It All Began with Two Quarters

The best giving can be a “spiritual” experience

Many of us had our first experience of giving as young children. For myself, it was the act of putting two quarters in a Sunday School envelope and symbolically placing it in the offering plate. The experience of giving is a tradition that, for many, becomes an integral part of life. It can be much like enjoying a good book, listening to one’s favorite music, working in the garden or taking a walk. Although everyone realizes that we must be responsible and practical in our giving, it also is a journey, an evolving part of who we are and how we define our lives.

It is true that, especially at this time of year, we are all bombarded with requests for our financial support. Eventually, one appeal looks like all the others. As disheartening as this may seem, this often can help ground us more firmly in the act of giving itself.

It goes without saying that gifts should be directed towards organizations whose missions are most closely aligned with our values and priorities and which are best equipped to effectively carry out those missions. However, it is my belief that the best giving can and should be a “spiritual experience.” Not necessarily in the religious sense, but defined simply as an experience that awakens something within us that “feels” the gift with the realization that we are committing to something outward, beyond ourselves. I think most who give feel an intense gratitude for the blessings they have, and giving becomes one way to express that thankfulness. In so doing, we also acknowledge that there are others who rely on that generosity to cling to some sense of life that may seem commonplace to us. At the same time, we receive a return on our investment that cannot be quantified.

While many of us were instilled with the obligation of giving early in life, many others were not. Some are fortunate over the course of their lives to be placed in settings where they witness the power of a gift. Or, perhaps they, themselves, have benefited from such generosity, either through a scholarship, or because a project or initiative has made a profound difference in their lives. Some of these individuals eventually are able to cheerfully return the favor.

As I continue my own giving journey, it now saddens me when I realize that for some, even though they have the ability to give, they will never know the true joy that comes from giving. Knowing a gift made today can have both immediate impact and also can have a lasting effect philanthropy can have for the donor. Having your life intersect with that type of giving is really just the “icing on the cake.” It is the inner satisfaction and life-changing effect philanthropy can have for the donor. Having your life intersect with that type of giving is powerful!

The Northern New York Community Foundation will always strive to aim higher while continuing to invest in the people, places and organizations of the North Country. It will also continue to make it a priority to let you know the full story of our work, so that we may earn and keep a place in your giving experience. We will continue to provide you with work that is worthy of your investment.

Most of you are able to live the true benefit of philanthropy beyond the gift. This great part of the human experience is available regardless of the extent of your resources. After all, it all began with two quarters.
Classmates Unite to Keep Scholarship Alive and Well
Watertown High School Class of 1956 continues to raise funds to support students

In 2003, members of the Watertown High School Class of 1956 began to discuss the idea of establishing a scholarship fund with the Northern New York Community Foundation to benefit future graduates of their alma mater. By their 50th class reunion in 2006, they were able to award the first scholarship. Class member Fred Belcher has spearheaded efforts to raise funds on an ongoing basis. The fund has reached over $32,000 and continues to grow.

“The Class of 1956 Scholarship was created to be a tribute and lasting legacy to the talent and achievements of this outstanding WHS class. We are in close contact with each other even after more than 50 years, due to our wonderful five-year reunions and an email network that is truly awesome,” said Mr. Belcher, a retired engineer with United Technologies Corporation.

Each year, members of the class make contributions to help build the fund’s value, so that larger scholarships can be awarded in the future. The scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating Watertown High School student who “demonstrates good citizenship and solid values, both at WHS and in the community.” The class has set a wonderful example for others to follow and their commitment is a testament to their belief in supporting education. The Foundation is grateful to be the administrator of this scholarship fund.

Gifts to build the fund can be made to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 120 Washington Street, Suite 400, Watertown, NY 13601.

“I'm extremely proud of our WHS Class of 1956 Scholarship Fund. Continuing education has always been important to our family and providing scholarships to college bound students is a way to contribute to the future of our great country. Without a scholarship, I would not have been able to graduate from St. Lawrence University or Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.”

- Born and raised in Watertown, Art Williams now lives in Lexington, Virginia and Fort Myers, Florida. He is a retired Lieutenant General and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Return on the Scholarship Investment
Foundation recipient practicing medicine in the North Country

In 1992, Jason F. White was the recipient of a scholarship from the Northern New York Community Foundation. After graduating from Watertown High School, he earned a degree from Cornell and completed studies at SUNY Upstate Medical College in 2001. After a brief time away from the area, Jason and his family returned to the North Country in 2004. Dr. White is a board certified family physician with Internal Medicine of Northern NY in Watertown. He is also involved in a variety of ways that help shape the region for the better.

