Preserving our past while preparing for the future
Permanent endowments help nonprofits build capacity, sustainability

or more than 90 years, Community Foundation donors have supported a wide range of initiatives to help protect our past so future generations can tackle challenges guided by lessons from local history.

In Wanakena, a pair of Community Foundation grants will help bring the past to life at the Wanakena Historical Association’s new History Center, which officials plan to open to the public later this year at 21 Second Street.

The Foundation’s board of directors last year approved $16,000 in support for the Historical Association; $6,000 to fund equipment and supplies at the History Center and a $10,000 matching commitment will help build a permanent endowment at the Community Foundation. Several years in planning, the project gained momentum after a group of partners stepped forward to purchase and restore the Second Street house to its original design. Construction began in 2019 with renovations continuing through early last summer.

The center features a collection of exhibits, modern presentations, and meaningful artifact displays tied to the Wanakena region’s past while also promoting historical and genealogical research and local tourism.

Allen Ditch, president of the Wanakena Historical Association board of trustees, said the Foundation’s endowment match is a “crucial part of the association’s long-term plans,” especially in stewarding the maintenance of the center and operations.

Community volunteers came together 20 years ago to create the historical association and highlight the unique past of Wanakena and surrounding Adirondack communities. The organization developed a walking tour with interpretive kiosks and spearheaded restoration of the iconic Wanakena Footbridge after it was

See WANAKENA on page 7
The Community Foundation stewards several charitable funds that award grants to support nonprofit organization programs, projects and initiatives that positively impact the quality of life across Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. Funding opportunities that follow are open to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations in 2021. Available grant funding for each opportunity may be found on nnycf.org/grants/grant-opportunities.

Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund
Communities served: Boonville, Constableville and Westernville
Purpose: Support for programs, projects and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for residents of all ages
Application deadline: April 23, 2021
Grants determined: June 2021

Orchestral Fund
Communities served: Watertown
Purpose: Support for live orchestral performances in the Watertown area. Eligible nonprofit organizations are required to have at least 20 performers in the group with an instrumental component
Application deadline: April 23, 2021
Grants determined: June 2021

George R. Davis Fund for Lowville
Communities served: Village and Town of Lowville
Purpose: Support for programs, projects and initiatives that impact the quality of life for residents of the village and town of Lowville
Application deadline: April 23, 2021
Grants determined: June 2021

The Lighthouse Fund
Communities served: Clayton, Cape Vincent, and surrounding St. Lawrence River-area communities
Purpose: Support for nonprofit organizations providing services to vulnerable populations living in the region noted above
Application deadline: April 23, 2021
Grants determined: June 2021

Carolyn Whitney Fund
Communities served: Watertown
Purpose: Support tree-planting projects in the city of Watertown
Application deadline: April 23, 2021
Grants determined: June 2021

Clifton-Fine Community Fund
Communities served: Clifton, Cranberry Lake, Fine, Newton Falls, Oswegatchie, Star Lake, Wanakena
Purpose: Support for nonprofit and eligible public organizations for programs, projects and initiatives strengthening the quality of life in the region noted above
Application deadline: August 2021
Grants determined: September 2021

Dr. D. Susan Badenhausen Legacy Fund
Communities served: St. Lawrence Co.
Purpose: Support to strengthen the quality of life in St. Lawrence County with a special emphasis on arts and culture, environmental conservation, and animal welfare
Application deadline: Oct. 22, 2021
Grants determined: December 2021

John and Dorotha VanNess Family Fund
Communities served: Greater Potsdam area
Purpose: Support for nonprofit and eligible public organizations that impact the quality of life for residents of the greater Potsdam area, with a priority given to the village and town of Potsdam. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to, health and wellness, arts and culture, economic development, community revitalization, and more
Application deadline: Oct. 22, 2021
Grants determined: December 2021

Shaw Harbor Foundation Charitable Foundation
Communities served: Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties
Purpose: Support for nonprofit and eligible public organizations that broadly strengthen the quality of life for Northern New York residents. Special consideration is given to those serving the towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman, Worth, and Hounsfield. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to: Arts and culture, history, LGBTQ services and programs, and general quality of life initiatives and projects.
Application deadline: Oct. 22, 2021
Grants determined: December 2021

Questions?
- Email Max DeSignore, assistant director, max@nnycf.org, or call 315-782-7110.
Turn to page 6 to learn about upcoming Grant Information Sessions scheduled for February 17 and March 3.

