A legacy for St. Lawrence County, forever

The Rock Charitable Fund, a component fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation, has been established through a bequest from St. Lawrence County resident and retired Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army Marjorie J. Rock, who passed away in February 2017 at the age of 96.

The fund’s charitable purpose has three focus areas: for the maintenance and preservation of churches and cemeteries in St. Lawrence County, for the preservation and maintenance of places of legitimate historical significance in the county; and to benefit and/or assist veterans of the United States military who reside in St. Lawrence County.

Ms. Rock’s gift is transformative for the region. The Community Foundation is extremely honored to be part of the special way that her passions and interests will be realized in perpetuity. Her incredibly thoughtful generosity will have an enduring impact on the places and people of St. Lawrence County, forever.

The Rock Charitable Fund is transformative for the region. Her incredible generosity will have an enduring impact on the places and people of St. Lawrence County, forever.

The Community Foundation, in collaboration with a board of advisors, will administer this permanent charitable legacy fund. Grant funding will be awarded annually to qualified nonprofit organizations whose missions and efforts align with the fund’s objectives. This year, up to $100,000 in funding will be made available through a grant application process.

The Rock Charitable Fund board of advisors recently recommended the first grant award to the Heuvelton Historical Association to support restoration of Pickens Hall, in particular, the ongoing preservation of its third-floor opera house. Built in 1858, Pickens Hall, once a vaudeville venue, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Eligible nonprofits are encouraged to apply for grant funding later this year through the Rock Charitable Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation. Application details are available online at nnycf.org/grants/grant-opportunities, with grant awards anticipated in December. Contact Kraig Everard, director of stewardship and programs, kraig@nnycf.org, or 315-782-7110, to learn more.

Donors join to help region meet demands during health crisis

Community Support Fund established to rapidly deploy resources for essential needs

Donors continue to join the Community Foundation in its ongoing response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that has strained resources for many of the region’s nonprofits that support essential needs and provide vital services for our neighbors.

In late March, just a week after requests for support were fielded, the Community Foundation announced $30,000 in initial grants to nonprofit and civic organizations that are working to meet critical needs of hundreds of North Country residents who the pandemic has impacted.

Community Foundation leadership and its Board of Directors worked swiftly to establish the COVID-19 Community Support Fund to immediately address evolving challenges across the region. With care for residents of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties in mind, measures to best serve our communities, donors, and other partners continue.

The fund is a resource to help partner agencies and other nonprofits in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties that work to support essential needs. The Community Foundation contributed $25,000 to the fund.

The Community Foundation is working with local community partners to identify targeted needs and guide grant applications.

Several entities have already benefited from the fund, including:

- Grass Valley Communityi Center, which distributed $6,000 to help community members access meals.
- The Heurvelton Historical Association, which received $10,000 to support restoration of Pickens Hall.
- THP Co. Inc., which received $10,000 to support the provision of services to residents of Jefferson County.
- The Community Foundation of Northern New York, which contributed $5,000 to cover its expenses.
- The Foundation for the North Country, which received $5,000 to support its COVID-19 response efforts.
- The Heuvelton Public Library, which received $5,000 to support its operations.

The Community Foundation is working with local community partners to identify targeted needs and guide grant applications.

Complete list of donors, partners, p. 27

For more information or to make a gift to the Community Support Fund, please contact Kraig Everard, director of stewardship and programs, kraig@nnycf.org, or 315-782-7110.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

See SUPPORT FUND on page 2

INSIDE: Why I Give: A conversation with Canton resident Lynn Whittier, page 9 // Friends of the Foundation donors, page 14
Choosing to make a difference

We hope you enjoy the great stories in this issue of Thoughtful Giving. They are varied as the donors who have made them possible. This is also our opportunity to express our deep heartfelt appreciation to those who chose to make gifts to support the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund in the previous year. Many of you have been steadfast friends for years. Some are joining us for the first time.

Your thoughtful generosity is perhaps the most precious, as it provides the broadest reach and breadth. It also enables us to respond quickly to the needs of the community and seize opportunities that have impact now. You help us do more to support the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much. It is because of your vision and belief in the power of our work together that the programs you will read about can become reality. Your gift sets an example for the people and places of the region we all love so much.

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, it is important to recognize those who stepped to the plate to help our community through the initial phases of COVID-19. Many of our longtime supporters were joined by new donors, together helping respond to the initial critical needs in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. We will never forget your kindness and the sacred trust of our partnership to accomplish our work in good times and bad, as we have for more than 90 years.

Last year saw an especially large interest in estate and legacy planning. An increasing number of those who love Northern New York began and completed provisions to extend support for their passions and interests with added stewardship and safety. Collectively, these acts of generosity will be etched into the fabric of our region for generations to come. In whatever way you choose to benefit your community and express your values, we recognize the responsibility and are grateful for your trust. To each member of our family, know that because of you, there will forever be inspiring stories to tell and leadership to inspire a great North Country tradition of caring.

SUPPORT FUND from page 1

an initial $50,000 in funding available for rapid deployment to help buffer the impact. Since the announcement of the fund, generous donors have responded, making contributions to expand the fund’s impact and reach.

The generosity of those who have helped maximize resources and quickly get them where they are needed most is humbling. Because the Community Foundation knows the needs are urgent and essential, it is reviewing requests as they are received. The community’s help, combined with existing resources, will continue to provide immediate aid to organizations that help the most vulnerable.

The Foundation provides annual support to food pantries and soup kitchens across the tri-county region. Additional grant funding now is essential for food pantries and non-government funded school-based food programs to help those organizations serve larger numbers of people in need.

Nearly 50 organizations across the region have received grant awards from the Community Support Fund.

Nonprofit organizations serving residents in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties that wish to apply for funding should contact Kraig Everard, director of stewardship and programs at kraig@nnycf.org or 315-782-7110. Complete details may be found online at www.nnycf.org/home/covid19.

Those who wish to join us to help expand the reach may make gifts to the Northern New York Community Foundation, COVID-19 Community Support Fund, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601, or through a secure online gift at www.nnycf.org.

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

OUR VALUES:
INSPIRE PHILANTHROPY
DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS
ACT RESPECTFULLY
HONOR STEWARDSHIP
THANKS TO GENEROUS donors like you, the Community Foundation has awarded scholarships for post-secondary education to thousands of students in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties since 1980. For many youths, a scholarship has made higher education more accessible. We recently caught up with Erin Simser, a Community Foundation Scholar, who in 2000 graduated from Watertown High School and was awarded a Foundation scholarship to help with her studies at RIT. Last year, her oldest son, Ryder, a former Youth Philanthropy Council member, graduated from Watertown High School and was awarded a Foundation scholarship to help with his education at Le Moyne College. Erin is also actively engaged with the Foundation, serving on the LEAD Council and a grantmaking committee. We asked her about her experience and her advice for students who are looking ahead to school and careers.

What has influenced you most to contribute to your community? My grandmother, Lovina Hayes, was very active in the community and, while I was growing up, she introduced me to a lot of great treasures in our area like the Flower Memorial Library and Jefferson County Historical Society, all places that are really rich in community and help to tell our story. She had a huge impact on my life. Through her example, I learned a lot about what makes our community a special place. Unfortunately, she passed away before I had children, so she couldn’t provide that influence for my boys, but she inspired me to carry it on.

How did you learn about the Community Foundation and its scholarships? I was adamant that I was going to go to RIT, and I knew I’d need some financial help. My father knew Alex Velto, the former Foundation director, and he suggested that I meet with him to learn about opportunities that were available to help high school seniors with education. When I met Alex, it was a wonderful conversation about my goals and future. He also helped me to understand more about our community. I promised him that if I earned a scholarship and came back to the North Country after college, I would do everything I could to give back in my own way. Years later, when I was established in my work here and I was thinking about which organizations to become involved with, the Community

Foundation scholar: Choose your best path

ERIN RYDER SIMSER
AGE: 37
HOMETOWN: Watertown
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Rochester Institute of Technology, 2005; Watertown High School, 2000
FAMILY: Husband Shane; sons, Ryder, 19, and Maxwell, 10; parents Stephen Edwin Hayes and Pamela VanSice; grandparents, the late George and Lovina Hayes and Fred and Lo VanSice
EMPLOYER: WinnCompanies, Boston, Mass.
CAREER: Graphic design and marketing specialist, WinnResidential Military Housing Services; started with WinnCompanies in 2006 and has held various positions in the company since
COMMUNITY: Founding member, Northern New York Community Foundation LEAD Council; Community Foundation Health and Human Services Committee; Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk committee; previous board member, CREDO Foundation; 2012 graduate, Jefferson Leadership Institute
PERSONAL: Reading, photography, watching professional and youth sports, and baking

See SCHOLARS on page 11
The LEAD Council held two panel agencies. Before the pandemic’s during a challenging time for all importance of strategic grantmaking tri-county region understands the young professionals from across the nonprofit organizations. The LEAD Council to help nonprofits impacted by COVID-19 Jake Tibbles Thousand Islands Land Trust Country; and, executive director, board of directors; Engineering and environmental division director, Development Authority of the North Trust board of directors. Right photo, from left: Tracy Valentine, OBI Land Trust board of directors; Jessica Rogers, St. Lawrence Land Trust board of directors; Carrie Tuttle, engineering and environmental division director, Development Authority of the North Country; and Jake Tibbles, executive director, Thousand Islands Land Trust.

LEAD Council to help nonprofits impacted by COVID-19

The Community Foundation’s LEAD Council is pivoting its focus for the LEAD Impact Grant Program toward the impact that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had on the region’s nonprofit organizations. The advisory committee of 26 young professionals from across the tri-county region understands the importance of strategic grantmaking during a challenging time for all agencies. Before the pandemic’s impact was felt in the North Country, the LEAD Council held two panel discussions to learn more about nonprofits with individual missions centered on arts, history and the environment. The Council continues to hold meaningful conversations with nonprofit directors, staff and community leaders to determine what obstacles and opportunities lie ahead. LEAD will determine its strategic focus for 2020 in the near future. Up to $25,000 in grant funding will be available to nonprofits to address needs identified through the grant program. Contact Max DelSignore, assistant director, at 315-782-7110 or max@nnycf.org to learn more about the LEAD Impact Grant Program.

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:

Donors Establish New Funds

Donors frequently establish new funds at the Community Foundation. We have grown to now oversee more than 800 funds. We are honored that donors continue to place their trust in us to administer these resources and carry out specific charitable objectives. Donors may make additional contributions to help build these funds.

