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**New partnership to bring Northern New York Community Foundation
Youth Philanthropy Council to Ogdensburg Free Academy**

The Northern New York Community Foundation is partnering with the Sweetgrass Foundation to establish a Youth Philanthropy Council at Ogdensburg Free Academy. The partnership will allow the council to award up to \$10,000 in grants in its first year. The program will begin with the selection of students, and the inaugural council will be identified by the end of this school year.

"The Ogdensburg City School District is very pleased to have the opportunity to work with the Northern New York Community Foundation and the Sweetgrass Foundation on establishing a Youth Philanthropy Council here at Ogdensburg Free Academy," said OFA Superintendent Timothy M. Vernsey. "This opportunity will most certainly enhance the education of students in regards to the importance of being involved in community organizations and we look forward to this exciting opportunity."

This will be the third school district in Northern New York – and second in St. Lawrence County – to implement the Community Foundation program. Potsdam Central School is in its first year of the program and will award \$10,000. Watertown High School is entering its fourth year and has two councils awarding \$10,000 apiece. The program at the two schools has been supported by Watertown Savings Bank, Renzi Foodservice, the Grassroots Fund, and donors to the Community Foundation's Community Betterment Fund. Youth Philanthropy Council has awarded \$22,500 in grants through its first three years.

"We are eager to collaborate with the Sweetgrass Foundation to launch this program at Ogdensburg Free Academy," said Max DelSignore, Community Foundation Coordinator of Donor Services. "Their consistent leadership and engagement in the North Country is tremendous. We are excited to build on our mutual interest of addressing community needs by offering Youth Philanthropy Council at OFA."

The Northern New York Community Foundation also administers the Ogdensburg Free Academy Alumni Scholarship Fund, which was established in 2012. The fund, created through contributions from the OFA Class of 1962, is awarded each year to students who meet academic- and need-based criteria.

The Northern New York Community Foundation makes grants to support the work of non-profit organizations and provides scholarships to individuals in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. This work is made possible by donors who have established permanent, charitable funds with the Foundation during their lifetimes or through their wills.

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