

NORTHERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

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**Couple Makes a \$200,000 Combined Commitment to Community Foundation
New Fund and Challenge Grant Will Support Educational Initiatives in Potsdam**

A husband and wife who attended Potsdam Central School and maintain ties to Northern New York have made a challenge to area residents, organizations, businesses and Potsdam Central School alumni to match up to \$100,000 towards the recently established Potsdam Educational Opportunities Fund. An advisory committee for the Educational Opportunities Fund has formed to raise resources needed to develop activities and opportunities which enhance and enrich the educational experience of the students of the Potsdam Central School District. The donor's match would be applied to the Fund with the condition that the match would be 1:1 for annual needs and 2:1 for endowment-building.

“This breathes tremendous life and momentum into the grassroots work of a very passionate group of Potsdam Central School District residents,” said Rande S. Richardson, executive director of the Community Foundation. “Through this collaboration and a very generous donor, there is a potential to provide a meaningful source of sustainable funding for endeavors that fall outside the normal scope of what a school could provide. If this effort is successful, it could provide a model of how communities can rally to make their schools the best they can be and provide enriched learning experiences for all students,” he said.

At the same time, the couple has made a separate \$100,000 gift to establish the “Potsdam Fund for Education,” also to be administered through the Northern New York Community Foundation. This fund will support education initiatives in Potsdam, including the recently formed Potsdam Educational Opportunities Fund.

Anyone interested in discussing contributing to help meet the \$100,000 challenge gift can contact Mr. Richardson at the Foundation office at (315) 782-7110.

Since the Northern New York Community Foundation began providing grants and scholarships in St. Lawrence County, approximately \$1 million in new gifts and commitments have been made by donors from that county interested in supporting the Foundation's efforts there.

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