



UNITED
WAY



Keel Infrastructure Annual Report

Panther Valley School District
2026



Keel
Infrastructure

UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY
**Community
Schools**

School-Year Achievements

2025-26

During the 2025-26 school year, your partnership helped Panther Valley School District meet immediate family needs while expanding opportunities that support long-term student success. Keel’s support provided food, hygiene supplies, winter essentials and other necessities; created new after-school learning opportunities; enabled the expansion of an inclusive playground; and strengthened the district’s Community School approach by connecting students and families with critical resources and community partners.

Panther Valley School District is especially grateful for the enthusiasm, responsiveness and genuine care the Keel team brought to this work. Your team remained engaged in the day-to-day realities facing students and families, participating personally in everything from holiday distributions to community celebrations. This involvement extended far beyond financial support and reflected a shared commitment to the success and well-being of Panther Valley students, families and the broader community.

Highlights

- 1** Served more than 1,400 families through food-based assistance and distributions since October
- 2** Provided year-round basic-needs support, including food for school breaks, winter hats and gloves, hygiene products, snacks and summer meal supplies
- 3** Invested in a major playground expansion at Panther Valley Elementary School, doubling the play area available to students and ensuring it’s accessible so children of all abilities can play, connect and thrive
- 4** Expanded access to after-school learning and enrichment for more than 300 students district-wide through engaging programming and dedicated transportation

Meeting Essential Needs

Keel Infrastructure’s support helped Panther Valley School District meet the essential needs of more than 1,400 families throughout the school year. Beginning in October, the district provided timely, practical assistance tailored to families’ changing needs, helping ensure students had the essentials necessary to remain healthy, engaged and ready to learn.

Support included nonperishable food items such as macaroni and cheese and soup during winter break; hats and gloves in January; and hygiene supplies, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs and soap, in February. Assistance continued through the summer with granola bars distributed in June and cookout essentials, including hot dogs, buns and condiments, provided in July.

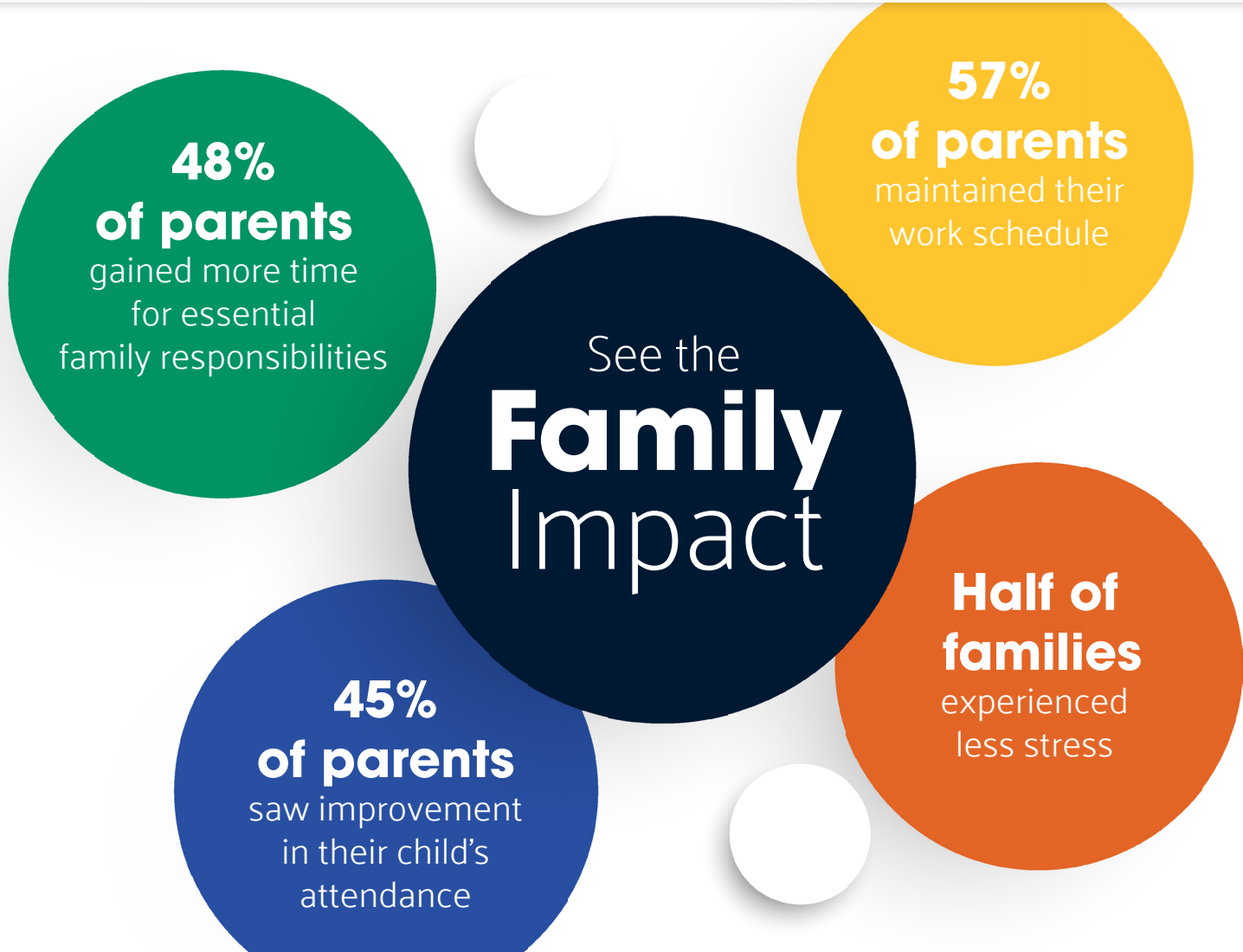
This consistent support enabled the district to respond to families’ needs throughout the year, delivering meaningful assistance as challenges emerged across seasons, holidays and school breaks.



