A legacy of giving continues
Longtime Adams family family forever impacts region

Charles R. and E. Fern Brown cared deeply about their community, so they gave to help make it a better place for all.

The Browns supported many charitable causes during their 40 years together.

Mr. Brown was born in Ellisburg and graduated from Adams High School. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Shortly after he returned home, Mr. Brown joined the Carrier Corporation in Syracuse, where he spent his entire professional career of more than 30 years.

While working at Carrier, Mr. Brown met his future wife, Fern, who worked as a bookkeeper. The Browns retired from Carrier in 1982 and returned to the Adams area.

The Browns supported a wide range of local charitable causes and organizations, demonstrating strong philanthropic spirit. Mr. Brown passed away in 2010 and Mrs. Brown remained active until her death in 2017 at the age of 97.

The generosity of the Browns during their lifetimes is perpetuated through the Charles R. and E. Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation. This permanent fund will forever make a difference as it helps students realize their educational dreams through scholarships and aids communities in need with grant funding to improve quality of life. In this meaningful way, Charles and Fern’s story of thoughtfully giving and helping others will continue, always serving as a reminder of the good that can be accomplished through legacy planning.

The Community Foundation is honored to be the steward of the Brown’s generosity and desire to have a lasting impact. The Six Town area — and larger North Country region — and those who live here will forever benefit from the desire of two incredibly giving individuals who believed that leaving a legacy to benefit future generations is a meaningful thing to consider.

Like the Browns, loyal North Country residents and supporters of the region have a unique ability today to maximize generosity and give where they live, forever. The Six Town Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation provides a wide range of donor options to make giving efficient, simple and rewarding. Thanks to the Browns, grant-making efforts through the Six Town Community Fund were more than doubled this year. Initially, $5,000 was allocated for available grant funding from the Community Fund. A gift from the Charles R. and E. Fern Brown Fund enabled grants totaling $12,250 to eight different organizations that support Six Town residents.

Supporters of the region have a unique opportunity today to maximize generosity and give where they live, forever.

Northern New York Community Foundation

Newsletter of the Six Town Community Fund, a Northern New York Community Foundation affiliate

315-782-7110 | nnycf.org | in/company/nnycf | f/nnycf | @nnycf
WHY I GIVE: JEFF & BRENNA GINGER

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY: Jeff and Brenna Ginger sit in the library of their Adams Center home. Jeff, principal at South Jefferson High School, and Brenna teaches English at Watertown High School, see community philanthropy — no matter the giving level — as an important investment in the area for its future.

Jeff and Brenna Ginger live in Adams Center with their three children, Emerson, 9, and 5-year-old twin daughters, Clara and Adele. Jeff is principal at South Jefferson High School and Brenna teaches English at Watertown High School. The Northern New York Community Foundation featured Jeff and Brenna in the second season of the Northern New York Community Podcast, which is excerpted here. Listen to the full interview at nnycpodcast.com/episodes/jeffrey-brenna-ginger.

What drives each of you to give to your community, whether by way of a charitable contribution or volunteering?

Jeff: Brenna and I lived away for a while. We completed master’s degrees in London. We had a conversation about where we want to live in our adult lives and raise our children. When we decided to move back to Northern New York, we wanted to create the culture we wanted to live in. Compared with metro areas, resources are fewer here. We thought if we miss it, if it’s something we love, then we want to help create it. In many ways, if you live in a small community, where you give helps to decide what becomes important culturally. It provides opportunities both for us and hopefully for the community as a whole philanthropically.

Brenna: Deciding to raise our children here, it’s multi-fold in that our children watch the community grow in a positive way, and we get to foster experiences and promote the experiences that we would like for our children. Our son (now 9) has really taken off with this. He will give all of his meager savings away, so we’ve actually had to talk about worthiness of cause with him and deciding what the right thing is to give to.

How do you instill some of the values of philanthropy in others that have either been taught to you or you’ve learned along the way?

Jeff: For me, the giving often is not monetary. Just being nice is, I think, the secret to philanthropy at some level. It’s what do I have to give, whether that’s time or some other finite resource or financial help or a listening or inspiration. What do I have to give others to help today? Sometimes that turns into philanthropic pursuit, and sometimes that’s just helping those around you with your time and energy and sweat and tears and whatever else.

Brenna: Also, if that becomes your focus, opportunities present themselves every day, and you simply honor the opportunities. Sometimes people just need to have their needs honored. I think the best way for me to demonstrate philanthropy is just being available to others.

