



UNITED WAY
Berks County

**LEADERSHIP
BERKS**

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.



"My experience in Leadership Berks has been both humbling and transformative. What began as an opportunity for professional growth quickly became something much more meaningful – a chance to better understand the people, organizations and partnerships that make Berks County such a special place. Through this program, I developed lasting relationships with an incredible cohort of leaders from across our community, gained a deeper appreciation for the power of collaboration, and strengthened my commitment to serving others with purpose and intention. I am truly grateful to Penn State Health for supporting my participation and to the United Way of Berks County for creating such an impactful leadership experience.

Mark Krawiec, Penn State Health
2025-2026 Graduate

CONTACT INFO:

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