
2025 Annual Report



bonafidebellevue.org

About



Entity Information

Bona Fide Bellevue, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Community Development Corporation (CDC) dedicated to celebrating and supporting the Borough of Bellevue. Originally founded in 2008* and reimaged in 2020, our volunteer-driven organization leads efforts to strengthen community pride, support local businesses, preserve our history, and create welcoming spaces and experiences for all.

EIN: 45-2451670

Tax status: 501(c)(3) Public Charity

Registered Office and Principal Address: 546 Linden Way, STE 1, Bellevue, PA 15202

*Bellevue Initiative for Growth & Revitalization is the original founding name of our organization.



We've Earned the 2025 Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency—the highest level of recognition from Candid, the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations.

Our Mission

Our mission, in keeping with the iconic sign on the boulevard, is to celebrate Bellevue's unique community and welcome others to live, worship, and shop in a more vibrant borough.

Contact Us

bonafidebellevue.org

info@bonafidebellevue.org

Board of Directors

Our board is composed of dedicated volunteers from the community with backgrounds in marketing and PR, land use and transportation planning, interior design, media and digital design, historical archeology, construction, project management, accounting, and real estate.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Chair
Leann Chaney

First Vice Chair
Drew Farrar

Second Vice Chair
Anne Blaser

Secretary
Kaitlyn Caracciolo

Treasurer
Dave Binder

DIRECTORS

Katie Damico

Logan Evans

Scott Heberling

Mark Helbling

Susan Stabnau
(Chair Emeritus)

Looking Back, Moving Forward

Recognizing our Outgoing Chair

Bona Fide Bellevue extends its sincere thanks to Susan Stabnau for her dedicated service as Chair. While Susan is stepping back from the Chair position, she will continue serving on the Board as a Director, and we are grateful that her insight and experience will remain an important part of our work.

During her tenure as Chair, Susan helped strengthen the organization's image, supported steady growth in our programs and partnerships, and guided the board through an important period of transition and reflection. Her leadership emphasized collaboration, consistency, and care for the community, helping position Bona Fide Bellevue to take on more ambitious work.

We deeply appreciate her time, commitment, and continued involvement as we move into the organization's next chapter.



Message from the Chair

Building on the strong foundation laid by prior leadership, we're moving toward a more coordinated, long-term strategy for downtown revitalization and community impact. This includes pursuing Main Street designation and preparing a nomination for listing the Bellevue Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places—both critical steps toward unlocking new tools, resources, and partnerships to support our local businesses.

These efforts reflect our growing capacity and shared ambition to support reinvestment, preserve what makes Bellevue special, and create a more vibrant, walkable, and economically resilient community.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our board, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Together, we are positioning Bona Fide Bellevue to take on bigger challenges—and deliver greater impact—in the years ahead.

It Takes a Village...

Thank You for your support!

Thank you to the numerous community volunteers, local business owners and employees whose time and effort make our work possible. We couldn't do what we do without you!



Special thanks to the Borough of Bellevue for their continued support and partnership in celebrating our amazing community.



We appreciate all that you do to help us power positive impacts in our community!

Partnerships

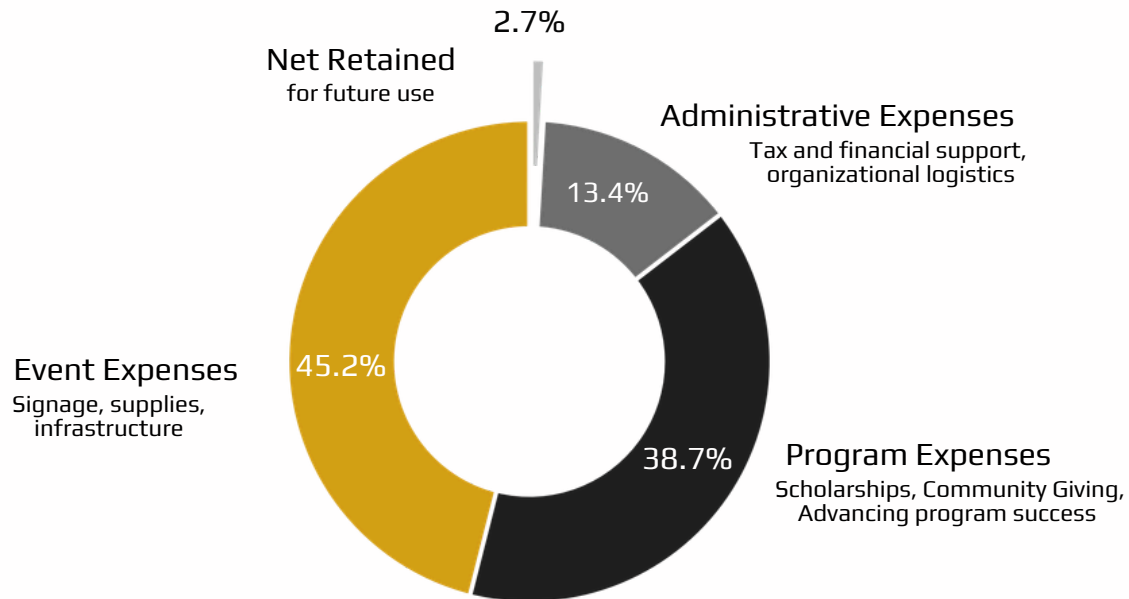
We're committed to working with Bellevue Borough, community organizations and economic development partners to lift up projects that make our town vibrant, strong, and prosperous. And this is just the beginning — our partnerships continue to grow.

