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**Community Foundation Make \$100,000 Loan
to Strengthen North Country Family Health Center**

The Northern New York Community Foundation Board of Directors today approved a \$100,000 no-interest loan to help assist the North Country Family Health Center (NCFHC) as they solidify a sustainable business plan. The NCFHC, formerly known as The Children's Clinic, has been one of the largest recipients of Community Foundation grants. The Community Foundation provided a start-grant to the organization in the early 1970s and has provided over \$700,000 in grants since that time.

“We have a substantial history of investment in the Center and its important work and mission. We have received reasonable assurances that, with Samaritan Medical Center as temporary operator, a viable work plan is being developed that will put the organization back on solid footing for the long term,” said Rande S. Richardson, Community Foundation executive director. “This is the last best chance we have to see this important community health issue be successfully resolved for all concerned. It's as much a statement of belief in their work as well as the plan to sustain it,” he said.

In other action, the Community Foundation Board approved the following year-end grants:

- **Food Pantries in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties - \$25,000**
42 food pantries and the Watertown Salvation Army soup kitchen will share in this grant to supply their pantries throughout the year.
- **Hospice of Jefferson County - \$10,000**
To assist with software upgrade and implementation to provide greater efficiency.
- **Greater Watertown Chamber of Commerce - \$985**
To provide a scholarship for the Jefferson Leadership Institute program to a nonprofit organization that might not otherwise be able to participate.
- **North Country Library System - \$750**
Funding for an e-book/e-reader initiative to help increase accessibility for the visually impaired.

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