

# VISIONARY LEADERSHIP FUND

of the VALENTINE FOUNDATION

**The Valentine Fund for Visionary Leadership** is a separate endowment established at the Valentine Foundation through the generosity of many individual and foundation donors. Our commitment is to develop the leadership capacity of local nonprofit organizations whose primary focus and mission-driven activities benefit women and girls. Grant funds support leadership development for both current and emerging women leaders. Applicant organizations are encouraged to propose initiatives that address their unique leadership needs, including but not limited to courses, workshops, certificate programs, coaching, and succession planning.

For our 2022 Leadership Fund grant cycle, we changed our grant application process to provide more opportunities for storytelling and a better understanding of the intent of the proposed leadership development initiative. We want to know why, and in what ways, the leadership initiative is important for the applicant's organization. We want to hear from the leadership nominees about why the initiative is important for their own growth. Leadership Fund committee members will be matched with 2022 grantees to actively engage with them in their commitment to development.

This year we express our gratitude to Laura Morris, Tracy Tripp, and Cheryl Weiss who have rotated off the Valentine Foundation Leadership Fund Committee. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of women and girls in our area.

## LEADERSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

Robin Eisenberg, *Chair*  
 Mary McTernan,  
*Immediate Past Co-Chair*  
 Alexandra Samuels,  
*Immediate Past Co-Chair*  
 Theresa Jackson  
 Nancy Kirby  
 Vanessa Lowe  
 Maritza Santiago Lugo  
 Ann Ricksecker  
 Frances Vilella-Velez

# 2021 Leadership Fund Grantees

Organization Name—Visionary Leader(s)	Amount Awarded
Chester County Opportunities Industrialization Center—Javonna Wylie	\$ 2,300
Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County—Smita Sanwardeker	\$ 1,600
Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County—Executive Team	\$ 4,500
Education Law Center—Paige Joki	\$ 7,857
Health Federation of Philadelphia—Tiana Warner	\$ 1,500
National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women—Arianna Freeman	\$ 10,000
Urban Tree Connection—Devin Esch, Jen Ruiz, Nat Agoos, Noelle Warford	\$ 5,000
<b>Total 2021 Visionary Leadership Fund Grants:</b>	<b>\$32,757</b>



Top, from left: Javonna Wylie, Paige Joki, Tiana Warner, Arianna Freeman  
 Bottom, from left: Devin Esch, Jen Ruiz, Nat Agoos, Noelle Warford

## 2020 Leadership Grantees Reflect

### Milena O. Lanz, Maternal & Child Health Consortium of Chester County:

MCHC has had several of its leadership staff attend the NELI Program at Bryn Mawr College because of its well-rounded syllabus that equips nonprofit middle management with key skills for success. We continue to choose this initiative based on positive feedback from our staff, who have attended various different types of professional development trainings and report that this was one of the most comprehensive and led to meaningful professional connections.

### Rachel Rutter, Esq., Project Libertad:

We selected this program (Certificate in Nonprofit Management from The Nonprofit Center at LaSalle University) because we liked the dual focus on governance and finance. We also liked that LaSalle has teachers with expertise and hands-on experience in the field. Finally, we liked the focus on small nonprofits as a small, growing nonprofit ourselves. We highly recommend this program to others in the field.

### Victoria Leigh Bakey, After School Activities Partnership:

When Sara selected NELI, she had no idea that Philadelphia was about to shut down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Amid unforeseen challenges and pressures to pivot while supporting ASAP's students and staff, NELI became an invaluable resource. Meeting monthly with leaders who were dealing with similar challenges—barriers to programming, uncertain funding, and staff dealing with collective trauma—prepared Sara as much as anything could to meet the needs of the moment.