



Berkshire Nursing Families supports young families through playgroups, lactation education and consultations. Multiple BTCF area funds and donor advised funds make grants for this critical work. Photo: John Dolan

Program, Philanthropy & Leadership Highlights

Career-Oriented Learning: As part of our priority to increase educational attainment as a pathway to greater economic mobility, the **South Berkshire County Fund** has funded a new career readiness coordinator, Ruthann Eagen, to ensure that all high school students in southern Berkshire County graduate with a college and career plan. Eagen and her colleagues at MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board have launched a new bimonthly team of school partners and business leaders to explore career awareness and immersion activities for students across the age continuum. At their inaugural meeting last month, the group identified gaps for school districts and employers -- such as in-school learning for middle school students and developing soft skills needed for job success in high schoolers -- and outlined long-term goals for this work.