Working Together for Community Wellbeing
MISSION

LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STRATEGIC PLAN

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ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM

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The mission of the Buhl Regional Health Foundation is to identify and address the diverse health care needs of the greater Sharon regional area. Among the Foundation’s primary services will be the promotion of collaborative partnerships and programs, capacity building, and grants which will focus on and invest in all people impacted by health-related needs throughout their lives.

DID YOU KNOW?

Opioid deaths in Mercer County have increased 120% in two years. Opioid deaths now easily outnumber deaths due to motor vehicle accidents.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly half of all Americans today report that they are lonely. Research from Brigham Young University found that loneliness can increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, depression and drug abuse.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly two-thirds of deaths in Mercer County are attributable to chronic disease.
LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are proud to share with you the activities that have taken place at the Buhl Regional Health Foundation in 2018 and how the grants funded have provided support to the agencies and the communities they serve.

In compliance with our mission, the Foundation funded grants and scholarships in the amount of $483,151.68 in 2018. Fifty six percent of the grants were dedicated to physical and mental health needs, twenty two percent for food and nutrition, twenty one percent to access to care and one percent to education and training.

As a foundation we are also committed to building the capacity of our non-profit organizations. In 2018, we offered two grant writing classes and plan to continue these classes in 2019.

Our board members are committed to our mission of encouraging collaborative partnerships but to also understand the complexities of having a foundation to support their mission. As a health care conversion foundation, we want to ensure that the important work of our non-profit agencies continues to meet the needs of residents impacted by health related needs in the greater Sharon regional area.

Members of our board work to manage our investments and oversee a financial plan that includes funds to support grants and an annual budget, which the Foundation operates in a cost-effective manner.

In 2018, our Governance and Nominating committees brought on three new board members to assure a diverse board with a broad understanding of our communities needs. Those new members are Attorney Autumn Johnson, Public Defender; Dr. Rebecca Hanigosky OB/GYN in the Shenango Valley; and William Dungee, CFO, Penn State Shenango.

Robert Liptak, who served on the board of Sharon Regional Medical Center and the board of Christian H. Buhl Legacy Trust as well as our board of Buhl Regional Health Foundation, resigned from the Board, to enjoy retirement. We thank him for his 25 years of service to our community.

As we begin 2019 we will continue to focus on our three goals:

- To improve access to health care that addresses the physical and mental health needs of the resident in the BRHF area.
- To strengthen the capacity of community non-profit agencies and to improve community health and wellbeing.
- To strengthen the capacity of BRHF to be a catalyst for improving health and community wellbeing.

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2018 and plan to continue our work with community service providers and to build partnerships and collaborative efforts that invest in all people in our service area who are impacted by health-related needs.

A special thank you to all of the agencies providing care and services to improve the quality of life in our valley and to our board of directors and staff who work to make the foundation’s mission possible.

Ruthanne Beighley
Board Chair

Michaelene Gula
Executive Director
—STRATEGIC PLAN—

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Improve access to health care that addresses the physical and mental health needs of the residents in the BRHF area.

* Identify health care access issues impacting health and wellbeing of the community.
* Educate the BRHF Board on emerging issues, challenges, and opportunities facing community health and wellbeing.
* Promote general community awareness about community health needs.

Goal 2: Strengthen the capacity of community non-profit agencies to improve community health and wellbeing.

* Educate the non-profit community about the mission of BRHF.
* Offer routine capacity building activities for community groups and non-profits to strengthen agency ability to serve the community.

Goal 3: Strengthen the capacity of BRHF to be the catalyst for improving health and community wellbeing.

* Conduct the business of BRHF in an ethical, transparent, and fiscally responsible manner.
* Continue fiscal investment in the community to support transformative change.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

In 2018, Buhl Regional Health Foundation awarded a total of $483,151.68 in grants and scholarships. Community non-profit agencies will use the grant funding to support mental and physical health related programs in the Foundation’s service area.

Through partnerships, education, and grant making, Buhl Regional Health Foundation is fulfilling it’s mission by reaching out to the community to promote a long-term impact on the community. The primary objectives of BRHF are the promotion of collaborative partnerships and programs, capacity building for organizations currently addressing health needs, and grants that will focus on and invest in all people impacted by health-related needs.

As Buhl Regional Health Foundation progresses, one of BRHF’s goals is to provide the environment and tools for the leaders of the agencies to collaborate in providing community initiatives that promote health and wellbeing. BRHF will continue to offer capacity building to aid non-profit agencies in the service area in future collaborative grant requests. The Foundation conducted two Grant Writing Class Series in 2018 and plans to offer more capacity building programs to area non-profits in the coming year.

