



Thoughtful Giving

Newsletter of the Northern New York Community Foundation



» GIVING BETTER TOGETHER

Potsdam couple partners to maximize impact

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Northern New York
Community Foundation
SINCE 1929

LOCATED WITHIN THE NORTHERN
NEW YORK PHILANTHROPY CENTER

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THOUGHTFUL LEGACY OF KINDNESS ENDURES



From left: **Joyce Renzi**, Laurie Renzi Gadsden Award recipients **Adelyne Jareo** and **Eric Gayne**, Sackets Harbor High School Class of 2023, **Dr. Eugene Renzi**, and **Phil Gadsden**.

First recipients of Laurie Renzi Gadsden Award are Sackets Harbor class leaders

Two leading members of the **Sackets Harbor** Class of 2023 have been named the first recipients of the Northern New York Community Foundation **Laurie Renzi Gadsden Award**.

Adelyne Jareo, this year's Sackets Harbor Central School class valedictorian, and **Eric Gayne**, an academic leader who ranked fourth in his class, were each awarded a scholarship during June's High School Awards night.

Adelyne will attend the **University of Rochester** this fall where she plans to study history and political science. She is the daughter of **Nicole Peer**, Adams, and **Mark Jareo**.

Eric will attend the **University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy** in St. Louis, Mo., this fall where he plans to study biomedical sciences. He is the son of **Leslie** and **James Gayne**, Dexter.

Given by **Gabriel Renzi** and **Dr. Eugene and Joyce Renzi and family**, the Laurie Renzi Gadsden Award was established at the Community Foundation in 2022 in Laurie's memory to honor her life and perpetuate her legacy of kindness and positivity. Laurie passed away in August 2021 at the age of 57.

She was a beloved guidance counselor at several school districts in Central New York

over a 23-year career in public education, most notably in the North Syracuse School District. She loved working with students of all ages but particularly enjoyed helping students with career and college decisions.



Laurie Renzi Gadsden

To honor her life, this award is presented annually to either a student, teacher, or staff member of Sackets Harbor Central School or a Jefferson County community member. Recipients will have demonstrated an interest and passion for fostering and promoting good citizenship and civic responsibility, engagement, and service. Through their example, it is hoped that others are inspired

to do what they can to be good role models and live in ways that support others, celebrate community, and promote positive behaviors while giving back.

The fund will forever serve as a reminder of the importance and power of the human spirit for the betterment of our community and the world.

The Community Foundation is honored to partner with the **Renzi family** on this very meaningful and enduring tribute. It is a wonderful and fitting way to remember Laurie by continuing to uplift and encourage others as she did.

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT: BRENDA LEDDY, PHILADELPHIA



FOUNDATION SCHOLAR AT WORK:

Brenda Leddy, a Northern New York Community Foundation Nontraditional Scholarship recipient, now serves as the principal of **Theresa Primary School**. A Philadelphia resident, Brenda received educational support to complete her bachelor's degree at **SUNY Potsdam**.

Foundation scholar: Connect with your community and learn about many different career paths

Brenda Leddy graduated in 1995 from **Indian River High School**. While raising a young family and working as an aide at Indian River Central School she was inspired to return to college and pursue her dream of becoming a certified classroom teacher. After attending **Jefferson Community College**, she transferred to **SUNY Potsdam**, graduating in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts, and in 2010 with a Master of Science in Education. She earned a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership in 2016 at **SUNY Oswego**. Because of generous donors like you, Brenda was able to complete her bachelor's degree thanks to a **Northern New York Community Foundation** Nontraditional Scholarship that made her education more accessible. We recently caught up with Brenda and asked about her experience and what advice she'd give young students.

How did you learn about the Community Foundation and its many scholarship opportunities? While working as an aide at Indian

BRENDA LEDDY**AGE:** 46**HOMETOWN:** Philadelphia

EDUCATION: **Indian River Central School District**, 1995; **Jefferson Community College**; **SUNY Potsdam**, Bachelor of Arts, 2009; **SUNY Potsdam**, Master of Science in Education, 2010; **SUNY Oswego**, Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership, 2016; **Community Foundation** Nontraditional Scholarship recipient.

FAMILY: Husband, **Derek**; son, **Joseph**, and daughter, **India**

EMPLOYER: **Theresa Primary School**, Indian River Central School District

CAREER: Elementary principal in Theresa for the past four years; previously served as principal of Cape Vincent Elementary School.

PERSONAL: Camping, traveling, walking, gardening, fishing with my husband, and spending time with family and friends.

River, there was a teacher by the name of Diane Recupero who encouraged me to apply for the non-traditional scholarship through the Community Foundation.

What put you on the path to a career in K-12 education? I began working at Indian River as an aide in 1999. I

knew instantly that I wanted to work in education. I loved working with students and found great joy in all areas of the school. Knowing I could have a deeper impact on students as a classroom teacher made me want it even more. Financially, the dream of higher education was far out of reach for me as I had a young family. With the help of a teacher, I applied for my very first scholarship. I was pleasantly surprised when I learned that I was chosen for this generous scholarship. The Northern New York Community Foundation made it possible for me, as a young mother of two to go to college for the first time. In the beginning I attended night courses at JCC until it was time for me to resign from my position at Indian River to attend SUNY Potsdam full-time.

How has your education helped you advance professionally? I began at Indian River as a kindergarten

What's your story?

INVESTING IN EDUCATION:

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

See EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT on page 29

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL: YOUR GIFTS DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL GRANTS

The Youth Philanthropy Council of the Northern New York Community Foundation made the following grant awards to local nonprofits during its 2022-23 program year:

Meals on Wheels, \$5,950 to cover meal delivery costs and assist individuals awaiting insurance pre-authorization or those who face short-term hardships.

Watertown Urban Mission, \$5,000 to support purchase of essential household items for 15 to 25 people transitioning out of homelessness in the supplemental housing program.

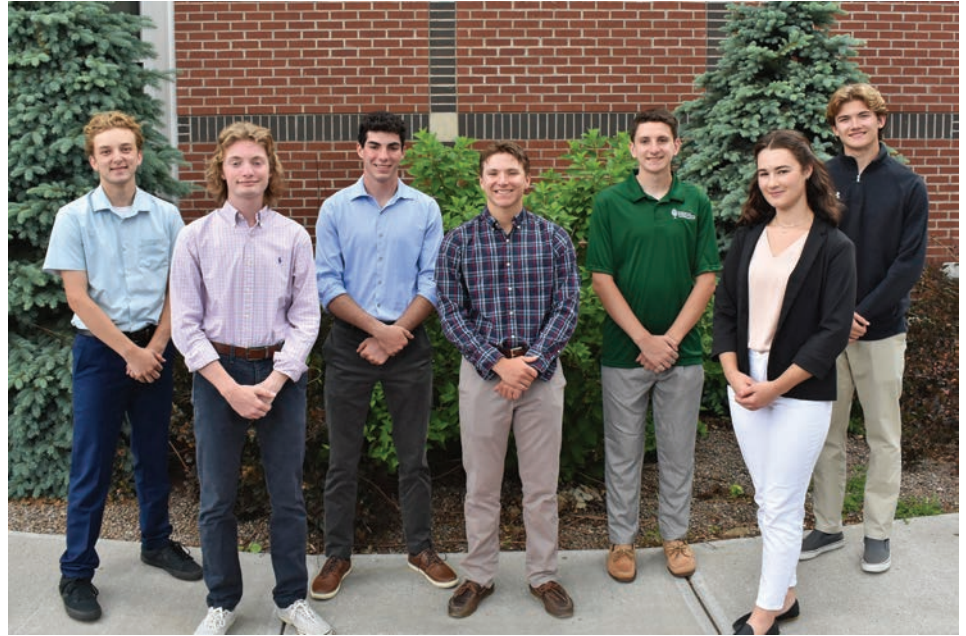
HarmoNNY Performing Arts Community, \$3,000 to purchase additional band instruments in demand for its musical instrument lending library, especially for beginner students, who may lack financial resources.

South Jeff Backpack Program, \$2,000 to support its existing program, which provides weekend meals to food-insecure children in the South Jefferson School District.

Stage Notes, \$1,640 to help with rental costs of their performance venue, the Dulles State Office Building, where it staged the musical "Guys and Dolls" from July 27 to 29.

Priority Wellness Campaign, \$1,560 to support licensing fees for an annual accounting and donor management software subscription that will streamline operations and allow volunteers to focus on community outreach, ensuring its long-term sustainability. The organization provides peer-to-peer support groups and mental health training for first responders.

Peyton Lane S. Morse Legacy Foundation, \$850 to help provide CPR training in communities with long emergency response times and limited financial resources. They plan to collaborate with the American Red Cross to provide free CPR and AED training to residents in Jefferson County. Funding will support a certified trainer and certification.



CLASS OF 2023 YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL GRADUATES: From left, **Grady Petersen**, Immaculate Heart Central High School; **Owen Newton**, South Jefferson High School; **Jack Buckingham**, South Jefferson High School; **Zachary Blevins**, South Jefferson High School; **Trey Augliano**, Watertown High School; **Adelaide "Addie" Weir**, Watertown High School; and **Zachary Kilburn**, Watertown High School.

The Youth Philanthropy Council of the Northern New York Community Foundation's Class of 2022-2023 recently awarded \$20,000 in grants to seven North Country nonprofit organizations that will support a wide range of community programs and projects.

The Council reviews requests annually from tri-county nonprofits to fund projects or initiatives that positively impact the quality of life in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. In addition to researching and recommending grants, Council members visit nonprofit organizations and learn about grant stewardship, community investment and leadership, and nonprofit sustainability.

The Council received 27 funding proposals for this program year with seven agencies invited to present requests to the full Council.

Council Vice Chair **Owen Newton**, a second-year member and 2023 South Jefferson High School graduate, said this year's grant selection process "was very competitive, educational, and eye-opening as we learned about the many needs of our communities."

"I am incredibly proud of the Council's diligent work this year to select seven outstanding organizations in which we have the highest confidence that they will better

our community now and in the future," Mr. Newton said. "The Council provides a unique perspective on philanthropy and our community's needs, and we are proud to fund these projects to assess those needs."

Council Grants Committee Chair **Jack Buckingham**, a second-year member and 2023 South Jefferson High School graduate, noted how this year's Council worked to support funding for organizations that will have a broad impact across the region.

"Due to the hard work and attention to detail Council members provided this year, I am incredibly confident in the projects we chose to support," Mr. Buckingham said. "We funded a diverse collection of grants in order to assure we helped as many people as possible while also ensuring we met a wide variety of community needs."

In addition, the Council this year awarded grant support to five regional nonprofits to strengthen their respective work and missions. The **Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country**, **Canton**, **Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions**, **Watertown**, **Oswegatchie Educational Center**, **Croghan**, **Potsdam Holiday Fund**, and **Traditional Arts in Upstate New York**, **Canton**, each received \$1,000.

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

Mart Liinve Family Charitable Fund

THE YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL EXPERIENCE



Trey Augliano
Watertown High School



Zachary Blevins
South Jefferson High School



Jack Buckingham
South Jefferson High School

Graduates reflect on lessons of service

Trey Augliano

What is most memorable about your Youth Philanthropy Council service? The relationships that are created through YPC will echo through my life.

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

I am very privileged to have access to stable housing and food security. After diving deep into the needs of our area, I am aware that having a bed to sleep in is something that many of us take for granted.

What leadership skills did you learn in YPC that you may not have gained from other activities in high school? I have learned not only public speaking, but active participation. Being able to think critically, quickly, and communicate that idea quickly is something I could only have learned in YPC.

Zachary Blevins

What is the largest unmet need in our region and how can we work to bridge the gap? One of the biggest needs is having stable food and meals

for those in the community. Many people often go without knowing when or what their next meal is going to be and that is a problem we need to solve. We should all do our part to give, whether that's donating food to local food banks or donating time and service to help fight this problem.

How do you define community philanthropy and how did your experience shape your idea of philanthropy?

When I joined, I thought philanthropy was just donating money to try and make an impact on the community. Instead, I learned that philanthropy is donating your time, skills, and money to make any impact you can to help make the community a better place. Being in YPC and going through grant applications are a big aspect of philanthropy, but also getting out as a group in the community to do service projects showed me it's about a lot more than just the money.

What should other young people know about community philanthropy that you wish you knew before you served with YPC? People should know that this Council is truly where you want to be. You will learn so much and just because you don't know a lot about community problems and philanthropy, doesn't mean you shouldn't join. You will learn along the way what it means to be a philanthropist and how to help the community.

Jack Buckingham

As you prepare to continue your education, what will you take with you from your YPC experience? Throughout my two years on the Council,

I have learned to keep an open mind and always value others' opinions. Whether I agree with them or not, it is important to listen to others and do my best to keep their interests in mind. This is a lesson that will be extremely valuable throughout the rest of my life.

What leadership skills did you learn in YPC that you may not have gained from other activities in high school? One of the most important

YPC — Did you know?

■ The Community Foundation's **Youth Philanthropy Council** was chartered in **2010** to promote positive youth leadership development and engage young people in meaningful activities that build their skills while educating them about community philanthropy and its impact on **Northern New York**. Council members grow to become critical thinkers and problem solvers as they engage in lessons that may never be taught in a classroom.

Jack Buckingham

Years service: 2
YPC leadership: Grants Committee Chair (senior year)
School: South Jefferson
Extracurricular activities: National Honor Society; varsity baseball basketball, and soccer; Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).
Parents: Regina Wetterhahn & Todd Buckingham
College: Villanova University
Major: Environmental Science
Career goal: Undecided

2023 Grant opportunity

■ The Community Foundation's **Youth Philanthropy Council** will accept 2023 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 a total of \$20,000.