Charitable Funds
COVID-19 Community Support Fund
James and Terri Ganter Family Foundation
John and Sharon Hammond Fund
Michael Lundy Family Foundation
Allen L. Smith Community Fund
SPENNYIS Community Fund
Kellie and Joe Sanzone Family Fund
Watertown Noon Rotary Foundation

Designated Funds
Youth Philanthropy Council Endowment Fund

Field of Interest Funds
Elinor Walton Ducat Fund
Steve and Alice Fisher Family Fund
Hilary J. Hooper Fund
Martin and Ellen Ischia Fund
Love Michaela Foundation
Russell I. Wilcox Family Fund

Organization Funds
Fort La Presentation Endowment Fund
Grasse River Heritage Endowment Fund
Indian Creek Nature Center Flexible Fund
Lyme Free Library Endowment Fund
Mountain View Prevention Services Endowment Fund
Ogdensburg Public Library Endowment Fund

Project Funds
Imagination Library Fund

Scholarship Funds
Edward G. Andrews Memorial Scholarship
Coach Matthew J. Branski Scholarship
Henry Colby Scholarship Fund
Grace E. De Young Scholarship
Hyde-Stone Scholarship Fund
Gabriel Otero & Lexie Morgan Memorial Scholarship
Rebecca Rhodes Memorial Scholarship
Richardson Family — Ogdensburg
Free Academy Endowment
Deacon Bernard E. Slate Scholarship Fund
Stumpf Farm Productions Scholarship
Robert and Esther Thompson Scholarship
for Lisbon Central School
Teddy M. Tierney Addictions Professional Scholarship Fund
Women’s Council of Realtors Tri-County NY Scholarship

What do you believe in? Consider establishing a fund to keep your passions alive, honor a friend or loved one, or to support the causes, organizations and communities that you care about — forever. We’re here to help. Contact Max DelSignore, assistant director, 315-782-7110 or max@nnycf.org
Generous gifts from more than 115 individuals, families and businesses, and a Northern New York Community Foundation matching grant, lifted the 2019 #giveNNY campaign to a new record of $243,375 to support nonprofits in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.

Twenty-seven nonprofit organizations participated in the recent campaign, the most since the grassroots movement began in 2017. The local effort united tri-county nonprofits on the Dec. 3 #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that harnessed the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and celebrate generous acts.

For the first time, the Community Foundation matched all campaign gifts up to $10,000. Participating nonprofit organizations received an equal share of gifts to the campaign as grants from the Community Foundation. All gifts given and 100 percent of the matching grant was distributed. The Community Foundation itself received no portion of the total raised.

The addition of the matching grant resulted in more support for local organizations and encouraged more gifts overall. “The generosity our community has shown is a heartfelt testament to the amazingly caring souls who love the North Country,” said Jennifer Hodge, development director and corporate compliance officer for the Volunteer Transportation Center. Mrs. Hodge has led the #giveNNY movement to unite and aid local nonprofit agencies since it began.

A full day of radio broadcast on Tunes 92.5 FM/104.5 FM on #GivingTuesday capped a month-long campaign that included a series of special events coordinated and hosted by participating nonprofits. Local television, radio, print and online media also supported the effort to expand the campaign.

Follow #giveNNY on Facebook at Facebook.com/givelocalnny to learn more and stay informed about future efforts.

#giveNNY / Nonprofit participants

ACR Health, Watertown
Antique Boat Museum, Clayton
Association of the Blind & Visually Impaired of NNY, Watertown
Carthage Area Hospital Foundation, Carthage
Children’s Home of Jefferson County, Watertown
Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center Foundation, Ogdensburg
Clayton Opera House (TIPAF), Clayton
CREDO Community Center, Watertown
Hand In Hand Early Childhood Center, Lowville
Hospice of Jefferson County, Watertown
JRC Foundation, Watertown
New Day Children’s Center, Watertown
North Country Family Health Center, Watertown
Orchestra of Northern New York, Potsdam
Planned Parenthood of the North Country, Watertown
Samaritan Medical Center Foundation, Watertown
Save The River, Clayton
SPCA of Jefferson County, Watertown
St. Lawrence County Historical Association, Canton
Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity, Watertown
Thousand Islands Land Trust, Clayton
United Way of NNY, Watertown
Volunteer Transportation Center, Watertown
Watertown Family YMCA
Watertown Lyric Theater
Watertown Urban Mission
WBLS TV, Watertown
THE DIFFERENCE YOUR GIFTS MAKE

2019-20 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge

Grant recipients & winning students

JEFFERSON COUNTY
$500 Cape Vincent Community Food Pantry
Branden Jackson, Thousand Islands Middle School

$500 Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Watertown
Jayveon Richey, Case Middle School, Watertown City Schools

$500 Henderson Harbor Water Sports Program
Ella Poulin, Belleville-Henderson Central School

$500 Knights of Columbus Council #259, Watertown
Gianna Richards, Immaculate Heart Middle School

$500 American Red Cross, North Country Chapter, Watertown
Noah Fulton, Thousand Islands Middle School

$500 OBI Land Trust, Chaumont
George Weir, Case Middle School, Watertown City Schools

$500 Salvation Army of Watertown
Leah Ingrerson, Thousand Islands Middle School

$500 SPCA of Jefferson County, Watertown
Madalyn Paquette, General Brown Junior-Senior High School

$500 Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity, Watertown
Ava Diabo, Thousand Islands Middle School

$500 Watertown Family YMCA
Ella Smith, Case Middle School, Watertown City Schools

LEWIS COUNTY
$500 Friends of Lewis County Hospice, Lowville
Sarah Herzig, Beaver River Central School

$500 Lewis County Humane Society, Lowville
Alyvia Millard, Lowville Academy and Central School

$500 Lewis County Search and Rescue, Lowville
Mariah LaFountain, South Lewis Central School

$500 Lowville Food Pantry
Denali Dietrich, Lowville Academy and Central School

$500 Make-A-Wish Foundation Central New York, Syracuse
Carli Freeman, Lowville Academy and Central School

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
$500 Gateway Museum of Morristown
Brody Coster, Morristown Central School

$500 Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley, Potsdam
Kadein Kelley, Edwards-Knox Central School

$500 Morristown Volunteer Fire Department
Raeele Downs, Morristown Central School

$500 Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club
Walker Belle, Morristown Central School

$500 St. Lawrence Valley SPCA, Ogdensburg
Sydney Thompson, Thousand Islands Middle School

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 generous support from the following business leader:

Community Bank N.A.
2019-2020 Program Partner

2019-20 AWARDEE

“Community is a place where people get along and help each other, no matter their differences. My community is a great place to live because of how kind and helping the people in it are.”

— Kadein Kelley, Edwards-Knox Central School

HOSPICE OF ST. LAWRENCE VALLEY: Kadein Kelley, Edwards-Knox Central School eighth-grader and 2019-20 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner; Mary Jones, Hospice of SLV director of family support services; and Marsha Watson, branch manager, Community Bank, N.A., Canton.

For the third consecutive year, the Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge will award $10,000 in grants to 20 nonprofit organizations that serve Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. Donors like you who make gifts to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund, a $2,500 grant from Community Bank, N.A., along with a $1,000 gift from an anonymous private donor, support the program.

The Giving Challenge includes schools in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. This year’s program committee received and reviewed 104 entries from seventh- and eighth-graders who recommended grants to 66 different organizations that serve residents in the three counties.

For many students, the Giving Challenge is a gateway into civic engagement and responsibility. For others, it moves them into a deeper connection with their community.

Schools participating in the 2019-2020 challenge include: Jefferson County — Belleville-Henderson Central School; Case Middle School-Watertown City Schools; General Brown Central School; Immaculate Heart Central School; and Thousand Islands Central School; Lewis County — Beaver River Central School; Lowville Academy and Central School; and South Lewis Central School; St. Lawrence County — Edwards-Knox Central School and Morristown Central School.

The initiative was launched in 2017 to introduce middle school students to concepts of philanthropy and community needs. The challenge seeks to engage seventh- and eighth-graders as they explore the meaning of community and are empowered to recommend grants to support their concepts that strengthen the quality of life in the region.

For many students, the Giving Challenge is a gateway into civic engagement and responsibility. For others, it moves them into a deeper relationship with their community. These investments in our future leaders, board members, volunteers and donors help position our region with a continuum of stewardship and care.

Consistent themes of “community” that most often appeared in essays were: “working together to support each other,” “shared values,” “safe and supportive people,” and “welcoming.”
“Lewis County Hospice helps make our community loving, compassionate, and supportive. Hospice helped take care of my great-grandmother by coming to her house to help her when she needed. I am thankful to live in a community where people are so willing to help each other.

— Loryn Schack, Beaver River Central School

Friends of Lewis County Hospice: Loretta Keys, Friends of Lewis County Hospice board president; Loryn Schack, Beaver River Central School seventh-grader and 2018-19 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner; and Tammy Lambert, retail services officer, Community Bank N.A.

RECENT FOUNDATION GRANTS

This list includes competitive grant recipients the Community Foundation Board of Directors has recently approved and those suggested by advisors of individual named funds.

- A Book in Every Hand
- Adirondack Land Trust
- Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association
- Alexandria Bay Food Pantry
- Alzheimer’s Association Central NY Chapter
- American Red Cross of Northern New York
- Antwerp Food Pantry
- Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired of Northern New York
- Augustinian Academy
- Beaver River Central School
- Canton Free Library
- Canton Neighborhood Center Pantry
- Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County
- Cape Vincent Food Pantry
- Cape Vincent Village Green
- Carthage Central School District
- Carthage Free Library
- Castorland Fire Company
- Catholic Charities
- Children’s Home of Jefferson County
- Children’s Miracle Network at Samaritan Christian Fellowship Center Food Pantry
- Church and Community Program of Canton Clarkson University
- Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center Foundation
- Clayton Council of Churches Food Pantry
- Copenhagen Central School
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Cornish Cooperative Foundation
- Crete Community Center Foundation
- Crescent Yacht Club Junior Division
- Disabled Persons Action Organization Foundation
- Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District Environmental Education Foundation
- Family Counseling Service of Northern NY
- Feed Our Vets Watertown Food Pantry
- Flower Memorial Library
- Food Bank of Central New York
- Fort La Presentation Association
- Frederic Remington Art Museum
- Free Will Meal Program Soup Kitchen
- Friends of Lewis County Hospice
- GardenShare
- Gateway Museum of Morrisstown
- General Brown Central School
- Gouverneur Hospital
- Gouverneur Neighborhood Center Food Pantry
- Grasse River Food Pantry
- Grasse River Heritage Area Development Corporation
- Gwen’s Food Pantry
- Hammond Food Pantry
- Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Association
- Henderson Harbor Water Sports Programs, Inc.
- Heuvelton Central School Food Pantry

See RECENT GRANTS on page 25

ROCK LEGACY from page 1

About Marjorie J. Rock

Ms. Rock grew up in St. Lawrence County and graduated from Heuvelton High School in 1937. In 1941, she graduated from the three-year nursing program at Flower Fifth Avenue School in New York City. The following year, she joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, serving in North Africa and Italy during World War II. After the war, she attended Teachers College at Columbia University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1948 and a Master of Arts in 1950.

