To serve as a means to improve the quality of life in the community, to build on the community’s strengths and add to its vitality, and to increase the capacity of the community to serve the needs of all its citizens.

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2016 Annual Report

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The creation of the Neighborhood Improvement Zone (NIZ) a few years ago gave the region an opportunity to see tremendous business and economic development growth. The Rider-Pool Foundation wants to ensure that the residents in that area of downtown Allentown also benefit from this renaissance.

We convened local funders to support the area’s nonprofit organizations in their collective impact efforts to help the families living in the city’s downtown. We want to encourage community engagement and open dialogue about the work to be done. We know that The Rider-Pool Foundation will lead by example.

We started by creating an innovative program called The Rider-Pool Foundation Collective Impact Fellowship that teaches nonprofit and community service directors how to work collaboratively on the issues impacting our citizenry. The Fellowship increases effectiveness by encouraging and providing tools for meaningful collaboration amongst organizations, and creates win-win-win strategies to enable comprehensive community development. In 2016, we welcomed the third class of Fellows who are learning how to effectively address and measurably improve the complex quality of life challenges within the NIZ through a new lens of nonprofit leadership.

Our support of Allentown School District’s Building 21 continued in 2016. The high school welcomed its second class of first year students in the fall, as the existing class of students matriculated to their sophomore year. The school’s format of teaching education essentials for half of the school day, then introducing students to career paths during the remaining half of the day has lead to an engaged group of teenagers who are thinking about their futures and the advanced training and education they will need to succeed. According to school administrators the school has better attendance and fewer behavioral incidents than other schools, leading to a more productive learning environment.

The Rider-Pool Foundation is proactively supporting initiatives to strengthen cross-sector partnerships needed to address complex, multi-system social issues. By participating in rapid prototyping, collaborative partners create rules of engagement, identify common focus areas, authentically engage the community, share metrics, and develop strategic business plans to better address complex issues like mental health, substance abuse, housing, and educational disparities.

The Rider-Pool Foundation will celebrate its diamond anniversary in 2017. As we look ahead to what this year holds, we reflect on the organization’s 60-year history and what it has accomplished to benefit residents of the Lehigh Valley. It started with one couple’s vision and a goal “to serve as a means to improve the quality of life in the community, to build on the community’s strengths and add to its vitality, and to increase the capacity of the community to serve the needs of all its citizens.” It has done that and more thanks to the vision and leadership of Leonard Parker Pool and Dorothy Rider Pool.

Edward F. Meehan
Executive Director
In 1957, Leonard Parker Pool and his wife, Dorothy Rider Pool, established The Rider-Pool Foundation as a private, general-purpose foundation. Upon her death in 1967, Dorothy Rider Pool left her estate as the principal funder of The Rider-Pool Foundation. Mrs. Pool was a teacher by training, an accomplished pianist and painter and her husband’s valued business partner, instrumental in the growth and development of Air Products, one of the most successful businesses in the history of the Lehigh Valley. Like her husband, Mrs. Pool was deeply driven to help others in need. These values help shape the focus of The Rider-Pool Foundation.

The Trustees of The Rider-Pool Foundation have carried forth Dorothy Rider Pool’s wishes and are particularly sensitive to her interests in education, disadvantaged children and the development of future leadership in our society. Since the Pools resided in Allentown, Pennsylvania, the particular geographic interest of The Rider-Pool Foundation lies within the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania. Consistent with Dorothy Rider Pool’s wishes and in keeping with the interests of Leonard Parker Pool and Dorothy Rider Pool in their lifetimes, The Rider-Pool Foundation’s intent is to serve as a means to improve the quality of life in the community, to build on the community’s strengths and add to its vitality, and to increase the capacity of the community to serve the needs of all its citizens. Within this objective, The Rider-Pool Foundation’s funding program is focused on:

- Education
- Human Services
- Culture and Art
- Community Development

The Trustees have made significant changes in how the organization awards grant monies. Beginning in 2014, The Rider-Pool Foundation, while maintaining a responsive component of support, took a proactive approach in seeking funding opportunities consistent with our mission. The Rider-Pool Foundation’s sharpened focus concentrates on three major topics:

- Generational Success in Education
- Community Development Linked to the Economic Development in the Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone
- Measurement for Results

Support is provided to organizations working within the Lehigh Valley region of eastern Pennsylvania.
Education
The Rider-Pool Foundation Grant Highlights

**Education**

**Community Organization Spotlight: The Boys & Girls Club of Allentown**

The Boys & Girls Club of Allentown’s Make Your M.A.R.K.™ (Motivated Academically Ready Kids) program provides after-school reading, language arts, English, and math academic enrichment. The Make Your M.A.R.K.™ program targets students in second and third grades who live within the boundaries of the Neighborhood Improvement Zone. The majority of the students also reside in the Allentown Promise Neighborhood.

