Port Allegany earns Heart & Soul designation

November 10, 2026



Port Allegany Heart & Soul Committee members and program representatives celebrate the borough's official designation as a Community Heart & Soul Town following three years of gathering residents' input to develop a community action plan. From left, front, are Dotty Anderson, Sierra Archer and Sitka; back, Joyce Stehle, Sharen Horvath, Karen Price, project coordinator Allie O'Shea, Leanne Tingay and PA Route 6 Alliance Executive Director Candace Hillyard.

Photo by Pam Fischer

PORT ALLEGANY — Port Allegany has officially earned recognition as a Community Heart & Soul To...

PORT ALLEGANY — Port Allegany has officially earned recognition as a Community Heart & Soul Town following three years of gathering residents' stories, ideas and feedback to help shape the borough's future.

The Port Allegany Heart & Soul Committee recently hosted a celebration marking the completion of the first four phases of the initiative and the development of a community action plan based on residents' input.

Leanne Tingay, senior program associate with the national Community Heart & Soul organization, presented a heart-shaped plaque recognizing Port Allegany as a Heart & Soul Town.

Karen Price of PA Humanities, who served as the community's coach and program manager, presented a Pennsylvania-shaped plaque recognizing the borough as an official PA Heart & Soul Community.

The plaque recognizes local volunteers for gathering stories from residents, particularly those whose voices often go unheard, and using that feedback to develop shared community values and an action plan.

"Port Allegany is a shining example of putting people first in planning for a future that involves everyone," the plaque states.

Attendees also had an opportunity to review the community action plan and final report, which compiled three years of data collection, interviews and community stories.

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