



Resilient Students Network



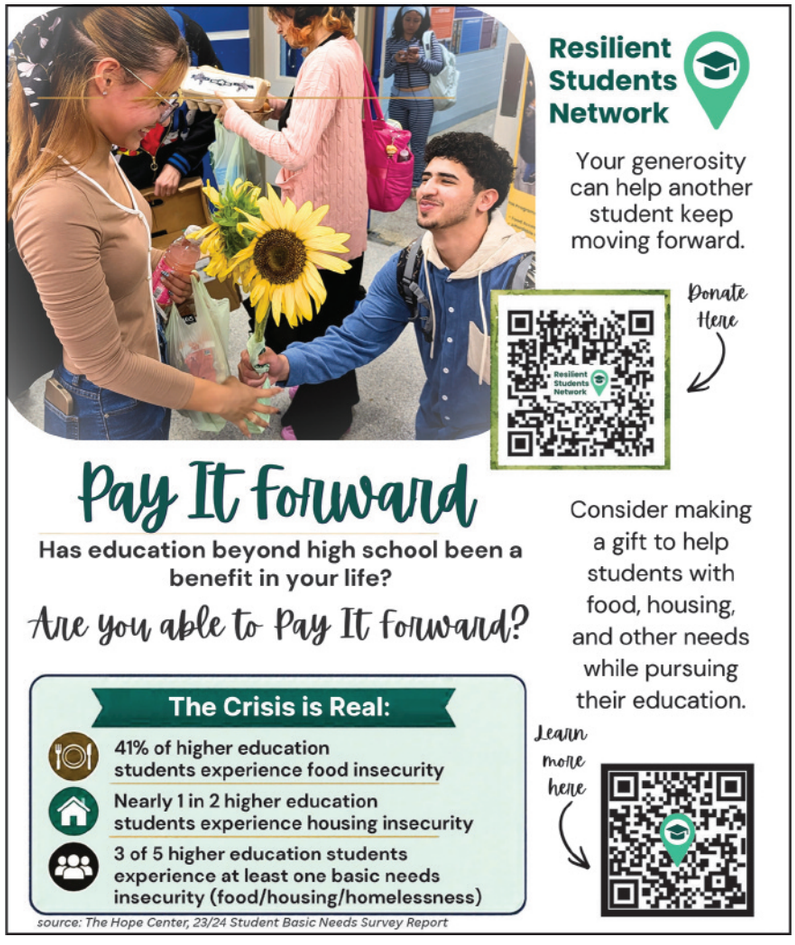
By Wendy Gaynor, Executive Director

Resilient Students Network's (RSN) mission is simple: to help low-income college and trade students meet their basic needs (food, housing, transportation, and more) so they can stay in school, achieve their academic goals, and build better futures. In many ways, we are protecting an investment that students and our communities have already made in higher education. Students pay tuition, attend classes, work, raise families, accumulate credits, and work toward a degree or credential. Then, sometimes, a $1,500 rent arrears bill, a broken-down car, food insecurity, or an emergency can put that hard work at risk. That's where RSN steps in.

There is a basic-needs crisis facing higher education students nationally and right here in our region. While nearly 70 percent of living-wage jobs require education beyond a high school diploma, the rising cost of living can make completing that education feel out of reach. Too many students are trying to balance the demands of school with the very real challenges of keeping food on the table, maintaining stable housing, getting to work, and caring for their families.

What energizes me most about this work is that we get to walk alongside people who have already made an incredible investment in themselves and their futures. These students are our future teachers, mechanics, healthcare professionals, business owners, and human service leaders. They are already doing the hard work, and they belong exactly where they are…in the classroom, in the workforce, and building the lives they envision. So many people have told me, "I wish there had been something like RSN when I was in school." I wish there had been, too. And now there is. We can make sure that a temporary setback doesn't become the reason a student has to walk away from a future they've worked so hard to build.

To learn more, check out www.resilientstudents.org or contact Wendy Gaynor, Executive Director at Gaynor.wendy@resilientstudents.org.





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Joseph Scott McArdle, C.C.I.M.

THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY BEGINS IN THE CLASSROOM

What do successful businesses and exceptional schools have in common? Both recognize the value of innovation, strong foundations, meaningful relationships, and leadership. Both understand that long-term success begins with investing in people.

Since 1918, The Wyndcroft School, rooted in Pottstown's historic Rosedale neighborhood, has provided generations of children with an exceptional educational foundation, cultivating tomorrow's leaders today.

Why Wyndcroft? Because the foundation built today shapes the possibilities of tomorrow.

Wyndcroft serves students from Early Childhood through Grade 8, blending time-tested instruction with innovative programs that prepare today's learners for tomorrow's opportunities.