See YPC SERVICE on page 6

THE YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL EXPERIENCE

YPC — Did you know?

■ Since 2010, the Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council has awarded **134** grants totaling **\$230,070** in support to nonprofit organizations that serve tri-county residents, and nearly **150 students** from **seven different North Country high schools** have served as Council members.



Zachary Kilburn
Watertown High School

YPC SERVICE from page 5

leadership skills I learned on the council is the ability to communicate effectively. I have become much more comfortable in positions that require me to speak to groups and effectively express my opinion. Whether it is explaining a task to the committee or advocating on behalf of an organization, I have become a much more confident speaker because of YPC.

What should other young people know about community philanthropy that you wish you knew before you served with YPC? I would hope that other young adults learn that even a small contribution to the community could be life-changing for many of its members. There are many different ways to help the community that do not require money or special skills.

Zachary Kilburn

Would you recommend the YPC experience to someone you know and why? Yes, I would! I think YPC is a great opportunity for all high

Zachary Kilburn
Years service: 2
YPC leadership: Communications Committee Chair (Senior year)
School: Watertown
Extracurricular activities: National Honor Society; varsity swimming, cross country, tennis; AV Club president, Whiz Quiz, Student Council, class officer, International Club, Business Club, YMCA Blue Sharks Swim Team
Parents: Kim & Mike Kilburn
College: Le Moyne College
Major: Business administration and marketing
Career goal: I hope to work as a marketing manager and someday own my own firm.



Owen Newton
South Jefferson High School

school students. Everyone will take something different out of it, so I would tell people that it is absolutely something they should take part in to grow as a young leader.

The YPC experience helps to position students to continue their community involvement through other avenues like board service. Would you consider serving on a nonprofit board and why? I can see myself in a boardroom in the future, and with my previous experience as a member of YPC, it will be like returning home when I do become a member of a board. I want to make the most impact in my community and I feel like one way of doing that is to serve on a board of a nonprofit.

What leadership skills did you learn in YPC that you may not have gained from other activities in high school? I have learned how to speak up when I usually wouldn't. For example, when I have an idea, I am more inclined

Owen Newton
Years service: 2
YPC leadership: Council Vice Chair (Senior year)
School: South Jefferson
Extracurricular activities: National Honor Society; varsity soccer, baseball, and hockey; Key Club, and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)
Parents: Steven & Elizabeth Newton
College: Jefferson Community College with plans to transfer to Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Major: Mathematics at Jefferson and statistics and data science at RMU
Career goal: Work in hockey operations with the Pittsburgh Penguins as a data scientist before returning home to work at the Foundation.



Grady Petersen
Immaculate Heart Central High School

to share it because YPC has given me the confidence to do so. I also have learned the necessary skill of delegation when in a leadership role because it's important to be a respectful leader and trust those you are leading.

Owen Newton

What is most memorable about your Youth Philanthropy Council service? The amount of growth my peers and I have shown during two years of service. The Council is an incredible group of young men and women who became a team that worked extremely well together, and I am very pleased to have been able to serve.

What surprised you the most as you learned more deeply about the needs of our region? I have a new and deeper understanding of the numerous nonprofits that are doing especially impactful work every single day in our community. There are so many resources available to everyone in our community

Grady Petersen
Years service: 1
YPC leadership: Service Committee
School: Immaculate Heart Central
Extracurricular activities: National Honor Society; varsity soccer, hockey & golf; Boy Scouts; concert & marching band; school musicals; class officer; Math League; peer tutoring; Foreign Language Club; Rotary Interact Club; Skills USA; Whiz Quiz team; school yearbook
Parents: Brandon & Christina Petersen
College: University of Alabama at Birmingham
Major: Physics
Career goal: Medical physicist

Support the YPC endowment

■ 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.

See YPC SERVICE on page 7

YPC SERVICE from page 6

compared to other areas of the country. That is a real testament to how much people in our region genuinely want to help those who need it most while working to improve the quality of life for all.

How do you define community philanthropy? How did your YPC experience shape your idea of philanthropy? Community philanthropy to me is using the resources provided to you to make the greatest positive impact on the people and places that raised you. I have fallen in love with philanthropy since joining the Council and want to continue the work of the Foundation in my future.

Grady Petersen

What is most memorable about your Youth Philanthropy Council service? Being exposed to major problems in the community, the solutions provided by local organizations, and the varying perspectives on different grants from members of the Council was truly enlightening. I was very inspired by the creative solutions to problems in the communities served by organizations that applied for grant support.

Would you recommend the YPC experience to someone you know and why? I would and have recommended YPC service to people I know. It is an eye-opening and inspiring experience, with impacts greater than simply giving out grants. It brings us together as a region and in individual communities to support causes that need it most. I have gained much from my experience, and being able to give back meaningfully is a very wholesome feeling.

What should other young people know about community philanthropy that you wish you knew before you served with YPC? You don't have to be Bruce Wayne or Tony Stark wealthy to be able to give back. Many of the leaders of projects that we seek to support have suffered from the types of problems that they are working to eliminate. Whether it is contributing to a charitable organization or taking up stewardship of a fund to be distributed to worthy causes, anything you can do to give back does help.

Adelaide Weir

What surprised you the most as you learned more deeply about the needs of our region? The North Country has many diverse assets that need to be known. I have thoroughly



Adelaide "Addie" Weir
Watertown High School

enjoyed hearing about all our community members' positive impacts on our region.

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

Healthcare improvement is one of the largest needs in our area, especially in the rural parts. We can work to bridge the gap by showcasing the unique nature of Northern New York life in the recruitment of medical professionals.

What leadership skills did you learn in YPC that you may not have gained from other activities in high school?

I gained many skills throughout my service, but my written and verbal professional communication skills have improved immensely. As secretary, I have also learned how to be an effective active listener which helps me in all aspects of my life. I will also remember the importance of building relationships, peer and professional. My social capital will provide a foundation of support to help me better my future.

Adelaide "Addie" Weir
Years service: 2
YPC leadership: Council secretary (senior year)
School: Watertown
Extracurricular activities: National Honor Society; varsity swimming & lacrosse; violin with Trillium Fiddlers, Student Council president; lifeguard and sailing and ski instructor. Reigning North Country Goes Green Irish Festival Miss Ireland
Parents: Sarah & Marshall Weir
College: Lehigh University
Major: Biology & Spanish
Career goal: Medical professional in the pediatric medicine field

Double your gift: Twice the impact with matching challenges

We are presently doubling gifts for some of our nonprofit partners. **Each gift designated to the respective organization's Community Foundation 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.

Endowment Funds

ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence & Rotary Dodge Pond Endowment Fund
Cape Vincent Village Green Endowment Fund
Church and Community Program Endowment Fund
Clarence B. "Boots" Gaffney Award
Densmore Church Endowment Fund
Friends of Thompson Park Endowment Fund
Grasse River Heritage Endowment Fund
Hawn Memorial Library Endowment Fund
Hospice & Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley Endowment Fund
Jefferson County Historical Society Endowment Fund
Lyme Free Library Endowment Fund
Mountain View Prevention Services Endowment Fund
North Country Public Radio Endowment Fund
OBI Land Trust Endowment Fund
Ogdensburg Command Performances Endowment Fund
Save The River Endowment Fund
Six Town Community Fund
St. Lawrence County Arts Council Endowment Fund
Stage Notes Endowment Fund
The Nature Conservancy Adirondack Chapter Endowment Fund
Thousand Islands Arts Center Endowment Fund
Wanakena Historical Association Endowment Fund
Wanakena Preservation & Vibrancy Fund
Watertown Community Fund
Watertown Lyric Theater Endowment Fund
Wilderness Healthcare Foundation Endowment Fund

Operating & Project Funds

United Presbyterian Church Tower Restoration Fund
Zoo New York Animal Wellness Fund

■ Contact the Community Foundation, **315-782-7110**, to learn more about how you can maximize your gift and support any of these Foundation partners. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Access secure online giving at **nnycf.org**. Do you have a favorite nonprofit organization you'd like to support? Contact us to learn how you can perpetuate your giving and extend your impact.



THE DIFFERENCE YOUR GIFTS MAKE

Community Spirit

Youth Giving Challenge

Grant recipients & winning students

"A good community takes people working together at something or helping others. I love my community because it's a group of mostly good people being kind and making it a better place to live."

— Carson Brown, Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner



SALVATION ARMY WATERTOWN CORPS: From left, Salvation Army Captains **Dominic** and **Elizabeth Nicoll**, Case Middle School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner **Carson Brown**, and Carson's mother, **Jessica Brown**, a Case Middle School teacher.

"A community is a group of diverse people that are brought together by where they live, as well as religion, school, and sports. People in a community care about each other and share common interests."

— Aidan O'Shaughnessy, Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner



WATERTOWN URBAN MISSION: From left, Aidan's mother, **Colleen O'Shaughnessy**; brothers **Sam** and **William Considine**; father, **Matthew Considine**; Case Middle School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner **Aidan O'Shaughnessy**; Watertown Urban Mission Executive Director **Cherelyn VanBrocklin**; and Community Bank representative **Cheyenne Blundon**.



ADIRONDACK MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION: From left, Beaver Camp Executive Director **Mike Judd** and **Carl Petzoldt**, Lowville Academy and Central School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner.

"Community means a group big or small that supports each other and will always help each other if they are in need. It means people have my back and I have theirs and we are loyal and supportive."

— Will Vokey, Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner



LEWIS COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE: From left, Lewis County Search & Rescue chief **Josh Levesque**, Lowville Academy and Central School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner **Will Vokey**, and Community Bank Lowville branch manager and vice president **Tammie Lambert**.

The 2022-2023 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge is made possible by gifts from generous donors like YOU who contribute to the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund, a leadership gift from an anonymous donor, and generous support from the following business leader:


Community
Bank

2018-2023 Program Partner

Legacy fund supports Gouverneur bandstand

More than 20 years after her passing, A. Eleanor Jackson continues to impact hometown

A major focal point of **Gouverneur Village Park** is getting some much-needed help from a devoted community member who passed away in 2002.

The park's bandstand met a wrecking ball this spring as the village began a project to replace the downtown fixture. Thanks in part to a \$5,000 grant from the **A. Eleanor Jackson Fund of the Community Foundation**, the village has secured enough funding to commence work on a new structure.

A longtime village resident, Miss Jackson served for many years as secretary for Kinney Drugs and the Kinney Drugs Foundation. Outside of her professional work, she was a devoted Gouverneur-area citizen and an active volunteer. Through her estate, she provided a permanent source of grant funding for projects that would occur in her community after her lifetime. Since her passing, her Community Foundation fund has made grants totaling more than \$215,000 to support several projects



A. Eleanor Jackson

that impact the quality of life in and around the Gouverneur area.

The grant is a wonderful example of the power of legacy in that someone who cared so much about Gouverneur can be part of something meaningful even when they are no longer able to personally. It is a meaningful part of the Community Foundation's core mission to perpetuate the love of community and we are continually grateful that Eleanor

entrusted that responsibility to us in a lasting way.

In late January, the Community Foundation learned about the collaborative project between the Village of Gouverneur, Gouverneur Historical Association, and the Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce. The three organizations successfully joined together to garner support for a key location that holds several year-round community events.

"We are very thankful that the Community Foundation was interested in helping us with the bandstand," Village Mayor Ron McDougall said. "The fact that the Foundation's support comes through the A. Eleanor Jackson Fund is even more special. Eleanor was a key figure in the success of Gouverneur, and a very gracious lady whose reputation was beyond reproach. Her legacy lives on with great pride through this very generous grant."

Local contractors and partners are expected to complete the new bandstand in October.



Remember your community 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, forever. Contact **Rande Richardson**, executive director, **315-782-7110** or **rande@nnycf.org** to discuss your legacy planning and learn more.

"The fact that the Community Foundation's support comes through the A. Eleanor Jackson Fund is even more special. Eleanor was a key figure in the success of Gouverneur, and a very gracious lady whose reputation was beyond reproach. Her legacy lives on with great pride through this very generous grant."

— Ron McDougall, Village of Gouverneur Mayor

YOUR GIFTS NURTURE FUTURE NORTH COUNTRY EDUCATORS

Courtney J. Kerley and **Mackenzie L. Ples** are the 2023 recipients of the **RENY-Retired Educators of New York North Central Zone Scholarship for Future Educators**. **Courtney** graduated in June from **Lyme Central School**, and **Mackenzie** is a **Lowville Academy and Central School** graduate. They were each presented with a \$1,000 award in June to help them on their paths to become teachers. The scholarship is awarded annually to high school seniors who plan to pursue careers in education. The RENY North Central Zone represents retired teachers and educators across Jefferson and Lewis counties. **Courtney** will attend **St. Lawrence University**, Canton, where she plans to study secondary education in math. She is the daughter of **Jennifer** and **Michael Kerley**, Three Mile Bay. **Mackenzie** will attend **Le Moyne College**, Syracuse, where she plans to study elementary education. She is the daughter of **Kathleen** and **Philip Ples**, Lowville. Pictured, from left, scholarship recipient **Courtney J. Kerley**, **Woody Lyndaker**, **Retired Educators of New York North Central Zone** president; scholarship recipient **Mackenzie L. Ples** and **Mary Perrine**, Community Foundation coordinator of partnerships.



YOUR GIFTS HELP SUSTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES

PARTNERING TO HELP MAKE CRITICAL REPAIRS: Salvation Army Watertown Corps volunteers help clients with food distribution in the gymnasium on a recent afternoon. A \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation and the Jane E. Deline Foundation will help replace the aging HVAC system at the State Street facility.

