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CONGRATULATIONS SUZANNE CODY!

AMERICAN FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS BERKS COUNTY CHAPTER
2025 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



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DESIGNING A BETTER COMMUNITY:

Why Volunteering is Part of Our Brand



By Suzanne Cody, Associate, MG Architects
Recipient, 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award
Berks County Chapter, Association of Fundraising Professionals

In architecture, every design begins with people who will live, work, learn, and gather within the spaces we create. Our mission as architects and designers is not only to design buildings, but to shape environments that enhance life and foster connection. That same philosophy extends beyond the walls we design. It's why volunteering is not just something we do in our spare time — it's a vital part of who we are as professionals and as a firm.

This year, I was honored to receive the *Volunteer of the Year Award* from the Berks County Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. While the recognition is humbling, what it truly represents is the collective spirit of our team and the broader Berks community — individuals and organizations who dedicate their time, skills, and compassion to helping others.

At **Muhlenberg Greene Architects**, we believe community service is an extension of design thinking. When we volunteer, we respond to human needs — understanding challenges, envisioning solutions, and contributing creativity to make the world around us better. Whether we're serving on nonprofit boards, helping students discover architecture as a career, or lending our expertise to improve community spaces, each effort strengthens our connection to the people and places we serve.

Volunteering also builds empathy, teamwork, and trust — qualities that are essential to our profession. It connects us with the real experiences of those who inhabit the buildings we design and

reminds us that architecture is ultimately about people.

We are deeply grateful for the honor of this award and for the privilege to serve our community. It is a continuation of the legacy set forth by our founder, **Frederick A. Muhlenberg**, who believed that architects have both a professional and moral responsibility to improve the world around them. His vision of service through design continues to guide us — reminding us that the beautification of our world begins with compassion, community, and care for one another.

As business leaders, we each have the opportunity to weave community involvement into our company culture. Encouraging employees to volunteer, support local causes, and partnering with nonprofits aren't just acts of goodwill — they're strategic investments in the health and vitality of the region we all share. When service becomes part of your brand,

it strengthens relationships, inspires your team, and builds a legacy of purpose that extends far beyond the workplace. Together, we can design not only better buildings — but better Berks County.



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