Donors help strengthen our region

Your generous gifts enable an incredible future for our communities

Every year, you are asked to give to many worthy causes. By supporting your Community Foundation, you help to enhance the work of all the organizations that serve our region. You also promote larger conversations about creative, proactive solutions to some of our most pressing challenges. In many ways, your gifts help cast a wide net of support that enhances the quality of life across Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.

It is because of your generosity that we can make a meaningful impact on our region. Together, we make the most enduring difference for all. The impact of your gifts is great. At the Community Foundation, we continuously strive to understand how the gifts you entrust to us make the lives of people across Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties better.

How is this impact measured? Is it the number of families who have access to a healthy meal because of annual support to community food pantries and soup kitchens? Is it the students whose post-secondary education will be made a little more affordable? Is it the investment in the long-term viability of our region’s charitable organizations? Is it much-needed investment in arts and cultural experiences? Or is it the scores of children who have a safer place to play in their community?

Together, we make the most enduring difference for all.

The Northern New York Youth Philanthropy Council is made possible by donors like YOU who make gifts to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund and generous support from the following business leaders:

- Watertown Savings Bank
- RBC Wealth Management

The Northern New York Youth Philanthropy Council is made possible by donors like YOU who make gifts to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund and generous support from the following business leaders:
We want to make a promise to you. As the Northern New York Community Foundation enters its 40th year, we share a refreshed mission statement and values that reflect who we are together with you, we continue to serve individuals, families, businesses, nonprofits and others for the betterment of communities in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. You helped shape the new and values and your generosity and trust has been a compass to guide us into the future. Because you have made even stronger through a thoughtful act of generosity. Strong communities simply don’t happen on their own. You make possible. With your help, we look forward to continuing to reach further in making a positive and enduring difference in the new year.

Our promise to endure, for you

We continually feel blessed to have grown up, raised a family and spent my life’s work in a community that values a culture of connectedness. Many, if not most, of the things that make the place we spend our lives special were made possible because our friends and neighbors understood that we all have a vested interest in a vibrant community. Unquestionably, the commitment of this generation and the generations that have come before us has enriched our lives here. At each period of transition in our region’s history, everywhere we look, citizens have found inspiration in acts of thoughtfulness, kindness, gratitude and love by others. We stand on the shoulders of many who shared our belief that we can always do better, and we continue to embrace the chance of working together to continue to make investments that build upon a heritage of love for community.

Each year, Community Foundation donors like you with a special place in their heart for the region encompassing Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties show appreciation for all the ways the community has supported their quality of life. They believe that one priority in their annual giving should include a broad reach that helps strengthen the other ways they invest in Northern New York. They always have spoken loud and clear that they see value in helping inspire, encourage and nurture a lifelong sense of civic engagement and giving across the generations.

In life, there will always be those who are passive in the enjoyment of a community that others have built. Throughout the past 90 years, donors like you have stepped forward to help others understand and appreciate the importance, value and fulfillment of being an active part of aspiring for something greater. We invite you to consider how your love of community can be made more meaningful through your active act of generosity. Strong communities simply don’t happen on their own.

My heart is filled with gratitude for all you make possible. With your help, we look forward to continuing to reach further in making a positive and enduring difference in the new year.

Love for community unites us
North Country Community Foundation

The Northern New York LEAD Council recently awarded three nonprofit organizations to address child care and early childhood development needs. LEAD Impact Grant Program awards an imagination Library in the tri-county area, funded expansion of an after-school enrichment program in St. Lawrence County, and support to enhance curriculum at a Canton day care center.

The North Country Library System, Watertown, which serves residents in all three counties, has been awarded $12,000 to start an Imagination Library program that results in a free book to children monthly from birth to age 5 in participating communities. The library system already partners with the North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council to provide early literacy support materials to families enrolled in its accredited home visiting program. Healthy Families Jefferson County, and will work to identify where Imagination Library will have the greatest impact.

“Reading together is one of the most important brain-building activities parents and caregivers can engage in with children,” said Susan Mitchell, North Country Library System director. “Our libraries want to give the best start possible and having books in the home is one of the best ways to support parents and caregivers reading with children.”

A two-year phase of the program begins Jan. 1, 2020, with enrollment limited to 100 children each year.

A $50,000 LEAD Impact Grant will help expand an after-school enrichment program at St. Mary’s School in Canton, which allows the program to double its enrollment to 100 students while keeping the cost to families affordable. Participants include students from the Canton, Potsdam, Ticonderoga, Norwood, Norfolk, Ogdensburg and Hermon-DeKalb school districts.

The Northern New York LEAD Council is made possible by donors like you who make gifts to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund and generous support from the following business leaders:

- BCA Architects & Engineers
- Hydro-Sea Builders
- Trailside Designs

WHAT IS LEAD?

The LEAD Council was formed in 2014 as advisory committee of the Northern New York Community Foundation. The purpose of the LEAD Council was to identify where Imagination Library will have the greatest impact.

“This makes a critical difference in our after-school program for affordable care and early childhood development programs,” said Devon Sutton, St. Mary’s School principal. “Coating opportunities for high-quality child care and enrichment while also supporting healthy families who make up our community.”

Canton Day Care Center was awarded an $1,800 LEAD grant to help the nonprofit purchase materials, training resources and classroom items to enhance curriculum. The center is working to launch a new curriculum focused on social emotional development, literacy, motor skills, diversity, open-ended activities and play.

Last fall, the LEAD Council committed to address child care and early childhood development needs across the region using its strategic focus in 2019. To help make meaningful investments to effectively address this issue and future needs, the Council launched the LEAD Impact Grant Program earlier this year.

The LEAD Impact Grant Program had up to $52,000 in grant funding available for 2019. The investment is made possible thanks to donations to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Grant Program from the Syracuse Symphony.

The organization has been reinvigorated by its Watertown Advisory Council’s recent work to boost attendance and overall community engagement.

The Council’s decision to focus on child care and early childhood development initiatives comes when the need for access to quality care in the region is at all-time high. It is a vital quality of life component for many families, and in steps to improve child care, will strengthen North Country communities. While evaluating the issues, the Council heard from regional child care professionals who shared many challenges and stressors they face.

Orchestra of Northern New York

The Community Foundation established an $18,000 endowment at the Community Foundation. With additional gifts and growth through diversified, prudent investment, it has now nearly $250,000.

“All we could have hoped from this partnership has transpired over the past six years. My wife Jill and I will be pursuing estate planning with the Community Foundation that benefits the orchestra. We hope others will do the same,” Mr. Savage said.

There is a special opportunity to create greater visibility of the Foundation’s partnership with NNY as well as affirming the importance of diversifying its revenue stream.

The Community Foundation awarded the orchestra a $30,000 matching grant to help build support for its endowment. “Financial stability depends on coving not only our operational budget but also in growing our endowment held by our partners at the Community Foundation. This year my wife and I have given to both, and will be pursuing estate planning steps that benefit the orchestra. We hope others will realize the benefit of the future,” Mr. Savage said.

Orchestra of Northern New York

The Community Foundation awarded the Orchestra of Northern New York an $1,800 LEAD Grant in support of affordable care and child care and early childhood development initiatives. The orchestra was awarded the $1,800 LEAD Grant for their effort to start an Imagination Library program.

The orchestra has the goal of doubling its enrollment to 100 children each year.

The orchestra has a strong community presence in the tri-county area, which the organization is at an all-time high. It is a vital quality of life component for many families, and in steps to improve child care, will strengthen North Country communities. While evaluating the issues, the Council heard from regional child care professionals who shared many challenges and stressors they face.

Summer Classics: concept concerts will enjoy the annual concert in the Park performance by the Orchestra of Northern New York at Watertown’s Thompson Park. In July.

For more information, visit www.nnycf.org.
Massena Public Library latest to form partnership
Permanent endowment established at Foundation to encourage long-term support

T
he Massena Public Library recently agreed to long-term partnership with the Northern New York Community Foundation. The library's board of trustees approved establishment of a permanent endowment fund with the Community Foundation. The endowment provides past, present and future library donors and supporters with another charitable giving option to enhance the library's work now and in the future. Library officials hope to build the endowment over time, which will help support and strengthen the organization's programs, initiatives and operations.

