



Thoughtful Giving

Newsletter of the Northern New York Community Foundation



» COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

Generous donors
fill the hearts of
our communities

Friends and neighbors open their hearts

Generosity of the North Country shines through clouds of uncertainty

We have seen enough winters to know that even in the darkest, coldest depths of the season, spring will eventually arrive. When shoveling snow in the middle of January, it is harder to recall the smell of that first cut of green grass, the sound of singing birds and the rebirth of leaves, flowers and plants. And yet, each year, the snow melts, the sun shines with renewed warmth and strength, and nature awakens.

I don't have to tell you what we're all feeling — the fears and uncertainty we are all experiencing. It is better to tell you the good that we are seeing through remarkable acts of thoughtfulness, love, care, concern and generosity. Not surprising.

When our ancestors created a community foundation for the people of Northern New York, they recognized that being able to respond with flexibility and nimbleness would be important. At times like this, we see more than ever just how valuable a permanent regional endowment, built by those who love their community, can be. The unique ability to be responsive, combined with the giving hearts of donors looking to make an immediate

and lasting difference is a powerful, dynamic, life-changing force.

Early in the pandemic, the Foundation's board of directors authorized the creation of a **COVID-19 Community Support Fund**, providing immediate resources that could be rapidly deployed, with a focus on the most basic and essential needs to ensure food is supplied to organizations across Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. Within moments of announcing the fund, individuals, families, organizations and businesses across and outside the region led by example with their hearts and made additional gifts to extend the reach to help more friends and neighbors. We are grateful and humbled by the remarkable acts of generosity we continue to see daily. Through the gifts of those who are leading with their hearts, this fund will not only provide help now, but will be there to lend a hand in the



RANDE RICHARDSON

It is often at the darkest times that our stars shine the brightest. We will continue to come together as we always do, in good times and in bad, acting in unison so we emerge from this crisis stronger by the way we respond.

months ahead, when need lingers.

At the same time, people who work quietly to support our community, often without recognition, the **donor-advised fund holders of the Community Foundation**, have helped build the Community Support Fund and also have come to the aid of a variety of nonprofit organizations across our region and the country. Grants have included support for child care, health and safety, transportation, education, the arts, and a variety of human services.

Much has changed in our world. One thing has not — the amazing people of the North Country who always find a place in their hearts for others. You never know just whose life you may touch, or when you may need help, but you always can know that every act of kindness makes a difference and provides strength to those who are now struggling.

It is often at the darkest times that stars shine the brightest. We will continue to come together as a community as we always

do, in good times and bad, acting in unison so we emerge from this crisis stronger by the way we respond. We stand ready to bolster those organizations that carry out that work for us each day. Many of those organizations have endowment partnerships with the Community Foundation that will help provide additional resources to sustain their work and mission in the months ahead when other income may decline.



During this time, we continue to process grants from various funds, prepare for scholarship awards and carry out the Community Foundation's work. Your foundation remains invested in the people and places of our region, with a long-term view that those who have made our work possible understood and embraced.

During the 90 years your community foundation has existed, our country and communities have seen times of great challenge, adversity and sacrifice. Each time, humanity has persisted and prevailed. When we emerge from this present crisis, the amazing acts of love, kindness, compassion and care will long be remembered and affirm who we are. Because of you, our collective response will help shape tomorrow for us all as we carry forward the great North Country tradition that makes it a place we are proud to call home, for this generation and the next. While we don't know exactly where the future will lead, we know we want you there with us.



Canton Church and Community Program (CCP) volunteer **John Frary** picks up food April 16 for distribution at the **United Methodist Church** in DeKalb Junction. The Community Foundation partner and grant recipient works to support people in need in the St. Lawrence County towns of Canton, Clare, Hermon, DeKalb, and Russell.



OUR MISSION: To inspire and celebrate giving, steward resources honorably, and foster vibrant North Country communities.