“A Giving puts a really personal face on need and on community. We decided to live here, and we want to see it flourish.”

—Jeff Ginger, Adams Center

As a couple, you gave to the Six Town Community Fund to support programs and projects in the southern Jefferson County area. You are likely the youngest donors to that effort. Why did you decide to give?

Brenna: It’s where we raise our kids. It’s our community. It’s our home. We know the community. We know the families. Giving puts a really personal face on need and on community. We decided to live here, and we want to see the community flourish.

Jeff: The early effort for a new fund really caught my eye. There was an opportunity early on when we knew our donation would be doubled. The Community Foundation was matching donations. At that point, we said, “Let’s give what we can possibly give,” knowing that the more we stretched, the more things were matched. For us, it really had more to do with that longer-term impact in perpetuity. To me, that is very powerful. It’s the reason some of those funds, many of which the Community Foundation helps to manage, have such lasting impact locally.
SIX TOWN COMMUNITY FUND / A HISTORY OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY

Sincere appreciation for all who give

The Six Town Community Fund and the Northern New York Community Foundation gratefully thank all donors who help support and strengthen the quality of life for all in the Adams, Ellsburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman and Worth communities. Every gift, large and small, enables a more effective pursuit of our collective work and mission to enhance the region. We hope you will consider renewing your support in the year ahead. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Recent Tribute Gifts

Includes only gifts made to the Six Town Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation in memory of or in honor of a loved one from August 15, 2018, to August 1, 2019

In Memory of

Given by

Barbara Brown LaVere
Anne S. Brown & Family

Baxter Macklen
Laura Macklen

Robert & Frances Sischo
Lynne, David, Brian, & Kevin Sischo and Families

Richard B. Stevens
John & Sara Treadwell

In Honor of

Given by

Dick & Jane Hough
Anonymous

Six Town Sustaining Gifts

The following supporters made gifts to the Six Town Community Fund between August 1, 2018, and August 1, 2019

Robert Berback
Anne S. Brown & Family
Frank & Ann Cean

Warren & Mary Beth Denny
Trent & Janine Dickey
Gretchen G. Eysaman
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
John W. Ferry
Dave & Melanie Geurtsen
Clint & Barbara Gillett
Dwight & Barb Greene
Deborah & William Griffith
Hi-Lite Group Charitable Foundation
Julie & Stephen Kealy
Dave & Pam Kellogg
Fred & Virginia Karnas
Brendan J. Higgins / Maclvinnie & Brown Insurance Agency
Laura Macklen
Bud & Marvel Masters
John & Jamie Moesel
Bilkey Moore
Fred & Marlene Norfolk
O.D. Greene Lumber Co., Inc.
Wilson F. & Daryl Rusho
Lynne, David, Brian, and Kevin Sischo and Families
Mark & Beth Shelmidine
Brad & Nancy Smith
Dawn Stone
Dave & Mary Stone
David & Carol Stoodley
The Kresge Foundation
John & Sara Treadwell
Union Academy of Belleville
Black Knights Boys Basketball
Dave & Barb Zembiec

PLEASE NOTE: This list includes only gifts made to the Six Town Community Fund between August 15, 2018, to August 1, 2019

Mollie Bangs*
Anne S. Brown
Frank & Ann Cean
Hi-Lite Airfield Services, LLC
Maurice L. Herron*
Daisy Marquis Jones
Bilkey Moore
Bill & Bonnie Kellogg
The Marsettus Family
The Porter Family
Dave & Mary Stone
Jay* & Dawn Stone
Alan Reed
Robert & Julia Storms
Barry & Ellen Waite

The following supporters made gifts as charter contributors to the Six Town Community Fund

Adams Free Library
Adams Village Baptist Church
Tim & Renee Alford
Robert E. Aliasso Jr.