Kara Dry Photography
/ For Thoughtful Giving



Partnership supports Salvation Army Grant will help replace HVAC system at Watertown facility

The Community Foundation, in partnership with the **Jane E. Deline Foundation**, recently awarded a \$30,000 grant to help the **Salvation Army Watertown Corps** replace its central HVAC unit at its State Street facility.

The Community Foundation and the Jane E. Deline Foundation each provided \$15,000 to support the replacement of a nearly 50-year-old unit that is close to failing. The Jane E. Deline Foundation is a Watertown-based private foundation that stewards the charitable work and legacy of its namesake.

Trustees for the Deline Foundation were pleased to collaborate on funding with the Community Foundation to support this critical infrastructure project.

For both funders, it was a chance to work together to maximize support for an organization with a record of doing important work while addressing critical needs in our communities.

The Salvation Army has a long history of support-

ing local citizens and families with critical needs and offering programs to assist those most vulnerable in the Watertown area. Its programs include food pantry offerings, a weekly food box service, soup kitchen and youth programming.

The condition of the HVAC unit has been a major concern for the Salvation Army. It primarily serves the gymnasium, which is where a warming shelter and variety of other programs are held. A new system will ensure that the State Street location

will create a comfortable environment for programs and guests while allowing the organization to preserve resources for their critical mission and service.

"We are extremely grateful for this support to update our HVAC unit. For the past few years, we have had to put thousands of dollars into the system to keep it going. Updating it will allow us to continue to offer our weekday soup kitchen meals, food pantry, youth programs, music lessons, church services, adult programs and potentially the warming center again next year," Salvation Army Watertown Corps Captain Dominic Nicoll said. "With these funds we are excited to be able to continue to serve our community alongside our foundation partners."



Continuing a meaningful impact

■ The Community Foundation grant also includes \$5,000 in support from three meaningful legacy funds stewarded at the Foundation: **The Emma Phoebe Hurd Fund**, the **Charles and Fern Brown Fund**, and the **Dr. LaVerne R. VanDeWall, Jr. Legacy Fund**.

YOUR GIFTS HELP CREATE SPECIAL PLACES



SUPPORT TO HELP TRANSFORM A COMMUNITY:

Dan Myers, executive director of Lowville's **Double Play Community Center** sits in a recently acquired property that will become the center's new home. The Community Foundation has awarded **Double Play** a pair of grants to help redevelop the former restaurant and banquet facility on Bardo Road that will consolidate all of the organization's programs onto a single campus.

Kara Dry Photography
/ For Thoughtful Giving

Foundation helps transform Double Play

Support will aid development of Lowville facility, build endowment

A pair of Community Foundation grants totaling \$150,000 will support **Double Play Community Center's** project to transform a former Lowville restaurant and banquet facility into a full-service community center that serves residents of all ages through comprehensive wellness programs of the mind and body.

The Foundation's Board of Directors approved a \$100,000 grant to support Double Play's capital project and a \$50,000 grant to build the nonprofit's endowment fund at the Community Foundation.

For more than a decade, Double Play, a longtime Foundation partner, has been an all-encompassing health and wellness organization focused on improving the quality of life for Lewis County residents and surrounding communities.

Its programs center on enrichment, education, recreation, and social activities for children, teens, seniors, and families. With a grass-roots vision, gradual growth, and through evolution, Double Play has become much like a regional YMCA.



Double Play presently occupies three spaces in the Village of Lowville to operate an array of programs and the goal has been to bring all programming to one location. Late last year, the organization finalized the purchase of the former Ridge View Inn on Bardo Road, which will become Double Play's new permanent home.

Grant support will help convert the facility into a 10,000-square-foot epicenter for arts, wellness, and recreation for youth, families, and senior citizens alike.

Double Play Community Center Executive Director Dan Myers said the Community Foundation's sup-

port is a meaningful partnership that transcends financial aid and will "set the stage for a sustainable and bright future for community development and relationship building."

"We are beyond grateful for the generous support and continued confidence in our organization to make a difference in people's lives in the North Country," Mr. Myers said. "The recent Community Foundation grant award will transform our area in ways never before thought of in Lewis County and the surrounding communities."

Double Play and the Community Foundation have been partnering for more than a decade by improving the quality of life through enrichment program development and facility enhancements.

"The leadership and board of directors at the Community Foundation continue to value the vision Double Play has displayed while remaining steadfast in developing a full-service community center that encompasses wellness of the mind and body," Mr. Myers said.

Foundation Partner

■ **Double Play Community Center** is one of more than 150 tri-county nonprofit organizations that partners with the Community Foundation. In 2016, Double Play established a permanent endowment fund at the Foundation. Gifts to help build Double Play's endowment may be made securely online at nnycf.org/giving, or by mail to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.**

On the Web

■ Learn more about **Double Play Community Center** online at doubleplaycc.com.

New fund supports North Country Music Project

A new Community Foundation fund will help build charitable support for **The North Country Music Project**, an effort to commemorate and honor musicians and music traditions that have helped make the North Country a special place.

Primarily focused on local rock 'n' roll musicians from the 1960s and 1970s, the project was born during a conversation between Watertown natives and longtime friends **Tom Walker Jr.** and **Larry Gordon** who now live on opposite sides of the country.

"We were remarking on how good the performers were who were doing rock 'n' roll and the idea to commemorate them came up," Mr. Walker said. "It's such a great era in Watertown's music history, and there's a lot of interest in this particular period."

At its core, the project is a mul-

THE NORTH COUNTRY MUSIC PROJECT TEAM:

Seated, from left: **Steve Adams, Carol Hills and Larry Gordon.** Standing: **Walt Young, left, and Tom Walker Jr.** Not pictured: **Sam Barker and Joe Medwick.**



timedia collection of interviews, photos, memorabilia, recordings, and archival sound and video that document and archive the history of rock 'n' roll in Northern New York. To date, more than 50 interviews have been done that capture the firsthand recol-

lections of musicians and their fans as the genre developed at venues across the region.

Flower Memorial Library will serve as the permanent home for the unique local archive of digital recordings accompanied by text transcripts and podcasts, which

THE NORTH COUNTRY MUSIC PROJECT

■ Learn more at bit.ly/NCMP. Help support the initiative at nnycf.org/giving or mail gifts to **Northern New York Community Foundation, ATTN: North Country Music Project 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.**

will all be available online.

The Community Foundation fund encourages and facilitates charitable support for the project. Gifts will be used to make the collection permanently accessible through **Flower Memorial Library** for public education, research, enjoyment, and engagement.

Charitable support will also help fund podcasts, the transfer and remastering of archival tape to digital formats, and other programs, including public symposia, performances, awards ceremonies, and tribute concerts.

Foundation joins donors to complete park bandstand roof



Watertown's Thompson Park should soon see an updated convening space to host small performing arts events thanks to support from the Community Foundation and a leadership gift from the family of **T. Urling and Mabel Walker.**

An all-volunteer committee is pursuing a project in the park to restore a community bandstand located near the 10th Mountain Division Honor the Mountain Monument.

The Community Foundation recently matched a \$25,000 gift from the **Walker Family Community Fund.** Together, the \$50,000 in support puts the project well on its way to securing the \$150,000 needed to complete it.

The committee is devoted to seeing the project through as an opportunity to honor former Mayor Walker who was a longtime advocate for Thompson Park and the many quality-of-life benefits the community enjoys there.

Watertown's City Council passed a resolution endorsing the project and officials are weighing a financial commitment from the city.

The committee plans to conduct a community fundraising campaign this summer and fall. They hope to complete the roof project by next spring and begin hosting events there.

To join in support of the Thompson Park bandstand project, access secure online giving at nnycf.org/giving.

WILLIAM I. GRAF AWARD HONORS ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

Three **Watertown High School** seniors were recognized in June as the top graduating athletes and the 2023 recipients of the **William I. Graf Award.** **Kylie L. Cushman** and **Adelaide R. "Addie" Weir** were selected as the women's recipients, and **Patrick Duah** was named as the men's honoree.

Kylie will attend Mercyhurst University, Erie, Pa., this fall to study sports medicine. She aspires to work as a physical therapist. **Kylie** is the daughter of **Vanessa** and **David Cushman**, Watertown.

Addie will attend Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., this fall where she plans to study biology and Spanish. She aspires to work in the pediatric medicine field. **Addie** is



the daughter of **Sarah** and **Marshall Weir**, Watertown.

Patrick will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall where he plans to study business and

finance. He aspires to work in finance as an investment banker. **Patrick** is the son of **Drs. Marylene** and **Eric Duah**, Watertown.

Pictured, from left: **Adelaide R.**

"Addie" Weir, Patrick Duah, and Kylie L. Cushman; **Italian-American Civic Association** President **James P. Scordo;** **Phyllis Johnson, and Lee "Gus" Murray.** **Phyllis Johnson** is **William I. Graf's** daughter and **Lee "Gus" Murray** is Mr. Graf's nephew.

The **Italian-American Civic Association** established the **William I. Graf Award** in 1954 to honor Mr. Graf's leadership and civic engagement in the community. Mr. Graf was a multi-sport coach and athletic director at **Watertown High School.** Since 1954, 120 Watertown High School athletes have been named recipients of the **William I. Graf Award.** View a list of all WHS recipients bit.ly/Graf-All-Time.

YOUR GIFTS BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS



A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS IN THE PARK: The **Orchestra of Northern New York** performs the 1812 Overture as artillery soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division light up the sky over Thompson Park with cannon fire for Watertown's Concert in the Park in June.

Kara Dry Photography
/ For Thoughtful Giving

Partnership supports Concert in the Park

New endowment fund creates permanent resource to supplement fundraising for annual community event in Thompson Park

The Community Foundation recently partnered with the family of **T. Urling and Mabel Walker** and local developer **Jake Johnson** to create a permanent resource to help support the annual **Concert in the Park** event. The fund will provide a gift toward annual fundraising led by the **Watertown Noon Rotary Club**.

Mr. Johnson, of **Jake Johnson Properties**, Watertown, the **Walker Family Community Fund** of the Community Foundation and the Community Foundation itself provided leadership gifts to establish a **Concert in the Park** endowment fund at the Community Foundation. **Watertown Savings Bank** and the **Mart Liinve Family Charitable Fund** of the Community Foundation have provided additional support to build the fund. Together, the donors have provided an initial \$85,000 toward the \$100,000 goal.

The event has been an important community tradition, led for many years by the Walkers. It seemed an especially fitting way to honor them by putting in place something that will help perpetuate it. Just like most endowments, it is a complement to the current fundraising, not a replacement. While initially, it will provide a modest amount of yearly funding, it has the potential to grow and become an increasingly important part of supplementing the annual fundraising.

"Together, we are working to create long-lasting assurance that the celebration of Independence Day at Watertown's Thompson Park will continue," Mr. Johnson said. "This effort is also a special way to honor Tom and Mabel Walker, who were longtime supporters of the Concert in the Park."

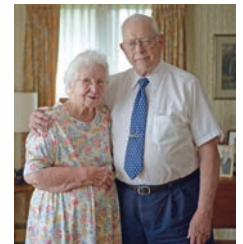
For many years, the Community Foundation has supported this free

community event with funding and resources, including a \$5,000 grant for the 2023 event.

In recent years, the **Orchestra of Northern New York (ONNY)** has been featured as the main act at the annual park concert.

The **Watertown Noon Rotary Club** leads fundraising efforts to raise support for ONNY's appearance and the concert. The average cost for the event is more than \$30,000. Fully funded, the endowment will provide approximately \$5,000 annually.

Following Mr. Walker's passing in January, Mr. Johnson expressed a desire to help inspire gifts from the community for a **Concert in the Park** Endowment Fund. This funding collaboration will help ensure a community tradition and performance open to everyone endures. It also creates another local legacy option for donors who believe in the event and wish to solidify its permanence.



Honoring longtime supporters

■ **T. Urling and Mabel Walker** were longtime advocates and financial supporters of the **Concert in the Park** held annually in Watertown's Thompson Park around the July Fourth holiday. Many times, the Walker family partnered with the Foundation to help raise charitable support for the free community event.

Help build the endowment

■ Gifts to help build the **Concert in the Park Endowment Fund** at the Community Foundation may be made securely online at bit.ly/Concert-In-The-Park, or by mail to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.**

"Together, we are working to create long-lasting assurance that the celebration of Independence Day at Watertown's Thompson Park will continue. This effort is also a special way to honor Tom and Mabel Walker."

— Jake Johnson, Watertown developer, Jake Johnson Properties



Potsdam residents **Christine “Chris” and Marc Compeau** own the Hannawa Falls restaurant **Jake’s On The Water**. The couple partnered with the **Community Foundation** last year to establish the **Jake’s Good Things Charitable Foundation** and give back to the Potsdam region they love. The couple say starting their charitable effort was made much easier thanks to their work with the Community Foundation.

PARTNERS IN PHILANTHROPY

Let the GOOD THINGS ROLL

For Christine and Marc Compeau, establishing a charitable fund at the Community Foundation has enabled them to give back in a way that is quickly becoming their most rewarding work.

Amid the challenges brought by a global pandemic, Christine “Chris” and Marc Compeau found solace in the support of their community, which allowed their Hannawa Falls restaurant, *Jake’s on the Water*, to not only survive but emerge stronger. Recognizing the impact of many loyal patrons, the couple turned to the Community Foundation to create a way to meaningfully help their region.

Last summer, Chris and Marc established *Jake’s Good Things Charitable Foundation* as a component fund of the Community Foundation. Their vision is to support children, the arts, and initiatives that enhance the overall quality of life for local residents.

