



NEWSLETTER OF THE Northern New York Community Foundation, Inc.

Why a Community Foundation?

Community-based philanthropy unites donors, nonprofit organizations, students and the community at large

The first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio in 1914. Until 1975, there were only 50 community foundations in the United States. Today, there are nearly 400. In 1929, a group of visionaries decided that Watertown was a worthy and deserving place for a community foundation— a place to invest in the future of the area.

In 1932, **DeWitt C. Middleton**, a former Watertown mayor, left the Foundation its first major legacy— \$62,000 to support charitable interests in the city.



*Rande Richardson
Executive Director*

Because of the foresight of Mr. Middleton and subsequent generations of donors, the North Country is fortunate to have its own community foundation with an impressive 80-year history of changing and shaping lives.

Community foundations have held a unique place in the philanthropic world and have served three primary constituencies: donors, nonprofit organizations and the community at large.

How is this accomplished? A community foundation receives its support from a wide cross section of the region it serves, both by those who contribute annually and through gifts made as charitable legacies. In addition to

grantmaking to nonprofit organizations, the Foundation also holds several funds, established by donors, which exist to provide annual support to specific agencies.

Built to last. Designed to endure. By their very nature, community foundations are able to respond to emerging community needs in ways that no other organization can. As the Foundation moves closer to its own century mark, roles will continue to evolve in terms of providing donor services and services to non profits.

We will also continue to fulfill our community leadership role, acting to convene partners within the community to address challenges and opportunities as they evolve. We must also continue to serve as a promoter and educator of philanthropy within the region.

Philanthropy and its benefits available to all. Community foundations are often the recipient of incredibly large gifts. They also provide a vehicle whereby people of modest means with community passion can engage in large-scale philanthropy. No sole donor to the Foundation enabled the type of transformational grants that have been made over the years. It is the *collection* of gifts which creates the community's permanent, flexible, charitable capital.

Connecting people who care with causes that matter. Ultimately, I believe that our greatest responsibility is to

provide a means by which those who have demonstrated a love of their community during their lifetimes have a solid, trusted, well managed vehicle by which that giving can continue after they are no longer here to direct it.

When I think of the many individuals and families who have made such a meaningful difference in our communities, I take great comfort in knowing that the importance giving back played in their lives can effectively exist in perpetuity.

There will come a time when every one of us will no longer be able to accomplish our charitable objectives personally. To provide a means to continue that tradition is ultimately at the heart of what we do.

As donors continue respond to this, we will continue to respond with stewardship, adaptability and a long-term commitment to carry out the work they have entrusted us to do. Our community and our donors deserve nothing less. 🌳



*DeWitt C. Middleton,
Mayor of Watertown
from 1884-85, provided
the Foundation's first
major legacy in 1932—
\$62,000 to perpetuate
charitable interests in
the city.*

Inspiring Thoughtful Giving...

Recent bequests to the Foundation demonstrate one of the primary functions a community foundation serves— to perpetuate a donor's giving spirit after they are no longer able to personally express it. **Donald J. "Dutch" Grant**, **Judge George R. Davis** and **Charlotte J. Smith** each provided a bequest to the Northern New York Community Foundation that will benefit the North Country in perpetuity.

More information on these donors appears elsewhere in this newsletter.



Grant



Davis



Smith

Recent Foundation Grants

Watertown Family YMCA • \$225,000

In support of their "Imagine the Possibilities" capital campaign, the primary focus of which is creating a childcare center.

Carthage Free Library • \$25,000

In support of their capital campaign to renovate and expand the library.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County • \$25,000

To assist with necessary infrastructure improvements to 4-H Camp Wabasso.

Neighbors of Watertown • \$10,000

To help fund neighborhood rehabilitation work this summer for single family, owner occupied homes in the city of Watertown.

Clifton-Fine Hospital • \$10,000

To help rebuild their primary care clinic which was destroyed by fire in 2008.

GardenShare • \$10,000

In support of their campaign to build capacity to combat hunger in the North Country.

Watertown Teen Center • \$6,375

To fund a comprehensive strategic sustainability study to help ensure the organization's long-term viability.