She spent six years teaching in nursing programs, first as an instructor for Hartford Hospital in Connecticut and later at New York City’s Lennox Hill Hospital. She returned to active Army service in 1954 to assist with medical courses for enlisted personnel and helped to establish a medical education system, particularly in the United States, Japan and Germany. She served as a supervisor, chief nurse, instructor and director of an advanced medical technician school. Her last overseas duty was in Vietnam. In 1970, she retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel and returned to St. Lawrence County, joining her mother in Ogdensburg to help with her care. She earned many honors during her Army service, including the Bronze Star and Army Commendation medals. Her only sibling, a brother, was killed in 1944 while piloting a P-47 Thunderbolt plane over Normandy.

For the rest of her life, Ms. Rock made St. Lawrence County her home while traveling with friends, caring for others, and assisting her church and other organizations, including the Army Nurse Corps Association and other veterans’ groups. She maintained a keen interest in documenting local history and furthering the education of others in the county. Her gift to St. Lawrence County will continue, forever.
Partnership helps build Canton Community Fund
Matching grant supports campaign to build geographic-specific endowment

In partnership with a St. Lawrence County donor, the Community Foundation has provided a $25,000 matching grant to the Canton Community Fund to support its Campaign for Canton and build its permanent endowment within the Community Foundation.

A portion of this grant was made possible by the Brookmar Fund, also a Community Foundation component fund. The Brookmar Fund’s advisors are Peter and Kathy Wyckoff of Canton.

The Canton Community Fund began its 20th year in September as an affiliate of the Northern New York Community Foundation. It was the first geographic-specific fund within the Community Foundation, created to broadly strengthen quality of life in a specific community and provide donors with a designated option.

The people of Canton have led the way in building an opportunity for all to give where they live, in a way that has impact now, and in the future. This type of geographic-specific fund makes a meaningful difference in many ways. As the fund continues to grow and we are able to work more collaboratively than before, this will be a greater, broader force for good.

To celebrate this significant milestone, the Community Foundation and the Wyckoffs have partnered to offer a matching grant to build awareness and momentum that will further solidify the Canton Community Fund’s role in the betterment of Canton. Together, the Community Foundation and the Wyckoffs will match contributions to the Canton Community Fund, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of $25,000.

“We hope our part of this matching grant with the Community Foundation will help to increase the Canton Community Fund’s grantmaking capacity and its recognition in our community,” Peter and Kathy Wyckoff said.

Canton Community Fund board president Neal Burdick said he and the board embrace the challenge to support and enable more and greater projects that will improve the quality of life in the Town and Village of Canton for residents and visitors.

A portion of the Community Foundation’s commitment includes support from the Peter Van de Water Fund for St. Lawrence County. Mr. Van de Water, a Canton Community Fund charter board member, passed away in 2014. Mr. Van de Water was also the first St. Lawrence County resident to serve on the Community Foundation’s Board of Directors. His wife, Becky, remains an active supporter of the Community Foundation and Canton Community Fund.

“We are also grateful that Peter Van de Water’s legacy will provide a meaningful impact as the Canton Community Fund continues to support an area that meant so much to him,” Mr. Burdick said.

Since its inception in 1999, the Canton Community Fund has supported a wide range of programs and projects, awarding nearly 100 grants to nonprofit organizations that have helped to improve the quality of life in the Village and Town of Canton. The Fund has been built by gifts from many individuals, families, organizations and businesses, as well as bequests and other planned gifts. The Community Foundation’s board of directors has also provided previous matching grants.

To learn more about this permanent charitable resource, this challenge grant, and how to support its efforts now and in the future, visit cantoncommunityfund.org.

Legacy for Canton endures

Severn P. ‘Sev’ Brown impacted countless others in the 62 years he lived in St. Lawrence County, championing causes and organizations that made the Canton community and beyond a better, more vibrant place for all.

He began a lifelong association with St. Lawrence University in 1957, serving as an associate professor of geology before he and several partners founded a geologic consulting firm. In retirement, he indulged his passions for community and civic good, serving as an active member of the Presbyterian Church of Canton and the Rotary Club.

Sev was a founding member of the Canton Community Fund and a former board chairman. Following his passing in 2019 at the age of 97, a generous gift through his will was made to the Northern New York Community Foundation for the Canton Community Fund.

His bequest is a wonderful tribute to a life of service and an example of what is possible through thoughtful legacy planning. His gift will help perpetuate his good works and make Canton a stronger, more vibrant community.

We are honored to have known Sev. His wife, Sally Street, remains an active supporter of the Canton Community Fund and the Community Foundation.

Northern New York Community Foundation
WWW.NNYCF.ORG
WHY I GIVE

A conversation with

Lynn Whittier

How did you learn about the Community Foundation and its work across Northern New York? Initially through former Community Foundation director Alex Velto, who was a good friend to my husband and me. Since Alex passed, I’ve gotten to know the staff there. I enjoy seeing and learning about what the Foundation does for our region and the many ways it supports our local communities to address not only critical needs, but the wonderful things that enrich our quality of life, like music and culture and the arts.

You actively support the Community Foundation, the Canton Community Fund and other local causes and organizations. Why do you think it’s important to give locally? So many of our local organizations need local support, and I choose to do that rather than give to many national organizations because I prefer to keep money local. It isn’t just the Community Foundation and the Canton Community Fund, but other local charities that I really like to give to as well.

What is special about giving locally that makes it a meaningful act for you? That’s a hard question for me to answer. Local people just need it so much, especially in the North Country; so many people can benefit from it. The local organizations I give to do wonderful things to enrich and enhance the North Country.

What motivates and inspires your philanthropy? Part of it is the need, and the second part of it is because my husband Sarge always worked in fundraising and I got to understand the needs and the whys. A lot of the programs and organizations I support are very meaningful to the North Country, especially the Community Foundation, the Canton Community Fund and the Church and Community Program of Canton. Those really do such a good job with areas that are in need for so many people in our area.

Is there a special area of interest that you like to direct your giving toward? I tend to be broad in my giving and leave it to up to the organizations I support who have done the research and know where the help is most needed in our communities. That’s part of what I learned from Sarge who always said the unrestricted gift is the best gift, so it goes where it’s mostly needed. Trust in an organization and its staff is very important. I wouldn’t give if I didn’t feel comfortable that it was going where it was needed.

What organizations and causes are important to you? For me, giving begins locally, in my community. It’s local people and organizations I see every day that need help more than anything and that’s where I feel my gifts can make the most difference. I’ve long supported the Potsdam Humane Society where those poor animals are in such need of anything people can give. Grasse River Heritage is another local organization that has done great work for our area with the islands and trails and its sculpture garden. Canton Public Library has always been special, too. One of my husband’s primary interests was Canton-Potsdam Hospital and, of course, St. Lawrence University, and the Community Foundation, which I continue to support.

You have embraced a “give-where-you-live” approach to philanthropy. What has guided you in that direction? I like to see my gifts stay in the community where I know they will have the most impact. With so many national organizations, you don’t really know where the money is going and how much of it is really going to benefit and how much is going to go toward administrative purposes.

We have an important task to inspire the next generation to follow our lead in giving. What is the best way we can do that? It certainly starts by an example of giving, but we also must try to get them involved in our community organizations, and that’s not easy. A lot of my younger friends have young families and they tend to be more involved in children’s activities than community activities. If you can get them involved in the community, you can develop the next generation of local volunteers and philanthropists.

Many retirees migrate to warmer areas for the winter or move away entirely. What keeps you in the North Country? It’s neighbors. Not just those who live next door or close by. In the North Country, we’re all neighbors in how we rise to the occasion to help each other when needed. I also think people here who might be a little more fortunate than others always find ways to help.

LYNN WHITTIER

HOMETOWN: Canton resident; grew up in Ogdensburg

FAMILY: Married 48 years to H. Sargent Whittier Jr., until his passing in 2011; son Andy, daughter-in-law Kristen, and granddaughters Kelsea and Laurel Whittier; Canton; son Pete and daughter-in-law Katie, and grandson Christopher and granddaughter Brooke. Charlottesville, Va.

COMMUNITY: Past board member, Canton-Potsdam Hospital Guild; past volunteer, Potsdam Humane Society Thrift Shop and Canton Public Library; special event volunteer for St. Lawrence Historical Association.

PERSONAL: Travel, boating, summers on the St. Lawrence River, and time spent with family.
Love Michaela Foundation a legacy of kindness
Woman’s passion to help others will endure thanks to foundation partnership

Michaela Dietterich’s kindness and love for others grew each day of her life. Her broad smile and larger-than-life personality lifted people around her to become positive forces for good in their communities.

In November, the 31-year-old Watertown native lost an aggressive battle with acute myeloid leukemia, a rare form of the disease that required frequent travel to Rochester for treatment. Despite the emotional stress and physical toll, Michaela’s light was nearly impossible to extinguish as she fought every day to beat an unforgiving cancer she had once beaten.

While leukemia did not define her life, it does in many ways define her legacy. Following a stem cell transplant in October 2018, which had been hoped to save her life, Michaela became deeply passionate about helping other families facing cancer. She founded a Relay for Life team that walked in June 2019 to raise thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society. It was a cause she looked forward to supporting for years to come. That following July, her cancer returned.

Michaela spent the last 42 days of her life in treatment at Rochester’s Strong Memorial Hospital, a medical center that is very experienced in treating the type of leukemia that Michaela faced.

“I am so proud to think of her every day as someone who loved harder than anyone I’ve ever met in my life,” said Cyd Converse, Michaela’s best friend who remained at her side as her patient advocate. “She was a huge life force for others and loved people so completely. She was in her fight until her last second.”

While Michaela was undergoing treatment, friends and family rallied and held fundraisers and special events to help ease the financial toll the disease had taken. Shortly after her death in November, The Love Michaela Foundation was born, and a partnership soon formed with the Community Foundation as its permanent home.

Its mission is to support families and individuals who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis and must travel out of the region for inpatient treatment. It presently offers support to those who live in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence and Oswego counties to help with travel and related expenses.

“The toll that cancer takes on families who have to travel and be on the road for treatment is incredible,” Ms. Converse said. “This allows Michaela to keep living and to have a beautiful impact on people’s lives.”

For Ms. Converse, the Community Foundation “gives us strength to have the biggest possible impact.”

“The reputation and resources we can now access will allow us to grow,” Ms. Converse said. “The permanence of the Community Foundation is also incredible. To know that this will be around long after I am gone and still helping others is amazing.”

Visit www.thelovemichaelafoundation.com and on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about its work.

Classroom Kindness Challenge promotes importance of kind acts
Partnership with local station continues in schools

In partnership with NBC Watertown, the Community Foundation recently presented the top awards for the Classroom Kindness Challenge. Students in Mrs. Tammy Hull’s class at South Jefferson’s Wilson Elementary, above, enjoyed a donut party as the class received a $250 grant to help with needed supplies and classroom improvements.