Six Town Community Fund
Communities served: Towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman and Worth
Purpose: Support for nonprofit organizations and all eligible public organizations that impact the quality of life for residents of the Six Town region, as noted above
Application deadline: Oct. 22, 2021
Grants determined: December 2021

Rock Charitable Fund
Communities served: St. Lawrence County
Purpose: Support for the maintenance and preservation of churches and cemeteries and places of legitimate historical significance in the county; to help benefit or assist Veterans of the United States Military living in St. Lawrence County for medical or recreational needs
Application deadline: Oct. 22, 2021
Grants determined: December 2021

The Jefferson Economic Development Fund
Communities served: Jefferson County
Purpose: Support for nonprofit organizations with programs, projects and initiatives that enhance and promote economic development in Jefferson County. Nonprofits are encouraged to think creatively and broadly when examining programs and services and identify a correlation between their work and economic development in the community
Application deadline: Oct. 22, 2021
Grants determined: December 2021

Daniel J. Briggs Fund for Integrity Communities served: Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties
Purpose: Support for bullying prevention and character education programs, as well as professional development for administrators, teachers, staff, and employees of school districts across the region
Application deadline: Oct. 22, 2021
Grants determined: December 2021

Safe Schools Endeavor
Communities served: Jefferson and Lewis counties
Purpose: Support programs and projects that empower students, parents, and faculty to nurture the safest campus environment for children and adults in public and private K-12 schools in Jefferson and Lewis counties
Application deadline: Oct. 22, 2021
Grants determined: December 2021

Youth Philanthropy Council
Communities served: Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties
Purpose: Support for nonprofit organizations serving all residents through programs and projects that enhance the quality of life in communities across the region — not limited to youth programs
Application available: October 2021
Grants determined: June 2022

Members of the Community Foundation’s Youth Philanthropy Council plant trees in Watertown’s Thompson Park last November during a day of service. The Foundation’s Carolyn Whitney Fund provides grant support for tree-planting initiatives and projects in the City of Watertown.
Work that strengthens the efforts of tri-county nonprofits

Through endowments and other agency funds, we are proud to partner with nearly 150 nonprofit organizations in our region to support their work now and in perpetuity.

**Jefferson County**
- All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
- Alexandria Township Historical Society
- Cape Vincent Village Green
- Carthage Central School District
- Carthage YMCA
- Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI)
- Child Evangelism Fellowship
- City of Watertown — Historic Fountain Fund
- Clayton Jazz Festival — Jazz in the Classroom
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County (Camp Wabasso)
- Dexter Historical Society
- Depauville Free Library
- Dexter Historical Society
- Disabled Persons Action Organization (DPAO)
- Friends of Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library
- Friends of Thompson Park
- General Brown Central School District
- Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce
- Hay Memorial Library
- Hearts For Youth
- Henderson Harbor Water Sports Program
- Henderson Historical Society
- Herring College Memorial Educational Trust
- Historical Association of South Jefferson
- Honor the Mountain Monument
- Hospice of Jefferson County
- Immaculate Heart Central School
- Indian 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
- Lorraine Volunteer Fire Company
- Lyme Central School District
- Lychee Library
- Macsherry Library
- Meals on Wheels of Greater Watertown
- Mental Health Association in Jefferson County
- Minna Antony 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
- Ontario Bays Initiative (OBI)
- Point Vivian Preservation Corporation
- 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
- South Jefferson Lions Club
- SPCA of Jefferson County
- Stage Notes
- Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity
- Thousand Islands Arts Center
- Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service (TIPARF)
- 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 Community Fund

**Watertown Family YMCA**
- Watertown Lyric Theater
- Watertown Musicales
- Watertown Noon Rotary Club
- Watertown Sunrise Rotary Club
- Watertown Urban Mission
- WBBS-TV
- Zoo New York & Thompson Park Conservancy

**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
- Lewis County Hospital Foundation Fund for Hope
- Lewis County Agricultural Society
- Lewis County General Hospital Foundation

