



Thoughtful Giving

Newsletter of the Northern New York Community Foundation

» SUPPORT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Partnering to forever preserve places we love

» TILT DEVELOPS DISCOVERY CENTER

» TUG HILL TOMORROW LAND TRUST
LOOKS AHEAD TO 30TH ANNIVERSARY

» FOUNDATION CONNECTS DONORS
WITH TEN ENVIRONMENTAL NONPROFITS

Chippewa Creek at
Chippewa Bay Preserve,
Thousand Islands Land Trust
Photo courtesy Chris Murray Photography



Northern New York
Community Foundation
SINCE 1929

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rande@nnycf.org

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max@nnycf.org

Beth Maguire
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beth@nnycf.org

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Director of Communications
ken@nnycf.org

Kraig Everard
Director of Stewardship & Programs
kraig@nnycf.org

Michele Jeican
Finance Coordinator
michele@nnycf.org

Mary Perrine
Coordinator of Partnerships
maryp@nnycf.org

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kelly@nnycf.org

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mary@nnycf.org

FOR THE LOVE OF COMMUNITY



Russell I. Wilcox and wife, **Mary 'Cookie' Wilcox** at their Theresa home. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox recently launched the **Russell I. Wilcox Family Fund** at the Community Foundation to support a wide range of initiatives in the Theresa and Indian River Lakes areas. Two Indian River High School students were awarded scholarships through the fund this year.

Wilcox Family Fund 'pays it forward'

Longtime Bridge Authority executive supports community

Theresa resident **Russell I. Wilcox** is grateful for a life he's lived in the place he has loved during all his 79 years.

He had a successful career of 41 years with the **Thousand Islands Bridge Authority**, retiring as its executive director in 2003 after 25 years at the helm. During his tenure, the international public authority that connects the United States and Canada acquired **Boldt Castle** and launched one of the most extensive restorations of a historic landmark ever attempted in the region.

Mr. Wilcox is modest about his career achievements, sharing credit with the team of people he assembled through decades of service. His greatest joy comes from his family and the community that shaped his values, instilling in him a sense of purpose and desire to help others experience the success that he has enjoyed.

With his wife, **Mary "Cookie,"** he established the **Russell I. Wilcox Family Fund** at the Community Foundation in 2019.

The permanent charitable fund will support a range of community initiatives, including programs and projects that benefit the Theresa and Indian River Lakes areas. Beginning this year, the fund awarded a pair of scholarships to two graduating seniors from **Indian River High School**. Mr. Wilcox and his wife are graduates of Theresa High School, which is now Theresa Primary School, and the place they met.

"If we can help someone else, why not do it now while we're still comfortable and can experience the joy of doing so," he said.

The Wilcox Family Fund also plans to provide support to **Indian River Ambulance Service** through scholarships for education, training and certifications that help with recruitment and retention.

"This is our chance to see someone else smile and enjoy an opportunity on their path to success," Mrs. Wilcox said.

Separately, the Wilcox Fund has pledged a gift to Alexandria Bay's **River Hospital** to support its "Hope + Healing Campaign."

"This is a chance to do something that helps organizations that are very meaningful to us," Mr. Wilcox said. "It brings us great joy to see these groups and local students get the support they need now, knowing that it will continue to benefit the areas we

"It brings us great joy to see these groups and local students get the support they need now, knowing that it will continue to benefit areas we love long after we are gone."

— Russell I. Wilcox, Theresa

love long after we are gone."

As a child in Theresa, Mr. Wilcox recalls how his father, **Orin S. Wilcox**, a New York State Assemblyman who also owned a hardware store in the village, always encouraged him to be kind to others.

"He always said you should say hello to everyone you meet, no matter what," Mr. Wilcox said. "Be nice to people and try to help them. That was his biggest lesson for his children. What we're doing with the Community Foundation is really our way of helping people in the area we love."

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FOUNDATION SCHOLARS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ERICH LEONARD, CLAYTON

Foundation scholar: Do what excites you

Because of generous donors like you, since 1980 the Community Foundation has awarded scholarships

for post-secondary education to thousands of students in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. For many recipients, a scholarship has made college more accessible. We recently caught up with **Erich Leonard**, who in 1998 graduated from **Immaculate Heart Central High School** and was awarded a **Community Foundation Herring College Memorial Scholarship** to study engineering at **Cornell University**. We asked him about his experience and what advice he'd give young students who are now looking ahead to school and career choices of their own.

What attracted you to a career in engineering? I love to solve problems and it seemed to be a career choice that would give me a great deal of flexibility to solve problems.

When you were in college, did you see yourself working in the north country professionally? No, honestly, I did not. I thought I might be fortunate enough to retire here. I didn't think there would be opportunities that would align with my career. We were lucky as a family that a great job aligning with my skills opened up at **New York Air Brake** back when our family was very young and we were able to raise our family here and move up our timeline so we didn't have to wait until retirement to call the 1000 Islands home.

What has influenced you most to contribute to your community and instill the values of service in your children? A desire to see other

children have access to opportunities to learn new skills and pursue their individual passions around what excites them.

As a high school student, how did you learn about the Community Foundation and its many scholarship opportunities? From my guidance counselor at IHC when I was applying to college.

What is special about Northern New York that kept you focused on coming home to spend your career and adult life? First and foremost, having our children grow up near family. Of course, the beauty of the 1000 Islands and the opportunities for outdoor recreation in all four seasons make it a wonderful backdrop for raising a family.

How have you and your family been involved with the Community Foundation in more recent years? My wife Diane is really the one who spends her time in the nonprofit field because of the work she and her team do through **DH Leonard Consulting**. She had the honor of serving on the **LEAD Council** a few years ago, and writes a column for the Foundation's nonprofit newsletter that was started this year.

Our family was also honored that our oldest daughter, **Rebecca's** essay about "What community means to her" was one of those selected two years ago in the



ENGINEERED TO THRIVE: Clayton resident **Erich Leonard** is a 1998 Northern New York Community Foundation scholarship recipient. He is a 2002 graduate of **Cornell University**, Ithaca. After graduation, he returned to his native North Country and worked for several years as an engineer at **New York Air Brake** before joining a sister company, **Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems**, where he is director of agile practice.

ERICH LEONARD

AGE: 40

HOMETOWN: Clayton

EDUCATION: Master of Science in systems engineering, **Purdue University**, Indiana, 2008; Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, **Cornell University**, Ithaca, 2002; **Immaculate Heart Central High School**, 1998.

FAMILY: Wife, **Diane**; daughters, **Rebecca**, 14, and **Annabelle**, 11.

EMPLOYER: **Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems**, Elyria, Ohio, a member of the **Knorr-Bremse Group**

CAREER: Director of agile practice, **Bendix**; previously systems engineering manager at **New York Air Brake**

COMMUNITY: Coach, **D.H.L. Vikings**, a **FIRST** Lego League team.

PERSONAL: Boating, biking, traveling, and playing strategy games with family.

See **SCHOLAR** on page 14

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Foundation grant supports Discovery Center

Thousand Islands Land Trust extends lasting partnership for region

Community Foundation grant support is helping the **Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT)** transform its John Street location in Clayton into an interactive “Discovery Center” to educate visitors about its vital land preservation efforts and opportunities to explore the river area and inland habitats.

The project to turn the nonprofit’s offices into the **TILT Discovery Center** has been envisioned for several years. In recent years, the land trust has experienced tremendous growth in its mission and services as it has focused on conserving natural habitats and open lands throughout the 1000 Islands region. To extend its mission and strengthen its efforts in local environmental education, the TILT Discovery Center will serve as an interactive hub for visitors to learn about the agency’s work as well as the region’s outdoor resources.

“We wanted to create something unique for Clayton that brings people into the downtown community,” said **Jake Tibbles, TILT executive director**. “At the same time, this will help us tell our story while increasing public awareness that the lands we work hard to protect are accessible for recreation.”

Now in construction, the



An architectural rendering of the new **Thousand Islands Land Trust Discovery Center** lobby. The center, presently under way at TILT’s 135 John St. offices in Clayton, is scheduled to open to the public later this year.

project will create interactive exhibits, meeting space for community organizations, and updated office space for staff and agency operations. Located on the **Clayton Riverwalk**, TILT officials hope the new center, when opened later this year, may eventually become an attraction for tourists and downtown visitors.

The **Community Foundation Board of Directors** recently approved \$50,000 in grant support for the project, \$30,000 of which is provided as a matching grant to help TILT build an endowment fund at the Foundation for the Discovery

Center. The total award also provides support from three Community Foundation funds that have special ties to the Clayton and St. Lawrence River areas. The **Grace L. Reinman and River funds** of the Community Foundation will each provide capital support for the project. The **David G. Gregor Community Fund** will contribute to the center’s new endowment, which will help TILT sustain long-term operations.

“The land trust is uniquely positioned to be more than just a land holder,” Mr. Tibbles said. “A Discovery Center will educate

visitors, and hopefully change some minds about the value of our environment as a natural resource that can be enjoyed responsibly.”

Mr. Tibbles added that he and others at TILT are excited to see the Community Foundation support the project through Foundation legacy funds that are so special to the river area.

“The Community Foundation is a leader in connecting donor legacies to meaningful projects and initiatives,” he said. “To see support from Grace Reinman and David Gregor for this project makes it even more special to us.”



Children play during a summer celebration at the **Thousand Islands Land Trust Zenda Farms Preserve** in Clayton.

To support the Thousand Islands Land Trust’s work forever

- The **Thousand Islands Land Trust** embraces its partnership with the **Community Foundation** through a collection of funds the Foundation stewards to support its mission and work in the region.
- The **TILT Land Conservation Environmental Education Fund** is an endowment established in 2013 to support the organization’s core work and mission.
- The **TILT Zenda Farms Conservation Fund** is an endowment established in 2013 to support the operation and maintenance of its Zenda Farms Preserve.
- The **Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship Fund** was established in 2018 in partnership with **Save The River** and the **Minna Anthony Common Nature Center** as a permanent resource to help recruit students for summer internships at all three St. Lawrence River-area organizations.
- The **TILT Discovery Center Fund** is an endowment established in 2020 to support the operation and maintenance of its new Discovery Center.

Donors may direct contributions to support any one of these funds by making gifts online at nnycf.org, or by mail to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Tug Hill Tomorrow partners to secure future

Grant supports 30th anniversary campaign to foster growth

For nearly 30 years, **Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust** has worked to protect more than 2,100 square miles of unique lands and natural habitats across a sprawling service area that includes Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego counties.

A new Community Foundation grant will help the organization build upon its history and support new endeavors as it prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary with a campaign to garner financial support for its mission and raise awareness of its work.

The land trust protects more than 100 properties in its coverage area, collaborates with local farmers and is working to expand its partnership with Fort Drum. The campaign, which begins a public phase later this fall, will also enable the trust to expand public conservation areas and opportunities for trail use and other outdoor recreation.

For the past two years, the trust has been developing the **Tug Hill Traverse Trail**, its first long-distance trail that, when completed, will span 20 miles through the heart of Tug Hill's undeveloped forested

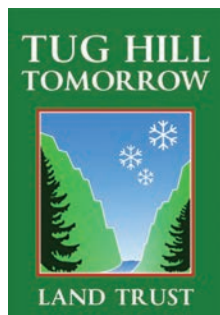
headwaters area in Lewis County from Osceola to Montague. New public conservation areas will enable the trust to develop additional trails.

Land Trust Executive Director **Linda Garrett** said an important campaign focus is the expansion of an educational program to create more opportunities for youth and families to learn about nature and experience the local outdoors.



Land trust volunteers **Carol** and **Bob Keller**, Boonville, clear a path during "Trail Work Days" on the **Traverse Trail** in the Lewis County town of Osceola. Tug Hill Tomorrow relies on a robust cadre of volunteers to help maintain its trails for public use. Mr. Keller is chair of the land trust's board of directors.

"The land trust has always had a dual mission of land protection and environmental education," Mrs. Garrett said. "We are now working closely with public libraries and schools to help with education."



Over the next five years, officials hope to have a **Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust** sanctuary in each of the four counties it serves. Doing so, Mrs. Garrett said, would elevate the trust's presence in its communities and create places for people to connect

with nature for outdoor and education programs.

The Community Foundation Board of Directors recently approved \$50,000 in grant support for the land trust, \$25,000 of which is provided as a commitment to match gifts to its campaign from donors who live in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Support from the **David G. Gregor** and **Alex Velto Community** funds of the Community

Foundation will help match campaign gifts. Each of fund has special ties to environmental causes in the Tug Hill region. The total grant also includes \$12,500 that will go directly to the **Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Endowment Fund** at the Community Foundation.

"We are very honored and excited to see such meaningful support from the Community Foundation," Mrs. Garrett said. "We appreciate our partnership with an organization that works together to make a lasting difference for the region and connects like-minded donors with causes they care so deeply about."

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust is nationally accredited and will be going through the renewal process for the third time this fall, Mrs. Garrett said. The Accreditation Commission recognizes conservation excellence by awarding its accreditation seal.

Learn more about the land trust, its work and mission, and the public lands it protects in the Tug Hill region at tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org.

FOUNDATION PARTNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Indian River Lakes Conservancy

P.O. Box 27
Redwood, NY 13679
indianriverlakes.org

Minna Anthony Common Nature Center

P.O. Box 6523
Fineview, NY 13640
macnaturecenter.org

Zoo New York / Thompson Park Conservancy

1 Thompson Park
Watertown, NY 13601
nyszoo.org

OBI Land Trust

(Ontario Bays Initiative)
P.O. Box 117
Chaumont, NY 13622
obilandtrust.org

Save The River

409 Riverside Drive
Clayton, NY 13624
savetheriver.org

Thousand Islands Land Trust

P.O. Box 238
Clayton, NY 13624
tilandtrust.org

JEFFERSON & LEWIS COUNTIES

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

1 Thompson Park
Watertown, NY 13601
tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

Grasse River Heritage

P.O. Box 722
Canton, NY 13617
grasseriverheritage.org

Indian Creek Nature Center

P.O. Box 286
Canton, NY 13617
indiancreeknaturecenter.us

St. Lawrence Land Trust

P.O. Box 684
Canton NY 13617
stlawlandtrust.org

JEFFERSON, LEWIS & ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES

The Nature Conservancy Central & Western New York Chapter

1048 University Avenue
Rochester, New York 14607
nature.org/cwny

"We appreciate our partnership with an organization that works together to make a lasting difference for the region and connects like-minded donors with causes they care so deeply about."

— Linda Garrett, executive director, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL GRANTS

The Youth Philanthropy Council of the Northern New York Community Foundation made the following grant awards in 2020:

Volunteer Transportation Center — \$5,000 to help with mileage reimbursement for 10,000 volunteer driver miles. Volunteer drivers provide transportation to those with no other means to medical and dental appointments so they may receive life-supporting treatments such as chemotherapy or renal dialysis and to go grocery shopping.

Sackets Harbor Fire Company — \$3,500 to help the Sackets Harbor, Black River and Town of Watertown volunteer fire departments partner to purchase a forcible entry training prop. Equipment is expected to last 30 years with the grant funding about 30 percent of its cost and the remainder equally divided between participating departments.

ACR Health — \$2,780 to purchase technology that allows field staff to access electronic records, increase efficiencies, and better connect with clients. Items include a portable scanner, signature pad, two laptop computers, docking stations, monitors, and carrying cases.

39 Serenity Place — \$2,700 to help the Massena-based substance abuse recovery center host a community education series including presentations about scientific research, available interventions, life skills, and discussions with recovering addicts.

Indian River Lakes Conservancy — \$2,500 to help purchase supplies, program and promotional materials to support the Conservancy's children's nature camp program at its Baker Woods Preserve in the town of Diana, Lewis County. The camp seeks to benefit children from the Carthage and Fort Drum areas, as well as other communities in Jefferson and Lewis counties.

Power Play Sports Foundation — \$1,250 to aid in the development of its "Leveling the Playing Field — Putting Athletes on the Power Play" project, which provides athletic equipment and awards needs-based scholarships that cover program fees for selected candidates throughout the tri-county region. A "Pay it Forward" component also exists to educate and engage recipients in philanthropy.

Community Lunch Program for Kids, Norwood — \$1,000 to support its BACK2School 2020 program that will provide socks, sneakers, underwear, and school supplies to children in need. Approximately 225 children will receive \$100 in critical supplies.

Trisomy 21 Foundation of NNY — \$800 to help fund development of educational packets that are distributed to families who have given birth to or adopted a child with Down syndrome through hospitals and pediatrician's offices. Outreach materials also contain infant therapy items such as texture mitts, foot rattles, a photo frame or album, an infant book, and more. The grant will fund 25 packets and materials.

NORTHERN NEW YORK YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL



YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL CLASS OF 2019-2020: Back row, from left: **Sidney Wheeler III**, South Jefferson High School; **Lucas Barney**, Watertown High School; **Philip Marra III**, Watertown; **Maxwell Gray**, South Jefferson; **Logan Hess**, South Jefferson; and **Tadd Ledoux**, Immaculate Heart Central High School. Middle row, from left: **Ella Arnott**, Watertown; **Leatrice Kakolewski**, Sackets Harbor High School; **Dakota Sloat**, Watertown; **Romi LaClair**, South Jefferson; **Katherine DeLaGarza**, Watertown; **Shania Griffin**, Watertown; and **Madison Derouin**, Sackets Harbor. Front row, from left: **Samantha Farone**, Immaculate Heart Central; **Blake Edgar**, South Jefferson; **Hailyn Buker**, South Jefferson; **Katherine Banazek**, South Jefferson; **Anmolika Bolla**, Watertown; and **Isabelle Boyce**, Watertown. Not pictured: **Eloise Johnson**, Watertown.

The Youth Philanthropy Council of the Northern New York Community Foundation recently awarded \$19,530 in grants to eight North Country nonprofit organizations to support a wide range of community programs and projects.

Each year, the Council reviews requests from tri-county agencies to fund projects or initiatives that positively impact the quality of life in Jefferson, Lewis or St. Lawrence counties. In addition to researching and recommending grants, Council members also discuss a variety of topics, including nonprofit sustainability, grantee stewardship, community investment and leadership.

The Council received 40 requests for funding — its largest number to date — during the 2019-2020 program year. Eight agencies presented their requests to the Council. Youth Council members delivered grant recommendations to the Community Foundation Board of Directors in July and the Board unanimously approved its full slate of grant recommendations.

The Youth Philanthropy Council was chartered in 2010 to promote positive youth development and engage young people in

meaningful activities that develop leadership skills, while educating them about community philanthropy and its impact on Northern New York. Council members grow to become problem solvers as they engage in lessons that may never be taught in a classroom.

The YPC grant program is made possible through generous support from **Watertown Savings Bank**, **Renzi Foodservice Charitable Foundation**, **RBC Wealth Management**, and gifts to the **Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund**.

Since its inception, the Council has awarded close to **100 grants totaling \$165,870** in support to nonprofits that serve tri-county residents, and **132 students** from six different North Country high schools have served as Council members.

This year's Youth Philanthropy Council began with 19 representatives from **Watertown High School**, **Immaculate Heart Central High School**, **Sackets Harbor High School**, and **South Jefferson High School**. Each council member is in his or her sophomore, junior, or senior year.

The Council reconvenes at the start of the new school year in September with members from **Immaculate Heart Central**, **South Jefferson**, and **Watertown** high schools.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Youth Philanthropy Council will accept 2021 funding proposals in the fall. Contact **Kraig Everard**, Community Foundation director of stewardship and programs, **315-782-7110**, or **kraig@nnycf.org**, to learn more about how to apply for up to \$20,000 available.

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



Watertown Savings Bank



Wealth Management

THE YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL EXPERIENCE



Katherine DeLaGarza



Madison Derouin



Samantha Farone

YPC graduates share lessons in community

What is most memorable about your service on the Youth Philanthropy Council?

Katherine: It has profoundly influenced and changed me as a person and taught me how to be a team player and a leader. I have developed countless leadership skills that I owe to YPC. During my first year, I was quiet, hesitant, and unsure of myself, but I quickly learned to confidently voice my thoughts and opinions and become a valuable council member. Serving as Council Chair this year allowed me to further develop my potential and become an effective, efficient, and compassionate leader. I sincerely believe I would not be the person I am today without this experience, and I am forever grateful.

Katherine DeLaGarza
Years service: Two
YPC leadership: Council Chair (senior year); co-chair, communications (junior year)
School: Watertown High School
Extracurricular activities: National Honor Society, community volunteer, equestrian
Parents: Andrea and Eric DeLaGarza
College: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Major: Business
Career goal: Undecided

as community enrichment and cultural enhancements. The large number of requests for funding was also a surprise and serving on the Council really opened my eyes to this reality. It was also valuable to learn about the number of different nonprofit organizations that are vital to our communities, and the number of people willing to help others, either by filling a need by starting a nonprofit, volunteering time, or donating money.

Madison: How widespread the needs are in our communities. Growing up in Sackets Harbor, I never really understood life outside a small village where everyone knows everyone, and we all help each other. Serving on Council, I have seen how life is much different for so many people.

Madison Derouin
Years service: Two
YPC leadership: Council Vice Chair (senior year)
School: Sackets Harbor High School
Extracurricular activities: Varsity soccer, cheerleading, softball, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, Patriot Pals, Sources of Strength, and Color guard
Parents: Sarah and Derek Derouin
College: Utica College
Major: Occupational therapy
Career goal: Pediatric occupational therapist

Samantha: There are so many great organizations that need and deserve help for all the good they do. Some I had heard of, many others I had never known about. It was incredibly eye-opening in the best way to see all the good in our community.

philanthropy is giving back to local organizations in any way someone can. I appreciate this deeply because giving back to a local organization closely affects and influences members of its community. Community philanthropy has a close interconnection; when you help those in need within the community, it strengthens the community as a whole and promotes gratitude and pride in one's community. I learned that philanthropy is so much more than giving money; it is giving to a nonprofit, helping a person you see on the side of the street, or lending a helping hand and volunteering your time.

Samantha Farone
Years service: One
School: Immaculate Heart Central School
Extracurricular activities: Performing arts club (musicals, variety shows, directing shows for grades 4-8), IHC Mystery Players, tennis, Stage Notes
Parents: Margaret and Carl Farone
College: SUNY Jefferson
Major: Human services and social work
Career goal: Child therapist

Madison: Community philanthropy is how we help organizations and people in need who will more greatly impact their community with the support they receive. After serving on Council for two years, I have learned how even smaller grant awards can have a huge impact on an organization or community. I never understood just how powerful a nonprofit organization can be with the right resources.

Samantha: Giving back to your community in any way you can. We were given grant money to award, but I also learned how philanthropy is also giving one's time, talent, or anything else you can give to your community.

What surprised you the most as you learned more deeply about the needs of our region?

Katherine: How diverse the needs are, with both basic human needs, as well

What is your perception of community philanthropy as you now understand it and how did your YPC experience shape your idea of philanthropy?

Katherine: I now understand how community

See YPC EXPERIENCE on page 9



Northern New York
Youth Philanthropy Council

Foundation establishes YPC program endowment, will match gifts in support

A new, permanent endowment will support the Community Foundation's **Youth Philanthropy Council** while helping to ensure a program that has inspired more than 130 high school students continues for years to come.

A thoughtful gift from a YPC graduate late last year helped launch the endowment that will bolster the program's sustainability while empowering future generations to learn about community needs and become effective leaders. To help build support, the Foundation's board of directors has approved a \$10,000 matching commitment for all gifts made to the YPC endowment fund.

Dallas Blowers served on the Council in 2014 and 2015 while he was a student at **Watertown High School**. Now 23 and a **Clarkson University** graduate, Mr. Blowers returned to Watertown to begin his professional career in the community. He credits his YPC experience for teaching him valuable lessons outside the classroom.

"It made me look beyond myself for the first time in a critical way while providing a toolkit to continue the work of worthy organizations and individuals," Mr. Blowers said.

"Following YPC, I started the long journey of understanding how strong our communities are and the small, appropriate ways I can contribute to help empower all who call this region home."

The Youth Philanthropy Council aims to inspire a spirit of giving across generations and has engaged students from six different school districts across the region.

"These bright, eager and energetic young people have a real chance to make their community a better place through their work with the YPC and Community Foundation," said **Stephen J. Todd, Jeff-Lewis BOCES** superintendent and Foundation board member.

Mr. Todd was principal at Watertown High School when the Community Foundation started the Council in 2010 and invited students from his school to join the effort.

"A permanent endowment to support the Youth Philanthropy Council will allow this amazing endeavor to live on in perpetuity" Mr. Todd said. "I can't think of a better way to ensure the ongoing development of philanthropy in the North Country for generations to come."

SUPPORT THE YPC ENDOWMENT FUND

■ To contribute to the Youth Philanthropy Council Endowment Fund, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or visit nnycf.org for secure online giving.

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL ALUMNI



"It's important not to hold back. If there's anything you feel really passionate about, just go for it. Use your voice to help the community as much as you can. When you find something important to you, just roll with it."

— Sara Glover, Watertown High School, '13



Hear more about Sara's experience serving as a member of the Youth Philanthropy Council in an exclusive podcast episode featuring YPC alumni at nnycpodcast.com.

Since it was chartered 10 years ago, 132 students from six North Country high schools have served one or more years on the Northern New York Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council. They are:

Immaculate Heart Central School

Walter Dodard II
Dominic Duah
Bryana Dunnigan
Dominic Farone
Samantha Farone
Anna Garrabrant
Katey Kellogg
Makenzie Kramer
Tadd Ledoux*
Addie McManimon
Caroline McPherson
Charles Mouaikel
Marialena Mouaikel
Anna O'Neil
Lauryn Quinn
Emily Rivera
David Signor
Megan Welch
Taylor Welch

Ogdensburg Free Academy

Joshua Carroll
Jack Kelly
Laken Kelly
Zoe Martin
Ellen Miller
Jordan Miller
Olivia Monroe
Austin Morley-Sloan
Andrew Putman
Sarah Richer
Coby Ryan
Jordan Snyder
Ashleigh Sovie

Potsdam High School

Caylee Chin
Steven DeGray
Ella Dudek
Samantha Frick
Brittany Fullerton
Bethany Gilbert
Lucas Hanss
Marko Jukic
Emma LoMastro
James Matteson
Victoria Mondragon
MacKenzie Neaton
Marissa Shampine
Kelsey Sixberry
Daniel Stone
Molly Tishberg

*Current YPC member returning for 2020-21 program year.

Sackets Harbor High School

Grayden Brunet
Alicia Cloe
Madison Derouin
Sofia Gray
Leatrice Kakolewski
Kyler Martin
Hannah Pitcher

South Jefferson Central High School

Katherine Banazek*
Hailyn Buker*
Blake Edgar*
Maxwell Gray*
Logan Hess*
Romi LaClair*
Sidney Wheeler III*

Watertown High School

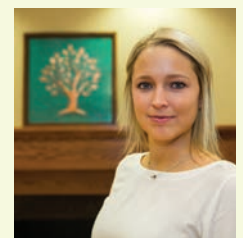
Ella Arnott*
Lucas Barney*
Jarrod Bellinger
Dallas Blowers
Anmolika Bolla*
Isabelle Boyce*
Meghan Burr
Taylor Burrows
Johanna Capone
Susan Carambot
Dennis Caughlin
Chloe Charles
Isabella Colello
Abby Collazo
Rachael Coon
Katherine DeLaGarza
Cameron Devlin
Philip Doldo
Madison Draper
Damon Draught II
Darcy Dyer
Kehinde Fasehun
Jacob Favret
Sydney Finster
Mikayla Fiorentino
Joe Freda
Morgan Girardi
Madeline Gist
Sara Glover
Shania Griffin
Kaetlyn Haenlin
Meghan Hefferon
Yanna Hiotis
Bree Jefferds

Meghan L'Huillier
Alex LaFex
Clair Lancaster



Marcus Lavarnway

Jeffery MacDonald
Julia Marilley
Philip Marra III*
Isabelle Marsala
Kate Moore
Michael Moore
Austin Myers
Victoria Olsen
Joseph Ongkingco
Justin Ongkingco
Neil Ossola
Erin Pacifici
Alana Parker
Rosanna Pasowicz
Connor Quigg
Jude Renzi
Leah Rojas
Jacob Roux
Will Sanzone
Jessica Satchwell
Kenny Schimpf
Nathan Shannon
Ryder Simser
Dakota Sloat*
Kaitlyn Snellings
Mark Anthony Taylor
Noah Taylor
Dominic Uliano IV
Maggie Valentine



Sarah Van Eenenaam

David VanEenenaam
Jacob Vecchio

YPC EXPERIENCE from page 7**As you prepare to continue your education in college, what will you take with you from your YPC experience?**

Katherine: Without a doubt, I will take my YPC experience into my college years. Serving as Council Chair has broadened my leadership skills, as well as my communication, speaking, and teamwork skills. I have a more meaningful understanding of nonprofit organizations and what they stand for and greater awareness of philanthropy and how vital it is to strengthen our communities.

Madison: I will always remember that anyone can come from a background you did not know of or have never experienced before. Based on this, you can never assume that someone has experienced or been taught something you thought was basic or normal to know at our age. I will take this with me to college next year and for years to come.

Samantha: Working with other people as a team. Sometimes it's hard to work with others, especially when they view something very different from you. In YPC, we are encouraged to not agree with one another 100 percent of the time. We are shown that differing ideas lead to good decisions because you can see something from multiple perspectives.

How would you explain the Youth Philanthropy Council to a friend who doesn't know anything about it?

Katherine: It is a group of select high school students who actively learn about the diverse needs of our region and the nonprofits that serve it. The Council solicits and reviews grant applications and decides how to award up to \$20,000 to nonprofits serving our communities. You will learn about many nonprofits, their missions and the broad needs of our region. Council members also learn to analyze an organization's data and ask appropriate questions to determine key components of grantmaking, such as sustainability.

Madison: It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that enables you to help people and communities you never even thought of helping at such a young age. Through the Council, you also build unforgettable bonds with students from other schools and adult advisors who you can look up to at any time. Serving on Council will also enable you to achieve personal growth in ways you never thought. It helped me develop public speaking skills and to speak up for what I believe in more confidently.

Samantha: It's a group of young people trying their best to meet the needs of their community. Young people are often not seen as those who can make a difference because of their age. We are given the freedom and guidance to make decisions that could impact our communities for years to come.

Based on what you learned during your service with YPC, what is the largest unmet need in our region and how can we work to bridge the gap?

Katherine: The ability for all children to feel



Council members learn about the mission of the **Jefferson County Historical Society** in the **Pink Schoolhouse** at the **Paddock Mansion** campus. The value of local history and historical preservation to our region is one of many topics Council members experience during service. Students also visited and volunteered at the **Salvation Army of Watertown** and sponsored a family for Christmas through the **Watertown Urban Mission**. Learning about the important missions and work of agencies that strive to help others with essential needs is a component of YPC.

"I have grown tremendously as a person and have developed skills I never had before while growing more confident in situations where I know my voice will be heard. Decisions you help the Council make could change someone's life for the better because of the support you provide to a local nonprofit."

— **Madison Derouin**, Sackets Harbor High School graduate and 2019–20 vice chair

prepared at school. Schools and nonprofits should work together to help children acquire necessities to attend school. Many children may feel unprepared to attend school and not fully committed to their studies. They may not have clean clothes or sneakers to wear each day, or a backpack to carry their books home, or even a pencil to complete homework, which inhibits their performance in school. An organization that came to present to YPC completely opened my eyes to this and helped me realize how it's a huge unmet need in our community. To bridge this gap, we need more volunteers and donations to support nonprofit organizations that fill this essential community need. Schools should also become more involved to learn what items children need and relay that information to nonprofits that can help children acquire what they need to succeed in school.

Madison: The gap between school and home life. In school, children are guaranteed at least two meals, a safe environment, and people to talk to. Their basic needs are met. At home, many children are not guaranteed food every

day and may not have access to items of basic need or even live in a safe environment. While we work hard to help organizations close this gap, it seems constant and everlasting and will take more than one key thing. People must keep focused on helping children as best they can. Eventually, I believe we will see this gap close and children will be guaranteed these things no matter if they are enrolled in school or living at home.

Samantha: Mental health care. This is not because we lack organizations working hard to address the challenges, but because there is such a large need, it is increasingly difficult to meet. A great way to bridge the gap is to support local mental health organizations and to educate those who don't fully understand the struggles of having poor mental health.

Would you recommend the YPC experience to someone you know and why?

Katherine: Definitely! It's a serious commitment to serve on the Council, but it's extremely rewarding and beneficial to students who put in the time to serve their communities.

Madison: Absolutely! In just two years, I have grown tremendously as a person and have developed skills I never had before while growing more confident in situations where I know my voice will be heard. It is a rewarding experience to see how months of hard work and decision-making significantly impacts organizations in our region. Decisions you help the Council make could change someone's life for the better because of the support you provide to a local nonprofit.

Samantha: Yes! It not only helps young people understand the importance of giving back, but it also provides a close-knit community of friends who care about each other and the world around them.



THE DIFFERENCE YOUR GIFTS MAKE

2019-20 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge

Grant recipients & winning students

“Community is best when people come together to improve their city. Doing so creates a stronger place where more people want to live.”

— Ella Smith, Case Middle School, Watertown

WATERTOWN FAMILY YMCA:

Beth Brown, district manager, Community Bank, N.A.; **Ella Smith**, Case Middle School seventh grader and 2019-2020 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner, and **Paul Passino**, Downtown Branch Director, Watertown Family YMCA.



COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING COUNCIL (CAPC) OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

Shauna Dupee, retail services officer, Community Bank; **Melinda Gault**, Community Action Planning Council executive director; and **Jayveon Richey**, Case Middle School seventh grader and 2019-2020 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner.

THOUSAND ISLANDS AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

Beth Brown, district manager, Community Bank, N.A.; **Ava Diabo**, Thousand Islands Middle School seventh grader and 2019-2020 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner; and **Amanda LeDesma**, executive director, Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity.



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. Most recipients listed are Northern New York based.

- ACR Health
- Adirondack Central School District
- Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association
- Alexandria Bay Food Pantry
- Alexandria Bay United Methodist Church Food Pantry
- Alexandria Township Historical Society
- American Cancer Society Eastern Division
- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross North Country Chapter
- Antique Boat Museum
- Antwerp Food Pantry
- ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence
- Belleville-Henderson School
- Boonville Black River Canal Museum
- Boy Scouts of America (Longhouse Council)
- Canton Golden Bear Education Foundation
- Canton Neighborhood Center Pantry
- Canton-Potsdam Hospital Foundation
- Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County
- Cape Vincent Food Pantry
- Cape Vincent Improvement League
- Carthage Area Hospital Foundation
- Carthage Central School District
- Children's Home of Jefferson County
- Christian Fellowship Center Food Pantry
- Church and Community Program of Canton
- City of Watertown
- Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center Foundation
- Clayton Council of Churches Food Pantry
- Clayton Jazz Festival
- Clifton-Fine Central School Food Pantry
- Community Lunch Program for Kids
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County
- Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions
- Disabled Persons Action Organization
- Dodge-Pratt-Northam Art & Community Center
- Double Play Sports Community Center
- Erwin Library and Institute
- Feed Our Vets Watertown Food Pantry
- Frederic Remington Art Museum
- GardenShare
- General Brown Central School
- Gouverneur Central School District
- Gouverneur Neighborhood Center Food Pantry
- Gouverneur Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Grasse River Food Pantry
- Hand in Hand Early Childhood Center
- Hearts for Youth
- Helping Hands of Potsdam
- Historical Association of South Jefferson
- Hospice of Jefferson County
- Immaculate Heart Central School
- Indian River Middle School Backpack Program
- Ives Hill Retirement Community
- Jefferson County Historical Society
- Jefferson County SPCA
- JRC Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Gouverneur
- LaFargeville Central School
- Lewis County Historical Society
- Lewis County Opportunities
- Little River Community School
- Lowville Food Pantry

See RECENT GRANTS on next page

The Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge is made possible by gifts from donors like YOU who contribute to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund and the generous support from the following business leader:

Community Bank N. A.

 2018-20 Program Partner

RECENT GRANTS from previous page

- Lyme Heritage Center
- Massena Neighborhood Center Food Pantry
- Nature Up North
- New Beginnings Clothing and Food Outreach
- New Day Children's Center
- Norfolk-Raymondville Food Pantry
- North Country Family Health Center
- North Country Library System
- North Country Public Radio
- Northern Choral Society
- Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club
- Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center Pantry
- Ogdensburg Snack Pack Program
- Ontario Bays Initiative (OBI)
- Orchestra of Northern New York
- Parishville-Hopkinton Central School
- Philadelphia Food Pantry
- Potsdam College Foundation
- Potsdam Holiday Fund
- Potsdam Museum
- Potsdam Neighborhood Center Food Pantry
- Potsdam Snack Pack Program
- Reformed Church of the Thousand Isles Food Pantry
- Resolution Center of Jefferson & Lewis Counties
- Rohde Community Center
- Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library
- Sackets Harbor Central School District
- Salvation Army of Massena Food Pantry
- Salvation Army of Ogdensburg
- Salvation Army Watertown Corps
- Samaritan Medical Center Foundation
- Save The River
- Smile Train
- South Jeff Backpack Program
- South Jefferson Central School
- South Lewis Central School
- St. Lawrence County Fire Training Facility
- St. Lawrence County Historical Association
- St. Lawrence University
- St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House
- St. Mary's Food Pantry
- St. Paul's of Redwood Food Pantry
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of Massena Food Pantry
- Star Lake Food Pantry
- SUNY Canton College Foundation
- Thompson Park Conservancy
- Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity
- Thousand Islands Arts Center
- Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service (TIERS)
- Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT)
- Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund (TIPAF) at Clayton Opera House
- Town of Lowville
- Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY)
- Transitional Living Services
- Tri-Town Community Services Food Pantry
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- United Way of Northern New York
- USO Fort Drum
- Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County
- Village Ecumenical Ministries (VEM)
- Food Pantry of Carthage
- Village of Black River
- Village of Boonville
- Village of Constableville
- Volunteer Transportation Center
- Wanakena Historical Association
- Watertown Family YMCA
- Watertown Lyric Theater
- Watertown Urban Mission
- West Leyden Fire Company
- Western Town Library
- WPBS-TV
- WRVO Public Radio

WATERTOWN SAVINGS BANK CUP SCHOLARS



Watertown High School graduates **Simon Stratton** and **Mirabella Phinney** are the 2020 recipients of the **Watertown Savings Bank Cup Scholarship**. Simon, left, will attend **Jefferson Community College** this fall to pursue a liberal arts degree with plans to eventually transfer to **Binghamton University** to



complete a Bachelor of Arts degree. Simon is the son of **Michael** and **Nicole Roux Stratton**, Watertown. **Mirabella**, left, will attend **SUNY Oneonta** this fall to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in music industry. She plans to work in the music business. Mirabella is pictured with her parents, **Sheree**, left, and **Chris Phinney**. Awarded annually to two graduating seniors, the **Watertown Savings Bank Cup Scholarship of the Northern New York Community Foundation** is a \$1,000 award to help students pursue their post-secondary educational goals.

WILLIAM P. PLANTE LEGACY OF GIVING CONTINUES

The **William P. Plante Memorial Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation** recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to the **Volunteer Transportation Center**, Watertown. The memorial fund was established in early 2017 following the passing of Mr. Plante in November 2016 after a brave four-year battle with cancer. For more than 30 years, Mr. Plante was deeply involved in serving his community, supporting a wide range of charitable organizations and causes. **Michael A. Colello**, a member of the **William P. Plante Memorial Fund Advisory Committee**, said the committee selected the VTC to receive the grant after it learned how the nonprofit is working to help local food pantries deliver essential needs to local families.



William P. Plante Memorial Fund advisory committee member **Michael A. Colello** presents a grant to **Jeremiah Papineau**, **Volunteer Transportation Center** communications and foundation director,

"Knowing the volunteers donate their time and are only reimbursed for vehicle expenses, and understanding that this was a cause in the spirit of what the Foundation stands for and for what Bill Plante himself would have supported, the grant was made," said Mr. Colello, who spearheads the committee with **Audrey J. Danielsen**, and his daughter, **Arika Colello**. Mr. Colello credits the Community Foundation with being instrumental in setting up the **William P. Plante Memorial Fund** and in continuing "to provide guidance to keep Bill Plante's legacy alive." In addition to an annual grant to a charitable cause, the memorial fund annually awards scholarships to two local high school students who demonstrate a similar passion for community service. Visit wppmemorialfund.org to give to the William P. Plante Memorial Fund, or mail gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**.

LEAD Council launches nonprofit volunteer network

Local young professionals establish 'LEADing the Way' initiative

The Community Foundation's **LEAD Council** recently 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 will provide additional support to help lift the mission and work of nonprofits that serve Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. Since 2014, the LEAD Council has served as an advisory committee of the Foundation empowered to identify and strategically address critical needs that impact nonprofits across the region. LEADing the Way was developed to support nonprofits facing key organizational and mission-centered challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

LEAD Council members felt strongly that offering specific gifts of talent and time when many nonprofits need it most is an opportunity to connect the valuable skills of young leaders with the region's nonprofits at a critical time.

The LEAD Council is comprised of **28 young professionals** who live in the tri-county area with an interest in strengthening the quality of life in the North Country.

"I have never felt more fortunate to work with such an amazing group of professionals and an organization so committed to helping out our region. The 'LEADing the Way' initiative is one of the many efforts that makes the LEAD Council so special," Council member **Erin Simser** said. "With a group comprised of some of the most talented, kind-hearted, generous people, I am always inspired by what is accomplished and this initiative is no different. We are excited to offer help to those in need and share our talents and strengths so our communities can continue to grow and thrive."

Since its inception, the LEAD Council has developed several creative initiatives that augment the Community Foundation's work. Strategic efforts to date include enhancements toward child care and early childhood development programs, hyperlocal support for anti-poverty initiatives, and building philanthropic values in local schools through student-led projects. The Council also oversees the "LEAD Impact Grant Program," which



From left: **LEAD Council** members **Kerry Kennett**, Sackets Harbor; **Anthony Sligar**, Carthage; and **Jessica Piatt Walczyk**, Watertown, discuss 2020 Council initiatives during a meeting at the Philanthropy Center in late February.

awards key grants to organizations focused on specific areas of need that nonprofits within our tri-county region address.

"The LEAD Council fosters the spirit of giving in its members and inspires philanthropy throughout our community," Council member **Jessica Piatt Walczyk** said.

"This new initiative, 'LEADing the Way,' introduces a creative way to cultivate vibrant ideas and welcome new allies to Northern New York's nonprofit sector."

The LEAD Council is made possible thanks to generous 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**.

Here are more details on how the LEADing the Way initiative will operate:

HOW CAN NONPROFITS CONNECT WITH LEADING THE WAY FOR SUPPORT?

Contact the Community Foundation with your inquiry or request and share if your need is for a specific individual, group, or general help to the organization.

Foundation staff will identify LEAD members who can help with the nonprofit's request. Once LEAD members have been identified to help, their volunteer assistance

may be deployed to the nonprofit via phone, email, virtual meetings or conference calls, group meetings or classes, and/or personal visits depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

WHAT ARE THE FOCUS AREAS OF 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 the most appropriate plan and method for volunteer support.

HOW CAN NONPROFITS ASK FOR HELP?

Organizations may contact **Kraig Everard**, Community Foundation director of stewardship and programs, at **315-782-7110** or **kraig@nnycf.org**. Please allow one to two days to pair up your nonprofit's request with appropriate LEAD members. If your request for support is urgent, please note so.



WHAT IS LEAD?

■ The **LEAD Council** was formed in 2014 as an advisory committee of the **Northern New York Community Foundation** empowered to identify and address strategic needs across Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. The Council includes 28 young professionals who live in the tri-county area with an interest in enhancing the quality of life for all in the North Country. **LEAD** is an acronym that reflects four important guiding principles of the Community Foundation's work: **Leadership, Engagement, Access and Direction**.

The Council works to gain a deeper understanding of community needs, issues, and the nonprofit sector while augmenting the Community Foundation's mission and work across the North Country.



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:



WHY I GIVE: A CONVERSATION WITH *Phyllis Graf Johnson & Lee A. 'Gus' Murray*

How are the two of you related and what's kept your families so close?

Gus: We are first cousins on the maternal side of our family. Her mother and mine were Dygert sisters from Gouverneur. And both of us have had places on the River for many, many years. She's named after my mother.

Phyllis: My mother was Helen Dygert and his mother was Phyllis Dygert. We also share a love for the St. Lawrence River, the North Country, and its people.

How did you get to know the Community Foundation and its work?

Gus: The Foundation has been involved with other local organizations I have supported and its work to help them is impressive.

Phyllis: Unfortunately, we lost my father, **William I. Graf**, at a young age. Then a few years ago my brother passed, and our family decided it would be nice to add a monetary gift to the **Coach Graf Award** that the **Italian American Civic Association** started so long ago. Our connection to the Community Foundation is also through a wonderful historical association in the town of Diana, which is where a property my family once ran as a summer camp for boys and girls is located. And here, at Point Vivian, the Foundation has supported efforts to preserve our history. These cottages were established originally in 1877. We have two historic buildings that the Preservation Corporation, which is associated with the Community Foundation, has helped with.

Why has it remained important to you to be involved in supporting organizations and causes in your community?

Gus: Ogdensburg is obviously much different today than it was when I grew up with all its industry. Over the years, I focused a lot on supporting **Claxton-Hepburn Hospital**, and I served on the board of trustees at the Remington Museum for a time, which is just an incredible facility. Apart from that, working with the Community Foundation. When I came up from North Carolina this spring, I asked the Foundation who was doing a really good job supporting efforts around the coronavirus and health care workers. Of course, as always, they've done an awful lot of work to know the needs of the region. With their help and advice, I was able to choose some organizations to target for donations like the Boys & Girls Club. They're not only helping to distribute food to schoolchildren but also providing childcare support for health care workers. There are things that I would not have known without asking the Community Foundation, which is great at knowing what's most needed and connecting



Lee A. "Gus" Murray and Phyllis Graf Johnson at Point Vivian, Alex Bay. Ms. Johnson's father was **William I. Graf**, a former Watertown coach and athletic director in whose name the **Graf Award** is presented each year at **Watertown High School**. Mr. Murray is her cousin and Mr. Graf's nephew.

PHYLLIS GRAF JOHNSON

HOMETOWN: Point Vivian in Alexandria Bay and Camillus; grew up in Watertown

FAMILY: Children **Jane**, Los Angeles, Calif.; **Helen**, Syracuse; **Judy**, Fresno, Calif.; **Sam**, Midland Park, N.J.; **Paul**, Camillus; **Bob**, Syracuse; 14 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren

PROFESSIONAL: Retired intensive care unit nurse, Crouse Hospital, Syracuse

COMMUNITY: Involved with the **Frederic Remington Museum**, **Town of Diana Museum**, **Alexandria Museum**, and **Point Vivian Preservation Corporation**

PERSONAL: Time with family and following grandchildren's many sports activities.

LEE A. 'GUS' MURRAY

HOMETOWN: Ogdensburg and Cornelius, N.C.; grew up in Ogdensburg.

FAMILY: Married 49 years to **Patricia Newhard Murray** until her passing in 2010; son **Todd**, daughter-in-law **Kristen**, and grandchildren **Kelsey**, **Gus**, and **Lucy**; daughter **Meghan**, son-in-law **Frank Parisi**.

PROFESSIONAL: U.S. Army veteran. Retired executive from IBM.

COMMUNITY: Active **Clarkson University** alumnus; involved with **Frederic Remington Museum**, and **Town of Diana Museum**

PERSONAL: Family, sports, education, and women's lacrosse

people who can help address the needs through financial or other means.

Both of you have enjoyed a long-established relationship with the Foundation in more ways than your work on the Graf Award. How far back does it go?

Gus: Several years. The Graf Award was well established when we got to know the Foundation. Since I retired, Phyllis and I have had more time to get involved. When Phyllis'

brother died, the family decided to add to the Graf Award, and we did that through the Foundation. Now that partnership has helped to strengthen the award, keep it going, and provide a financial scholarship to award recipients. It makes it more interesting.

Phyllis: I've enjoyed talking to some of the people who have won the award and seeing how well they've done through the academic part of their lives, and then in their work and careers they've managed. It's just fascinating to watch. And I think some of the stories are starting to go away, so it was important to get the Foundation involved with stewarding the award and keep these stories going. Over time, we realized that the Italian American Civic Association, which initiated the award, needed a good partner to keep it going. The Foundation is it.

How did the Graf Award get its start through the Italian American Civic Association?

Phyllis: My father, when he was a coach at Watertown High, had such great football teams and many of his best players came from the Italian American community, the immigrant community in those days. Big, strong, good players. And he was so supportive, helping to develop opportunities for players to go on scholarships to play in big programs, but he also always made sure his players knew that to get there, they were also getting an education.

It wasn't until 1976 that the Graf Award was presented to women, and it has since been awarded to the top graduating male and female athlete at Watertown High School. What does it mean to be able to recognize both young men and young women?

Phyllis: It's been very impressive and fun to watch. When I was a kid playing sports,

See **WHY I GIVE** on page 25

Brick Riverside Foundation grant supports TIERS training

The Cary and Janet Brick Riverside Foundation, a Northern New York Community Foundation affiliate, recently provided support to the Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service for ongoing EMT education.

The \$1,000 grant will help TIERS train future professional emergency medical technicians. The nonprofit organization delivers 24-hour emergency medical services to the St. Lawrence River communities in the towns

of Clayton and Orleans. The grant was made, in part, to help enhance the expansion of EMT training for younger first-responders and new recruits.



Cary & Janet Brick

Established in 2017, the Brick Riverside Foundation is a geographic-specific charitable fund that provides support for St. Lawrence River-area programs and institutions to enhance the quality of life in the Thousand Islands region. It is designed to have broad impact in perpetuity.

“TIERS is the primary

emergency medical service provider for permanent and seasonal residents of the Thousand Islands,” Mr. and Mrs. Brick said in making the grant. “Through its training program for young people, it is moving forward aggressively to establish the next generation of trained EMTs.”

The Bricks challenged local businesses and seasonal residents from more populated areas accustomed to larger-scale emergency services to match the grant and help establish an immediate \$10,000 training budget to aid the next generation of TIERS professionals. Last year, the Brick Riverside

HELP SUPPORT TIERS

■ The Community Foundation has a long history of supporting health care in Northern New York and made a grant in support of TIERS’ recent capital campaign. The organization also established a permanent endowment fund with the Community Foundation to help sustain its work and mission for future generations. To help support **TIERS**, gifts to its endowment fund may be made at nnycf.org, or by mail to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**.

Foundation awarded a grant to support River Hospital’s emergency room expansion and its Hope + Healing campaign.

SCHOLAR from page 3

Spirit Youth Giving Challenge, which resulted in a \$500 grant being awarded to Watertown Urban Mission in her name.

How do you define philanthropy? Especially to a younger person who may think it requires great financial means? Doing something for the benefit of others, whether through time or monetary donation.

What’s important for people to consider as they look for opportunities to serve through the Community Foundation or other avenues? Find the opportunities and organizations that align best with your personal and professional passions.

What is important about participating in community service that younger generations should know? Participating in community service, whether one time or as an ongoing commitment, can be inspiring for you and for those who benefit from your gift of time and talent.

What would you tell students who may not know about the Community Foundation and its many scholarship opportunities? The scholarships from the Community Foundation are a great way to support your future educational and professional goals.

What’s your best advice to today’s high school students as they consider their college and career options? Think about what excites you from a professional and recreational standpoint. Be open to experimenting with different job and career

WHAT’S YOUR STORY?

Are you a Community Foundation scholar who has completed your post-secondary education and is now working in your field? Share your story of how the Foundation helped you achieve your goals. **Contact** our **communications director** at **315-782-7110** or **ken@nnycf.org**.

ideas so you can adapt rather than stick rigidly to a plan for your future.

What is important about the example of philanthropy we set for younger generations to follow? How the younger generation sees us contribute to our community inspires them with ideas for what they will want to do on their own. If they see the adults around them engaged in community service opportunities that excite and empower them, they will seek the same.

How can we best lead younger generations to engage in community service? Offer a variety of community service opportunities that excite and empower those who are volunteering their time.

What prepared you for the academic rigor and challenges of engineering you experienced while studying at Cornell? My teachers at IHC did an excellent job of preparing me to be successful in college.

What discipline of engineering do you practice and what kinds of projects are you engaged with? My last “engineering job” was as a Systems Engineering Manager at New York Air Brake. Then my career pivoted about five years ago, and my focus is now on helping

teams be more productive at creating value for customers using Agile methods like the Scrum framework and Kanban. As director of agile practice at Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a sister organization of New York Air Brake, I spend my time supporting our executives, coaches, and team members to continuously improve the way we work.

Who has most influenced the development of your character to help you to become the man you are today? Honestly, my Mom and Dad have been my greatest influence. They have always supported my individual interests and passions. A mentor who has been influential since the days I was on the FSAE team at Cornell has been Professor Al George as he presented me with new ways to think through problems and design solutions, but more importantly he taught me the value of giving a team the opportunity to solve problems on their own.

What service activities are you involved with today that you have continued from your formative years? My service activities have evolved over the years as our family has grown based on the interests of our two daughters. For the past 15 years, my activities have centered around providing children with the opportunities to learn new skills, approach challenging situations as a team, and pursue their individual passions. I am presently a coach for the D.H.L. Vikings, a FIRST Lego League team, that introduces STEM problem-solving in robotics to elementary and middle school students.

“How the younger generation see us contribute to our community inspires them with ideas for what they will want to do on their own. If they see the adults around them engaged in community service opportunities that excite and empower them, they will do the same.”

– **Erich Leonard**, 1998 Community Foundation Herring Memorial Scholarship recipient on modeling service

To support the things you care about most FOREVER

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
 Cape Vincent Village Green
 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
 Densmore Church
 Depauville Free Library
 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
 Friends of Thompson Park
 General Brown Central School District
 Hay Memorial Library
 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
 Lyme Central School District
 Lyme Free Library
 Macsherry Library
 Meals on Wheels of Greater Watertown
 Mental Health Association in Jefferson County

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



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 Corporation
 River Hospital
 Sackets Harbor Central School District

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

A better way to give

- 1) Choose your favorite charity.
- 2) Give to a Community Foundation fund, or create your own named fund, to support your favorite charity, church or school FOREVER.
- 3) Place restrictions or specific use provisions on your gift, or leave flexibility for future needs.
- 4) Provide an additional layer of stewardship and accountability.
- 5) Ensure your gift lives a long, healthy life and can be repurposed should the organization cease to exist.
- 6) Can be done during your lifetime, as part of your legacy, or both.

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 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 and 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

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.**

Elizabeth May Duvall's kindness forever endures

Woman's passion to empower children continues through foundation partnership

Elizabeth M. 'Liz' May Duvall was a passionate and tireless advocate for children, particularly those in need.

She dedicated her life in service to others. As a teacher and coach, her students would run to embrace her everywhere she went. Liz was intuitive and compassionate, and many people she helped in her 34 years credit her unwavering encouragement as having saved their lives.

"Helping children in need was so important to Liz," her husband, **Rich Duvall**, said. "She held the basic belief that it didn't matter where you came from, you could be successful, and she nurtured that in all her students while challenging them to experience things they never thought possible."

When Liz passed away suddenly in May, the North Country lost a deeply committed mentor to all who held a seat in her classroom and a place in her heart. Her kindness and compassion for those around her was genuine, Mr. Duvall said, and she often saw in others the potential for greatness before they saw it in themselves.

Liz was a lifelong learner and believed education was a door to opportunity. Liz's mother, **Patricia Esford** recalled how Liz showed innate teaching and leadership abilities from a very young age. As a 6-year-old, Liz orchestrated weekly student plays in her first-grade classroom, drafting scripts, casting actors, supplying costumes, and choreographing musical dance numbers.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in childhood education with a mathematics specialization, and a Master of Science in education as a literacy specialist at **SUNY Potsdam**, and was pursuing a doctorate degree. She began her teaching career in the **South Jefferson School District** and was an elementary school teacher at **LaFargeville Central School** at the time of her passing.

An avid traveler, Liz strived to bring the world to her classroom, routinely taking her students places to experience things they couldn't during traditional classroom-based lessons. Especially important was instilling in her students a deep appreciation for culture and diversity.

"She wanted her students to see the world like she had, and she delivered it to them," her sister, **Rachel May Zysk**, said. "Elizabeth used everything she could to foster curiosity in her kids. Above all, she felt a responsibility to teach kindness and help them become better people."

Courageous, always smiling and forever giving, Ms. Zysk said her sister's boundless energy and joy were second to none, and you could hear her peals of laughter a mile away.

Liz was devoted to her loving family and friends. She and her husband took great pride



Elizabeth M. 'Liz' May Duvall was just 34 when she passed away suddenly in May due to an undetected heart defect. Family and friends responded to perpetuate her legacy, establishing the **Elizabeth May Duvall Foundation**, a permanent Community Foundation fund that will continue Liz's passionate and unwavering support for children. A LaFargeville Central School teacher, Liz is shown here surrounded by young students, doing what she loved.

"She wanted her students to see the world like she had, and she delivered it to them. Elizabeth used everything she could to foster curiosity in her kids. Above all, she felt a responsibility to teach kindness and help them become better people."

— Rachel May Zysk, sister of Elizabeth May Duvall

in the life they created for their blended family on Butterfield Lake as they raised their four children, **Chloe, Richard, Olivia** and **Sophia**, with a baby on the way. After Liz's meaningful life was cut short, her father, **Rex May**, explained that his "only saving grace is knowing Elizabeth loved her Daddy, and she knew he loved her with every fiber of his body and soul."

To honor her legacy and memory, her family has established the **Elizabeth May Duvall Foundation**, a permanent component fund of the Community Foundation.

The **charitable purpose** and **mission** of the Elizabeth May Duvall Foundation reflects the spirit, interests and passions demonstrated during her life. Liz's commitment to support children and help them achieve their dreams will endure through its work, Mr. Duvall said. The way Liz lived her life has been reflected in the outpouring of support for her foundation, which her family is promoting with the apt



Elizabeth May Duvall

tagline, "**Live Like Liz.**"

An annual event will be held to celebrate her life and support the foundation.

"She spent her entire life spreading joy and kindness," Mr. Duvall said. "This foundation will continue to do that while empowering others to succeed."

Liz's brother, **Gabriel May**, echoed that, saying, "Liz's foundation will ensure that her impact continues for generations to come."

Through awarding scholarships to students and grants to eligible nonprofit organizations whose mission is to inspire children with education and diverse experiences, the foundation will serve to uplift, encourage, and empower children of all ages.

To the hundreds of people who chose to honor Liz with donations to her foundation, Liz's father said, "Thank you so much! No one spoke those four words more than Elizabeth. I hope my baby girl's spirit can live through each of you."

Tribute gifts in memory of Elizabeth M. May Duvall

Advanced Business Systems
Akins Sales & Service
Donald C. & Collene D. Alexander
Jason Allen
Ivy Allen & Family
Thomas R. Allen
Michelle Ames
Rosemary Armstrong &
Sandy Weinberg
Jeffrey & Susan Aronowitz
Darren & Lori Ashcroft
Tom & Cheryl Ashley
Suwat Assawamatiyanont
Robert & Mallory Augustus
Carolyn A. Barkley
Beth Barnes
Kerianne, Dan, Kiera, Alice &
Eoghan Barry
Gary & Marie Barth
BCA Architects & Engineers
Beltz, Ianni & Associates
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Joanne & Edward Briggs
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John & Vicki Bulger
Christina Calhoun
Cape Vincent Coffee Club
Tom & Irene Carman
Carthage Area Hospital Auxiliary
Carthage Area Hospital
Behavioral Health Team
Carthage Area Hospital
Fiscal Services Department
Carthage Area Hospital
Neurosurgery & Urology clinics
Carthage Area Hospital Staff
Bill, Carl, Cheryl, Hannah, Hayley,
Katrina, Kris, Liz & Sarah
Carthage Area Hospital
Therapy Services Department
Carthage Lions Club
Heather Casagrande
Central New York AHEC
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Auxiliary
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Darlene Liscum
Sandy Lyons
Maureen Missert
Rev. Tom Patterson
John Pinkerton
Michael Seidman
Dallas Sutton
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Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center
Community Members
Laura Ashley
Don Musnicki

Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center
Foundation Board of Directors
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Sherin Cunningham
William Flynn
Patricia Mahoney, DMD
Maureen Missert
Rev. Tom Patterson
Cathy Piché
Sandy Porter
Kathie Wade
Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center
Medical & Dental Staffs
Amanda Clay
Yo & Gladys Colon
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CREG Systems Corporation
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Dave & Bev Dasno
Natalie Datoush
Cassandra Davis
Mark DeCilles
Delphi Healthcare
Max & Sara DelSignore
Kirk & Karen Denny
John DeStefano
Renee DeStefano
Ben Diamond
Catherine Duvall
Christy Duvall
Elizabeth A. Elliott
Steve & Regina Elliott
Patricia A. & Craig C. Esford
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Bryan J. & Joan M. Felitto
Colleen Fitzgerald
Carol A. Flick
Jean E. Flick
Michael Flick & Family
Vicki Flick
Matthew & Deborah Foisy
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Planning Organization Board of
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Myra Fulin
Fuller Insurance Agency
Fust Charles Chambers
Jeffrey C. & Ellen Gaebel
James & Terri Ganter
Rob, Julie & Alexys Gayne
Emily Gazda
Mark Getman
Phyllis Gould
Bea Grause, Jim Clancy, &
the Staff at HANYS
Scott E. & Jolie A. Green
Erin & Dick Greene
Paige Greenlee
Rachael Greenstein
David & Tracy Gunderson
Brendan M. Haggerty
Contrina Hall
Erin Hatch
Bruce & Marilyn Hazen
Health Workforce New York
Richard & Denise Hensel
Sarah Hibbard
Linda Hill
Marjorie & Elliott Hillback Jr.
David N. Hoffman
Sandra J. Hogan
Robert & Susan Horr
Dan Horvath
Patricia Howell
Julie Hulbert
Melissa Hunneyman
Indian River Education Association
Iroquois Healthcare Association

JOIN IN HONORING LIZ DUVALL

To join others in helping to honor **Elizabeth M. May Duvall**, make gifts to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**. Designate gifts to the **Elizabeth May Duvall Foundation** in the memo line or via online gifts at **nnycf.org**. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Anita L. James
Jefferson County Local
Development Corporation
Board & Staff
Jefferson Physician Organization
Laura Johnson
Bea & Lou Johnstone
Christine Keffer
Gwendolyn & Dereck Kirkby
Toni Kukowski
Ancy & Francis Kunnumpurath
Kynes, Markman & Felman
James E. Felman
Stuart C. Markman
Kristin A. Norse
Katherine E. Yanes
LaFargeville Teachers Association
Steve & Cheryl Lane
Heather Lanigan
Mary Ann Larney
Jill Laureano-Surber
The Levos Family
Peter, Beth & Paul
Karen Loftus
Heather C. London
Lowville Barn National Grid Lineman
Ellen Lyons
William, Beth & Hayley Maguire
Norma Maiz
G. Michael & Barbara Maresca &
Family & St. Lawrence Radiology
Lea L. Marolf
Marsh Group
Barbara B. Martin
Megan Martin
Martin's Point Health Care Staff
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Melissa Strader
Virginia Wendt
Rex A. May
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Mary McAllister
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Damien McKinney
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Karen M. Moseley
Cyril & Marlene Mouaikel
Melissa R. & Christopher M. Mueller
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Health Center
North Country Initiative Board of
Managers & Employees
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Dea Parody
Pathology Associates of Syracuse
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Linda H. Petrie
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Mark Rankin
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Heather Saski
Fritz Scheller
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Janna Shaffrey-Cooke
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Rosalie Simms
Angela Sinkbell
Dawn Sjonell & Kim Kain
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Patricia Sourwine
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Merle & JoAnn Tousant
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Service Individual Members &
Board of Directors
Town of Watertown Fire
Department Members
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Nick Tsourakis
Suzanne W. Wadhams
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Watertown Barn National
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Watertown Mennonite Church
Healing + Hope Ministry
Elizabeth Wende Breast Cancer
Fund at the Rochester Area
Community Foundation
Eric & Jamie White (Clayton Line)
Susan L. Whitney
Kevin & Michelle Wild
Lee Willbanks & Judy Drabicki
Terry & Nancy Williams
The Writing Guru
Bernice Zehr
Rachel May Zysk & Pela & Clara Zysk
Susan Zysk



Pauline Hayden Gorman Lyng

Pauline Hayden Gorman Lyng dedicated her life to learning, and to inspiring those she taught to seek the best in themselves as a teacher, coach and school guidance counselor. Born in Sackets Harbor, Polly graduated in 1944 from Sackets Harbor High School as class president and valedictorian. She earned a Bachelor of Science in physical education from Boston University's Sargent College and a Master of Science from the University of Tennessee. While teaching at Randolph Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Va., she met and married **James Gorman**. Together, they raised two sons and a daughter. Polly taught and coached girls sports at Wellesley and Needham Middle schools. While raising a family and teaching full-time, she earned a second master's degree and pursued a new career in guidance in Norwood schools until her retirement. In 1974, she and her husband James bought a cottage near Sackets Harbor at Campbell's Point, which provided a close-knit community of lifelong friends. After James passed in 1999, she reunited with her widowed high school sweetheart, **Alfred Lyng**, while attending a Sackets Harbor High School reunion in 2002. They were married in Wellesley, Mass., in 2004 and spent 14 years in Wellesley, Campbell's Point, N.Y., and Marco Island, Fla., until Al's passing in 2018. In 2018, she established the

Pauline and Alfred Lyng Scholarship at the Northern New York Community Foundation. It is awarded annually to a graduating senior at Sackets Harbor High School whose parents did not attend college. Polly felt that their determination and the support each of them received to obtain their college degrees played a fundamentally important role in laying the foundation for their subsequent successful careers. Last year, she experienced the joy of awarding the first scholarship and meeting the Sackets Harbor graduate whom she was able to help. As a fitting tribute to her legacy, her family has chosen to remember Polly through gifts to this permanent resource that will help future generations reach their dreams. We join Polly's daughter, **Karen**, sons **James** and **Charles**, her beloved grandchildren, and extended family and friends in expressing our sympathy as we mourn her loss and celebrate her life with thanks to those who made memorial tributes in her memory.

Tribute gifts in memory of Pauline Hayden Gorman Lyng

Barbara B. Bailey
Jeannie Brennan

Joseph & Mary (Bura) DiMasi
Roberta Gorman
Shelley & Jim Hayden

Susan & Dan Hayden
Kathy & Fay Peters
Sally Sullivan

Phyllis Theermann
Patrick & Meggin Treanor
Jane & Joe Zagame

To join others in helping to honor Pauline Hayden Gorman Lyng, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.



Eva Arlene Loomis

Eva Arlene Loomis was a lifelong North Country resident who cherished her family and community, striving always to make it a brighter place through acts of kindness and support for neighbors in need. She was born in Belleville, graduated from Union Academy of Belleville and attended Watertown School of Commerce. She worked for several years as a bookkeeper for Sidmore Oil Company and later, for Belleville Union Academy. Arlene married **Amby J. Loomis** in 1950 and, together, they raised four sons. Amby passed away in 2013. In her more active years, she was an avid bowler and golfer. She was involved in local causes and organizations that were meaningful to her and her family. She served as president of the New York Rural Letter Carriers' Association Auxiliary and was a life member of the Belleville Fire Department Auxiliary. With her husband, Amby, Arlene enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and spending winters in Zephyrhills, Fla.

She valued most the time she spent with her loving sons and grandchildren and was happiest when they were together. We join Arlene's sons, **Gary**, **Charles**, **Dennis**, and **David**, and her extended family and friends in mourning her loss. Her family has decided the most fitting way to honor her life and legacy is through gifts to the **Garrett W. Loomis Firefighters Training Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation**. We are honored to be part of this special way that Arlene will be remembered. With her family, we express our appreciation for those who made memorial tributes in her name.

Tribute gifts in memory of Eva Arlene Loomis

Kip & Christina Bachar
Max & Sara DelSignore

Bryan & Christina Loomis
Sherry & Steve Ruoff
Jeff & Starr Stockwell
Steve & Kezia Sullivan

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



Frances E. Stern

Frances E. Stern was devoted to her family and proud to share in many special milestones of the success her children and grandchildren enjoyed throughout their lives. Born in New York City, she graduated from Baldwin High School and from Hofstra University, with honors. She was married to **Dr. Milton Stern** for 65 years and, together, they raised a son and a daughter. Dr. Stern passed away in 2007 and her daughter, **Dr. Judith Torres**, passed away in 2017. She was also deeply committed to her work as an academic. Frances was an internationally renowned scholar on the writings of French author Marcel Proust. She was featured in multiple issues of "Adam," a British Arts and Literary quarterly publication. She also wrote a definitive text used for the study of Proust's work. She was a frequent guest lecturer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Frances was very proud of the fact that she was a breast cancer survivor for more than 40 years. We join her son, **Daniel**, grandchildren, and her extended family and friends in mourning her loss. Her family has decided to honor

her memory through memorial gifts to the Northern New York Community Foundation. We are humbled and honored to be part of this special way that Frances will be remembered, and, with her family, we express our sincere gratitude to those who have made memorial gifts in her name.

Tribute gifts in memory of Frances E. Stern

Max & Sara DelSignore

Carol & Joe Rich
Rande Richardson
Daniel & Sandra Stern

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



Beverly J. Lamica

Beverly J. Lamica was an exceptional community servant throughout her life, volunteering for many organizations and causes that were special to her and her family. Born in Jefferson County, she graduated in 1949 from Brownville/Glen Park High School. In 1952, she married **Carleton H. Lamica** and, together, they raised two daughters and a son. Her husband, **Carleton H.**, and son, **Carleton Jr.**, each passed away in 2014. Along with her siblings and father before her, she was an owner of Watertown's Pepsi-Cola Jeff Bottling Co. A woman of devout Catholic faith, Bev was a communicant of St. Patrick's Church, an active member of the Sacred Heart Foundation, and a past Regent of Catholic Daughters of America. She regularly gave her time and talents to her community helping Meals on Wheels and serving as a Girl Scout Leader and cookie chairman. She was a consistent supporter of local organizations that worked to improve life for others in the community and North Country. Bev was a president of Bent Twig of Samaritan Medical Center and a lifetime member of the Samaritan Medical Center Ladies Auxiliary. She was also a life member of the Jefferson County Historical Society and a longtime loyal supporter of the Community Foundation and its work. A talented golfer, she served as a president

of the Ives Hill Women's Golf Association and was a past club champion. We join Bev's daughters, **Nancy** and **Susie**, her beloved grandchildren, extended family and friends in expressing our deepest sympathy for her loss. Her family has decided to honor her life and legacy through gifts to the Northern New York Community Foundation. We are honored and humbled to be a part of this special way that Bev will be remembered, and, with her family, express our sincere appreciation for those who have made memorial tributes in her name.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Beverly J. Lamica
Charles & Linda Capone & Family

Robert Caswell
Nancy & Mike Johnson
Sue & David Lipman & Families

Tony & Kay Morgia
Dan O'Leary
Jan B. Oliver

Rande Richardson
Pattie Schreck

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



Georgiena 'Georgie' Veley

Georgiena "Georgie" Veley was a lifelong Jefferson County resident who took comfort in the natural beauty of the region, especially along the waters of Lake Ontario where she cherished time with family and friends at her seasonal home on Hayes Bay, near Point Peninsula. Georgie was also committed to making the community around her a better place through civic involvement and support for organizations that served others. She served as a board member at the Ellisburg Library, Ellisburg Cemetery Association and the North Country Children's Clinic. Born in Depauville, Georgie graduated in 1961 from Adams High School. In 1973, she married **Craig C. Veley** and, together, they raised a daughter and a son. A second daughter, **Charlene Ann**, passed as an infant. She was also a proud and adoring aunt to many nieces and nephews. For many years, she worked for the State Department of Transportation and later, as a recording clerk for the Jefferson County Clerk's Office, retiring in 2008. Georgie enjoyed watching ships, sunsets, and campfires along the lakefront. She found a great peace and enjoyment in her daily

lake swims and walks along the shore, picking rocks. She spent winters in Fort Pierce, Fla., where

she cheered for Syracuse University basketball, no matter what the score. We join Georgie's husband, **Craig**, her daughter, **Jessica**, son, **Jonathan**, and her extended family and friends in mourning her loss. Her family has decided a fitting way to honor her memory is through gifts to the **Garrett Loomis Firefighters Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation**. We are honored to be a part of this enduring way that Georgie will be remembered, and, with her family, we express our sincere appreciation for those who have made memorial gifts in her name.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Georgiena (Georgie) Veley

Kip & Christina Bachar
Harvey & Rhonda Box
Jane & Lee Cagwin

Neil & Mary Fisher
Donna Fratto
Debra C. & Thomas A. Graff
Patrick & Lillian Mohr
Gary Loomis &
Amy Summerville-Loomis

To join others in helping to honor Georgiena (Georgie) Veley, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.



Florence Bajjaly

Florence Bajjaly dedicated her life to helping her community and improving the world around her for others in need. Born in Watertown, the daughter of **Namie N. and Marie (Otakeie) Bajjaly**, she graduated from Watertown High School and the Watertown School of Commerce. Soon after her education Florence began a career in the paper industry, beginning at Taggart's Paper Mill, and later the St. Regis Paper Company, retiring as traffic manager after 47 years of service. After her retirement, she served as Jefferson County Republican Chair for several years. She remains the only woman in Jefferson County to hold the position. A woman of devout faith, Florence was a life member of Trinity Episcopal Church. During World War II, she volunteered for the USO. She was an avid golfer and a longtime member of the Watertown Golf Club at Thompson Park. She was an adoring aunt who was proud of her many nieces and nephews. Her nephew and caregiver, **Phillip J. Bajjaly**, was especially close to her. Four brothers and two sisters each passed before her. Florence was a longtime supporter of the Community Foundation and its many partner organizations. We join Florence's nephew, **Phillip**, and her extended family and friends in expressing our deepest sympathy as we mourn her loss and celebrate her life and legacy.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Florence Bajjaly

Robert Caswell
Rande Richardson

Chester F. 'Chet' Gray

Chester Francis 'Chet' Gray devoted his life to family, community and country, volunteering to serve upon graduation from high school in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II as part of the Greatest Generation. Born in Corning, New York, he graduated from Ithaca College, attending on the G.I. Bill, and pursued a career in education, primarily in the Wappingers Falls Central School District. Chet completed graduate work at New York University, earning a master's degree and pursued additional studies. Chet was a teacher and elementary, junior high, and high school principal, completing his career in central administration. He was consistently active in his community, serving as president of the Kiwanis Club of Wappingers Falls and lieutenant governor of the Kiwanis Hudson River Division. Upon his retirement from education, Chet and his wife, **Nancy**, moved to Watertown and purchased the Watertown Tennis Club in 1979. Together they turned a limited-use club into a full-range athletic club. The Watertown Health and Racquet Club served as a resource for many community activities and fundraising events. Chet sought ways to strengthen his community through a life of service to causes that were meaningful and special to him. The St. Lawrence River and Thousand Island Park were the loves of Chet's life. His great-great-grandfather, **Chester Elijah Francis**, president of Carthage National Bank, was a founder of Thousand Island Park in 1875. **Chester Francis** and his wife, **Hannah Horr**, were the family's link to the history of eight generations on the Park. In his younger years, Chet worked in the summer at Wellesley Island State Park building camping cabins. He later served as director, treasurer and president of the Thousand Island Park Corporation. We join Chet's wife, **Nancy**; children, **Dr. Daniel S. Gray** and wife, **Dr. Maja Lundborg Gray**; **Deborah Gray Bilotti**, and husband, **Robert**; **Michael Gray** and wife, **Kathy**; **David Gray** and wife, **Diane**; **Patricia Gray Hines** and husband, **Jack**; and **William Gray**; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and extended family and friends in expressing our deepest sympathy as we celebrate Chet's life and legacy with gratitude to those who made tributes in his memory. As a fitting honor to a life of service, his family has established the **Chester F. Gray Scholarship** to perpetuate his lifelong devotion to education and helping others. We are honored that Chet's family has chosen to remember him through this permanent fund that will help future generations achieve their goals and reach their dreams.



Tribute gifts in memory of Chester F. Gray

Louis B. Adams Jr.
Mary Pat & Brad Adams
Cynthia Ahlheim
Michael & Tamera Alexander
Jeffrey & Susan Aronowitz
P.J. & Jennifer Banazek
Mrs. Edeltrud M. Bauer
Cherry A. Bertollett
Joseph & Rita Biafore
Malcolm C. Biedekapp
Deborah, Robert & Nina Bilotti
Mercedes G. Bilotti

Raymond & Renee Bozzacco
Annie Cardinaux
Emilie Cardinaux
Robert & Heleen Cardinaux
William C. & Margaret C. Couch
Joyce & David Crossley
Mary J. Dailey
Marina Demetriou
Savvas Demetriou
Steven Demetriou
Suzy Dutton & family
Steve & Julie Dziejewicz
Beth & Tom Eckert
Frank A. Empsall III

Kurt A. Gormley
The Gormley & Meador Families
Daniel, Maja, Spencer &
Maxwell Gray
Nancy Gray
William & Cathy Haller
Deborah Hirschey
Jim & Helen Keohane
Scott & Kimberly LaClair & family
Tara Marzano
James P. & Lisa M. McConnell
Mr. & Mrs. David & Deborah
McDonald & family
Kathleen McGraw

Jim & Joan Merritt
Tony & Kay Morgia
Cyril & Marlene Mouaikel
James & Patricia Newell
Fred & Pat Padykula
Rande Richardson
Natalie & Duane Rinker
Harold & Gloria Rothschild
Bernard E. Slate
Blanche P. Stone
Anthony V. Tarzia
T. Urling & Mabel Walker
Dave & Karen Walton
Howard Warren

To join others in helping to honor Chester F. 'Chet' Gray, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Betty J. Evans



Betty J. Cole Evans was a staunch advocate for students with disabilities. Her passion for music and education drove her to help many young people find opportunities to thrive, no matter the obstacles they faced. Throughout her lifetime, she helped many students who might not have been able to attend college. She was very proud that she helped several students earn acceptance to SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music. Music was an important part of Betty's life. An accomplished pianist, she began to play at age 4½ and learned to read music before English. Born in Watertown, Betty graduated from Watertown High School in 1939. She entered Crane School of Music, continuing to play piano and eventually earning a Bachelor of Science in music education and later, a Master of Science in elementary education. She married **Merton Evans** in 1942 and, together, they raised three children while working on the farm they owned and managed several agricultural-related businesses. In 1961, her family moved to a farm in Canton. Betty continued her education, earning a Master of Science in special education at SUNY Potsdam and taught in Canton until her retirement in 1980. Following her husband's passing, she became a close friend and companion to **Ken Masters**. In 2013, Betty established two permanent scholarships at the Northern New York Community Foundation. The **Betty J. Evans Educational Scholarship** provides support to St. Lawrence County graduates pursuing education careers. The **Merton P. Evans Agricultural Scholarship** provides support St. Lawrence County graduates

pursuing agricultural careers. We join her daughters, **Virginia Leamy**, Ogdensburg, and **Linda Watrous**, Canton, and her companion **Ken**, in expressing our deepest sympathy as we celebrate the life of a great friend and advocate for many in the North Country.

Tribute gifts in memory of Betty J. Evans

Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Thoughtful Legacies

TOUCHING LIVES, FOREVER. Since 1929, the Community Foundation has been built by those who have made the thoughtful decision to provide enduring support for the communities they love. We are so grateful for these acts of generosity that help perpetuate lives that have had 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** and remember their legacy, contact us at info@nnycf.org, or **315-782-7110**.

Recent Tribute Gifts

Includes only gifts made to the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund from May 1, 2020 to Aug. 20, 2020, or for those who have just recently passed.

In Memory of Given by

Norman R. Ahlheim

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Hildred Smith Allard

Rande Richardson

Leo M. Archer

Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Matthew J. Branski

Charlie & Jill Commeret
Lewis C. Kibling
Steven A. & Sharon W. Van Slyke

Robert Brennan

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Daniel A. Buduson

Sylvia J. Buduson

Pamela B. Caswell

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Fred Clarke

Donna LaLonde

Henry Masters Colby

Barbara & Kenneth Bibbins

Cullen D. Countryman

Bill & Teresa Stoodley
Erin Whattam '68

Ken Deedy

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Bruce E. Dempster

Marlea Dempster

Grace DeYoung

John & Nancy Provance

Frank & Marion Empsall

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Theodore Fibson

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Dr. Henry L. George III

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Shirley B. Goodwin

Rande Richardson

James E. Gross

Robert Caswell

Thomas F. Hanley

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Henry Henderson

Solomon & Rebecca Jantzi
Rande Richardson
T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Rev. Stewart E. Hild

Alma H. Hild

Marian J. Hills

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Lee T. Hirschey

Rande Richardson
T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Henry R. Hooker

Rande Richardson

Donald E. Johnson

Robert Caswell

LaRue H. Jones

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Andrew R. Kilcer

Rande Richardson

Jane McHugh

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Dr. & Mrs. John Meyerdieks

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Hon. John S. Parker

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

William Revelle

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Carl Robbins

Ethel E. Smith
Bill & Teresa Stoodley

Mary Alice Robinson

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Joseph P. Sanzone Jr.

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Donald Scott

Donna LaLonde

Allen L. Smith

James T. Keel (on behalf of
the late Frances B. Moore)

Betty K. Stockwell

Max & Sara DelSignore

Mary G. Sweeney

Joe & Cindy Zifchock

John C. Sudduth

Robert Caswell
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson
Patti Scordo
T. Urling & Mabel Walker
Dave & Karen Walton

Eric Thacher

The Orchestra of
Northern New York

Teddy M. Tierney

Tully Hill Corporation

John H. & Marcia S. Treadwell

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Alex Velto

Phil & Emily Sprague

Jean Wagar

Solomon & Rebecca Jantzi

Tish & Bob Wehrle

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Henry & Emily Willmott

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Roger W. White Sr.

Robert Caswell
Joyce & David Crossley
Rande Richardson
William P. Shuman &
Elizabeth Meyerdieks

T. Urling & Mabel Walker

Dave & Karen Walton

In Honor of Given by

Scott Atkinson's Retirement

Rande Richardson

Stephen Can's Retirement

Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Ed Coombs

Max & Sara DelSignore
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Michele & Timothy Jeican
Mary E. Loftus
William & Beth Maguire
Kelly Merchant
Jeff & Mary Perrine
Rande Richardson

Susan Horr's Birthday

Katherine Verman

Laurie Pike

Rande Richardson

Jude Renzi

Rande Richardson

Rande Richardson's Birthday

Staff of the Northern
New York Community
Foundation

Rev. Donald A. Robinson 40th Anniversary of Ordination

Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson

Joseph Russell

Rande Richardson

Jim Wright's Retirement

Rande Richardson

NCPR interview highlights Community Foundation action

In late May, more than two months into the COVID-19 health pandemic, Foundation Executive Director **Rande Richardson** joined leaders of two neighboring community foundations for an interview on the **North Country Public Radio** podcast "First Person" with station manager **Mitch Teich**. The episode focused on how community foundations were responding to urgent and emerging needs. A question is excerpted here with Mr. Richardson's answer. We encourage you to visit northcountrypublicradio.org/shows/first-person to listen to the entire episode.



Talk about the initial thrust of your foundation's response in the middle of March.

We were looking at how to deploy resources quickly to places that needed them the most. Food supply seemed to be one of the quickest ways we could do that because of our history of supporting food pantries across the region. The unique nature of community foundations is their ability to repurpose dollars for unexpected circumstances.

You can combine both donor intention and specific funds with board-restricted funds to quickly pivot. I think that's one of the unique advantages that we

NORTH COUNTRY PUBLIC RADIO / BUILDING A PERMANENT PARTNERSHIP

In addition to grants, like many other organizations, **North Country Public Radio** partners with the Community Foundation to administer a permanent endowment to support its work and mission in perpetuity. The **Community Foundation** is currently **matching gifts** to that fund, up to a total of \$10,000. Contact us at info@nnycf.org or **315-782-7110**, to learn more how you can support **NCPR** in this way, both now and in the future.

had to be able to get ahead of some of the governmental responses that were going to come afterward. So, it really allowed us to be first in with some of these programs to assist.

School Educational Foundations

What you should know

In New York state, public schools cannot permanently endow funds as they are limited in the way they can perpetuate scholarships, especially those created as a memorial, with the intention that they endure. Several schools in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties partner with the Community Foundation so those funds can continue in perpetuity.

In recent years, donors have also expressed interest in supporting their favorite local school in either a broader or more directed way, **for things other than scholarships.** Through **school educational foundations**, alumni, parents, teachers, retirees and others for whom their school holds special meaning can leave a legacy. Donors may also designate a specific use (music, athletics, library, etc.) and fund name.

Educational Foundations and general endowment funds stewarded at the Northern New York Community Foundation:

Adirondack Central School District

Beaver River Central School District

Copenhagen Central School District

Hermon-DeKalb Central School District

Immaculate Heart Central School

Massena Central School District

Lowville Academy & Central School

Potsdam Central School District

Sackets Harbor Central School District

South Jefferson Central School District

St. James School, Gouverneur

St. Lawrence Central School District

Watertown City School District

■ To learn more about how you can tailor a charitable gift to support your favorite school district, contact the Community Foundation at 315-782-7110 or email info@nnycf.org.

EDUCATION: A CORE COMMITMENT

2020: In a class by itself

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

— Nelson Mandela

The **Class of 2020** will forever hold a chapter in the book of COVID-19. They have been deprived of the experiences and joys of many of the things a complete senior year brings: **awards ceremonies, spring sports records, friends, proms, yearbook signings, graduation.** The ceremonial rites of passage for their hard work in the classroom, on the athletic field, on stage and with other extracurricular activities will not be the same.

We are all a product of a variety of influences. In the mix of nature and nurture, **we are largely shaped by our education.** Who we become includes lessons from a variety of influences including **parents, family members, coaches** and other **community role models.** We have all had **teachers** or **professors** who were **instrumental in shaping us.** Some took a special interest in our success or believed in us in a way that changed the direction of our lives. In recognizing the loss of the senior year, it heightens our appreciation for the way our school experience advances us to the next stage of life. Our community's educators are due a special thanks for continuing to develop young minds and souls even from a distance.

Education is an investment, and one of the most critical we can make. Since its roots in 1929, the **Community Foundation** has held education high on its list of priorities. Through those **91 years**, more resources have consistently been directed toward education than any other area. Our **donors have enabled** substantial investments in educational programs, institutions and education-focused nonprofit organizations. For a decade, **youth philanthropy** programs have educated the next generation about civic service and community needs and resources. **Scholarships** have helped many **thousands** of local students as they began or continued their educational journeys, including nontraditional students and those pursuing studies in trade and technical fields. Some of those students have remained in the North Country, helping to supply our local workforce needs. Others have chosen to bring their talents elsewhere. All have contributed to making



RANDE RICHARDSON

our world a better place.

We are fortunate to partner with many schools in **Jefferson, Lewis** and **St. Lawrence** counties to provide long-term stewardship of precious scholarship dollars. Many of those schools have also established **educational foundations**

so that donors can support learning beyond scholarships to include every facet of study, including the arts and athletics. We have worked alongside community groups to build educational resources for members of the military and their families. The people of the region have a **tradition of generosity** that has helped change and shape lives, and, ultimately, made our communities stronger and our workforce better equipped.

While in so many ways the **Class of 2020** was shortchanged, they have been given enhanced valuable life lessons that will serve them (and us) well.

The **Class of 2020** is one of adaptation, resiliency, flexibility, persistence, resourcefulness, appreciation, tenacity, patience, determination, discipline and strength. They are **better equipped** for whatever may come their way. You have learned how to learn and **find solutions** to **unexpected challenges.**

The **greatest gift** an educator can receive is **knowing the difference they have made** in the lives of their students. The words, **"you changed my life"** or **"because of you"** are the music to the ears and a testament to what a good teacher can accomplish. To the class of 2020 and all who have shaped them, know that what you do with **adversity** and **challenges** will **define your character.** Just like the teachers and others who brought you here, **your impact will be significant,** lifelong, and lasting. You have the opportunity today to inspire and shape a better tomorrow as you lead our community, society and the world. **That is a reason to celebrate** and be hopeful. And, in case you haven't noticed, we need that now more than ever.

This column first appeared in NNY Business magazine. It is reprinted with permission.



Watertown High School students toss their caps in 2019.

North Side League legacy of service continues

Eight 2020 graduates are first to receive Legacy Scholarships

Representatives from the North Side Legacy Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation recently presented inaugural scholarships to eight Watertown residents and members of the class of 2020.

The North Side Legacy Fund Advisory Committee announced earlier this year the creation of the North Side Legacy Fund Scholarship with plans to begin awards this year. Graduating seniors who live in Watertown, as well as students with family ties to the League, were encouraged to apply. The North Side Legacy Fund was established in 2019 as a permanent fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation to forever honor and perpetuate the history and heritage of the North Side Improvement League.

The class of 2020 North Side Legacy Scholarship recipients are:

Madilyn Eveleigh, Watertown High School, SUNY Jefferson, early childhood education

Samantha Farone, Immaculate Heart Central High School, SUNY Jefferson, human services

Benjamin T. Hutchins, Immaculate Heart Central High School, St. John Fisher College, Rochester, biology

Brennan Lynch, Watertown High School, SUNY Jefferson, liberal arts — political science and economics

Nicholas Mallette, Watertown High School, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, biology

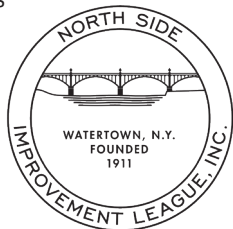
Mikayla Murphy, Watertown High School, Medaille College, Buffalo, veterinary sciences

Kate O'Neil, Immaculate Heart Central High School, SUNY Jefferson, liberal arts — humanities and social sciences

Marissa E. Valvo, General Brown Central High School, SUNY Jefferson, allied health and medical

"We are proud to continue the good works of the North Side Improvement League that began nearly 110 years ago," said **William Parody**, past League president and North Side Legacy Fund Advisory Committee member. "Helping the younger generation with their education carries on a tradition of the League to always be there in support of our city and youth."

Scholarship recipients are each City of Watertown-area residents who plan to enroll for the first time this fall as full-time undergraduate freshman students. Recipients of this one-year award were selected based on combined test scores, cumulative high school GPA, rank in class, personal data, essay scores, and applicant appraisals and each received



Top photo, back row, from left: **Terry Williams**, North Side Legacy Fund Advisory Committee member; **Nicholas Mallette**, scholarship recipient; **William Parody**, past league president and Advisory Committee member; **Benjamin T. Hutchins**, scholarship recipient; **Jacob Johnson**, Advisory Committee member. Front row, from left: scholarship recipients **Madilyn Eveleigh**, **Samantha Farone**, **Kate O'Neil**, and **Marissa E. Valvo**. Left photo, from left: North Side Legacy Fund Advisory Committee members **Michael Dupee**, **Laurie Koelmel** and **William Parody**, also a past league president; scholarship recipient **Mikayla Murphy** and her mother, **Coleen Murphy**, a Watertown City School District counselor.

"I was fortunate to receive a grant from the League to help pay my college tuition to Nazareth College. I became an educator and taught for 36 years in the Rochester area. I strongly believe that education is the gateway to a better community; I applaud the Northern New York Community Foundation and its advisory committee for giving this opportunity to students in Watertown."

— **Veronica Labiendo Dufresne**, recent North Side Legacy Fund donor

\$500 in financial support.

The North Side Improvement League's rich history and legacy of civic involvement and community betterment that spanned more than a century continues through the North Side Legacy Fund. In addition to scholarships, the advisory committee will announce its first grant awards later this summer as another way to continue the League's heritage.

Members of the North Side Legacy Fund Advisory Committee are: **Sylvia Buduson**, **Allison Crossman**, **Michael Dupee**, **Jacob Johnson**, **Laurie Koelmel**, **Terri Mallette**, **William** and **Pat**

SUPPORT THE NORTH SIDE LEGACY FUND

To join others in helping build support for the North Side Legacy Fund, make gifts to the Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. Online gifts may be made at nnycf.org. Call the Foundation, 315-782-7110, to learn how you can include the North Side Legacy Fund through your will or other long-term charitable planning.

Parody, and **Terry Williams**.

A group of Watertown citizens formed the North Side Improvement League in 1911 and, a year later, in August 1912, it incorporated as a self-governing civic organization. At its peak in the 1990s, the league had 1,600 members. At the height of its efforts, the League supported charitable and youth service organizations in the Watertown areas and provided financial assistance to numerous college students. Thanks to this permanent Community Foundation endowment, the League's civic work in Watertown will forever continue.

WILLIAM I. GRAF MEMORIAL AWARD

Top Watertown athletes named Graf recipients

Prestigious award has honored athletic excellence since 1954

Two Watertown High School students were recently honored as the top graduating athletes and recipients of the **William I. Graf Memorial Award**. **Tiffany M. Russell** was selected as the girls recipient, and **Ryan E. Peters** was named as the boys honoree this year. Each recipient was presented with a \$1,000 award on behalf of the Graf family.

The Italian-American Civic Association created the **William I. Graf Award** in 1954 to honor Mr. Graf's leadership and civic engagement in the community. The Northern New York Community Foundation was selected to help continue the Graf family legacy by administering the fund in perpetuity and raising awareness of the award for students who aspire to earn it.

ALL-TIME RECIPIENTS

Visit nnycf.org/graf-award-recipients to view a list of all **William I. Graf Memorial Award** recipients since 1954.

Following the death of Mr. Graf's son, **William A. Graf**, in 2013, the family decided to honor him by funding a financial award for recipients. **William A. Graf**, who also embodied the traits of the award, attended Watertown High School and played several varsity sports coached by his father, **William I.**

Mr. Graf was a multi-sport coach and athletic director at Watertown High School. Graf Award honorees are expected to have participated in at least two or more varsity sports in their senior year and demonstrate exceptional character and sportsmanship, discipline, fair play, training, athletic ability, and academics.

Tiffany Russell is an accomplished varsity track and field team member at Watertown



2020 Graf Award Recipient Tiffany M. Russell



2020 Graf Award Recipient Ryan E. Peters

who also played varsity volleyball for four years. Tiffany plans to immediately enter the workforce and prepare to further her education in the veterinary science field at **SUNY Jefferson**. She is the daughter of **April McConnell** and **Allen Russell**.

Ryan Peters is a standout three-sport varsity athlete, participating in cross country, basketball and baseball during his freshman and sophomore years, and

continuing with basketball and baseball in his junior and senior years. Ryan will attend **Herkimer Community College** in the fall, where he plans to play baseball and major in physical education. He is the son of **Lori** and **Eric Peters**.

Since 1954, 112 Watertown High School athletes have been named recipients of the **William I. Graf Memorial Award**, honoring a female and male athlete since 1976.

Chef Dennis J. Laemmermann Culinary Arts Scholarship recipient recognized



Pictured, from left, **Chef Laemmermann's** son, **Seph Peterson**, daughter, **Maureen Hillabrandt**, **Chef Laemmermann's** husband, **Thomas Peterson**, and daughter, **Amanda Phillips**. Scholarship recipient **Ashley St. Croix** is shown from her Clayton home on the screen during a live presentation via Zoom.

Thousand Islands Central High School graduate **Ashley St. Croix** is the 2020 recipient of the Community Foundation's first **Chef Dennis J. Laemmermann Culinary Arts Scholarship**. Ashley will attend the **Culinary Institute of America**, Hyde Park, where she plans to study baking and pastry business and management. Chef Laemmermann's family and friends recently honored his legacy, presenting the first scholarship in his memory during a reception at the Watertown restaurant **Spokes**, where he was the head chef and kitchen manager at the time of his sudden passing in March 2019. Dennis was involved in the North Country's food services industry for most of his life, owning and operating the **Palace Luncheonette** on Public Square from 1986 to 2000 and the **Palace Deli** and **Carousel Catering** in the Paddock Arcade until 2004. The **Dennis J. Laemmermann Culinary Arts Scholarship** perpetuates the love and passion that Dennis had for bringing joy to others through the creation of great food shared with family and friends.



Chef Dennis Laemmermann

WHY I GIVE from page 13

there were no competitive sports for girls. Then Title IX was passed and opened many opportunities for young women and gave them a great sense of purpose.

What do you think is important about being an active participant in community through philanthropy or other avenues of service and what motivates you to do so?

Gus: For me personally, there's two aspects. One is just education and working to help people and how they can access opportunity. When you think about opportunity and what someone has available to them, I think it has everything to do with education. The other part of it is helping to strengthen the support systems in our communities. Our culture changes so quickly, and parts of our population lack the ability to adjust and react to changes without being able to access support. So, part of giving is helping to provide a good support structure. Again, I go back to the Boys and Girls Club in Ogdensburg. There are some very capable young people there. I know of one family whose son is a junior in chemical engineering at Clarkson. He's been involved for years at the Boys and Girls Club as a mentor and as a teacher helping kids with their academics and really serving as a role model. Some kids don't have that. So, I guess that's the other focus, at least where possible, working a little bit to help because it's an ongoing issue that's probably going to get worse.

What kind of example do you think giving sets for others and how can you lead in a way that will inspire like-minded people?

Phyllis: I'm amazed at how much time and talent people sometimes give rather than money. Giving in that way is very important for so many small organizations. I encourage people to just get involved. Many people may find philanthropy intimidating. But the bottom line for me is nothing more than neighbors helping neighbors and living in a community where people work together and that starts at a grassroots level.

Gus: Giving is very much a personal decision. People look at the world through their

“Giving is very much a personal decision. People look at the world through their value system. The beauty of the Community Foundation is how it encourages people in so many different ways. It supports such a wide breadth of interests, so there's something there for everyone.”

— Lee A. 'Gus' Murray,
Ogdensburg

value system. Hopefully, they look at where they can contribute to help somebody else, whatever their skills are, whatever the resources are. It was interesting when the Boys and Girls Club was distributing food as schools shut down. They almost immediately had a cadre of people who had cars and gave their time to help distribute it. And that's not trivial. The beauty of the Community Foundation is how it encourages people to give in so many different ways. It supports such a wide breadth of interests, so there's something there for everyone.

Besides family, what keeps you connected to the North Country as a place or region you want to contribute to and help improve?

Gus: That's a hard one to explain, but when I come up here each spring, is probably

sacrilegious to say, but the river is almost like getting baptized again the first time I get in. This is where I was raised and where I developed my value system. It's how I learned that the value of helping your community is really working together and helping your neighbor put a new roof on the house or shovel a driveway or whatever. And that's been my mindset most of my life.

Phyllis: The draw back every year isn't just some wonderful friends, it's a different lifestyle. Some of the folks who are my neighbors along the river I've known since fourth grade. It's just a wonderfully comfortable environment because as I said, everybody knows each other or are good neighbors and that brings me back.

You are both very engaged with the Community Foundation. Tell us about your experience and what you enjoy most about working with the Foundation.

Phyllis: I'm extremely pleased with the exceptional response. All the people in the Community Foundation are so accessible. We can stop in and talk with them and the staff really has their fingers on the pulse of things. They are also very good and working with a little bit of help we may provide to make a big difference.

Gus: I really love the programs you have with high school students and developing future generations of philanthropists. The Foundation also provides great guidance to help tailor giving based on your interests and makes sure it is most effectively placed in the community.

You describe William I. Graf as a quiet, reserved man who did a lot of things behind the scenes for others. What do you think he would say about the legacy that continues through the award that bears his name?

Phyllis: No question he'd be very proud, very pleased. Especially of all the outstanding folks who have been honored through the years. He'd also be pleased to know that his legacy has made a meaningful contribution this way. What he has done for young women athletes, too. He would be so excited. Some of those girls are just so sharp.

Donors Establish New Funds

Donors frequently establish new funds at the Community Foundation. We have grown to now oversee a wide range of more than 950 funds that support hundreds of organizations and causes. 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 gifts to help extend support and build these funds.

Charitable Funds

Roxanne and Philip Pratt Fund
Martha B. Jablonski Fund

Field of Interest

Elizabeth May Duvall Foundation
Jefferson-Lewis Board of Realtors
Food Pantry Fund
Leap of Kindness Day Fund

Organization Funds

Clayton Jazz Festival Endowment
Depauville Free Library Endowment
Mental Health Association in Jefferson County

Society of United Helpers Endowment

Project Funds

Depauville Free Library Tutoring
Program Fund
Watertown City Pools Fund

Scholarship Funds

Cullen Countryman Scholarship
Anne T. and Emmett M. Fenlon Scholarship
Chester F. Gray Scholarship
Peter W. Hayes Memorial Scholarship
Kenneth Lyon Sr. Scholarship
Carl Robbins Memorial 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.

Shaw Harbor Foundation supports scholars

Jefferson County entrepreneur kicks off charitable initiative with 11 awards

John S. McNeely always knew he would find a way to help the community that's been his home his entire life. It's the same community where he and his family chose to grow a once small business into a thriving international firm that improves airfield safety and maintenance on nearly every continent.

Until recently, Mr. McNeely thought his charitable efforts to support the North Country wouldn't come until he was well into retirement. After many years of international travel and work at airfields near and far, he sold **Hi-Lite Airfield Services** last fall and began to plan how he would help others who share a love for the region.

"I was working with the **Community Foundation** on plans for the future, and I wanted to leave a something that would benefit my community," he said. "The vision that I had was for a legacy much later in life. It's exciting to live out that vision now and be able to experience the reward of helping deserving students and organizations that work hard to help our communities."

Earlier this year, Mr. McNeely unveiled the **Shaw Harbor Foundation**, a permanent charitable fund of the **Northern New York Community Foundation**. In July, the Shaw Harbor Foundation awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to 10 graduating seniors and one adult student who is working to complete her degree. Three scholarships were \$2,000 awards and eight provided \$500 in support, but that could represent just the beginning for each student.

Mr. McNeely's goal is to work with select students in their first year of post-secondary school through their entire academic journey, which could even extend to graduate school and include support for overseas study and internships with his present company and affiliates.

"We want to offer students additional opportunities over a longer period of time," he said. "Mentoring, internships and future awards are all very much within reach."

Mr. McNeely chose to launch the charitable initiative now, rather than wait until he is fully retired, so he could work closely with the Community Foundation to more completely develop his vision and goals that will last well into perpetuity.

Support for education will continue



From left, **Shaw Harbor Scholarship** top award recipients **Noelle Dutch**, **Eldon Montague**, and **John Erdman**; **Shaw Harbor Foundation** founder **John Shaw McNeely**, Sackets Harbor. The three students each received a \$2,000 scholarship for post-secondary studies.



SHAW HARBOR FOUNDATION

A CHARITABLE FUND OF THE NORTHERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

through at least 10 annual scholarships to local students, including nontraditional, older students who may be returning to school after an extended break in studies or beginning college at a later stage in life.

"I want our young people to know that anything is possible," he said. "You might have an idea where you want to go, but you may change direction on your way. We can help you and mentor you to get there."

The class of 2020 **Shaw Harbor Foundation Scholars** are:

Cole Webb Bennett, South Jefferson Central High School; Clarkson University, Potsdam, engineering and management; son of **Jo-Ann L. Webb Bennett** and **Kevin Bennett**.

Noelle Dutch, Ogdensburg Free Academy; SUNY Binghamton, political science; daughter of **Kara** and **Peter Dutch**.

John Erdman, Gouverneur High School; Clarkson University, Potsdam, aeronautical engineering; son of **Andrea** and **Daniel Erdman**.

Emma French, Potsdam High School; Boston University, communications; daughter of **Carrie** and **Tom French**.

SUPPORT THE SHAW HARBOR FOUNDATION

■ To join others in helping build support for the **Shaw Harbor Foundation** and its mission and work in the communities it serves, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**. Secure online gifts may be made at nnycf.org.

Nicolas Luciani, South Jefferson Central High School; RIT, Rochester, computer science; son of **Jean** and **Antonio Luciani**.

Eldon Montague, South Jefferson Central High School; SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, environmental law, planning, and policy; son of **Carrie** and **Justin Montague**.

Emily Smith, Potsdam High School, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson; political science and economics; daughter of **Lynn Hall** and **Kevin Smith**.

Andrew Thomas, South Jefferson Central High School; Nazareth College of Rochester, nursing and Spanish and literature; son of **Pamela** and the late **Brian Thomas**.

See **SHAW HARBOR** on next page



Cole Bennett



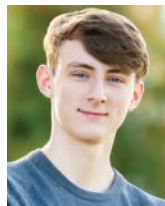
Emma French



Nicolas Luciani



Emily Smith



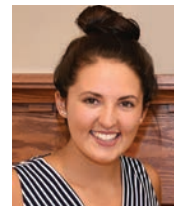
Andrew Thomas



Barbara Tucker



Kaylee Van Alstyne



Marina Wood

SHAW HARBOR from previous page

Barbara Tucker, The Woodward School, Quincy, Mass. (1984); SUNY Empire College, historic studies; nontraditional scholar.

Kaylee Van Alstyne, Thousand Islands High School; SUNY Oswego, marketing; daughter of **Tara** and **Michael Van Alstyne**.

Marina Wood, Gouverneur High School; Syracuse University, political science and international relations; daughter of **Sarah** and **Cory Wood**.

Mr. McNeely assembled an advisory committee of the Shaw Harbor Foundation to help select scholarship and grant recipients. It includes **Georgette Spinelli**, a longtime teacher who retired from South Jefferson Central School District; **Mindy Boenning**, Fort Drum site coordinator for the Office of Veteran and Military Education at SUNY Empire College, and **Kraig Everard**, Community Foundation director of stewardship and programs.

“Thinking globally while acting locally is important. Supporting the local community makes it more vibrant and appealing.”

— John S. McNeely, Shaw Harbor Foundation

Each fall, tri-county nonprofit organizations will have an opportunity to seek grant support from the Shaw Harbor Foundation through an application process the Community Foundation will facilitate. Grants will aid agencies supporting essential needs and social causes, including those that focus on LGBTQ equity. Nonprofits serving residents of **Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Hounsfield, Lorraine, Rodman** and **Worth** will receive additional emphasis.

The fund will support broad investments in quality of life and endeavors that strive to make life better for all.

“Thinking globally while acting locally is important,” he said. “Supporting the local community makes it more vibrant and appealing.”

LEWIS COUNTY SCHOLARS

First Anne T. & Emmett T. Fenlon Memorial Scholar

Copenhagen Central School graduate **Riley Dalrymple** is the inaugural recipient of the Community Foundation’s **Anne T. and Emmett M. Fenlon Scholarship**.

Riley will attend **Life University**, Marietta, Ga., where she plans to study exercise science and continue her athletic career as a wrestler. Earlier this year, Life University awarded Riley a wrestling scholarship to compete at the collegiate level. Riley began wrestling as a young girl in kindergarten and has competed since, posting more than 100 varsity wins.

Riley is the daughter of **Scott** and **Jennifer Dalrymple**, Copenhagen. She graduated in June as an academic class leader, salutatorian and National Honor Society member. In addition to wrestling, Riley



was a four-year member of the varsity soccer and softball teams. Outside of school and athletics, she tutors students in mathematics and volunteers at the Jefferson County SPCA and for the Pee Wee Wrestling Club in Lewis County.

Established in 2020, the **Northern New York Community Foundation Anne T. and Emmett M. Fenlon Scholarship** is awarded annually to a graduating senior from **Copenhagen Central High School**.

NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION NORTH CENTRAL SCHOLARS

The North Central Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association, in partnership with the **Community Foundation**, recently presented its Scholarship for Future Educators to members of the Class of 2020.

South Lewis Central High School graduate **Courtney D’Ambrosi** and **Beaver River Central High School** graduate **Natalie Monnat** will each receive a \$1,000 award to help them on their paths to become teachers.

The scholarship is awarded annually to high school seniors who plan to pursue teaching careers. The North Central Zone represents retired teachers and educators across Jefferson and Lewis counties.

Courtney will attend **Manhattan College**, Bronx, New York City, where she plans to study education with a concentration in biology. She is the daughter of **Lynnette Parker** and **Patrick D’Ambrosi**, Turin.

Natalie will attend **SUNY Potsdam** where she plans to study secondary education. She is the daughter of **Gretchen** and **Gilbert Monnat**, Croghan.

Pictured, from left, **Mary**



Perrine, Foundation coordinator of partnerships; scholarship recipients **Courtney D’Ambrosi** and **Natalie Monnat**; and **Woody Lyndaker**, **North Central Zone New York State Retired Teachers’ Association** president.

The Community Foundation is honored to partner with the Association’s North Central Zone to steward its scholarship fund and help its member teachers continue their support for

current and future educators of our region. The organization is a very active partner, often promoting its efforts with the Foundation to extend its efforts.

To contribute to the North Central Zone Scholarship Fund, send gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or visit **nnycf.org** to access secure online giving.

Indian River students' memories will endure

Indian River High School seniors **Joseph Martin** and **Alexa Solar** were recently honored as the first recipients of the **Northern New York Community Foundation Gabriel Otero & Lexie Morgan Memorial Scholarship**.

The Gabriel Otero & Lexie Morgan Memorial Scholarship was established at the Community Foundation in March shortly after the two Indian River High School students passed away following a motor vehicle accident in January.



Gabriel Otero



Lexie Morgan

Gabriel Otero was a junior at Indian River while **Lexie Morgan** was a senior and the two were active in several school activities. The scholarship honors their legacies of service to others and commitments to seek higher education. **Gabriel** was a gifted musician who played in the school's marching band. He was planning to follow in his mother's footsteps to become an IT specialist.

Lexie Morgan was a varsity cheerleader and student leader with **Indian River Pop Warner Cheer**. She was also enrolled in the medical assistant program at **Jeff-Lewis BOCES** in Watertown and aspired to become a doctor, specializing in OB/GYN.

Otero-Morgan Scholars are Indian River seniors who have been involved in band and cheer and plan to continue their education.

Joseph "Joey" Martin is the recipient of the **Gabriel Otero Memorial Award** and was a member of several music ensembles, including band and chorus. Joey will attend

Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam this fall where he plans to study vocal music and continue in a music education master's program. He aspires to become a high school choral teacher. He is the son of **Katherine** and **Steven Martin**, Philadelphia.

Alexa Solar is the recipient of the **Lexie Morgan Award** and was a three-year member of the varsity cheerleading team, serving as captain during her senior year. Alexa will attend **SUNY Jefferson** to study nursing. She plans to continue her education at **SUNY Potsdam** to become a Registered Nurse Anesthetist. She is the daughter of **Tammi Dindl** and **William Solar II** and **Beth Solar**.

Maria Otero, Gabriel's mother, presented **Joey** with the award, which includes a \$500 scholarship. **Jessica Morgan**, Lexie's mother, presented **Alexa** with the award, which also includes



GABRIEL OTERO MEMORIAL AWARD: From left, scholarship recipient mother **Katherine Martin**; **Maria Otero**, scholarship co-founder and mother of the late **Gabriel Otero**; **Joseph Martin**, Indian River Class of 2020 and Otero-Morgan Memorial Scholarship recipient; **Jessica Morgan**, scholarship co-founder and mother of the late **Lexie Morgan**; and scholarship recipient father **Steven Martin**.



LEXIE MORGAN MEMORIAL AWARD: From left, scholarship recipient father **William Solar II**; **Maria Otero**, scholarship co-founder and mother of the late **Gabriel Otero**; **Alexa Solar**, Indian River Class of 2020 and Otero-Morgan Memorial Scholarship recipient; scholarship recipient mother **Tammi Dindl**; and **Jessica Morgan**, scholarship co-founder and mother of the late **Lexie Morgan**.

a \$500 scholarship. To join in helping to perpetuate the legacies of **Gabriel Otero** and **Lexie Morgan**, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation**, 131 Washington St., Watertown NY 13601, or online at nnycf.org.



First Robert E. & Dora M. Belcher Memorial Scholarship awarded

Caden Lucas is the inaugural recipient of the **Robert E. & Dora M. Belcher Memorial Scholarship**.

A 2020 graduate of **South Jefferson Central High School**, **Caden** will attend **Paul Smith's College** this fall to study fisheries and wildlife science. **Caden** is the son of **Brandy** and **Jeff Lucas**, Adams Center. The **Robert E. & Dora M. Belcher Memorial Scholarship** is presented annually to students pursuing careers in environmental or ecological studies or a related field. Pictured, from left: **Joseph Malatino**, wife, **Marianne**, daughter of **Robert E. and Dora Belcher**, and scholarship recipient **Caden Lucas**. The scholarship honors the legacy of **Robert E. & Dora M. Belcher**, who deeply appreciated the natural beauty of the North Country and supported a range of environmental causes and organizations during their lifetimes.

INAUGURAL COACH MATTHEW J. BRANSKI SCHOLAR



From left, **Mike Branski**; **Coach Matthew J. Branski Scholarship** recipient **Nicholas Mallette**; and **Brian Navarra**, Watertown varsity boys lacrosse coach.

Watertown High School's **Nicholas Mallette** was recently honored as the first recipient of the **Northern New York Community Foundation Coach Matthew J. Branski Scholarship**.

The **Branski Scholarship** was established at the Community Foundation shortly after his passing in January to honor his leadership as a decades-long lacrosse coach and Watertown High School teacher who mentored countless students and athletes on and off the field.

Highly regarded by players, parents, fellow teachers and coaches, Mr. Branski was a true friend who always ensured each player was treated with respect. While he demanded excellence, he inspired such results through the example he set for others at school and in his community.

Branski Scholarship recipients are

veterans of the Watertown High School boys lacrosse program and demonstrate a hard-working attitude, dedication to the sport, determination to lead, and exhibit good sportsmanship. Students with plans to play collegiate lacrosse receive strong consideration for the award.

Nick is a standout three-sport varsity athlete, participating in football for two years and swimming/diving and lacrosse for four years. Nick started playing lacrosse in eighth grade and immediately "knew it was the sport for him," his mother, **Terri**, said.

Nick will attend **Le Moyne College**, Syracuse, where he will study biology and continue to play lacrosse as a Le Moyne Dolphin. Nick aspires to become a physician's assistant and plans to apply for entry into the program at Le Moyne. He is the son of **Al** and **Terri Mallette**, Watertown.

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
- Alex Bay Township Historical Society
- Canton Community Fund
- Cape Vincent Village Green
- Church and Community Program, Canton
- City of Watertown Community Fund
- Clayton Jazz Festival / Jazz in the Classroom Program
- Densmore Church
- Depauville Free Library
- 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 & Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley
- Indian River Lakes Conservancy
- Jefferson County Historical Society
- Lewis County General Hospital Foundation
- Lyme Free Library
- Mountain View Prevention Services
- New Beginnings Clothing & Outreach
- North Country Public Radio
- Ogdensburg Command Performances
- Ontario Bays Initiative (OBI)
- Orchestra of Northern New York
- Save The River
- St. Lawrence County Arts Council
- St. Lawrence County Historical Association
- Stage Notes
- The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence & Rotary Dodge Pond
- Thousand Islands Area Habitat For Humanity
- Thousand Islands Arts Center
- TILT Discovery Center Fund
- United Helpers
- Wanakena Historical Association
- Watertown Community Fund
- Watertown Lyric Theater
- Wilderness HealthCare Foundation
- WPBS
- Youth Philanthropy Council Fund

Contact the Foundation, **315-782-7110**, to learn more about maximizing your gift and to support any of these Foundation partners. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

FIRST STUMPF FARM PRODUCTIONS SCHOLAR



Thousand Islands Central High School graduate **Griffin C. Partridge**, Clayton, left, and Stumpf Farm Productions director and owner **Bryan Stumpf**.

Thousand Islands Central High School's **Griffin C. Partridge**, Clayton, is the first recipient of the **Stumpf Farm Productions Scholarship**. It is awarded to graduating Thousand Islands Central High School seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and exhibit the potential for writing and directing creative narratives in the cinematic arts. Scholarship founder **Bryan Stumpf** is a local film director. Griffin also completed the visual communications program at **Jeff-Lewis BOCES**, Watertown. He will attend **Mohawk Valley Community College**, Utica, this fall, to study animation, and hopes to continue his education at **RIT**, Rochester. Griffin plans to pursue a career in digital animation or illustration and "bring images to life and create iconic pieces of visual art." He is the son of **Misty** and **Kenneth Partridge**, Clayton.

Foundation partners for Wanakena history

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 later this summer at 21 Second Street

The Foundation's board of directors recently approved \$16,000 in funding for the Historical Association. A \$6,000 grant will fund equipment and supplies at the center and a \$10,000 matching commitment will help build an 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 last year with renovations continuing through early summer.

The center will feature a collection of exhibits, modern presentations and meaningful artifact displays tied to the 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.

"Without the Foundation's grant, we could very well be unable to implement high-quality, electronic access to our collection and availability in displays," Mr. Ditch said. "We



Wanakena Historical Association trustees and volunteers gather at the new **Wanakena History Center**, from left, front row: **Sara Cibelli, Carol Cassidy, Judy Hastings-Keith,** and **Allen Ditch**; second row: **John Steinberg, Ron Capone, Paul Flynn,** and **Marsha Smith**; back row on porch: **Lynn Smith, Virginia Peters, Primrose McVey, Terry Smith, Kathy Greenwald, Bill Gleason, Wayne Allen, Gerry Cibelli, Piers Bramham, Michael Greenwald, Larry Mayo,** and **Harry Shock.**

SUPPORT THE WANAKENA HISTORY CENTER

■ To join others in helping build support for the **Wanakena Historical Association History Center** and its mission, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.** Secure online gifts may be made at nnycf.org. Gifts to the center's endowment fund will be matched up to \$10,000.

hope to make this an exciting place to visit."

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 damaged in 2014, a project the Community Foundation supported.

The history center has garnered impressive philanthropic support. The organization also took thoughtful steps toward developing a strategic plan designed not only for the history center's sustainability, but the agency as well. Embedded in that plan is an emphasis on building an endowment, which the association presently has at the Community Foundation, thanks to an anonymous donor.

Despite ongoing public health concerns, Mr. Ditch said he hopes the center can open for a preview in September and remain on track for a grand opening celebration in 2021.

"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."

Clayton Jazz Festival program sets path to sustainable future

A program that educates students about jazz music and enhances their artistic abilities is on a path to continue for years to come thanks to a recent Community Foundation grant.

An extension of the annual **Clayton Jazz Festival**, the **Jazz in the Classroom** program has been a transformational musical and educational experience for Jefferson County students since 2017.

The Community Foundation has supported the festival and its school-based education program since 2015. A \$20,000 grant package to ensure the program's long-term sustainability was approved this year.

A \$10,000 grant will help fund the program over three years, which includes support from the **Grace L. Reinman Fund at the Foundation**. To help establish and build the **Jazz in the Classroom Endowment Fund** at the foundation, a \$5,000 grant was awarded with an additional \$5,000 commitment to match gifts.

"The endowment will help us bridge any gaps in program funding year to year and



bring longevity to the program," said **Michelle Grybowski**, Jazz in the Classroom program coordinator. "This experience is so unique, and it may supplement things that aren't able to happen in the classroom. There is a great chance for this program to have a legacy."

Organizers plan to schedule the next program in March 2021, offering the

experience to students in **Watertown High School, Belleville-Henderson** and **Immaculate Heart Central School**. Its rotation to different Jefferson County Schools each year has been one of the most impressive aspects of its success, giving music students a chance to participate while also building confidence and self-esteem in the young artists.

Mrs. Grybowski said the program's success is a testament to its partnership with the Community Foundation and its commitment to support local arts and education.

"We are doing something so good for the youth in our community," she said. "Ultimately, students are going to have a true live music experience that gives them a wider world vision of music. It's the idea that music can be fun and help keep us connected."

To join in support for **Jazz in the Classroom**, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or through secure online giving at nnycf.org.



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Giving made easy

■ Online giving is convenient and secure at nnycf.org.

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■ If you have a **donor-advised fund** at the Community Foundation, consider a gift that supports Foundation programs or one of nearly 150 local nonprofits that partner with us, in addition to any qualified charitable organization.

Did you remember the Community Foundation in your will?

■ The projects and programs in this newsletter are made possible, in part, because people left **bequests**. You can tailor your legacy or honor a loved one through a meaningful gift. Contact **Rande Richardson**, executive director, **315-782-7110** or rande@nnycf.org to discuss legacy planning.

GROWING A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



Ashley St. Croix



Mya Weaver



Makayla Witt

Boldt great-grandson, scholarship founder honors Class of 2020, commits to match gifts

In honor of the **Class of 2020** and to encourage new gifts that will help perpetuate a legacy scholarship for Jefferson County students, the founder of the **George C. Boldt Scholarship** recently announced his pledge to match all new gifts to the fund, up to \$50,000 through the end of this year.

Malcolm Goodridge, the great-grandson of George C. Boldt Sr., has led efforts to establish the scholarship with other descendants of Mr. Boldt and dozens of North Country donors who have made gifts to the scholarship fund at the Community Foundation. Mr. Goodridge said his “pledge to match new gifts will help grow the fund and ensure its longevity as a permanent resource to support students and their pursuit of higher education.”

The scholarship honors the life and legacy of Boldt Castle builder George C. Boldt Sr., a noted hotelier and philanthropist. Despite his own challenges after immigrating to the United States from Prussia at age 13, Mr. Boldt rose to prominence as the owner of New York City’s famed Waldorf Astoria hotel.



George C. Boldt Sr.

“Education is one of the most important things we can offer young people today,” Mr. Goodridge said. “It’s a great equalizer that leads to incredible opportunities in the world.”

The scholarship, established at the Community Foundation in 2017, is now in its second year providing support to Jefferson County students.

Thousand Islands Central High School student **Ashley St. Croix** and **Alexandria Central High School** students **Mya Weaver** and **Makayla Witt** were selected as 2020 recipients and each awarded \$5,000 scholarships. **Ashley** will attend the **Culinary Institute of America**, Hyde Park, where she will study

baking and pastry business and management. She is the daughter of **Adam St. Croix**, Clayton. **Mya** will attend **RIT**, Rochester, where she will study biomedical engineering. She is the daughter of **Chrystal** and **Scott Weaver**, Alexandria Bay. **Makayla** will attend **St. Lawrence University**, Canton, where she will study biology. She is the daughter of **Mary** and **Michael Witt**, Alexandria Bay.

SUPPORT THE GEORGE C. BOLDT SCHOLARSHIP FUND & DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

To join in helping support the **George C. Boldt Scholarship**, make gifts to: **Northern York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or online at nnycf.org. All gifts through **Dec. 31, 2020**, will be matched. Donors will be invited to the Class of 2021 scholarship presentation and appreciation reception at **Boldt Castle** next summer.