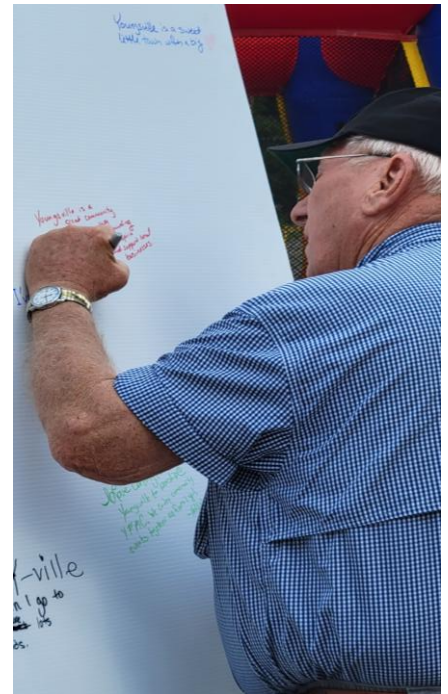




THANK YOU

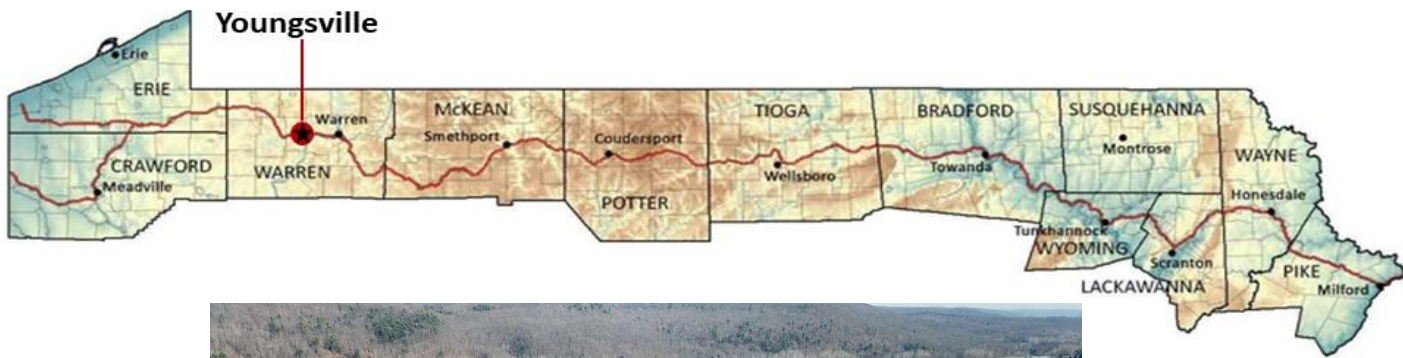
This project would not have been possible without all the wonderful volunteers and supporters that have worked tirelessly over the last 3 years. A special thanks goes to our dedicated team members of the past and present: Heather Cristea, Wendy Doneyhue, Ellie Dunn, Julie Ferrand, Dan Glotz, Lon and Sandy Gouak, Michelle Gray, Shelly Greis, Victoria Hollis, Nancy Holmberg, Susan Kibbey, Meghan Lantz, Kay McKinney, Joanne Oviatt, John Papalia, Katie Penley, Michelle Schoedel, Penny Sampson, Susan Teconchuk, Kristy Wallace, Wendy Wilcox, Judy Williams, Barbara Young. We thank the Revitalize Youngsville PA, (ROY) for hosting this initiative and the Youngsville Borough for their on-going support. We also thank the PA Humanities, Community Heart & Soul, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the PA Route 6 Alliance for giving Youngsville the opportunity to implement Community Heart & Soul. We would like to give special thanks to Jen Danifo and Leanne Tingay, our coaches from PA Humanities and Community Heart & Soul, for guiding and supporting us along the way.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our volunteers, event attendees, social media followers, and everyone who shared their stories and lent their efforts to create a plan for our community based on what matters most to us. YOU are the HEART & SOUL of Youngsville, because Youngsville begins with You!