The Buhl Regional Health Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of the Sharon regional area communities.
COLLABORATIVE ACTION TEAMS

Near the end of 2017, BRHF convened our second community forum on creative thinking. We encouraged people to think differently about problem solving and invited them to join an action team beginning in 2018. The action teams included transportation, mental health, addiction, food insecurity and connecting to resources.

When the teams began meeting in January 2018, it was clear from the discussions that, while it was helpful to describe their agencies’ needs, many of the agencies faced similar challenges experienced by other providers of services. Some of those challenges included the need for transportation for their clients to access services, obtaining food, addressing mental and physical health needs, and to learn about what resources are available. BRHF challenged each action team to discuss issues related to their teams topic and to brainstorm creative solutions that could make an impact in the community.

BRHF extends an open invitation to participate in any of its five collaborative community health Action Teams:

- **Addiction**
  - Opioid Crisis

- **Communication & Connecting Resources**
  - Connecting Mercer Project: 2-1-1

- **Healthy Food**
  - Backpack Program

- **Mental Health**
  - Crisis Intervention Training for Schools

- **Transportation**
  - Connecting Mercer County

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” — Mother Teresa

RECOGNIZING LOCAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

In May 2018, Buhl Regional Health Foundation presented our first annual BRHF National Hospital Week Awards to three individuals from the medical community: Dr. Gallagher, a physician; Cheryl Pebbles, Grove City Medical Center’s Trauma Coordinator/RN; and Donna Anderson, volunteer at Grove City Medical Center. These individuals were honored for their efforts in improving the patients’ lives in our community.

The recipients were asked to select a local non-profit or charity that would receive a donation of $3,000 in their honor. Dr. Gallagher chose the ROAR Center in Sharon, PA, a newly formed organization helping with the opioid crisis and addiction; Pebbles selected Grove City Relay for Life in honor of her sister-in-law who lost her life to breast cancer; and Anderson’s gift went to Young Life West-Penn, a Christian youth group to which her grandson belongs. A total of $9,000 was awarded.

BRHF received nominations from hospitals in the Sharon regional service area for each a physician, an employee and a volunteer for the award.
THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM

On November 2, 2018, BRHF held our third annual forum at the Hope Center for Arts and Technology in Partnership with the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce and Community Foundation of Western PA and Eastern OH. The forum, Working Together to Battle Addiction, brought together nearly 150 community members and health professionals from the area for the daylong event to focus on the opioid crisis.

BRHF brought together experts in the field to discuss opioid addiction and the issues related to our community. Speakers and their topics included John Libonati, Mercer County Coroner, Overview of the Opioid Epidemic; Dr. Gallagher, PAMED Opioid Task Force, Organized Medicine’s Role In and Response to the Opioid Epidemic; Dr. Fuller, CEO, Beacon Health Options, How Addiction Changes Your Brain. The afternoon’s panel discussion with Senior Judge Reed, Kim Anglin, Rev. B.J. Pleasant, and Gloria Mackaly highlighted the impact on the family, the role of drug treatment court, resources, support and treatment options available in our community.

BRHF continues to focus on the opioid crisis through collaborative efforts with our Addiction Action Team and grant funding in the community.

IMPACT STORIES

We believe that through partnerships, education, and grant making, we can creatively impact the quality of life in our communities.

**Buhl Community Recreation Center**

**Buhl Child Development Center Expansion**

*Fall 2018 Grant Cycle*

Choosing the Buhl Child Development Center for a daycare/preschool for my daughter has been an excellent choice. After searching many options and having her attend a few different ones I’m super excited I chose this one. Being able to use scholarship money to help pay for child care is a huge help as a single mother. Attending the Buhl Child Development Center has helped my daughter make some drastic changes in her speech, expressing herself, as well as learning skills for Kindergarten. I like that they are open a long period of time and that they offer swimming and tumbling to the children while they are in care. My daughter loves going to the Buhl Club and has made lots of friends. I can’t wait to see what’s next, it’s been a great experience and it’s been a great adjustment for us both.

**Community Food Warehouse**

**Back Pack Program**

*Fall 2018 Grant Cycle*

Each Friday, children who don’t have a dependable source of nutritious food are able to depend on these bags of food to get them through the weekend. Nearly half of school age students in Mercer County are considered low income and are eligible for free and reduced lunches. These backpacks help to fuel the children’s growing bodies so they are equipped to do their best at school on Monday. These children are the future of our community.

Community organizations throughout Mercer County have come together to help support these backpack programs. “The support from the Buhl Regional Health Foundation is deeply appreciated—not a single child could have been provided for without the generosity and compassion of people like you who gave financially to purchase food for these children each week.” - Reynolds Backpack Program.

