, provide habitat, and increase shade to reduce invasives and improve the overall health of our watersheds. We see so much more growth for this program due to municipal need and community interest, that we will be planning and conducting many more large tree installations.

However, there are two areas that impact the sustainability and long-term health of our tree plantings. These relate to the maintenance of our existing plantings and the removal and management of invasive species in our local open spaces and park, and funding them. To address this gap, CRC has initiated a program to create year-round volunteer events that will focus on maintenance and invasives management. In this way, not only will CRC's volunteers be improving the survivability of our trees, we will also be improving the regional health of the watershed through the removal of invasives and the encouragement of native species.

Started at the *2016 CRC Annual Awards Dinner*, our "Tree Planting Fund" uses donations specifically for planting and maintaining trees and shrubs. For example, a tree planting in Swarthmore's Little Crum Creek Park, funded through a Delaware County Conservation District mini-grant and donations from the Swarthmore Centennial Fund and the grassroots "Move the Needle" campaign in Swarthmore which went directly into the *CRC Tree Planting Fund*, placed about 40 trees and shrubs at a fraction of the cost of other CRC programs. We hope to expand the *Tree Planting Fund* to build our capacity to plant more trees and scrubs and create many more opportunities for our volunteers.

We continue to be supported generously by the State of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as local corporations and foundations. Using these funds, we have had large plantings in Smedley Park, Upper Providence Township; Serpentine Preserve, Willistown Township; Cheyney University; and Darlington Trail, Middletown Township. Private foundations that have also supported these plantings include the Boy Scouts of America, the Martin Foundation, and a unanimous giver. TreeVitalize through the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society also provided funding to support our plantings.



years ago. The second best time is today!



## What is a Tree Worth?

A tree living for 50 years will give...

oxygen	\$31,250
air pollution control	\$62,000
soil erosion protection	\$31,250
recycled water	\$37,500
animal shelter	\$31,250
plus fruit, lumber and beauty	

A total of \$193,250



# Education and Outreach

The Education and Outreach Committee for CRC created three exciting new initiatives this year to complement our long-standing informal education events. These new activities, for which the planning began in early 2017 include Science on Tap, the Yellow Shirts Team, and the Family Fun Picnic. These initiatives energized committee members and volunteers alike, and are helping us get the word out about the important work CRC is doing in our watersheds.

**Science on Tap** – This event was held at the eclectic waR3house<sup>3</sup> venue in Swarthmore. West Chester University Professor Roger Barth, author of *The Chemistry of Beer*, shared stories about the topic he loves and explained the importance of beer's key ingredient - water. Attendees sampled a selection of specialty beers from the local brewery 2SP as well as learned a thing or two about beer. With this new event, we reached folks in our community who never heard of CRC and encouraged them to become involved in our work.

**"Yellow Shirts"** - The name "Yellow Shirts" refers to the folks wearing our new brightly colored shirts at all CRC events. As CRC ambassadors, they mingle with volunteers that attend CRC events, such as tree plantings and stream cleanups, and provide information in an informal, one-on-one setting about the history of the 'sheds, science and ecology facts, and an informed narrative regarding the impact of the work that is being done by CRC to improve watershed health. In this way, they answer questions, prompt conversation and create a sense of common purpose among the volunteers. It's impossible to miss these "Yellow Shirts". The neon color and enormous "Ask me about CRC" on the back can easily be seen from 100 yards away. (Add picture of T Shirt backs)

**Family Fun Picnic** - The Family Fun Picnic was a terrific 2017 additive to our annual volunteer streams clean-up picnic event! Stream stewards, both young and old, enjoyed a variety of hands-on activities including nature-themed face painting, painting river rocks, exploring the impact of non-point source pollution via a watershed model, and getting their photos taken wearing animal-inspired costumes. All activities were run by a handful of committed volunteers dedicated to engaging and inspiring families to play a role in caring for and enjoying our shared natural resources.

## Open House

We love our new "home". We celebrated our move with an open house tour complete with the history of the 1802 Garrett Farm House and Okehocking Tribe of the Lenape Indians, a guided nature walk along Ridley Creek, face and rock painting, great music and a fun picnic.