The Foundation also joined NBC Watertown at Lyme Central School, left, where students in Mrs. Tammy Ditch’s class enjoyed a “Do-nut Be A Bully” party while Mrs. Ditch’s class received a $250 grant to help with classroom needs. We enjoy visiting our North Country classrooms and hearing how each class spreads kindness throughout the school. The Classroom Kindness Challenge encourages school officials and teachers to promote the importance of everyday acts of kindness between students and others in North Country schools and daily life.
What drew you to get involved with the Community Foundation and how have you grown from your experience? I want to be involved with things I am passionate about while still being able to have time for my family. Serving on the LEAD Council and Foundation Committee has been just the right fit. I love the fact that the Community Foundation covers so many different facets of our community, through arts and culture, health and human services, the environment, education and more. That wide-ranging focus supports such a diverse mix of things that make our community stronger. The Foundation has allowed me to spread out, touch a lot of things at one time and learn more about our community needs, without spreading myself thin. I’ve also developed many great relationships with people that will probably be lifelong friendships now. The respect the LEAD Council has for each other and the work and organizations it serves is incredible.

What is special about Northern New York that keeps you committed to maintain your involvement and efforts to give back? The place where you live and where you’ve lived your whole life should be special; somewhere you want to be. Our community is very giving. I have never met a group of people who are so selfless. People are there for each other and seeing that motivates me to be one of those people. I would never want my kids to grow up in a place that they couldn’t be proud of, and our community has a lot to be proud of. We should all dig beneath the surface of our community and experience things that make it a great place. I also feel a responsibility to contribute to my community in ways that improve our lives here. My husband and I had our first child when we were very young, and we had incredible support from family and friends to be successful as a family. When we support each other in our community, we become more successful together.

How do you define philanthropy? I remember one of my boys hearing me use that word and asking me what it meant. The best way I could describe it was leaving something better than how you found it or being involved in something and making an impact the best way you know how. It’s little things, too, as simple as picking up trash. If you’re at a playground and you see trash, pick it up and put it in the garbage, even if you didn’t make the mess. When other people see that, it may inspire them to do the same. Philanthropy doesn’t mean you have to serve on a board or be on 16 different committees or give a lot of money. It’s about being a good citizen so you can leave your community a better place. My husband and I do support things we believe in monetarily, but that’s not the only measurement of philanthropy or perhaps even the most important lesson as we teach our children about what philanthropy means. Sometimes your time or commitment to something is much more valuable than a donation you can give. There are so many different approaches to philanthropy and for individuals, it depends on what stage of life they are in and what they can do.

What is important about the example of philanthropy we set for younger generations to follow? If we don’t continue to set an example of service to others, then many of our nonprofits will suffer without volunteers and future board members. We must show our youth that they need to make time for what’s important so they can help to make our community a better place. If we’re not showing the youth that we need to stop and take time for these things, there will be a trickle-down effect when people don’t get involved. Having conversations with our children and youths about community and the things they value helps them to learn about philanthropy, too. Talking to kids about it will make them aware of opportunities to be involved and hopefully inspire them to take ownership. The values of philanthropy – time, talent, treasures – should be taught not just by example, but also by engaging youths in the conversation.

How can we best lead younger generations to engage in community service? We need to show them that it isn’t something that they have to do, but something that they want to do. We should also help them find their passion, so they’re inspired to serve. If people’s passions and talents are matched with service opportunities, they will be happier and more fulfilled to serve. We’re all wired to pursue the things that we like the most, and that’s so different when it comes to community service.

What is your best advice for today’s students as they consider their career choices? Listen to yourself; you know yourself best and what you feel passionate about. Be confident and don’t feel shamed by your choices.

“I learned fairly early that philanthropy comes in many forms. We often think of it as someone who has been quite successful, being very generous and leaving large amounts of money. But philanthropy as I learned it on the farm also meant the interconnectedness of people. I saw numerous examples of philanthropy as the love of humanity, people helping people.”

– John and Mary Jo Deans, Sackets Harbor

Since it launched in 2016, more than 30 conversations have been captured as part of our Northern New York Community Podcast — Stories From the Heart of Our Community series. The podcast is a partnership with WPBS that will enter its fourth season this year. The podcast is a platform to capture and share interviews highlighting stories of community philanthropy and service that has impacted the North Country. Whether an individual, a family, or a business, we’d like to hear your story. Contact our Communications Director at ken@nnycf.org.

HEAR THE STORIES: www.nnycpodcast.com

A collaborative initiative of:

Northern New York Community Foundation
A space for community
Philanthropy Center looks forward to welcoming nonprofit organizations again

The following community-based organizations used the Northern New York Philanthropy Center for their gatherings from August 2019 through February 2020:

- ACR Health
- Adirondack Mountain Club, Black River Chapter
- Advantage Watertown
- Alzheimer’s Association, ONY Chapter
- American Association of University Women
- American Heart Association
- Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Association of the United States Army
- Northern New York-Fort Drum Chapter
- CIUC (Children’s Home of Jefferson County)
- Case Middle School
- City of Watertown Charter Commission
- City of Watertown Parks & Recreation Department
- City of Watertown Strategic Planning Committee
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County
- Development Authority of the North Country
- Family Counseling Service of NNY
- Food Bank of Central New York
- Fort Drum MWR
- Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
- Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization
- Friends of Thompson Park
- Garrett W. Loomis Foundation
- Girl Scouts of NY-PENN Pathways
- Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce
- Guitars for Vets, Watertown Chapter
- Herring College Memorial Educational Trust
- Jefferson Community College Foundation
- Jefferson County Businesses Against Drugs
- Jefferson County Historical Society
- Jefferson County SPCA
- LEAD Council
- Little Theatre of Watertown
- Lowville Academy & Central School
- Mayor’s Charity Ball Committee
- National Federation for the Blind
- Neighbors of Watertown
- New York State Zoo at Thompson Park
- North Country Affordable Housing
- North Country Arts Council
- North Country Bird Club
- North Country Family Health Center
- North Country Library System
- North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council
- Northside Improvement League
- Ontario Bays Initiative (OBI)
- Race Against Poverty
- Safe Schools Endeavor
- Salvation Army of Watertown
- Samaritan Medical Center
- Six Town Community Fund
- Snowtown USA
- St. Lawrence County Arts Council
- Stage Notes
- Station WBVS
- Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity
- Thousand Islands Land Trust
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- United Way of Northern New York
- Volunteer Transportation Center
- Watertown City School District
- Watertown City School District
- Hall of Achievement Committee
- Watertown Family YMCA
- Watertown Lions Club
- Watertown Lyric Theater
- Youth Philanthropy Council

Jefferson County Historical Society
Jefferson County SPCA
LEAD Council
Little Theatre of Watertown
Lowville Academy & Central School
Mayor’s Charity Ball Committee
National Federation for the Blind
Neighbors of Watertown
New York State Zoo at Thompson Park
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Northside Improvement League
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United Way of Northern New York
Volunteer Transportation Center
Watertown City School District
Watertown City School District
Hall of Achievement Committee
Watertown Family YMCA
Watertown Lions Club
Watertown Lyric Theater
Youth Philanthropy Council

While presently closed to external meetings due to COVID-19-related restrictions, the Northern New York Philanthropy Center serves as a hub for community-based meetings. The AAUW Jefferson County Branch, left, often meets at the center. Visit nyncf.org for facility use updates.

A MONUMENTAL SNOWTOWN GIFT

Watertown Family YMCA Chief Executive Officer Denise Young presented a $2,500 gift to the Snowtown USA Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation. Proceeds were raised during the Memorial to Monument Run in September. More than 500 runners from Fort Drum and local communities ran the 11-mile Memorial to Monument Run from Memorial Park on Fort Drum to the 10th Mountain Division Monument in Thompson Park and another 200 participated in the YMCA 5k. Pictured, from left: Denise Young, Watertown Family YMCA CEO; Kelly Merchant, Northern New York Community Foundation administrative assistant; Scott Weller, assistant superintendent, City of Watertown Parks & Recreation; and Erin Gardner, superintendent, City of Watertown Parks & Recreation.

A leadership panel speaks to the Youth Philanthropy Council in February about grantmaking at the Northern New York Philanthropy Center, which is also home to Community Foundation programs.

S"o much good is happening in our local schools. A grant was awarded from the Daniel J. Briggs Fund for Integrity of the Northern New York Community Foundation to Ohio Street Elementary School, Watertown, to support purchase of ukuleles for students to enjoy and learn music. Music teacher Jordan Dewey is leading the effort. Ms. Dewey plans to use the instruments to enhance student access to music and build confidence through a collaborative learning experience. We appreciate donors who make thoughtful gifts to this charitable fund designed to support positive and uplifting student experiences at local schools. We are also honored to work with Daniel’s family to perpetuate a legacy of good works and kindness. Pictured, from left: Amy Briggs, Ohio Elementary School teacher; Jordan Dewey, Ohio Elementary School teacher; Patti LaBarr, superintendent; Thomas Dunckel, principal, Ohio Elementary School.

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- Jefferson County Businesses Against Drugs
- Jefferson County Historical Society
- Jefferson County SPCA
- LEAD Council
- Little Theatre of Watertown
- Lowville Academy & Central School
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- Neighbors of Watertown
- New York State Zoo at Thompson Park
- North Country Affordable Housing
- North Country Arts Council
- North Country Bird Club
- North Country Family Health Center
- North Country Library System
- North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council
- Northside Improvement League
- Ontario Bays Initiative (OBI)
- Race Against Poverty
- Safe Schools Endeavor
- Salvation Army of Watertown
- Samaritan Medical Center
- Six Town Community Fund
- Snowtown USA
- St. Lawrence County Arts Council
- Stage Notes
- Station WBVS
- Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity
- Thousand Islands Land Trust
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- United Way of Northern New York
- Volunteer Transportation Center
- Watertown City School District
- Watertown City School District
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- Watertown Family YMCA
- Watertown Lions Club
- Watertown Lyric Theater
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A leadership panel speaks to the Youth Philanthropy Council in February about grantmaking at the Northern New York Philanthropy Center, which is also home to Community Foundation programs.
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**
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Alexandria Township Historical Society
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired of Northern New York
Carthage Central School District
Carthage YMCA
Child Evangelism Fellowship
City of Watertown
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County (Camp Wabasso)
Crescent Yacht Club Junior Division
Dexter Historical Society
Disabled Persons Action Organization (DPAO)
Faith Fellowship Christian School Foundation for Community Betterment (Alexandria Bay Chapter)
Friends of Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library
General Brown Central School District
Hay Memorial Library
Henderson Historical Society
Herrin College Memorial Educational Trust
Hesperus Historical Society
Historical Association of South Jefferson
Honor the Mountain Monument
Hospital of Jefferson County
Immaculate Heart Central School
Indiana River Lakes Conservancy
Jefferson County Historical Society
Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES
Jefferson Rehabilitation Center
JRC Foundation
Knights of Columbus Council #259
Lorraine United Methodist Church
Lyme Central School District
Lyme Free Library
Macsherry Library
Meals on Wheels of Greater Watertown
Mental Health Association in Jefferson County
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center
National Association of the 10th Mountain Division
Nature Conservancy
North Central Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association
North Country Council of Social Agencies
North Country Family Health Center
North Country Goes Green Irish Festival
Northpole Fire Company
NYS Zoo at Thompson Park and Conservancy
Ontario Bays Initiative (OBI)
Point Vivian Preservation Corp.
River Hospital
Sackets Harbor Central School District
Sackets Harbor Historical Society
Samaritan Medical Center
St. John’s Episcopal Church, Cape Vincent
Save The River
Six Town Community Fund
South Jefferson Central School District
SPCA of Jefferson County
Stage Notes
Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity
Thousand Islands Arts Center
Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service (TIERS)
Thousand Islands Foundation
Thousand Islands Land Trust
Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund (TIPAF)
at Clayton Opera House
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
United Way of Northern New York
Village of Dexter
Volunteer Transportation Center
Watertown City School District
Watertown Evening Rotary Club
Watertown Lyric Theater
Watertown Musicales
Watertown Noon Rotary Club
Watertown Sunrise Rotary Club
Watertown Urban Mission
WPBS-TV