Eric & Jennifer Anderson
Betty G. Andrews
Anonymous Donors
Andrew Beckstead
Aubertine and Currier Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors
Belloff’s Department Store
Robert & Donna* Berback
Julie Berry
Charlene Bangs Bickford
Max & Greeta Bovee
Lorraine & Pat* Caramanna Community Foundation
John Culkin & Claudia Maurer
Thomas R. Davis
Max & Sara DeSignore
Kirk & Karen Denny
Warren & Mary Beth Denny
Bob & Dawn Dick
Trent S. & N. Janine Dickey
David & Nancy Dodge
Bill & Debbie Elliott
Connie Elliott
Ronald Elmer
Gretchen G. Eysaman
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
April Fallon
John Ferry
Diane P. Ferry, DVM
Dave & Melanie Geurtsen
Clint & Barbara Gillett
Jeff & Brenna Ginger
Gramp’s Diner
Dwight & Barb Greene
Linda D. Greene
Richard L. Halpin
Barbara S. Hatheway
Nina Hershey
Brendan & Jennifer Higgins
Edgar J. Higgins Jr.
Pamela & Richard Jones
Geri & Dave Joor
Fred & Virginia Karnas
Dave & Pam Kellogg
Kresge Foundation
Ramon* & Marilyn LaLone
David & Kathy Lunman
Maclvinnie & Brown Insurance Agency
Laura Macklen
Bud & Marvel Masters
John & Jamie Moesel
Arlene Moore*
Bilkey Moore
Rick & Laura Moore
Susan Munro
Fred & Marlene Norfolk
O.D. Greene Lumber Co., Inc.
Barr & Betsy Ormsby
Joan & Gordon Peterson
P&T Supply & Services, Inc.
Queen of Heaven & St. Cecilia Roman Catholic churches
Mark & Patty Randall
Rande Richardson
Rodney & Karen Richmond
Susan & Albert Richter
Wilson F. & Daryl Rusho
Ann Sandersen
Sara Schastok
Albert & Thelma Schneider
Don & Donna Shelmidine
Doug & Sue Shelmidine
Lynne, David, Brian, and Kevin Sischo & Families
Lynne & David Sischo
Six Town Chamber of Commerce
Bradley W. & Nancy A. Smith
Milledge & Diana Smith
South Jefferson Lions Club
South Jeff Wine & Liquor, LLC
Doug & Karen Spooner
Bill & Teresa Stoodley
Dave & Carol Stoodley
Mark & Tammy Taylor
Thomas Excavating LLC
John & Sara Treadwell
Union Academy of Belleville
LaRayne Urbanczyk
Deborah Vink & Martin Clark
Bob & Liz Walker
Watertown Savings Bank
Sally & Doug Wilson
Joan Treadwell Woods
Dave & Barb Zembiec*Deceased

*Deceased
Six Town Connections
Summer 2019
Northern New York Community Foundation www.nnycf.org

South Jefferson Rescue Squad, Inc. / $2,500

The rescue squad continues to offer high-quality, critical first-responder services to residents in the Six Town region. It has been a volunteer ambulance service since 1969 and covers the majority of the southern Jefferson County area. Its call volume is growing annually with more than 950 calls last year.

Jefferson County planned to implement a new radio system in 2018 that would require advanced communication and new radio devices. However, the project was delayed until summer 2019. This grant helps the agency purchase two additional new radios. Support from the Charles and Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation is also provided as part of this grant.

Belleville Volunteer Fire Department (Town of Ellisburg) / $2,000

The Belleville Volunteer Fire Department is presently building a new facility to adequately house its rescue and tanker trucks for emergency responses in its communities. The department recently purchased land adjacent to its existing hall and station. A variety of funding sources will help cover the cost of the project, which is estimated at roughly $150,000. Grant funding is support for the capital project, which will help to improve fire protection services for residents in communities the department serves.

Historical Association of South Jefferson / $5,000

For many years, the Historical Association of South Jefferson has maintained and renovated the historic Six Town Meeting House on West Church Street in the Village of Adams. The original structure was built in 1827 and, over time, it has become a valuable community asset to southern Jefferson County residents. The Association has completed a number of upgrades to the facility. The most recent priority is the restoration of seven stained-glass windows, which were installed in the mid-1800s.

Thanks in part to this grant, which is wholly funded from the Charles and Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation, two of the antique stained-glass windows will be restored this year. The Six Town committee is grateful to the Browns and believes that this Historical Association project aligns with the charitable interests of the Brown family.

**SIX TOWN COMMUNITY FUND / GRANTMAKING BY THE NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Grant Range</th>
<th>Number of Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$5,000 to 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$5,250 to 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$5,050 to 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$12,250* to 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes $7,250 in support from the Charles and Fern Brown Fund

**TOTAL** $27,550 for 30 projects or initiatives
Adams Free Library / $1,000

One of the library’s key projects is to renovate a space for an Early Literacy Learning Center, which includes a Maker-Space and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) area. This effort is part of the “Ready to Read at New York Libraries” statewide initiative of the New York State Education Department. It is designed to improve and expand the availability of high-quality public library early learning services in local communities across the state. It also provides families and caregivers with knowledge and skills in a unique setting to prepare young children for the school experience.

