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# Report to the Community

June 2025



Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Supporters,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are honored to share highlights from an incredible year for Friends of Donegal (FOD). Since our incorporation in 2021 and our 501(c)(3) designation in 2022, our mission has remained steadfast: to harness the collective power and influence of the community to improve the lives of our neighbors.

Thanks to your generosity, partnership, and unwavering belief in our mission, 2024 was a year marked by impact, expansion, and deepened connections within the Donegal School District communities of Mount Joy, Marietta, and Maytown.

## Thank You for Your Support

None of this would be possible without our **incredible donors, volunteers, and community partners**. Your contributions—whether time, talent, or financial—have fueled our ability to grow and serve. From all of us: **thank you.**

## Engagement & Events

Friends of Donegal had the pleasure of participating in several beloved community events in 2024, including:

- Taste of Mount Joy Car Show
- RAISE28 Fair

- Winterfest
- 4th Fridays in Mount Joy
- Chamber Mixer (hosted by FOD)
- Chamber luncheons

These events allow us to stay connected and grow awareness of the work we're doing together.

## Looking Ahead: 2025 Initiatives

We are energized by what's to come:

- Hiring of a new **Program Coordinator**
- Expanded **grant writing efforts**, supported by a dedicated grant writer
- Website updates and **rebranding**, including a fresh new logo unveiled in early 2025
- Continued expansion of the community garden
- Enhanced offerings through the **Choice Pantry** in partnership with Power Packs
- Increased **community speaking engagements** to share our story and programs more broadly

As we step into another exciting year, we do so with gratitude and hope. Thank you for being a part of the Friends of Donegal community. Together, we are making a meaningful difference.

With appreciation,

**The Board of Directors**

*Friends of Donegal*

In this update  
you can expect:

Our New  
Logo

Expense  
Report

Program  
Updates

Stories of  
Impact

What's to  
Come

Partner  
Highlights

# A new look for a new year!

Friends of Donegal(FOD) has seen growth in 3 of our programs over the past several years. As FOD grows, we're adding a fresh, creative touch to our branding to make it more engaging and reflective of our mission and values and to tie current and subsequent programs together. FOD is confident the new logo will capture the spirit of our non-profit and attract more supporters.

We were excited to work with Midland Media, LLC to bring consistency between our logos. We love this fresh new look!



GETTING AHEAD



GETTING AHEAD



DONEGAL POWER PACKS



DONEGAL  
POWER PACKS



DONEGAL COMMUNITY GARDENS



DONEGAL  
COMMUNITY  
GARDENS



GETTING AHEAD

## Getting Ahead And Staying Ahead

Our 8th Getting Ahead class started January 11, 2025 and ended April 12, 2025!

To date 65 investigators have graduated from Getting Ahead classes.

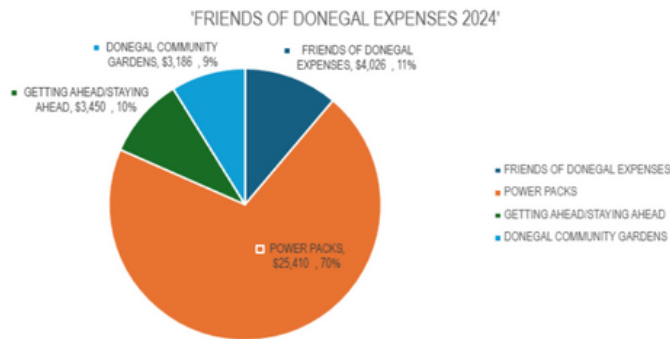
Graduation rate is 72%

Pictured above: Graduates from our most recent Getting Ahead class! Great work!

Beyond our programs, FOD provided individualized support to more than 20 community members over the past year. We worked both independently and alongside partners such as Helping Services, Mount Joy Borough, and Servants to meet unique needs and deliver sustainable solutions.

