A Season for Counting Blessings

Your belief in our work and mission guides us as we enter a new year

When North Country residents cite the reasons why they love spending their lives here, many mention that they are able to witness all four seasons in their full glory. However, if there is one season that generates the most conversation (and trips south) it is winter.

While winter presents a whole set of obstacles and challenges, it also provides a wonderland of beauty and recreational offerings that are not available during other seasons. We also know there is renewal waiting around the corner. I find this time of year one of reflection and introspection. After the pace of the holiday season passes and a new year begins, I look back on all that has been accomplished in the context of a renewed energy and excitement for the great potential that is before us.

When winter arrives, almost perfectly on cue, it reminds me that, in the same way, our supporters continue to demonstrate in meaningful ways their steadfast belief that the Foundation is a treasured community asset worthy of their gifts.

What stands out most as I reflect upon 2010 is that, in addition to the generosity of faith and confidence in the work we are doing, the year is a statement of the North Country’s permanent, flexible, charitable capital. As I write in nearly every gift acknowledgement, your support is not something we take for granted. Every gift is a blessing. I am particularly mindful that each contribution is also a sacrifice.

This grant was made possible in part through a grant from the Alex Velto Community Fund. To help fund completion of kitchen renovations.

In the meantime, know that we are keenly aware of the blessing that each of you is to us. Your belief in our work and mission is a valued and treasured asset of this organization. The ability to be a pro-active force of community health and betterment relies on your continued commitment and passion.

Some of the best blessings are difficult to quantify. Whatever your philanthropic objectives, it is my hope that the joy you receive in helping others is one of your most treasured blessings. Helping you accomplish this is one of ours.

Scholarship Applications Available in February

Each year, the Foundation awards over $600,000 in scholarships to North Country students. Applications are available for both high school seniors preparing for their freshman year in college and college sophomores preparing to enter their junior year. Also, several non-traditional scholarships will be offered. Applications are available at most high school guidance offices, the JCC financial aid office and at the Foundation office. You can also download the application from the Foundation website: www.nnycf.org. The deadline is April 1, 2011.

Food Bank of Central New York • $30,000
To supply food pantries in Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence counties and the Watertown Salvation Army soup kitchen. This was made possible in part through a grant from the Renzi Foodservice Fund.

Jefferson Community College • $6,000
To help fund the 2011 annual community surveys conducted by the Center for Community Studies. This grant was made possible in part through the Herring College Memorial Trust.

New Bremen Community Improvement Association • $1,500
To fund a new covered grandstand area at Wagner Field.

American Association of University Women Jefferson County Branch • $1,000
For a full-day educational program for girls in grades 6 to 8.

Lyons Falls History Association • $1,000
To purchase equipment for duplication of their photo collections for fundraising.

TOTAL 4th Quarter $47,500

TOTAL 2010 $526,500

Thousand Island Land Trust (TILT) Macsherry Trail on Crooked Creek Preserve near Alexandria Bay. Since 1988, the Foundation has provided grants of nearly $75,000 to support TILT.

A fresh snow cover whitens the entrance to the Thousand Island Land Trust (TILT) Macsherry Trail on Crooked Creek Preserve near Alexandria Bay. Since 1988, the Foundation has provided grants of nearly $75,000 to support TILT.
**An Investment in St. Lawrence County**

Over $400,000 in grants and scholarships awarded over last several years

Although prior to 2008, the Northern New York Community Foundation made periodic grants in St. Lawrence County, since then, the Foundation has been aggressively seeking ways to demonstrate the impact a community foundation can have on a region. Since actively pursuing grantmaking opportunities there, over $300,000 in grants and $90,000 in scholarships have been awarded in the communities in St. Lawrence County.

In addition, the Foundation board now has two seats designated for St. Lawrence County. In 2010, an advisory council was formed and held its first meeting in Canton. Those individuals will continue to help guide the Foundation’s work in the years ahead.

Meanwhile, there has been an increased interest from donors who have noticed the Foundation’s efforts and are willing to help build upon those investments. As more donators express an interest in supporting and leveraging the Foundation’s investments in this portion of our service area, there will be more opportunities to assist with worthwhile endeavors.