WELCOME TO YOUNGSVILLE

Youngsville was named after a Scotsman, Matthew Young, who arrived in the area in 1796, and laid out many of the town's streets. Young's Settlement, Youngstown, and Young's Town are some of the names that the community was known by until 1816 when it began being called Youngsville. It is nestled in the Brokenstraw Valley and situated along the banks of the Brokenstraw Creek. The name Brokenstraw comes from the Seneca and Delaware Native America tribes' name for the area, Cushmanadauga. The area was named after a species of grass growing taller than a human, dying back in the winter and littering the ground with its dead stems. In English, Cushmanadauga was translated into Brokenstraw. Youngsville is home to 1726 full-time residents and consists of 1.28 square miles. It is also currently the home of Youngsville Elementary School and Youngsville High School. Both of which support the educational needs to children in nine townships, two boroughs and three villages.



The Borough of Youngsville, with the assistance from Revitalization of Youngsville, (ROY) received a grant from the PA Humanities, Community Heart & Soul, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the PA Route 6 Alliance in November of 2020. Youngsville has faced many of the same issues challenging small rural towns across our country, such as population decline and dwindling tax base. In working with the Heart and Soul program, Youngsville learned ways to engage the community, build relationships, and trust in home-grown talents and resources to help rebuild the community.

Community Heart & Soul

Community Heart & Soul is based on three powerful principles – involve everyone, focus on what matters most, and play the long game. The Heart & Soul program helps towns move toward a brighter, more prosperous future by bringing community residents closer together.

Phase 1 Imagine

Lay the Groundwork

During Phase 1, teams are formed to build awareness, interest and commitment in all segments of the community.

Explore Your Community

During Phase 2, stories are gathered from residents, leading to the development of Heart & Soul statements that identify and reflect what residents love about Youngsville.

Phase 2 Connect

Phase 3 Plan

Make Decisions

Residents develop action plan to guide future town planning based on their Heart & Soul Statements.

Take Action

Heart & Soul Statements are applied to future decision making and become part of the fabric of the community.

Phase 4 Act

Youngsville Heart and Soul is our resident-driven process that engages the entire population of our town in identifying what we love most about our community, what future we want for it, and how we will achieve it.

THE EVOLUTION OF Youngsville Community Engagement

2021

In 2021, Youngsville was awarded a grant to implement the Community Heart & Soul Process.

In the fall of 2021, the story gathering process started and thin data was collected at events.

2021

2022

Summer of 2022, we began conducting interviews and gathering stories.

In 2023, we hosted a Community Expo highlighting agencies and business in the community and we continued to gather information and stories.

2023

2024

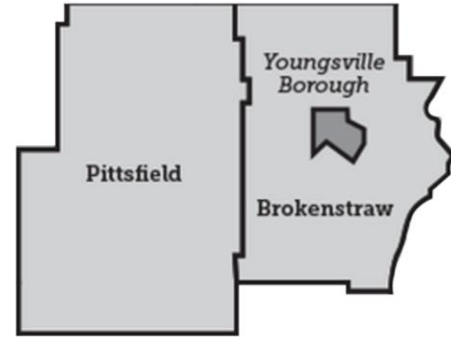
In 2024, our value statements were created, revised and validated by the community.

In early 2025, Youngsville unveiled the Community Action Plan, based on shared community values.

2025

YOUNGSVILLE VALUES

We concentrated on gathering data from three main areas, the Youngsville Borough, Brokenstraw Township, and Pittsfield Township. We spoke to people who live, work, and play in those communities, and common themes were identified. We spoke to people of all ages and backgrounds in conversations ranging from quick and simple, one sentence questions, to sit down half-hour conversations. Social media was utilized, and stories were also mailed in to the Youngsville Borough.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Community Expo

The goal of the Community Expo was to familiarize those attending the event, of the businesses, clubs, events, and programs available to them in the Youngsville and surrounding area. During the event, Youngsville Heart and Soul volunteers were on hand to gather stories from those in attendance.

