



Thoughtful Giving

Newsletter of the Northern New York Community Foundation

THE JOY OF GIVING

When “Thank You” Doesn’t Seem Quite Enough

Especially at this time of year, we reflect on all that has occurred over the past year. Much has been accomplished in 2010, with much more to do in coming years! As we look back, we are ever mindful that none of the Foundation’s work in the North Country would be possible without your investment and belief in our work and mission. A simple “thank you” never seems quite adequate.

It is better for us to remind you what your investment has enabled this year.

- Providing food to 46 food pantries throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties
- Awarding \$673,535 in scholarships to 291 students in the North Country
- Assisting 85 needy children in purchasing winter clothing
- Funding for the Watertown Urban Mission’s Dollar Dinner program, which served over 10,000 meals
- Enabling thousands of additional miles of transportation for area residents seeking essential services
- Providing a lead gift to help address the need for safe, reliable child care
- Funding arts and cultural programs at six North Country schools
- Supporting a season of live symphony orchestra concerts
- Bringing the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble and the Orchestra of Northern New York to the Clayton Opera House
- Establishing a Youth Philanthropy Council to educate young adults about giving back and help nurture youth leadership in our community
- The planting of 62 trees
- Providing matching grants for the areas only hands-on science museum and for the creation of a new arts center
- Awarding grants totaling over \$130,000 to eight St. Lawrence County organizations
- Investing over \$300,000 to address the healthcare needs of the region, including facility expansions and enhancement of cancer treatment services
- Partnering to build two new playgrounds
- Funding critical infrastructure upgrades to an area youth camp
- Saving the area’s only drop-in center for at-risk youth from closure and putting it on a path to viability
- Presenting three seminars to encourage sustainability efforts among nonprofit organizations
- Assisting various historic properties in preserving and protecting their facilities
- Funding a museum exhibit highlighting the area’s manufacturing heritage
- Supporting a “Creating Lasting Family Connections” program for Ft. Drum soldiers and their families
- Providing funds to support area libraries
- *The lives of thousands were directly affected and the quality of life for all of the North Country’s residents was improved*



“No one has ever done anything like this for us before.”

–Family who benefited from a Foundation grant

“The number of families that come to our food pantry has increased immensely. We would not have been able to accommodate this larger number without the Foundation’s help.”

–Local food pantry volunteer

“Thank you for all you do to instill hope and provide opportunities for people, such as myself, to obtain an education. I am forever appreciative of your support.”

–Scholarship recipient

When determining your year-end giving, please consider supporting the

Friends of the Foundation Fund

All gifts received by December 31 will be listed in the Foundation’s newsletter and annual report

EVERY GIFT MATTERS! For Good. For Ever.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: Empowering Our Bright Future

Reflections on the Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council experience

Emily Sprague (advisor):

A seed that was planted early last spring has taken root, grown, flourished and become a strong sapling with branches that reach out into our community. The Youth Philanthropy Council of the Northern New York Community Foundation is composed of a marvelous group of students from Watertown High School with the vision and empathy to consider the needs of others, the courage to ask hard questions, and the tenacity to persist in achieving their goals.

It has been an honor to mentor and nurture these young people along their way toward becoming the community leaders and philanthropists of tomorrow. So often we hear about what is wrong in the world, but to spend time with the members of the Youth Philanthropy Council is to be reminded about all that is right. To watch, listen and guide this group as they learned their roles and made difficult decisions gives one confidence in the future of our community. They displayed intelligence, maturity and sophisticated insights as they determined how to best utilize their grant allocation.

The Northern New York Community Foundation has made a valuable investment in our community's future with these wonderful young people and that investment will only grow and flourish in the years to come.

Mark Anthony Taylor (president):

When Mr. Todd, the former principal at Watertown High School, asked me to apply to become a member of the Northern New York Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I had no idea of the magnitude or intensity of the work that I had blindly accepted. I had no idea how indescribably enriching and enlightening the nearly eight months of working with Mr. Richardson, several Foundation board members and my fellow

council members would be.

The practical culmination of the Youth Philanthropy Council experiment was November 10. This was a meeting that took place, as many official meetings did, in the Foundation board room. The final possible beneficiaries gave presentations to the council. Following those presentations, discussion ensued with the final product being a tired, but extremely satisfied group of young adults.

After months of deliberation and hours of careful thought, we decided to award to the organizations we felt could have the greatest impact on the Northern New York community. After this I knew all that was left was to present to the Foundation board and hope that they felt as passionately as our group did about the organizations we had decided to support.

