

For Immediate Release October 16, 2018 For more information, contact Rande S. Richardson, (315) 782-7110

Community Foundation Launches Second Year of \$10,000 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge

Program open to 7th and 8th grade students in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties

The Northern New York Community Foundation is again offering the Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge to engage middle-school students in exploring their community and supporting local non-profit organizations. This is the second year of the program. The program is made possible by Community Foundation annual fund donors as well as a gift from Community Bank, N.A.

Students currently attending 7th and 8th grades in Jefferson, Lewis or St. Lawrence county are eligible to compete for a total of \$10,000 in grant awards. The initiative aims to have students explore their view of "community" and select a local charitable organization for a grant award that reflects what makes their community a great place to live. To enter in the competition, students must complete an official application in writing.

Last year, 23 winning entries were selected with grants being awarded to 19 area organizations totaling \$10,000 in support. The top grant was a \$1,000 award to support Meals on Wheels of Greater Watertown.

Applications will be available online at www.nnycf.org, at local schools, or at the Northern New York Philanthropy Center, 131 Washington Street, Watertown. Entries must be returned to the Community Foundation, hand-delivered or postmarked to the Northern New York Community Foundation, no later than Monday, November 19, 2018.

A committee will review all entries and determine multiple winners for various grant awards based on the number of applications received. Eligible recipient organizations must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit

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organizations located within Jefferson, Lewis or St. Lawrence counties. An announcement of the winning submissions and grant awards will be made by year's end. The students will then visit their chosen organization to present their grant award personally.

For more information on the Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge, please contact the Community Foundation at (315) 782-7110 or at <u>info@nnycf.org</u>.

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