> *"Tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and changemakers are sitting in classrooms today."*

"We're preparing these children for jobs or careers or lives that we don't even know about yet," explains Dan Edleman, Director of Academic Program. "We have things that are 'traditional' that are important and necessary skills and competencies for young people to have as a foundation. We also have programs and opportunities that expose students to the modern world they will inherit and hopefully advance."

From reading, writing, mathematics, and humanities to hands-on STEM, engineering, world languages, and the arts, Wyndcroft students develop the knowledge and skills to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate confidently, and approach challenges creatively.

These aren't simply classroom skills. They're lifelong competencies that define successful leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and engaged citizens.

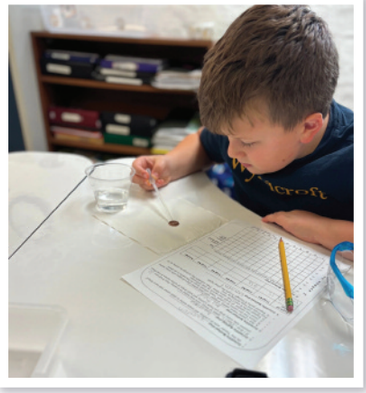
Elizabeth Fretz has been at Wyndcroft for more than 20 years - first as a parent and teacher, now as its Assistant Head of School. She has seen the outcomes of a Wyndcroft education not just from former students, but from her own children. "My two older sons, now sixteen and nineteen, continue to excel, entered into advanced classes, and were chosen as leaders for their high school and college-level sports teams." Her youngest is experiencing the strong, values-based education coupled with the innovative instruction at Wyndcroft. "Their roots are strong and they continue, as our graduates do, to thrive during their next chapter," Mrs. Fretz said.











This balanced approach encourages students to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate confidently, and approach challenges with creativity and curiosity.

These are not simply classroom skills. They are life skills—and the very qualities that define successful leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, and engaged citizens.

Where Every Child Is Known. And Every Possibility Matters.

At Wyndcroft, exceptional education is personal. Teachers recognize that children learn differently and grow at different rates. Small classes, inspiring teachers, and meaningful relationships ensure children are known for their individual strengths, interests, and potential.

Through personalized attention, thoughtful instruction, and high expectations, students develop confidence, discover their abilities, and experience a learning environment where academic achievement, curiosity, happiness, and belonging thrive.

Character Is More Than a Lesson. It's a Way of Life.

In business and in life, integrity matters.

Wyndcroft's motto, *Non Sibi*—"Not for Self"—is embedded in daily school life. Students learn that leadership extends beyond personal achievement to responsibility, empathy, service, and contributing to something greater than themselves.

A Pottstown Tradition. A Future Without Limits.

For 108 years, Wyndcroft has been part of the greater Pottstown community, preparing generations of students for success in secondary school and beyond.

As our region evolves, Wyndcroft remains committed to developing young people prepared not simply to participate in the future, but to help shape it.

Because tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and changemakers are sitting in classrooms today. At The Wyndcroft School, their future is already taking shape.

Discover WHY Wyndcroft. Experience The Wyndcroft Way. Visit our website to attend a fall event and to learn more. You can email Maureen Cannon, Director of Admission and Communications to schedule a visit and see the *WHY*, yourself.

The Wyndcroft School –
Pottstown, Pennsylvania

Leading education in the greater Berks, Chester & Montgomery areas.

Early Childhood–Grade 8
www.wyndcroft.org
mcannon@wyndcroft.org

Arader Farm

Where Holiday Magic Takes Root

For Chris and Paige Arader, a shared love of nature, and community has blossomed into a beloved holiday destination.

As winter approaches and the air turns crisp, thoughts of the holidays bring visions of twinkling lights, fragrant pine trees, and cherished family traditions. Since 2021, Arader Farm has helped bring that magic to life for the community, welcoming visitors to enjoy tractor rides, cut-your-own Christmas trees, festive light shows, and a Christmas shop filled with gifts and seasonal décor.

For owners Chris Arader and Paige Roberts-Arader, the farm represents the fulfillment of a longtime dream — one rooted in their shared love of nature, creativity, and community. They are devoted to the property where we plant approximately 4,000 Christmas trees each Spring.

Chris spent more than 50 years owning and operating Arader Tree Service, providing everything from pruning and trimming to tree removal. His appreciation for the outdoors began in childhood, when he worked alongside his father and learned the art of beekeeping and taking care of specimen trees.

Paige brings a creative perspective shaped by her 30-year career in the office furniture industry, much of it with Knoll. An avid gardener, she has expanded her knowledge of trees and horticulture through her life with Chris. Together, they maintain beehives and plant trees and flowers that support pollinators.