**Mountain View Prevention Services**

**St. Lawrence County**
- ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence & Rotary Dodge Pond
- Brasher Falls Central School District
- Canton Community Fund
- Canton Volunteer Fire Company
- Canton Free Library
- Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country
- Church & Community Program of Canton
- Clinton-Fine Community Fund
- Clinton-Fine Hospital
- Clinton-Pierrepont Central School
- Community Health Center of the North Country
- Edwards-Knox Central School District
- Fort La Présentation Association
- Frederic Remington Art Museum
- Friends of the Potsdam Museum
- Gouverneur Hospital
- Grasse River Heritage
- Hammond Presbyterian Church
- Hermon-DeKalb Central School District
- Hospice & Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley
- Indian Creek Nature Center
- Little River Community School
- Madison-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

**Ogdensburg Academy and Central School**

**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 Arts Council
- St. Lawrence County Historical Association
- St. Lawrence Land Trust
- St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum
- St. Lawrence County Area Habitat for Humanity
- St. Lawrence County Arts Council
- St. Lawrence Central School District
- South Jefferson Central School District
- South Jefferson Lions Club
- SPCA of Jefferson County
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- 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 Community Fund

**Advantages for nonprofits to establish a fund at the Northern New York Community Foundation include:**
- Additional layers of stewardship and oversight
- Ability to ensure donor intent remains intact as organizational leadership changes
- Investment returns provide additional source of income to support operations
- Unique legacy naming opportunities
- Greater diversification of pooled investments
- Ability for donors to endow annual giving by establishing parameters for annual distributions 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@nynycf.org.
A recent Community Foundation grant has brought two nonprofits together in a strategic alliance to ensure the services they provide Northern New York residents will continue well into the future.

The Resolution Center of Jefferson and Lewis Counties and Family Counseling Service of Northern New York are working to create a one-stop hub for conflict intervention, counseling, child advocacy and restorative practices.

Increasing local needs for timely mental and emotional health services, the importance of keeping families and businesses out of court, and the potential a meaningful partnership would deliver agency leaders to the Community Foundation. The Foundation Board approved a $20,000 grant to support the alliance. The agencies also received a $10,000 grant from the Jane E. Deline Foundation and a $5,000 gift from Watertown Savings Bank.

The alliance enables the two nonprofits to share personnel, reduce operational overlap, streamline and expedite client referrals, and expand services while uniting in one location.

“This couldn't have happened without the generous support of the Community Foundation,” said Jennifer Huttemann-Kall, Resolution Center executive director. “Their encouragement gave us the courage to partner with Family Counseling Service and really put our clients first.”

“The Community Foundation’s encouragement gave us the courage to partner with Family Counseling Service and really put our clients first.” — Jennifer Huttemann-Kall, executive director, Resolution Center of Jefferson and Lewis Counties

“The unique-to-the-region collaborative model leverages strengths of each nonprofit to achieve a holistic practice approach. It also enables development of entire families instead of the more transactional referrals for individuals while stretching limited resources.

The Resolution Center administers programs through trained volunteers and staff who empower individuals to resolve conflict and achieve positive outcomes for children, families and community. Formed in 1982 at the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, it became an independent agency in 1991. Last year, its team served more than 1,000 clients. Family Counseling Service of Northern New York was established in 1958 and provides a broad range of counseling and educational services for individuals, families, and the community. Support for the two nonprofits to take this important step enables the Community Foundation to be there for them now as they can become stronger and deliver client services more efficiently and effectively.

“We are pleased to see these two agencies move in this direction. They are leaders in what likely will become more of a trend in the not-for-profit world as we move forward,” said Mark Lavarnway, president and CEO of Watertown Savings Bank, and a Community Foundation board member.

In August, the two nonprofits relocated offices to Watertown’s Rouse Building, 531 Washington St.

“We had nothing to lose and everything to gain through this partnership,” said Erin Kiechle, Family Counseling Service clinical director.
Grant-seeking during uncertain times
Best practices, due diligence and relationship building will drive success

With so much change the past year in all aspects of our lives, many are right to wonder whether grant-seeking efforts should now change as well. The good news is that since the grant lifecycle is constant, the best grant-seeking practices remain the same even when so much around us is uncertain or is changing. However, while best practices are the same, there are new nuances to consider in effectively implementing an effective grant-seeking strategy during these uncertain times. I would like to revisit two of the best practices I shared in last year’s column and explain how they are now slightly nuanced as a result of the uncertainty facing grantmakers, nonprofits, and communities.