OUR VALUES:

INSPIRE PHILANTHROPY
We inspire a spirit of giving across generations, celebrate generosity in many forms, and nurture meaningful legacies.

DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS
We connect donor interests to the community, build and sustain partnerships, and listen for emerging needs.

ACT RESPECTFULLY
We honor our heritage; appreciate the diversity of our region; and celebrate the stories, values, and generosity of people of the North Country.

HONOR STEWARDSHIP
We steward resources responsibly and act with the greatest regard for donor wishes now and for the future.

Thank You!

To all who generously give



Help us help our neighbors today at **NNYCF.ORG**

We are grateful to all who have made gifts to the **COVID-19 Community Support Fund** since its inception through April 30. Your generosity has helped nearly 50 community food pantries and school-based backpack and snack programs throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties secure critical food supplies that have aided thousands of our neighbors. To help build support for this fund, make gifts to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or visit **www.nnycf.org** for secure online giving.

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Janice Brabaw
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Watertown Evening Rotary Club
Andrew & Sharon Williams
Wendy & Allan Williams
Kay Woodruff
Peter & Kathy Wyckoff

UNDERSTANDING NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Philanthropy comes in many forms. Giving of oneself often includes volunteer service. In early February, **Youth Philanthropy Council** members spent time learning about local needs at the **Salvation Army of Watertown**, volunteering and serving lunch. From left, YPC members **Maxwell Gray** and **Blake Edgar**, both of **South Jefferson High School**, and **Dakota Sloat**, **Watertown High School**. We are grateful to our many donors and business leaders who support programs like the Youth Philanthropy Council. Despite the present COVID-19 global health pandemic, we continue to innovate and inspire our next generation in the best ways possible to perpetuate a community of giving. The 2019-2020 Youth Philanthropy Class brings together 17 students from **South Jefferson**, **Immaculate Heart**, **Sackets Harbor** and **Watertown** high schools. In June, Council members will award up to \$20,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties that have applied for Council funding. Grants will be announced this summer.

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



FEDERAL CARES ACT / NEED TO KNOW

In response to the COVID-19 public health pandemic and the impact it has had on the U.S. economy, Congress in late March passed the federal **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**. Consult your financial or tax advisor to learn more about new charitable giving provisions of the CARES Act. In addition to changes in charitable giving limits, the CARES Act also provides:

 while the CARES Act did not alter rules for Donor-Advised Funds, a DAF enables gifts to Community Foundation programs any time for immediate impact	 waives Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) rules for IRAs, both for 2020 and 2019 RMDs that were required by April 1	 above-the-line deduction for total charitable giving of up to \$300	 lifts limits for cash gifts in 2020 for individuals who itemize from 60 percent to 100 percent	 increases corporate limits from 10 percent to 25 percent in 2020
 direct payments to individuals and families	 small business loan program	 unemployment insurance benefits	 loans for distressed companies	 assistance to states and municipalities
			 hospital equipment and infrastructure	

COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND GRANTS / JEFFERSON & LEWIS COUNTIES

