

Boscola & Samuelson Announce \$475,000 State Grant for New Bethany Community Center Expansion Project

By State Sen. Lisa Boscola

BETHLEHEM (December 18, 2025) - State Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton) and State Rep. Steve Samuelson (D-Northampton) announced that a \$475,000 Statewide Local Share Account grant for New Bethany was awarded today by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

The grant is in support of their Paving the Way campaign; an expansion of their facilities renovating over 18,500 square feet which will transform their Drop-In Center to a full service community resource. Executive Director Marc Rittle reports that their client roster has nearly doubled since before the pandemic, stretching resources well beyond capacity.

"We are deeply grateful to the Commonwealth for this investment, especially to Senator Boscola and Representative Samuelson for their leadership. As New Bethany marks 40 years of service and the affordability crisis continues to intensify, this funding comes at a critical moment. As we expand our campus and deepen our offerings, we will pave the way for our neighbors in need," said Rittle.

The Center will offer a "Health Hub", providing primary, mental and telehealth services, a Community Hygiene Center, seven day a week meal service and upgraded fresh grocery choices from their Food Pantry, dedicated training space for education, job and financial literacy, and by enhancing their office and case management space they will be able to double the number of people they can support annually.

New Bethany has provided critical services for residents in need of support, shelter, health, and wrap-around services for 40 years and are now serving twice as many people since the pandemic," Senator Boscola stated. "The demand for their services has created the need to expand their community center and this grant in the amount of \$475,000 will allow them to meet their demand and provide those services in a more efficient and effective manner."

"New Bethany has provided hope, opportunity, and life-changing resources to thousands of people through the decades," said Representative Samuelson. "This state funding will support vital improvements to their facilities and a significant expansion of the service they provide to our community at a time when the needs are greater than ever."

The grants were approved today by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. The Local Share Account Programs were created through the PA Racehorse Development and Gaming Act (Act 2004-71), which provides for the distribution of gaming revenues through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) to support projects in the public interest within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The grant was part of \$4,509,727 in grant funding approved today for projects in the 18th Senatorial District through the Local Share Account Statewide program.



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Clean Team
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L-R RRGc member Donald Riley, SBVA treasurer Tony Lynch, Dave Ott RRGc Range Committee Dir., RRGc member Kelli Anne Frey

Roseto Rod & Gun Club Donates to Slate Belt Veterans Assoc.

By Michael Ortoski

ROSETO - Members of the 'Range Committee' of Roseto Rod & Gun Club (RRGC) raised \$700 and donated it to the Slate Belt Veterans Assoc. (SBVA). Accepting the donation was SBVA treasurer Tony Lynch along with SBVA member Michael Ortoski.

RRGC members presenting the check were Dave Ott RRGc Range Committee Dir., RRGc members Donald Riley and Kelli Anne Frey.

The money will go to the SBVA project of building a 32 housing complex on 4th St. in Bangor, the first of its kind in the Slate Belt for disabled Veterans and their families.

The project will provide accessible, affordable homes designed specifically for combat-disabled veterans. Features include: Adapted homes for mobility needs, Safe supportive community, Stability for veterans and their families.



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