

2025 - 2026



# Center for COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

# Annual Report



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**“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 2025-2026, 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
- Chester County Community Foundation
- Chester County Economic Development Council (CCEDC)
- Coatesville Community Education Foundation (CCEF)
- Dr. James Newton African American Book Collection
- East Miner Collaborative
- Half a Million Kids
- Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy
- Lundale Farm
- The Creative Club of Chester County
- The Newlin Foundation
- Neurodiversity Employment Network of Philadelphia
- Phoenixville Community Health Foundation
- Sow Good Now
- Uwchlan Township
- Wm. Chester Ruth Legacy Project
- West Chester Film Festival
- West Chester Green Team



# Project Highlights

Through the Center for Community Solutions, partnerships continued to grow in both scope and impact. Student projects this year focused on strengthening organizational capacity through data systems, strategic communications, and program coordination, helping partners operate more effectively and expand reach. These efforts supported initiatives related to environmental sustainability and inclusive workforce development, while providing students with meaningful, hands-on experiences that translate knowledge into real-world impact.

## Lundale Farm

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



Yasir partnered with Lundale Farm to strengthen the farm's data infrastructure and support more informed, sustainable land management. He designed and developed a comprehensive GIS map that integrates key information across the property, including soil health, farmer usage, utility lines, and forest conditions.



## Neurodiversity Employment Network of Philadelphia

**WCU Student Melena Walter  
Health and Physical Education**



Melena partnered with the Neurodiversity Employment Network of Philadelphia (NENPHL) to expand access to inclusive, disability-affirming professional development opportunities for early career professionals. Supporting a small but growing nonprofit, she played a key role in strengthening outreach, communications, and event coordination efforts.



# CCS Impact:

# Community Partner Feedback

## Phoenixville Community Health Foundation



Our experience with the Center for Community Solutions was wonderful! The support from the center was invaluable, and our intern Jihan is a great addition to the team. I am thrilled to support Jihan's professional growth and hear her insights as we continue our work.

**- Sam Anthony (Program Officer)**

## West Chester Film Festival



The West Chester Film Festival is a proud WCU Community Solutions Partner. The work that students help us do, in an internship role throughout the academic year, is vital to our mission of reaching the arts community both within West Chester and far beyond it!

**- Olivia Carzo (West Chester Film Festival Board Member)**

## Arts Holding Hands and Hearts, Inc.



AHHAH is so grateful for the continued partnership with the Center for Community Solutions. Each year a symbiotic relationship develops watching the students grow and learn while growing and learning from them.

**- Jan Michener (Executive Director)**

# CCS Impact:

## Student Partner Feedback

Grace Lerew



Overall, I'm so grateful for my time at the Chester County Community Foundation through the Center for Community Solutions. It not only helped me grow professionally, but also showed me how powerful community-driven work can be. I'll definitely carry this experience with me moving forward.

Melena Walter



This internship allowed me to be able to live and work at home and still make an impact in my community. For my work with the Neurodiversity Employment Network, I have been able to outreach in my community and share all the resources that my nonprofit has to offer. This internship experience was exactly what I needed my senior year.

Morgan Williamson



This experience has been overall an amazing confirmation. Getting to see the care this foundation has for their community has confirmed to me that I need my future career to be rooted in helping others and building community. I have enjoyed working with CCEF and getting to witness their passion for positively impacting their school district.

# 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 Information Services and Technology (IS&T) department partners closely with the CCS to support the implementation and ongoing management of critical technology systems. This year, IS&T was pivotal in helping CCS design and launch a new platform to streamline data management, student and partner tracking, and project coordination. This collaboration strengthened CCS's operational efficiency and enhanced its ability to manage programs, track impact, and support students and community partners effectively.

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IS&T

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 this office to complete the fingerprinting process, conveniently on campus, at no cost.

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Human  
Resources

The Twardowski Career Development Center (CDC) 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 CDC to connect students with participating organizations providing impactful opportunities that allow students to apply academic knowledge and develop as professionals.

TWARDOWSKI  
CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER

# 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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Chief Information Officer



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.