Best practice: Do your homework about each grantmaker and their expectations

It is now more important than any time in the past, that grant-seekers dig back into their research to perform due diligence on each grantmaker before applying. Data and research materials from before March 2020 may potentially be outdated. Grantmakers each react differently to challenging times. Whether an economic downturn, a community-specific crisis, or a global pandemic, each grantmaker has a unique philosophy about their role as well as a different approach to financials based on their unique positions.

When conducting due diligence about grantmakers before reaching out, you’ll now want to look for things like:

- Additional information about whether they paused traditional grantmaking programs
- Information about any COVID-19-related emergency grant programs
- Award lists from any 2020 grant cycles held since March 2020

New information, along with information gathered during regular due diligence, will help you prepare for relationship outreach as you move from researching the grant lifecycle to relationship building.

Best practice: Remember that grant success is primarily relationship-driven

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, when reaching out to grantmakers new to your organization, I advocated for you to always be prepared with these three talking points before phoning or emailing a grantmaker:

1) Short introduction of who you are, what organization you are with (not getting into your whole mission and all your programs), and if the grantmaker is not geographically in the same place, let them know where you are based and implementing your work.

2) A 30-second elevator pitch of your “why” based on your research of a grantmaker’s funding, recent grant history, and why you think your organization is a strong potential funding partner. Pause afterward to seek input from the grantmaker.

3) Up to three thoughtful questions that were not answered through your research of their materials, but could help you customize your proposal to be more competitive in the funder’s grantmaking process.

These three talking points are still part of your outreach, but there is an important new step for reaching out to grantmakers that are new to your organization that I would make number three and move your three thoughtful questions down to talking point number four.

The new talking point: Acknowledge that a great deal has shifted in the community this year due to the pandemic and ask what has changed about the funder’s grantmaking strategies, timelines, and specific application cycles. This talking point is critical even if you followed your best practices previously outlined about conducting your due diligence about the grantmaker and saw COVID-19 emergency grants or other actions taken during the pandemic.

Don’t forget about your current funders

There is something else to add to this best practice. While your talking points are modified for the grantmakers that are new potential funding partners for you, your outreach cadence and style for your current grantmakers should also change, at least in the short-term.

While you may have provided one or two updates to grantmakers a year in addition to your required reports, now is the time to increase your communication with your grantmakers. Your goal is to ensure that your funding partners know how your organization is adapting to the changing needs in your community or to changing regulations in your field. For example, a great adjustment to your relationship outreach with current funders may have meant that in March or April of 2020, you first shared with grantmakers that you closed your office for a short time or shifted your organization’s services to virtual or remote delivery. In June or July, you may have shared how demand for your services increased and how you handled the increased demand while shifting to virtual delivery.

Now, nearly a year into the global pandemic, your organization’s reactions and adaptations continue to evolve. When so much continues to change week after week, waiting to update your grantmakers at the mid-year or year-end report will feel like a lifetime for them in terms of how much has happened or changed.

Despite new challenges your nonprofit may now face, adaptations to your grant-seeking best practices will certainly improve your results and bring grant funding success for your organization and those it continues to serve.

DIANE LEONARD, GPC, ST

Despite new challenges your nonprofit may now face, adaptations to your grant-seeking best practices will certainly improve your result and bring grant funding success for your organization and those it continues to serve.

DIANE H. LEONARD, GPC, ST, is a Grant Professional Certified and Approved Trainer of the Grant Professionals Association. She is also a Scrum Trainer through Scrum Inc. Since 2006, Diane and her team have secured more than $66.75 million in competitive grant awards for clients of DH Leonard Consulting & Grant Writing Services. She is an active member of the Grant Professionals Association. Diane is a graduate of Cornell University, Ithaca, with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Labor Relations. When not working with her team on grant applications for clients, Diane can be found in the 1000 Islands, out for a run, or drinking a strong cup of coffee. She lives in Clayton with her husband, Erich, and two young daughters. Visit her online at dhleonardconsulting.com.
LEAD Council volunteer network can help ‘LEADing the Way’ offers diverse professional talent to nonprofits

The Community Foundation’s LEAD Council has organized the skills and talents of its young leaders into a volunteer network to assist nonprofit organizations across the region.