Immerse yourself  
in nature,  
trickling waters,  
roaring waterfalls,  
sparkles of light  
dancing on water.  
Ilan Shamir



## The Power of our Volunteers

Hauling tires, digging holes, planting trees, championing events, splashing in creeks to remove debris, weeding around baby trees, capturing fun moments, giving lectures, painting rocks, counting birds.....

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# Volunteer Coordination Program



We are building our Volunteer Coordination Program to be the catalyst for forming and sustaining partnerships within the three watersheds, bringing together residents, community groups, colleges, corporations and municipalities that have a stake in protecting and preserving the Chester, Ridley, and Crum Creek Watersheds. CRC is creating opportunities to support regional and local efforts that benefit all in our watersheds.

On Sunday  
We were  
taught  
that  
Water was  
so important

Dear Mr. Tracy,  
Thank you!, for being  
my tour guide. Now I  
know how to take care of  
water. Soooo, THANK  
YOU!  
& sincerely,  
Ellen!





Specifically, CRC's Volunteer Coordination Program has been working to connect the resources of volunteers, corporations and local colleges and universities to the needs of resident stakeholders and government agencies, improving efficiencies and enhancing synergies in both public and private spending on infrastructure and natural resources. We do this by...



*When protected,  
rivers serve as visible  
symbols of the care we  
take as temporary  
inhabitants and  
full-time stewards of a  
living, profoundly  
beautiful heritage of  
nature.*

Rivers at Risk

*Building Capacity* CRC acts as a central coordinator for many volunteer groups helping to focus volunteerism in the watersheds and provide training and increase volunteer retention throughout the year.

*Connecting Stakeholders* We establish and enhance networks of residents, municipalities and institutions within our community to harness the resources needed to maintain parks and open space with a specific focus on clean streams, tree planting and maintenance, and the management of invasive plant species.

*Sharing Best Practices* Our volunteer network engages in policy development issues, which relate to regional watershed management, water quality monitoring, and stormwater management to improve efficiencies in the investment of public and private funding into environmental management, planning and infrastructure.

# Putting our Resources to Work

## Summary of CRC Income (1,000's)

	2016-2017	2015-2016*
Contributions	\$ 17.4	16.3
Memberships	16.5	22.9
Grants	37.0	40.6
Special Events/Program Services	44.5	50.8
Other	0.8	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 116.2</b>	<b>\$ 131.3</b>

\*Does not include one-time anonymous donation of \$89,400.

