



Six Town Connections

Linking our communities of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman and Worth to enhance quality of life for all

A permanent charitable fund for 'Six Town'

Established in 2012, the **Six Town Community Fund** was created as a geographic-specific fund to support projects and programs that positively impact the quality of life in the south Jefferson County region, specifically in the towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman, and Worth.

The **Northern New York Community Foundation** stewards this charitable fund. To build initial support, the Foundation awarded a \$50,000 challenge grant to donors interested in giving to this philanthropic resource. By the end of 2014, people from across the six towns came together to create a \$100,000 community fund. It will award grants to local projects in perpetuity. Gifts continue to be added by donors like you. Families from across the region can now give to support the place they love and call home, forever.



"Philanthropy is about giving your time and taking the next step to help others with your gifts and talents."

— Logan Hess,

South Jefferson High School
Class of 2021 and Youth
Philanthropy Council alumnus



From left: **Karen Denny**, retired South Jefferson High School principal; **Lauren Covey**, Clarkson University (SJHS '21); **Carley Hughes**, SJHS senior; **Emma Purvis**, SJHS senior; **Taylor Edgar**, SUNY Plattsburgh (SJHS'19); **Rylie Wilson**, SJHS senior; **Blake Edgar**, SUNY Brockport (SJHS '21); **Kerry Kennett**, South Jefferson High School teacher and youth advisor.

'Pay It Forward' comes full circle

South Jefferson students' gift supports Six Town Community Fund

A group of philanthropic-minded **South Jefferson High School** students recently made a \$500 gift to the **Six Town Community Fund** to support its work and mission in southern Jefferson County.

In 2016, the **Northern New York Community Foundation's LEAD Council** awarded a \$6,000 grant to South Jefferson Central School for its "LEAD Your School Challenge." The student competition aimed to instill and encourage philanthropy on campus and in the community. Participating students were tasked with identifying community needs, executing a plan, and reaching key outcomes that make a positive difference for their classmates, teachers, school faculty and staff and residents.

South Jefferson students used the grant money for a project that connected a variety of student groups to raise awareness about local nonprofit organizations and established a "Pay It Forward"

fund to support unique projects that enhance the school experience. Since the school began its "Pay It Forward" fund, the school-sanctioned club "South Jefferson LEAD" has taken charge of the initiative and has continued efforts to help others in the school and community. Students organize and hold events and other fundraisers to build the fund.

"Through school and community outreach, South Jeff LEAD provides support to other students and organizations with 'Pay It Forward' grants that aim to make a difference for those around us," said **Lauren Covey**, a 2021 South Jefferson High School graduate and Clarkson University freshman. "We work to achieve a caring, connected community that gives to make an impact."

The student-led group awards "Pay It Forward" grants to students in need of educational resources and awards an annual scholarship. Teachers can apply for support on behalf of students. Other school-based clubs or organizations may also apply.



Six Town COMMUNITY FUND

A Northern New York Community Foundation affiliate

ESTABLISHED 2012

MISSION

The Six Town Community Fund supports programs, projects and activities that enhance the quality of life for our community in perpetuity.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Barb Greene, Henderson
Chair

Brendan Higgins, Adams
Vice Chair

David Zembiec, Adams
Secretary

Dave Stone, Adams
Honorary Member

Andrew Beckstead, Adams

Joe Brown, Ellisburg

Karen Denny, Adams

David Geurtsen, Rodman

Deborah Griffith, Henderson

Julie Kealy, Worth

Bilkey Moore, Lorraine

Marlene Norfolk, Adams

Lisa Porter, Rodman

Doug Shelmidine, Ellisburg

Mark Shelmidine, Lorraine

John Treadwell, Henderson

Elizabeth Walker, Adams



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Community Foundation
SINCE 1929

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131 WASHINGTON STREET
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CHAIR'S CORNER

You are the heart of Six Town that enables our good work together

Full is upon us with its cool crisp mornings and colorful leaves. The Six Town area has so much to offer both now and in all four seasons. From Adams to Ellisburg to Henderson and Lorraine and Rodman and Worth, the six towns that comprise Southern Jefferson County are each special in their own unique ways and are home to so many people who believe in making the places they live better for all. Our beaches offer sand to play in and cool waters to enjoy by swimming or boating. Our wooded areas offer hiking and maple syrup making. And the fields and rolling hills present a landscape for beautiful sunrises and sunsets. I enjoyed all this as a child growing up in the area and as a place to raise my family, but I never appreciated it as much as I do now as an adult.