**Lewis County**
Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association
Adirondack Central School District
American Maple Museum
Beaver River Central School District
Constable Hall Association
Copenhagen Central School District
Double Play Sports Community Center
Friends of Lewis County Hospice
Fund for Hope of Lewis County Hospital Foundation
Lewis County Agricultural Society
Lewis County General Hospital
Lowville Academy and Central School
Mountain View Prevention Services

**St. Lawrence County**
ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence & Rotary Dodge Pond Brasher Falls Central School District
Canton Community Fund
Canton Fountain Fund
Canton Free Library
Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country
Church & Community Program of Canton
Clifton-Fine Community Fund
Clifton-Fine Hospital
Colton-Pierrepont Central School
Community Health Center of the North Country
Edwards-Knox Central School District
Fort La Presentation Association
Frederic Remington Art Museum
Friends of the Potsdam Museum
Gouverneur Hospital
Grasse River Heritage
Hammond Presbyterian Church
Heron-DeKalb Central School District
Hospice and Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley
Indian Creek Nature Center
Little River Community School
Madrid-Waddington Central School
Massena Central School District
Massena Music Friends
Massena Public Library
Morristown Central School District
New Beginnings Clothing & Food Outreach
North Country Children’s Museum
North Country Public Radio
Norwood-Norfolk Central School District

**Norwood Village Green Concert Series**
Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club
Ogdensburg Command Performances
Ogdensburg Free Academy
Ogdensburg Public Library
Orchestra of Northern New York
Police Activities League of Massena
Potsdam Central School District
Potsdam Holiday Fund
Potsdam Humane Society
St. Lawrence Central School District
St. Lawrence County Historical Association
St. Lawrence Land Trust
St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum
Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY)
United Church of Madrid
United Helpers
Wanakena Historical Association
Wilderness Health Care Foundation

**Advantages of supporting your favorite charity through a fund at the Community Foundation include:**
- Additional layer of stewardship and oversight
- Ability to ensure donor intent remains intact as organizational leadership changes
- 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 endow your annual giving by establishing parameters for annual distributions
- Greater control over the timing and amount of your gift
- Unique donor recognition opportunities
- Greater flexibility for future needs
- Ability to endow your gift in perpetuity, should the organization cease to exist
- Can be done during your lifetime, as part of your legacy, or both

To the charity or charities
- If you or an organization you represent are interested in learning more about options for supporting your favorite school, church or charity in perpetuity, contact the Community Foundation, 315-782-7110 or info@nnycf.org.
2019 Friends of the Foundation Annual

community betterment fund

The Northern New York Community Foundation sincerely thanks all annual fund donors who made gifts between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2019, to help strengthen quality of life in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. Every gift, large and small, enables a more effective pursuit of our collective work and mission to enhance the region. We hope you will consider renewing your support in the year ahead. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

PLEASE NOTE: This list includes only gifts made to the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Annual Fund. Gifts to donor advised, scholarship, or other named designated funds, will be recognized separately, by fund, in other publications.

The following supporters made leadership gifts to the Friends of the Foundation Fund

BCA Architects & Engineers
Carthage Savings & Loan Association
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Hyde-Stone Charitable Foundation
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Watertown Savings Bank

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The following supporters made gifts to the Friends of the Foundation Fund of $500 to $999

Doug Brodie, Lowville
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Max & Sara DeSignore, Watertown
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Mary Peyton Sanford, Watertown
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Peter & Jeanette Turner, Carthage
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(continued from previous page)

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Donald & Diana Woodhouse, Sackets Harbor
William & Mary Wormuth, East Syracuse

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This list reflects only gifts made to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund. It does not include any gifts to named, donor advised, designated, scholarship or restricted funds. We strive for accuracy. If you find an error or omission, bring it to our attention so we can immediately correct it.

The Community Foundation welcomes gifts throughout the year to support the ongoing work and mission of the Foundation. Gifts may be made in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. Gifts may be made to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. All Community Foundation gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

EVERY Gift Matters! Thank You!

The Northern New York Community Foundation supports organizations and individuals working to make a stronger, healthy and vibrant community for all, through the generosity of past, present and future Northern New Yorkers. Join us.

Learn more about the Community Foundation’s work, programs and people who strive to make a difference at www.nnycf.org
Recent Tribute Gifts
Includes only gifts made to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund from Nov 7, 2019, to April 30, 2020, for those who have recently passed.

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Al & Jean Gianfagna
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Sylvia S. Virdker
T. Uring Walker’s
95th Birthday
Rande Richardson
Matthew J. ‘Coach’ Branski

Few teachers and coaches have touched the lives of others as memorably as Matthew J. ‘Coach’ Branski. He was a physical education teacher and boys’ lacrosse coach at Watertown High School for decades, mentoring countless students and athletes, some of whom went on to pursue lacrosse careers in officiating and coaching at both the high school and collegiate levels. A Rochester native, he graduated from Ithaca College where he excelled at baseball and, upon graduation with a bachelor’s degree in physical education, was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates. Matt pursued a teaching career, relocating to Northern New York. He married Mary L. Burr in 1958 and, together, they raised a daughter and three sons. Son, Timothy J., passed away in October 2019. Highly regarded by players, parents, fellow teachers and coaches, Matt was a true friend who always ensured each player was treated with respect. While he demanded excellence on and off the field, he inspired such results through the example he set for all to follow. In 2002, Matt was inducted into the Upstate New York Chapter of the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame. The family has decided that the most fitting way to honor Coach Branski’s memory and life’s work is through gifts to establish the Coach Matthew J. Branski Scholarship Fund. He made a profound impact on the field and through this permanent fund will continue to positively affect the lives of student athletes. We join his children, Cynthia, Michael and Mark, and his extended family in mourning the loss of a great friend, teacher and coach. Many have contributed to make this tribute a reality. Each has helped perpetuate his love of the sport of lacrosse and remind future generations of the important role he played in Watertown athletics.

Tribute gifts in memory of Matthew J. Branski

- Ann M. Adams & Ronald Boway
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- Watertown Lacrosse Officials Inc.
- Watertown Savings Bank
- Stephen & Karen Williamson
- Charles & Karol Woodell
- William H. Wormuth
- Geoff Wright

Henry Masters Colby

Henry Masters Colby was a gifted teacher who saw his students succeed in American history and economics because he was a passionate and constant student of both. His avocations fed his vocation. He gave of himself to all freely, and without question. He was a local historian, and he journaled the days’ events. A native of Rumford, Maine, Henry graduated from the University of Maine at Orono in 1956. He also studied at the University of Oslo, Norway, the University of Vermont, Ohio State University, St. Andrews University, Scotland, and Harvard University. He married Marie Anita Kersey in 1963 and, together, they raised two daughters and a son. He began his teaching career in Maine before moving to Northern New York in 1962 to teach at Mannersville Manor Central School, which later merged to become the South Jefferson School District. He remained at South Jeff until he and his wife, an English teacher, retired in 1992. Henry was a master negotiator and tenacious advocate for colleagues and students. Everyone deserved a chance, and he was sure that they received it. He always had advice at the ready while mentoring younger teachers and often welcomed them into his home. He brought the same energy and enthusiasm to his years of community service as he did to teaching. He served on the Ellisburg Town Board for nearly 30 years, successfully advocating for a new water system, which was later named for him in appreciation of his service. In addition to his extensive community service, Henry was a man of faith and a communicant of St. Cecilia’s Church. A respected town councilman, revered teacher, beloved husband and father, and devoted friend and neighbor, Henry’s life was well-lived. He helped to shape generations in every aspect of his life. His influence, wisdom, humor, and genuine kindness will never be forgotten. The family has decided to honor Henry’s memory through gifts to the Henry & Anita Colby Scholarship Fund. We are honored to help steward his legacy in this most enduring and selfless way. Gifts in his memory will help build this permanent fund at the Community Foundation. We join his children, Ann, Elizabeth and H. Matthew, and his extended family in mourning the loss of a great friend, teacher and public servant.

Tribute gifts in memory of Henry Masters Colby

- Belleville-Henderson Teachers’ Association
- Bernier, Carr & Associates, Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors
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- Class of 1979
- South Jefferson Central School Social Studies Department
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- Ken & Wendy (Alford) Tousley
- Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Wilson & Family

To join others in helping to honor Matthew J. Branski, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

To join others in helping to honor Henry Masters Colby, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.
Frances Anderson Luck

Frances Anderson Luck’s love of animals and the North Country were so strong that she was inspired to act to make life better for both. When she established a scholarship with the Community Foundation in 2018, she sought to help local students pursuing careers in veterinary sciences. She was especially interested in providing support to those who had a sincere desire to remain in or return to the North Country to pursue a career. Her effort recognized a lifelong love of animals and their well-being, especially dogs. Frances was most fond of dachshunds and, until her recent passing, a 9-year-old female, named Dolly was her faithful companion. She wanted to make a tangible difference in the life of animals by increasing the number of qualified veterinary staff in the region. Frances was a proud Watertown resident, born here, graduating in 1945 from Watertown High School and continued her education at Syracuse University, where she studied interior design. She married Ludwig J. “Lud” Luck in 1952 and, together, they raised a son. Frances and her husband operated her family’s business, Anderson’s Fabrics, which was established in 1938 and located primarily on Public Square. She was active as a volunteer with the Samaritan Auxiliary and Jefferson County Historical Society. In early 2017, she moved to Clayton after 65 years at her home on Ontario Drive South where she was known as “the mayor.” Her passion for animals was matched by her love of gardening and her home and gardens were included as a destination on several local house tours. We are honored that her family has chosen to honor Frances’ memory through gifts to the Frances Anderson Luck Foundation, a Northern New York Community Foundation component fund that focuses on veterinary sciences scholarships for Jefferson and St. Lawrence County students. We join her son, Paul and his wife, Mary, in celebrating the life of a great friend and caring member of our community whose passion to improve animal care in the North Country will continue, forever.

