

August 2019

A New School Year Can Be A Fresh Start

It's hard to believe the long, lazy days of summer are coming to an end. Yet, back-to-school season is upon us and, with it, an opportunity to help young people start the year feeling welcomed and cared for.

For some, a word of encouragement and a new backpack with school supplies is all that is required. Others need glasses or special medical or dental care. And some need the most precious gift of all—an opportunity to take an important next step in their career and provide for their young family.

The stories below highlight just a few of the ways St. Luke's is working to ensure the coming year is filled with success and opportunity for thousands of young people from across our service area—especially those who are facing special challenges.

Thank you for supporting this important work. Your generosity is helping to build a stronger, healthier community one person at a time.



*Patrick J. Bower
Vice President for
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St. Luke's University Health Network*



Head Start into Health Care

18-year-old Daikiry Perez spent her summer mornings walking 30 minutes to the St. Luke's Bethlehem campus. There, she shadowed patient care assistants as they took temperatures, checked blood pressure, and answered call bells. Daikiry and 19 of her peers—all facing socio-economic barriers to summer jobs—participated in the Network's Health Career Exploration Program, which gave them an inside look at what it's like to work in health care.

[An Up-close Look](#)

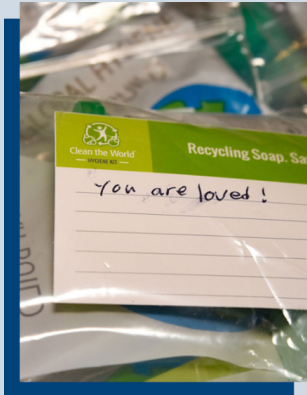
A Step in the Right Direction

When 22-year-old Makita McFarlane found out she was pregnant, she put her dreams of becoming a nurse on hold to care for her family. Now, thanks to a generous grant, St. Luke's innovative Next Step program can help Makita and other first-time moms advance their careers through educational



opportunities, good-paying jobs, and professional mentoring.

Makita's Story



Big HEARTS in Bethlehem

At Temple/St. Luke's School of Medicine, students make time to serve others—despite their busy schedules. "I wanted to help people in the community... those who are unable to get the proper care without some assistance," says Nathan Kerr, a fourth-year medical student. Kerr and many of his fellow students volunteer at the Bethlehem-based HEARTS clinic each month, caring for vulnerable patients.

Compassion and Primary Care



Smart Moms and Safe Babies

One of the hallmarks of the nursing profession is a willingness to go the extra mile for patients and their families. This tradition is alive and well at St. Luke's School of Nursing, where a group of students recently organized a special program to help first-time moms and their children develop a love of learning.

Equipped for Success



Corks & Forks

September 28: It's almost time for the third annual *Corks & Forks* event! Help support community health programs benefiting children at this annual event.



The Girls Night Out

October 10: The boys are welcome, too, at this special event benefiting women impacted by breast cancer. Featuring carnival games, food, and giveaways,

Enjoy live music, award-winning wine, and food stations, while admiring stunning vineyards.

this annual event celebrates Breast Reconstruction Awareness (BRA) Day and supports cancer care at St. Luke's.

[Register Now](#)

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St. Luke's Development Office helps advance the network's mission through philanthropy. Your support allows us to deliver personalized care that makes a difference every day for every patient.

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