The Northern New York Community Foundation's Six Town Community Fund has been developed by some wise individuals who believe in the strength of the Six Town area. Nearly 10 years ago, they had the foresight to create a permanent endowment for our future. They created a fund to forever offer a place for all to work together to have the Six Town area remain a vital part of our world as the gem that it is. And not only to remain, but to become more than it is today.

Since its inception, the fund has awarded grants supporting nearly 35



BARB GREENE

programs, projects, and organizations to enhance our opportunities to improve quality of life. Everything from a sign to honor our fallen heroes to musical performances for enjoyment and equipment for fire departments, to a

monetary donation to support bigger projects for the South Jeff Rescue Squad. One of our latest grants will bring the successful "Getting Ahead" program to the Six Town community to help empower individuals to find a pathway out of poverty.

The Six Town Community Fund belongs to the Six Town area and each of its residents. Every gift each of us provides is designated for our six towns.

The projects that are supported would not be possible without our collective effort. You need to know that your gifts are welcomed and appreciated. Any gift — large or small — helps to build the fund to enhance the lives of those who live and work in the Six Town area. On behalf of the Six Town Community Fund Advisory Committee, I thank you in advance for your support of this incredible resource for our wonderful communities.

BARB GREENE is a South Jefferson County native and chair of the Six Town Community Fund Advisory Committee. She and her husband, Dwight, live in Henderson.

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SIX TOWN PHILANTHROPY / NEXT GENERATION



"It can be as small as picking up trash or as big as leading a community project or a donation. Philanthropy is just about standing up and putting in the work."

— Sidney Wheeler III, South Jefferson High School senior and third-year Youth Philanthropy Council member

COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY AT WORK

Sincere appreciation for all who give

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

Recent Tribute Gifts

Includes only gifts made to the Six Town Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation in memory of or in honor of a loved one from August 2, 2019, to September 10, 2021

In Memory of

Given by

Mollie L. Bangs

Charlene Bangs Bickford

Harley "Lee" S. Booth III

Alice C. Booth & Family

Joanne Dick

Brad & Nancy Smith

Kenneth J. Eysaman II

Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Gretchen G. Eysaman

Maxine Frear

Brad & Nancy Smith

William Goodwin

Mrs. Ruth Goodwin

Joan LaFlair

Brad & Nancy Smith

Laura M. Macklen

Max & Sara DelSignore
Dave & Melanie Geurtsen
Dwight & Barbara Greene
Julie & Stephen Kealy
Bilkey Moore
Fred & Marlene Norfolk
Greg & Lisa Porter

Rande Richardson
Dave & Mary Stone
John & Sara Treadwell
David & Barbara Zembiec

Thomas and Patricia Plantz

Greg & Tammy Plantz

Anna May Smith

Ethel E. Smith

Rick Stevens, Ellisburg

Bob & Janet Quinn

Joshua P. Sullivan

William & Beth Maguire

Norman C. Thomas

David & Lynne Sischo

Ken & Arlie Wheeler

Greg & Tammy Plantz

Donald W. Whitney

Rande Richardson
Max & Sara DelSignore

In Honor of

Given by

Mary Hoffman

Geri & Dave Joor

Six Town Sustaining Gifts

The following supporters made gifts to the Six Town Community Fund between August 2, 2019, and September 10, 2021