The library joins the Canton Free Library as the second public library in St. Lawrence County to partner with the Community Foundation. In Jefferson County, four public libraries have permanent partnerships with the Foundation.

The advancement of our public libraries is a critical part of improving the quality of life in communities across our region. Public libraries have evolved to serve residents in ways that extend beyond traditional lending of books and media. As technology has advanced, programs and resources available to public library patrons have also grown, making our libraries central hubs for learning, community building and the promotion of literacy. Helping to secure a prosperous future for such treasured assets needs our continued support and that's why we've formed a permanent partnership for the Community Foundation.

Massena Public Library is very pleased to partner with the Northern New York Community Foundation,“ said Elaine Dunne-Thayer, Massena Public Library director. “This partnership allows us to invest in the future of Massena Public Library and its mission. It provides a greater means to support the community and the future of the Northern Country.”

More than 20 nonprofit organizations in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties have created an endowed or charitable fund with the Community Foundation designed to advance the organization’s purpose and work for the future. Massena Public Library joins a diverse number of St. Lawrence County organizations demonstrating a commitment to long term sustainability through a Community Foundation partnership.

As the Community Foundation continues to work to improve the quality of life for the people and places of Massena and St. Lawrence County, it is honored to partner with organizations like the Massena Public Library that share our common desire for more vibrant and enriched communities.

The partnership will also enable the Foundation to find additional ways to help the library in the stewardship of its important work and mission.

Nonprofit organizations such as libraries, churches, historic museums, human service agencies and others have formed partnerships with the Community Foundation to create an endowed or permanent fund that will help ensure that these valued institutions are here for years to come, according to DelOBrien, the Foundation’s assistant director.

How have you been involved with the Community Foundation and its work? How have you been touched by the Molly J. Bogenschutz Scholarship? How do you feel about the Molly J. Bogenschutz Endless Possibilities Award?

The scholarship was created in memory of the late Molly J. Bogenschutz. The Molly J. Bogenschutz Endless Possibilities Award was established to recognize students who are working to achieve goals and help others.

I have been involved with the Community Foundation since I was a young girl and continue to be involved today. I have had the opportunity to work with the Foundation as a volunteer, staff member, and board member. I have also participated in many of the Foundation’s events and programs.

I believe the scholarship is a wonderful opportunity for students to achieve their goals and help others. It provides financial assistance for college and helps to keep young people on the right path.

The Endless Possibilities Award is a wonderful opportunity for students to achieve their goals and help others. It provides financial assistance for college and helps to keep young people on the right path.

What is special about Northern New York Community Foundation?

The Community Foundation is special because it is a place where people can come together to support the people and places that matter most to them. It provides a powerful tool for philanthropy, enabling us to make a difference in so many ways.

In what way do you think the Community Foundation has made a difference in the community?

The Community Foundation has made a difference in the community by providing financial support to many organizations and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for people in the Northern New York region.

How do you think the Community Foundation can continue to make a difference in the future?

The Community Foundation can continue to make a difference in the future by continuing to provide financial support to organizations and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for people in the Northern New York region.

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What advice would you give to someone who is interested in learning more about the Community Foundation?

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North Side League establishes legacy fund

The Community Foundation endowment enables others to continue support

**North Side League in Watertown**

“**We are very happy to join the Community Foundation. People who have done a lot of work for our community aren’t going to be forgotten as we continue the good works of the league.**”

Mr. Parody notes that he and others involved in creating the legacy fund are “thrilled to be represented by the Community Foundation in such a nice and respectable way.”

The Community Foundation is honored to be entrusted as the permanent home for the league to continue the charitable work that counting people throughout a 107-year history were so committed to seeing succeed as they worked to improve quality of life for Watertown residents. A group of Watertown citizens formed the North Side Improvement League in 1912 after they were discouraged with deteriorating conditions of a city bond measure to construct a street that would have connected West Main Street across the Black River.

Robert Cahill, who was later elected mayor, was determined that similar projects and community organizations in Watertown would not be forgotten as we continue the good works of the league.”

**BREAKING GROUND**: Left, the North Side Improvement League marked a groundbreaking for its new headquarters at 633 Mill St. in Watertown, on July 29, 1965. Right, league headquarters, opened a dedication ceremony on Nov. 29, 1965. Participating in a ribbon-cutting were Fred W. McCollum, league past president; Ronald G. Forbes, Watertown city manager; Theodore Rand, City of Watertown mayor; Arnold E. Knight, league president; Harry S. Denov, league financial secretary; Charle B. Scott, league vice president; and Clarence B. Conley, league recording secretary. The league dissolved its assets in 2018. Board members recently created an endowment at the Community Foundation to continue the league’s charitable efforts.

A rich history and legacy of civic involvement and community betterment that spanned more than a century will endure thanks to a new North Side Legacy Fund permanently established at the Community Foundation. The fund will forever honor and perpetuate the heritage and good works of the North Side Improvement League, which dissolved its assets last year and invested proceeds from the sale of its Mill Street property in the Legacy Fund.

Staring next year, the fund will award scholarships to graduating Watertown High School students to continue and improve quality of life for Watertown residents. A group of Watertown citizens formed the North Side Improvement League in 1912 after they were discouraged with deteriorating conditions of a city bond measure to construct a street that would have connected West Main Street across the Black River. Robert Cahill, who was later elected mayor, was determined that similar projects and community organizations in Watertown would not be forgotten as we continue the good works of the league.”

**Support the North Side Legacy Fund**

**To join others in helping build support**, make gifts to the North Side New York Community Foundation, 12 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. Online gifts may be made on our website at nyccf.org. Contact the Community Foundation, 719-722-7110, to learn how you can include the black river in your will or other long-term charitable planning.

**Advantages of supporting your favorite charity through the Community Foundation include**

- Ability to designate alternate uses for your gift should the organization cease to exist
- Unique legacy naming opportunities
- Greater diversification of pooled investments
- Ability to ensure your annual giving by establishing parameters for annual distributions to the charity or charities

1. **Choose your favorite charity**
2. **Give to a Community Foundation fund**, or create your own named fund, to support your favorite charity or school FOREVER!
3. **Place restrictions or specific use provisions on your gift**, or leave flexibility for future needs
4. **Provide an additional layer of stewardship and accountability**
5. **Ensure your gift lives a long, healthy life**

**To ensure the things you care about most ENDURE**

We commend the following organizations for creating Community Foundation funds to provide donors with options to support their work both now and in perpetuity.

**Jefferson County**

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<th>All Soul Unitarian Universalist Church</th>
<th>Alexandria Township Historical Society Association for the Blind &amp; Visually Impaired</th>
<th>Allamanda Performing Arts School</th>
<th>Bona Allen Smith Community Foundation</th>
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**Lewis County**

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<th>Adirondack Memorial Campground</th>
<th>American Maple Museum</th>
<th>Arrowhead Regional Medical Center</th>
<th>Ave Maria Foundation</th>
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**St. Lawrence County**

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<th>ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence &amp; Rotary Dodge Pond</th>
<th>Barryville Fire Authority</th>
<th>Canton lettuce Community Fund</th>
<th>Canton Free Library</th>
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**St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum**

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<th>Twin Lakes Golf Course</th>
<th>United Church of Temple</th>
<th>Watertown Volunteer Ambulance Corps</th>
<th>Wewaena Historical Association</th>
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5. **Ensure your gift lives a long, healthy life**
6. Can be done during your lifetime, as part of your legacy, or both
‘GPS for Success’ guides local career exploration
Community Foundation donors help expand valuable student resource

collaboration that began in 2015 between WBPS, industry leaders and educators, and the Community Foundation provided opportunities for helping local students make informed decisions about their career choices that will last a lifetime.

More than 120 industry leaders and partners from WBPS and Jefferson-Lewis and St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES to create and launch “GPS For Success” three years ago. The Foundation was an early supporter, awarding a grant to assist with the multimedia project and develop the mygpsforsuccess.com website. The Foundation recently awarded a second grant, made with support from the Herting-Colling Memorial Fund, to help WBPS target local schools to have GPS For Success become a reliable career exploration tool for all students in grades 6 through 12.