“Our success is because of this community. The business is part of this community, and we depend on the community for so much,” Marc said. “So, partnering with the Community Foundation and giving back just makes perfect sense.”

The Compeaus believe in treating their employees as family, and they extend this philosophy to their foundation. They see the tremendous positive impact it has on their team, instilling a sense of pride in working for a business that cares deeply about its community. Their partnership with the Community Foundation has given them a chance to elevate lives, not just for their employees but for everyone in the region.

Their “Good Things” logo, a core part of their restaurant’s marketing, has become a symbol of their philanthropic endeavors.

The decision to partner with the Community Foundation was a key turning point for *Jake’s Good Things Charitable*

CHRISTINE & MARC COMPEAU

AGES: Both 56

HOMETOWN: **Chris:** Malone; **Marc:** Chenango Forks; now live in Potsdam

FAMILY: Son, **Cody**, 29, daughter-in-law, **Taylor**, and grandson **Jaxson**, Bend, Ore.; daughter **Allie**, 26, Portland, Maine; and daughter **Sophie**, 20, Elmira College.

EDUCATION: **Chris:** bachelor’s and master’s in teaching and education, SUNY Potsdam; **Marc:** bachelor’s in industrial labor relations, SUNY Potsdam, and master’s in management science, Clarkson University.

CAREERS: **Chris:** Recently retired academic advisor at Clarkson University and former elementary school teacher. **Marc:** Reh Family Professor of Entrepreneurial Practice, Clarkson University, and Reh Center for Entrepreneurship co-director. Owners, *Jake’s on the Water* restaurant, Hannawa Falls.

RECENT GRANTS: Bayside Cemetery Association, Canton Free Library, Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund, Helping Hands of Potsdam, North Country Children’s Museum, Potsdam Humane Society and the St. Lawrence Health Foundation.

ONLINE: www.jakesonthewater.com/jakes-foundation.

Foundation. It provided the support and confidence needed to make a more significant difference in the community. With the Community Foundation managing logistics, the Compeaus can focus on expanding their impact.

“Making grants and giving from our Community Foundation fund is as simple as sending an email and directing our support to the organizations we have chosen to help,” Chris said. “The team is

very accessible and responsive, allowing us to quickly deploy grants that support important work in our community.”

The Compeaus recognize the value of humility in their charitable work. While they prefer a behind-the-scenes role, they find joy in brightening the lives of others. Their legacy is not about grand gestures but in acts that empower those they help.

Life in their Potsdam community has been a blessing for the Compeaus. Through their business and charitable foundation, they have found fulfillment in giving back to the place they love.

Despite their successes, they remain grounded, always seeking ways to improve and grow their charitable efforts. For Chris and Marc, it is about making a difference, no matter how small, and inspiring others to join the cause.

As the Compeaus reflect on their journey, they understand that starting a charitable foundation at the Community Foundation is simpler than people might think. The key is to begin with a passion to give back and a willingness to start small. Their story illustrates the transformative power of a supportive community, making it easier for others to follow their path.

Ultimately, *Jake’s Good Things Charitable Foundation* embodies a spirit of gratitude and compassion. It is a testament to the belief that together, a community can thrive, making the world a little brighter for everyone.

“We’re a small foundation at this point,” Marc said. “But with the Community Foundation’s support, we are confident we can do good things to help others.”

And the Compeaus know that as long as they stay true to their mission, they will continue to make a difference.

“Our success is because of this community. The business is part of this community, and we depend on the community for so much. So, partnering with the Community Foundation and giving back just makes perfect sense.”

— Christine and Marc Compeau, *Jakes Good Things Charitable Foundation*, Potsdam

YOUR GIFTS BUILD GEOGRAPHIC-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

SIX TOWN COMMUNITY FUND COMMITTEE:

Back row, from left: **John Treadwell**, Henderson; **John Crimi**, Lorraine; **Karen Denny**, Adams; **Dave Zembiec**, Adams; **Lisa Porter**, Rodman; **Barry Ormsby**, Ellisburg; **Andrew Beckstead**, Adams; and **Dave Geurtsen**, Rodman. Front row, from left: Committee Chair **Barb Greene**, Henderson; **Deborah Griffith**, Henderson; **Bilkey Moore**, Lorraine; **Marlene Norfolk**, Adams; **Joe Brown**, Ellisburg; and **Vince Guarrera**, Worth. Absent from photo: **Brendan Higgins**, Adams.



Six Town Fund/History

December 2012:

Establishing gift creates the Six Town Community Fund;

2013-2015: 120 gifts

build the fund to begin and sustain local grantmaking
2016-2023: 253 gifts help grow the fund, increasing the amount available for grants

Six Town Fund/Grants

2015-2022:

\$38,630 awarded to support **42** different projects programs to strengthen quality of life in South Jefferson County

On the Web

■ Past editions of **Six Town Connections**, a periodic newsletter of the **Six Town Community Fund**, are available to read online at nnycf.org/about-us/publications

Six Town Community Fund celebrates 10th anniversary with matching challenge Foundation will double gifts to '60 for Six Town' campaign

A \$30,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation will help the **Six Town Community Fund** celebrate its 10th anniversary as it kicks off the "60 for Six Town" campaign, which will focus on securing \$60,000 in new gifts to increase available resources for grantmaking.

Six Town Community Fund Chair **Barb Greene** said the committee is energized and hopes to raise awareness with sustaining and prospective first-time donors. The matching grant "is excellent timing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the community fund and its achievements."

"We appreciate the Foundation's generous support and confidence in our stewardship. Our committee believes in the purpose and importance of this fund that has made a great impact across southern Jefferson County," Mrs. Greene said. "Because of Six Town's success in the first decade, we view this matching opportunity as a chance to build upon its growth."

After an establishing gift in December 2012, a group of citizens representing southern Jefferson County joined together in 2013 to build a permanent charitable fund

to benefit residents of the Six Town region in perpetuity. Those six towns include **Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman, and Worth.**



Six Town COMMUNITY FUND

Thanks to the generosity of nearly 120 individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who made founding gifts, a fund was endowed to make grants back into the community for nonprofit programs, projects, and initiatives. With the help of an initial \$50,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation, the Six Town Community Fund was born.

Throughout the past decade, gifts of all sizes have been made leading to a consensus that "giving where you

live" is a top priority for donors. Since its inception, the Community Fund has supported 42 different community projects led by Six Town-area nonprofit organizations with nearly \$40,000 in grant support awarded.

"We are thrilled that word is getting out and more grant applications are being submitted each year," Mrs. Greene said.

An important component of creating a geographic-specific fund is educating local donors about designating gifts to the community where they lived, worked, raised their family, and built an affinity for the place they call home. Committee members are planning public outreach.

The Community Fund has become a meaningful choice for donors who wish to make an enduring gift to support the region. In 10 years, two planned gifts have been made with future provisions to help grow the fund and committee members are prepared to re-engage the community to further build the fund.

To make a gift and double your impact across the Six Town region, mail gifts to **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.**

YOUR GIFTS STRENGTHEN LOCAL LIBRARIES

Grant helps improve Clayton's Hawn Library

Officials establish permanent endowment to aid with future needs

A pair of recent Community Foundation grants totaling \$20,000 will help with building improvements at Clayton's **Hawn Memorial Library** while also creating a permanent resource that will ensure long-term sustainability for patrons.

A \$10,000 matching challenge was awarded to help the library complete fundraising for a roof and window replacement project. The grant is supported, in part by the **Grace L. Reinman Fund** and the **River Fund** at the Foundation. A second \$10,000 grant that includes a \$5,000 matching challenge was awarded to create a new endowment fund for the library at the Foundation.

"We are grateful for the Community Foundation's support to help improve our building in the heart of Clayton," Hawn Memorial Library Board of Trustees President **Deborah Hunter** said. "We are also pleased to partner with the Foundation to help ensure our long-term success for the community and our patrons."

Hawn Memorial Library has served



residents of all ages in Clayton and surrounding communities for 70 years, offering up to 50 programs annually that engage children and adults six days a week.

Two additions to the original building have been completed to accommodate growth in recent decades. Last year, 14 windows required replacement and roof improvements also became a top priority. To date, just over half of a \$60,000 fundraising goal for the project has been raised.

An endowment fund will provide past, present, and future donors and supporters with another charitable giving option to enhance the library's work now and in the future. Officials hope to build the endowment over time, which will strengthen library programs and operations.

The library joins more than a dozen peers in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties that have established partnerships with the Community Foundation. Nine Jefferson County and four St. Lawrence County public libraries are now Foundation partners.

The advancement of public libraries has become a vital component of improving the quality of life in communities across our region as libraries continue to evolve to serve residents in ways that extend beyond the traditional lending of books and media.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP:

Hawn Memorial Library Board of Trustees President **Deborah Hunter** outside the library. A recent grant will help the library with building improvements.

Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving

Library partnerships

■ The Community Foundation is proud to support our public libraries through permanent partnerships that enable some of our most treasured institutions to advance their work and missions. Library partners presently include:

Adams Center Free Library
Canton Free Library
Cape Vincent Community Library
Depauville Free Library
Friends of Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, Watertown
Hawn Memorial Library, Clayton
Hay Memorial Library, Sackets Harbor
Lyme Free Library
Macsherry Library, Alexandria Bay
Mannsville Free Library
Massena Public Library
Ogdensburg Public Library
Potsdam Public Library

OGDENSBURG FREE ACADEMY ALUMNI SCHOLAR

Alex Worden is this year's recipient of the **Northern New York Community Foundation Ogdensburg Free Academy Alumni Scholarship**. Alex, a 2023 OFA graduate, will attend the **Southeast Lineman Training Center** in Trenton, Georgia. He aspires to work as a lineman. He is the son of **Kristin and Trent Worden**, Ogdensburg. Alex was a three-sport athlete throughout his time at OFA, competing in football, basketball, and lacrosse. Off the field, Alex earned DOT certification in stick welding and has enhanced his technical skills and knowledge of mechanics through a BOCES internship with the City of Ogdensburg, where he is working until he departs for lineman school.

"Thank you for your generosity,



which has allowed me to pay a large portion of my tuition," Alex said. "I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the

Community Foundation's OFA Alumni Scholarship."

Alex was first inspired to pursue lineman school when a teammate and role model completed the program when he was a freshman. "I saw how he was doing when he got back and how well-respected he is in our community and decided to do my research," he said. "Ever since I've stayed committed and just fell more in love with the idea of going to trade school."

Members of OFA's **Class of 1962** established the **OFA Alumni Scholarship** at the Northern New York Community Foundation in 2012. It is a \$1,500 award presented annually to a graduating OFA student. Thanks to the generosity of OFA alumni and friends, the impact of this scholarship continues to grow.

Help support OFA students

■ The Community Foundation is honored to be the permanent home of this scholarship that provides meaningful support to **OFA graduates** today and forever. To help build this fund, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or online at **nnycf.org**.



Dr. Thomas A. Baker

Dr. Thomas A. Baker dedicated his life to intellectual and academic discovery as a professor of higher education. For more than 35 years, Tom helped guide countless students to success in their undergraduate studies. A devoted husband and loyal friend, Tom cherished his time with family and friends, especially while traveling. Born in Chicago in 1950, a son to **Thomas R.** and **Jaqueline Baker**, he completed his undergraduate degree at Loyola University in Chicago and later earned a doctorate from Marquette University in Milwaukee before entering higher education as a professor. Tom held teaching positions as a Professor of Philosophy at Niagara University in Buffalo, and at Gannon University in Erie, Pa., before joining the faculty of Jefferson Community College in 2003, where he taught until he retired as an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Chairman of the Humanities Department in 2018. He married **Natasha Sidhu** in 2007 in Watertown. Together, they shared a devotion

to their faith and were active in local civic and community organizations, supporting meaningful causes. It is fitting that when Tom passed away in March at the age of 72, his wife chose to establish the **Dr. Thomas A. Baker Scholarship** at the Community Foundation. We are honored to be entrusted as the permanent home of Tom's legacy and we express our deepest sympathy to his wife, **Natasha**, and his extended family and friends as we mourn his loss and celebrate his life and legacy.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Dr. Thomas Baker**

Pat Doyle
Juliana Eames
Brian & Katherine Fenlon
Steven & Susan Guy

North Country Family
Health Center
Theresa L. Quintin
Rande Richardson
Daniel & Janice Silvestri
Paul J. Vandermill &
Sonya R. Barney



Marjorie Mae Watson Heck

Marjorie Mae Watson Heck touched the lives of countless young people while nurturing a love of music as a longtime band and choral educator. Born in Ogdensburg in 1930, a daughter to **Alton** and **Mary Buffham Watson**, she graduated from Madrid High School in 1948. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from Ithaca College in 1952 and a master's in music from Crane School of Music in 1958. She later earned an associate degree in accounting from Jefferson Community College. She married **William C. Heck** in 1953. Together, they raised a son and two daughters and enjoyed 27 years of marriage until William passed away in 1980. Marjorie taught band at Philadelphia High School in the 1950s and high school chorus at Indian River Central in the 1970s. She was also taught private piano lessons to hundreds of students for more than 70 years. After teaching, she worked as an administrative assistant at Family Counseling Service, from which she retired. She cherished her family and was devoted to serving her community.