In 2025, our work was strengthened through mutual support and collaboration with the following organizations:

- 202 Hometown Tacos -Community Programs
- AHN / Suburban General
- Bellevue Borough
- Bellevue Dog Woods
- The Center of Bellevue
- Bellevue Pride
- Grow Pittsburgh
- John A. Hermann Museum
- Lutheran Service Society
- Main Street America (member)
- Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank
- Northgate Quarterback Club
- Northgate School District
- North Boroughs Fireworks Committee
- North Boroughs Rotary Club
- North Hills Community Outreach
- RIDC Seedling Communities
- PA Downtown Center (member)
- Redeemer Anglican Church
- Rice Pegher
- Town Center Associates

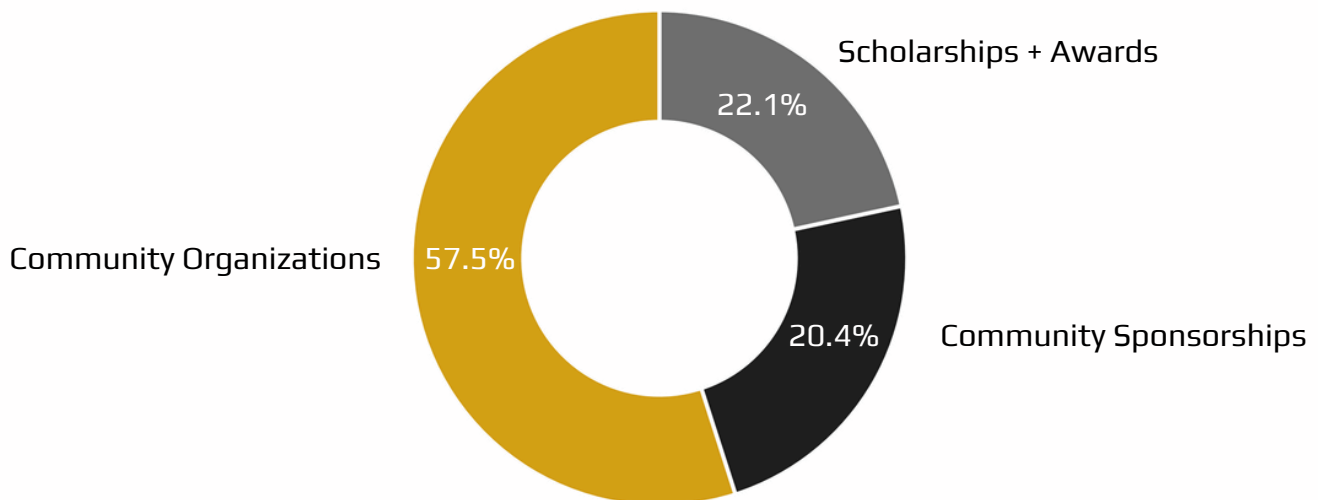
Organization

Spending by Category (2025)



Over 85% of spending directly supports programs and community events.

Community Giving Breakdown (2025)



More than half of our community giving directly supports local organizations.

Community Organizations (57.5%) - Giving Details		
Organization	Description	Amount
Animal Friends	In memory of Peggy Cusick	\$100
Angel Tree Program	Gift Cards (on behalf of Association of Bellevue Police)	\$200
Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank	Donation	\$300
Angel Tree Program	Gift Cards	\$500
North Boroughs Fireworks Committee	Donation	\$500
North Hills Community Outreach	Donation	\$500
Bellevue Borough	Donation for Event Support	\$2,000
Food Assistance Match (FAM)	Donation	\$5,000
		\$9,100
Community Sponsorships (20.4%) - Giving Details		
Organization	Description	Amount
Northgate Musical	Program Ad	\$125
Bellevue Dog Woods	Park Sponsor	\$500
Hometown Tacos 202	Book Bag Buddies	\$500
North Hills Community Outreach	Bronze Medal Sponsor - North Boroughs 5K	\$500
Northgate Band Boosters	Bingo Sponsor	\$500
Northgate Quarterback Club	Big Ticket Raffle Sponsor	\$500
Participation in Community Events	Expenses	\$600
		\$3,225
Scholarships + Awards (22.1%)		
Scholarships + Awards (22.1%)	Description	Amount
DEI Scholarships	Two Awards at \$1,500 each	\$3,000
Ember Award	One award	\$500
		\$3,500
Total Community Giving: \$15,825		6

Our Events

Community Building + Revenue for Reinvestment

We put our Bellevue community front and center to bring positive attention to the town we love and showcase our community's unique characteristics.

In addition to bringing people to our downtown district and increasing economic activity, our events generate revenue that helps support community projects!