The “LEADing the Way” initiative is an opportunity to connect valuable skills of Council members with nonprofits at a critical time and provide support to help advance the mission and work of nonprofits serving Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties strategically address critical needs in the community. Since 2014, the LEAD Council has served as an advisory committee of the Community Foundation empowered to identify and strategically address critical needs that our nonprofit community.

LEADing the Way was developed to support nonprofits facing key organizational and mission-centered challenges. Council members felt strongly that offering specific gifts of talent and time when many nonprofits need it most.

The LEAD Council includes 27 young professionals who live in the area and advocate for strengthening the quality of life in the North Country.

“This new initiative introduces a creative way to cultivate vibrant ideas and welcome new allies to Northern New York’s nonprofit sector,” LEAD Council member Jessica Platt Walczyk said.

The LEAD Council is made possible thanks to support from the Hyde-Stone Charitable Foundation at the Northern New York Community Foundation, Carthage Savings and Loan Association, Morgia Wealth Management, and donors to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund.

WHAT FOCUS AREAS CAN LEAD SUPPORT?

Nonprofits may request LEAD support for individual, group, or organizational needs such as, but not limited to: Professional development, marketing and outreach, finance, education, health and wellness, self-sufficiency projects, recreation, and others. The Foundation and LEAD will collaborate with a requesting nonprofit to identify a support plan and method.

HOW DOES A NONPROFIT GET HELP?

Contact the Community Foundation and share whether your need is for a specific individual, group, or general help to the organization. Foundation staff will identify LEAD members who can assist. Once LEAD members have been tasked, their volunteer assistance may be deployed via phone, email, virtual meetings, or personal visits depending on COVID-19 restrictions. To request support, contact Kraig Everard, Community Foundation director of stewardship and programs, 315-782-7110 or kraig@nnycf.org. Please allow one to two days to match your request and note the urgency of your need.

Online grant application portal set to launch

We’ve turned the page to a new year. It is an opportunity to renew our focus and channel energy into the meaningful mission of your nonprofit organization. The Community Foundation is keeping its attention on the region’s nonprofits and their needs as we serve the community, together.

Our team is fortunate to work closely with donors who demonstrate a willing spirit to help augment the important work of nonprofits across our region. Because of the thoughtful generosity of these donors, we can facilitate and help establish myriad grant opportunities for nonprofits to pursue and garner funding. As funding opportunities grow, it is a core value of the Foundation to be a responsible steward of these impactful and lasting gifts.

We are enthusiastic to introduce a streamlined, online grant application process this spring through our new partner, Foundant Technologies. Foundant is a national leader offering high-level, efficient grant processing designed to support grant funders and seekers. Its Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) system will enhance the Community Foundation’s grant process for applicants, while supporting the Foundation’s standards for grant stewardship.

We encourage your organization to join us for two upcoming grant information sessions, including a formal introduction to the GLM system. Your agency will be able to create a single user profile in GLM, input grant request information into an online application, and monitor your progress through evaluation stages. Our staff is available to advise and guide applicants through the GLM portal.

As your organization evaluates its services and future, please remember that the Community Foundation is a trusted partner with more than 150 tri-county nonprofits. We can help align charitable support with your critical work for our community’s benefit. We look forward to a healthy and prosperous new year.
St. Lawrence County Historical Association reaches milestone in Foundation partnership

A partnership between the Community Foundation and the St. Lawrence County Historical Association recently reached a new peak with the association fulfilling a $25,000 matching grant to grow its endowment at the Foundation.

“The Historical Association takes great pride in partnering with the Community Foundation as we strive to strengthen our endowment and long-range finances,” said Lance W. Rudiger, president of the Association’s Board of Trustees. “This matching grant helped increase the value of each contribution to our endowment campaign.”

The matching challenge was initiated in April 2019 near the onset of the Association’s $500,000 endowment campaign, fittingly called the Campaign for the People of St. Lawrence County.

Mr. Rudiger applauded the partnership and expressed enthusiasm for the Historical Association’s work and mission and the impact it will have for many years to come.