Jason's older brother, Scott, also a Watertown High School graduate, received a scholarship from the Community Foundation in 1990. He graduated from the University of Scranton in 1994, where he majored in Finance.

Jason and Scott are two of countless examples of the return on the community's investment in scholarships administered through the Foundation. We are proud to list them as "ours."

“When I received the scholarship, it showed me the Foundation’s investment in local students. When I returned to the area, I learned how the Foundation takes the lead in funding major projects that touch the lives of all North Country residents.” - Jason F. White, M.D.

In addition to resources set aside annually from unrestricted funds, the Foundation also administers several funds which were established by individuals, organizations or businesses for the benefit of North Country students attending college in the region and elsewhere. One of those such funds is the Delos M. Cosgrove, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Cosgrove (whose father served on the Foundation board from 1930-1934) was a 1928 graduate of Watertown High School and a local attorney. He held leadership positions with a variety of area civic organizations. Upon his death, and after having served on the Foundation's board of directors from 1953 to 1980, a scholarship was established in his memory. Thirty years later, this scholarship continues to affect the lives of area students each year. This is yet another example of the Foundation's ability to serve as a vehicle for perpetuating legacies and sustaining giving long after someone is able to do so personally.
$673,535 in Scholarships Awarded

290 students in three counties receive assistance for 2010-2011

Students from Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties will receive a total of $673,535 through the scholarship programs of the Northern New York Community Foundation this year. Since 1980, the Foundation has awarded over $9.5 million in scholarships.

For the majority of the scholarships, applicants must be full-time undergraduate students and be residents of Jefferson or Lewis counties. Applications are accepted from high school seniors for the freshman year, from college sophomores for the junior year, and from non-traditional students for any year in college or technical school. Selection for freshman and junior scholarships is based upon academic achievement and personal data. Selection for freshman and junior scholarships is based upon academic achievement and personal data. Amounts are based upon unmet financial need as determined by the student's college and could total $12,000 over four years for freshman and $6,000 over two years for junior applicants. Amounts vary for non-traditional students, depending on need.

Applications for 2011-2012 for all students has been extended until September 1, 2011.

In 2008, the program was extended to offer high school seniors in portions of St. Lawrence County one-year awards of up to $2,000. This year, 22 of those scholarships were granted.

Applications for 2011-2012 for all three counties will be available in February through high school guidance offices, the JCC financial aid office, and online at www.nnycf.org.

Alexandria
Ayana Collins
Vincent Hoover
Robin D. LeClerc
Jeremy Moench
Zachery Rufa
Dana Strough

Beaver River
Rebekah Andre
Brian J. Chenney
Jessica Decker
Kelsey Houptert
Emily E. Jones
Megan D. Nuffer
Kyle J. Pominville
Rebekah K. Puddington
Mindy Roggie
Ryan Scanlon
Ashley M. Widrick
Elizabeth Widrick
Kelly L. Wormwood

Belleville-Henderson
Jared M. Arnold
Jenny J. Ostier
McKenna O'Keefe
Clarissa Vohnoutka

Canton
Lara C. Clemens
Keagan M. McGovern
Caire Sweeney
Emily Sweeney

Carthage
Michael P. Cledenend
Katie Cloe
Samuel E. DeFrees
Margaret Rogues
Daniel J. Steiner

Colton-Pierrepont
Jacob Muller
Garrett Thomas

Copenhagen
Ryan M. Garvin
John Hanchez
Chelsea O. Pyland
Kaitlyn N. Sullivan
Philip Tanner
Augusta A. Williams

Edwards-Knox
Raven Reese

General Brown
Sierra L. Amelio
Vincent Amelio
Adam P. Babcock
Seth G.P. Babcock
Maura J. Bradshaw
Nathaniel Brenon
Jessica Cean
Justin M. Cole
Ryan M. Comins
Kaitlyn M. Darragh
Kyle Delaney
Heather M. Donato
Casey Goodwin
Casey D. Isereau
Kaitlyn M. Mathews
David Siembida
Spencer J. Timerman
Alex Tyler

Harrissville
Jorden B. Backus
Emily M. Dickinson

Heuvelton
Reginald Pierce

Immaculate Heart
Katherine L. Brennan
Shannon Elliott
Megan L. Hyneman
Edward Knapp III
Anne Marie LaFave
Brian T. Magowney
Thomas J. Roman II
Elizabeth Snow