John W. Allen
Anonymous (3)
Charlene Bangs Bickford
Alice C. Booth & Family
Frank & Ann Cean
Nancy Cobb
Max & Sara DelSignore
Anna Denny*
Kirk & Karen Denny
Trent & Janine Dickey
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Gretchen G. Eysaman
John W. & Mary Lou Ferry
Dave & Melanie Geurtsen
Mrs. Ruth Goodwin
Dwight & Barbara Greene
Deborah & William Griffith
Mike & Kathy Hannon
Historical Society of Mannsville
Town of Ellisburg
Geri & Dave Joor
Fred & Virginia Karnas
Julie & Stephen Kealy
Brendan J. Higgins /
MacIlvennie & Brown
Insurance Agency
William & Beth Maguire

Bud & Marvel Masters
Bilkey Moore
Fred & Marlene Norfolk
Joan & Gordon Peterson
Greg & Tammy Plantz
Greg & Lisa Porter
Bob & Janet Quinn
Nancy Reed
Rande Richardson
Glenn & Michele Richter
Wilson F. & Daryl Rusho
Mark & Beth Shelmidine
David & Lynne Sischo
Brad & Nancy Smith
Ethel E. Smith
Dave & Mary Stone
David & Carol Stoodley
John & Sara Treadwell
Leo & Jennifer Valley
David & Barbara Zembiec

* Deceased

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

SIX TOWN COMMUNITY FUND / WHY I GIVE

"Giving to the Six Town Community Fund is a complete honor for us. We love that the Six Town Fund is geographic specific, which is important to us. We have great confidence in the Northern New York Community Foundation and appreciate their assistance and guidance with the Six Town Fund. We will continue to give and hope our friends and neighbors will consider doing the same. Together, we will make a lasting difference in our community."

— Marlene & Fred Norfolk, Adams, Six Town Community Fund annual donors



COMMUNITY FUND / WORKING TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Watertown Urban Mission 'Getting Ahead' program / \$10,000

A \$5,000 Six Town Community Fund grant, equally matched with support from the Charles R. and E. Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation has enabled the Watertown Urban Mission to conduct a 16-week "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World" workshop for Six Town residents. The program, which kicked off in late September, helps residents explore and identify the root causes of poverty while generating meaningful solutions. To date, 141 participants who live in the greater Watertown area have graduated from "Getting Ahead." Six Town Committee members believe

in the potential the "Getting Ahead" program holds for participants in the region as an opportunity to give residents hope that they can thrive and become stronger contributors to the community.

"Reaching this part of the county is very important given the lack of similar resources in many rural areas where people face greater challenges," said Sarah Yerdon, Watertown Urban Mission critical needs coordinator and Getting Ahead graduate who is leading the program. "We are excited to facilitate this workshop and look forward to helping participants develop new skills while using important tools to permanently get ahead."

Historical Association of South Jefferson / \$1,000

PRESERVING SIX TOWN HISTORY Bilkey Moore, Lorraine, a member of the Six Town Community Fund Committee and the Historical Association of South Jefferson, is pictured in the Six Town Meeting House, Adams, where grant support has helped to restore a series of antique stained-glass windows.



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

The organization is now in the process of completing a siding project at the Meeting House, which is the final phase of a thorough renovation of the building's exterior. The effort has run parallel to the stained glass window restoration. The siding project is on schedule to be completed next spring. Additional grant support for the siding project was provided through the Shaw Harbor Foundation, a charitable fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation.

Adams Center Free Library / \$1,000

The Adams Center Free Library has served Adams Center and neighboring Six Town communities for more than 90 years. It has grown to become far more than a library in the conventional sense as it offers a wide range of programs while finding creative and meaningful ways to serve local residents during the ongoing public health pandemic. The library was successful in raising charitable support to enhance interior lighting at the facility. New overhead lighting recently installed has made maintenance more efficient while improving program settings and providing a more pleasant library experience for patrons. A \$1,000 grant awarded in 2020 helped officials secure final funding that enabled completion of the planned lighting upgrades earlier this year.

A BRIGHTER LIBRARY EXPERIENCE: Adams Center Free Library Director Jaye Worden in the library's main reading room where new overhead lighting was recently installed thanks to grant support from the Six Town Community Fund.