Tribute gifts in memory of Frances Anderson Luck

Brian & Deborah Cleveland
Corby L. & Lynn S. Cleveland
William C. & Margaret C. Couch
Coryne Gorri
Karen & Jim Jordan
Ann Lanham
Lonnie & Tom LaRochelle
Jo Masello
Kathleen McGraw
Rande Richardson
Lee A. Rolfe
Cabrina Rotella
Richard G. Sherry MD
& Judy A. Carpenter
Patty Sitterly
Anthony V. Tarzia
Mark & Tamara Taylor
Jill Wheeler
Darlene Yuhasz

To join others in helping to honor Frances Anderson Luck, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Loron E. Silliman Jr.

Loron E. Silliman Jr. was devoted to his family and community and sought ways to strengthen both throughout his life of service. From a young age, he was called to serve others, graduating from Clarkson University in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and a commission in the United States Army as a second lieutenant. He continued his service in the Army Corps of Engineers and was honorably discharged as a captain. He married Mary Antone “Toni” Roberts in 1958. Together, they raised a daughter and two sons. Loron spent his professional career with New York Air Brake, rising to vice president of engineering and serving until his retirement in 1992 when he became a consultant with the company, a role he continued for many years. He cared deeply about his community and the broader North Country region. He was founding board member of the Sci-Tech Center and served in the Watertown Lions Club, and as a volunteer with the Syracuse Symphony and Orchestra of Northern New York. He was also an active member of First Presbyterian Church. Loron was an avid outdoorsman who especially enjoyed canoeing and fishing on the Raquette River and stewarding property in the Adirondack Park. He nurtured his artistic side and was a skilled carver of soapstone. He loved to travel with his wife and made several trips to Alaska, and throughout Europe. Most of all he was a proud father and grandfather. We join Loron’s wife, Toni and children Alan, James and Lori in mourning the loss of a friend to many whose led by example in service to his community. We are grateful to all who made memorial tributes in his name and are honored to be part of the meaningful way he will be remembered in this community and the region.

Tribute gifts in memory of Loron E. Silliman Jr.

Stella Garitz
Janet J. George
Jill H. Johnson
Mike & Pat Morehouse
James & Kimberly Oliver
Sharon Potter
Rande Richardson

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

Remembering the people whose lives tell our story

The Community Foundation is made special by the hundreds of people whose lives and legacies tell our story. More than 500 named funds of the Community Foundation pay permanent tribute to those whose acts of charity and local philanthropy have helped to improve the quality of life in Northern New York. Whether a memorial scholarship, a named legacy fund or a geographic-specific fund, telling the stories of legacies perpetuated at the Community Foundation is important. As others get to know the many people, past and present, who continue to impact our region, their stories help to inspire philanthropy, celebrate generosity in many forms, and nurture meaningful legacies. These stories also guide our work with donors as we honor stewardship, develop relationships, and act respectfully to honor our heritage and celebrate the stories, values, and generosity of people of the North Country. Development of this effort has begun by featuring recent memorial scholarships and legacy funds. We plan to continue the project until each named fund has a story suitable to share with students who receive a scholarship from a named fund and those who receive grant support from a Community Foundation legacy fund.
Arthur W. Rosecrans

Service to country, community and family helped to guide Arthur Rosecrans throughout his life of 92 years. From an early age, Arthur dedicated himself to the values that would shape the rest of his years. Born in Brooklyn in 1927, he joined the Merchant Marine Academy after graduating from high school. He served on ships as a firefighter before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, joining thousands of others during World War II. After an honorable discharge, Arthur enrolled at Hofstra University on Long Island, where in 1950 he earned a bachelor's degree. With his first wife, Nancy, he raised three sons until her passing. He was a successful executive in the insurance business, working in the industry for 37 years before retiring as a vice president in 1992. A man of devout Catholic faith, Arthur was a life member of the Knights of Columbus, serving his community through the many charitable works of the order. He was a consistent supporter of many local organizations and charities whose work helped to improve the quality of life in the region. Arthur cherished his large family and especially enjoyed time with them. We join his wife of 45 years, Mary E. "Betty," sons, Edward, James and William, stepchildren F. Eric, Jon, Jeanne, Jerry, James and Jeffrey Constance, and Julie Waterman, and his extended family in mourning the loss of a great friend, devoted father, grandfather and community servant. We are grateful to all who made memorial tributes in his name and are honored to be part of the special way Arthur will be remembered.

Tribute gifts in memory of Arthur W. Rosecrans
Jon P. & Karen E. Constance
Donald Curtis & Family
Steve & Cheryl Lane
Rande Richardson

To join others in helping to honor Arthur W. Rosecrans, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

William David Henry Wratten

William David Henry Wratten touched the lives of many throughout his 28 years with a bright artistic talent and passion for entertaining others that will be sorely missed. Born in 1991, a son to James and Anna Belle (Hyde) Wratten, William grew up in Adams and graduated in 2010 from South Jefferson Central School. While in school, he was a member of the Drama Club, Select Choir and performed in many musicals, sharing his gifts with countless others in the South Jefferson community. William was living in San Francisco, Calif., at the time of his passing where he had moved following his graduation to pursue his passions. He was incredibly creative, and his talents began to shine as a young boy while working at the Dragonfly Rubber Stamp Store in Adams, where at age 12 he was teaching classes. William would light up a room upon entering with his infectious smile, his wry sense of humor, and razor-sharp wit. He was especially known for his signature black attire and was often called Johnny Cash. He recently opened his own business in San Francisco where he designed realistic floral arrangements made of paper. William's family has chosen to honor his life and memory through gifts to the Albert and Rachel Hyde Memorial Fund. Albert and Rachel were William's maternal grandparents who supported the community throughout their lives. We are honored to be a part of this meaningful way William will be remembered and join his family in expressing our sincere appreciation for all who made memorial gifts in his name.

Tribute gifts in memory of William David Henry Wratten
Mike & Debbie Battista
Janice L. Charles
The John W. Cobb Family
John & Lory Cobb & Family
Velma Cobb
Lynne & Dave Sischo & Family
Kirk & Karen Denny
Bill & Carol Doe
Deborah & Steven Doe
Elaine Garvey
Georges & Jill Hyde
Lynn A. Hyde-Kellogg
David Jareo
Kathleen L. Mulcahy
Jim & Kathy Naklick
North Country Family Health Center
O.D. Greene Lumber & Hardware
Lisa & Jeff Parsons
Nita & Wayne Petrie
David & Patricia Pfeil
Dan & Denise Young
Steven L. & Kirsti K. Zalunki

To join others in helping to honor William David Henry Wratten make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Mary Ann Maloney Denardo

Throughout her life, Mary Ann Maloney Denardo remained passionate about her faith and her native North Country, especially the St. Lawrence River community of Clayton where she was raised. Her love of music led her to nurture her talent for playing multiple instruments — bass, guitar, trumpet, and piano to name a few — and share her gifts with others. Mary Ann was born in 1960, a daughter to Dr. Edward J. and Mary E. Maloney. She graduated in 1978 from Thousand Islands High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Trinity College of Vermont, Burlington. A devout Catholic, she was a longtime communicant of St. Mary’s Church in Clayton where she was active in the music ministry and other parish activities. Mary Ann was a generous woman who consistently gave what she could to support others. While she was living in Watertown at the time of her sudden passing, the River always welcomed her home. We join Mary’s brother, Edward “Jack” Maloney, and her extended family and friends in mourning her loss. We are grateful to be a part of this special way that Mary Ann will be remembered and join her family in expressing our sincere appreciation for all who made memorial gifts in her name.

Tribute gifts in memory of Mary Ann Maloney Denardo
Mrs. John Gillick
Ann & Ted Gosier
Carmen A. Nutting

To join others in helping to honor Mary Ann Maloney Denardo, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.
Teddy M. Tierney

We are saddened by the loss of Teddy Tierney who passed away in November. Teddy dedicated her life to helping others through her work as a counselor for several years at Samaritan Medical Center and as a friend whose kindness was memorable to those in her community. She touched countless lives, working with people on the challenging path to overcome substance addiction. Teddy always found ways to see the best in everyone she helped, no matter the struggle before them. Those she cared for fondly recalled her as a willing listener and someone who looked to always lift the spirits of others. Born in Rochester, she made her home as an adult in the North Country and raised a son and daughter. Teddy was very close to her family and enjoyed spending time and making fond memories with them, especially since her retirement in January 2019. It is especially fitting that Teddy's family has chosen to honor her impact on others and the community through the establishment of the Teddy M. Tierney Addiction Professional Scholarship at the Community Foundation. This permanent resource will help people who, like Teddy, are called to serve some of the most vulnerable. We join her son, Christopher Cuppernell, and daughter, Corey Cuppernell, and extended family in mourning her loss. We are grateful to those who made memorial tributes in her memory and are honored to be a part of the way Teddy will continue to help improve her community.

Mary M. Seeber

A Watertown resident her entire life of 99 years, Mary Seeber was an indomitable spirit who possessed an iron will. We are saddened by her passing in November. Mary had the gift of being able to make people laugh, which she used to bring a little joy to all whom she met. Born in 1920, Mary graduated from Watertown High School in 1938. She married Robert D. Seeber on her birthday in 1940 in a dual wedding ceremony with her sister, Anne, and brother-in-law, Bill. Together with her husband, Mary raised two sons and two daughters. She spent many years working in local retail, retiring well into her 70s as a delivery driver for a local florist. Her commitment to work was unmatched only by her dedication to her community. She volunteered to serve many local organizations she cherished, including the former Arsenal Street School PTA, the Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country, the North Country Chapter of the American Red Cross, JRC, and local hospitals. Mary also had a talent for bowling and was enshrined in the Watertown Women’s Bowling Hall of Fame. We join her children, Robert, Richard, Barbara, and Beverly, and her extended family and friends in mourning her loss. We express our gratitude and appreciation for those who made memorial tributes in her name, which were directed to the Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country Endowment Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation.