Indian River
Caitlin R. Adams
Sarah Adams
Kyle W. DeCarr
Desiree K. Fuller
Taylore Kelsey
Jarrod Mattingly

LaFargeville
Tiffany Burrows
Lindsay S. Labiendo
Laura A. McPadden

Lowville Academy
Dakota Bain
Ariel Birchmough
Kaitlyn Bray
AJ Capone
Sharon Doolen
Stephanie Edick
Tyrone Forney
Matthew J. Hall
Elani Ingersoll
Rachel Kaban

Molly Kingsley
Geoffrey T. Marks
Jacqueline J. Monnig
Jennifer J. Nortz
Rachel Nortz
Katherine O'Brien
Laura O'Brien
Katie Peters
Emily M. Petrus
Mary Pisaniello
Deanna R. Roggie
Kyle Roggie
Hannah M. Root
Abbi L. Ross
Keely Sammon
Lindsay Schneeberger
Jackie Steria
Haylie Strife
Sonya Vargulich
Traci Wood

Lyman
Rebecca Simon

Ogdensburg
Holli-J. Coté
Alison Edwards
Mackenzie Ferguson
Zeb Fortune
Megan Morrison
Brittany Taylor

Parksville-Hopkinson
Dalynn Harper

Potsdam
Crystal Myler

Sackets Harbor
Jed N. Buote
Jonathan R. Burris
Erik J. Finger
Erik Townsend

South Jefferson
Leannore L. Burkard
Whitney Chambers
Jameson P. Crast
Ashley M. DeMar
Jacob Dowker
Matthew C. Egeberg
Malarie R. Gokey
Katelyn Gonnella
Oksana E. Hallet-Ebling
Allyson R. Jones-Brimmer
Justin T. LaLonge
Elizabeth I. Morosini
Alyssa J. Moroz
Josiah D. Siz
Jedediah E. Tift
Benjamin F. Wheeler
Tina Wu

South Lewis
Amanda R. Bolich
Helenka Lepkowski
Ostrum
Heather McManus
Jordan A. Hoffner
Roger Young

Thousand Islands
Kevin Bachmann II
Jordan A. Hoffner
Daniel L. Bowman
Cynthia Bryan
Joshua M. Dawes
Marc A. Delaney
Lindsey Schneeberger
Jackie Steria
Haylie Strife
Sofi Vargulich
Traci Wood

Ursuline
Rebecca Simon

Watertown
Matthew P. Abell
Logan Barnard
William J. Boulter II
You Lim Chang
Hila Choi
Jordan Converse
Kyle Datoush
Tiffani Fercken
Taylor Gardner
Zoe Garry
Wyatt Gessler
Mark P. Harrienger
Olivia Haynes
Laura Hirst
Stephen A. Hirst
Phillip Hodosy
Jordan A. Hoffner
Brett Holberg
Taylor Hughes
Gregory W. Kaskan
Paige A. LaBar
Morgan E. LaVere
Morgan McGuire
Timothy Madden
Morgan McCue
Edward M. Mentery, Jr.
Gwendolyn More
Kathryn E. Morrison
Mitesh Panwala
Camila Prieto
Kylar Robertson
Jessica Satchwell
Laura Schimpf
Jenna M. Schwerzmann
Bryne L. Sturgeon

Taylor Upton
Ashley Walbroehl

College Students
Judith M. Anderson
Jacob Backus
Dominique Bass-Terpsira
Amanda Battista Cleary
Kristin Briot
Emily A. Campeau
Ashley Carmo
Laby Choi
Katherine A. Crowell
Megan Cullen
Nicholas D'Alessandro
Emily J. Desjarlais
Casey D. Dickinson
Caillen Dreisbach
Katie L. Eastman
Sarah K. Elliott
Carly R. Fairbanks
Jeanne Flynn
John D. Fraczk
Courtney Gillespie
Robert L. Golforth
Dana M. Gorman
Brooke A. Grunert
Shannon Harmon
Grace E. Johnston
David A. Jones
Katie J. Korman
Stewart J. LaPan
Christina M. LaParr
Kevin Machia
Alaina L. Mallette
Emily A. Mallette
Kathryn E. McHugh
Kaitlyn Meeks
March J. Nafziger
Kayleigh Neff
Brett Nortz
McKayla Nuffer
Kaitlyn R. O'Brien
Brittany Patenaude
Nicole Perry
Adam J. Powers
Krista L. Puffer
Ryan M. Pyland
Travis J. Pyland
Andrea J. Roggie
Ryan T. Sawyer
Katherine Smith
Brittney Szempich
Stephanie Szempich
Terra T. Tippie
Gunjan Udeshi
Katelyn Virga
Charles W. Walce
Jason T. Yahus
Madalyn Zocco