The library offers its learning activities at no charge to patrons and at their convenience. Library officials report an increase in activity since the program began. Funding is directed toward program materials. Support from the Charles and Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation is also provided as part of this grant.

Lorraine Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. / $600

The fire company provides fire service protection and emergency medical services to residents in the towns of Lorraine and Worth, which represents a population of approximately 1,300 people.

The award provided funding to replace an old gas-powered generator used at fire and accident scenes to operate emergency lighting and exhaust fans when necessary. The replacement generator can be easily moved by one crew member, instead of two. It is also much quieter to operate, requires less space in the truck, and provides a reliable source of power during emergencies. The department was able to purchase the generator at a cost savings of $120 less than the grant award, and returned the savings to the Six Town Community Fund for future use. The new generator was placed into service earlier this year with personnel noting “a great improvement at accident and fire scenes.”

SIX TOWN COMMUNITY FUND / GIVING MAKES GRANTS POSSIBLE

“I’m proud to be involved. The Six Town Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation has helped our home towns in many, many ways.”

— Frank and Ann Cean, Henderson Harbor

“Giving back is so important because it creates a culture. Philanthropy helps everyone in our area. Everyone benefits — those giving and receiving.”

— Donald Whitney, Adams
Henderson Historical Society / $250

The Henderson Historical Society continues to support a mission of operating a museum for the storage, preservation, and display of objects of historical interest relating to history of the Henderson area.

The organization sought support for a more durable, dependable sign at the front of its building. The Society had been repainting or replacing its existing wooden sign every four to five years, which was artistic, but not bold enough to catch the attention of potential visitors who would often drive past the museum for lack of notice. Grant support covered nearly 100 percent of the cost of a new, all-weather sign, which was installed at the museum this spring.

A SIGN FOR HISTORY: From left, Henderson Historical Society Recording Secretary Elaine Scott, Vice President Dr. Richard Matarese, and Treasurer Fred Caswell; Six Town Community Fund Committee Chairman David Zembiec; and Henderson Historical Society President Garrett McCarthy gather around the new society and museum sign.

Adams Revitalization Committee / $500

The Adams Revitalization Committee plans to present six live music shows during its 2019 Adams Community Concert Series, held in downtown Adams at the gazebo on the Village Green behind the Adams Fire Hall. This is the fifth year for the concert series, and it’s been well received in the community since inception. All shows are free and open to the public. Crowds average 250 people while building a sense of community pride and fellowship.

The committee has scheduled a diverse range of musical genres for the 2019 concert series. Primarily local artists share their talent, but musicians from other parts of the state and Canada have also performed. Grant support helps to pay musicians and continue a unique arts experience that benefits to the Six Town region and all its residents. The series runs from mid-July through mid-August.

Henderson Free Library / $400

The library is planning to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Henderson Social Library this year.

The Henderson Free Library serves nearly 2,000 residents of the Belleville-Henderson area in southern Jefferson County. It sees nearly 8,000 library visits annually and has a long and proud history as a center for community engagement and education.

A series of public events to engage the community in the celebration includes an outdoor concert. An overall effort will also reflect on Henderson’s history, and take place in partnership and collaboration with the Henderson Historical Society. Grant funding is allocated to support the outdoor concert.

COMMUNITY FUND / WORKING TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

THE GIFT OF MUSIC: Six Town Community Fund Committee member Marlene Norfolk, left, Adams, presents a $500 grant to John McFadden, Adams Revitalization Committee.

A BICENTENNIAL GIFT: Six Town Community Fund Committee member Barb Greene, right, Henderson, presents a $400 grant to Mary E. Bidwell, director, Henderson Free Library.

A SIGN FOR HISTORY: From left, Henderson Historical Society Recording Secretary Elaine Scott, Vice President Dr. Richard Matarese, and Treasurer Fred Caswell; Six Town Community Fund Committee Chairman David Zembiec; and Henderson Historical Society President Garrett McCarthy gather around the new society and museum sign.
Application for 2019–20 grant funding now open

Local organizations serving residents in the southern Jefferson County towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman, and Worth are encouraged to apply for a grant through the Six Town Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation.