With the middle school guidance counselor introduced her first student, Trinity Dorrity, now a freshman, had no knowledge of the smaller jobs that are available in the fields of teaching and acting. “When you look at the videos and all the industry and profession across the region with resources clusters relevant to local residents and area and what education is needed,” Miss Huffman said. “It’s really important to have these conversations about where they want to go as early as possible and narrow down what they may want to do in school to prepare,” Ms. Castello said.

Kraig Everard, WBPS director of advancement, said the regional initiative is a major focus for the future of WBPS and public media. “When you can pull together hypothetical resources like this and leave a meaningful impact on future generations, it really improves the entire community,” he said. With its partners, WBPS plans to increase engagement with schools through personal visits, workshops, development of a mobile app, on-air promotions, and more. The Foundation’s previous investment in the endeavor was because it would make an impact across many community sectors: education, economy, youth, employment, and more. The BOCES support region-wide, the Community Foundation is pleased to continue its support.

What does community philanthropy mean to you? Giving of time, talent and resources, not only as an individual, but also as a family. I’m fortunate to be able to give my time to a number of organizations, but couldn’t do that without the support of my husband.

How do you help about the Community Foundation and become involved with it? I learned of the Community Foundation through an estate planning client wanted to set up a private foundation, but we were looking at other options. With the Community Foundation, we were able to work together instead and avoid all the legal issues and time and expense of setting up a private foundation. Later on, about two years ago, Max Dellignieux, the Foundation’s assistant director, approached me about becoming a member of the LEAD Council.

How has your experience serving on the LEAD Council helped you personally and professionally? LEAD has allowed me to meet other young professionals in the community, people who my path wouldn’t necessarily cross with otherwise. It also has allowed me to learn a number of nonprofits that I wouldn’t otherwise know about or know about what they do. It also helped me understand LEAD focused on the need for child care in the community. Through that I was able to learn about not only child care facilities and needs in Jefferson County, but also the needs in St. Lawrence and Lewis counties.

How can philanthropy help others to take a leadership role to help improve a community’s quality of life? There certainly has to be the people who are willing to spearhead the effort and run the various organizations and the philanthropic dollars that come to the Community Foundation for involvement, but I don’t think it’s necessary for everybody to be in a leadership role. The behind-the-scenes work is just as important at a small community level; the people who are backing up the effort, helping to support their children’s Cub Scout Troop, that sort of thing. It’s just as necessary as the active leadership role we sometimes see more in the spotlight.

How would you encourage others to get to know about service opportunities and take up some involvement? One of the best ways to encourage others is in the day-to-day conversations at the water cooler. People are talking to your coworkers about what’s going on in your life: ‘Oh, and I’m also involved in this charity, it’s something neat that we’re doing, would you like to participate?’ Here’s an event that’s going on, would you like to come? Here’s a board that I know of that’s looking for a new board member, a new committee member, who might be able to lend in some insight that seem to fit with what’s important to you.”

What is broadly important to the quality of life in a community and how can private philanthropy help? Selling the idea that the Community Foundation is broadly important to quality of life, it be housing, education, literacy with our public libraries, health care, arts and culture. That the Community Foundation has opportunity to engage its members. Private philanthropy supports the various small not-for-profit organizations that then directly impact each of the small communities in the area. The little food pantry in each specific community. It’s also a way that you can get support potentially through the larger umbrella of the Community Foundation. Giving to the Community Foundation allows support as a micro-level.

What is it important to you to give locally? I want to see that my contribution is affecting my immediate community. If I those who live in this area, I want this area to benefit directly from this. This is where I am raising my family. As much as I want the whole world to prosper, I really want my community to thrive.

In your work as an attorney, what do you think is the value of giving to the “give-where-you-live” approach of community philanthropy? Geographic giving and the ability to have a relationship with nonprofits that is important. I’m thinking scholarships, as an example, may be geographically

restricted to a specific school district, or restricted to a future occupation or area of study. It allows the Community Foundation to meet the needs of donors by letting them give broadly or restrict their gifts to specific wishes. Otherwise, donors may be trying to serve a broader relationship while setting up private foundations. By being flexible, the Community Foundation meets that need.

What does the word legacy mean to you and why is it important to get people to think about their legacy? I see legacy as not just a financial gift, but I hope we’ll teach my daughter the importance of giving. How will I leave my community a better place through my contributions to it? It doesn’t have to be that there’s a wing in a new building named after me, it’s that I gave back, I gave my time, my talents, my resources while I lived. Professional philanthropy is an interesting thing. I do work with some clients who are looking to do tax planning and wealth preservation, but I also do estate administration. You can’t take it with you when you go, as much as we would like to. Personally, I would much rather see my gift, my contribution, be enjoyed while I am here to see that.

How does the value of service help to shape the person you’ve become and your personal philanthropy? I was raised with parents who instilled in me the value of giving financially and of volunteering, so that was already a financial gift, but I hope we’ll teach my daughter the importance of giving. How will I leave my community a better place through my contributions to it? It doesn’t have to be that there’s a wing in a new building named after me, it’s that I gave back, I gave my time, my talents, my resources while I lived. Professional philanthropy is an interesting thing. I do work with some clients who are looking to do tax planning and wealth preservation, but I also do estate administration. You can’t take it with you when you go, as much as we would like to. Personally, I would much rather see my gift, my contribution, be enjoyed while I am here to see that.

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A jaggi Germani is the 2015 Northern New York Community Foundation Jefferson Leadership Institute Honofphoric Award recipient. She is a CPA and partner at the largest CPA firm in Watertown, KYPENN Partners. Waterston, a Philanthropy Center interview. The award is a partnership with the Greater Watertown Chamber of Commerce to help nonprofit professionals attend JLI. Kylee Puck, WHCN Chamber of Commerce president & CEO, left, is pictured with Abigail.

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THE DIFFERENCE YOUR GIFTS MAKE

H
ome, we ask you to take a 315-mile drive through the region we serve as we present 10 examples of how your gifts improve quality of life in communities across Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. From Lyons Falls to Lowville, Watertown to Deferiet, Clayton to Ogdensburg, Norwood to Potsdam and Canton, and Star Lake to Watertown, your gifts have a broad and lasting impact that is felt near and far.

Because of you, we can support programs and organizations dedicated to the arts and culture, recreation, history, education, libraries, food pantries, leadership and youth development. Thank you for the honor to make a profound difference in our communities with you.

1) YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND NEXT-GENERATION PHILANTHROPY. A series of Community Foundation programs encourage philanthropy in our future generations. From the earliest of ages, the Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge (more on page 14) gives middle school students a chance to award a grant to a local nonprofit organization. Also, because of you, 18 students from four different high schools—Sackets Harbor, South Jefferson, Watertown and Immaculate Heart Central—serve on the Foundation’s Youth Philanthropy Council (photo on page 3), stewarding an annual grant program that awards $20,000 to a wide range of organizations. Your generosity also enables our LEAD Council, comprised of 22 young professionals who live and work in your communities, to take on some of the region’s biggest challenges like pathways out of poverty and access to child care. Your generous annual giving makes each of these important endeavors possible.

2) A SAFER PLACE TO PLAY. Donors enabled the Foundation to award a $5,000 grant to help build a new playground at Samuel Millich Park on Riverside Drive in the Village of Deferiet. The playground plays an important part in revitalizing the village and will serve families for many years to come.

3) SUPPORT FOR MUSIC AND EDUCATION. For the past three years, you’ve granted $15,000 to help students of nearly every Jefferson County high school experience jazz through the Clayton Jazz Festival’s Jazz in the Classroom Program (more on page 22). More than 250 young talents have enjoyed the opportunity to learn from professional jazz musicians while also performing alongside them in concert at the Clayton Opera House.

4) A WALK THROUGH HISTORY. In Ogdensburg, a $4,500 grant is helping to deepen the population’s understanding of local history through the use of digital technology that highlights the community’s past. The “Take a Walk Through History” project links smartphone users with a video or podcast by scanning signs next to historical attractions.