"I know that every individual on the Council will take away a great amount from this experience, partially because being taught something will almost never be as beneficial as learning it for yourself."

In the early meetings, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Todd and Mrs. Sprague did their best to explain to us how philanthropists think and gave us some ideas on how to get started. They were very careful not to push any of their ideals or methods onto us because they wanted us to learn the lessons we had to learn on our own. Looking back I can't thank them enough for this.

I know that every individual on the



Members of the Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council recently met to finalize their recommendations on allocations for \$5,000 in grants. Pictured are (l-r): Alana Parker, Damon Draught II, Emily Sprague (faculty advisor), Mark Anthony Taylor (president) and Kaitlyn Snellings.

Council will take away a great amount from this experience, partially because being taught something will almost never be as beneficial as learning it for yourself. After the early meetings, as a group we first decided what areas in the community we wanted to affect. The next step was deciding what specific groups we felt impacted our community the most in those areas. Finally, in a process much easier said than done, we narrowed down the many worthy organizations to those that would make presentations for our council.

I am very thankful for the opportunity that has been given to us. I am also confident that the Council has made a positive impact in the lives of many citizens in Northern New York. My thanks go out not only to Mr. Richardson and everyone involved in the Northern New York Community Foundation, but to you, the benefactors, that make all of the wonderful things the Foundation does for our community a possibility. 🌱

In the next newsletter, we will report on how the Youth Philanthropy Council funds will be reinvested in the community.

Operation Snowstorm

Partnership provides winter clothing for children for fourth year

For the past three years, in partnership with grants from the Dyson Foundation, the Northern New York Community Foundation has conducted "Operation Snowstorm." This initiative has provided hundreds of needy children with warm winter clothing. This is something which has been particularly critical in recent years as more and more families have struggled simply to make ends meet. In 2009 alone, 88 children were assisted through the program. The Dyson Foundation has generously agreed to partner with the Foundation again this year, helping ensure that the holiday and winter season will be a bit brighter for families in our community.



"I appreciate this so much. My children needed winter boots and I couldn't afford them. I can't say thank you enough." -Parent of a child participating in Operation Snowstorm

Foundation Partners with Canton Community Fund

\$10,000 matching grant announced as St. Lawrence County group celebrates 10th anniversary



The Canton Community Fund celebrated its 10th anniversary with a gathering of over 100 at the home of St. Lawrence University president Bill Fox and his wife, Lynn on November 4th. Over the past decade, the Fund has worked to keep Canton an attractive and vibrant place to live and work by supporting a wide range of local organizations and initiatives.

Administered by the Northern New York Community Foundation, the fund has grown to over \$90,000. The group is launching a \$75,000 campaign to increase their ability to support community-based projects. At their October meeting

the Northern New York Community Foundation demonstrated their commitment to the work of this group by offering to match the first \$10,000 raised.

The Canton Community Fund is a wonderful model of how citizens can stand stronger when they stand together. The Community Foundation continues to demonstrate its interest in investing in worthwhile endeavors in St. Lawrence County and believes that the Canton Fund is a model that could be replicated in other North Country communities in the future. 🌱



Members of the Canton Community Fund Board (l-r): Martha Chisholm, Phil Harnden, Louis Tremaine, Neal Burdick, Chris Angus (chair), Joette Holgado, Lorenda Prier and John Vose. Not pictured: John Casserly. Photograph courtesy of Tara Freeman

Work Begins on North Country Public Radio Transmitter

\$45,000 Foundation grant to improve signal for southern St. Lawrence County



The Northern New York Community Foundation awarded a \$45,000 grant from the **A. Eleanor Jackson Fund for Gouverneur** to provide a new transmitter facility for **North Country Public Radio** (NCPR) which will provide a more reliable signal in the Gouverneur area. The signal in that portion of the county is unpredictably weak and at times, non-existent. Once completed, the partnership will make the important information services provided by NCPR more consistently and readily available.



THANK YOU to the 2010 Foundation Leadership Team

Strong, diverse, representative community leadership helps guide Foundation's work

We are grateful for the dedicated efforts of the Community Foundation leadership team, which oversees the grantmaking, scholarship administration, finances and investments and overall mission and vision of the Foundation. These individuals devote countless hours in service to this organization and hence, the tri-county region.

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Northern New York
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Community Inspiration Catherine Burns Quencer

It has been my great privilege to serve as a director of the Northern New York Community Foundation for over nine years.