Laura M. Macklen

Laura Macklen was a lifelong resident of Lorraine who was dedicated to making her community and the surrounding region a better place for others. As a founding member of the Six Town Community Fund, she worked to encourage others in South Jefferson County to join efforts to create a lasting and meaningful resource that could support organizations dedicated to helping others. For nearly 40-plus years, she was the tax collector for the Town of Worth, a position to which she was again re-elected just weeks before her passing last fall. For Laura, service to community was about working to make life for those around her better. Her friends and family recall a kind and giving spirit that led her to always offer help, even when she wasn’t asked. Laura was a 1952 Adams High School graduate. She married Baxter M. Macklen and, together, they raised two sons while operating a family farm in the town of Worth. Laura’s faith helped to guide her in service to others. She was an active member of the Lorraine United Methodist Church. Community service was also important to Laura. She was a proud member of the Rodman Lucille Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Adams Center Grange and the South Jefferson Historical Association. We join Laura’s sons, Mark and Dale, stepdaughter Beverly, and her extended family and friends in mourning her loss. We are honored to be a part of this enduring way that Laura will be remembered, and, with her family, we express our sincere appreciation for all who have made memorial gifts in her name.

To join others in helping to honor Teddy M. Tierney, make gifts to: Teddy M. Tierney Addiction Professional Scholarship at the Community Foundation. To join others in helping to honor Mary M. Seeber, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

To join others in helping to honor Laura M. Macklen, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.
Allen L. Smith

The North Country lost a passionate community advocate and ambassador when Allen L. Smith passed away in February. Al gave generously of his time, talent and treasures in support of a broad range of local endeavors and organizations. To honor his deep passion and commitment to his beloved North Country, his family has established the Allen L. Smith Community Fund to broadly support those things so dear to him. Born in 1937, Al was a 1949 Watertown High School and earned a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University in 1954 in agricultural finance. He married Martha M. Maine in Carthage in 1955, after which, he served for two years in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant. Al enjoyed a 34-year professional career with KeyBank, starting with the former National Bank of Northern New York in May 1957. He retired in 1991 as president of the northern region, where he was responsible for 31 offices in several counties. He was recognized throughout his career for his efforts to strengthen his community and the region. Among the many honors was the Watertown Honorary First Citizen Award from Mayor William Lachenauer in 1963 and again from Mayor Theodore Rand in 1974, the North Country Citation from St. Lawrence University, and the Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce Israel A. Shapiro Award in 1992. Al enjoyed spending time hunting, fishing and boating with family and friends. He was very civic minded and showed his love and commitment to the community and environment through active participation and holding officer positions in numerous organizations and boards in the Watertown and Massena areas. The Community Foundation joins his wife, Marty, and his sister, Jean, in expressing our deep gratitude to those who chose to express their affection and hope that the impact Al had during his lifetime will continue to touch the lives of others for generations. His family, friends and community will greatly miss his energy, personality and sense of civic responsibility. We are honored to be a part of the special way that Al will be remembered in perpetuity and continue to improve the region he loved.

Tribute gifts in memory of Allen L. Smith
Albert & Theresa Desormeaux
Skip & Deb Galloway
Mary Anne Hanley
Nate & Kay Holloway
Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors
Jeff & Jo Anne Kirkby
Suzanne Lipman
Virginia S. McCreary
Peter & Laurie Pike
Rande Richardson
Mary P. Sanford
Dale & Marianne Scott

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Sischo
Martha M. Smith
T. Urling & Mabel Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. John Wilson
Kay Woodruff

To join others in helping to honor Allen L. “Al” Smith, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Carl R. Robbins

Carl R. Robbins was a proud third-generation dairy farmer and owner of Robbins Farms in Sackets Harbor. He lived a life of love, care, and commitment to his family and community through decades of dedication and hard work on his farm. Carl passed away in February at age 83 while fighting to recover from an injury. He was well known throughout the state by those in the agricultural industry and loved getting to know people and learning about their passions while sharing his genuine care for animals. It is fitting that his family has chosen to honor his legacy through the establishment of a permanent scholarship in his memory. Born in 1937, Carl graduated from Sackets Harbor Central School in 1955. He married Cheryl Waite in 1991. He was previously married to Artis Robbins. A progressive farmer, his business was always on the cutting edge in agriculture technology, a legacy his son, Ron, and grandson, Brian carry on today. After the transfer of the farm to Ron, and daughter-in-law, Nancy, Carl worked with his wife, transporting cars throughout the Northeast for many years, before returning to the farm to work with his family. Carl’s sense of civic duty and community service was an example for others. He was a 14-year member of the Sackets Harbor Central School Board of Education, serving as vice president and later, president. Carl also served for 10 years as a member of the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Board of Education. He took an active role in the agriculture business outside his own farm, serving as president of the New York State Farm Bureau from 1976 to 1978. Carl cherished his family and enjoyed time with them boating on Lake Ontario. We join his wife, Cheryl, children, Ron, Cherie, Colleen, Patrick, and Travis, and his extended family and friends in celebrating his life and legacy and express our gratitude to all who made memorial tributes in his memory. We are honored that Carl’s family has chosen to remember him through a permanent scholarship at the Community Foundation that will help future generations achieve their goals and reach their dreams as passionately as he did.

Tribute gifts in memory of Carl Robbins
Frank Allega
Gary L. Babcock
David & Polly Brown
Carrier & Valasquez Families
Karen & Corey Cartier
Marlene Cook
Marty & Sharon DelSignore
Max & Sara DelSignore
Paul & Toni Fibkins
Michele D. Goffell
Al & Sue Gehere
Barrett & Ann Hayes
Bruce & Marilyn Hazen
Bonnie & Wayne Hoskins
Integrated AG Services
Kathy Jacobs
Windon Johnson
Pamela H. & Richard G. Jones
Victoria L. & Patrick W. LaBarge
Karl & Sharon McGinn
Frank & Margaret Miesnik
Bob Milligan & Dairy Strategies
Monroe Tractor & Implement Co.
Mrrcrest Farms
Margaret L. & Lynn A. Murray
Darryl & Cintia Murrock
North Harbor Dairy
O.D. Greene Lumber & Hardware
Nan & Dale Petrie
Porterdale Farms
Beverly K. & John D. Rowe

Rural Hill Sand & Gravel Corp.
Clifton C. & Linda R. Snyder
Corey & Adele Solomon
Pat and Neva Stewart
Dawn Stone & Family
Nicholas Surdo
Leo & Sonja Thompson
Sharon L. Thorner
Jon & Maryanne Vespa
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Wilson
Carmen & Terrel Zumbach

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

Northern New York Community Foundation
WWW.NNYCF.ORG
Haley, Joynt family legacies to forever endure
Watertown native will continue to give while honoring husband and sister

Elizabeth “Betty” Joynt Haley cherished her family so tightly that her gift to the community she loved is a legacy that transcends her own memory. Prior to her passing in June 2018, Betty not only thoughtfully considered how she would be remembered, but how others would remember her husband, Paul R. Haley, and her beloved sister, Florence B. Joynt, as well.

A recent bequest from Betty’s estate established the Paul R. Haley Memorial Fund, which will be used to provide college scholarships, as well as the Florence B. Joynt Scholarship Fund, which will support Watertown High School and Immaculate Heart Central School students who pursue studies in dental hygiene and related fields. The bequest further established the Elizabeth Joynt Haley Memorial Fund as an unrestricted fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation.

Throughout her life of 97 years, Betty supported many local organizations and causes she held dear. A 1938 graduate of Watertown High School, she was especially proud of her induction to the National Honor Society. In 1960, Betty married Paul Haley. The two had a son, Paul R. Haley Jr., who died in infancy. Betty and Paul found strength in their faith and family as they grew together through 37 years of marriage until Paul’s passing in 1997.

Betty spent her entire professional career working for Niagara Mohawk, retiring as executive secretary to the regional manager after 40 years with the company. She was proud to be from Watertown.

Paul R. Haley was a 1940 graduate of Watertown High School and a combat veteran of World War II. Upon his return to Watertown after the war, Paul attended St. Lawrence University, graduating in 1951. Paul was active in local veterans’ organizations and the Watertown Elks Lodge. He worked for many years for the New York Air Brake and later, the state Department of Transportation.

Florence B. Joynt was a long-time dental hygienist in the Watertown City School District and a friend to many local students for whom she cared.

Betty’s legacy of caring, generosity, and family will forever continue through the Elizabeth Joynt Haley Memorial Fund and through scholarships that will be awarded in her husband and sister’s memories. Per Betty’s wishes, the unrestricted fund will be used to support a wide range of Community Foundation efforts.

The special ways that Betty has chosen to honor her husband and sister, while leaving a permanent legacy of her own, are examples of an enduring love of family and community that we are deeply honored to steward in perpetuity. Thanks to her, the legacies of three special people will live on.

Grace E. DeYoung Scholarship honors longtime nurse

A scholarship honoring a 1915 graduate of Theresa High School now has a permanent home at the Northern New York Community Foundation. The Grace E. DeYoung Scholarship was recently transferred from the Presbytery of Northern New York, Ogdensburg, to the Community Foundation for long-term stewardship.

Following high school, Grace E. DeYoung, one of nine children to William and Ida Evans DeYoung, graduated in 1917 from the House of the Good Samaritan School of Nursing. Ms. DeYoung was the night supervisor for many years at the House of the Good Samaritan until her retirement in 1962.

After her passing in 1994 at the age of 97, the Grace E. DeYoung Scholarship was created in 1995 to honor her memory and lifetime of service to the medical profession and the community.

The scholarship is awarded each year to Jefferson and St. Lawrence county students who are pursuing studies in the nursing and allied health fields. Preference is given to nontraditional students who are pursuing studies after a break in education, and women who plan to pursue studies at an educational institution located in New York State.

The Community Foundation is honored to steward this meaningful legacy that will help and honor Grace’s memory in perpetuity. To join in helping to perpetuate the legacy of Grace E. DeYoung, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.
Their story is our story.

Since 1929, the Northern New York Community Foundation has been a place where life stories are told and have a permanent home in the fabric of our region. We are grateful to all who entrust their legacies to us in an enduring way. During the past year, the following individuals remembered their community through their will or other legacy planning, or their families chose to name the Community Foundation for public memorial tributes, including establishing a fund in their name.

Carol Chamberlain Allard
Dr. D. Susan Badenhausen
Donna Sheldon Powers Barber
Matthew J. Branski
Severn P. Brown
Anita & Henry Masters Colby
Lis S. Couch
Kenneth Deedy
Mary Ann Maloney Denardo
Michaela E. Dietterich
Elinor Walton Ducat
Elizabeth M. May Duvall
Betty J. Cole Evans
Sherrill L. Goodnough
Elizabeth Joynt Haley
Paul R. Haley
Hilary J. Hooper
Ronald C. Johnson
Florence B. Joynt
Dennis J. Laemmermann
Beverly J. Lamic
Maureen E. Littlefield
Eva Arlene Loomis
Frances Anderson Luck
Richard A. Lyndaker
Pauline Hayden Gorman Lyng
Michael E. Maser
Harry L. Minnich
Lexie M. Morgan
Ann B. Northrop
Gabriel Miguel Otero
Higouhi Owens
Martha W. Pott
Fremont & Sallie Powers
Rebecca A. G. Rhodes
Carl R. Robbins
Marjorie J. Rock
Arthur W. Rosecrans
Edward A. Ruble
Dr. Douglas M. Sanford
Mary M. Seeber
Loron E. Silliman Jr.
Allen L. Smith
James D. Sr. & Janice St. Croix
Frances E. Stern
Jay F. Stone
Wilfreda B. Stone
Janet Craig Summerville
Robert M. & Esther W. Thompson
Teddy M. Tierney
Luke A. Tyrrell
Georgiena Veley
Edward R. Veley
Henry H. & Emily T. Willmott
William David Henry Wratten

Their stories live on. Forever.