The Rohde Center, Adams / \$1,000

Located in downtown Adams, The Rohde Center serves residents from across the Six Town region. The center provides a wide variety of services to residents in need, while its primary focus is operating an emergency food pantry. In 2019, the center embarked on a renovation project at its facility. The project included upgrades to windows, cabinets, and other infrastructure to make its operations more efficient. A \$1,000

grant from the Charles R. and E. Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation supported the project and was recommended in recognition of the Six Town Community Fund Advisory Committee's desire to help. The Six Town committee is grateful for this support from the Brown Fund and believes this project aligns with the charitable interests the Brown family supported during their lifetimes.

COMMUNITY FUND GRANTMAKING / A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

Since it began grantmaking in 2015, the **Six Town Community Fund** has awarded **\$35,550** in funding to support **34** different community projects. Grantmaking through the Six Town Fund has been extended thanks to support from the **Charles R. and E. Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation**. During their 40 years together, the Browns believed in giving to help make their community a better place for all. Mr. Brown passed away in 2010 and Mrs. Brown remained active until her passing in 2017 at the age of 97. Their generosity continues in perpetuity through a permanent legacy fund at the Community Foundation.

“We have always worked to support projects and initiatives that have a lasting positive impact on the Six Town region. Together, we are accomplishing that goal,” **John Treadwell**, Six Town Community Fund Advisory Committee member. “As this community resource grows, we look forward to being able to award even more impactful grants to strengthen the quality of life across the Six Town region.”

Each grant recipient is making a meaningful impact on the quality of life in the towns of **Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman and Worth**. The next round of community fund grant requests from local nonprofit organizations will be reviewed and determined later this year.

Here, we recap the history of the fund’s grantmaking and all it has accomplished to date thanks to support from local donors who continue to “give where they live” to support meaningful projects and organizations that benefit Six Town residents.

2020

Adams Center Free Library	\$1,000	Enhance interior lighting at the library
Historical Association of South Jefferson	\$1,000	Final phase of Six Town Meeting House renovations

2019

Watertown Urban Mission	\$10,000*	“Getting Ahead” cohort in southern Jefferson County
The Rohde Center	\$1,000*	Facility renovations, and infrastructure improvements

2018

Henderson Free Library	\$400	Outdoor concert to celebrate the library’s anniversary
Adams Revitalization Committee	\$500	Support the 2019 community concert series
Lorraine Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.	\$480	Help purchase a new generator
South Jefferson Rescue Squad, Inc.	\$2,500*	New radios for an enhanced communications system
Town of Ellisburg	\$2,000	Belleville Volunteer Fire Department building project
Henderson Historical Society and Museum	\$250	Purchase new outdoor signage
Adams Free Library	\$1,000*	Develop the library’s Early Learning Literacy Center

2017

Mannsville Free Library	\$250	“Life is Like a Box of Chocolates” program at the library and surrounding communities
Historical Association of South Jefferson	\$500	Six Town Meeting House stained glass window restoration
Henderson Historical Society and Museum	\$200	Purchase maple trees to improve walking trail
South Jefferson Rescue Squad, Inc.	\$1,000	One APX radio system to enhance communications
Union Academy of Belleville	\$500	Help restore the historic Union Academy bell tower
Adams Revitalization Committee	\$500	2018 community concert series
South Jefferson Central School	\$750	STEAM-related materials for the school’s technology club
Adams Village Baptist Church	\$500	Promotion and education for community workshops to help residents dealing with substance abuse
Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Assoc.	\$800	Support a Shakespeare performance in July 2018

2016

South Jefferson Central School	\$1,000	Start-up funding for an indoor track and field club
Lorraine Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.	\$750	Install an electric heater and additional infrastructure
Historical Society of Mannsville	\$1,000	Electrical upgrades to enhance services & venue availability
South Jefferson Housing Development Fund Co.	\$500	Purchase a high-definition television to enhance programming offered to elderly residents
Henderson Historical Society and Museum	\$750	Upgrade and repair the museum’s handicap access ramp
South Jefferson Central School	\$1,000	Support a “Sources of Strength” wellness program