Cornfest

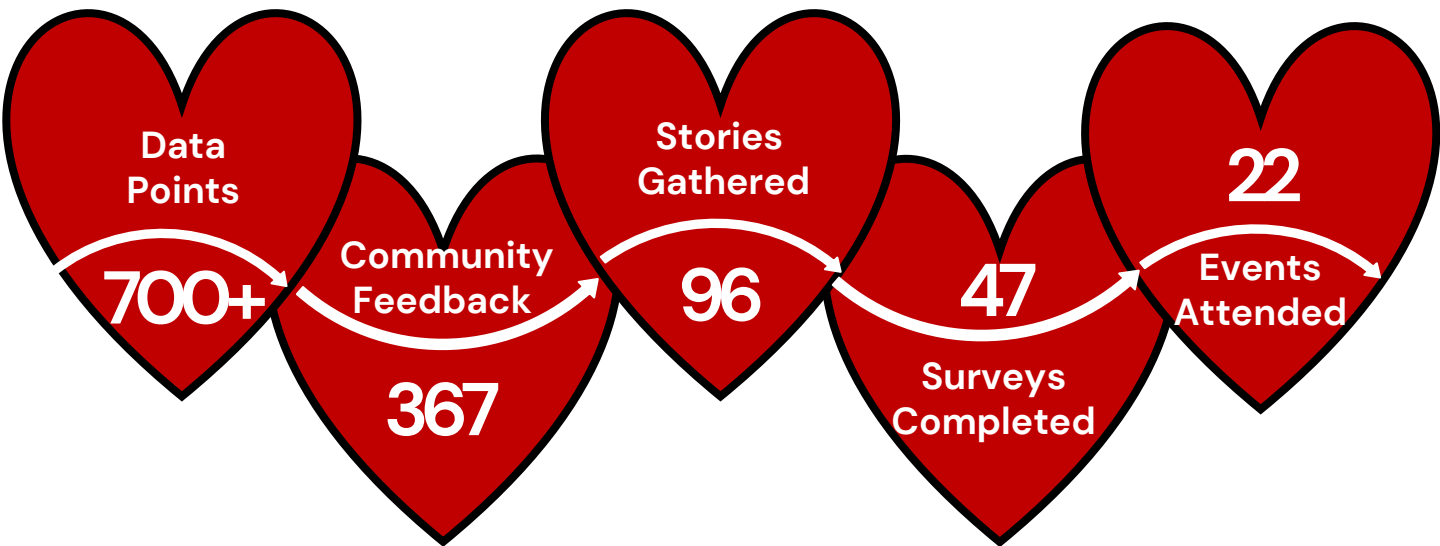
Cornfest, a longstanding community event, gave Youngsville Heart & Soul volunteers an opportunity to talk with a variety of individuals and get stories, gather demographic information, and learn what people love most about Youngsville and the surrounding areas.

Youngsville Hometown Christmas

The Youngsville Hometown Christmas is an annual event focused on bringing the community together during the holiday season. Many clubs, organizations, businesses, and individuals gather downtown to celebrate the holiday. Youngsville Heart & Soul was able to interact with community members and discover some of their hopes and dreams for the area.