Learning Beyond the School-Day

For the first time in Panther Valley School District’s history, students had access to a structured after-school program, made possible through Keel Infrastructure’s investment. Students explored a variety of enrichment opportunities through clubs including Animal Adventure Club, LEGO Club, Craft Club, Fit and Fun Club, Doodle Club, Movie Club, Mini Panther Board Game Club, Drama Club and Chorus. These experiences allowed students to build new skills, discover interests and connect with peers in a fun and supportive environment. Across two program sessions, 335 students participated, including 195 elementary students in grades K-3 and 140 intermediate students in grades 4-6.

Just as important as launching the program was ensuring students could attend. Keel’s funding covered transportation for club participants, removing one of the most common barriers to after-school involvement in a rural district, where getting a child home safely after regular school hours is often a deciding factor for families. 52% of families reported that bus transportation was critical to their child’s ability to participate.

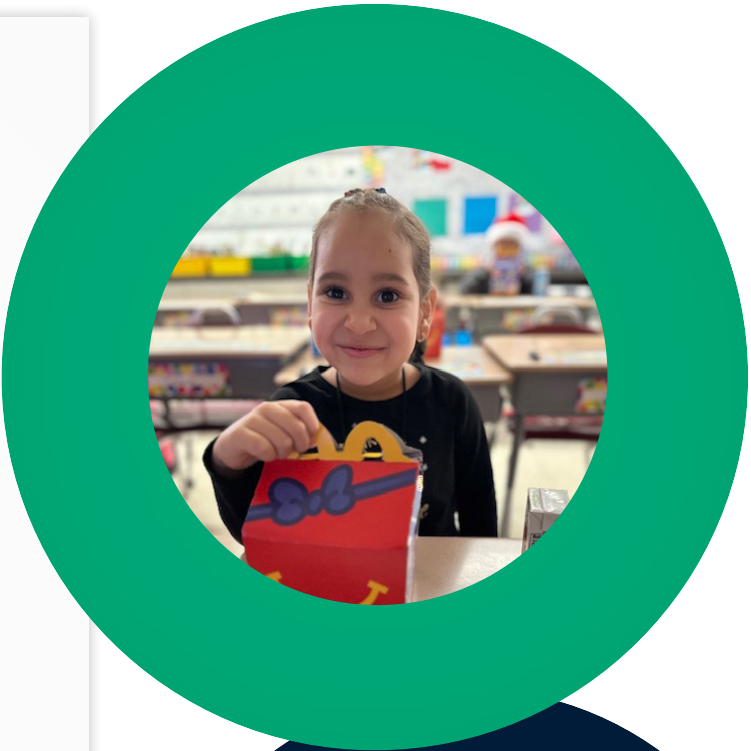


Learning in Action

Keel’s impact extended beyond after-school programming and into daily classroom instruction. Keel’s investment has directly enhanced the day-to-day learning experience for Panther Valley students. Teachers report that new headphones have helped students stay focused during computer-based reading and math activities, while flexible seating has made small-group instruction more engaging and collaborative. Interactive doodle boards quickly became a classroom favorite, providing students with a hands-on way to practice math and spelling skills and share their thinking.

Keel’s support also extended learning beyond the classroom through teacher-led mini-grant opportunities that brought innovative experiences to students across the district. These projects included cultural enrichment through a live Flamenco Ballet performance, virtual visits to historic landmarks, hands-on research projects such as a Living Wax Museum, new geography resources, makerspace activities, sensory-inclusive learning spaces and life-skills experiences designed to support a wide range of student interests and needs.

“One of the most meaningful parts of this grant has been the ability to provide snacks for students who may not always have one from home. Knowing that every child has something to eat helps them stay focused and ready to learn throughout the day.”



70 students enjoyed McDonald’s Happy Meals for learning all of their sight words

Play. Grow. Belong.

Hundreds of Panther Valley students now have access to a larger, fully accessible play space designed to support physical activity, inclusion and social development. By doubling the size of its existing playground with help from Keel Infrastructure, Panther Valley Elementary School created new opportunities for children of all abilities to play, grow and belong. The expansion encourages active play, fosters meaningful peer interactions and provides a welcoming environment where every student can participate and thrive.

The playground came to life through a hands-on partnership among Keel team members, school staff and community partners. Volunteers worked side by side on landscaping and construction, helping bring the new space to life and demonstrating a shared commitment to Panther Valley students.

The project culminated in a community ribbon-cutting celebration attended by Panther Valley High School students who had been elementary school students when the original playground was installed. Seeing the playground they once enjoyed double in size created a meaningful full-circle moment and served as a visible reminder of the community's ongoing investment in its youngest learners.



Thank You

Keel's commitment to Panther Valley extended far beyond financial support. Throughout the year, your team showed up for students and families in meaningful ways, participating in Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and other community celebrations and helping distribute holiday gifts, sweatshirts and essential items.

Whether volunteering at special events, supporting families during the holidays or celebrating alongside students, the Keel team consistently demonstrated genuine care for the Panther Valley community. Your willingness to be present and engaged helped strengthen connections and reminded students and families that they are supported by people who are invested in their success.

Panther Valley School District and United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley are deeply grateful for your partnership throughout the 2025-26 school year. Your support expanded opportunities for students, strengthened resources for families and created lasting improvements across the district. More importantly, your enthusiasm, responsiveness and personal involvement reflected a shared commitment to the well-being and success of the Panther Valley community.

Thank you for standing alongside our students, families and staff. We look forward to continuing this partnership and building even more opportunities together in the years ahead.