5) FEEDING CHILDREN DURING SCHOOL BREAKS. A $1,000 Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council grant helped to fund the Community Lunch Program for Kids, providing healthy meals and snacks for nearly 200 children in the Norwood, Norfolk and Raymondville areas during their school breaks last year. The program was able to distribute 3,830 meals to more than 60 families.

6) MUSIC & MEMORY. Your gifts enabled a $4,000 Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council grant to support the Music & Memory Program at Hospice and Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley in Potsdam. The initiative helps patients who live with a dementia-related illness, providing therapy as they listen to familiar and meaningful music. The award helped to purchase equipment, including iPads and music, and train staff and volunteers.

7) PRESERVING THE PAST. Your gifts made possible grants of $10,000 to the St. Lawrence County Historical Association to fund new exhibits and programming, sustain activities, especially for children. It will also fund new exhibits and programming, sustain operating costs, and create greater awareness of the cultural treasures housed at Canton’s historic Silas Wright House Museum.

8) ACCESS TO RURAL HEALTH CARE. Residents in rural southeastern St. Lawrence County can continue to access critical care without traveling at least 35 miles to the nearest closed hospital. Grants to the Wilderness Health Care Foundation/Clifton-Fine Hospital — $20,000 to support a capital improvement project and a $15,000 matching grant to build an endowment at the Community Foundation — will go a long way for this Star Lake organization serving the health care needs in their area.

9) GROWING A COMMUNITY ASSET. Community Foundation gifts enabled a $3,000 grant to Lowville’s Double Play Sports Community Center to support planning for a future building project. This Lewis County nonprofit provides significant access to a range of recreation, wellness and related community programs that serve all ages.

10) LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS. Generous dreams like you made possible $10,000 in grants to Lyons Falls Free Library — $5,000 to support a capital improvement project and a $5,000 matching grant to build community support for much needed upgrades.

www.nnycf.org
Betsy & Mike Cuccinello
Sue Brockmann
Paul & Judy Bassette
Arts Association of NNY
Tribute gifts in memory of Donna Sheldon Powers Barber at the Community Foundation to honor her parents and perpetuate support for many local organizations the family cares deeply about. "Freem" Powers was widely known and respected for his many years of work in developing the physical education and interscholastic athletic programs in Watertown schools. Many have made tributes to Donna through gifts to help build this permanent fund. We join her family, Tom, Andy, Jim, Beth, Neil, Jean, Kinny, Sue, and others in mourning the loss of a caring friend to many. While her presence will be deeply missed, we are honored to be a part of the special way she and her parents will be remembered and continue to leave an imprint on the community they loved.

To join others in helping to honor Donna Sheldon Powers Barber, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Janet Craig Summerville
Janet Craig Summerville was a champion for her community and the North Country. A long-time Sackets Harbor resident, she devoted her time to many local organizations that worked to improve the quality of life in Sackets Harbor. Janet was a 1960 graduate of Watertown High School. She spent her professional career in banking while her husband, James, was a 1960 graduate of Watertown High School. She spent her professional career in banking while devoting her time, talents and treasure to many local organizations. She was an avid tennis player, she had a competitive spirit and enjoyed a good match on the court with friends. We join his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James, in expressing our gratitude and appreciation for those who made memorial tributes in his name, with many directed to the Crescent Yacht Club Junior Division Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation.

To join others in helping to honor Dr. Andrew E.C. Crossley, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Recent Tribute Gifts
In honor of Given by
Jennie Adsit Rande Richardson
Gretchen  E.  Crossley  Rande Richardson
Kenneth  J.  Eysaman  III  Rande Richardson
Michael Miller Rowena Miller

Sisters to establish the she was honored in 2018 for her 52 years of service to the Altar Guild. Prior to her death, Donna joined her

Janet was a proud graduate of Watertown High School and Cornell University, and later earned a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts. After living in Washington and Massachusetts, Janet returned to Sackets Harbor in 1984 with her family and remained an advocate for many local organizations. Her service to communities extended to time spent on the boards of Hay Memorial Library, the Art Association of Northern New York, and All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Watertown, where she was a lifetime member. For Janet, working to enrich our region didn't end there. She was also a committed volunteer for many local causes and organizations, including the Pickering Beach Museum, and the local chapters of the Wanderlust Club and the Association of American University Women. Her love for the outdoors also brought her many years sailing with her family at the

Crescent Yacht Club and at Navy Point Marina, and skiing at Snow Ridge. She treasured her family and loved visiting with her grandchildren. An avid painter, Janet was a fan and patron of the arts, and especially respected artists from the North Country. A friend to many, she was active until the end of her life. Janet's family has chosen to honor her legacy through gifts to the Assistant Fire Chief Garrett W. Loomis Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation. Garrett was Janet's son and his friend's great-grandson, a Sackets Harbor who passed away in 2010. We are grateful to Janet's family to be a part of the special way she will be remembered. We join Janet's family and friends in expressing our appreciation for those who made memorial tributes in her name.

Thoughtful Giving
Holiday / Year-End 2019
Dr. Andrew E.C. Crossley, son of Dr. David and Joyce Crossley, lived to serve others. Upon completion of medical training, he returned to Watertown to join his father’s dental practice. The decision to pursue dentistry allowed him to further his mission to assist neighbors and friends in his hometown. Andy grew up in Watertown, graduating from Watertown High School in 1983 and in 1987 from Union College. He worked for two pharmaceutical companies after earning his undergraduate degree and before entering the study of dentistry. He also held a Master of Business Administration from Wake Forest University Babcock School of Management. He completed his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 1997. He met and married his wife, Daphne, in 1994. With his wife, he had two children, Maclean and Merritt. He felt strongly for their success and supported them at every opportunity. The St. Lawrence River was a beacon that drew him there often for swimming, water sports, and boating with family and friends. An avid tennis player, he had a competitive spirit and enjoyed a good match on the court with friends. We join his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James, as well as friends,

To join others in celebrating the life of H.R. (Dr.) Andrew E.C. Crossley, given by:

David L. & Karen E. Nellis
Thomas & Genie McKay
Jill H. Johnson
Rande Richardson
Janet A. & George L. Arnet
Jill H. Johnson
Rande Richardson
Janet A. & George L. Arnet

J

Donna Sheldon Powers Barber
Donna Sheldon Powers Barber was deeply rooted in her community. She cherished many meaningful friendships with others who, through the years, became extended family. She always looked for ways to make the most of her time for those around her, giving to help the local causes she valued. Along with her husband, Tom, she shared a love for travel. Donna held dear many friendships from her childhood in Watertown and her summers on Round Island on the St. Lawrence River. She also valued the natural beauty of the country and spending time with her family in Harrington. She was a member of six daughters, and was a 1960 graduate of Watertown High School. She spent her professional career in banking while devoting her time, talents and treasure to many local organizations. She married Thomas Barber in 1962 and, together, raised three children. A devoted mother and grandmother and proud grandmother, she was looked to as the heart of her family. She was devoted to Trinity Episcopal Church in Watertown, where she was honored in 2018 for her 52 years of service to the Altar Guild. Prior to her death, Donna joined her

Veterans Day
In Memory of
By

Includes only gifts made to the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund from Aug. 7, 2019, to Nov. 6, 2019, or for those who have just recently passed.