That blend of nature, creativity, and hospitality is at the heart of Arader Farm. During the holiday season, Paige can often be found in the Christmas shop, welcoming customers and helping families create lasting memories.



"We look forward each year to opening for Fall and Christmas and love it when our amazing customers come up to introduce themselves," she says.

As the holiday season approaches, the Araders continue to expand the farm's offerings, with special events, walking tours through the light displays, and visits from Santa and various holiday characters.

For Chris and Paige, Arader Farm is more than a business. It is a place where a lifelong love of nature has grown into something to share with others—a welcoming destination where families can make memories, discover the wonders of the outdoors, and experience a little holiday magic.

Plan Your Visit

Arader Farm is located at 746 S. Trappe Road, Collegeville, PA 19426 and offers seasonal activities, Christmas trees, holiday shopping, and special events. Visitors should check the farm's official website for current hours, event dates, ticket information, and seasonal offerings at https://araderfarm.com.



Muhlenberg Greene Architects

With more than 100 years of architectural experience, Muhlenberg Greene Architects (MGA) has built its reputation on understanding our clients' needs and turning complex challenges into practical, buildable solutions. Since our founding in 1920, we have evolved alongside the communities we serve, combining a legacy of experience with a forward-thinking approach to design and project delivery.

What sets MGA apart is our principal-led approach with a commitment to hands-on service. We work closely with clients from initial planning through construction, providing experienced leadership, responsive communication, and practical creativity at every stage. Our expertise is particularly valuable in renovation, adaptive reuse, and complex facility projects where existing conditions, regulatory requirements, and competing priorities can create uncertainty. By identifying challenges early and maintaining close communication throughout the process, we help clients minimize surprises, manage risk, and move projects forward with confidence.

While our history provides a strong foundation, we continually embrace new technologies to improve how we work. Advanced 3D digital models and collaboration tools help us strengthen coordination, visualize alternatives, and support better-informed decisions before construction begins. We are also exploring the integration of artificial intelligence into our workflows to improve efficiency and productivity, allowing our staff to focus more time on problem-solving and design quality. Our objective is not simply to adopt new technology, but to use it purposefully to deliver more coordinated, efficient, and predictable project outcomes.

As Muhlenberg Greene looks toward the future, we remain committed to building lasting partnerships and continuing to expand into new markets. We bring together the experience of an established architectural firm with the responsiveness and innovation today's projects demand. MGA offers experience, leadership, and practical insight to help turn your goals into reality. We welcome the opportunity to learn about your business and explore how we can help you move your next project forward.

For additional information, please visit www.MG-ARCHITECTS.COM.



Retro Auto Works

Where New School Skills Meet Old School Values

At Retro Auto Works, we combine old school service with new school technology. Our techs are ASE certified and they work with the same factory-grade diagnostic tools the dealerships use, which means you get a real answer about your car. That's the standard behind every auto repair in Montgomery County we take on. It's also why every vehicle that comes in gets a free 75-point inspection with photos sent to your phone, and why the work carries a 2-year, 24,000-mile warranty when you drive off.

We're your neighbors, and a family-run business behaves differently than a chain does. Transparent service, respectful communication, and trust built one repair at a time. Quick fix or major job, we take the time to explain what's going on with your car. No pressure and no jargon, just straight answers about what needs doing and what can wait. No grease-stained floors, no pushy attitudes. Just a clean, organized space where you get treated like family from the moment you walk in. We take pride in our shop, in the repairs that leave it, and most of all in the people we serve. That's not a slogan. It's how a family business stays in business.

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Retro Auto Works of Glenside, 2926 Mt. Carmel Avenue, Glenside, PA 19308; 215-885-3844. For additional information, please visit www.retroautoworkspa.com.

January Has No Superpowers

Lay the foundations now for the business — and life — you want in 2027.



By Lana Potgieter, Founder & Principal, Lighthouse Leadership Coaching & Development LLC

2026 is drawing to a close. You may already be looking back, celebrating the goals you achieved or wondering what happened to the ones you didn't.

Soon, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be behind us. Hopefully, we will have enjoyed time with family and friends. And January 1 will arrive, bringing the familiar promise of a fresh start.

For business owners and leaders, this is a natural time to reflect and plan: evaluate past goals, set new ones, and decide what comes next.

But in more than two decades as a business and leadership coach, I have learned this: ***January has no magical superpowers.*** Q1 is no more powerful than Q4. Unless we do things differently—and sometimes do different things—we can carry the same habits and frustrations straight into a new year.

Growth can mean many things: a stronger business, greater sustainability, a lasting legacy, or the freedom to step away knowing things will keep running. You probably didn't start a business simply to keep yourself busy. And you certainly didn't start one to become a slave to it.

