

# The Comm

Quarterly Newsletter

*Celebrate July 4th*

# 250

# 1776 ★ USA ★ 2026

## ★ ANNIVERSARY ★



# Donor Spotlight: Heather and Warren Acker

## Leading by Example at the Waverly Community House

**Heather and Warren Acker** have long been loyal and steadfast supporters of the Waverly Community House. Their deep roots in the community, combined with a strong belief in The Comm's mission, made them natural leaders for the 2025 Sustaining Fund Campaign. In 2025, the Ackers not only gave generously themselves, but also dedicated countless hours of time, energy, and personal outreach as co-chairs of the campaign, helping ensure the continued strength and vitality of one of Waverly's most treasured institutions.



"Our ties to The Comm are long and deep," Heather shared. "Warren grew up on the square next to the Deli and remembers Halloween parties, swimming, tennis, and so many family and community activities there. Our own children spent countless hours at parties, dance programs, and events at The Comm. It has always been an important part of our lives."

That lifelong connection inspired the Ackers to step into leadership roles for the Sustaining Fund. Their approach was rooted in one simple but powerful idea: personal connection matters. "We focused on re-engaging lapsed donors and encouraging current donors to increase their support," they explained. "In a small community like Waverly, the 'ask' is best received through personal contact. An initial letter helps warm people up, but a phone call, a handwritten note, or a personal conversation reminds donors that their involvement is truly critical and deeply appreciated."

Throughout the campaign, the Ackers emphasized the central role The Comm plays in the greater Waverly community as well as the growing financial needs required to sustain it. From building maintenance and staffing to programming and events, they encouraged donors to understand that strong community support is essential to keeping The Comm vibrant and accessible for future generations.

Like many nonprofit leaders today, the Ackers faced challenges along the way. "We are in a difficult economic period, and there are many worthwhile organizations asking for support," they noted. "People

want to understand how their donations are being used."

Still, they found that meaningful communication and careful organization made all the difference. "There is no substitute for organizing a campaign carefully, building a strong group of volunteers, and working hard to meet benchmarks," they said. "Social media and email are effective tools, but personal contact is often the most meaningful to donors."

The Ackers' own generous contribution to the Sustaining Fund reflects a commitment that spans more than four decades. Since returning to the area, they have consistently supported The Comm because they believe in what it represents: connection, belonging, and shared community life.

"We love this community and have rekindled and built many friendships here," they shared. "We are encouraged to see so many new, young faces becoming involved and helping make Waverly special. The Community House is at the core of that feeling. Supporting it is essential."

Just as importantly, the Ackers hope their example inspires others to contribute in whatever ways they can. "It's important to lead by example," they said. "We take nothing for granted, and many contributions of time, talent, and resources add up."

Looking ahead, they remain focused on The Comm's future and the role community support plays in sustaining it. "Without hard work and a successful Sustaining Fund, The Comm could be at risk of continuing the robust activities and programs we all enjoy," they said. "Without strong support, The Comm would not be the gathering place that draws us all together."

For those considering getting involved, the Ackers offer heartfelt encouragement:

"The Comm is a special place. It truly has something for everyone. Take time to explore and enjoy the many activities it offers. Think about the void in our community if it were to go away. Being involved is a wonderful way to meet people, and when you work to help others, you often benefit as much — or more — than the people you assist."

Thanks to leaders like Heather and Warren Acker, the spirit of community continues to thrive at the Waverly Community House.

### HVAC Renovation Project Begins at the Waverly Community House

The Waverly Community House is excited to announce that our long-awaited and much-needed HVAC renovation project will officially begin this spring and continue through 2026.

This important upgrade is essential to maintaining a safe, comfortable, and accessible environment for the many community members who utilize the Comm each year. Replacing the building's aging HVAC system will help ensure that the Comm can continue serving as a welcoming gathering place for generations to come.

As work progresses over the coming months, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our community. Ongoing donations from generous supporters have played a vital role in helping make this project possible. We also extend our sincere appreciation to

the team at Scranton Electric for their thoughtful and strategic approach to the renovation process. Their careful planning will allow the building to remain operational and available for community use throughout construction whenever safely possible.

We understand that projects of this scale can bring temporary adjustments, and we appreciate the patience and encouragement we have already received from so many members of our community.

