

2024 Annual Report



CHARITABLE

THE GIVING ARM
OF BLBB ADVISORS

OUR MISSION

Investing in Sound Nonprofit Strategies to Create Stronger, Thriving Communities



BLBB Charitable supports initiatives that help people discover their full potential through education and leadership opportunities. In keeping with our founder's legacy, BLBB Charitable does more than make donations—we invest in nonprofit organizations whose creative approach and sound strategies yield meaningful and measurable outcomes for the people they serve.

This page, clockwise: Horizons at Cristo Rey aims to prevent summer reading loss; Ceremony awarding the BLBB Charitable Financial Planning Scholarship at Temple University; BLBB Charitable supports scholarships at Germantown Academy that expand educational access to more children.

Facing page, clockwise from top left: SquashSmarts' students enjoy Philadelphia Outward Bound experience; Students enjoying a summer enrichment program at Horizons; Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School's Leadership Program empowers young women to become ethical leaders; Bucks County Opportunity Council's recent graduating class of its Economic Self-Sufficiency.



OUR GRANT PROGRAMS

Committed to Creating Stronger Communities

Our foundation carries out the legacy of our founder, Frank Burke, and his wife Elizabeth. Their lifelong commitment to community service and volunteerism has impacted many lives. Since its inception, BLBB Charitable has granted over \$12 million to the community.

BLBB Charitable has three main grant programs:

1. BLBB Advisors Programs

2. Education & Leadership Impact Grant Programs

These grants are often multi-year larger grants to a select group of grantee partners who apply to the board for support in the following four focus areas:

- College Access and Post-Secondary Opportunities
- Economic Self-Sufficiency
- K-12 Educational Opportunities
- Local Environmental Education Opportunities

3. Burke Legacy Grant Programs

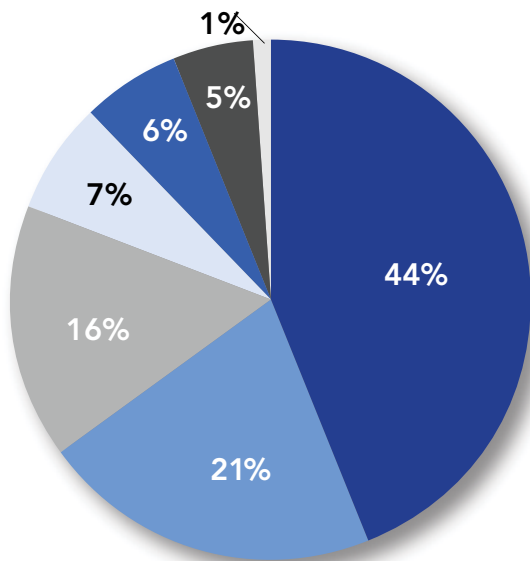


2024 Grantmaking Summary

Since its inception in 2010, BLBB Charitable has granted more than \$12 million to various causes. We have helped fund educational and leadership development programs, building improvement projects, service opportunities, and many more initiatives.

In 2024, BLBB Charitable awarded 216 grants totaling \$1.6m:

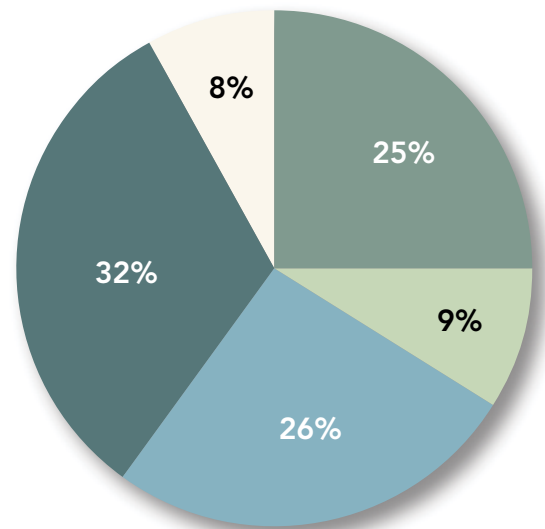
- \$691,000 in **Education & Leadership Impact Grants** in 4 Focus Areas:
 - Economic Self-Sufficiency/Financial Health
 - Environmental Education
 - K-12 Education
 - K-12 Independent Schools
 - Youth Development & Leadership
 - Post-Secondary Education & Opportunities
- \$330,000 in **Burke Legacy Grants**
- \$250,000 in **Board Discretionary Grants**
- \$111,729 in **Employee Matching Grants**
- \$87,000 in **BLBB Board Leadership Grants**
- \$85,600 in **Corporate Citizenship Grants**
- \$11,500 in **BLBB Volunteer Leadership Grants**



% of Total Grant Dollars

Twenty-eight (mainly multi-year) Education & Leadership Grants were paid in 2024, in the following focus areas:

- Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Environmental Education
- K12 Independent Schools
- Youth Development & Leadership
- Post-Secondary Opportunities





Building Lives & Uniting Communities



2024 Highlight

BLBB Charitable Launches Peer Learning Circles

As part of its commitment to strengthening the capacity of nonprofits and its leaders, BLBB Charitable engaged a consultant to facilitate two year-long peer learning circles:

- one for executive directors/CEOs of grantee organizations and
- one for senior leaders/managers at grantee organizations.

Participation was voluntary and twenty nonprofit professionals gathered every other month to learn from, and help, each other grow as leaders. The groups focused on topics such as: managing staff of different generations; fundraising; managing up; time management; event management; work/life balance and wellness of your team; and working with boards of directors.

The Senior Leaders group was such a success that nearly the full group will continue to meet in 2025.