So how do you give the results that matter to you a better chance in 2027?

Think of the three little pigs. Sometimes, without intending to, we build with straw and sticks. We rely on enthusiasm, good intentions, and our ability to work harder when things get difficult.

Building with bricks takes preparation. It means building habits, skills, and support that help your business withstand economic pressures, changing circumstances, and your own fears and doubts.

Just as a good evening routine can set you up for a better morning, the preparation you do now can set you up for a stronger year.

1. Acknowledge what you have accomplished.

List your accomplishments from 2026, big and small. What went well? What did you do right? What are you proud of and grateful for? Give yourself credit before moving on to what still needs work.

2. Describe your ideal December 2027.

Imagine you are sitting in December next year, looking back. What would make you pinch yourself? Write that picture in the present tense, as though it has happened. Include your business, health, relationships, and personal life. Allow yourself to describe what you truly want before worrying about how to achieve it.

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Retro Auto Works

Where New School Skills Meet Old School Values

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January Has No Superpowers

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3. Examine what you are doing now.

Ask: Are my current choices helping or hindering that future?

In a recent coaching session, a business owner recognized that he was spending time on tasks others could handle while customer proposals waited. He said those delays were costing him jobs. That recognition gave us something specific to work on: where he needed to direct his attention.

Knowing what matters and making time for it are different things.

4. Choose the changes and support you need.

Which attitudes and behaviors need to change? How will you track your progress? Decide what training, development, reading, or coaching will help you build the skills you need.

Then prioritize. You cannot make every change at once. Pick where to start and put the first actions on your calendar before this year ends.

5. Keep your commitments visible.

Make a concise list and place it somewhere you will see it: your screen, mirror, wall, or the front of your journal. Set a regular time to review it. What have you acted on? What needs adjusting? What will you do next?

6. Consider who will help you follow through.

You do not have to work it all out alone. An accountability partner or coach can help you clarify your priorities, challenge habits that hold you back, and follow through on the changes you choose.

You still have time in 2026 to lay the first bricks. Start now, so that when January arrives, you already have something solid to build on.

Ready to lay the foundations for your 2027? Contact Lana for a no-obligation conversation about your goals and how coaching can help you move toward them. Visit **lighthouseleadership.today** or email lana@lighthouseleadership.today.

Lana Potgieter is the founder and principal of Lighthouse Leadership Coaching & Development LLC. With more than two decades of coaching experience, she helps business owners and leaders build clarity, confidence, and strategic direction. Her guiding message: Be the Lighthouse, Not the Lifeboat.

North Montco Technical Career Center

North Montco Technical Career Center (NMTCC) is proud to partner with Montgomery County Intermediate Unit's Career Connections to expand access to high-quality career training for young adults (18–24 years old). Through this collaboration, Career Connections participants can take advantage of NMTCC's industry-driven evening Machining and Welding programs, designed to prepare students for in-demand careers while offering the flexibility to balance work, family, and other commitments. Together, NMTCC and Career Connections are helping young adults gain the skills, credentials, and confidence needed to build successful careers and meet the workforce needs of the region.

Businesses: The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit is seeking local manufacturers to host paid interns through a Pennsylvania DCED-funded grant. Participating businesses can interview and select candidates, receive up to 200 hours of grant-funded support from Montgomery County residents interested in manufacturing careers, and use the internship as an extended working interview with the opportunity to hire successful interns at the conclusion of the program. It's a no-cost opportunity to strengthen your entry-level workforce while helping build the next generation of local manufacturing talent. Contact Dan Chominski at Dchominski@mciu.org or fill out the linked interest form on the flyer and we will be in touch!

Interns: Are you 18–24 years old and interested in launching a career in manufacturing? The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit is offering paid manufacturing internships and training scholarships through a Pennsylvania DCED grant for Montgomery County residents. Participants can earn money while gaining up to 200 hours of hands-on experience with a local manufacturer, receive scholarship opportunities for manufacturing training programs, and potentially transition into full-time employment—all with no prior experience required. Fill out the interest form and someone will be in touch with next steps!

Interest forms for Students and Businesses

- https://forms.gle/2ycBQaMgpRjt9wvYA (Students interested in training opportunities)
- https://forms.gle/w4q6m22u5R9xDr7AA (Businesses interested in hosting an intern)

Be the Lighthouse, Not the Lifeboat.

Gain the clarity, confidence, and strategic direction to lead your business into 2027.



Lana Potgieter
Founder & Principal

Lighthouse Leadership Coaching & Development LLC

lighthouseleadership.today

lana@lighthouseleadership.today

(484) 347-0515

linkedin.com/in/lanapotgieter/