In Memory of
By

Janet Sheldon Barber
John M. Burgess
Rande Richardson

Dolores (Dolly) Fitzsimmons
Mary E. Lofts

Roswell G. Gotham
Robert Carcell
Sandra R. Kirkby Hathaway
Rande Richardson
Patricia A. Horton
Rande Richardson

Barbara I. Hyneman
Rande Richardson

Robert Caswell

Max & Sara DelSignore
Rocco & Joan Derigo
Dariyal & Eileen Ditch
Antonietta Endrelli
Dary Hills
Jill R. Johnson
Filomena Martinez
Briga & Isabelle McAnawards

Virginia S. McCrary
Thomas & Gerrie McKay
David L. & Karen DelSignore
Mary Lou Bied
Rande Richardson
Sackets Harbor Fire Department

Ann Sanderson
Ann Stewart
Jeff & Starr Stockwell
Stephen & Karen DelSignore
Sharon L. Thorner
Morgana & Verrelli
T. Utiling & Mabel Walker
Wanderlust Club
Joan Tweedale Woods

James B. Oliver, D.D.S.
Faye R. & David L. Powers
The Powers Group
Rande Richardson
Smith, Harris & Grant Families
Janet R. Taylor

Mark & Tamara Taylor
Daniel Thomas
Courtney Cougill
Susan P. Washburn
Watertown Savings Bank
Chuck Woods

Thoughtful Giving
Holiday / Year-End 2019
Dr. Andrew E.C. Crossley
Cynthia A. Altheim
Mark R. Altheim
Robert Carcell

Mark & Kerin L. Davison
Kirk & Karen Denny
Margaret Fontenot & Children
Nicholas Fontenot
Merritha Fox
Jack & Sharon Hammoud
Mark & Joanne Laxsomay

James B. Oliver, D.D.S.
Faye R. & David L. Powers
The Powers Group
Rande Richardson
Smith, Harris & Grant Families
Janet R. Taylor

Mark & Tamara Taylor
Daniel Thomas
Courtney Cougill
Susan P. Washburn
Watertown Savings Bank
Chuck Woods

Donna Sheldon Barber is the Executive Director of the Arts Association of Northern New York.

To join others in helping to honor Janet Stewart, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.
Maureen E. Littlefield

Maureen E. Littlefield loved the St. Lawrence River community of Clayton and her experience growing up in the Thousand Islands helped to shape a woman who cared deeply for family and the North Country. In 1944, Maureen’s family moved to Clayton, she graduated from Clayton High School and attended Canton ANC and the Watertown School of Commerce. She married Dan G. “Tuffy” Littlefield in 1964. Together, they raised two daughters. Work as a restaurant and for the American Proven Co. in Watertown. Maureen began a career at Thousand Islands High School. She was an educational aide, receptionist, and eventually retired as secretary to the high school principal. Maureen was a devoted communicant of St. Mary’s Church in Clayton. She led an active lifestyle and enjoyed bowling, golf and aquatics. Spending time with her family brought her the greatest joy. Maureen’s family has decided to honor her memory through gifts to a scholarship that bears her mother’s name; the Margaret Mosser Scholarship. It is awarded to Thousand Islands High School graduates who excel in English and community activities.

Maureen’s legacy in this most enduring and selfless way. Gifts in her memory will help build this permanent fund at the Community Foundation. We join her family in mourning her loss and express our appreciation for all who made memorial tributes in her name.

To join others in helping to honor Maureen E. Littlefield, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

NEW FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP FOR EDWARD BLACKFORD IV MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Family members recently presented the Northern New York Community Foundation Edward Blackford IV Memorial Scholarship to Jean (left) and Richard Blackford (right), who studies physical education at SUNY Brockport. The Edward Blackford IV Memorial Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors from North Country high schools who are pursuing post-secondary education, and have an academic average of 90 or greater, participated in two or more sports, and held at least one leadership role in high school. Corey and Ryan met each other in high school, where they participated in the special way that Rich will continue to be a force for good and in his hometown by bringing out the best in others as they begin their journey of lifelong learning.

Young woman’s passion for learning will help others

Throughout her 26 years, Rebecca Adeline Gerene Rhodes filled her days with life and was endlessly curious about the natural world around her. A gifted student of science and the Earth, she valued the mystery of faith while graduating with a Master of Science in engineering science focusing on geological engineering from the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss. (Ole Miss). Rebecca was known for her kindness and for learning without limits. A 2010 Belleville-Henderson Central School graduate, she studied geology, math and physics at SUNY Brockport. She was part of the Green, Gold, and Presidential Leadership Development Program, graduating magna cum laude from the Brockport campus in 2014. She was also president of the Phi Eta Sigma and Sigma Gamma Earth Science Honor Society. Rebecca interned at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center, excavating bone sites. She was also one of the few female students to graduate with her class at the University of Austin Environmental Science Institute in its program for Global Change and Sustainability. While studying at Ole Miss, Rebecca was a graduate teaching assistant and awarded a full scholarship. Rebecca’s love for rocks captivated Polly and inspired her to study the science behind and beyond them to change the world for the better. Rebecca was an active member of the Student Geological Society, a local effort that works to unite tri-county nonprofits in a day of giving on the evening of #GivingTuesday, Dec. 3. She’s a 2019 graduate who studies physical education at SUNY Brockport. The Edward Blackford IV Memorial Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors from North Country high schools who are pursuing post-secondary education, and have an academic average of 90 or greater, participated in two or more sports, and held at least one leadership role in high school. Corey and Ryan met each other in high school, where they participated in the special way that Rich will continue to be a force for good and in his hometown by bringing out the best in others as they begin their journey of lifelong learning.

The following nonprofits are participating in this year’s campaign: ACR Health, Watertown; Antique Boat Museum, Clayton; Association of Functional Medicine, Clayton, N.Y.; Central Massena Area Health Foundation; Carriage House Hope, Clayton; Clayton-Beaver Lake Children’s Center; Day Children’s Center, Watertown; Founders of Education Foundation, Watertown; Hand In Hand Early Childhood Center, Lowville; Hospice of Jefferson County, Watertown; Jordan Marsh, Watertown; Kidspace, Clayton; Lake Ontario Transportation Center, Watertown; Family YMCA, Watertown Lyric Theater, Watertown; MARIONA, Watertown; Ogdensburg, Clayton Opera House (TOPFA), Clayton; CREDO-Clayton Early Education Center, Watertown; Foundation, Watertown; Save The River, Clayton; SPCA of Jefferson County, Watertown; St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Clayton; Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity, Watertown; Thousand Islands Land Trust, Clayton; United Way of Northern New York; Volunteer Transportation Center, Watertown; Family YMCA, Watertown Lyric Theater, Watertown; Northern Family Health Center, Watertown; Orchestra of Northern New York, Potsdam; Planned Parenthood of the North Country, Watertown; Samaritan Medical Center

Tune in to this year’s campaign, now entering its third year, to learn more.

The community has joined to support the #giveNNY campaign, a local effort that works to unite tri-county nonprofits in a day of giving on the evening of #GivingTuesday, Dec. 3. A 2019 graduate who studies physical education at SUNY Brockport. The Edward Blackford IV Memorial Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors from North Country high schools who are pursuing post-secondary education, and have an academic average of 90 or greater, participated in two or more sports, and held at least one leadership role in high school. Corey and Ryan met each other in high school, where they participated in the special way that Rich will continue to be a force for good and in his hometown by bringing out the best in others as they begin their journey of lifelong learning.

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To join others in helping to honor Maureen E. Littlefield, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

New scholarship a tribute to Lowville man’s kindness

A new, permanent scholarship fund has been established at the Community Foundation to honor the life and legacy of a gifted young man and Lowville native who gave freely of his time and talents to others. Richard Alexander Lyndaker graduated from Lowville Academy in 2004 and became a very successful professional online and live tournament poker player, competing on some of the world’s largest stages. Richard was academically gifted in math, English, and the sciences. He was also a standout athlete, especially in golf. At the age of ten he was a voracious reader and passionate about fishing, fantasy sports, experiencing cultural events, and living abroad. Richard was known to be extremely thoughtful toward animals, supporting causes and organizations like the World Wildlife Foundation. Quietly philanthropic, he often shared his success anonymously through many local nonprofits. Richard also helped nurture talents in others, notably friends within the poker community. He made a point to help and promote other causes he deemed worthy, but never wanted expected recognition. Richard appreciated his deep ties to family and gave of himself to those closest in many special ways. He always recognized the importance of the pursuit of higher education and continued learning throughout life, encouraging people to prepare for a lifetime of learning so they can continue to enjoy as much as he did. Rich died unexpectedly in July 2019 at the age of 33. This scholarship was recently established by his family to perpetuate his legacy in Lowville and the North Country. The Richard A. Lyndaker Humanitarian Memorial Scholarship is being offered to a graduating senior at Lowville Academy who is pursuing post-secondary education. The scholarship honors Rich, for those who selflessly act to help others. Through this effort, Rich’s family, friends, colleagues and the entire Lowville community are being able to carry on our family’s legacy. They are thrilled for the opportunity to keep Rich’s memory of a special way that Rich will continue to be a force for good in his hometown.