Generous donors enable support for critical food supplies

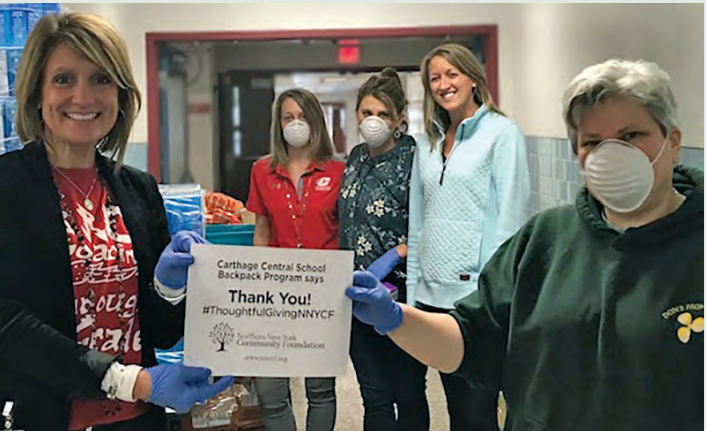
GRANTEE	CONTACT	GRANT-SUPPORTED WORK & PROGRAM INFORMATION
ACR Health Pantry	315-785-8222	The agency is continuing services while following current government guidelines and operating a Food and Personal Care Pantry for local clients.
Alexandria Bay United Methodist Church (UMC) Blessings Box*	315-482-9357	The United Methodist Church program offers nonperishable food items at no cost to local families in need.
Alexandria Community Food Pantry*	315-486-9322	The pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Thursday to serve local families in need who are food insecure.
Antwerp Food Pantry	315-783-7527	The pantry is serving close to double the amount of people it normally serves. It served 1,865 meals in October and 2,706 meals in March.
CAPC of Jefferson County	315-782-4900	The agency is providing a three-day food supply once per week. It's also packing more than 500 meals a day for students in the Watertown and General Brown school districts.
Cape Vincent Food Pantry	315-654-2438	The pantry offers a full seven days of food and added bonus items when possible, now by appointment only. It saw an increase in need in March, with numbers matching those of November and December, which are traditionally the highest volume months.
Carthage Central School Backpack Program	315-493-5000	The successful program is continuing. It has been designed to help secure nutritious food for students who have limited or no access to quality foods.
Clayton Council of Churches Food Pantry	315-686-4809	Representatives from local churches come together. The pantry is located in the lower level of St. Mary's Parish Center.
General Brown Central School Backpack Program	315-779-2300	Fifty children in the Dexter and Brownville-Glen Park Elementary schools will continue to get bags of food each week to help ensure they eat through the weekends. Distribution locations have been moved from both elementary buildings to a remote location so that the program can continue to operate during the school closure.
Indian River Central School Backpack Program	315-642-3441	Some 118 packs are being sent home each week with students from Antwerp, Calcium, Evans Mills, Fort Drum, Philadelphia, and Theresa. Program officials have fielded many calls from families who are not enrolled in the program but desperately want to join.
LaFargeville Central School Backpack Program	315-658-2241	The successful program is continuing. It serves children by providing them with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home.
Philadelphia Food Pantry	315-642-3122	In March, the pantry issued 40, 30-day food packages, a significant increase. Packages are based on three meals per day and five days per week.
Redwood Food Pantry*	315-482-2006	Located on 43668 Lake St. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, the pantry serves local families in need.
Reformed Church of the Thousand Isles*	315-482-9976	Located at 54 Church St, Alexandria Bay, the church pantry offers meals and nonperishable food items at no cost to local families in need.
St. Mary's Church Food Pantry, Evans Mills	315-629-4678	The pantry has added additional hours to meet growing demand. Clients are provided food for 15 meals; including fruits, vegetables, grains and proteins.
Sackets Harbor Central School Backpack Program	315-646-1029	The program has been in operation for more than a decade and has significantly increased its weekly distributions based on demand and local need.
South Jefferson Central School Backpack Program	315-583-6104	Food is typically distributed weekly. The program is now working to increase food distributions to twice per week. Participants jumped from 42 to 74 in just three weeks.
The Rohde Center, Adams	315-232-2621	While access to the pantry is limited, it will continue to distribute food to the porch, asking clients to remain in their cars. It is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
The Salvation Army Watertown Corps	315-782-4470	The agency now provides larger quantities of food to reduce the number of trips clients have to make. Soup kitchens are providing carry-out boxes or bagged meals.
Village Ecumenical Ministries Inc. VEM-Food Pantry of Carthage	315-493-1341	The agency now makes home deliveries to disabled clients and seniors. No one is allowed in the building, as volunteers take orders for carry out to clients.
Watertown Urban Mission	315-782-8440	The Mission is open six days a week. It is now doubling up on food and supplies so those in need can stay home and stay safe.
Lewis County		
Lewis County Opportunities	315-376-8202	Meeting the need for increased food assistance to food pantries in Croghan, Copenhagen, Harrisville, New Bremen, and Port Leyden. V olunteers and staff have stepped up to deliver food to the elderly and those who can't visit a food pantry.
Lowville Food Pantry	315-376-7431	Volunteers have put together staple boxes or bags of groceries for families to pick up outside the pantry while also making deliveries to shut-ins, seniors and disabled clients.
South Lewis Central School Backpack Program	315-348-2590	The program has provided supplemental meals to families for about 10 years. The number of families served has increased by more than 200 percent and it continues to deliver to homes on Fridays while school is closed.