# Financials

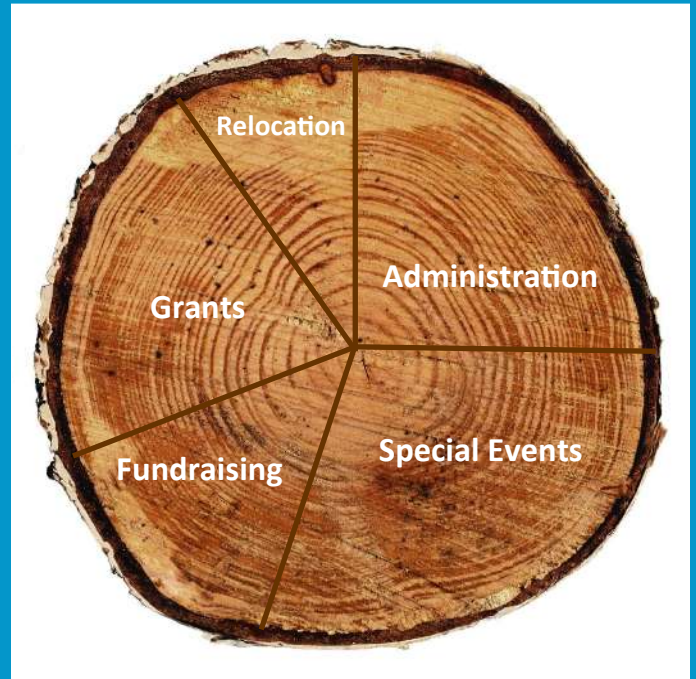
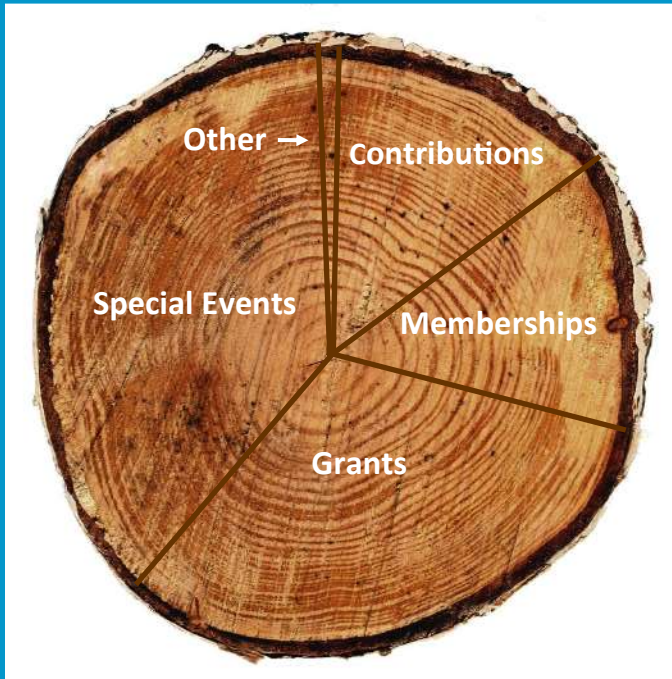
CRC realized a reduction in income in this past fiscal, year as compared to the previous, in part, with the impact on staff resources of our move to Okehocking Preserve in December and January. Income to CRC during the fiscal year 2017-2018 is expected to increase as contributions and grant related revenue climb.

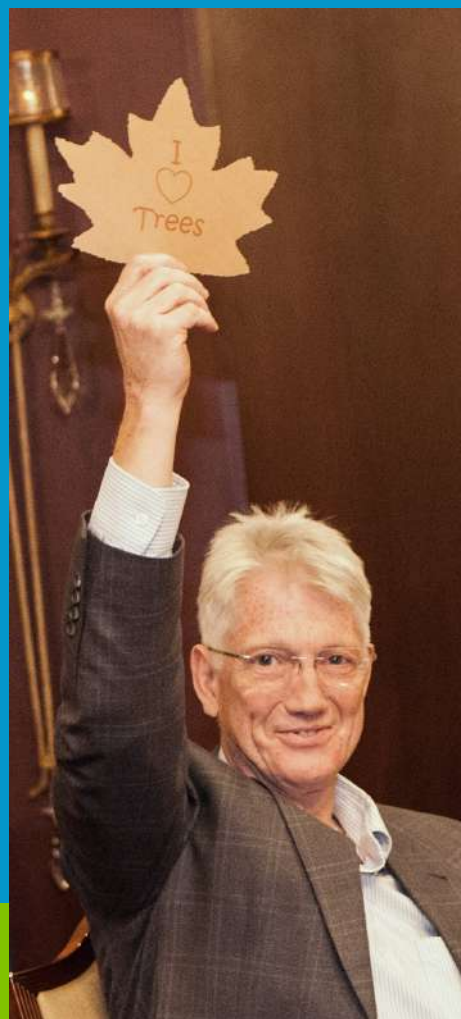
### Income Sources

Contributions	15%
Memberships	14%
Grants	32%
Special Events/Program Services	38%
Other	1%

### Expense Efficiency

Admin	25%
Special Events/ Program Services	30%
Fundraising	14%
Grants	21%
Office Relocation	10%





In every walk with nature  
one receives far more that he seeks.  
John Muir

# Donor Gifts

## \$2500 and above

Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.