“The Historical Association takes great pride in partnering with the Community Foundation as we strive to strengthen our endowment. This matching grant helped us increase the value of each contribution to our endowment campaign.”

— Lance W. Rudiger, president, St. Lawrence County Historical Association Board of Trustees

Foundation supports Grindstone Island history

The Community Foundation recently welcomed the Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center as a new nonprofit partner organization dedicated to preserving Thousand Islands history.

The Center operates two historic schoolhouses on the island where a variety of children’s and community programming take place.

In December, the Foundation’s board of directors approved a $5,000 grant to acquire technical equipment for the Center’s planned heritage museum in its Lower Schoolhouse property where exhibits will showcase the island’s unique 150-year history.

In the future, we plan greater electronic access to archives and collections so our patrons can enjoy that access no matter how hard the wind is blowing or how fast the snow is falling during our often-dark winter months," Mr. Rudiger said.

The Historical Association’s endowment campaign has topped its 60 percent mark with more than $300,000 raised.

The Association established an endowment at the Community Foundation in 2017, which began a permanent partnership. The endowment provides an enduring, self-sustaining source of long-term income to support its work and mission. It also provides added stewarded options for donors looking to perpetuate their annual support beyond their lifetimes.

The Association is one of 51 St. Lawrence County organizations that have established a fund at the Community Foundation. Partnerships like the Historical Association’s enable donors to give and forever support local organizations special to them.

A $5,000 matching commitment to establish and build an endowment fund at the Community Foundation was also approved.

“We appreciate the Community Foundation’s support and encouragement as we expand our capacity to develop cultural and educational programs for Grindstone Island and the greater Thousand Islands community,” said Roxane Pratten, Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center Board of Directors chair.

The all-volunteer organization was chartered 20 years ago. It also maintains a scholarship program with two awards supporting local students that the Foundation stewards.

Mr. Ditch said the center remains on track to hold a grand opening celebration in late spring or early summer.

“There are many people who believe in this area and want it to flourish. Our organization is one of the groups who can help bring tourists to the area,” Mr. Ditch said. “It’s a community that people recognize as a place to enjoy and visit. This is a special place.”
Lyme Library eyes its future with endowment fund

Why does your organization need an endowment fund? No single funding source is sufficient to meet all our needs. The search for funding is a short- and long-term task. The Community Foundation helps us through grants it makes available to start a permanent endowment, through its connections with North Country residents who are investigating how they can support organizations that make the area a great place to live, and it helps trustees develop resources and skills that can potentially increase our funding.

What are the advantages of an endowment fund with the Community Foundation? It improves access to donors and raises awareness of our needs. It also provides flexibility; access to people with knowledge and experience on how to identify and connect donors. Finally, the Foundation provides an easy platform for our patrons to make secure online donations.

Why the Community Foundation and why now? The Foundation has been around for a long time. Generations of North Country residents have donated and received support from organizations affiliated with the Foundation. It is very important for the library to plan for its future. Partnering with the Foundation is one way to accomplish that. As a Board of Trustees, one of our functions is to work to ensure the library is prepared for a future that we will not see. Many trustees are retired. I think as we look at our legacies personally, we have an increased realization that we have a responsibility to put the library in the best situation possible.

How is the Community Foundation the best partner to steward your endowment? The Foundation has grown its approach to building a philanthropic purpose in young people’s lives. It identifies community needs and supports them — like the support for people with the Foundation is important. It also showcases the stories and results of its work that has led to its growth. Its work and the goals and mission of the Lyme Free Library make for a successful partnership.

Does the library have an immediate or long-term need? The Foundation has allowed us to make for a successful partnership. The search to support our community sent the board looking for ways to work smarter — one way is an endowment and partnership with the Community Foundation.

MARY HYDE is a retired school administrator and Lyme Free Library trustee who splits her time between Northwest Arkansas and Point Salubrious.

The Power of an Endowment

Because an endowment lasts forever, it supports a nonprofit for generations to come through annual investment income it generates.

Consider this: Endowments are permanent funds where the principal is invested, while annual investment income supports charitable efforts the fund was created to specifically support. Gifts are preserved in perpetuity, meaning they reach beyond a donor’s life to forever benefit a nonprofit’s work in the community, creating true legacies for donors.

Here’s an illustration:

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