How will you be remembered? Contact the Community Foundation to discuss a wide range of meaningful options for your legacy today.

315-782-7110 • info@nnycf.org • www.nnycf.org

Your Community. Your Foundation. Your Legacy.
IHC Elementary School student earns West Faith-Based Education Scholarship

Clavery Nebie is the 2019-2020 recipient of the Gary F. West Faith-Based Education Scholarship. Clavery is an Immaculate Heart Central Elementary School fifth-grader. Mr. West and his wife, Kim, recently presented Clavery and her family with a $500 award, which will help her continue her primary education at Immaculate Heart Central School.

Following his retirement as IHC elementary school principal in 2018, Mr. West established the scholarship as a component fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation to provide financial assistance to students attending the school.

Mr. West served for 40 years in various capacities in public and parochial education in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. We are honored to partner with Mr. and Mrs. West to help ensure some of our region’s youngest students have the support they need. Pictured from left: Babou Nebie; Whitney Nebie; Edith Nebie; scholarship recipient and IHC fifth grader Clavery Nebie; Gary West; Kim West; Immaculate Heart Central School Principal Dan Charlebois; and Immaculate Heart Central Elementary School Assistant Principal Amy Mitchell.
SECURE Act and the elimination of the stretch IRA

Congress has tried to eliminate the Stretch IRA for years and now they’ve finally done it. The Stretch IRA allowed a non-spouse beneficiary of an Individual Retirement Account to withdraw from the IRA during the beneficiary’s life expectancy, essentially stretching the benefit of the IRA into the next generation. The Stretch IRA was particularly useful if your clients wanted to leave their IRA benefits in trust for their heirs, to be professionally managed for the next generation.

In place of the Stretch IRA, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement, or SECURE Act, which went into effect Jan. 1, 2020, now requires all non-spouse beneficiaries to withdraw the entire balance from the inherited IRA within 10 years of the owner’s death. Any trust planning or attempts to stretch those benefits out over the life expectancy of the beneficiary are gone with the passing of the SECURE Act. Or are they?

Your clients can still provide security for their heirs, make their IRA last for years after they do, solve several estate planning problems, and benefit a charity. All they have to do is join the growing trend of naming a charitable trust as beneficiary of their traditional IRA. By the way, this solution is nothing new and has been around since the Tax Reform Act of 1969; but now that the Stretch IRA is gone, it has become one of the only viable options.

Let’s look at a case study.

John Smith is a widower in his 80s who has a $1 million traditional IRA and several adult children. The children are in their 50s and 60s. John makes the Northern New York Community Foundation trustee and remainder beneficiary of three Charitable Remainder Trusts, or CRTs, which will provide income to his children for their respective lifetimes. After John dies, the CRTs are created and the CRTs receive the IRA funds. Then, each year, regular payments will be made to his children.

The Community Foundation can work with you to consider your situation. They will design a plan, help with implementation in your financial and estate plans, administer the CRT and steward the legacy for generations.

However, unlike the inherited IRA distribution rules, the payments from the CRT can last for the beneficiary’s lifetime or for a term up to 20 years, i.e., longer than the 10-year mandatory payout under the SECURE Act. Also, the assets in the CRT are protected from creditors, which may not be the case for inherited retirement accounts. After the children pass away, the remainder in the trusts will go to the Northern New York Community Foundation for the charitable purposes designated by John when he created the trusts.

From a tax perspective, the trust isn’t taxed on either the distribution from the IRA or income and gains it earns. The children likely will owe taxes on distributions from the charitable remainder trust. The upside is that the charitable remainder trust can last much longer than the 10-year payout provisions contained in the SECURE Act. What this means is that for individuals wanting to extend the payout period, the charitable remainder trust becomes a practical vehicle to obtain all the benefits of the Stretch IRA and the additional incentive of benefiting a charity after the lifetime of their children.

A few points to consider include:

- The approach discussed is most applicable for a single person, or as a contingent beneficiary for a married person. A surviving spouse still has the ability to inherit the decedent’s retirement accounts and use them over the rest of his or her life.

- Heirs will only receive an income stream and not a lump sum. If a lump sum payment to heirs is desired, a portion of the retirement account could be left directly to them.

- The charitable benefit should be emphasized with the family. Not only can this choice provide about the same or more benefit to the heirs assuming average life expectancies, but it should also provide a substantial amount to charity as well.

The Northern New York Community Foundation can work with you to consider your situation. They will understand the number of beneficiaries and their ages, the possible payment amounts and duration, and the plan for their charitable fund. They will design a plan, help with implementation in the client’s financial and estate plans, administer the CRT and steward the legacy fund for generations.

ANTHONY A. MARRONE II

• Heirs will only receive an income stream and not a lump sum. If a lump sum payment to heirs is desired, a portion of the retirement account could be left directly to them.

• The charitable benefit should be emphasized with the family. Not only can this choice provide about the same or more benefit to the heirs assuming average life expectancies, but it should also provide a substantial amount to charity as well.

The Northern New York Community Foundation can work with you to consider your situation. They will understand the number of beneficiaries and their ages, the possible payment amounts and duration, and the plan for their charitable fund. They will design a plan, help with implementation in the client’s financial and estate plans, administer the CRT and steward the legacy fund for generations.

ANTHONY A. MARRONE II, a Syracuse native, is the founder and CEO of The Marrone Law Firm, P.C., a boutique firm with offices in Watertown, Syracuse, and Ithaca. He focuses his practice in the areas of New York elder law, Medicaid, trust and estates, guardianships, and special needs planning. Through his trusts and estates practice, Anthony helps families protect, preserve and efficiently transfer wealth. He uses the latest tax-savings strategies to avoid or minimize estate, gift and income taxes. When Anthony is not working he teaches an Estate Planning class at Syracuse University College of Law and spends time with his wife, Melissa, and their three boys, Vincent, Joseph, and Nino.
In recent weeks, Northern New Yorkers have joined to support each other in many special and innovative ways. As the COVID-19 public health crisis evolves, generosity has proven great and is enabling tremendous support to reach those who need it most. To address critical and essential needs across Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, the Northern New York Community Foundation launched the COVID-19 Community Support Fund early in the crisis. We need your help to extend this effort to assist those who are most in need.

FUND PURPOSE & HOW TO GIVE

The Northern New York Community Foundation COVID-19 Community Support Fund is a chance to help nonprofit organizations across the region that are working to deliver essential needs to some of the most vulnerable among us. The fund’s main purpose has been to assist community-based food pantries and non-government funded school-based programs with critical food supplies. Our partnership of more than 25 years with the Food Bank of Central New York has played a vital role in this endeavor. We are working to flexibly respond to other requests for essential support and rapidly deploy resources to help North Country nonprofits deliver aid to those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences. Gifts to the COVID-19 Community Support Fund enable us to extend this effort and rapidly deploy resources. Secure, online giving is available at www.nnycf.org, or you may mail your gift to the Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to all who have made gifts to the COVID-19 Community Support Fund since its inception through June 12. Your generosity has helped nearly 50 community food pantries and school-based backpack and snack programs in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties secure critical food supplies to help North Country nonprofits deliver aid to those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences. Gifts to the Northern New York Community Foundation team appreciates your thoughtful giving as we work to help our North Country neighbors now and well into the future. Your gifts truly strengthen and enrich our region.

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Northern New York Community Foundation

www.nnycf.org

Northern New York Community Foundation

COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

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Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity —
St. Lawrence University Chapter
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Linda Thomas
Mary Jane Thompson
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Peter & Elaine Thurston
Martin Tokos
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Ed & Tracy Valentine & family
Beth Vincent
Deborah Vink & Martin Clark
Mark C. Walczyk & Jessica K.
Platt Walczyk
Watertown Evening Rotary Club
Andrew & Sharon Williams
Wendy & Allan Williams
Kay Woodruff
Peter & Kathy Wyckoff
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 is both immediate and lasting and will provide twice the impact.

Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association
Alexandria Bay Township Historical Society
Canton Community Fund
Cape Vincent Village Green
Church and Community Program, Canton
City of Watertown Community Fund
Densmore Church
Fort La Presentation Association
Friends of Thompson Park
Gouverneur Hospital
Grasse River Heritage
GWNC Chamber-JLI Community Fund
Henderson Harbor Water Sports Program Endowment Fund
Henderson Harbor Water Sports Program Scholarship Fund
Hospice and Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley
Indian River Lakes Conservancy
Jefferson County Historical Society
JRC Foundation
Lewis County General Hospital
Lyme Free Library
Minnia 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
Norwood Village Green Concert Series
Ogdensburg Command Performances
Ontario Bays Initiative
Orchestra of Northern New York
River Hospital
Save The River
St. Lawrence County Arts Council
St. Lawrence County Historical Association
StageNotes
The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence & Rotary Dodge Pond
Thousand Islands Area Habitat For Humanity
Ti Arts Center
TILT Discovery Center Endowment Fund
United Helpers
Watertown Lyric Theater
Wilderness HealthCare Foundation
WPBS
Youth Philanthropy Council Endowment Fund

Contact the Foundation, 315-782-7110, 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.

AN ENDURING LEGACY OF CARING

The John and Dorotha VanNess Family Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation recently made its first grant awards to two nonprofit organizations that support the quality of life and vibrancy of the Potsdam area. The North Country Children’s Museum, Potsdam, received a $2,500 award to purchase kits for its STEAM learning opportunities. A group of educators with a collective vision to create a cultural and educational center for North Country families formed the museum in 2012.

The Potsdam Holiday Fund received $500 to support its “Santa’s Workshop” program. Each year, the Potsdam Holiday Fund helps to make the holidays happier for hundreds of local families.

This fund will forever benefit the Potsdam area. Its first grants demonstrate the many meaningful ways a legacy of caring positively affects our communities.

Applications for 2020 funding from the VanNess Family Fund will be accepted this fall with up to $10,000 available. Eligible 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations that serve the Potsdam area are encouraged to apply. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to health and wellness, arts and culture, economic development, community revitalization, and more.

Contact Max DelSignore, Community Foundation assistant director, 315-782-7110, or max@nnycf.org, to learn more about this opportunity for the Potsdam area.