Students attend the Make Your M.A.R.K.™ program twice a week for two hours for 35 weeks at the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown. The educational curriculum aligns with the Allentown School District standards and the Pennsylvania standards for teaching.

**Grant Awards 2016**

- Boys & Girls Club of Allentown: $2,500
- The Hillside School: $1,500
- ProJeCt of Easton, Inc.: $2,000
- Wildlands Conservancy, Inc.: $2,000
- YWCA of Bethlehem: $2,000
**Human Services**

**Community Organization Spotlight: Stephen’s Place**

Stephen’s Place is a halfway house and reintegration program for men leaving prison and recovering from substance abuse. It helps these men get a strong start as they transition back into the community. Stephen’s Place focuses on empowering the residents to internalize a strong recovery program, develop a good work ethic, and improve basic life skills in a safe, spiritual environment.

The First Phase Program covers the first 90 days of a resident’s stay at Stephen’s Place. It covers room and board until they are employed, and provides a monthly bus pass for use in their job search, employment, and treatment. In addition to clothes and personal care items, the First Phase Program provides group and individual counseling. Opportunities for recreational activities that help to teach participants how to interact with each other without drugs and alcohol so they can develop a healthy lifestyle once they leave Stephen’s Place are also offered. Examples include a trip to the New Jersey shore, bowling, go-cart racing, or simply enjoying a meal together at a family restaurant.

**Grant Awards 2016**

Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank $2,000  
Allentown Rescue Mission, Inc. $1,000  
Boy Scouts of America, Minsi Trails Council, Inc. $2,000  
Community Bike Works $3,000  
Family Connection of Easton, Inc. $2,500  
Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc. $1,000  
Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley $1,000  
Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council $3,000  
Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County, Inc. $1,000  
Meals on Wheels of Northampton County/Bethlehem Area, Inc. $1,000  
Operation Warm, Inc. $1,000  
Pinebrook Family Answers $2,000  
Stephen’s Place $2,600  
Third Street Alliance for Women and Children $1,000
Culture & Art
Culture and Art

Community Organization Spotlight: The Baum School of Art

The Baum School of Art, in partnership with Allentown’s Building 21, designed a new initiative to expose high school students to creative careers while developing their unique interests and talents, and creating an engaging learning environment. This novel approach runs over 6-8 weeks and features a combination of formal instruction, hands-on exploration, and study of professional works of art. It results in a quality art educational experience for students who may otherwise not have had the opportunity to attend the art school.

Building 21 students with an interest in art, design, and fashion can engage in opportunities to work with professional teaching artists both at their school and at The Baum School of Art. Students are encouraged to express their personal creativity, artistic ability, critical thinking skills, and self-confidence, as well as develop a sense of pride and accomplishment in their work.

Grant Awards 2016

- Allentown Public Theatre $1,000
- The Bach Choir of Bethlehem – Christmas Concerts $10,000
- The Bach Choir of Bethlehem – Bach at Noon Allentown $2,500
- The Baum School of Art $2,000
- Civic Theatre of Allentown $1,000
- Community Music School $1,000
- The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University $2,000
- SATORI, Ltd. $2,000
- Touchstone Theatre $1,000
Community Development/Neighborhood Improvement Zone
Community Development/Neighborhood Improvement Zone

Community Organization Spotlight: Building 21

Building 21 Allentown, midway through its second year, currently serves 288 students across ninth and tenth grades. The high school’s students actively explore their interests and passions thanks to partnerships with local businesses and community organizations, including Lehigh Valley Health Network, Digital Feast, PPL, the Baum School of Art, Lehigh University and the local IBEW electrical union.

The school continues to build on very strong academic gains achieved during last school year in reading and science, while actively working to increase gains in math. Students report feeling safe and connected to the adults at the school. Building 21 continues to see significantly higher average daily attendance and a dramatically lower rate of serious behavioral incidents relative to comparable schools.

Students displayed their impressive work several times during the year through project exhibitions at the school, as well as out in the community. The Morning Call featured several scholars in an exclusive “Student Voice” section during the election. Budding authors also had an opportunity to show off their Spanish-language children’s literature at an event at Barnes & Noble.

Grant Awards 2016

Allentown Art Museum $10,000
Collective Impact Fellowship $200,000
New Venture Fund - Building 21 - Allentown School District $35,000
Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley $35,000
Rapid Prototyping Collective Impact Initiatives $116,400
William Allen High School Enhancement Project $4,000
Updates from The Rider-Pool Foundation

Collective Impact Fellowship

In 2016, the second cohort of Fellows completed its 180 hours of leadership development training, and the third cohort began its training. In total, 26 non-profit leaders have participated in the Fellowship since 2014. Evaluation of the Fellowship has shown a dramatic increase in cross-sector connectivity between groups, organizations and networks; enhanced leadership skills; ability to leverage new funding sources; and increased capability to effectively engage the community.