Taylor Upton
Ashley Walbroehl

Non-Traditional Students
Thomas B. Bair
Peter E. Bingle
Thomas P. Bradley
Laura Brenon
Mary Busby
Deborah L. Bushy
Brianne M. Bush
Denise Calvin
Kareem Campbell
Wendy L. Casler
Shirley J. Coello
Colleen L. Doolen
Rhonda Dudley
Andrew J. Foster
Benjamin Gilchrist
James D. Godke
Thomas C. Hanno, Jr.
Sherry L. Havard
Kenneth Jenkins
Philipp R. Kaufman
Donna M. Knowlton
Jon A. Laclair
Erica A. Leonard
Charlene K. Lyndaker
Carolynn M. MacNay
Laurie McGrath
Timothy D. Mills
Denise L. Mueller
Douglas E. Osborne, Jr.
Colin Riendeau
Ray S. Robinson
Neely J. Shaw
Rebecca Strong
Stephanie Vandeputte

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED THIS YEAR
Eugene & Dorrance B. Bush Beaver River Scholarship
Matt Dohrn Scholarship
Donald J. Dutch Grant Scholarship
Daisy Allard Jamerson & Dorothy Jamerson Eckford Scholarship
Janet Ostnek Memorial Scholarship

Since 1980, over $9.5 million in scholarships to North Country students has been awarded through the Foundation.
As the beautiful colors of fall slowly give way to the snows of winter, the seasonal changes in the North Country once again quietly and reliably move forward. Just as we know the forces of mother nature work according to an ancient rhythm, so too is there constancy in the inherent generosity and willingness of people in the North Country to help others. The people of the North Country are not only generous in spirit, but in giving materially to others who need a helping hand. Over the generations, student scholarships, small and large community projects, assistance to non profit organizations, support of the arts and many other important initiatives have been funded by the Northern New York Community Foundation. At its heart, the Foundation’s success over the years has come directly from community-minded citizens who have the foresight and willingness to help others.

The great recession of 2008-2009 shook the very core of our global and national economy. In spite of significant losses in the broader market, the Foundation continues to rebound through the help and generosity of others. During this challenging recovery period, the value of every proposal and the dollars needed to fund them have been carefully considered by the Board. The Board’s long term view in providing support for worthy projects in a difficult economy will help us transition to a stronger future. The work of the Finance Committee, our Executive Director Rande Richardson and staff throughout 2010 has been instrumental in helping the Board of Directors maintain a steady course in fulfilling the mission of the Foundation.

As we look ahead to 2011 and the start of a new year, the needs of the greater North Country remain significant. Regional unemployment and the loss of manufacturing jobs over the last several years have accelerated. Non profit organizations who do so much in the Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence area on so few dollars have been particularly hard hit. Our local food pantries are in great demand as more people struggle to stay above the poverty line. The Foundation’s historical commitment to basic human needs, education and helping communities prosper will not waiver. The work of the Foundation through its unrestricted grant program will continue to provide critical resources so our young people will have access to high quality education, to nudge a local project in the right direction and to step in when necessary to positively change the direction and nature of a critical community endeavor.

Please know the staff and Board of Directors will continue to work on your behalf in maintaining and building the Foundation as an important asset to the communities and individuals we serve. With your help and cooperation, I’m confident the NNYCF will continue to make a significant difference, one by one, organization by organization, steadily and reliably in improving life in the North Country. Please accept my sincerest and grateful appreciation for all that you do as a friend of the Foundation.

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

A W A Y  T O  P R O V I D E  F O R  Y O U R  F U T U R E  a n d  T h e  F o u n d a t i o n ’ s  C h a r i t a b l e  G i f t  A n n u i t i e s

Through the Northern New York Community Foundation’s Charitable Gift Annuities, a donor can receive guaranteed income for life along with significant tax benefits. Best of all, it provides another vehicle to give back to the community and support the Foundation’s work and mission. To have a proposal tailored just for you, contact the Foundation at (315) 782-7110.

Sample Rates*

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* Rates per the American Council on Gift Annuities