* Matching grant with the Foundation for Community Betterment — Alexandria Bay Chapter



“We truly appreciate the Community Foundation and all who make the Community Support Fund possible. Thank you for nourishing our communities through your support of local pantries, soup kitchens and school backpack programs.”

— Dawn Cole, executive director, Watertown Urban Mission



“Thank you for this gift to the Sackets Harbor Central School District Backpack Program! Grants like these help to sustain our growing program. The support our school has received over these last weeks from individuals, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations is nothing short of amazing. The Foundation continually supports the community in so many wonderful ways.”

— Julie Gayne, Sackets Harbor Central School District Backpack Program

“Thank you, Northern New York Community Foundation, for your generous support. This grant will go a long way to help feed hungry residents of southern Jefferson County.”

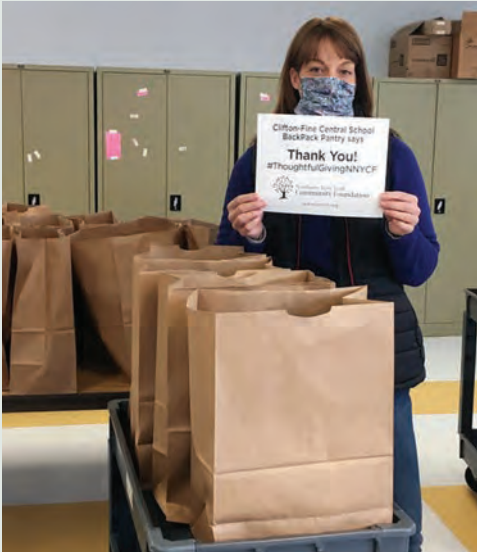
— The Rhode Center, Adams



THOUGHTFUL GIVINGNNYCF

We asked recent recipients of COVID-19 Community Support Fund grants to snap a photo of the work being supported across the North Country. Within just a few days, the social media campaign #ThoughtfulGivingNNYCF took flight. The photos featured here represent 12 of nearly 50 donor-supported food pantries and programs that are serving thousands of our North Country neighbors in need.

“With the increasing need for services provided by feeding programs, the Northern New York Community Foundation has provided grants to quite a few local organizations. It’s great to be ahead of the demand instead of playing catch up. We are so grateful for the many ways people continue to show their support for our young students. Thank You!” – Potsdam Snack Pack Program

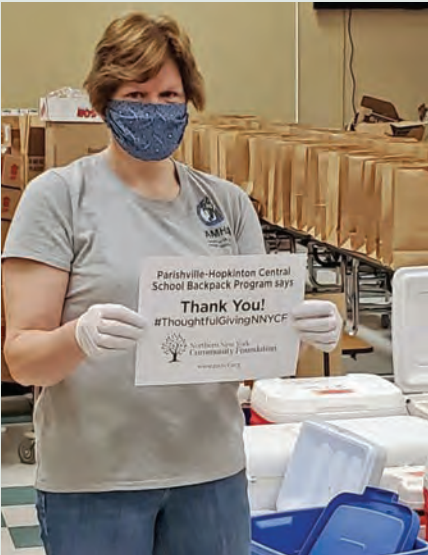


#THOUGHTFULGIVINGNNYCF



“As a member of the Parishville-Hopkinton Backpack Program, I add my sincere thanks to the Northern New York Community Foundation for the award from the Community Support Fund. This is wonderful news in the day we are sending out an unprecedented number of backpacks (now boxes) to help our PHCS families. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!”