The ongoing learning and cross-sector connectivity gained through the Collective Impact Fellowship continues through the Community of Practice. Each month, the Fellows from all three cohorts meet for an evening of conversation, where relevant topics, designed by a small group of Fellows, are presented and discussed with the entire group. This year, topics included social needs screenings, national perspectives on Collective Impact, equity, data and data sharing, and effective community engagement strategies.

Funder Openness Action Learning Lab

The Rider-Pool Foundation was honored to be one of only eight foundations in North America to be selected to participate in the yearlong Funder Openness Action Learning Lab. The initiative, organized by FSG and the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions, two national experts in social change, seeks to improve funder openness knowledge, advance openness practice, deepen peer relationships and share insights more broadly with the field.

The Rider-Pool Foundation is using this opportunity to strengthen its ability to proactively fund cross-sector collaborative efforts. The Foundation’s work is generating considerable interest across the country and its staff has been invited to present at several national conferences.

Rapid Prototyping

Over the past three years, The Rider-Pool Foundation has proactively invested a significant portion of its resources in building the capacity needed to address complex, multi-system social issues that negatively impact the region. There are several emerging cross-sector groups that are positioning themselves by using a Collective Impact framework to address long-standing social issues like homelessness, mental health, suicide, early childhood learning, and opioid use. There are opportunities for The Rider-Pool Foundation and others to link these groups with the capacity-building work that has occurred over the last three years through a “rapid prototyping” process.

The Rider-Pool Foundation Trustees believe that rapid prototyping will encourage nonprofit leaders, funders, and other community partners to focus on the rigorous process that cross-sector collaboration demands, providing the necessary clarity to develop clear, concise focus areas, strategies, and metrics using the best data available and evidence-based strategies for all participants before grants are made. In October 2016, the Trustees approved resources to pilot this work for three to six collaborations.

The rapid prototyping process proactively provides emerging cross-sector partnerships with a 6 to 12-month grant to support the costs associated with developing the comprehensive plan (with strategic, business and community engagement components) necessary to conduct the anticipated work. This process is intended to reverse the trend of launching expensive, long-range approaches to address complex social issues before there are key elements of the initiative developed, including comprehensive action planning, thought out strategies, agreed upon metrics and genuine community engagement.
December 31, 2016

**ASSETS**

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**LIABILITIES**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

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**NET ASSETS**

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$11,562,310

The financial statements for The Rider-Pool Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2016 have been examined by the accounting firm of BBD, LLP.

The detailed financial report is available at The Rider-Pool Foundation office upon request.
The Rider-Pool Foundation Application Process

All requests are reviewed and evaluated by The Rider-Pool Foundation’s Executive Director. Final approval is determined by The Rider-Pool Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Awards are made for unsolicited proposals once a year. For consideration for funding by November 1, proposals must be submitted by August 15. Requests are accepted through an electronic application process. Please visit our website, www.pooltrust.org to begin this process.

Requests should be as concise as possible and include:

1. A description of need
2. Specific objectives (what you plan to accomplish with the funds)
3. A work plan to accomplish objectives, including a time schedule
4. A proposed method to evaluate project effectiveness
5. A budget fully defined, including all sources of financial support, committed and pending
6. Evidence of the organization’s not-for-profit tax status
7. Current Board of Directors

(We also like to hear about how your Board reflects the population you serve)

The Rider-Pool Foundation is restricted from providing funds to individuals, legislative or lobbying efforts, political or fraternal organizations or organizations outside the United States and its territories. The Rider-Pool Foundation, as a policy, does not provide operating or capital funds to sectarian institutions, hospitals, organizations or programs in which funds will be used primarily for the propagation of religion. Further, The Rider-Pool Foundation does not underwrite charitable or testimonial dinners, fund-raising events or related advertising or the subsidization of books, mailings or articles in professional journals.

Please contact our office with any inquiries or questions.
Leon C. Holt, Jr.
Trustee
The Rider-Pool Foundation

John P. Jones III
Trustee
The Rider-Pool Foundation

John E. McGlade
Trustee
The Rider-Pool Foundation

J. Scott Pidcock
Trustee
The Rider-Pool Foundation

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PNC Bank, N.A.

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Executive Director

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Program Officer

Bridget I. Rassler
Manager, Finance and Administration

Regina M. Gabriel
Program Secretary

Brenda C. Schoenberger
Secretary/Receptionist