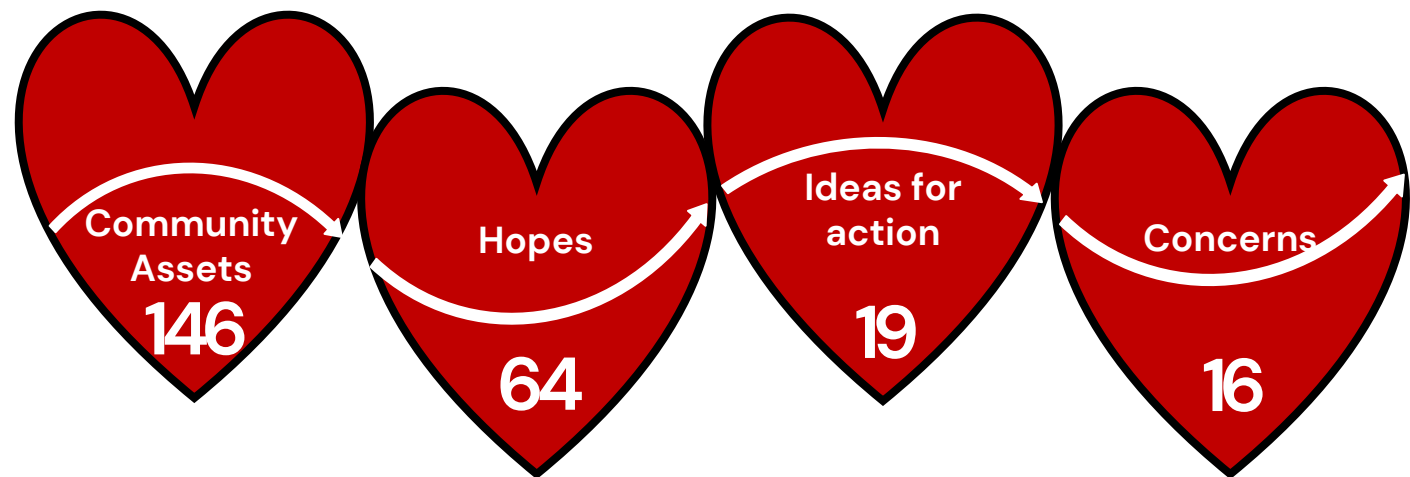


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



“Youngsville is a small, close community.”

People Identified:



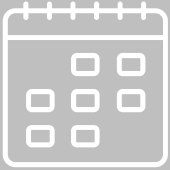
**Love of Community can be found
in the everyday and in everyone.**

YOUNGSVILLE VALUE STATEMENTS



Community

Youngsville is the "Biggest Little Town on the Map" where people matter the most. We treasure our safe, small town where good hearted neighbors care and look out for one another.



Events

We value our community events and activities because they connect people of all ages and provide opportunities to share what our community has to offer.



Recreation / Nature

We appreciate our town's connection to outdoor recreation because it provides residents and visitors the opportunity to experience the natural beauty and environment that surrounds us.



Business /Commerce

We value our locally owned businesses for their essential role in driving our rural economy by providing a variety of goods and services that support our overall sustainability and prosperity.

YOUNGSVILLE

Community Actions at a Glance

On November 7, 2024, we held a public forum to prioritize action steps, using all of the compiled ideas over the multiple stages of this project. The ideas were rated for feasibility and the following community actions were identified as priorities.

Supports values of:



Business / Commerce



Events



Recreation / Nature



Community

Short Term Actions

18 Months or Less

Ideas		Community Benefit	H&S Statement(s) Supported	In Progress or Completed
1	Beautify and improve curb appeal of businesses and downtown	Fosters economic Development	 	In Progress
2	More volunteer opportunities for youth.	Strengthens the community	  	
3	Bolster community relationships	Cultivates a stronger community	 	
4	Increase afterschool activities/opportunities for youth.	Cultivates a stronger community	   	
5	Host more festivals/cultivate more festivals.	Makes the community more inviting, welcoming AND Strengthens the community	   	

Ideas		Community Benefit	H&S Statement(s) Supported	In Progress or Completed
6	Upgrade/better use of Island Park	Makes the community more inviting and welcoming	   	
7	Improve hiking/biking trails	Makes the community more inviting and welcoming	   	