Bona Fide Bellevue has years of experience organizing and managing community festivals, supported by well-established systems for planning, coordination, and execution.

By the Numbers

Events



06.07.2025

Estimated Attendance
400

Net Revenue
\$6,378



08.16.2025

Estimated Attendance
1,500

Net Revenue
\$28,282



12.06.2025

Estimated Attendance
4-5K

Free
holiday event

Note: Our "Live. Worship. Shop House Tour" is a biannual event and was not held in 2025.



Friendship Garden

21 Garden Members
8 Compost Members
162 Volunteer hours
228 lbs. garden harvest (tracked)

Grants received: \$2,000 (GrowPGH)

Ongoing Programs

Design

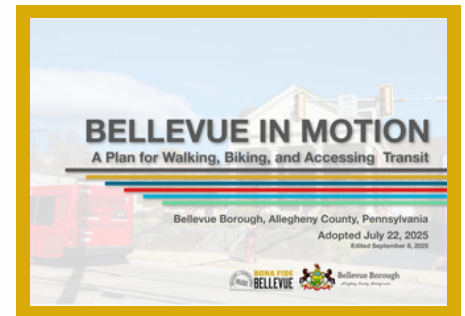
Active Transportation Planning

Established in 2024, our **Active Transportation Committee** partnered with the Borough to create Bellevue in Motion—the Borough’s first Active Transportation Plan and roadmap for building a safer, more accessible, and connected walking and biking network. The plan will make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bike, use wheelchairs, and connect to public transit.

The committee supports plan implementation, promotes walking and biking, provides bicycle safety education, and advocates for low-stress networks. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.

High Plan Priorities - Based on Public Input

- Improve pedestrian safety in the Bellevue Elementary School Zone
- Create a safe walking connection to Bellevue Memorial Park



Plan Vision:

“Bellevue is a vibrant, walkable community where residents and visitors of all ages and abilities can move safely and easily—whether walking, biking, using transit, or driving”



Design

Historic Preservation

Historic House Plaque Program – As part of Bellevue’s 150th anniversary in 2017, Bona Fide Bellevue offered the owners of architecturally notable homes and businesses the opportunity to purchase and display bronze plaques recognizing the historic nature of their properties. This year, the committee updated the owner list, and letters will be sent to eligible properties inviting those who are interested in getting a plaque to do so in 2026.

Bellevue Historic District Designation – After a comprehensive historic resource survey sponsored by Bona Fide Bellevue and completed by Practical Preservation in 2022, the Bellevue Borough Historic District was determined eligible for National Register listing by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. This determination is one step toward possible listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If successful, it would provide opportunities for grants and tax incentives, enhance property values, and encourage economic development.

Garden Programs

We’re proud to sponsor two garden programs and an annual **seed swap** that supports food access, community connection, and enhances green spaces in our community.

Since 2016, volunteers have cared for **public herb gardens** planted with thyme, mint, basil, rosemary, and more. These herbs are free for everyone to enjoy. Public herb gardens are located at Bayne Library, Lutheran Services, and the Friendship Garden. Be sure to check out the newly reimagined Tea Garden at Lutheran Services!

The Bellevue **Friendship Garden**, located at 616 Cliff Avenue, was established in 2022. It offers low-cost garden beds where residents can grow their own food and get to know their neighbors.

The garden also includes “community share beds” open to everyone and a **pollinator garden** adopted by the North Boroughs Rotary Club. Rotary volunteers help care for the space and recently added a stone border. The garden is made possible through the generosity of AHN / Suburban Campus and with strong support from Grow Pittsburgh.



Economic Vitality

Bellevue Farmers Market

Launched in 2012, the **Bellevue Farmers Market** is held in Bayne Park every Wednesday from 3–7 p.m., June through October. The market supports small businesses and local food producers, increases access to fresh, locally grown food, and provides a welcoming place for neighbors to shop, connect, and meet everyday needs. It also draws visitors to Bellevue and adds to the energy of the community.

Food Assistance Match (FAM). With a dignity-first mandate, FAM provides additional funds to double the buying power of programs such as SNAP, WIC, Senior Bucks, and other food support. Spun out of the Farmers Market into its own nonprofit in 2023, FAM is expanding to reduce food insecurity in more communities.

The **Games & Activity Lending Library** was launched five years ago so kids can borrow jump ropes, soccer balls, bubbles, hula hoops, and more while their grown-ups shop at the Farmers Market. We fund the games and are proud to partner with Redeemer Anglican Church for staffing.

DEI Scholarship

To support economic vitality and opportunity, we offer our DEI Scholarship Program, which awards an annual scholarship to a graduating student living in the **Northgate School District** who is continuing their education. By investing in local students, we're helping build a stronger, more inclusive future for our community.

DEI Scholarship - We've awarded \$8,500 over five years to seniors in the Northgate School District who share their unique perspectives through a series of essays.

The Ember Award– New in 2025, Northgate teachers select one high school senior whose character and promise may not follow a traditional path but shine with potential. This \$500 award is designed to spark inspiration for many years to come.



FOOD ASSISTANCE MATCH