Clifton-Fine Economic Development Corp. • \$5,000

To complete funding for a playground in Cranberry Lake.

Ogdensburg Command Performances • \$5,000

To fund the Youththeatre Class Acts program, with performances at Ogdensburg, Gouverneur, Massena and Indian River schools.

Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund • \$5,000

To assist in bringing the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble to the Clayton Opera House for two performances, one for high school students and the other for the community.



These are just a few examples of recent Community Foundation grants, made possible by donors, that have made good things happen in Northern New York.

Donors Make it Happen...

The Lucy A. Colello Playground at Watertown's Sherman Elementary School became a reality. Volunteers completed the project in June. The new community playground is one of the few handicapped accessible structures of its kind in the region.

The Orchestra of Northern New York performed to a capacity audience at the Clayton Opera House on July 1. The fourth annual Sidney T. Cox Memorial Concert was entitled "Broadway by Demand" and featured selections from *The King and I*, *West Side Story*, *Les Misérables* and *Phantom of the Opera* as well as several patriotic favorites. (Photo courtesy Andy Anderson)

Each year, resources are made available through the Foundation's **Carolyn Whitney Fund** for organizations who wish to assist in reforestation efforts within the City of Watertown. This past spring, 62 trees were planted at various city locations.

The **Thousand Islands Land Trust**, in partnership with the **Thousand Islands Young Leaders Organization**, is building a 7,250 sq. ft. community garden on the Zenda Farm Preserve. The project affords the community an opportunity to have access to locally grown, low-cost, healthy and nutritious food.

The **Volunteer Transportation Center of Jefferson County** received a \$53,500 grant to assist in providing essential medical treatment transportation services during a time of unprecedented demand.

New Fund Created for Lowville



When George R. Davis passed away on February 6, 2010, he had already demonstrated a great commitment to Lewis county. A former Lewis County District Attorney and later County, Surrogate and Family Court Judge, as

well as Town Historian, Davis made a provision through his will to establish a permanent fund to benefit the Town of Lowville. Community-specific funds such as this one allow donors to directly impact particular communities. This can be a critical tool for future funding of initiatives that may not have been funded through the Foundation's regional grantmaking.

The Foundation also administers the Leon A. Davis Scholarship, established in 1998 by George Davis in memory of his father. This fund provides annual scholarships to graduates of Lowville Academy and Central School, where Leon served as principal for 37 years. He also created a fund in 2000 in memory of his wife, Joan which also provides periodic grants in support of various Lewis county initiatives. The love of community and generosity demonstrated throughout Judge Davis' lifetime will now continue on in perpetuity.

St. Lawrence County Panel Established

The Northern New York Community Foundation has formed an advisory panel comprised of representatives from various areas within St. Lawrence County. The group will meet periodically to assist in identifying potential funding priorities as well as allow the Foundation to communicate its initiatives and activities. The 14 members were selected both for geographic representation as well as range of expertise and interests. The panel will hold its first meeting this fall. By forming this panel of citizens from St. Lawrence County, we can hear from those who know the region best and open a new line of communication regarding the Foundation's efforts to assist the residents of that portion of our service area.

In recent years, the Foundation amended its charter to extend its service area into portions of St. Lawrence County and more recently added two St. Lawrence County board members. **Since that time over \$100,000 in grants and \$100,000 in scholarships have been awarded there.** The Foundation also administers community-specific funds which have been established by donors to permanently support certain geographic areas within St. Lawrence County. The charter members of the panel are:

Christopher Angus, Canton
Peter Beekman, Canton
Michael Burgess, Gouverneur
Thomas Burns, Canton
Sal Cania, Hannawa Falls
Charles Goolden, Colton
Fred Hanss, Potsdam

Philip Harnden, Richville
Joseph Laurenza, Gouverneur
Rev. Thomas Patterson, Ogdensburg
Sally Palao, Ogdensburg
Peter Van de Water, Canton
John Vose, Potsdam
Katherine Wyckoff, Canton

TEACHING & LEARNING LIVE ON

Two local educators create scholarship funds to forever benefit local students

The Northern New York Community Foundation has long been known for its commitment to education. In 2010-11, nearly \$700,000 in scholarships will be distributed to both traditional and non-traditional students in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. The Foundation's ability to assist those pursuing their higher educational dreams has been significantly bolstered through the thoughtful generosity of two individuals whose lives centered around helping students reach their fullest potential.

