

*Vision *Inspired *Helpful *Image *Leadership

*Perseverance



By Jennifer O'Donnell, IOM, Director, Leadership Tri-County

On Tuesday, December 10th 2019, Leadership Tri-County, Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities, and invited guests joined at SunnyBrook Ballroom in Pottstown to celebrate the graduates of the Community Volunteer Leadership Program: Tamara, Mercedes, Renee, Luther, Billy, and Dawn.

The Community Volunteer Leadership Program (CVLP) – a successful pilot collaboration between the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities and Leadership Tri-County and made possible by the generous funding from The HealthSpark Foundation, was designed to provide an individual with lived experience from nonprofit services, the education and foundation to serve as a skilled volunteer leader within a nonprofit organization.

Modeled after the ten-month, tuition-based Leadership Tri-County's flagship CORE program, the Community Volunteer Leadership Program consisted of six individuals who were either

identified by a nonprofit with demonstrated leadership potential or sought out this opportunity to further develop their skillset and leadership development – all with the common denominator to inspire and serve others in their community. Session days were held twice a month on Tuesdays from 9:30AM–2:30PM from July through early December.

What was learned throughout this process is that one cannot serve others effectively until one feels they have served themselves first. If you think of a plane losing oxygen, they say to put on your mask first before helping others – the same rings true here. We focused on strengthening their belief in themselves,



expanded their knowledge of the community, and through personal and visual story telling – sparking their passion (or finding one) into something they can pursue and empower others with better skills and influence when they serve on future nonprofits committees.

As a Class they **persevered**, **helped** each other grow, created a bigger **vision** for themselves, their **image** of one another radiated into one, and they've **inspired**

those around them to do more and be better. That's community. That's **leadership**.

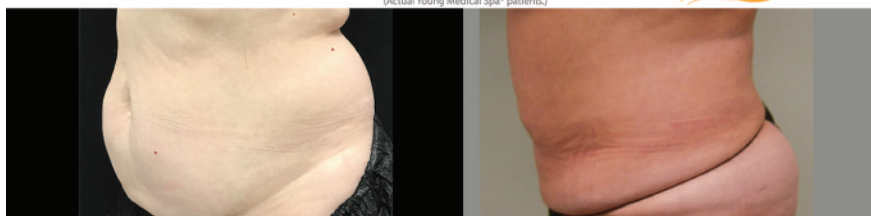
For more information about CVLP or other Leadership Tri-County programs, please call Jennifer O'Donnell at 610.326.2900 ext. 103 or visit www.leadershiptricity.org. Leadership Tri-County is a division of the TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc.



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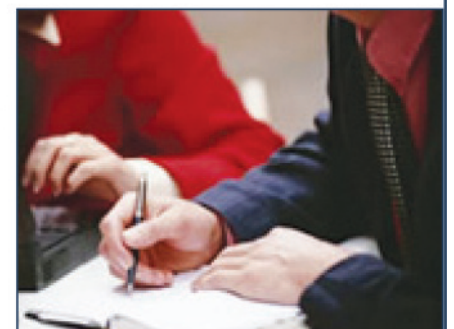
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