To join others in helping to honor Richard A. Lyndaker, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.
Foundation partners to award 537 scholarships

Many donors provide assistance to Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence county students making education more accessible. In Jefferson County, 256 students from 13 public and two private schools, as well as two home-schooled students, received Community Foundation awards. In Lewis County, 139 students from five public schools were awarded scholarships, and in St. Lawrence County, 97 students from 16 public schools received awards. An additional 22 students from schools located outside the three counties were awarded scholarships administered through the Foundation. In most cases, these awards were established by local donors who maintain strong ties to specific out-of-area schools. Nine scholarships were also awarded to nontraditional students who may be returning to post-secondary studies after a break from school or who are older adults, pursuing college, vocational, or technical education for the first time. Through partnerships with the 10th Mountain Division Association and the Watertown Rotary Club’s Purple Heart Scholarship program, the Foundation facilitated 12 scholarships to students with ties to the U.S. military. The Foundation also administers the Herring College Memorial Fund, which provides freshman scholarships for students pursuing studies in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and related fields. In 2014, the Thousand Islands Foundation became a component fund of the Foundation, which now helps to administer scholarships awarded to graduates of Thousand Islands, Alexandria, LaFargeville and Lyme high schools on its behalf. The Foundation awards hundreds of scholarships annually and, in many cases, students may receive more than one award. Contact Mary Perrine, coordinator of partnerships, mary@nnycf.org, or 315-782-7110 to learn more about how you can establish or support a Community Foundation scholarship today.

Support of educational opportunities in a variety of forms remains one of our largest annual investments in the people and future of the North Country.

I n partnership with donors, 32 public school districts and two private schools, Community Foundation this year awarded scholarships to nearly 500 Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence county students that will help them pursue post-secondary educational goals. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors who continue to make gifts that support Community Foundation on scholarships, opportunities for students to further their education have grown through the establishment of new awards and partnerships. Awards were made to 492 students in the three counties. In the past year, donors created 21 new scholarships at the Community Foundation. Another 29 scholarships were transferred to the Foundation from donors and partnering school districts to administer on their behalf. Support of educational opportunities in a variety of forms remains one of our largest annual investments in the people and future of the North Country. It continues to be a long-standing part of the history and heritage of the Community Foundation. Many of the awards also honor the legacies of many caring individuals who believed in the value of education.

In Jefferson County, 256 students from 13 public and two private schools, as well as two home-schooled students, received Community Foundation awards. In Lewis County, 139 students from five public schools were awarded scholarships, and in St. Lawrence County, 97 students from 16 public schools received awards. An additional 22 students from schools located outside the three counties were awarded scholarships administered through the Foundation. In most cases, these awards were established by local donors who maintain strong ties to specific out-of-area schools. Nine scholarships were also awarded to nontraditional students who may be returning to post-secondary studies after a break from school or who are older adults, pursuing college, vocational, or technical education for the first time. Through partnerships with the 10th Mountain Division Association and the Watertown Rotary Club’s Purple Heart Scholarship program, the Foundation facilitated 12 scholarships to students with ties to the U.S. military. The Foundation also administers the Herring College Memorial Fund, which provides freshman scholarships for students pursuing studies in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and related fields. In 2014, the Thousand Islands Foundation became a component fund of the Foundation, which now helps to administer scholarships awarded to graduates of Thousand Islands, Alexandria, LaFargeville and Lyme high schools on its behalf. The Foundation awards hundreds of scholarships annually and, in many cases, students may receive more than one award. Contact Mary Perrine, coordinator of partnerships, mary@nnycf.org, or 315-782-7110 to learn more about how you can establish or support a Community Foundation scholarship today.

CLASS OF 2020 EVERGREEN STEM SCHOLARS

The Evergreen STEM Scholarship is awarded to high school juniors who reside in St. Lawrence County and plan to study and work in the STEM — science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — fields. The scholarship was established at the Northern New York Community Foundation in 2014 by Masena natives and Gouverneur residents Charles and Higihomi Owens. The couple wanted to inspire high school students to pursue post-secondary studies and careers in STEM. Mr. Owens spent his professional life as a pharmacist and later in senior management at Kinney Drugs. Each year, 10 students from St. Lawrence County high school students are awarded a $5,000 scholarship toward their first year in college. Students applying during their junior year of high school with recipients selected during the summer. The Northern New York Community Foundation is honored to administer the Evergreen STEM Scholarship. Mr. Owens and two of his children recently met the Class of 2020 Evergreen STEM Scholars during an appreciation and recognition dinner in Canton that also paid tribute to Higihomi Owens and her passion for education. She passed away earlier this year.

T he Jefferson-Can Community Scholars program, administered by the Northern New York Community Foundation, in collaboration with Jefferson Community College alumna Mr. Stephen H. Can and his wife, Pam, and the Jefferson Community Foundation. The Jefferson-Can Community Scholars Program awards high school seniors who are in the top 15 percent of their graduating class a merit-based scholarship of at least $1,500 for the first two semesters of study at Jefferson Community College. Since its inception in 2007, the Jefferson-Can Community Scholars program has provided scholarships totaling approximately $13 million, supporting 661 students. This year, 21 students were named Jefferson-Can Community Scholars. Mr. Can had the opportunity to meet the 2019-2020 recipients during a recent visit to Watertown.

The Jefferson-Can Community Scholars program, administered by the Northern New York Community Foundation, in collaboration with Jefferson Community College alumna Mr. Stephen H. Can and his wife, Pam, and the Jefferson Community Foundation. The Jefferson-Can Community Scholars Program awards high school seniors who are in the top 15 percent of their graduating class a merit-based scholarship of at least $1,500 for the first two semesters of study at Jefferson Community College. Since its inception in 2007, the Jefferson-Can Community Scholars program has provided scholarships totaling approximately $13 million, supporting 661 students. This year, 21 students were named Jefferson-Can Community Scholars. Mr. Can had the opportunity to meet the 2019-2020 recipients during a recent visit to Watertown.

2019-2020 JEFFERSON-CAN COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

Adams
Ryan Bevins
Nimu Rimal
Mitchell Scoville
Adams Center
Maidson Nachuir
Crystal Rivers
Alexandria Bay
Katie Ryan
Antwerp
Karlee Call
Brownville
Jenna Buzycki
Madison Clayson
Jacob Heiker
Kyle Nichols
Carthage
Cassindra Hayes
Constableville
Lindsey Metzler
Cobangehn
Olivia Aubin
Dexter
Reina Guerriero
Evan Klint
Hannah Reinhardt
Mackenzie Rust
Evans Mills
Madison Canan
Chaelah Sapiro
Glenfield
Brooke Everson
LaFargeville
Isabella Soluri
Isaiah McGraw
Natural Bridge
Mara Buskey
Philadelphia
Abigail Welch
Sackets Harbor
Grayden Brunet
Three Mile Bay
Ryan Aubertine
Turin
Elizabeth McGuire
Watertown
Alexis Charlton
Ethan Fiorentino
Dylan Hudson
Sebastian Martin
Gabrielle Rarick
Kathryn Stevens
Cameron Stroock

Teacher’s impact continues as first Anna Mae Searles Cooper Scholarship awarded

Michaela Rounds is the first recipient of the Northern New York Community Foundation Anna Mae Searles Cooper Scholarship. Michaela is a 2019 South Jefferson Central High School graduate who attends Jefferson Community College where she studies nursing. She is the daughter of Sarah Matteson and Mike Rounds. Established in July 2018, at the Community Foundation, the scholarship honors the legacy of longtime South Jefferson Central teacher Anna Mae Searles Cooper and is awarded to South Jefferson High School graduates who demonstrate exceptional motivation and potential. Michaela met scholarship founders Dennis and Pam Jerome and Anna Mae’s longtime dear friend, Sandra Haight, who presented her with a $5,000 scholarship award. We are honored to be part of the special way that Anna Mae will be remembered in perpetuity.