Nonprofit organizations with a valid 501(c)(3) designation are eligible to apply. Other agencies, community groups, or individuals seeking a fiscal sponsor for a community project are encouraged to partner with an eligible nonprofit or the nearest municipality. Organizations are encouraged to identify potential projects for 2020, develop project budgets, and determine additional funding sources for their request. Grant recipients will be notified in early January. Interested organizations should contact Max DelSignore, Northern New York Community Foundation assistant director, 315-782-7110, or max@nnycf.org, to discuss potential projects. Visit the grants page at www.nnycf.org to learn more.

Native Son Inspires Six Town Supporters

I really appreciate all the work that you have done over the years to bring the Six Town region to light. I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for growing up in the Six Town region and all of the people and places that helped shape my life. This is a way that I think many of us can give back to enrich the history of our area.

— David M. Kohl, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech

Cocktails, Cookies & Cream: Belleville native David M. Kohl, Ph.D., professor emeritus of agriculture economics and academic hall of famer at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va., delivered an inspirational long-distance message to Six Town Community Fund supporters during a donor appreciation celebration in June at the Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Association grounds. The back page features photos from the evening.

1) Lori Porter, Adams, right, hugs Deb Griffith, Ellisburg. 2) From left at center table: Six Town supporters Carol Stoodley and husband Dave, Adams Center; Bud Masters, Adams; Mary and Dave Stone, Adams; and Dave and Lisa Porter, Adams Center, listen to Dr. Kohl’s message.
3) Melanie Guersten, left, Rodman, and Mary Lou Edmonds, Belleville. 4) Nancy Cobb, Mannsville, and Barb Greene, Henderson. 5) From left, Dr. John Ferry, Belleville, Lisa Porter, Adams Center, and Sue Shelmidine, Ellisburg. 6) Doug Shelmidine, Ellisburg, (center) speaks with Dave Geurtsen, Rodman (left), and Dave Zombiec, Adams (right).

Six Town Community Fund / How to Give

Flexible giving where you live, now & forever!

The Six Town Community Fund is a Northern New York Community Foundation affiliate. The Foundation stewards this charitable, philanthropic resource that will have a lifetime impact on residents in the towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman and Worth. There is no better option to give where you live and support a stronger quality of life in your community forever!

Legacy Planning

A part of your legacy may include a charitable gift to support the Six Town Community Fund. The Community Foundation provides a wide range of donor options to make giving efficient, simple and rewarding.

Loyal residents and supporters of the region have the ability to maximize generosity and give where they live forever.

Bequests — You may plan a gift as a provision in your will, naming the “Northern New York Community Foundation for the benefit of the Six Town Community Fund.” You may instead choose to give a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate.

Retirement Plans — This option allows you to truly maximize your meaningful gift. You can avoid taxes on retirement plan distributions by naming the Northern New York Community Foundation as the beneficiary and designate the “Six Town Community Fund” as your charitable fund of choice.

Life Insurance — List the Northern New York Community Foundation as the beneficiary and designate the contribution to the “Six Town Community Fund.” It is an efficient option that maximizes the value of your charitable gift and also allows you to receive a tax deduction.

Other legacy planning options include charitable gift annuities (CGAs), charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) and more. To discuss legacy planning or other charitable giving interests with Northern New York Community Foundation, contact Executive Director Rande Richardson or Assistant Director Max DelSignore at 315-782-7110 or email rande@nnycf.org or max@nnycf.org.

Giving Options

Check — Mail gifts via check to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601. Please designate the “Six Town Community Fund” with your gift.

Online — Giving online is a quick, secure, and efficient way to make a gift to the Community Foundation. Visit www.nnycf.org and click the “Donate” button.

You may specify your gift to the “Six Town Community Fund”

Stock, IRA or Insurance Transfer — Consider a contribution through a transfer of stock, IRA, or life insurance. Contact the Community Foundation to learn more, 315-782-7110. The Community Foundation can also work with donors to allocate IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD), which can be used to make tax-free charitable gifts. Ask the Foundation how to take advantage of this opportunity.

Tax Deductibility — The Northern New York Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Consult a tax professional to learn more.

www.nnycf.org

Northern New York Community Foundation
A summer celebration honoring generous Six Town Community Fund donors whose gifts strengthen our communities was held June 26 at the Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Association grounds. The event drew nearly 100 supporters for an evening of fellowship. See page 7 for more.