– Melissa Scudder, Parishville-Hopkinton CSD Backpack Program



“Thank you so very much for your help. We can definitely use this generous support. We appreciate this so much. Blessings to you and all at the Northern New York Community Foundation. Again, THANK YOU!”

– Linda Newtown, board of directors, New Beginnings Food and Outreach, Madrid



COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND GRANTS / ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

Generous donors enable support for critical food supplies

GRANTEE	CONTACT	GRANT-SUPPORTED WORK & PROGRAM INFORMATION
Canton Central School Golden Bear Foundation	315-386-1323	The successful program continues operation. serving children and providing them with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home.
Christian Fellowship Center Pantry, Madrid	315-322-4758	101 households totaling 360 individuals were recently served, a 38 percent increase. To meet increased demand, additional distribution dates have been added.
Church & Community Program Churches of Canton	315-386-3534	Local churches established this 46-year-old organization that serves about 200 households and families a month at its pantry. It now distributes prepared food boxes.
Clifton-Fine Central School BackPack Pantry	315-848-3333 x112	The program was established in April 2017 through the district, PTO, the local food pantry and the Food Bank of Central New York.
Community Lunch Program for Kids, Norwood	315-384-4629	Distributing food to 87 families with more than 230 children. Distributions will continue every two weeks until schools reopen.
Gouverneur Neighborhood Center Food Pantry	315-287-3370	Food packages are pre-boxed and handed out at the door to limit contact and potential exposure. Families and individuals by served appointment only.
Helping Hands of Potsdam	315-268-0633	Drive-through service 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Serving the towns of Potsdam, Pierrepont, Parishville, Colton, South Colton, Madrid, Stockholm, Brasher, Hopkinton, Winthrop, Nicholville, Lawrence, Norwood, Norfolk and Raymondville.
New Beginnings Food Pantry & Outreach, Madrid	315-322-8937	Recently provided food for 504 people, a 15 percent increase. Generous donations from the local community solely fund the food pantry while its thrift store is closed.
Norfolk-Raymondville Food Pantry	315-384-4629	The five-day pantry provides 15 meals for each member of the household and it has seen a marked increase in demand. It’s open on the third Saturday of each month for distribution, and volunteers are on call daily for emergency food distributions.
Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club	315-393-1241	Club members are delivering at least 120 lunches a day to Ogdensburg homes in need. It serves food products and other meals that local restaurants donate.
Ogdensburg City School District Snack Pack Program	315-393-3056	Provides 380 healthy weekend snacks to elementary children at John F. Kennedy and Grant C. Madill schools in Ogdensburg. Children typically get a snack pack Fridays with nutritious foods like applesauce, mandarin oranges, cereal, cereal bar, and Chex Mix.
Parishville-Hopkinton Central School Backpack Program	315-265-4642	The program provides students with food for long weekends and extended breaks. Distribution has grown from 30 to 80 families requesting assistance in just one month.
Potsdam Central School Snack Pack Program	757-648-0779	Provides 200 to 300-plus snack packs and lunch items each week. The program delivers to eight locations the school district has identified.
Salvation Army, Massena	315-769-5154	To-go lunches are being provided each weekday. Guests can pre-order and are being asked to wait in their car to accept delivery.
Salvation Army, Ogdensburg	315-393-3351	Community members can still access the monthly food pantry and should call ahead so packages can be ready for pick up or delivery arranged to those who are unable to leave home. The weekly soup kitchen remains open for take-out meal service only.
St. John’s Episcopal Church Pantry, Ogdensburg	315-393-2334	The pantry has experienced an increased demand, now 70 to 90 patrons, and has moved distribution to its parking lot on Franklin Street. It provides a two-to-three-day supply of breakfast, lunch and dinner items.
St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House Food Supplies, Canton	315-379-9845	The agency provides residential and nonresidential services to adults and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. It is ordering essential supplies for those in its safe house and alternate locations for pickup at the store and delivery to residents with minimal interaction. Strict confidentiality of all clients is maintained.
Star Lake Area Community Food Pantry	315-848-3562	Located in the Clifton-Fine Community Center, the pantry supplies residents in need with choices of foods obtained vigorously from donations. It serves 150-plus people a month and is open to the public from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. every second and fourth Wednesday.
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Massena	315-769-1200	Volunteers are picking up food from four stores Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to keep up with a significant increase in demand. The pantry served more than 200 households in March.
Transitional Living Services, Canton and Ogdensburg	315-782-1777	The Community Housing and Assistance Program (CHAAP) houses homeless single men and women. The agency is purchasing food with bulk orders at a local market to maintain its critical food supply.
Tri-Town Food Pantry, North Lawrence	414-491-3506	Brasher Falls United Methodist Church started this pantry. It normally serves 40 to 50 families. Within the first two weeks of March, it served more than 90 families.