From left, Pamela and Dennis Jerome, scholarship founders, Michaela Rounds, 2019 recipient, and Sandra Haight, longtime friend of Anna Mae Searles Cooper, Mr. Can sits on the Investment Committee for each of the Strategic Partners funds. In February 2019, he transitioned from co-head to executive chairman. Mr. Can earned an Associate of Science in Business Administration from Jefferson Community College 1980, a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, in Accounting from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1982, and a Master of Science in Finance from the Kraner Business School at Purdue University in 1984 where he was named outstanding graduate instructor. Mr. Can subsequently earned a Certified Public Accountant license and Certified Management Accountant and Certified Financial Manager designations. We are honored to continue to partner with Mr. Can and the JCC Foundation to provide this unique opportunity to Jefferson and Lewis county students. This investment in local students is made possible through Mr. Can’s generous commitment to the future of our community, our region, and our country.
Foundation connects clients to many legacy options

During my 31 years as a financial advisor and Certified Financial Planner, I had the privilege to learn about the hopes and dreams of all my clients as they related to their financial situations. Very often they would share some details that they had not yet shared with family, especially those related to estate planning, an important component of financial planning. The most gratifying aspect of this work has been getting to know clients — their families, their stories, and their interests and hobbies outside of work. One of the easiest ways to open a discussion about estate planning goals is by asking the simple, but not easy, question: “How do you want to be remembered by your family, friends, and community?” This led to some interesting conversations and gave me the opportunity to introduce them to our Community Foundation and its broadly diverse work. I found that a surprising number of people are unaware of the scope of the Northern New York Community Foundation’s reach, or that they could benefit a specific organization much more efficiently through the Foundation.

My experience as a Community Foundation board member from 2013 to 2018 deepened my understanding of how I might help clients create their legacy during their lifetimes. I gained an appreciation of not only the sheer number of organizations the Foundation serves, but also the number of ways the average person can be part of something bigger. Here are a few examples:

- A client received some stock as part of an inheritance several years ago. It wasn’t an important source of income, and she intended to leave it to her grand-nieces and nephews when she died. I knew that she had some newfound interest in Hospice, and we eventually decided that by gifting the stock through the Community Foundation, she could do something to honor her sister’s memory and see her gift help Hospice during her lifetime. She paid no capital gains taxes and received a significant charitable deduction for her gift.

- Another client in his 70s was taking a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from his Individual Retirement Account (IRA), but he was giving cash for his charitable deduction. By giving the RMD directly to the Community Foundation, he was able to lower his tax obligation while meeting his charitable intent and goals.

- When a dear client passed away, her children thought about how they would honor their mother’s support of faith-based education. They pooled a portion of their inheritance and created a named family scholarship with the Community Foundation, which manages and administers the annual award. Every year they see the gratitude of the family whose student may or not otherwise be able to afford full college tuition and expenses.

- For one memorable client, a combination of tax-saving strategies worked to help achieve her estate planning goals while increasing charitable contributions. She received a large inheritance from her mother and did not need the additional income. It became obvious that since a large part of her estate was held in IRAs (both hers and her mother’s), passing that on to her family would mean that they’d have to start taking taxable distributions after she died. We decided that she would make the charitable bequests of the IRAs through an agreement with the Community Foundation. Since she was still alive, she was able to benefit her nieces and nephews, she purchased a life insurance policy to replace the amount of the IRA. The adult children would receive a more meaningful inheritance since the life insurance proceeds would be tax free. She is also giving through appreciated stock and her IRA Required Minimum Distributions.

A common thread with these clients is the sincere gratitude I saw in them when they realized that they didn’t have to wait until they died to create their legacy; a legacy is very much an act of the living. This became more personal, as my involvement with the Community Foundation grew during the last few years of my career. I’ve always believed in the importance of the performing arts to a community’s quality of life, and now I had another way to influence that. Aside from being directly involved in performing arts in a musical organizations, as a board member I could advocate to connect performing arts with the Foundation. I believe that we can make a real difference when we unite with others who are dedicated to making our community a better place, and there’s no better example than the Northern New York Community Foundation.

- Ken Piarulli, CFP

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Thoughtful Giving Holiday / Year-End 2019

Northern New York Community Foundation www.nnycf.org

The Advisor’s Perspective

Through your Community Foundation...

- Can I create a fund that will continue my annual giving after my lifetime to my favorite charities or church, knowing that if an organization ceases to exist, the fund is protected and can be re-purposed?
- Can I establish a named fund that will allow my children and grandchildren to make community grants in perpetuity?
- Can my charitable legacy be directed to support a specific city, village, town or county? Can I further designate the type of things that will be supported within that geographic area, and name the fund?
- Can I establish a charitable gift annuity with tax-deductible benefits that will provide me with guaranteed income (up to 8%) during my lifetime, and then the remainder can support my charitable interests or a specific Foundation fund after my death?
- Can I name the Community Foundation as a beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy either to support the Community Foundation or a specific fund within the Foundation?
- Am I able to start a fund at the Community Foundation to support my interests now and then endow it later as part of my estate planning?
- Can I start a fund to support my church, providing stipulations on how it is to be directed (i.e., music ministry, buildings & grounds, education) and also have assurance that if the church should ever cease to exist, my charitable provisions can be re-purposed for another designated interest or charitable cause?
- Can I create a scholarship fund for a specific school district or college, with certain criteria, or support some other aspect of my school or college (music, arts, athletics, library, reading, professional development)?
- If I own a business can I give more effectively, efficiently and in a more formal and structured way, with enhanced visibility, coordination, branding and impact?
- Can I make a gift of appreciated stock to start a donor-advised fund, avoid capital gains, receive a tax deduction and then make grants to charitable causes I recommend over time?

Can I make a small gift that will make a BIG difference?

The answer to each of these questions is YES!

The best gift planning begins with a conversation. We are always HERE FOR YOU:

Contact us today to learn how you can tailor and customize giving YOUR way, 315-782-7110 or info@nnycf.org.

Take advantage of current charitable tax laws prior to December 31, 2019, that allow deductions as well as avoidance of taxation of capital gains. Also, donors age 70½ and older, currently can distribute up to $100,000 of Individual Retirement Account assets directly to the Community Foundation for unrestricted, field of interest, scholarship or designated funds without triggering federal income taxes or penalties. The IRA Charitable Rollover amount donated directly is excluded from Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).
Double your gift

We are presently doubling gifts for some of our nonprofit partners. Each gift designated to the respective organization’s Community Foundation endowment fund will be matched, dollar-for-dollar. This is a meaningful opportunity to provide long-term support for an organization you care deeply about. This is a gift that will both improve the quality of life and continue to provide the impact you’ve already noticed.

Adirondack Mononite Camping Association
Alexandria Bay Township Historical Society
Canastota Free Library
Canton Foundation
Cape Vincent Village Green
Church and Community Program, Canton
City of Watertown Community Fund
Danesium Church
Fort La Presentation Association
Friends of Thompson Park
Gouverneur Hospital
Great Northern Heritage
GWECN Chamber-JLI Community Fund
Henderson Harbor Water Sports Program
Hospice and Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley
Indian River Lakes Conservancy
JRC Foundation
Lewis County General Hospital
Lyme Free Library
Mina Anthony Common Nature Center
Mountain View Prevention Services
New Beginnings Clothing & Outreach
New York State Retired Teachers Association
North Central Zone Scholarship Fund
North Country Public Radio
Ogdensburg Command Performance
Ontario Bays Initiative
Orchestra of Northern New York
River Hospital
Saige the River
St. Lawrence County Arts Council
St. Lawrence County Historical Association
Stage Notes
The Arts: Jefferson-St. Lawrence
& Rotvary Dodge Pond
Thousand Islands Area Habitat
For Humanity
Thousands Islands Arts Center
United Healthcare
Watertown Lynx Theater
Wilderness Health Care Foundation

Contact the Foundation, 315-782-7170, to learn more about maximizing your gift and to support any of these Foundation partners. All Community Foundation gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

GRAF Award Honors Athletic Excellence

T he Watertown High School seniors who were recognized in June as the top graduating athletes and the 2019 recipients of the William I. Graf Award also were selected as the winners of the Graf Award goods by the Board of Trustees of the William I. Graf Foundation. The winners were announced by the Watertown area Rotary Club, which administers the awards.