Ted and Lindsay Leisenring

## \$1,000 to \$2,499

Tracy Bouvette and Rebecca Carovillano  
Central Delaware County Authority  
Carole Clarke  
Julia Davidson and Jay Lippman

George and Miriam Martin Foundation  
Lynn and Tony Hitschler  
Arthur and Douglass Newbold  
PECO

Philadelphia Foundation- Dapplecroft  
Sartomer USA  
Swarthmore College  
West Chester Borough

## \$500 to \$999

Acme  
Beauty Art, Gifts & Décor  
Clarke and Barbara Blynn  
Chester Water Authority  
Delaware County Conservation District  
Ray Dombroski and Colleen DeMorat  
East Goshen Township  
Elwyn Pharmacy  
Flyway Excavating  
David and Gail Gasser  
George Rothacker

Kimberly-Clark  
Media Borough  
Mott MacDonald  
Moving the Needle  
Anne and Gary Murphy  
Michael and Ami Napolitan  
Newtown Township  
Nolan Painting  
Octoraro Native Plant Nursery  
Pennoni Associates, Inc.  
Riddle Village

Ridley Park Borough  
Seltzer & Associates  
Society of Women Environmental Professionals  
Stantec Consulting  
Taylor GeoServices, Inc.  
Philip and Merle Taylor  
Chris and Johanna Townend  
Videon Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram  
Voya  
Willistown Conservation Trust  
Willistown Township

## \$250 to \$499

Agilent Technologies  
Bartlett Tree Expert Company  
Suzanne and Tom Barton  
Brandywine Conservancy  
Chester County Water Resources Authority  
Chester Heights Borough  
Concord Township  
Charles and Sabine Cranmer  
Walt Cressler and Claire Brill  
Crum Creek Neighbors  
Colleen Del Monte  
Edgmont Township  
Gilmore & Associates  
GreenWeaver Landscapes, LLC  
Joseph and Susan Hare

PA Senator Tom Killion  
Julia Leisenring  
Malvern Borough  
Marple Township  
Martina Martin  
Robert and Leanne McMenamin  
Meliora Environmental Design, LLC  
Middletown Township  
William and Diane Mowbray  
Britton and Janice Murdoch  
Natural Lands  
Nether Providence Township  
Okehocking Nature Center  
Einar and Analia Peters  
Princeton Hydro, LLC

Provident Energy Consulting  
Ridley Township  
Rose Valley Folk  
Springfield Township  
Swarthmore Borough  
Thomas Comitta Associates  
Thornbury Township, Chester County  
Thornbury Township, Delaware County  
Upper Providence for Open Space  
Upper Providence Township  
Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership  
Villanova Sustainable Engineering  
West Goshen Lions Club  
West Goshen Township  
Westtown Township



# Ordinary People making an Extraordinary Impact

## \$100 to \$249

AGC Chemicals Americas, Inc.  
Arasapha Farm  
Aston Township  
Donald and Judith Auten  
Norman and Sidne Baglini  
Liz Ball and Rick Ray  
Bob Brillman and Diane Matarazzo  
Broadacres Troutng Association  
Michael Broennle  
Susan and Martin Bruegel  
Sally Burkam  
Dan and Linda Butler  
Richard L. Cassel  
William Cavanagh  
Edward Collier  
Colonial PA Plantation  
John Custer  
Carl and Rosalie duPoldt  
David and Gina Eberly  
Janet Elliott  
Renee and Richard Erickson  
Tony and Sharon Fernandes  
Fine Tree Care, LTD.  
David Firn  
Donald and Janet Frisch  
Garden Club of Springfield  
Clifford and Janet Gibian  
Mac Given and Barbara Scott  
Robert and Kathryn Goddard Doms

Kerry and Becky Haber  
Brian Hall and Celia Chen  
Marshall and Betsy Hamilton  
Haverford Township  
Robert and Karen Holm  
David and Elizabeth Hucker  
Mary Hundt  
Ann Jackson  
Paula and Craig Jackson  
John and Kelly Keller  
Susan and Larry Kelly  
James Kisela  
Jessica Krupinski  
Ron and Suzanne Lafferty  
Trisha and Jim Lambert  
Lansdowne Borough  
Roger Latham  
Lora Lavin  
Preston Luitweiler  
Charles and Gay Marshall  
Scott Messer  
Middletown Township Land Conservancy  
Mostardi Nursery  
Beth and Steve Murray  
Open Connections  
Art and Linda Polishuk  
Catherine Potter  
Gwenn and Cosmo Prinbeck  
Providence Garden Club of PA

