



MISSION: Train and develop individuals to serve in nonprofit leadership roles within Berks County.

BUILDING CAPACITY & IMPACT

The benefits of Leadership Berks are a win-win-win.

Individuals:

- Increase their knowledge around community assets and needs.
- Expand leadership and project management skills.

Employers:

- Retain higher-skilled employees possessing a greater ability to lead, problem-solve and build teams effectively within the workplace.

Local nonprofits:

- Have access to a larger pool of individuals representing a broad range of experiences to serve in community leadership roles.

FAST FACTS

Leadership Berks - Making an Impact

Since late 2020, United Way of Berks County has managed Leadership Berks resulting in 118 graduates serving with local nonprofit organizations.

In 2026, 34 participants will join them as they graduate in June and continue their leadership journeys by volunteering on boards and committees locally.

- **Originally founded in 1985** through a partnership of Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and Industry, United Labor Council, Junior League and United Way.
- **Program is highly valued by employers**, recognizing the increased skills and experiences gained by graduates.
- **Curriculum** delivered by business and community leaders, along with content expert instructors.
- **Experiential program** expanding personal, professional and community leadership skills and opportunities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Two-day mandatory opening retreat September 24-25, 2026
- Participants meet one day a month, from October 2026 – May 2027
- Program Graduation: June 9, 2027
- Classroom and Panel Instruction builds knowledge about community assets and challenges, nonprofits' collective impact in Berks, nonprofit operations and governance, and servant leadership essentials
- Curriculum features interactive and team-building experiences
- Team-based service project with local nonprofits
- Placement on nonprofit board or committee

PROGRAM COMMITMENT TIME & TUITION

Program Time Commitment

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|----------------------------------|----------|
| • Class & Relationship Building | 75 Hours |
| • Service Project | 35 Hours |
| • Volunteer Leadership Placement | 10 Hours |

Tuition 2026-27 Program

- \$3,000
- A limited number of partial scholarships are available for nonprofits or self-supported individuals.



“Leadership Berks helped me strengthen my skills in collaboration, strategic thinking, and leading teams toward shared goals. The program helped me develop practical leadership skills, deepen my self-awareness, and learn how to effectively guide and support teams. These tools have developed me personally and professionally. I was humbled by the opportunity to engage and build relationships with different organizations within my local community.”

Dory-Jean Beniquez
Brentwood Industries
2024-2025 Graduate

CONTACT INFO:

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