The William I. Graf Award was created in 1954 by the Watertown Area Rotary Club and the Friends of Watertown High School. The award honors the legacy of William I. Graf, who served as both a volunteer and a leader in the Watertown boys’ and girls’ athletic programs for many years.

The award is given to students who have participated in at least two or more varsity sports in their senior year and who have demonstrated exceptional character and sportsmanship, discipline, fair play, training, athletic ability and academics.

Donors continue support for Jazz in the Classroom

Gifts help to nurture lasting appreciation for the arts among student musicians

Community Foundation donors like you make possible support for programs that otherwise might not happen in the North Country. For the third consecutive year, the Foundation was a presenting sponsor of the Clayton Jazz Festival’s Jazz in the Classroom program.

This year, the initiative enabled interactive presentations with students at South Jefferson and Sacretx Harbor high schools, and Lyme Central, which included sessions with grades six to eight, as well as high school musicians. The program also implemented its first-ever elementary school clinic for grades kindergarten through five at Clayton’s Guardino Elementary School, and the first music teachers’ workshop at the Clayton Opera House, which gave local music teachers a chance to hone their skills.

The program featured the New York City-based band, Brighton Beat, whose influences range from modern cutting-edge New York City Jazz to classic New Orleans brass band Funk and Afrobeat. The school programs included performance and sessions on brass, strings and percussion sections. Band members also shared music history and their own experiences in jazz performance. The engaging program was a hit for students and teachers. Many band members for the first time at a full-time facility at some of the most respected music education facilities in the Northeast — Kerckelle College of Music, New England Conservatory, NYU.

The weeklong series capped off with a Saturday evening show, Dec. 12, at the Clayton Opera House, during which a combined jazz band of Alexandria Bay and Thousand Islands high schools also performed.

They are not only amazing musicians, but also great teachers and human beings. They have become friends and our students look forward to spending time with them every year,” said Katherine Wiley, Thousand Islands Central Schools’ music teacher. “I am thankful to the Northern New York Community Foundation and to sponsors Dr. Stephen and Michelle Gryboski for allowing our students and me to have these experiences over and over again. We are so lucky.”

Top, The Brighton Beat; New York City, perform at Guardino Elementary School in Clayton as part of the weeklong Jazz in the Classroom program. Above, students listen to the band perform.

Watertown couple’s support for education will continue

Henry H. and Emily T. Willmott were passionate supporters of the arts in all kinds, champions of education, and deeply rooted in the Watertown community.

Mrs. Willmott, who passed away in October 2004, was born and raised in Maryland, graduating from high school in 1916 and Hood College in 1940 with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics. During World War II, she worked for the Red Cross in Washington D.C., where she met Henry H. Willmott, an Army infantryman.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Willmott were extremely active in civic affairs in the Watertown area. Mrs. Willmott’s community service and support of education also included several years as president of the Sherman Street School PTA. Mr. Willmott was counseled to the Watertown Board of Education in November 1971, serving as a member for seven years. He was a member and dean of the Jefferson County Bar Association, serving as president in 1969-70. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the House of the Good Samaritan Hospital for more than 20 years, serving both in leadership in his leadership and as a member of the vestry. Mrs. Willmott was especially artistic — she loved to sew, act, sing, and play the piano — and was a life member of Little Throats of Watertown, participating in many plays.

Led by the Willmott’s eldest grandson, Benjamin Willmott, and his wife Kim, the family recently chose to create this permanent scholarship at the Community Foundation to honor the lives and legacy of their grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Willmott instilled in their family the importance of education, community, and the arts. Through the establishment of the Henry H. and Emily T. Willmott Memorial Scholarship, their passion and love will continue well beyond their lifetimes and shine as an example to others to continue the leadership they so willingly gave. To join in helping perpetuate the legacy of Henry and Emily Willmott, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Watertown Street, Watertown NY 13601.

Ogdensburg Command Performances

For Humanity

For Humanity

To honor Mr. Graf’s leadership and civic contributions, the Watertown Area Rotary Club, in conjunction with the Watertown High School Athletic Department, selected Shane Simser as the recipient of the William I. Graf Award.

The William I. Graf Award is named for the son of Henry H. and Emily T. Willmott, whose family played a significant role in the development of Watertown athletics and education. Shane Simser grew up in Watertown and was selected as the recipient of the William I. Graf Award, which honors students who have demonstrated exceptional character and sportsmanship, discipline, fair play, training, athletic ability and academics.

Shane Simser, the son of Ryder Simser and Phyllis Johnson, was born on June 6, 1999, in Watertown. Shane is Mr. Graf’s nephew. The Simser family is from Watertown, and Shane attended Watertown High School. Shane is currently attending Syracuse University, where he studies biology and chemistry, and is working towards a career in medicine.

Shane has been a multi-sport athlete at Watertown High School. Throughout his career, Shane has participated in the following sports: football, basketball, track, cross-country, lacrosse, baseball and soccer.

Shane has served in multiple leadership capacities in his time at Watertown High School, including as the captain of the lacrosse team, as a member of the National Honor Society, and as a member of the Watertown Youth Council. Shane has also been involved in numerous community service projects, such as volunteering at local food banks and participating in community clean-up efforts.

Shane’s dedication to athletics and community service, along with his passion for education and leadership, made him an excellent candidate for the William I. Graf Award.

Because of you, we now have programs that help to install values of civic engagement, responsibility and leadership with students and youth. Together, we engage young professionals in ways that perpetuate the type of commitment that the last 90 years of Community Foundation donors like you have demonstrated. The Philanthropy Center now helps six nonprofits be more sustainable and its common spaces come alive as more than 100 community groups gather there.

Your decision to support the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund is one of the most meaningful ways that you can help nuture our collective work each year. We want to know that our community in ways that both broad and deep, and enhance essential community services and quality of life. We want you to know that your conscious choice to change and shape lives, in partnership with us, in something we appreciate, value, and never take for granted.

Always know how much it means for us to have you as a vital part of our family as we strive to make the wonderful North Country the best place it can be to spend our lives together. With gratitude,

The Board, Committees and Staff of the Northern New York Community Foundation

With gratitude,

The Board, Committees and Staff of the Northern New York Community Foundation
YOU help to inspire our region’s future

Thanks to generous donors like you, the Community Foundation began a program in 2017 to engage our region’s middle school students in philanthropy. The Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge asks seventh- and eighth-grade students in Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis counties to explore their communities as they compete, through an essay contest, for an opportunity to award a local nonprofit organization one of 20 grants of $500, for a total of $10,000.

This is the third year of the program, which is made possible by all who support the Community Foundation’s Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund and a gift from Community Bank, N.A. 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.

In its first two years, 43 students have been selected to present grants totaling $20,000 to 39 different nonprofit organizations serving tri-county residents.

The Giving Challenge remains one of the most important initiatives that our donors make possible. Support for this program is an investment not only in our community’s future, but also a way to help ensure that we continue to nurture and grow an awareness, interest and appreciation for the value and fulfillment of civic engagement and responsibility.

“The Community means people of all ages, races, and types coming together, sharing talent, and teaching others. The people in a community work together to make the environment a safer and better place to live.”

— Maya Voss, Watertown, Case Middle School

JEFFERSON COUNTY SPCA:
Heather Spezzano, Jefferson County SPCA executive director; Zachary Kilburn, (now former) Case Middle School student and 2018-19 Youth Giving Challenge winner; and Shauna Dupee, retail services officer, Community Bank N.A.

Lewis County Opportunities / Croghan Food Pantry:
Mary Miller, Lewis County Opportunities; Valery Zehr, Beaver River Central School and 2018-19 Youth Giving Challenge winner; and Katelin Dawley, customer service representative, Community Bank N.A.

The Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge is made possible by donors like YOU who make gifts to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund and the generous support from the following business leader:

Community Bank N.A.
2018-20 Program Partner