Qual Tech Tabs, Inc.  
Rafferty Subaru  
Brad Randall and Berrie Torgan  
David and Therese Rawson  
Donald and Jill Red  
Robert and Suzanne Redfern  
Thomas Reeves  
James and Leen Lo Rieben, Jr.  
Rose Valley Borough  
Trudy and Laird Slade  
W. John Smith  
Fay and John Snyder  
Jodi Spragins and Brook Gardner  
Christian Stoeckert and Nancy Hirschman  
Ernest and Judy Telgheider  
The Country Press  
Virginia Thompson  
Tredyffrin Township  
Robert and Carolyn Turner  
Upper Chichester Township  
Brian Vadino  
Jeff Vincent  
Tana and MichaelWall  
Jean Wallace  
Weeds, Inc.  
White Horse Village  
White Manor Country Club  
Rich and Sue White  
Cas and Suzanne Wolanin

## Less than \$100

Kathy Adams-House  
Eunice and Henry Alexander  
Larry Andersson  
Cecilia Armstrong and Joshua Gold  
Jessica Aronfreed and Roger Sealy  
Elisa and John Barbis  
Tom Bare  
Drusilla Barmby  
Sam and Rena Barnett  
Larry Barrett  
Evan and Emily Bash  
Randy and Anne Bates  
Jon Bauer  
Sheila Bell  
Robert and Carole Berley  
Bob Berman  
Dani-Ella Betz  
Grace Borgh  
Brookhaven Borough  
Miles Bowman  
Robert Briselli  
Tom and Kristen Brooks  
Dave and Mary Burk  
Brian Byrnes and Katie Tarr  
George and Barbara Byrnes  
James Castellan  
Castle Rock Association  
Charles and Renee Catania, Jr.  
Robert Caughey  
Chadds Ford Township  
Charlestown Township  
Chester County Conservation District  
Samuel and Patricia Cimino  
Bill and Mary Clinton  
Carolyn Comitta  
Randall Cox  
William Coyle  
David Creagan  
Nancy Crickman and John McKinstry  
Leo and Ronnie Dadone  
Jacqueline Dejesse  
Delaware County Planning Dept  
Charles and Diane DeMirjian  
Vincent and Debbie DiFilippo  
Patricia Dirosa  
Erik Drew  
Margaret Dunn

Anne Dzamba and Ronald Miller  
East Whiteland Township  
Emily Emrich  
Nancy English  
Jane and Jim Fava  
Michael and Karen Feeley  
Elizabeth Feinberg  
Bob and Jane Ferry  
Linda Fitzgerald  
Jeanne Frantz  
Lisa Gaffney  
Edward and Carolyn Gilardi  
Glenolden Borough  
Susan Graham  
Lawrence and Ann Green  
Gregory Grillone  
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Newlin Grist Mill  
Virginia Strong Newlin  
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Penn State Brandywine  
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Kenneth and Anne Rawson  
David and Diane Redash  
Louisa Ridgway  
Raymond Rofini  
Deborah Samans  
Andrew Saul  
Ross and Kim Schmucki  
Lori Schnick  
Barbara Seymour  
Henry and Rosemary Siegel  
Susan Sliwinski  
Beverly Spear  
Robert Specca  
Chotty and Richard Sprenkle  
Strath Haven Middle School  
H. Jay and Judith Surrena  
Edward Swager  
Douglas and Jeanne Swope  
Micheal Tadei  
Peter Talbot  
Taylor Arboretum  
Craig and Judy Thomas  
James Thorne and Rosemary Fitzgerald  
Sergio and Karen Tobia  
Marian Toland  
Trainer Borough  
Joan Urban  
James and Andrea Valentino  
Vivian and Ray Williams  
Willistown Chase HOA  
JC Woodward  
Eric and Susan Ye  
Yerkes Associates  
Joe and Judy Yorke  
Eli and Melissa Zeserson  
Ewald Zittlau

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