2015

South Jefferson Central School	\$1,300	Support for appropriate training in the district’s adventure education program
Town of Lorraine	\$500	Renovate signage paying tribute to community residents who served in the armed forces
Adams Revitalization Committee	\$600	2016 Adams Community Concert Series
Harbor View Housing Development Fund Co.	\$500	Purchase a high-definition television to assist with programming at Henderson School Apartments
The Rohde Center	\$1,000	Assist with the organization’s fundraising race
Henderson Free Library	\$500	Develop an outdoor reading area and classroom
South Jefferson Rescue Squad, Inc.	\$600	Capital project support

SIX TOWN COMMUNITY FUND / GRANTMAKING BY THE NUMBERS

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
\$5,000 to 7 organizations	\$5,250 to 6 organizations	\$5,050 to 9 organizations	\$7,250* to 8 organizations	\$11,000* to 2 organizations	\$2,000 to 2 organizations	\$35,550 to 34 organizations

*Includes support from the Charles R. and E. Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation

Thoughtful Legacies / Six Town

TOUCHING LIVES, FOREVER:

Since 1929, the Northern New York Community Foundation has been built by those who have made the thoughtful decision to provide enduring support for the communities they love. We are very grateful for these acts of generosity that help perpetuate lives of great meaning, not only for those who knew and loved them, but for those who will forever benefit from their vision for a better region. To learn how you can **honor a loved one's** legacy, contact us at info@nnycf.org, or **315-782-7110**.



Donald W. Whitney

Donald W. Whitney, a lifelong Six Town resident, embodied service before self through his decades of work in public education and helping the community he loved, always striving to find ways to improve the quality of life for all while caring for the family he cherished. Born in Watertown, a son to **Helen Goode** and **Donald Warren Whitney**, he graduated in 1966 from Adams Center/Adams Central High School. Donald embraced education as a door to opportunity, earning an associate degree from Adirondack Community College, bachelor's and master's degrees from SUNY Potsdam, and a degree in educational administration from St. Lawrence University. In 1971, he married **Linda M. Reed** in Adams Center and, together, they raised three daughters. For more than 40 years, Donald worked in public education, beginning at the Belleville Central School District as a reading teacher

and later moving to the Watertown City School District to teach at North Junior High. He soon joined the district's administration team and spent nearly 30 years as a principal, retiring in 2010 from Case Middle School. Donald was a well-respected leader, earning support from staff and students for his fairness and positive outlook while challenging his students and teachers to excel and achieve greatness. Donald valued family and community above all and sought ways to positively strengthen both, serving as a trustee for the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation in Rochester from 1993 until his retirement from education when he assumed the role of president. He was a very active and devoted community servant, giving his time to many organizations that were important to him, including the Historical Association of South Jefferson, South Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, North Adams Cemetery, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. He was a tireless advocate for the North Country and a longtime loyal supporter of the Northern New York Community Foundation and a charter supporter of the Six Town Community Fund. We join **Linda**, daughters, **Kamara, Shannon, and Megan**, his grandchildren, and extended family and friends in expressing our deepest sympathy as we celebrate his life and legacy that profoundly impacted so many in his community.

Tribute gifts in memory of Donald W. Whitney

Barbara Jean Blodgett
Max & Sara DelSignore
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Judy & Ron Gilligan
Linda Holley
Historical Association of South Jefferson

Sallie A. Lennox
Maria Mesires
Rande Richardson
Patti Scordo
Ruth Seaman
Marilyn H. Trainor
T. Urling Walker