*Attending the Getting Ahead classes really opened my eyes to the amount of support we have within our community. I learned about various resources that are out there to help. I'm thankful and grateful for Friends of Donegal and the opportunity they provide!*  
-Kayla

*Getting Ahead is very informative and helpful. By the end of the course I felt more comfortable about my future and my approach to others and finances.*  
-Jeff



## **DONEGAL POWER PACKS**

This year Donegal Power Packs distributed 88 packs weekly. The packs helped feed, 184 children, 153 adults, and 17 seniors. Each pack contains a meal that amounts to about 7 lbs of food each (cost is about \$6 a bag). This year the Donegal Power Packs also piloted a choice pantry, that allowed families to come and pick items for a meal for their family.

This choice pantry option was provided for families that may not be able to access the packs through school distribution. Ten families were served through this program. In the past 2 years the number of individuals served increased by 20% and the cost of food provided increased by 30%.



The Donegal Presbyterian garden space was added in 2024. Of the 3.6 acres that were donated, we utilized one acre. This yielded 1,000 lbs. of produce that was given away to Power Packs, the Senior Apartments, and local food banks.

The Mount Joy Mennonite Church gardens is where all the bulk vegetables are grown such as potatoes, carrots, and beets.



Florin Church continues to host an asparagus patch, heirloom tomatoes, and personal garden plots.

For 2025, we plan to double the size of the used space at Donegal Presbyterian.

Pictured above: Jared plants more than 2,000 seeds with seniors in Mount Joy. Thank you for your help!



## Stories of impact: this year's story is about how Stephanie is reaching her goals.

Friends of Donegal met Steph when she registered for the 2nd Getting Ahead class. Steph graduated from Getting Ahead in April 2022.

Steph says:

In a just gettin' by world I had a connection to Friends of Donegal that I didn't know existed: Christina. She connected me to the class when she and Pastor Tom were facilitating.

To describe my mental health model pre-Getting Ahead class I could use one word: CRISIS.

I was in a constant state of crisis, putting out fires daily.

My life since completing Getting Ahead has improved.

When a crisis approaches I stop, and pause. I pray and pay attention to my heart rate. I stop and attend to the immediate need and then ask for help or sometimes just guidance.

I developed three (3) goals:

- Pay off my car,
- Get my bachelors degree,
- Buy a house.

I have paid off my van. I got my bachelor's degree, and have even started on my Master's in Social Work. I completed the paperwork for a USDA home loan. One word to someone considering attending the Getting Ahead classes.....GO!!!

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**Our community initiatives are made possible  
thanks to the support of our  
partners and volunteers.  
We appreciate your dedication to our community!**

**We are so thankful for our partners!**

Marietta Legion  
Chocolate Stroll  
LCBC Easy to See  
Glossbrenner Church  
Weis Markets  
Northwest Bank  
Clark Foundation  
Mount Joy Rotary Club  
Mount Joy VFW  
Sheetz Funeral Home  
Donegal Substance  
Abuse Alliance (DSAA)  
Donegal School District

Miliron Goodman  
Florin Church  
Mount Joy Church of God  
Zion Lutheran  
Brent and Christina Helfrick  
Jim and Bev Gerberich  
Wendy Rowley  
Kevin Bradley  
Wendy Sullivan  
Casey and Elain Krause  
Donegal Junior High  
Mike Grubic  
Sharon Grissinger

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**We appreciate the dedication of our many volunteers who  
donate numerous hours to make the  
success of our programs achievable.**

Jarod Stine  
Tyler Stine  
Karen Stine  
Rose Madar  
Beth Perez  
Michael Gepfer  
Doug Martin  
Adam Frey  
Pam Spicer  
Carlyn Nelson  
Ruthann Barr  
Tammy Ober  
Kali Knable  
Patti Kopf  
Ashley Adams  
Kelly Goodman  
Deb McGarity  
Wendy Gayle  
Cindy Barshinger

Renee Hammaker  
Judy Kay Bard  
Cindy Krut  
Linda Good  
Meghan Helzsouer  
Matthew Steinbook  
Donald Stewart  
Susan Palecki  
Anthony Nguyen & Residents  
from Faith Friendship  
Linda Umberger  
Peggy Montgomery  
Deb and Carl McKinney  
Deb Schleh  
Tom and Nancy Miller  
Andrea Klein  
Boy Scout Troop 39  
Jen Saylor

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