The Senior Leaders Peer Group kicked off 2025 with Executive Director, Nicole Tell, and BLBB Charitable Board Member, John Lawton, at a Sixers Game.

BLBB Team Members are Leaders in the Community



More than half of our employees serve in leadership roles in thirty different nonprofits, and all employees volunteer in some capacity.

>50%

BLBB employees in leadership roles

At

30

Nonprofits



For the second year in a row, BLBB was named to the **Civic 50 Greater Philadelphia** that recognizes and celebrates the 50 most community-minded companies using their time, talent, and resources to drive social impact within their organizations and communities—setting the standard for civic engagement in the region.



Clockwise from top right: Executive Director, Nicole Tell, and Board Member, Laura Brewer, accepted the Civic50 Award; BLBB participated in the Girls on the Run Suburban Southeastern PA 5K; Board member, John Lawton (center), joined Williamson College's Freshmen Leadership Day at Philadelphia Outward Bound. Executive Director, Nicole Tell, moderated a panel about economic mobility for ACHIEVEability's Night of Gratitude; BLBB colleagues learned some new kitchen skills for a cause at Vetri Community Partnership; BLBB Board Members joined others at the unveiling of BLBB Field Station at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust; In honor of BLBB Advisors' 60th anniversary and Elmwood Park Zoo's 100th anniversary, BLBB Charitable donated \$10,000 to its educational efforts.



2024 Highlights

Collaborative IMPACT Fund of Bucks County (IMPACT Bucks)

BLBB Charitable joined with Bucks County Foundation and Foundations Community Partnership to launch the Collaborative IMPACT Fund of Bucks County (IMPACT Bucks). In Summer 2024, IMPACT Bucks announced the award of a \$75,000 grant to Souderton-based **Along the Way** in support of its Bucks Pathway Project, a comprehensive anti-poverty, workforce development, childcare, and family support program for single mother households living in Bucks County.



Center School Innovation Lab

With a capital grant from BLBB Charitable, the Center School (an independent K-8 school for children with language-based differences) was able to launch its campaign to fund a state-of-the-art Innovation Lab at its Abington campus. The Innovation Lab is designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and hands-on learning among students.

2024 Education & Leadership Impact

Post-Secondary Opportunities

The BLBB Charitable Internship Program at **Bucks County Historical Society-Mercer Museum** and the **Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust** ensured that two area nonprofits were able to expand the impact of their missions, and also train the next generation of leaders in their respective fields. These interns are getting hands-on experience, mentoring, and leadership skills. The opportunity to see possible pathways to career development and professional options in their respective fields of interest is creating a greater appetite for more with these students.

“This internship really allowed my organizational skills, problem solving skills, and my leadership skills to flourish. In addition, I was able to strengthen a balance between working independently through my project as well as collaboratively with my fellow interns.”

Mercer Museum Summer Intern



Executive Director, Nicole Tell, with BLBB Charitable summer interns at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust.

2024 Education & Leadership Impact

K-12 Opportunities

From ensuring that all students can afford to attend private schools of their choice... to helping small independent schools provide top-notch professional development for their teachers... to supporting organizations that provide youth with academic enrichment and athletic mentoring and leadership opportunities so that they can become civically and professionally engaged citizens, BLBB Charitable is proud of the impact our grantees have had in 2024.

- During the pandemic, BLBB Charitable partnered with **AIM Institute for Learning & Research** (AIM) to scale its Learning Management System to allow for the expansive national growth of its online AIM Pathways' Science of Reading training modules for teachers. Now, we are investing in AIM's development of AIM Cognitio, an AI-driven educator assessment tool. The core objective is to use assessments as both diagnostic tools, as well as personalized engines to drive engagement with the AIM Pathways courses, ultimately helping educators become proficient in the Science of Reading.
- Our Philadelphia-based athletic enrichment and mentoring grantees, such as **SquashSmarts**, **Ed Snider Youth Hockey & Education**, and **Starfinder Foundation** collectively served over 3,000 K-12th grade youth and alumni with nearly 100% graduation rates for all 8th grade and 12th grade participants, and with nearly 100% of students moving onto post-secondary opportunities (college, vocational training, or military). That is as compared to the School District of Philadelphia's college matriculation rate of only 48%.





■ **Horizons Cristo Rey** and **Horizons Springside Chestnut Hill** summer programs served 136 Philadelphia children collectively, and helped them gain an average of two months of early literacy skills



2024 Education & Leadership Impact

Economic Self-Sufficiency

- **128** Montgomery County clients **Clarifi** served in nearly 200 financial counseling sessions
- **22** female nonprofit staff members received one-on-one financial coaching sessions and group financial literacy sessions through Women's Way's Financial Wellness Program.
 - **100%** of the participants now have a budget and are sticking to it
 - **70%** added to their savings and **44%** reduced their debt



Brittany had a history of housing instability due to multiple foster home placements. She entered **ACHIEVEability's Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSSP)** and moved into one of their homes with her toddler, Corey, after months in a shelter. She worked with her FSSP coaches to secure a job at a local supermarket and enroll at Community College of Philadelphia. Brittany fully engaged with FSSP by meeting with her coaching team and participating in family enrichment and life skills programming. Brittany overcame many challenges to complete her Associate Degree in IT, which helped her secure a higher wage administrative position. She is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree at Peirce College. Brittany and Corey are thriving with support and resources from FSSP and on a path to long-term self-sufficiency.

BLBB Charitable Board & Staff



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President



John Lawton
Vice President



Laura Brewer
Vice President



Dean Karrash, CFP®, CPA
Vice President and Secretary



Diana Doherty
Director



Nicole G. Tell, CAP
Executive Director



Alan F. Hinkle
Volunteer Grants Advisor



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