Anna May Radway Denny

Aнна May Radway Denny devoted her life to others while cherishing the blessings of family, friends, and community. Born in St. Lawrence County, to **Rett** and **Ethel Radway**, Ann grew up on a farm in Cray Mills, and graduated from Canton High School. She attended college in Plattsburgh, where she earned a nursing degree and began her lifelong vocation of caring for and serving others. She worked as a Registered Nurse in New York City and at Mercy and Samaritan hospitals in Watertown in the emergency, maternity, and surgery departments for many years. Ann married **Gilbert Denny** in 1950 and, together, they raised three sons. She later joined the staff of South Jefferson Central School District as a school nurse. Ann eventually earned her teaching certification and provided health education, love, and guidance to hundreds of students at South Jeff until she retired

in 1988. Throughout her life, she gave selflessly of her time and talent to many organizations that were meaningful to her, including the Adams Fire Department Auxiliary, the American Association of University Women, and the Order of the Eastern Star for which she served as Grand Matron. Ann was also a founding member of the South Jefferson Rescue Squad, an organization that remained close to her heart as it grew to deliver quality care to residents of the community she loved. Most of all, she treasured time spent with her family. We join Ann's children, **Warren** and wife, **Mary Beth; Greig** and wife, **Ellen**, and **Kirk**, and wife, **Karen**; her grandchildren and great-grandchild, extended family, and friends in expressing our deepest sympathy as we celebrate Ann's life and legacy with gratitude to those who made tributes in her memory. As a fitting honor to a life of service, her family has established the **Anna May Radway Denny Scholarship** to perpetuate her lifelong dedication to caring for and helping others. We are honored that Ann's family has chosen to remember her through this permanent fund that will help future generations from her community reach their dreams.

Tribute gifts in memory of Anna May Radway Denny

Ann M. Adams
Adams Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
Jeff & Susan Aronowitz
Belloff's
Carl & Janna Bingle
Steve & Karen Blevins
Nancy & Joe Brown
Benita & Tom Cataldo
The Family of John W. Cobb
Jody & Zoe Cook
Greig & Ellen Denny
Kirk & Karen Denny
Warren & Mary Beth Denny

Richard & Sandra Dodge
Tom & Sharon Dyckes
Gretchen G. Eysaman
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Judy & Ron Gilligan
Sandra Haight
Elizabeth A. Hall
Sue L. Herse
Marian & George Higgins
Jill H. Johnson
Andrew I. & Nancy L. Lowe
James Lumley
William & Beth Maguire
Penny Nolte
Rebecca O'Brien
James & Kimberly Oliver

Patty & Dave Pfeil
Gregory G. & Lisa P. Porter
Bob & Janet Quinn
Patricia & Mark Randall
Rande Richardson
Rick & Betsy Roberts
Ann L. Sanderson
Bob & Pat Simpson
Joe Simpson
Rob Simpson & Heidi Lyndaker
Nancy A. Smith
South Jefferson Central School Class of 1979
South Jefferson High School Math Department

Brian & Amy Stone
Dave & Mary Stone
Kathryn G. Stone
Susan Strunk
Rick & Jackie Tillotson
Susan Veley & Rockney Maxon
Robert E. & Debra H. Williams

To join others in helping to honor Anna May Radway Denny, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Application for 2021-22 grant funding now open

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

Nonprofit organizations with a valid 501(c)(3) designation are eligible to apply. Other agencies, community groups, or individuals seeking a fiscal sponsor for a community project are encouraged to partner with an eligible nonprofit or the nearest municipality. Organizations are encouraged to identify potential projects for 2021, develop project budgets, and determine additional funding sources for their request. Grant recipients will be notified in early 2022. Interested organizations should contact **Max DelSignore**, Northern New York Community Foundation assistant director, **315-782-7110**, or **max@nnycf.org**, to discuss potential projects. Visit **nnycf.org/grants** to learn more.

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LEGACY OF SIX TOWN EDUCATOR



From left, **Blake Passino**, South Jefferson High School Class of 2021 and Northern New York Community Foundation **Anna Mae Searles Cooper Memorial Scholarship** recipient, **Sandra Haight**, and **Pamela Jerome**.

Blake Passino, the 2021 recipient of the Northern New York Community Foundation **Anna Mae Searles Cooper Memorial Scholarship**. Blake graduated in June from **South Jefferson High School** and attends Daemen College, Buffalo, where he studies physical therapy. He hopes to return to the North Country after his studies to work as a physical therapist. He is the son of **Felicia** and **Paul Passino**, Adams. Established in 2019 at the Community Foundation, the scholarship honors the life and legacy of longtime South Jefferson Central teacher **Anna Mae Searles Cooper**. It is presented annually to a South Jefferson High School graduate who demonstrates exceptional motivation and potential. Blake recently met with scholarship co-founder **Pam Jerome** and Anna Mae's longtime dear friend, **Sandra Haight**, also a retired South Jeff teacher, who presented him with a \$1,000 award.