The dedication and effort put forth by everyone involved with the Foundation is truly inspiring. My background in estate planning and philanthropy was what initially brought me to the Foundation, but I have learned that as an organization, it does so much more than I originally understood. The broad range of recipients of foundation funds include traditional



and non-traditional scholarship students, food pantries, and healthcare organizations, as well as programs for preservation of local historical treasures, capital campaigns, youth projects, and cultural activities.

We try to be sure that funds are spread throughout our geographic region in accordance with need and demonstrated community benefit of projects. It has been gratifying to know that the Northern New York Community Foundation remains a viable resource for civic and cultural activities in our community despite the additional strains placed upon local non-profit organizations by the economic downturn.

I am fortunate to have witnessed the joy of everyone involved with the purchasing of new outerwear for needy schoolchildren and the replenishing of the food banks, and to

have experienced the satisfaction of seeing the completion of Samaritan Medical Center's new pavilion, all of which were made possible in part by the Foundation. During my tenure on the board, I have also been thrilled to see the assets of the organization grow substantially as testimony to the confidence our donors have in our stewardship of their dollars.

Throughout the economic uncertainty and hard times of the past two years, our board of directors recognized that basic human needs deserved special attention and emphasis. Yet we remain one of the few resources in our region for civic, cultural, recreational and historic projects. We have given all requests careful consideration in that spirit. The Foundation has continuously "risen to the occasion" to meet community needs.

The Foundation has also, on a personal level, provided me with a unique vantage point to learn about many of the fine organizations and projects in our region. We review the history and background of the organizations that present requests to us, in addition to focusing on the specifics of a proposed project. In fact, the presentations to our board often inspire me to contribute personally. It is with some sadness that I will soon reach the end of my tenure with the Foundation. I am sincerely proud to be associated with this fine organization and look forward to its future growth and expansion of its philanthropic efforts. We do so much and will be able to do even more with the continuing support of our community. 🌱

Donor Advised Funds

For individuals or businesses planning to make charitable contributions as the year-end nears or upon the sale of a business, there is a service available through the Community Foundation. Through a donor advised fund, a charitable deduction can be claimed for the year in which contributions are made, offering the flexibility to recommend grants to any charitable organizations at some future time. This allows donors time to select charities or support programs after the year ends, while taking the deduction for the current year. This can also enable larger gifts in the future or provide additional convenience in your overall charitable giving plan.

Donor advised funds can be a logical alternative to establishing a private foundation. They eliminate the expense, reporting and administrative burden and excise taxes that private and family foundations require. A donor advised fund also keeps donors involved in both personal and community philanthropy. Additionally, gifts of long-term appreciated securities are not subject to capital gains taxes, increasing the value of the gift and subsequent tax deduction.

Overall, this also allows you to focus on the giving, rather than the administration.

To discuss opening a named donor advised fund with the Community Foundation, contact us any time at (315) 782-7110.



FOODSERVICE MADE EASY

A special thank-you to the Renzi family for partnering with the Foundation to help maximize the community's support of food pantries in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. Additional information about this will appear in the Foundation's next newsletter.



In addition to our website, you can find more about us at www.facebook.com/nmycf

The Dance Theatre of Harlem traveled to the Clayton Opera House on October 22, made possible in part through a \$5,000 grant from the Northern New York Community Foundation. This was the first professional dance company ever presented at the Opera House. The afternoon performance was a lecture/demonstration attended by nearly 400 students from five school districts. The evening performance was attended by over 300. The Foundation grant also helped leverage gifts from two new funding sources, which opens the door for future opportunities. Joanne Vance, a teacher at Lowville Academy commented,

"It was tremendous in so many ways. I appreciated the direct basic instruction of dance for our middle school students combined with the demonstrations by such fine dancers. It was something that they are still talking about today. The generous Clayton Opera House supporters should be told how much the event meant to our students!"



Three seminars for nonprofit organizations were funded by the Community Foundation. The programs focused on planned giving, annual giving and organizational sustainability. The Association of Fundraising Professional webinars were offered at no charge at locations in Watertown and Potsdam. Representatives from 21 organizations availed themselves of this unique opportunity:

Antique Boat Museum, Canton Free Library, Canton-Potsdam Hospital Foundation, Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center, CORC Thrift Store, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Diocese of Ogdensburg, GardenShare, Hospice Foundation of Jefferson County, Hospice of the St. Lawrence Valley, Jefferson Community College, Lewis County Hospital Foundation, Literacy of Northern New York, Little River Community School, North Country Children's Clinic, St. Lawrence County Arts Council, St. Lawrence County Health Initiative, St. Lawrence County Historical Association, St. Mary's School, SUNY Canton, United Helpers, Volunteer Transportation Center of Jefferson County.