Marjorie shared her time and talent as a volunteer for many local organizations, supporting them however she could. When she passed away in February at the age of 92, her family directed memorial gifts in her memory to help build the **William and Marjorie Heck Memorial Scholarship** at the Community Foundation. We join Marjorie's children, **Dolores, Charles, and Sharyl**, in expressing our gratitude to all who made meaningful gifts to honor her as we celebrate her life.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Marjorie Mae Watson Heck**

Andrea Erdman
Kristi Farr
Russ & Laurie Faunce
Norma Gee
Sherri & Jim Lewis

Alex Luke
Dean & Diana MacLachlan
Tricia Moore
Laura Payne-Bourcy &
Patrick M. Bourcy
Joan M. Postorino
Theresa L. Quintin

Caleb Reid
Scott Ring
Ashley Rowsam
Ashley Trudell
Michelle Westlake
Rebecca Yerdon
Nikki Zehr



Hope Rogers Metcalf

Hope Rogers Metcalf was a champion for her family and community throughout her lifetime of 101 years. Born **Barbara Hope Rogers** in Asheville, N.C., in 1921, she graduated from Chatham Hall in Chatham, Va.. She went on to Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and economics with honors in 1942. With World War II underway, Hope took a position as a chemist at the Enka Corporation in Enka, N.C. She married **Elliott F. "Mike" Metcalf**, an Army officer from Utica, in 1943. Together, they raised three daughters and a son. After the war, they moved to Utica where they lived until 1965 when Mike was named curate and, later, rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Watertown. Hope was a very active and devoted volunteer, serving on the boards of several nonprofits and numerous committees at Trinity Church. She was a longtime supporter of the Community Foundation and helped many local causes and organizations. When she passed away in March, memorial gifts were directed to the Community

Foundation in her memory. We join her children, **Hope, Barbara, Gilbert, and Susan**, in thanking those listed who made gifts of affection as we remember a life well-lived and honor Hope's legacy of service.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Hope Rogers Metcalf**

Cynthia R. Ahlheim
Anonymous
Hannah Bloch
Thomas H. Bradley 3rd
The Caswell Family
Ben & Peggy Coe
Ellen C. Collins

Gregory & Katherine Couch
William & Kimberly Couch
Joyce & David Crossley
Max & Sara DeSignore
Sally Doxtater
Gerry Fish & Daniel N. Fish, MD
Chris & Mary Foran
Janet J. George
Lu Green

Meg Haynes
Kevin A. Kieff
Charlie & Judy Killmer
Renee Lustick
Cyril & Marlene Mouaikel
Daniel O'Leary
Dave & Michelle Pfaff
William & Catherine Quencer
Rande Richardson

Shirley J. Sauter
Michael & Jacquelyn Schell
Bill Shuman & Betsy Meyerdierks
Janet B. Taylor
Peter & Elaine Thurston
Anna Van Slyke
David & Karen Walton
Thomas & Barbara Willmott
Kay Woodruff

JOSEPH W. RUSSELL 1955-2023

Joseph W. Russell was a devoted husband and father who was equally dedicated to serving his community in ways that strengthened the quality of life for others. His 13 years of leadership on the Community Foundation Board from 2007 to 2020 included four years as president, helping to guide the organization to new heights. He enthusiastically supported development of the Northern New York Philanthropy Center as the Foundation's permanent home, a project that succeeded in no small part because of his steady hand and wise counsel. When he passed away in January at the age of 67, the North Country lost a champion for many causes and local organizations. Born in Alexandria Bay in 1955, a son to **Alden F. and Margaret M. Underwood Russell**, Joe graduated from Alexandria Central School in 1973. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from St. Lawrence University, in 1977, where he was a Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholar. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army in May 1977 and delayed his active service to attend Albany Law School, graduating in 1980. While serving as a captain in the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps in Fort Riley,



Kan., he met **Robin McKeen**. They were married in 1984 in Michigan, settling in Alexandria Bay in 1985 when Joe began the practice of law in Jefferson County that spanned more than three decades and included serving as a partner in three notable law firms. Most recently he managed his own law firm. Together with Robin, they raised two daughters. Joe was very active in the local community, serving as a board member and in board leadership roles for several organizations. He was also one of the founders of the Lady Ghosts Girls' Hockey Team and, as a father of two daughters, spent many hours supporting women's hockey in the North Country. Joe had a lifelong passion for the St.

Lawrence River. He especially loved his time with his family and friends on the water. We join Joe's wife, **Robin**, and his daughters, **Caitlin** and **Molly Joe**, and his extended family and friends in expressing our heartfelt sympathy as we mourn his loss and celebrate his life and legacy. We are grateful to be part of the special way he will be remembered and continue to impact the community he loved. To all those listed below, we appreciate your gifts of affection that honor Joe's life of service, friendship, and leadership.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Joseph W. Russell**

Board & Staff of the Northern
New York Community
Foundation
Thomas H. Bradley 3rd
Brownell Abstract Corporation
Kathleen Burgess

Roberta & Michael Cavallario
William & Kimberly Couch
Max & Sara DelSignore
Christopher & Marcy Robinson
Dembs
Brian & Katherine Fenlon
Trevor & Erica Garlock
Richard & Sharon Howland

Kathy Hummel
Jefferson County Bar Association
Michele & Tim Jeican
Robin Lucas
Richard H. & Deborah M.
Macsherry
Anthony A. Marrone II
Mary Perrine

William & Catherine Quencer
Jude & Leslie Renzi
Rande Richardson
Lewis G. Spicer
Lindsey Steblen
Rick & Tricia Tague
Village of Carthage Board
Members & Clerk's Office
Peter & Michele Walton



Elizabeth A. Carroll Woodard

Elizabeth "Betty Ann" Carroll Woodard cared for scores of people in our community throughout a dedicated career as a Registered Nurse that began in 1963 and ended just six weeks before she passed away in May at the age of 81. Her compassion for those in her care was unmatched as she always strived to make her patients feel comfortable and welcomed. Born in Watertown in 1941, a daughter to **Philip & Helen Carroll**, she attended Copenhagen Central School, graduating in 1960. Betty Ann entered Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and graduated in 1963, earning her license as a Registered Nurse. For 60 years, she worked in family practice for several local physicians, most recently Dr. Collins Kellogg at Watertown Internists. Betty Ann married **Wayne F. Woodard** in 1966 in Copenhagen. They made their home in Denmark when Wayne took the reins of his family's farm in 1970. Together with Wayne, they raised a son.

Wayne passed away in 2011. Throughout their lifetimes, Betty Ann and Wayne mentored countless youths as they were extensively involved with the Lewis County 4-H Horse Club. They were each recognized for their devotion to the Lewis County Fair Board for their years of selfless service and positive influence on local children. Betty Ann was devoted to her faith and took an active role in her church, volunteering for many years, leading fundraisers and serving on her parish cemetery committee. We are honored to be chosen as the permanent home of a nursing scholarship that Betty Ann's employer has established to perpetuate her legacy of service and caring. The **Elizabeth Carroll Woodard Nursing Scholarship** will be awarded annually to a Copenhagen Central School graduate who plans to pursue a career in nursing. We express our deepest sympathy to Betty Ann's son, **David**, and her extended family as we mourn her loss and celebrate her life and legacy of caring and kindness. We join her family in thanking all who made memorial tributes in her name.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Elizabeth "Betty Ann" Carroll Woodard**

Carol & Jim Balmer
Robert Caswell*
Carol L. Compeau
Rev. Douglas G. Comstock
Jon & Karen Constance
Mary & Bill Dasno
Janet Fenlon Dippold

Mark & Amy Eddy
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Michelle Farmer
R. Dennis & Joanne Faulkham
Brian & Katherine Fenlon
Foy Agency
George & Patricia Hallett
David Johnson & Family
Joan A. Kehoe
Victoria & Patrick LaBarge

Emmanuel Liscum
Mary & Ted Mascott
Judith McManus
Mark & Theresa McManus
Bonnie Montgomery
Margaret L. & Lynn A. Murray
Marion F. O'Driscoll
James & Lisa Peters
Mr. James Randall &
Mr. Carmen Sweet

Dr. Eugene & Joyce Renzi
Albert & Nancy Roberts
Beverly Shepard
Paul & Cathy Siedlecki
Skyhook
Jayme & Jo Ann St. Croix
Steven & RuthEllen Van Arnam
Mrs. LaVerne VanDeWall, Jr.



Dr. Robert B. Brown

Through a 40-year career as a family, school, and community physician, **Dr. Robert B. Brown** provided care for thousands of local children. Born in 1935 in Peoria, Ill., he graduated from the Nichols School in Buffalo and completed undergraduate studies at Cornell University. He attended the University at Buffalo Medical School and graduated with honors. After an internship at Buffalo General Hospital, he completed pediatric residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. In 1959, he married **Carole Jordon** and adored her for nearly 64 years. Together with Carole, they raised three sons and two daughters. Dr. Brown was a partner with Pediatric Associates, formerly Sturtz, Brown and Bacsik, for 40 years, taking kind and compassionate care of many in the community. In the early years, he would make house calls to sick children at all hours of the night. Dr. Brown cared deeply about all members of the community, including the less fortunate; he would see patients in the evenings at the North Country Children's Clinic after his day job and was the school doctor for South Jefferson School District. Upon his passing, his family established the **Dr. Robert B. Brown**

Community Fund to honor his life and legacy and continue to perpetuate his impact on the community he faithfully served and loved. We are honored to be part of this special way he will be remembered and join Dr. Brown's wife, **Carole**, children **Wallace, Stephen, David, Margaret, and Catherine**, and his extended family and friends in expressing our deepest appreciation for all who made gifts of affection in his name. To all those listed below, thank you for your gifts that honor Dr. Brown's life of service and care for others.

Tribute gifts in memory of Dr. Robert B. Brown

Cynthia R. Ahlheim
Kyle & Ticia Aumell
Carolyn A. Barkley
Charlotte A. Bach
The Bate Family
Waring & Audrey Blackburn
Janet F. Blakeman
The Boyse, Taylor & Gant Families
Dale & Carol, Brad, Ted & Margaret,
Kelly & Tony & Jon & Kate
Richard* & Marlene Bucci
Kathleen Burgess
Robert Caswell*

Ben & Peggy Coe
William & Kimberly Couch
Joyce & David Crossley
Max & Sara DelSignore
Daniel S. Dickinson III &
Patricia M. Dickinson
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Gerry Fish & Daniel N. Fish, MD
Steve & Kathy Gebo
Janet J. George
Jean & Al Gianfagna
Chris Giglio
Lu Green
James & Elaine Herlan
Mary Ann & Bob Jordon

Catherine (Brown) Kalkstein
Kevin A. Kieff
Christy Kinne
Peter A. Lee
Renee Lustick
William & Beth Maguire
Stuart A. McCreary
Virginia S. McCreary
Medical Staff of Samaritan
Medical Center
Maria Mesires
Morgia Wealth Management
Tony & Kay Morgia
Peter & Laurie Pike
Jim & Peggy Pontious
Roxanne Pratt

Theresa L. Quintin
Dr. Eugene & Joyce Renzi
Rande Richardson
Mrs. Mary P. Sanford & Family
Martha S. Curlin, Janet Kowalski,
David C. Sanford & Douglas M.
Sanford, Jr.
Joan & George Smith
Mr. & Mrs. David Squier
Chris & Teresa Stone
Paul Trimper
Anna Van Slyke
David & Karen Walton
Jennifer M. Whitenack
Sherry M. Wilson
Mary-Lou Yarosewick



Patricia H.C. Taylor

Patricia H. C. Taylor dedicated her life to family and education, mentoring countless young men and women and helping them on their paths to success. Born in Claverack in 1928, she graduated in 1945 from Berlin Center School and attended Sargent College of Boston University where she earned a bachelor's degree in physical education. She earned a master's in education at Springfield College in 1953 and was later awarded an educational administration certificate from St. Lawrence University. She married **Alvan A. Taylor** in 1952. Together, they raised four sons and a daughter. The couple celebrated 62 years of marriage before Al passed away in 2014. Pat began her career teaching at schools in Troy and Western Massachusetts, moving to Clayton in 1969. She taught at BOCES before joining the faculty in 1971 at Thousand Islands High School, teaching and serving as athletic director until she retired in 1991. She shared her gifts with many local organizations, supporting a wide range of meaningful causes. Pat was devoted to her faith and served her church in various

capacities. Her encouragement and support of young people was always a priority. Her family was her greatest blessing, and she was especially proud of her 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. When Pat passed away in January at the age of 94, her family chose to establish the **Patricia Taylor Scholarship** at the Community Foundation, which will support traditional and nontraditional students who have demonstrated good citizenship. We are saddened by Pat's loss and share our deepest sympathy with her children, **Justin, Alson, Nancy, Matthew, and Mark** as we celebrate her legacy of compassionate service and kindness. We join her family in thanking all who made meaningful gifts in her memory.