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**Mercer County Overdose Deaths**

*Data from Mercer County Coroners Office. Reported overdose deaths include Accidental, Homicide, Natural, Suicide, and Undetermined.*
PHN Charitable Foundation
Connecting Mercer County
Fall 2018 Grant Cycle

PHNCF’s Mobility Manager, Ms. Brown, was recently made aware of a mother who was unable to get two of her school-age children to school, due to lack of transportation and cold/adverse weather prevented them from walking. The mother was also unable to accommodate walking with them (on days with acceptable weather) because she also has 2 younger children, and is pregnant with another. The father starts work much earlier in the morning than school starts, and he uses their only car.

Through this collaborative partnership, Ms. Brown was able to contact Mercer County Regional Council of Governments (COG), who together were able to assist the family in finding transportation for the children. The children would now be able to arrive at school by 8 a.m., which also gave them enough time to get a free breakfast in the morning. The father obtained 2 bus passes from COG, and the children are now regularly attending school. Connecting Mercer County, beyond building a broader evidence base, fostered collaboration between the school, United Way, PHNCF, and COG, to assist a family in need.

UPMC Horizon Community Health Foundation
Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP)
Fall 2017 Cycle

A 60 year old man had a staph infection in his leg and multiple surgeries with amputations of toes. He borrowed a walker and a wheelchair from MERP in January 2018. The wheelchair had been donated and needed arm rests and foot rests, the grant from BRHF covered the purchase of parts and the repairs needed for a wheelchair for the Sharon man. In August, he returned the wheelchair by walking in to MERP. He said, “I am so excited to be able to walk in here to return this wheelchair that I have been confined to for the last several months. I was told I would probably need it for the rest of my life, but I am so proud that with hard work, I am able to return it to you.” He was so grateful for the ability to borrow the chair as his multiple hospital stays and surgeries racked up huge medical bills. He continues to use the walker.

Mercer County Coalition for Drug Awareness
Visual Resource Collaboration for ROAR
Fall 2018 Grant Cycle

ROAR (Removing Obstacles to Assist in Recovery) Center) received a grant from Buhl Regional Health Foundation to develop a website to bridge the various agencies and service providers in the community together who provide services related to addiction. This website allows the opportunity to link consumers with services to meet their needs. The resource page is highly utilized on the website, especially by people who come to ROAR and disclose what they need to address, such as Domestic Relations, counseling needs, and help with utilities. Individuals are able to use computers at the ROAR Center to access the website to find the resources they need all in one place.

ROAR was recently made aware of a mother of someone in active addiction and didn’t know where to go for help. She was directed to the ROAR Center website and the listing of Nar-Anon meetings. She has since been coming each week.

Gaudenzia Erie, Inc.
Drum-atic Healing at Gaudenzia
Spring 2018 Grant Cycle

In 2018, Gaudenzia Erie, Inc. debuted a pilot program, “DRUM-atic Healing with Gaudenzia,” at our Sharon Outpatient facility. While the entire staff, from the Community Affairs Manager and Program Director to our counselors were optimistic, we really didn’t know exactly what to expect or, even more importantly, how it would be received by the clients that we serve. Not only did we achieve our goals, but we exceeded them, as our clients noted their excitement and anticipation for the sessions to be held. Additionally, our staff and clients documented lower stress levels and a decrease in anxiety, which had a direct impact on helping our clients with their rehabilitation from addiction. Without the generosity and support of the Buhl Regional Health Foundation, this project would not have been nearly as successful. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and clients at Gaudenzia Erie, Inc., we would like to thank the Buhl Regional Health Foundation for not only supporting Gaudenzia, but also helping us in our attempt to reach more people and get them the help that they both need and deserve.
Mercer County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Crisis Intervention Team
Fall 2017 Grant Cycle

After becoming certified members of the Mercer County Crisis Intervention Team, two local police officers took new jobs as School Resource Officers (SRO) and they say their training was a great tool for their new roles.

As a new SRO with the Hermitage School District’s elementary schools, Officer Ron Dague says the training he received to be a part of the Crisis Intervention Team has helped him understand how to better converse with people, especially youth who are diagnosed with spectrum disorders. “We, in law enforcement, don’t talk to every adult the same way, as each person responds differently to voice inflection, touch and general wording of the conversation. But with kids, we really need to hone in on how they are responding to us and if they are understanding what we are telling them,” Dague said. “So many of our youth are diagnosed as being on the spectrum now and the range is very broad. The CIT Training has a component that teaches how to approach and better understand these kids.” Officer Dague says the CIT Training most importantly teaches empathy by using simulation exercises. “Think of it like this,” said Dague. “Try to explain the color blue to a blind person. It’s really tough, but it can be done once you have an understanding of how a blind person perceives everyday life.”