Charlotte J. Smith, a life-long resident of Carthage, was a mathematics and science teacher in the Watertown City School District from 1962 to 1996. When she passed away on April 29, 2009, she left a provision in her will to create a scholarship fund with the Foundation for area students pursuing chemistry at Syracuse University. Miss Smith was a graduate of Syracuse.



Charlotte J. Smith



Donald J. "Dutch" Grant

Donald J. "Dutch" Grant, began his career in education in 1946 at Dexter High School. He would eventually become superintendent of the General Brown School District, a position he held from 1972 until his retirement in 1993. He also served as mayor of the Village of Dexter from 1966 to 2007. Through his estate, Mr. Grant provided for a fund with the Foundation that will provide scholarships on an annual basis to north country students in perpetuity.

The Foundation is grateful for the generosity of these two individuals. It is this very type of thoughtful giving that allows a person's interests and passions to be supported after they are no longer able to do so personally. In the case of Charlotte Smith and Dutch Grant, there is perhaps no more appropriate way to perpetuate their lifetime of service to their communities. Although they had an impact on countless students during their careers, they will positively affect the futures of generations of young people to come. 🌳

DECIDING TO GIVE...

You can create a fund today and experience the impact your charitable giving will have on the community or make a long-lasting gift by creating a fund through your will. There are several ways to tailor your giving...

• **Think Broadly: Emerging Needs & Opportunities Fund**

Allow the Northern New York Community Foundation to identify changing needs and opportunities in the community over time and target your dollars where most effective through competitive grants.

• **Address Issues: Field of Interest Fund**

You decide the general purpose of the fund (such as education, the arts or health, etc.) and the Foundation identifies projects that are most effectively accomplishing that goal through competitive grants.

• **Provide Ongoing Support (by Organization or Geography): Designated Fund**

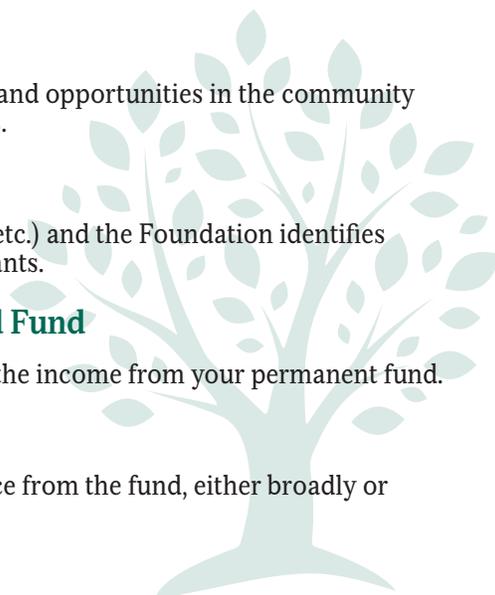
Specify particular charitable organizations or certain geographic areas to receive the income from your permanent fund.

• **Assist Students Pursuing Their Dreams: Scholarship Fund**

Work with the Foundation to create criteria for students who can receive assistance from the fund, either broadly or directed toward a specific high school, college or field of study.

• **Stay Involved: Donor Advised Fund**

You recommend grants to those charities you wish to support. This method offers flexibility, convenience and anonymity (if desired). This is especially useful for donors who want to take a charitable deduction one year and make distributions over several years.



Youth Philanthropy Council Organizes

Local high school students to discuss community needs

The newly established Northern New York Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council held organizational meetings in May and June and has scheduled an August meeting. Earlier this year, the Foundation Board allocated \$5,000. By year's end, the Council will make recommendations as to how those funds will be awarded to various community organizations.