Tribute gifts in memory of Patricia H.C. Taylor

Anonymous
Scott & Leslie Atkinson
Tom & Nancy Augliano
Hope V. Blassingame
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Boxberger
Nancy Boynton
Chris & Christine Brown
Anthony Burgess
Myron G. Butler
Harold & Shirley Carpenter
Jane Carver & Ron Cooper
Case Middle School
Sunshine Club
Dorothy Castor
Dean & Ann Chrissley
Clayton Travelers Club
Lucille K. & Roderick H. Craib Jr.
Troy & Kristyn Decker

Max & Sara DelSignore
Kirk & Karen Denny
Mary Beth & Warren Denny
Warren Denny & Frontier League
Volleyball Board of Officials
Bill & Debbie Dermady
Mary & Peter Eckstein
Pat & Kathy (Kittle) Evans
Alice Fisher
Meryl R. Fisher
Tom & Dorothy Fitzgerald
Friendly Service, NCZ
Russ & Teresa Gallup
Clarence F. Giles Jr.
Dave & Karen (Kittle) Goetz
The Griffin Family
Stephen T. Grybowski M.D.
Sally Badour Grzesiak
Jill H. Johnson
Michael & Nancy Johnson

Lucianne LaPierre
Joanne & Mark Lavarnway
Sue & David Lipman
Richard H. & Deborah M.
Macsherry
David J. & Denise G. Males
Russ & Kathleen Marceau
Mary & Ted Mascott
Christopher & Cynthia Matthews
Bill & Michele McKinney
Linda McNutt
Tamara Metz
Ohio Street School Staff
James & Kimberly Oliver
Patricia C. Oot & Daniel P. Jeffery
Elaine Overton & Family
Donna M. Partridge
Jim & Glorian Reinman
Rande Richardson
Doug & Dianne Rogers

Daniel & Linda Schleher
Bobby & Jill Shultz
Donna E. Sinclair
St. Lawrence River Quilters
Stage Notes
Ellen & Gordon Stiefel
Christine A. Stirling
Dave & Mary Stone
Anthony V. Tarzia
Mark & Tamara Taylor
The Family of Patricia H. C. Taylor
Linda & Mike Turner & Family
The Watertown Administrative &
Supervisory Association (WASA)
Watertown High School
Sunshine Club
Christine Wessinger
Sherry M. Wilson
Jennifer & Terry Wood
Gail S. Zeek



Lisa B. Trembley

Lisa Beth Trembley was a staunch supporter of U.S. military veterans and disadvantaged citizens, dedicating much of her career to veterans and the disabled. When she passed away unexpectedly in December at the age of 41, she was working for the Jefferson County Office for the Aging and New York Connects, helping older adults access essential services. Born in Carthage in 1981, a daughter to **Daniel F. Trembley** and **Peggy Mitchell**, Lisa graduated from Carthage Central School in 1999, and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as a medic. She earned promotions to sergeant before being honorably discharged. She went on to earn a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix. Lisa had a passion for teaching and enjoyed serving as an adjunct professor at Jefferson Community College. She also gave freely of her time and talent to many local

causes and organizations, serving as a member of the **Community Foundation's LEAD Council**, among other organizations. Her father, Daniel, passed away suddenly in March. We express our sincere sympathy to Lisa's mother, Peggy, and her extended family and friends as we celebrate her life and legacy and mourn the loss of a thoughtful woman who touched others with compassion. We join her family in thanking all who made meaningful tributes in her name.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Lisa B. Trembley**

Andrew Boulter
Jonathan P. Cole & Sarah Cole
Max & Sara DelSignore
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Kerry Kennett
Chaz & Joanna Loomis
Ashley Owens
Anna Platz
Erin Simser
Robert M. Sligar
Jennifer Voss



Philip B. Pratt Sr.

Philip Barrett Pratt dedicated his life to public service, first as a teacher and later a high school principal. Through a career of nearly 40 years, he left a significant imprint on the lives of thousands of students. A native of Aliceville, Ala., Phil was born in 1935. After high school, he attended the University of Alabama before serving in the U.S. Army Reserve. Following military service, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees at SUNY Oswego. He began teaching in the Black River and Carthage school systems before joining Watertown City Schools as a principal. He married **Roxanne Root** in 1958 and together they raised two sons. With his wife, Phil was active in local theater. He was also a generous supporter of many local civic and charitable organizations, including the Community Foundation. We are grateful for

Phil's friendship and generosity and express our deepest sympathies to his wife, **Roxanne**, and sons **Philip "Barry" Jr.** and **Jay** as we mourn his loss and celebrate a life well lived that touched so many in our community.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Philip B. Pratt Sr.**

Russ & Laurie Faunce
Friendly Service, NCZ
Linda Holley
Rosalind S. & John J. Morgia Sr.

Roxanne Pratt
Rande Richardson
Ed & Karen Ringwald
Ron Shoemaker
Marilyn H. Trainor
Maryanne Vespa



Robert F. Caswell

Robert Frost Caswell Jr. proudly served his country and community, generously giving his time, talent, and treasure to many local organizations throughout his lifetime. Born in 1931 in Watertown, a son to **Robert Frost** and **Alice Wetmore Caswell**, he graduated from Watertown High School in 1950. Bob attended the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, graduating in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in pulp and paper science. Bob was a veteran of the Naval Reserve and the Army. He married **Pamela Spencer Berry** in 1957 and, together, they raised a son and two daughters. Pamela, a longtime Watertown Urban Mission executive director, passed away in 2014. His son, David, also predeceased him. Through a career that spanned more than 40 years, Bob worked in the paper industry before serving in senior management for a pair of local companies until his retirement in 1997. He was very

active in his community, serving as a board member for several local charities, civic clubs, and his church. His service to community was matched by a boundless drive for adventure. We express our deepest sympathy to Bob's daughters, **Anne** and **Sally**, and his extended family and friends as we mourn his loss. When he passed away in June, Bob's family directed memorial gifts to the Community Foundation to help build the **Caswell-Morgan Human Services Memorial Scholarship**. We are honored to be part of the special way he will be remembered.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Robert F. Caswell**

Cynthia R. Ahlheim
Joyce & David Crossley
Janet J. George
Jill H. Johnson
Mary E. Loftus
Rande Richardson
Bill Shuman & Betsy Meyerdierks



Dr. W. Barton Van Slyke

Dr. W. Barton "Bart" Van Slyke cared for countless members of his community as a family physician and radiologist during a medical career of nearly 40 years. Born in Gouverneur in 1925, a son to **William M.** and **Gertrude Van Slyke**, Bart graduated from Gouverneur High School in 1943. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Europe and the Pacific Theatre during World War II before an honorable discharge in 1946. He returned home to attend St. Lawrence University for pre-med. In 1949 he enrolled at the University of Rochester Medical School where he met his wife of almost 70 years, **Anna Jane Morenus**, a nurse. They were married 1953 and together they raised three sons. After an internship in Virginia and residency in Colorado, Bart and his young family returned to Gouverneur where he practiced family medicine. He later completed a residency in radiology and became a partner at Northern Radiology Associates in Watertown where

he practiced until his retirement in 1987. Bart was active in his community, earning numerous accolades for his leadership and service, and acting in local theater. He was a generous supporter of many local charities and meaningful causes, including the Community Foundation. We are grateful for having known Bart and share our sincere sympathies with his wife, **Anna Jane**, and sons **David**, **Steven**, and **Martin**. Though we mourn his loss, we celebrate his life and legacy and thank those who made gifts of affection in his name.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Dr. W. Barton Van Slyke**

Robert Caswell*
Mary G. Colton
Joyce & David Crossley
Rande Richardson



Ray E. Richardson

Ray Edward Richardson was a devoted and loving husband and father and those fortunate enough to know him witnessed his kind, thoughtful, caring and gentle ways. He approached everything he did with patience, intelligence, attention to detail and with a desire to do things completely, thoroughly, and well. He was mild mannered with a great sense of humor and a clever way with words. He took pride in his North Country heritage. Formerly of Watertown, he died Feb. 12 at his home in Charlotte, N.C. He was born in 1943 in Potsdam. His father was originally from Macomb and his mother from Richville. His father retired from Alcoa in Massena. Raised in Winthrop, he was a graduate of St. Lawrence Central School and Albany College of Pharmacy. He married **Janet Sue Farmer** in 1968. He was a registered pharmacist and for most of his career employed by Kinney Drugs in Watertown, Malone, Ogdensburg, Adams, and Carthage. He also was employed by the House of the Good Samaritan, Grant's Drugs, and Medical Center

Pharmacy. Our thoughts remain with his wife, **Janet**, son, **Rande**, (Community Foundation executive director), and daughter, **Kara**, and we are grateful the Community Foundation is part of the way he will be remembered in the region that meant so much to him.

Tribute gifts in memory of Ray E. Richardson

Ann M. Adams
Michael & Margaret Alteri
Bruce Armstrong & Holly White
Armstrong
Jennifer & Anthony Augliano
Kyle & Ticia Aumell
P.J. & Jen Banazek
Pat Barbalich
Marceline Bass-Terpstra
Bruce & Rhonda Bezanilla
Mary Ann & Malcolm Biedekapp
Barbara Jean Blodgett
Thomas H. Bradley 3rd
Lynn & Scott Brown
Sylvia J. Buduson
Anthony Burgess
Kathleen Burgess
Donald & Gail Butterfield
Don & Francee Calarco
Michelle & Kevin Carpenter
Bettie & Sam Caswell
William & Kimberly Couch
David & Nikki Crapser
Joyce & David Crossley
John & Mary Jo Deans
Andrea & Eric DeLaGarza
Marty & Sharon DelSignore

Max & Sara DelSignore
Linda & Al Dening
Albert & Theresa Desormeaux &
Family
Jack & Karen Donato
Sally Duxtater
Sandra Drancsak
Mark & Donna Dutton
Kraig Everard
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Brian & Katherine Fenlon
Travis & Erika Flint
John J. Gaffney
Charles Garlock & Sons &
The Garlock Family
Trevor & Erica Garlock
Barbara Gehring
Drs. Daniel Gray &
Maja Lundborg-Gray
Barb & Dwight Greene
Erin & Dick Greene
Nancy & Michael Griffin
Bob & Linda Hagemann
Sandra Haight
Jack & Sharon Hammond
Marie Hess
Deborah Hirschey
Robert & Susan Horr
Jim & Cindy Intschert

Michele & Tim Jeican
Stephen R. & Vonnice L. Joels
Jill H. Johnson
Michael & Nancy Johnson
Kevin A. Kieff
John & Cynthia Krake
Joanne & Mark Lavarney
Harold & Sally L'Huillier
Mart Liinve
Karen Loftus
Mary E. Loftus
William & Beth Maguire
Joe & Marianne Malatino
Mary & Ted Mascott
John McNeely
Rich & Becky McNulty
Maria Mesires
Deb Morrell
Cyril & Marlene Mouaikel
James B. Oliver, D.D.S.
Margot Remington Oman
Judith Pearson
Mary Perrine
Keith & Elizabeth Perry
Peter & Laurie Pike
Cathy Pircsuk & James Burr
Roxanne Pratt
William & Catherine Quencer
Theresa L. Quintin

Jude & Leslie Renzi
Rande Richardson
Mary P. Sanford
Michael & Jacquelyn Schell
Ruth E. Seaman
Vaughn & Debbie Shoen
Bernard Slate
Susan Sweeney Smith
Emily & Phil Sprague
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Stern
Dave & Mary Stone
Dawn Stone & Family
David & Carol Stoodley
Martha Green Storrin
Janet B. Taylor
The Thomas Family
Samuel, Olga & Christina
Leo & Sonja Thompson
Paul Trimper
Steven & Ruth Ellen Van Arnam
Mandy & Sam Vassallo & Family
Dan & Nancy Villa
Jo-Marie Visconti
Thomas U. Walker
Russ & Mary "Cookie" Wilcox
Donald & Diana Woodhouse
Kay Woodruff
David & Barbara Zembiec



William L. Rodee

William L. Rodee was a devoted father and community leader who dedicated his life to advancing the field of agriculture while continuing his family's legacy as the sixth generation to lead his family's farm at their sprawling acreage in Canton. For Bill, farming was more than a vocation; it was a way of life and a call to responsibly care for his animals and the land that was handed down through generations of family. Born in 1934, the youngest of 10 children to **Bernard** and **Etta Aldous Rodee**, he graduated from Canton High School in 1952. Bill earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture science at Cornell University in 1957. He married **Marilyn Elliott** in 1960. Together they raised two daughters and a son, celebrating 62 years of marriage before he passed away in February. Bill was most proud of the family he and Marilyn created, especially his 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Fostering his love of farming and commitment to community, he was active in many

farm and non-farm organizations. Bill led by example, giving back to the agriculture community, and taking an active role in 4-H, mentoring many young people. For many years, he served as the agriculture superintendent for the St. Lawrence County Fair and as president of the St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau. Bill was one of the first members of the St. Lawrence County Planning Board and helped to shape his community through his service. With Marilyn, he supported many meaningful causes and organizations. When Bill passed away in February, his family directed memorial gifts in his name to the Community Foundation designated for the **Riley Basford Legacy Fund**. Riley was Bill's grandson who died unexpectedly in 2021. We share our deepest sympathy with Bill's wife, **Marilyn**, and his children, **Leslee**, **Terri**, and **Elliott**. We mourn Bill's loss as we celebrate his life and legacy and join his family in thanking all who made memorial tributes in his name.