DID YOU KNOW?
The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes that high-quality early education and child care for young children improves their health and promotes development and learning.

DID YOU KNOW?
Each year, mental health issues will impact approximately 1 in 4 people in the U.S.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

Eligibility Criteria
- The applicant must be a tax exempt, non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- The proposed grant request should align with the BRHF’s mission and focus areas: “Addressing Mental and Physical Health Needs” and “Access to Healthcare”.
- Applicants must be within the BRHF’s geographical service area and the original coverage footprint of Sharon Regional Health System.

Grant Proposal Process
The Buhl Regional Health Foundation uses an online grant system and accepts Letters of Inquiry (LOI) twice per year. Applicants should visit the BRHF website, www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org, for instructions on how to submit a detailed LOI online and to view past grant awards. The Foundation will review all LOI’s received for that grant cycle and will determine if a program or project is a good potential match to the Foundation’s mission and funding priorities and will invite those to submit a full proposal though the online grant system. The Buhl Regional Health Foundation Board of Directors considers grant proposals for approval at two meetings per year in March and September. Board action occurs after proposals have been reviewed and recommended by the staff and Grants Committee.

Overall Grants & Scholarships Awarded
July 1, 2017—December 31, 2018

![Pie chart showing grants awarded]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Addiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education % Training</td>
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<td>Food &amp; Nutrition</td>
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<td>Physical Health</td>
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33% Mental Health & Addiction
15% Access to Care
4% Education % Training
18% Food & Nutrition
2018 GRANTS AWARDED
January 1, 2018—December 31, 2018

Building Blocks Child Center - Natural Playground
$15,000
Funding will support the Hermitage-based childcare facility, which has programs for children 6 weeks to 12 years, to enhance the physical and mental health needs of the children by providing an outdoor natural playground. Research indicates that children’s social, psychological, academic and physical health are positively impacted when they have daily contact with nature.

Community Counseling Center - Non-Opioid Recovery & Pain Management Specialized Outpatient Program
$25,000
This program will combine formal chemical dependency treatment with alternative pain management treatments for those who have become addicted to opioids due to a chronic serious pain issue related to an injury, disability, disease, or loss of function. These alternative treatments will include occupational therapy, yoga, massage, and possibly exercise physiology interventions from a physical therapist.

Earth Angel Farm - Accessible Integrative Wellness
$5,000
An integrative wellness program designed by medical professionals and taught to existing yoga instructors in the community in order to provide a safe environment for community members dealing with mental and physical health challenges to experience and learn about mind-body and integrative practices that are geared toward improving function, well-being, and quality of life measures.

First Presbytery Church of Sharon - Sharon Back Pack Food Program
$25,000
Sharon Schools breakfast and lunch meal programs are the primary source of nutrition for an increasing number of “food insecure” students. The Back Pack program provides food for the weekends to 300 of those students in need.

Gaudenzia Erie - Drum-atic Healing at Gaudenzia
$1,500
This pilot program aims to help individuals in their recovery while allowing them to come together as a group. In this treatment modality, drum circles can help establish a sense of community while reducing the stress, worry and concerns that are often barriers against someone in their healing and recovery.

Keystone Adolescent Center - Community Based Family Intervention Program
$25,000
This summer enrichment program is a 6 week learning program for youth in the Mercer County and surrounding areas that focuses on personal growth and positive leisure development. The program is designed to enhance the mental and physical well-being of the youth served.

Keystone Blind Association - Prevention of Blindness & Low Vision Clinic
$30,000
This program will provide free screenings and education in the community to prevent blindness and vision loss. The program will also provide people who already have vision loss with access to a low vision exam, training and in-home follow up. This low vision evaluation will give visually impaired individuals the ability and devices to use their remaining vision for work, school and independence.

Shenango Valley YMCA - YMCA at Chaver’s Community Center
$15,000
This program will introduce an evidence-based wellness program into the Chaver’s Center location and enhance the afterschool program with increased and higher-standard physical activity for the students.

Buhl Club - Buhl Child Development Center Expansion
$20,000
Funding will support the Sharon-based childcare facility, which has programs for children ages 12 months to 12 years, to increase capacity by creating an additional preschool room.

Community Food Warehouse - The Backpack Program
$60,000
The mission of the Backpack Program is to help alleviate child hunger by providing children, deemed to be chronically hungry, with nutritious and easy to prepare food at times when other resources are not available, such as weekends and school vacations. Program participants at each site are carefully selected by means of eligibility criteria for determining chronic hunger.