SIX TOWN COMMUNITY FUND / HOW TO GIVE

Flexible giving where you live, now & forever!

The **Six Town Community Fund** is a **Northern New York Community Foundation** affiliate. The Foundation stewards this charitable, philanthropic resource that will have a lifetime

impact on residents in the towns of **Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman and Worth**. There is no better option to give where you live and support a stronger quality of life in your community forever!

LEGACY PLANNING

A part of your legacy may include a charitable gift to support the Six Town Community Fund. The Community Foundation provides a wide range of donor options to make giving efficient, simple and rewarding. Loyal residents and supporters of the region have the ability to maximize generosity and give where they live forever.

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

RETIREMENT PLANS — This

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

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

■ Other legacy planning options include charitable gift annuities (CGAs), charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) and more. To

discuss legacy planning or other charitable giving interests with the Northern New York Community Foundation, contact **Executive Director Rande Richardson** or **Assistant Director Max DelSignore** at **315-782-7110** or email **rande@nnycf.org** or **max@nnycf.org**.

GIVING OPTIONS

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

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

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

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

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



Northern New York
Community Foundation

SINCE 1929

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YOUR GIFTS HELP YOUTHS MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

Youth Giving Challenge kicks off its fifth year

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



Community Spirit
Youth Giving Challenge

A Northern New York Community Foundation initiative

This fall, the Community Foundation launched the fifth year of the program, which is made possible by all who support the **Community Foundation's Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund** and a leadership gift from an anonymous donor, and corporate support from **Community Bank, N.A.** The initiative aims to have students explore their view of "community" and select a local charitable organization for a grant award that reflects what makes their community a great place to live.

In its first four years, **83 students**, including three from **South Jefferson** and **Belleville-Henderson** schools have been selected to present **79 grants** totaling **\$40,000** to 67 different nonprofit organizations.

The Giving Challenge is one of the most important initiatives donors make possible. Program support builds our community's future and helps ensure we continue to nurture and grow awareness, interest and appreciation for the value and fulfillment of civic engagement and responsibility.



SOUTH JEFF BACKPACK PROGRAM: From left, **Donna Stevens** and **Fred Morris** of the South Jeff Backpack Program; **Alexandra Blevins**, South Jefferson Middle School and Youth Giving Challenge winner; **Karen Todd-Belvins**, Alexandra's mother and South Jefferson High School teacher; and **Chris Castle**, Community Bank Adams Branch manager.

"When good things happen in my community everyone celebrates, but when bad things happen, the community steps up to help each other out. Our community has been especially helpful through the COVID times that have been difficult for many people."

— Alexandra Blevins, South Jefferson Middle School, Adams

For **Alexandra Blevins**, an eighth grader at **South Jefferson Middle School**, "community is a place where people live in the same area and help each other out."

"When good things happen in my community everyone celebrates, but when bad things happen, the community steps up to help each other out," Alexandra wrote. "Our community has been especially helpful through the COVID times that have been difficult for many people."

As a 2020-2021 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner, Alexandra had a chance to present a grant to the **South Jeff Backpack Program**, a nonprofit organization she chose because it embodies her definition of community. "The backpack program

supports my idea of community because it is people helping each other. I want to help children who don't have enough money to buy food for breaks and weekends," she wrote in her winning Youth Giving Challenge essay.

Earlier this year, Alexandra met with **Donna Stevens** and **Fred Morris** of the South Jeff Backpack Program and presented a \$500 Youth Giving Challenge grant that will extend support to children families in need in the South Jeff area.

Alexandra is one of dozens of thoughtful youths who looked inside her community to recognize an organization that works to improve quality of life in the region. Alexandra's essay is one of 20 chosen from 144 submissions.