Tribute gifts in memory of William L. Rodee

Mike & Connie Casey
Janet R. Cook
Max & Sara DelSignore
Teresa Gillan
Ricky & Roxanne Jones
Linda & Douglas MacQueen
Bob & Shirley Merithew
Barbara R. Tate



Martha M. Smith

Martha M. “Marty” Smith cared for many people during a career as a nurse and longtime Hospice volunteer. Born in 1934 in Potsdam, a daughter to **Leon** and **Anne Chase Maine**, she graduated from Carthage High School in 1952, and later the Good Samaritan School of Nursing. She worked as a Registered Nurse in numerous settings. She married **Allen L. Smith** in 1955. It was the beginning of 65 years’ worth of traveling, outdoor adventures, community, and civic involvement. Al passed away in 2020. Marty was devoted to her faith. She was a longtime member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization. With Al, she was involved in a wide range of community and civic organizations, supporting many meaningful causes, including the Community Foundation. Marty was close with her extended family and was a mentor to her nieces and nephews. When Al, a longtime North County banker, passed away, Marty and her family established a permanent fund at

the Community Foundation to perpetuate Al’s legacy and their philanthropic values. Marty and Al shared a collective desire for a better community and a better North Country for all people. The **Allen L. and Martha M. Smith Community Fund** at the Community Foundation serves as an enduring reflection of their belief in the importance of economic and civic vibrancy as it relates to the overall health of a region and its people. We join her family in expressing our deep gratitude to those who expressed their affection through meaningful tributes in her memory. Her family, friends and community will greatly miss her sense of civic and community pride. We are honored to perpetuate her legacy as she and Al will forever continue to improve the region they loved.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Martha M. Smith**

Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson
Richard G. Sherry, MD &
Judy A. Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Wilson
& Family



Josephine F. Foti

Josephine F. Foti cherished her family and faith and was a talented baker whose acts of kindness were often accompanied by Italian cookies. Born in 1927 in Watertown, a daughter to Giovanni and Savaria Malatino, she attended local schools, graduating from Watertown High School in 1943. She married **Patrick J. Foti** in 1948. Together they raised a son and two daughters, celebrating 53 years of marriage before Patrick passed away in 2001. Josephine worked for many years as a baker in the bakery department at P&C, retiring in 1988. She was active in her church and community, serving in local civic organizations. Josephine had a generous and giving heart and was a devoted mother and friend to many. When she passed away in May at age 95, her family designated memorial gifts to the **Joseph J. Foti Scholarship Fund** at the Community Foundation, which honors her son, Joseph, who passed away in 2020, and supports students at Jeff-Lewis BOCES who are pursuing careers in the building and construction trades. We are honored to be

part of the special way Josephine will be remembered and thank all who made gifts of affection in her memory. We express our sympathy to her daughters, **Patricia** and **Tina**, and her extended family and friends as we celebrate her legacy of kindness and devotion to family.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Josephine F. Foti**

Frank & Vicki Adsit
Jeff & Amy Asher
Jean Bilow & All the
Neighbors at Fairway
West Town Homes

Sandra & John Bird
Thomas E. & Sally C. Bowie
Catherine Burns Quencer
Tim & Kathie Decent
Martin & Sharon DelSignore
Max & Sara DelSignore
Georgia Dusckas

Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Susan & John Johnson
Honey Katzman
Jody Kassel
Caroline Kelly
Sue Lipman
Garrett McCarthy

Dave & Michelle Pfaff
Peter & Laurie Pike
RENY Management
Rande Richardson
Josephine M. Rose
Diane & Dick Sackett
Stephen Schreiman
Paul Trimper



Marion L. Merrill

Marion Lewis Merrill never met a stranger she didn’t call a friend. Compassion and kindness guided her throughout a full life of 95 years. Born in Utica in 1927, a daughter to **Ann** and **William Leslie Lewis**, she lived most of her early life in Watertown. From an early age, Marion loved to sing and play the piano. During World War II, she volunteered with various charities including the American Women’s Voluntary Services in Watertown. After graduating from Cazenovia College in 1948 she worked as a medical secretary. In 1951, she married **Richard S. “Dick” Merrill**. Together, they raised a son and a daughter and celebrated 64 years of marriage before Dick passed away in 2015. Marion and Dick lived in several Northeast cities and spent a few years in England before settling again in New York while Dick’s job as a plastics industry executive came with many moves. Marion became a certified braille transcriber and had a book published in the Library of Congress. Her greatest joy was her family, especially her grandchildren. She looked forward to

winters in Hobe Sound, Fla., and summers at her family cottage near Henderson Harbor. Marion enjoyed philanthropy and was a longtime Community Foundation supporter who generously gave to many organizations and causes that were special to her. With her husband, she also started several college scholarships. The **Richard S. and Marion L. Merrill Fund** at the Community Foundation will forever perpetuate Marion and Dick’s legacies while supporting causes and organizations that were most meaningful to them. We are grateful for having known Marion and express our sincere condolences to her children, **Richard**, and **Susan**, as we celebrate her life and legacy of kindness and compassion.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Marion L. Merrill**

William & Beth Maguire
Rande Richardson

In our next issue ...

■ Our year-end 2023 issue of **Thoughtful Giving** will feature stories and memorial tributes about the lives and legacies of several Community Foundation supporters who recently passed including: ■ **John J. Braun** ■ **Richard R. Bucci** ■ **Ann Renzi Haynes** ■ **Katherine A. “Kay” O’Brien** ■ **Robert J. Smith Jr.**

Recent Tribute Gifts

Includes only gifts made to the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund from Feb. 16, 2023 to July 14, 2023, or for those who have recently passed.

In Memory of Given by

Stanley Banazek Jr.
P.J. & Jen Banazek

Robert "Bobby" Dale Beckstead II
Rande Richardson

Mary Sue Bence
Clare Hanrahan Smith

Julie Biondolilo
John & Sara Treadwell

Gordon G. Bonisteel
Michael & Valerie Cascanet
Laurie & Denny Hudson
Addison F. Vars III &
Barbara Vars

John J. Braun
Mary C. Bosch
Michael Bromley
Katherine J. Carcaci
Alison Carter
Dean & Pam Coleman
DeZURIK
Teri & Duane Gasser
Mike & Sharon Hargrove
Diane & Steve Heath
Gerard & Judith Le Tendre
Mary C. & Frederick T. Olsen
Karen Parker
Ilona & Michael Ross
John & Theresa Skalla
Bob & Barb Remley
Valtronics Solutions

Daniel A. Buduson
Sylvia J. Buduson

Theresa Cataldo
Friendly Service, NCZ
Mary Lee O'Brien

Robert Campeau
Rande Richardson

William C. Couch
Barbarajean Blodgett
Mart Liinve

Jean Elizabeth Powers Crenshaw
Jane Cagwin
Karen Pell
Susan Powers Washburn

Cassandra "Sandy" Clark Cross
The Tim Miller Family
Kimberly Oliver
Rande Richardson

Dr. William A. Dallas
Steven Van Arnam

Gary R. Exford
Rande Richardson

M. Jeanette Frank
Michele & Tim Jeican

Mary Lou Gerloff
Rande Richardson

Guisella Gonzales
Rande Richardson

A. Julee Gorri
Rande Richardson

Betty A. Grandjean
Rande Richardson

Dr. Michael Greenfield
Margaret C. Couch
William & Kimberly Couch
Rande Richardson

Dr. John William Hall
Patricia Wells

Lawrence (Larry) Harvey
Robert Caswell*
Rande Richardson

Ann Renzi Haynes
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Ronald P. Hess Sr.
Rande Richardson

Rev. Stewart E. Hild
Alma H. Hild

Randy R. Jerome
John J. W. Allen & Family

Michael Katon
Joyce & David Crossley

Collins F. Kellogg Sr.
Robert Caswell*
Mary Lou Reed

John A. Kennedy Jr.
Robert Caswell*
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Gregory James Lago
Erin & Dick Greene

Kenneth D. Leon
Rande Richardson

Mary Leonard
Max & Sara DelSignore
Karen Loftus
Mary E. Loftus
William & Beth Maguire
Rande Richardson

Eugene M. Long
Hope V. Blassingame

Richard "Dick" Calvin McNeely Jr.
Richard & Jade McNeely
Jessica & Chris Page
Kurt & AnnMarie Pearson

Karen Parish Montani
Rande Richardson

Judy Munro
Carol & Dick Munro
Judith Pearson

Dorothy A. Nabywaniec
Rande Richardson

Katherine A. "Kay" O'Brien
Michael R. & Penny B. Clark
Max & Sara DelSignore
Jane Fitzpatrick
Pat Johnson & Family
Lori Klock
Joanne & Mark Lavarney
J. G. & Jenna McCarthy
Mary, Rich & Bobby O'Connor
Leonard G. Spaziani
John & Patty Spicer
Maryanne & Jon Vespa

Michael B. O'Driscoll
Rande Richardson

Dr. Joseph B. "Joe" Olson
Mary E. Loftus
Rande Richardson

Virginia R. Palumbo
Max & Sara DelSignore
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson

Barbara W. Robinson
Gretchen G. Eysaman
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson

Dawn Sharpstene
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Gary Skinner
John & Sara Treadwell

Robert J. Smith Jr.
Berry Brothers Lumber
Lee & Sue Berry
Victoria J. & Lewis J.
Crossway, Jr.
Pat Curry
Constance A. Elliott
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William & Beth Maguire
Jessica Mesler
Steven R. & Elizabeth E.
Newton
O.D. Greene Lumber &
Hardware
Betty J. Pine
Bob & Julie Storms
Patricia & Bruce Tyrrell

Fredrick M. Sovie
Rande Richardson

Donald F. Sprague
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

James F. Stockwell
Max & Sara DelSignore

James B. Tasant
David & Jean Kenney
Gordon & Joan Kimball

T. Urling Walker
Mary G. Colton
Susan & Floyd Kitto
Mart Liinve
Kathy & Mike Moran
Judith Pearson
Michael & Jacquelyn Schell

James West
William & Emelie Cuppernell
Karen Donahue
Steve Haas
Deanna & Jerri Lothrop
Audrey Misericola
Donald & Diane Tedford

In Honor of Given by

Roger Adams
Rande Richardson

Sarah M. Bailey's graduation from Paul Smith's College & 21st Birthday
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Helen Chisholm's 100th Birthday
Rande Richardson

Mary Gleason Colton's 85th Birthday
Carl Colton

Linda Dening's Retirement
Rande Richardson

Rev. J. Michael Gaffney's 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Jack Gormley
Rande Richardson

Joel LaLone's Retirement
Rande Richardson

Harold & Sally L'Huillier's 65th Wedding Anniversary
Rande Richardson

The Rev. Paul Luisi's Retirement
Rande Richardson

Maria Mesires' Birthday
William & Kimberly Couch

Tom Sauter
Rande Richardson

Larry Schmiegel
Rande Richardson

Dr. & Mrs. George Sturtz
Margaret C. Couch

Olivia Wisner
Richard & Cindy Parker

Kathy Wyckoff
Rande Richardson

*Deceased



Northern New York Community Foundation

Their story is our story.

Since 1929, the **Northern New York Community Foundation** has been a place where life stories are told and have a permanent home in the fabric of our region. We are grateful to all who entrust their legacies to us in an enduring way. During the past year, the following individuals remembered their community through their will or other legacy planning; their families chose to name the Community Foundation for public memorial tributes, including establishing a fund in their memory; or a memorial fund was transferred to the care and stewardship of the Community Foundation.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 🌳 Nora W. Bajjaly | 🌳 Marjorie Mae Watson Heck | 🌳 Gerald J. Reinman |
| 🌳 Dr. Thomas A. Baker | 🌳 Daphne Henri-Foley | 🌳 Gisele Marie Reynolds |
| 🌳 Dona R. Barney | 🌳 Josephine F. Foti | 🌳 Ray E. Richardson |
| 🌳 Jay Edward Barry | 🌳 Greg Huxley Jr. | 🌳 William L. Rodee |
| 🌳 Gordon G. Bonisteel | 🌳 Dennis Kiernan | 🌳 Doris E. Rushlo |
| 🌳 John J. Braun | 🌳 Ralph J. & Joan L. LaClair | 🌳 Joseph W. Russell |
| 🌳 Dr. Robert B. Brown | 🌳 Carleton & Beverly Lamica | 🌳 Martha M. Smith |
| 🌳 Richard R. Bucci | 🌳 Learned J. & Janet Langlois | 🌳 Robert J. Smith Jr. |
| 🌳 Lynda M. Carney | 🌳 James O. LaPlante | 🌳 Patricia H. C. Taylor |
| 🌳 Richard J. Casey | 🌳 Richard Calvin McNeely Jr. | 🌳 Lisa B. Trembley |
| 🌳 Robert F. Caswell | 🌳 Hope Rogers Metcalf | 🌳 Anita M. Tucker |
| 🌳 William C. Couch | 🌳 Marion Lewis Merrill | 🌳 Dr. W. Barton Van Slyke |
| 🌳 Dr. William A. Dallas | 🌳 Judy Behrhorst Munro | 🌳 T. Urling Walker |
| 🌳 Dr. George W. Forbes | 🌳 Katherine A. O'Brien | 🌳 June H. Watkins |
| 🌳 Laurie Renzi Gadsden | 🌳 Adeline R. Smith Ormsby | 🌳 Steven Roy Wilson |
| 🌳 Julie A. Gardner | 🌳 Francine Root Petersen | 🌳 Elizabeth Carroll Woodard |
| 🌳 Clarice D. Snell Harris | 🌳 Barbara N. Phillips | 🌳 Susan Fuller Woodward |
| 🌳 Ann Renzi Haynes | 🌳 Mary Ulmen Pike | 🌳 Richard J. Van Arnem |
| | 🌳 Philip B. Pratt, Sr. | |

Their stories live on. Forever.

Your Community. Your Foundation. Your Legacy.

Gift forever supports local organizations

Perpetuate a family legacy

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU?

Consider a **charitable 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 DeSignore**, assistant director, **315-782-7110** or **max@nnycf.org**.

Longtime librarian and teacher **Irene Bowen** passed away in December 2021 at the age of 96, but her legacy of generosity and selfless giving will forever help five local charities whose work she valued during her lifetime.

As part of her legacy planning, Irene created designated funds to support five different organizations in the North Country, forever. Like she did throughout her life, Irene will now provide annual support to the causes and organizations she cared most about with added oversight and stewardship. Each year in perpetuity those five charities will receive an annual contribution in her name while Irene's generosity forever provides support to accomplish their work.

Irene dedicated her life to education, nurturing a love of reading in hundreds of children she served through a remarkable career as a children's librarian at four different public libraries and two school systems. Born in 1925, in Lowville, she graduated from Lowville Free Academy in 1943, and Smith College

in 1947. She later earned a graduate degree in library science from the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Irene's work with children brought her great joy and she was proud to inspire so many young readers.