Long Term Actions

18 Months or Longer

8	Secure community-wide broadband	Fosters economic Development	  	In Progress
9	Increase the number of retail options	Fosters economic Development	 	
10	Increase the number of businesses to increase employment opportunities	Fosters economic Development	 	
11	Increase the number of sit-down eating establishments	Fosters economic Development	 	
12	Establish more affordable housing for seniors.	Makes the community more inviting, welcoming AND Strengthens the community	 	

Long Term Actions

18 Months or Longer

Ideas		Community Benefit	H&S Statement(s) Supported	In Progress or Completed
13	Bring back school sports	Cultivates a stronger community	   	
14	Establish better parking in downtown	Fosters economic Development	  	
15	Add a pavilion on Island Park	Makes the community more inviting and welcoming	   	
16	Better communication between the community and industry	Cultivates a stronger community	 	
17	Bring the school homecoming game back to Youngsville	Cultivates a stronger community	   	
18	Maintain the Youngsville "Brokenstraw Valley" Pool	Makes the community more inviting and welcoming	   	In Progress
19	Improve the sidewalks to make Youngsville more walkable	Makes the community more inviting, welcoming AND Strengthens the community	   	

Heart & Soul **CONNECTIONS**

Three things you told us were important to you!

In recent months, we've seen. . .

*Beautify and
improve curb
appeal of
businesses and
downtown*

As of
November
2024,
Revitalization
of Youngsville
was able to
clear the
Fairmont lot
for
development.

*Secure
community-wide
broadband*

WestPa.Net
has been
making strides
in bringing
Fiber
Broadband to
the local
community.

*Maintain the
Youngsville
“Brokenstraw
Valley” Pool*

The Youngsville
Borough and
Recreation
Committee are
continuing to
work to make
improvements
to the pool
facility.

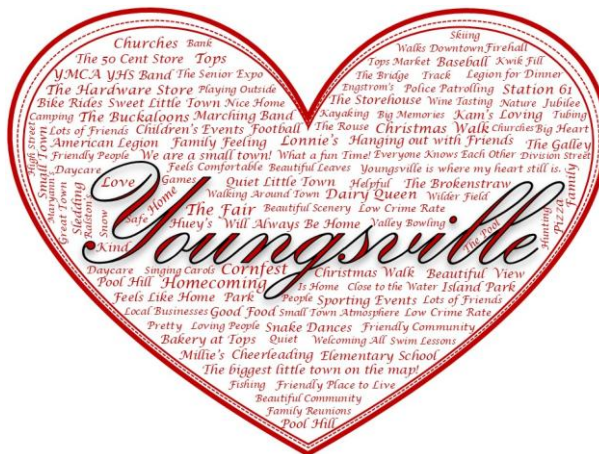
Heart & Soul Phase 4: TAKE ACTION

In Phase 4, The Youngsville Heart & Soul Value Statements are officially adopted by the Borough Council, incorporated into comprehensive and other plans, and used to guide future policies and decisions.

Phase 4 will be an on-going process of evaluating, sharing, and monitoring the ideas in this community report. This work will be led by a stewardship team that will continue to embed the Youngsville Heart & Soul Statements throughout the community. The goal of this team will be to communicate progress to keep community members engaged and hold decision-makers accountable.

The team will pursue the following opportunities for sharing the action ideas with Youngsville residents and organizations:

1. Update Borough Council on Youngsville Heart & Soul, share the community report and discuss asking Council to pass a resolution to adopt the Heart & Soul Statements.
2. Share the community report with the public through various means like the Youngsville Heart & Soul website, social media channels and make copies available at key locations around town (Library, Borough building, Businesses, Partner organizations.)
3. Identify key individuals and groups with which to share and discuss the community report to develop out next steps.
4. Explore next steps for Heart & Soul like creating a Stewardship group and brainstorming ways to keep the public informed about “wins” around the community report.



Youngsville Heart & Soul was supported by funding from PA Humanities, the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), and the PA Route 6 Alliance through a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program and the Heritage Areas Program under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (DCNR).