Penn State Shenango - Stamp Out Stigma at Penn State Shenango
$10,000
This program is an annual event created in 2014. Held on campus, it is designed to educate and reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance abuse disorders. Stamp Out Stigma is an initiative spearheaded by the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness and substance use disorders.
MCCDA - Visual Resource Collaboration for ROAR
$10,000
The ROAR Center (Removing Obstacles to Assist Recovery) is a safe, sober social center for people in all phases of recovery from addiction to socialize, hold meetings, utilize activities and obtain information and resources to increase their likelihood of recovery success. Funding will support the creation of a website that will link area services together in one place to maximize the individuals knowledge of resources, activities, and events.

Children’s Advocacy Center of Lawrence County - Nurse Family Partnership
$64,776.68
Funding will support expansion of the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program to Mercer County. NFP is an evidence based, community health program that has generated proven outcomes for low-income women pregnant with their first child. NFP works by having specially trained nurses regularly visit young, first-time moms-to-be, starting in early pregnancy, and continuing through the child’s second birthday.

PHNCF - Mobility Management Transportation Collaborative
$50,000
Funding will support a collaborative community transportation project, through the recruitment of a Mobility Manager (MM), who will be a PHN Charitable Foundation (PHNCF) employee. The MM will act as a nexus of information for all transportation options in the service area. Community residents seeking transportation for any reason will be able to contact the MM, who will coordinate transportation arrangements for these residents. The MM will also build a database of gaps in existing programs.

Prince of Peace Center - Summer Feeding Program
$10,000
This program provides meals during the summer school break to children at Willow Village, Shenango Parke, Stwy Nevant Library, Orange Village and Malleable Heights. The program employs summer workers to cook, transport, and distribute food to children (under 18) who visit the open sites at these locations.

The Guardians Nest - Veteran Social Drop-in Center
$40,000
Funding will support The Guardians Nest to establish a social drop-in center for local Veterans. Their focus will be to provide on-site social, recreational, therapeutic, and educational opportunities. Specific programs will include coffee-talk, “Meet the Doctor” day, life skills, and more. We will also provide an on-site resource center and computer lab. Evaluation of center utilization will inform future expansion and programs.

Salvation Army - Feeding Families for Life at Salvation Army in Sharon
$10,000
Through this program, individuals served by The Salvation Army will be empowered to live a healthier lifestyle by exposure to more wholesome, fresh and nutritious food resources.

United Way of Mercer County - Connecting Mercer Project (2-1-1)
$50,000
This project will increase the visibility and outreach of United Way of Mercer County and provide a central location for area agencies to collaborate with 2-1-1 to create a more robust information and referral database. PA 2-1-1 Southwest provides 24/7 coverage by text, chat and phone that connect people in crisis to the most helpful programs and services in Mercer.

School of Nursing Scholarships
$3,200
BRHF National Hospital Week Awards
$9,000
Community Support
$4,675

2018 Grants & Scholarships Awarded
January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

28% Mental Health & Addiction
100,500

21% Access to Care

1% Education & Training

28% Physical Health
134,451.68

22% Food & Nutrition
106,500

Total: $483,151.68
### Statement of Financial Position

Beginning July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018

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<th>Assets</th>
<th>2018</th>
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| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | $ 34,798,368 |

### Statement of Activities

Beginning July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018

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<th>Revenues Over (Under)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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Resources
Pennsylvania Department of Health
County Health Data
www.statistics.health.pa.gov

Trumbull County Combined Health District &
Warren City Health District
Community Health Assessment
www.tchb.org

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
County Health Profile
www.nwjf.org

Memberships
Exponent Philanthropy
Grant Makers in Health
Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative
Grant Makers of Western Pennsylvania

DID YOU KNOW?
Veterans offer a valuable skill set and a desire to be meaningfully engaged in the community, but have higher rates of unemployment and homelessness.

DID YOU KNOW?
50% of prescription opioid misusers took from family and friends. It is important to appropriately dispose of unused medications. Mercer County has 13 drug take-back boxes located at police stations and pharmacies.

DID YOU KNOW?
In Mercer County, nearly 52% of school age students are considered low income and are eligible for free and reduced lunches.

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Lizette Olsen
Riley Smoot
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Staff
Michaelene Gula
Executive Director
mickey@buhlrfh.org

Kimberly Duncan
Grants & Program Manager
kimberly@buhlrfh.org

Donna Smith
Administrative Assistant
donna@buhlrfh.org
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead