



Clifton-Fine Growing Together

Connecting our communities of Fine, Oswegatchie, Star Lake, Newton Falls, Wanakena and Cranberry Lake to enhance quality of life for all

Caldwell Family Fund helps strengthen region Impact grows as fifth generation learns about community needs

For five generations, the Caldwell family has taken solace in the **Star Lake** area, continuing a decades-long tradition that began when their grandfather, **Joseph Caldwell**, purchased a log cabin around the turn of the 20th century.

Joseph Caldwell owned **J.S. Caldwell Lumber**, a Syracuse-based firm that did business in the Adirondacks. He became very involved in the Star Lake community and gifted some of the property for the hospital there. Through the years, the cabin has become a favorite family retreat, serving initially as a hunting camp and even a honeymoon destination.

For Joseph Caldwell's grandchildren, **Fred, Jeff, and Mimi Weber**, the camp is where they learned to fish and sail and experienced their first overnight campouts.

Many members of the succeeding generations have experienced the same rights of passage.



A FIFTH-GENERATION FAMILY TRADITION: Three generations of Caldwell family descendants gather at their Star Lake cabin for "Opening Weekend," this past Memorial Day. Top row, standing from left: **Ben Weber, Christopher Jones, Jeff Weber, Hilary Raymond, Bella Raymond, and Teddy Weber**. Bottom row, from left: **Luke Weber, Tyler King, Caldwell Weber, Fred Weber, Andrew Jones, Mimi Weber, and Cora Jones**. Seated with back to camera: dog **Otto Weber**.

"It became the happy place for five generations," said **Jeff Weber**, who, with his wife, **Linda**, is retired and lives in Guilford, Conn.

"As a kid, I remember this area when it was a lot more prosperous. It was a very active place when I was growing up and

spending time here."

The family has witnessed community needs across the region evolve over time as the paper, timber, and mining industries have all but retreated from the Clifton-Fine area. That led the family to "do something that we feel can make a difference where it's needed most," Jeff said.

In 2020, the family established the **Caldwell Family Fund** at the **Northern New York Community Foundation**, a permanent charitable resource to support and enhance the quality of life in the Clifton-Fine region. The Fund is designed to help augment annual support available through the **Clifton-Fine Community Fund** at the Community Foundation.

Because of their multi-generational ties to Star Lake, the family's support for programs and projects benefiting the hamlet has been greatest to date.

In 2021, the fund supported

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Henri-Foley will continue to beautify beloved hometown

Star Lake lost a proud and devoted community advocate when **Daphne Henri-Foley** passed away last year. Daphne was born in 1953 in Star Lake. She spent her career in Houston, Texas, before retiring to Star Lake.

Daphne was very engaged in her community and cherished her life on the lake. She especially enjoyed summers and gardening, a passion that led her to volunteer with the **Star Lake Protective Association** and plant flower boxes annually throughout her hometown.

Her son, **Shane**, a police officer in the Indianapolis, Ind., area, said he was very humbled by how community members responded to

help when his mother was ill. Rather than sending flowers, Shane said his family decided to accept gifts to do something more permanent to remember his mother.

When more gifts than expected were received, Shane turned to the **Community Foundation** to help his family make a lasting and meaningful impact.

The **Daphne Henri-Foley Memorial Fund**



Daphne Henri-Foley

was established at the Community Foundation after her passing through the loving support of many friends and family to perpetuate Daphne's desire to beautify the Star Lake region now and for generations to come. The fund will provide annual support to help continue the tradition of community flower boxes.

"This is her home and something to support her hometown in such a beautiful way to represent who she was. It is something I know she would be very proud of," Shane said.

Through Daphne's example, she will serve as an inspiration to others to give back to enhance the betterment of their community.



CLIFTON-FINE COMMUNITY FUND

A Northern New York Community Foundation affiliate

ESTABLISHED 2013

MISSION

The Clifton-Fine Community Fund supports programs, projects and activities that enhance the quality of life for our communities in perpetuity.

OUR STORY

The Clifton-Fine Community Fund was established in 2013 as a geographic-specific fund to support efforts that strengthen the quality of life in the southeast St. Lawrence County towns and hamlets of Fine, Oswegatchie, Star Lake, Newton Falls, Wanakena and Cranberry Lake. The Northern New York Community Foundation stewards this charitable fund. To build initial support, the Foundation awarded a \$50,000 challenge grant to donors interested in giving to this philanthropic resource. By the end of 2014, people from across the region came together to create a \$100,000 community fund. It awards grants to support local projects and nonprofit organizations that serve the region in perpetuity. Families from across the region can now give to support the places they love and call home, forever.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Halsey Bagg, Cranberry Lake
Dave Daut, Wanakena
Mary Hooven, Cranberry Lake
Malinda Riquelme, Star Lake
Neil Woodworth, Wanakena



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Community Foundation
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COMMUNITY FUND / YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



CRANBERRY LAKE NORTH SHORE HUB:
A \$1,500 Clifton-Fine Community fund grant in 2022 provided support for a new concrete pad at the Cranberry Lake North Shore Hub to create outdoor event space. Community Fund donors have made possible nearly \$50,000 in grantmaking since 2014 to support 45 community projects and initiatives in the region.

Clifton-Fine Community Fund donors help strengthen region through giving, grantmaking

Since it began awarding grants in 2014 to help strengthen the quality of life for residents in the Clifton-Fine region of southeast St. Lawrence County, the **Clifton-Fine Community Fund** has provided nearly \$50,000 in support to help with 45 projects and initiatives.

From essential needs to health and wellness, history, education and libraries and arts and culture, the Community Fund has broadly supported efforts to improve life for all in the towns and hamlets of Fine, Oswegatchie, Star Lake, Newton Falls, Wanakena and Cranberry Lake.

In 2022, the Community Fund awarded five grants totaling \$5,820. Grant funding was awarded to help the **Cultural Arts Committee** complete a sustainable dock in Wanakena for community use; to support the **Clifton-Fine Lions Club's** purchase of 21 new high-definition televisions for **Clifton-Fine Hospital** and its extended care facility; to aid the **Cranberry Lake North Shore Hub** with installation of a concrete pad alongside its building to host

events, concerts, lectures, and additional outdoor use by the community; and to help the **Clifton Community Library** acquire activity kit backpacks for visitors to enjoy.

The Community Fund is a **Northern New York Community Foundation** affiliate. Its core functions of reviewing requests for grant funding and making grant awards are accomplished through an all-volunteer committee with guidance from Community Foundation staff.

Annually, the Community Fund issues a call to nonprofit and municipal organizations for requests for grants. It receives proposals ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 for a wide range of worthy and important projects.

The committee reviews applications in late summer each year and grants are made after Community Foundation board action in late September. To apply, organizations must either be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, or the project must be stewarded by a municipal organization serving as a fiscal sponsor. Previously completed projects cannot be funded.

CLIFTON-FINE COMMUNITY FUND / GRANTMAKING

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$10,000 to 6 organizations	\$3,430 to 3 organizations	\$5,250 to 7 organizations	\$5,000 to 3 organizations	\$5,400 to 7 organizations
2019	2020	2021	2022	
\$4,400 to 4 organizations	\$4,900 to 4 organizations	\$4,900 to 6 organizations	\$5,820 to 5 organizations	

TOTAL: \$49,100 to aid 45 community projects or initiatives

COMMUNITY FUND / WHY I GIVE



AT HOME ON CRANBERRY LAKE: Marilyn and Allen Splete at their summer cottage. A Carthage native, Allen spent his professional career in higher education. Marilyn also spent her professional career in education, initially in higher ed and later, as a high school teacher. The Spletes spend their winters in Maryland and maintain strong ties to the Clifton-Fine region, supporting many local causes that are special to them, including the Clifton-Fine Community Fund.

"It feels good to do things for others, which is a lesson that philanthropy has taught me. Philanthropy is an avenue through which you can channel your energies. For Marilyn and me, it's saying, 'I feel fulfilled inside, because it's been my conscious choice to do this and by doing it, I'm making a difference in somebody else's life.'"

Allen & Marilyn Splete, Cranberry Lake

CALDWELL FAMILY from page 1

essential needs through a grant to the **Star Lake Food Pantry**. Last year, the family awarded a grant to the **Wilderness Health Care Foundation** to help fund training for home health aides. This year, a grant to the **Free Community Meal at St. Hubert's Church** will help acquire a commercial dishwasher to support a more than 20-year, all-volunteer program serving the region's residents.

"We're bringing the family into it and growing our giving and expanding how we can help a community that generations have loved," Jeff said.

Chris Jones, a great-grandson of Joseph Caldwell, lives in Jamesville and has quickly engaged with the fund. He said it has "sensitized a new generation on what the needs

are" and the many ways they can make a meaningful impact.

Chris credits the **Community Foundation** and its team for helping his family deepen their impact in the Clifton-Fine area.

"Having a great team to work with helps us understand the needs in the community," Chris said. "We look for whatever small ways we can help."

For Jeff, Chris, and the family, the fund has given them "a way to help show our kids the value of philanthropy, that it's important to find ways to give back and gratifying to do so in an area you love."

"We hope it will continue to grow and make a bigger impact," Jeff said. "Our children are now involved and they're teaching the next generations about community and how they can make a difference."

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Jeff Weber, Caldwell Family Fund

STRENGTHENING WANAKENA

Foundation matching gifts to Preservation and Vibrancy Fund

A Community Foundation matching grant will double gifts to the **Wanakena Preservation and Vibrancy Fund**, a new charitable resource that helps community betterment efforts in the historic hamlet.

The fund was established in 2020 after **Stephen Moyer** and **Lester Allen**, longtime supporters of the Foundation's work in the region, were seeking a lasting way to assist nonprofits that serve Wanakena residents. Mr. Moyer and Mr. Allen strongly believe in the charitable spirit living in the community. The two donors want to challenge supporters to help build a permanent, geographic-specific resource for the area.

After an initial gift, Mr. Moyer and Mr. Allen agreed to match each additional gift, dollar-for-dollar, **up to \$15,000** to help build the fund. Once the match is complete, the **Community Foundation** will make an additional \$10,000 commitment to the fund.

The **Wanakena Historical Association** is helping to promote the matching opportunity. Along with its mission to preserve and feature local history, the Historical Association also supports a variety of local community projects.

The fund will have the ability, from time to time, to help support the mission and work of nonprofit organizations serving the Wanakena community while preserving the community's past, present, and future by providing ongoing, meaningful and lasting support.

In the spirit of this fund, and given the interests of the original donors, the fund may support projects and efforts centered on history and historical preservation, arts and culture, recreation, the environment, community beautification, and more.

To help build the **Wanakena Preservation and Vibrancy Fund** and double your impact, mail gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**.



A HOME FOR HISTORY: Wanakena Historical Association trustees and volunteers **Allen Ditch**, left, and **Kathy Greenwald** outside the **Wanakena History Center**, which opened to guests in 2021 after extensive renovations to the **21 Second Street** property.

COMMUNITY FUND / WHY I GIVE

"It's hard to even begin to imagine what the needs will be here for future generations. But, two things are clear: The community foundation concept is a very powerful and efficient way to meet current and future needs. We would be foolish to think we could understand what the needs 50 and 100 years from now will be. There certainly will be needs, and the Community Foundation will be there to meet them and will always find ways to help those who are living in the north country."

— Lester Allen & Stephen Moyer,
Community Fund donors



CLIFTON-FINE COMMUNITY FUND / COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY

With grateful appreciation for all who give

The **Clifton-Fine Community Fund** and the **Northern New York Community Foundation** gratefully thank all donors who help support and strengthen the quality of life for all in the **Fine, Oswegatchie, Star Lake, Newton Falls, Wanakena, and Cranberry Lake** communities. **Every gift, large and small**, enables a more effective pursuit of our collective work and mission. We hope you will consider renewing your support in the year ahead. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

Sustaining Gifts

The following supporters made gifts to the Clifton-Fine Community Fund from September 1, 2019, to August 7, 2023

Jared Cooper
Allen Ditch
Harold & Caroline
Feiveson
Paul J. Flynn

Reynald Grammo
Russell & Peg Hall
Daniel & Susan Heneka
Carl J. Hoffman &
Elizabeth H. Naumburg

Charles & Mary Hooven
Anthony & June Moshano
Kathleen A. Nevil
Katherine B. &
Ralph C. Oser

Rande Richardson
Andy & Susan Smith
John Steinburg &
Karl Crossman
Catherine Sweeney

Richard W. Whelden &
Sarah E. Healy-Whelden
Neil & Holly Woodworth
Charles & Deborah Yartz

Recent Tribute Gifts

Includes only gifts made to the Clifton-Fine Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation in memory or in honor of a loved one from September 1, 2019, to August 7, 2023

In Memory of
Given by

Allen Birchenough
Rande Richardson

Jim & Matt Glavin
Daniel & Susan Heneka

Frederic G. Hall
Rande Richardson

Michael Hooven
Kathleen A. Nevil

Roger Johnson
Rande Richardson

In Honor of
Given by

Annette Craig
Rande Richardson

Susan Sweeney Smith
Rande Richardson

Timothy Wendt
Rande Richardson

Community Fund / How to Give

■ Giving to the **Clifton-Fine Community Fund** of the **Northern New York Community Foundation** is easy and flexible. To join others in building this permanent resource for the region, you may mail your gift to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, ATTN: Clifton-Fine Community Fund, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**. You may also access secure online giving at nnycf.org/giving. To discuss additional giving options, including gifts of stock or other appreciated securities, as well as planned giving and legacy planning, contact **Max DelSignore**, Community Foundation assistant director, max@nnycf.org, or **315-782-7110**.