**Scholarships & Grants Recently Awarded in St. Lawrence County**

- **Scholarships** .......................................................... $90,000
- **Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY)**........... $50,000
- **St. Lawrence County libraries** ................................. $47,700
- **North Country Public Radio** ................................. $45,000
- **E.J. Noble Hospital** ............................................ $30,000
- **Frederic Remington Art Museum** ......................... $25,000
- **Canton-Potsdam Hospital** .................................. $20,000
- **Hospice & Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley** ..... $15,000
- **Ogdensburg Command Performances** .................. $12,000
- **Clifton-Fine Hospital** ........................................ $10,000
- **GardenShare** .................................................. $10,000
- **Orchestra of Northern New York** ......................... $10,000
- **Riverview Park Association** ................................. $10,000
- **Reading Room Association of Gouverneur** ........... $9,800
- **Clifton-Fine Economic Development Corp.** ........ $5,000
- **St. James Outreach Center** ................................ $4,800

**Total** ........................................................................ $404,300

---

**Joe & Millie Valletelunga Fund**

A family's lasting tribute helps others battling Alzheimer's Disease

The family of the late Joseph and Mildred Valletelunga recently established a fund at the Foundation to help ensure that other families will not have to endure what they did. Grants from the fund will assist with the implementation of Project Lifesaver in Jefferson County. The program supplies special bracelets for Alzheimer's patients and autistic children which transmits signals to the Sheriff’s Department should the person wander away. Ten bracelets have been purchased and there is a waiting list for additional units. The hope is to replenish and build the fund so that the needs can be met for many years to come.

“We remember the look on Dad’s face when we went to pick him up. That shy smile of his just about ripped our hearts out. He actually lit up when he recognized us. We are just so thankful he was found alive with minor injuries. Those twelve hours were so horrifying, not knowing where he was and what happened to him. We can only imagine how distraught, confused and terrified he must have been. Now every time we hear of an elderly person getting lost, the gripping fear takes a hold of us again. Our hearts go out to everyone affected by similar situations. Twelve hours was so terrible to endure we don’t know how families survive days or months. The technology is here now to prevent this from happening to others. Now we can get it to the people who need it and help them understand that they need to wear these bracelets to ease their loved ones’ minds.”

Gifts to build this fund are welcomed and can be made to:

**Northern New York Community Foundation**

120 Washington St., Suite 400, Watertown, NY 13601

---

**Youth Philanthropy Council Makes Grant Recommendations**

The Northern New York Community Foundation’s Youth Philanthropy Council made grant recommendations at a presentation at the Foundation’s December Board meeting. They reviewed proposals from nine organizations and recommended four for funding. The Foundation Board provided $5,000 in funds for the sixteen Watertown High School students to distribute in the community. Members of the Council agreed that the decisions were not easy and they would have liked to have helped all nine organizations that applied. Beyond an increased awareness of the various community needs, these young adults learned valuable lessons in leadership and giving back.

**2010 Youth Philanthropy Council Grants**

- **North Country Children’s Clinic** .............................. $2,000
- **Purchase of replacement hemoglobin machines for use in school based health centers**
- **Watertown Urban Mission** .................................... $1,500
- **Support of their Critical Needs program**
- **Evans Mills Youth Commission** ............................... $1,000
- **Improvements to their sports field**
- **Flower Memorial Library** ..................................... $500
- **Support the expansion of the Library’s Teen Space**

---

**PETER and KATHY WYCKOFF of Canton**

looked at various options for making donations to their favorite organizations. They decided to establish a donor advised fund with the Northern New York Community Foundation. The fund offers them an easy, efficient way to support their community. They are able to direct how their fund will be used, and the Foundation takes care of all the reporting, investing and filing requirements. In addition, since appreciated stock was used to endow their fund, they will receive a tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax.

“We appreciate that our gifts to local not-for-profits will be in addition to any that the Foundation would be making in St. Lawrence County. Our Grassroots Fund will be a complement to the Foundation’s expanding plans for St. Lawrence County and we are pleased to be a part of that effort. The Foundation has a great track record for developing and administering its endowment and various funds for the betterment of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.”
The first grant from the Alex Velto Community Fund was recently awarded to New Day Children’s Center. The $5,000 grant ($2,500 from the Velto Fund) was used to help complete renovation so the Center’s kitchen facilities. The fund, established by the Foundation Board in December 2009 and added to through the generosity of many, has reached a value of nearly $60,000. It will be a resource for community initiatives and a tribute to the life and legacy of Alex Velto in perpetuity. All gifts made to the fund through December 31, 2010 will be listed in a special tribute section of the Foundation’s next annual report. Additional gifts to help continue to build the fund can be made to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 120 Washington St., Suite 400, Watertown, NY 13601.

New Foundation Funds
Designated & Field of Interest Funds
George R. Davis Fund for Lowville Dial Fund
Garrett Loomis Firefighters Fund
Jan B. Oliver Lifelong Reading Fund
River Fund
Walker Family Community Fund

Scholarship Fund
Charlotte J. Smith Scholarship Fund

Donor Advised Funds
Grassroots Fund
Renzi Foodservice Fund
Philip J. & Emily G. Sprague Fund
Joe & Millie Valletunga Fund

Agency Endowment
Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY)

To discuss establishing a fund, contact the Foundation at (315) 782-7110.
Investing in Our Future
Susan B. Horr

Serving on the Board of Directors of the Northern New York Community Foundation these past eight years has been an amazing experience for me. The Foundation’s commitment to our community has helped so many people in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties to live more enriched, healthy lives that otherwise might not get any help.

I never knew or understood how many non-profit organizations there were in this area whose only purpose is to help those in need. The Foundation has given funds to many organizations such as the Food Bank, the Teen Center, the Volunteer Transportation Center and many of the hospitals in this area. It has helped buy winter coats for children in need, helped make health care affordable through the Children’s Clinic, and gave families a place to stay when someone they love was in the hospital through Sarah House.

The Foundation has also supported so many cultural, recreational and historical organizations that are located throughout the community. These organizations are helping to preserve our history, entertain us and teach us. We have awarded grants for concerts, grandstands, libraries, museums, schools, performing arts and so much more.

My favorite part of being on the Board of Directors is seeing how much the Foundation invests in the future of this area by giving hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for scholarships to traditional and non-traditional students. The cost of education has skyrocketed and without these scholarships many of these students would not be able to afford to go to college. I have read letters from some of the recipients who have thanked the Foundation for their help and have vowed to “pay it forward” by volunteering their services and giving back to the community.

Rande Richardson, with the help of Louise Scarlett and Shari Scott, researches, interviews, and does site visits in the community to obtain a wealth of information. This allows the Board to make high quality decisions concerning grants and scholarships. Not only does he speak with people who request help, but he actively goes out into the community searching for people and organizations that need help but don’t know where to turn.

One of the most exciting things Rande and the Community Foundation did in 2010 was to establish the Youth Philanthropy Council. This Council is made up of students from Watertown High School and is designed to help promote, educate and encourage participation in giving back to the community. This year the Council awarded $5,000 to various organizations.

Through generous donations, whether outright or bequeathed, the Foundation is able to wisely invest funds to help support the well-being of our community. These donations are given, managed, and distributed through grants and scholarships by people living in the area in which we serve. Investing in the NNYCF is a great way to invest in our community and its future.

Partnerships Feed Those in Need
$30,000 grant brings total support to over $410,000 since 1997

At its December board meeting the Northern New York Community Foundation Board of Directors approved a $30,000 grant to supply a total of 31 food pantries as well as the Watertown Salvation Army soup kitchen for 2011. Food shipments occur throughout all twelve months of the year, and the Food Bank works with the individual food pantries to time those appropriately. This ongoing partnership with the Food Bank helps leverage significantly more food, dollar-for-dollar, than would be available by other means.

This year’s effort included a new partnership with Renzi Foodservice, who provided a generous financial gift to increase the grant’s impact in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. “We believe in giving back to the communities that have supported us for many years. It was a natural fit for us to assist with a program that fits our overall mission as an organization,” said Jude Renzi, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Renzi Foodservice.

Jefferson County: VEM Food Pantry of Carthage, CAPC of Jefferson County, Rohde Community Center (Adams), Watertown Salvation Army, Theresa Pantry, Watertown Urban Mission, Indian River Baptist Church Pantry, Council of Churches Pantry (Clayton), St. Mary’s Church Pantry (Evans Mills), St. Paul’s Church Pantry (Redwood), Faith Fellowship Church Pantry (Watertown), Gwens Food Pantry (LaFargeville), Depauville Pantry

Lewis County: Harrisville, Lowville, New Bremen and Port Leyden Pantries, First Congregational Church Pantry (Osceola)

St. Lawrence County: Canton, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg & Potsdam Neighborhood Centers, Massena Salvation Army, Norfolk/Raymondville Pantry, Ogdensburg Salvation Army, St. James Outreach Center (Gouverneur), Star Lake Pantry, St. Vincent De Paul Pantry (Massena), Richville Baptist Chapel Pantry, Tri-Town Community Services (North Lawrence), Christian Life Fellowship Grace Pantry (Gouverneur), Hammond Food Pantry

"The Community Foundation has provided local food pantries with core products to fill their inventories and has made a significant difference in many lives throughout the three counties for over a decade. This forward thinking approach has proven to be an effective model that we have duplicated throughout our eleven county service area.” - Thomas Slater, Food Bank Executive Director