

MEDICAL LEGACY FUNDS



From left to right: Mary Carroll Donahoe, AllOne Foundation & Charities; John Cosgrove, AllOne Foundation & Charities; Dawn McHale, Blue Ridge HS Counselor; Carly Corbin, Blue Ridge HS Counselor; Anna Warriner, Blue Ridge MS Counselor; Jen Housel and Jill Swingle, Community Foundation; and Matt Button, Blue Ridge School District.

Foundations Bring Telehealth to Blue Ridge

Over the past twenty years, Blue Ridge School District has developed its mental health team step by step. For many years, the district struggled to maintain consistent, in-house, school-based therapists, and students often faced challenges related to time and transportation when accessing providers who were 30 to 45 minutes away in Broome or Lackawanna Counties. Therapists traveling to the school for meetings accumulated non-billable hours that were not compensated by insurance companies. There were gaps. There was weather. Treatment and counseling for children and educators in distress was often delayed.

Thanks to the Leo and Sandra Conklin Foundation and AllOne Foundation & Charities, much of that has improved over the past year. Blue Ridge has been able to secure additional school-based therapists, significantly increasing access to in-house support for students. In addition, the district has implemented a Telehealth Room in the guidance office, further reducing barriers to care. This space allows students to connect with remote providers without the challenges of travel or scheduling conflicts, ensuring more timely and consistent services.

Superintendent Matt Button, who grew up in the same neighborhood as the Conklin family, and his middle school and high school administrative team worked with the Community Foundation to access Conklin Endowment funds to support the Telehealth Room. When not in use for counseling, the room also serves as a safe, quiet, and comfortable space for students or staff who need a moment to regroup. It has proven to be a valuable resource not only for students, but also for staff seeking support.

The initiative saves travel time and costs for both patients and therapists, optimizes scheduling, helps fill social workers' caseloads, and supports more stable compensation for providers. To complement the Leo and Sandra Conklin Foundation grants, AllOne Foundation & Charities, recognizing Blue Ridge's success, has also provided funding to train additional therapists.

It's been a win all around, with Mr. Button reporting, "I've had nothing but positive feedback. It's been a terrific use of resources for helping kids. After all, that's why we're here."