

Cash Must Be Accepted at School Events

By State Rep. Ann Flood

A new state law makes cash an acceptable form of payment for admission to school-sponsored events in Pennsylvania.

Many schools across the Commonwealth have been rejecting cash as a form of payment for school-sponsored events and activities, instead requiring spectators to use credit or debit cards, or order tickets online or through an app. This doesn't work for people who, for various reasons, may not have credit cards or smart phones, or the technical capabilities to access the internet to purchase tickets.

Ticket purchases via the internet or apps also require buyers to surrender a lot of personal information, which is particularly troublesome for senior citizens, a group often targeted by scams.



Valley Youth House Granted \$10,000 from Robert H. Spitz Foundation

By Sarah Pammer

Funding received from Robert H. Spitz Foundation's grant helped support Valley Youth House's Rapid Re-Housing program in Lackawanna County.

Lackawanna County, PA – Valley Youth House has received a \$10,000 grant from the Robert H. Spitz Foundation to support the agency's Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) program in Lackawanna County as part of the Foundation's Spring 2024 grant cycle. The funding received from this grant helps Valley Youth House toward their mission of being the catalyst for youth to achieve their desired future through genuine relationships that support families, ensure safe places, and build community connections.

Valley Youth House's Rapid Re-Housing program in Lackawanna County assists single, pregnant, and/or parenting transition-age youth (18-24) who are experiencing homelessness. The following supportive services are provided to help clients live independently and break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children:

Rental assistance

Weekly case management services

Helping youth develop hard and soft skills necessary to find and maintain employment

Assistance in applying for mainstream benefits

Connections to community resources to sustain independence

Grand Central Landfill Winter Bird Count



Date: January 4, 2026

Time: 9 AM - 10 AM

**Meet At: Grand Central Environmental Education Center
891 Grand Central Road Pen Argyl PA**

RSVP TO: Adrienne.afors1@wm.com

Please dress for the weather, wear hiking shoes
and bring along your camera!



Christina J. Schoemaker, Senior Vice President of Advancement at Valley Youth House, shared, "On behalf of everyone at Valley Youth House, I want to express our sincere appreciation to the Robert H. Spitz Foundation for their generous \$10,000 contribution. This support is essential for initiatives like our Rapid Re-Housing program in Lackawanna County. Partnerships like this make it possible to connect local young people and their families with the secure housing that allows them to plan for a better tomorrow. We truly value their commitment to our mission."

Valley Youth House's Rapid Re-Housing program is the only program of its kind in Lackawanna County that focuses on transition-age youth. Agency staff provides trauma informed care and Positive Youth Development, which builds upon the strengths and resiliency of youth to support learning skills, discovering abilities and interests, and developing mutually beneficial adult-youth relationships.