We look forward to sharing updates as the project progresses and celebrating its completion later this year.

If you have any questions regarding the HVAC renovation project, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Waverly Community House team.

# Introducing the New Memorial Garden

The Waverly Community House has long been a place where memories are made, traditions are celebrated, and generations of families come together. Thanks to the generosity and support of our community, the Comm continues to serve as a welcoming gathering place for connection, creativity, and shared experiences.

This spring, the Comm is proud to begin a special project to restore and enhance the memorial garden surrounding the theater space. Originally dedicated in memory of Frances Jermy Belin in 1958, the garden has remained a meaningful and peaceful part of the Comm for decades. The renewed space will honor that legacy while creating a beautiful setting for reflection, remembrance, and community gatherings for years to come.

The garden renovation will include refreshed landscaping, thoughtful enhancements to the space, and the introduction of memorial opportunities that allow families and friends to honor loved ones in a lasting and meaningful way. In addition to supporting the restoration itself, memorial contributions will help establish continued care and maintenance of the garden so it can be enjoyed by future generations.

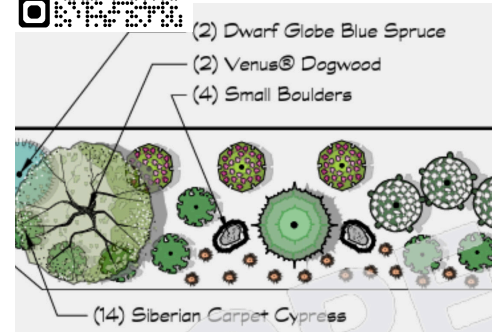
Construction and landscaping improvements are expected to be completed in time for a summer reopening and community celebration. We look forward to welcoming visitors back to this cherished space and celebrating the many individuals whose memories and legacies will continue to be honored here at the Comm.

Those wishing to make a memorial contribution in honor of a loved one may do so by scanning the QR code below or by contacting the Comm directly for additional information.

Ways to contribute in memory of someone:



<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2022memgarcam/>



## ★ New Hires

### *Christine Sheehan*

**Special Events Coordinator ·  
Waverly Community House**



We are pleased to welcome Christine Sheehan as our new Special Events Coordinator. A Dalton native, Christine brings a strong blend of event

planning expertise, community leadership, and fundraising experience to our team.

Christine has built an impressive record of community-centered event planning and organizational leadership through her extensive work with the Lake Winola Cottagers Association (LWCA), where she serves as Secretary and Social Media Manager. She maintains the LWCA website and takes the lead in planning, promoting, and executing a full calendar of annual and special events. Events she has organized and managed include the Coffee Social, Dinner Dance, Water Carnival, Regatta, and additional new programming developed under her initiative.

Christine has also been a driving force in the Lake Winola Park and Trail initiative, serving as Project Leader for the Community Playground Project. Her most notable achievement in this role was

organizing and executing “Poppy’s Party in the Park” — a community fundraising event that rallied widespread local support and raised over \$15,000 in a single evening to fund park improvements. Christine holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Pennsylvania State University.

### *Gregory Palaskas*

**Arts Program Coordinator ·  
Waverly Community House**

The Comm is thrilled to welcome



Gregory Palaskas as our inaugural Arts Program Coordinator—a newly created position that reflects our commitment to growing arts and culture programming and

deepening our presence in the community. A Dalton native, Greg brings over 25 years of experience as an arts professional, educator, and community event organizer.

Greg currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Keystone College, where he teaches social media, analytics, audio/visual art, and media production. He also oversees operations of the college’s music station, bringing hands-on media expertise to everything he does.

As an event producer and talent buyer, Greg has booked musicians and comedians for over 20 years and has become a familiar creative force in the region. He is the founder and manager of the annual Dalton and Nicholson Halloween community events, and has established Music in the Park and other recurring live music series.

Greg will lead our annual NEPA Film Festival, oversee our Summer Concerts on the Lawn, and work to build out a broader arts and culture calendar that expands our reach and engagement across the community.

### *Jennifer Miller*

**Upstairs Thrift Manager**



Please join us in welcoming Jennifer Miller to the Waverly Community House team as our new Manager of Upstairs Thrift. Jennifer is the owner of The Umi Collective, her own jewelry

boutique, and comes to us with hands-on experience in sourcing and curating vintage goods, shop management, and social media marketing. She is stepping into this role with creative energy and big ideas, and we are excited to see the shop continue to grow under her leadership.



PO Box 142 | Waverly, PA 18471  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit #08  
Clarks Summit, PA

## Comm Camp Weekly Themes

### Week 1: Outer Space

June 22–26

Explore Star Wars, planets, galaxies, and adventures beyond the stars.

### Week 2: Olympics

June 29–July 2

A week of fun games, sports challenges, teamwork, and Olympic-inspired activities.

### Week 3: Jurassic Park

July 6–10

Step into a prehistoric world filled with dinosaurs, fossils, and Jurassic-themed fun.

### Week 4: Under the Sea Beach Party

July 13–17

Make a splash with water activities, beach party fun, and underwater adventures.

### Week 5: Wild Wild West

July 20–24

Head down on the range for cowboy adventures, western games, and a backyard BBQ.

### Week 6: Summerween!

July 27–31

Celebrate Halloween in the summertime with spooky games, costumes, and festive fun.

### Week 7: Pirates and Princesses

August 3–7

Set sail on pirate adventures or enjoy royal celebrations fit for princes and princesses.

Sponsorship  
Opportunities:



## Memorials and Celebrations

### *In memory of Dr. Harold "Skip" Nelson:*

John and Lyn Coyne

### *In memory of Jeff Haudenshield:*

John and Susan Scanland

### *In honor of Pat Atkin's Birthday:*

Heather and Warren Acker

Dorrance and Susan Belin

Peter & Sally Bohlin

Warren Breig Jr.

Todd and Kathleen Chambers

William Chamberlain & Kathryn LeSoine

John and Pamela Fitzgerald

David Gibson

Leslie and David Gibson

Joseph R. & Emily Karam

Sarah Marquardt

Julia Moffat

Dr. Gino Mori

Margaret and Terrance Neville

Kathleen Nelson

Lynn Nichols

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Quinn

Maryla and William Scranton

James and Maria Wilson

### *In memory of Dorrance Belin:*

Heather and Warren Acker

Peter and Judy Aydelott

Gordan and Judith Aydelott

Hedrick Belin and Mary Bissell

Shelley Boots

The ChildFocus Team

Thomas and Barbara Decker

Carol Nelson Dembert

Gail Dickstein

Michael and Rosemary Gallagher

Geisinger Health Foundation

Constance Gibb

James and Cynthia Gillotti

Owen and Victoria Gutfreud

John and Dee Hennemuth

Anne Hewitt

Sue and Lou Houck

Fafi and Tom Karam

Knowles Insurance

Edward and Lynda Lynett

George and Patricia Lynett

Mary Lynn Morgan

Lynn Nichols

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Quinn

Jim and Karen Reid

Mary Rhodes

Linda Sproul

Mark and Bray Stahler

Dorothy and Larry Stetler

Joyce Tressler

Megan Wolfe

Dr. and Mrs. Melvyn Wolk

James and Maria Wilson

### *In memory of John & Olga Viola:*

Joanne Viola

### *In memory of Patricia Lewis:*

Margaret Roth

### *In memory of Margery Belin Clarke:*

Devereux Clarke

Donna Belin Clarke Stroud

Margaretta & Thomas Chessler

### *In honor of Paul Kairis:*

James and Maria Wilson

### *In honor of Dr. Farrell's Birthday:*

Pat Atkins

### *In honor of Betsy Curtin:*

Faye and Richard Bishop

### *Memorial Garden Contributions:*

Laura and Peter Frieder



## Summer Events Calendar

**June 14** Waverly Comm Car Show, 9 am–1 pm

**June 18** Outdoor Summer Concert –Mace in Dickson

**June 26** "A Life in Art" Works by Robert Stark, 5pm-7pm

**TBD\*** WSWG Exhibition Opening – Nan Burti

**Aug 8** Waverly Wine Festival

**Aug 16** Waverly Comm Car Show, 9 am–1 pm

**Aug 20** Outdoor Summer Concert – Roy Williams

**TBD\*** WSWG Exhibition Opening – Guy Waterman

**Sept 28** Save the Date: Comm Classic Golf Tournament



<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/waverlycommcarshow/>