Northern New York Community Foundation

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A VALUED PARTNER



Our partnership of more than 25 years with the **Food Bank of Central New York** provides a vital link to secure essential resources for our neighbors who are struggling. In addition to its presence in the **Northern New York Philanthropy Center**, more than 50 agencies, regional food pantries and soup kitchens partner with the Food Bank to provide food to residents and families in need. As we continue to navigate the impact of the COVID-19 health pandemic, the Food Bank's presence across the North Country is more visible and critical than ever before.

COMING SOON!



A 28-page Spring 2020 edition of **Thoughtful Giving**, highlighting donors to the **Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund**, legacy tributes, donor profiles; partner, program, and grant updates, and much more.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

Here to help you carry on, always

In times of uncertainty, it is common to turn to music for inspiration.

At the end of March, soul singer Bill Withers died from heart complications at 81 years old. His timeless classic "Lean On Me" has become a timely anthem for many people navigating an overwhelming cycle of emotions during the COVID-19 pandemic. A wave of concern has blanketed our communities. His song is meant to comfort. You hear the poetry in his measured words:

*Sometimes in our lives, we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow*

*Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...*

Here in the North Country — today, tomorrow, and in the days ahead — we are witnessing a steadying presence from our nonprofits. Residents of all ages rely on critical agencies to lift us up in vulnerable times. People sacrifice their health and well-being to care for others. We lean on each other for faith and togetherness.

We may keep our distance, but it doesn't hinder our willingness to identify ways to help where we live. Community philanthropy in its truest form is realized each day. Local businesses have temporarily shifted their focus to generate personal protective equipment and supplies to support hospitals and clinics. Agencies collaborate on plans to deliver meals to individuals and families challenged with food insecurity. Teachers and school staff pool



MAX DELSIGNORE

educational resources daily to assist students as they shift to online classrooms. Homemade masks are crafted at kitchen tables and donated to businesses and organizations to keep workers safe. With each new need, quick action follows.

The Community Foundation is amazed by the outpouring of charitable gifts to our COVID-19 Community Support Fund. More than 40 local food pantries and non-government funded school-based programs have received charitable support to directly serve families in need across Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. We continue to evaluate the scope of this fund, so we can align with emerging community needs our nonprofits may address. It is an affirmation of the Community Foundation's values to inspire philanthropy and honor stewardship at all times.

Priorities in our community will swiftly change in the near future. Thankfully, nonprofits serving our region will be ready to collaborate, remain nimble, and demonstrate compassion. The Community Foundation will do the same. Thoughtful gifts from donors like you help us stand as a pillar of community generosity that strengthens our region and its diverse nonprofits.

We will continue to lean on each other — family, friends, neighbors, residents, nonprofits and your Community Foundation. We are all here to help you carry on.

Join Us Today!



COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

Help us help our neighbors today. Secure online giving at **NNYCF.ORG**

BY MAIL: Northern New York Community Foundation 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601