

GREATER GIVING

starts here



Northern New York
Community Foundation



“Together with the Community Foundation, we created long-lasting assurance that the celebration of Independence Day at Watertown's Thompson Park will continue.” — Watertown donor Jake Johnson, on establishing a permanent endowment for the annual community concert

ON THE COVER: The Boulter family, Watertown. Clockwise, from left: Brooke, Jack, Andrew, and Chloe in the children's room at Watertown's Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library. The Boulters are members of the Foundation's LEAD Giving Circle and longtime annual supporters of the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund.

WANT TO DO MORE WITH YOUR GIVING?

Greater giving starts here.

Since 1929, generous Northern New Yorkers have come to the Northern New York Community Foundation to achieve more with their giving: Greater impact. Greater peace of mind. Greater joy.

Whatever your passion — arts and culture, education, children, youth, families, seniors, the environment, history, health and wellness, human services, recreation, community development, and quality of life — the Foundation makes it easy to do more.

Greater giving strengthens communities and transforms lives

The Northern New York Community Foundation was established by and for the people of Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties to make our communities better for everyone. How do we do that? By combining the passion, resources, time, talent, and hard work of thousands of people — including generous people like you. When individuals, families, and others work with the Foundation, their giving can:



Touch every community
Generous people who love the tri-county region give through the Community Foundation to improve lives in every corner of Northern New York. Each year, more than 3,000 grants and scholarships help nonprofits feed neighbors in need, provide child care, deliver arts and culture programs, preserve our natural environment — and so much more.

Address critical issues
Everyone deserves the chance to thrive. The Foundation is working to address critical issues — like quality, affordable child care and rural access to health care — to help ensure families can thrive. Dozens of partners are working together, and Foundation donors have been instrumental in funding important progress on many issues our communities face.

Fund basic needs
The Community Foundation connects generous people with great nonprofits to address community needs. In recent years, donors have helped provide more than \$250,000 in grant funding to food pantries across Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. Now, our neighbors in need can access healthy food when needed.

Improve public recreation
In recent years, Community Foundation donors have helped enable grant funding for 23 public playgrounds and parks across Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. Donors and Foundation fundholders have also partnered to fund a wide range of recreational programs at organizations serving children, youth, and seniors in our region.

Send students to college
Thoughtful donors have established scholarship funds that help more than 900 students every year realize their educational dreams — through two-or four-year college programs and technical or trade school. The Community Foundation is the largest non-government provider of student aid serving Northern New York students and adult learners.

Nonprofit urgent needs
Together, Community Foundation donors enable the Foundation's Micro-Grants Program to provide rapidly deployed flexible, strategic support to Northern New York nonprofit organizations that are working hard every day to improve the quality of life for all across Northern New York. Since 2023, more than \$80,000 has been deployed when needed.

“Philanthropy has made us better people. It feels good to give to special causes and organizations and share your gifts. We have had so much, why can't we share this with other people and help them to realize their dreams?” — Chuck & Linda Goolden, Madrid



Together, we can do more good

Giving through the Foundation simplifies your giving and amplifies its impact

Expert philanthropic counsel

Our philanthropy team starts by listening to you. We seek to understand your goals so we can recommend a charitable fund and giving plan that meets your unique needs. We are available to meet with your trusted financial and legal advisors to make sure your charitable plan complements other life priorities. We offer this guidance to individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits.

Vision and leadership

Guided by our long-term vision for strengthening our communities for all citizens, the Foundation brings people together to take on our region's greatest challenges — increasing opportunities for young people, helping neighbors with basic needs, revitalizing communities, building a strong workforce, and more.

Family philanthropy

We can help your family experience the shared joy and purpose of carrying on charitable values. We work with multiple generations of many families, stewarding charitable resources and fulfilling their legacies of giving.

Deep local knowledge

Hundreds of nonprofit organizations are serving the people and communities of Northern New York, and we know them well. Ever wonder how one differs from another? Who might be doing the most effective work? If you value education, where are promising Northern New Yorkers looking for scholarships? Those are the questions we ask and answer every day on behalf of Foundation donors. Our expertise becomes yours.

Trusted stewardship

With decades of proven experience and more than 1,100 charitable funds, we offer investment options and customized donor services to meet a wide range of philanthropic interests. We will ensure that your charitable dollars support the things you care about and retain their impact for generations to come.

A network for good

Giving through the Foundation gives you the opportunity to connect with a vibrant community of people who care deeply about Northern New York — generous citizens, nonprofit and civic leaders, educators and entrepreneurs.

Longtime Madrid residents Chuck and Linda Goolden, left, operated a funeral home in the village. They established two Charitable Gift Annuities at the Foundation to support their favorite St. Lawrence County nonprofits. They are pictured on the campus of the St. Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum, an organization the Gooldens support.

The right fund for you

You have funds for other important goals like retirement and education. Why not one for giving? We have six options to simplify and amplify your philanthropy. You can establish and name your own fund or give to an existing one; be acknowledged or remain anonymous. The choices are yours.

Designated Fund

Guarantee annual income for your selected nonprofits

A designated fund provides guaranteed annual support to nonprofits you choose. If the designee goes in a completely different direction or out of business, your fund remains intact and grants are made to a similar organization. We also offer an agency fund for nonprofit organizations looking for expert investment management and a stable source of future funding.

Field-of-Interest Fund

Support the causes or communities you care about most

Want to support organizations in your town or region? Or perhaps you are especially passionate about the environment, the arts, or children's health. With a field-of-interest fund, the Foundation will make grants only to the most effective organizations that meet your criteria — now and for generations to come.

Donor-Advised Fund

Choose which organizations to support, and when

A donor-advised fund organizes all your giving through one expertly managed and cost-effective vehicle. You choose which organizations to support, how much to distribute, and when. If you want ideas and advice, our philanthropy team will provide them. You recommend grants to qualified nonprofit organizations.

Named Community Fund

Give where you live and strengthen your community

You direct support to benefit citizens of a specific community or geographic region. Programs, projects, and initiatives that improve the quality of life in your chosen community or region are supported.

Scholarship Fund

Help students reach their dreams and earn the education they desire

Scholarships change lives. Your fund could support students from your community or who are entering certain fields, or be open to any qualified applicant; you set the criteria. As the largest provider of student aid in the region, the Foundation receives hundreds of quality applications every year. We will find the right match for you.

The minimum for an endowed scholarship to award \$1,000 annually is \$30,000.

Unrestricted Fund

Flexibly respond to the ever-changing needs of your community

Your gift addresses community needs as they evolve within certain parameters, including future needs that often cannot be anticipated when your gift is made.

"Establishing a scholarship at the Community Foundation gives me peace of mind knowing that my desire to support Lewis County students will always be fulfilled, even long after my lifetime." — Linda Dening, Lowville



Longtime Lowville resident Linda Dening established the Professor Linda S. Dening Scholarship in 2025 after retiring from Jefferson Community College with more than 30 years teaching accounting. She is pictured with her first scholarship recipient, Jonise Zehr, a Beaver River graduate and Jefferson student.

“We are deeply grateful to have the Community Foundation in our region — and now as neighbors. It believes in our mission and vision, and HarmoNNY would not exist today without its assistance.”

— Joseph Foy, HarmoNNY Performing Arts Community co-founder, Watertown



Watertown residents Shannon and Joe Foy inside the newly renovated Strand Theater.

Choose what to give, and when ...

There are many flexible ways to leave a legacy to benefit the places and organizations you love the most, during your lifetime or as a planned gift. A gift made through the Northern New York Community Foundation can be powerful and enduring. Consider these smart and effective giving options as you prepare to discuss plans with your advisors:

Bequests

A bequest is the most common way to support your favorite charities and community in perpetuity. You can leave a specific sum or percentage of your estate in your will or trust to the Community Foundation. We can provide specific language to ensure your gift is designated responsibly.

Cash

You can make gifts at any time, including online.

Charitable Gift Annuity

This gift can generate income for you or a loved one and create partial tax savings with the establishing gift and subsequent annuity payments. The remainder reverts to the Community Foundation after your lifetime and may be directed to an endowment the Foundation stewards, or to create a permanent named fund on your behalf.

Life insurance

Many people find that the protection offered by life insurance policies is no longer needed later in life. You can list the Community Foundation as the beneficiary of an existing or new policy to increase generosity in support of your objectives.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

If you are 70 ½ or older, a QCD to the Community Foundation can be an excellent way to make a gift. Make a distribution from your IRA as part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to the Foundation and avoid taxes. Then, the IRA distribution to the Foundation may be directed to support an existing fund or to establish a named fund of your own to help local charities of your choice. Distributions to start Donor-Advised Funds are excluded.

Retirement Plans

Changing the beneficiary to the Community Foundation maximizes your gift for the charitable goals you wish to see fulfilled. It is a simple and meaningful way to make a difference.

Stock or appreciated securities

This option presents tax advantages. Receive a tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax on a stock gift to the Community Foundation. Establish a named fund at the Foundation to support nonprofits of your choice or direct the gift to an existing Foundation fund.

Real estate and other tangible property

This gift can maximize your charitable intentions, help avoid estate taxes, and reduce the burden placed on heirs. The Foundation's gift acceptance policy can help guide the responsible execution of this type of gift.

Private foundation

Convert your private foundation to a Donor-Advised Fund so you can focus on your giving while we handle the administration.

It starts with a conversation

We can help you experience the joy of giving today, and we welcome the opportunity to talk with you and your trusted advisors about including charitable giving in your estate plans. Please be in touch with our team:

Rande Richardson, President & CEO, rande@nnycf.org

Max DelSignore, Vice President, max@nnycf.org

Foundation office: 315-782-7110

We can help turn your charitable passion into action — and make your giving easy, rewarding and fun.



Northern New York Community Foundation

The Northern New York Community Foundation is dedicated to making Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties vibrant communities where all residents can thrive. Since 1929, we are the place where generous donors meet the commitment and mission of nonprofits and the potential of students.

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