The Northern New York Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council pictured at its first meeting, seated (l-r): Jessica Satchwell, Dennis Caughlin, Mark Anthony Taylor; Meghan L'Hullier, Kate Moore, Sarah Glover; standing left to right: Kaitlyn Snellings, Sarah Van Eenenaam, Damon Draught III, Cameron Devlin, Neil Ossola, Justin Ongkingco, and Michael Moore. (Not pictured: Sarah Riendeau, Alana Parker and Will Simmons)

Fund Established in Memory of Sackets Firefighter

Garrett Loomis Firefighters Fund to make grants to assist with training



A fund has been established with the Foundation to honor Garrett Loomis, who lost his life April 11, 2010 from injuries sustained while fighting a silo fire in the town of Hounsfield. The fund will provide grants to assist fire departments in obtaining training needed to address the unique requirements that agricultural related emergencies present. An initial contribution was made to launch the fund and additional gifts are being accepted to help build it. Gifts can be made in Garrett's name to the Northern New York Community Foundation, 120 Washington St., Suite 400, Watertown, NY 13601.

Spirit of Philanthropy Award Presented

First award honors Foundation Director Velto

The Northern New York Community Foundation presented its first "Spirit of Philanthropy" award to Alex Velto. It was presented to Alex's widow, Jeanne Emery, at the Foundation's annual meeting at the beautiful Clayton Opera House in May. Alex's son, Bill, and other members of the family were in attendance. Future awards will be presented periodically to recognize individuals or organizations whose achievements reflect a commitment to helping others. Honorees can be from Jefferson, Lewis or St. Lawrence counties. Recommendations will be made by a committee consisting of Robert and Jean Sturtz, T. Urling & Mabel Walker and Foundation director Rande Richardson.

Although the majority of the event was the Foundation's formal tribute to Alex, it was also an opportunity to recognize the service of retiring board

members Doug Brodie, Lee Clary, John Deans, and Mary McDonald Mascott. Jay Stone and Laurie Pike, both of Watertown, were welcomed as new members of the board.



Pictured (l-r): Robert and Jean Sturtz, committee members, Bill Velto, Jeanne Emery Velto, Rande Richardson and Mabel and Tom Walker, committee members.



Northern New York
Community Foundation, Inc.

120 Washington Street • Suite 400
Watertown, New York 13601
(315) 782-7110 • info@nnycf.org
www.nnycf.org

ESTABLISHED 1929

Board of Directors

Kenneth J. McAuliffe, *Lowville*
President

Cathy M. Pircsuk, *Watertown*
Vice President

Joseph W. Russell, *Alexandria Bay*
Secretary/Treasurer

William J. Bonisteel, *Henderson Harbor*
Bernard H. Brown, Jr., *Sackets Harbor*
Michael J. Burgess, *Gouverneur*
Judith J. Foster, *Clayton*
Gregory A. Gardner, *Pierrepont Manor*
Susan B. Horr, *Sackets Harbor*
Harold B. Johnson II, *Watertown*
Linda S. Merrell, *Lowville*
Laurel W. Pike, *Watertown*
Catherine B. Quencer, *Dexter*
Jay Stone, *Watertown*
Peter E. Van de Water, *Canton*
D. Peter Van Eenenaam, *Watertown*

Staff

Rande S. Richardson, Executive Director
Louise E. Scarlett, Program Director
Shari Scott, Controller

The Northern New York Community Foundation raises, manages and administers an endowment and collection of funds for the benefit of the community, built and added to by gifts from individuals and organizations committed to meeting the changing needs of Northern New York.

The grants and initiatives described in this newsletter are made possible through the generosity of annual donors as well as those who have established charitable funds with us during their lifetimes or through their wills. Donors who have made gifts on an unrestricted basis have provided the Foundation with the financial flexibility to respond to the community's changing and emerging needs over time. If you would like to learn more about how to most effectively do this, please contact us at (315) 782-7110.



The Foundation now has a Facebook page. This is a great way to keep up to date on

Foundation news and serves as an archive of our recent announcements, press releases and photos. You can find us at www.facebook.com/nnycf

Interested in applying for a grant?

Submissions must be received by October 22, 2010. Contact the Foundation office for more information.