She later served as a reading instructor for Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, primarily at Beaver River Central. Irene published four books of fiction for children and aided in the preparation of "History of Lewis County, New York, from 1880 through 1965," which her father, G. Byron Bowen, edited.

She shared her gifts of time and talent as a volunteer and board member for several Lewis County civic and charitable organizations. We are grateful for the legacy the Community Foundation will steward



Irene Bowen

on Irene's behalf to support the causes and organizations that mattered most to her.

A legacy of helping others where most needed

Beverly J. and Carleton H. "Carl" Lamica Sr. shared a genuine love for community and a devotion to faith and family that shaped their lives through 62 years of marriage while raising a son and two daughters in Watertown.

Carl was an officer of Jeff Bottling Co. (Pepsi-Cola) for nearly 30 years until the business was sold in 1999 to Pepsi Bottling Group. He was also an Army veteran who was drafted to serve in Korea in 1951. **Beverly**, along with her siblings and her father before her, was an owner of Jeff Bottling Co.

Together, Carl and Beverly always found ways to help those in need while volunteering and supporting local organizations whose work strengthened the region.

Carl passed away in early 2014 at the age of 82, followed by Beverly in May 2020 at the age of 88.

Last fall, daughters **Nancy Johnson** and **Sue Lipman** established the **Carleton and Beverly Lamica Family Fund** at the Community Foundation to perpetuate their parents' legacies of "helping where it's needed most."



Beverly J. and Carleton H. Lamica Sr.

Lifelong Northern New York residents, the Lamicas were actively involved with many civic organizations and activities. Their commitment to and love of their community will endure through grants made to charitable organizations that will positively impact the lives of others.

Their children will recommend annual grants from the fund to support

"Their community was so important to them, and my sister and I want the memory of their kindness and generosity to be remembered."

— **Nancy Johnson**, Watertown, on the legacies of her parents, **Beverly and Carleton Lamica**

causes and organizations that are in the greatest need, which mirrors the example of giving and generosity their parents set during their lives.

"It used to be if you mentioned our parents' names, everybody knew them," daughter Nancy said. "Their community was so important to them, and my sister and I want the memory of their kindness and generosity to be remembered."

We are humbled to steward this special family legacy that will forever perpetuate Beverly and Carl's legacies and honor the many ways they served their community.

Donor-Advised Funds

ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE:

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.

YOUR GIFTS STRENGTHEN OUR FUTURE

The power and value of an enduring gift

Since 1929, the Northern New York Community Foundation has been entrusted with legacies of those for whom the region and the charitable organizations that sustain it have deep meaning. The Foundation holds a variety of types of funds which may benefit nonprofit organizations or other areas of interest.

Last year, the Community Foundation received a gift through a will that created designated funds to support five different organizations in the North Country, forever. Just as she had during her life, this donor will now provide annual support to the causes and organizations she cared most about with added oversight and stewardship. Each year in perpetuity those five charities will receive an annual contribution in her name.

The concept of spreading support over time has advantages over providing a one-time lump sum. Reliable annual support remains a key factor in most organizations' ability to effectively accomplish their work. Additionally, community foundation funds ensure that a gift established to support one's favorite nonprofits remains impactful if the nonprofit ceases to exist at the time the gift is realized or in the future. This way, a donor's legacy is protected.

Every fund we hold is governed by a fund agreement that describes the charitable purpose of the fund and how distributions will be made. There has been an emerging trend of donors who are having conversations with us about how to extend their support most effectively for their favorite causes. A local donor recently established a community foundation fund to provide annual income to her church. If the church should ever close, she has chosen three charities to receive the annual proceeds instead. The assurance of relevancy and protection from obsolescence provides added peace of mind and joy, a win-win.

We are often asked about what will happen if something changes with anything related to the purpose of the fund. Community foundations have a unique ability and responsibility to protect a donor's interests in perpetuity. This protection falls under the ability to use its variance power to ensure that the intent is fulfilled. Through the terms of a standard fund agreement, the donor can outline their specific charitable intentions and acknowledge that should their gift to a specific nonprofit not be possible, we will follow through with the gift's original intention in the closest way possible.

The most common way variance power is needed is when a nonprofit organization goes out of existence. An example of this was when

the Syracuse Symphony rather suddenly dissolved. In that case, the interests of many donors were at stake. Funds had been raised in the region, which the Community Foundation added to, to help support an annual Watertown concert series. For many years, it did just that, enabling many to enjoy live orchestral music.



RANDE RICHARDSON

Community foundations have a record of going to great lengths to honor donor wishes, even decades after a fund is created.

After the Symphony suspended operations in 2011 and subsequently filed for bankruptcy, the funds held at the Community Foundation were protected. The Foundation's board subsequently acted to repurpose the funds to preserve donor intent. The variance power became a valuable tool to create the Orchestral Fund, a field of interest fund that annually supports live orchestral performances in the Watertown area. For the past decade, it has funded the Orchestra of Northern New York and the Trinity Concert Series, among others.

For most, it is ultimately what the charity does that they want to support, even if they have a deep connection with the organization. They come to realize their objective to support the work and mission in any way possible, including if the original nonprofit ceases to exist. The thought of their intentions ending when an organization does is resolved by their decision to partner with the Foundation.

We are fortunate that when someone cares enough to make a gift to positively impact quality of life in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties, it comes with the peace of mind that its value will be lasting — multiplying the original value of the gift. Community foundations have a record of going to great lengths to honor donor wishes, even decades after a fund is created. Donors who start with a very specific purpose often recognize a broader purpose to their philanthropy. They soon realize that there may be a way to meet their immediate goals while preparing for unknown circumstances of the future. More than 900 community foundations operate in every state in the country. We are fortunate that one of the first was established here more than 93 years ago to respond to today's needs while investing for tomorrow so the impact would be both immediate and lasting.

Note: This column, by Northern New York Community Foundation Executive Director Rande Richardson, originally appeared in NNY Business magazine. It is reprinted here with permission.



KARA DRY PHOTOGRAPHY | FOR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Kenneth Andrews, music director, and founder of The **Orchestra of Northern New York** conducts during Watertown's annual Concert in the Park at Thompson Park in June. Variance power became a powerful tool to create the **Orchestral Fund**, a field of interest fund that annually supports live orchestral performances in the Watertown area.

Matching grant builds support for 'Boots' Gaffney Award Foundation will double gifts to fund; IHC's 2023 recipients honored

CLARENCE B. 'BOOTS' GAFFNEY AWARD RECIPIENTS:

From left: **Pete Gaffney**, son of the late **Clarence B. "Boots" Gaffney**; Gaffney Award recipient **Robert T. O'Connor**, Italian-American Civic Association President **James P. Scordo**; Gaffney Award recipient **Emily L. Bombard**.



Two members of the Immaculate Heart Central Class of 2023 are the top graduating athletes and recipients of the **Clarence B. "Boots" Gaffney Award**. **Emily L. Bombard** was selected as the women's recipient and **Robert T. O'Connor** was named as the men's honoree this year.

The Italian-American Civic Association established the Gaffney Award in 1980 following his retirement as athletic director to honor his commitment to Immaculate Heart Academy and IHC students. That same year, the Gaffney Award was first presented to the top graduating male and female athletes at Immaculate Heart.

Mr. Gaffney was also a multi-sport coach at Immaculate Heart. The award perpetuates his legacy to local athletics and the greater Watertown community. The honor is awarded to an outstanding male and female graduating student athlete who demonstrates exceptional performance and personal growth. School faculty, the athletic director and designated varsity coaches determine recipients.

Mr. Gaffney served as a city firefighter for 33 years and retired as a captain in 1970. He was also the athletic director at Immaculate Heart Academy (IHA) and IHC for nearly 40 years before retiring from that role in 1980. He coached football, basketball, and baseball at IHA. His basketball teams captured Northern New York Catholic League titles in 1953, 1954, and 1956.

HELP PERPETUATE BOOTS GAFFNEY'S LEGACY & DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

■ Gifts to help build the **Clarence B. "Boots" Gaffney Award** at the Community Foundation may be made securely online at bit.ly/Gaffney-Award, or by mail to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**. For a limited time, all new gifts will be matched.

The Community Foundation was selected to help continue the Gaffney family legacy by administering a charitable fund in perpetuity and raising awareness of the legacy award for students who strive to earn the prestigious honor. The Foundation partners with the Association and IHC to provide a one-time \$1,000 scholarship to each Gaffney Award recipient.

A recent Community Foundation challenge grant will build support for the award. The Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 in gifts to the fund, which it stewards on behalf of the Italian-American Civic Association and Immaculate Heart Central.



Clarence B. "Boots" Gaffney

"Many past recipients of the Gaffney Award have gone on to be leaders in our community, holding positions as teachers, coaches, attorneys, physicians, engineers, and more, while giving their time and resources to community organizations," Italian-American Civic Association President **James P. Scordo** said.

Mr. Scordo added that this year's honorees "are exceptional and embody the values that Boots Gaffney strived to instill in the many student athletes he coached and mentored."

Emily L. Bombard is an accomplished three-sport athlete, competing for four years in varsity soccer, basketball, and lacrosse. She is a top-ranked honor student who graduated as class valedictorian. She will attend Jefferson Community College this fall as a Jefferson-Can Community Scholar where she plans to study psychology. She aspires to work as a school psychologist or in the social work field. Emily is the daughter of **Jennifer Delaney Bombard** and **Lance Bombard**, Chaumont.

Robert T. O'Connor is a standout four-sport athlete who competed for four years in varsity soccer and basketball and one year in varsity lacrosse and golf. He graduated with honors in the top five of his class. He will attend Clarkson University this fall where he plans to study engineering and management. He aspires to work in business management. Robert is the son of **Mary** and **Richard O'Connor**, Watertown.

FOURTH ANNUAL SHAW HARBOR SCHOLARS

Ten members of the class of 2023 were awarded scholarships from the **Shaw Harbor Foundation**, a charitable fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation, during the Fourth Annual Appreciation & Recognition Dinner in June.

Two Class of 2022 Shaw Harbor Scholars were also named 2023 recipients of the Distinguished Undergraduate Award. They are: **Cody Wade** (\$1,000), Syracuse University, forensic science and biology, and **Hailyn Buker** (\$1,000), Clarkson University Class of 2026, environmental engineering.

This year's Shaw Harbor Leadership Scholars are: **Peyton Taylor**, World-Changer Award (\$4,000); Canton High School; Colgate University, English and molecular biology; **Kevin Bou-Abdallah**, STEM Award (\$3,000); Potsdam Central School; Clarkson University, aviation; **Trey Augliano**, Entrepreneurship Award (\$2,500); Watertown High School; Syracuse University, business & finance; and **Kenneth Smith**, Diversity & Inclusion Award, (\$2,500) Potsdam Central School, Seton Hall University, Environmental Science.

The 2023 Shaw Harbor Scholars, each receiving \$1,000 awards, are: **Raychael Bisig**, South Jefferson High School, SUNY Platts-



CLASS OF 2023 SHAW HARBOR SCHOLARS from left: **David Fayle**, **Hanna Lighthall**, **Mitchell Domagala**, **Raychael Bisig**, **John Shaw McNeely**, Shaw Harbor Foundation founder, **Trey Augliano**, **Peyton Taylor**, **Kevin Bou-Abdallah**, and **Marena Grenier**. Absent from photo: **Katharina Probst** and **Kenneth Smith**.

burgh, business & finance; **Mitchell Domagala**, South Lewis Central School, Clarkson University, engineering; **David Fayle**, Lowville Academy and Central School, SUNY Binghamton, sciences; **Marena Grenier**, Thousand Islands

Central School, Alliance University, biology; **Hanna Lighthall**, Beaver River Central, Cornell University, agriculture; and **Katharina Probst**, Immaculate Heart Central, University of Rochester, biology.

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT from page 3

aide. Initially my education had helped me advance professionally first by obtaining a teaching position and eventually a position as an administrator.

What has helped you to nurture professional and personal relationships throughout your community?

Having the opportunities to work as a professional in three small communities — Philadelphia, Cape Vincent, and Theresa — has allowed me to make connections with people and groups I would not normally have had the opportunity to connect with. It has opened doors that would not have otherwise been open for me. Working in a small community is like no other experience. You immediately feel like part of a family.

What would you tell high school students who are now considering college and career options?

I would strongly encourage them to read, ask, and learn all they can about different careers. When I was younger I did not get a lot of guidance on career choices or the pathways to obtain a college education or other career path. There are so many things out there that you can do that will not only provide an income but make you happy doing it. Think about what brings you joy and then find careers that match your interests. This may or may not include college, but it is important to seek out all opportunities to find the best fit. If possible, attend a BOCES tech course. These programs offer so much

"The Northern New York Community Foundation made it possible for me, as a young mother of two, to go to college for the first time."

— Brenda Leddy, Philadelphia
Nontraditional Scholarship recipient

for our young people. Even if it isn't what you go on to do as a career you will always have a trade that can open doors and benefit you in ways you may not have considered.

How can we best lead younger generations to be involved in their communities?

To lead younger generations to be active in their communities it's important to get them involved at a young age. In my building we teach citizenship and how they can be good stewards of their community. That starts with kindness and doing what is right. All of these things should be instilled in our young people. We work hard to make community connections and to show them how we work together to create positive outcomes.

Philanthropy is about sharing your time and talents, as much as giving. What has influenced you most to contribute to your community? Being an elementary administrator has influenced me to be a part of the

community I work in. I have had the opportunity to serve as an administrator in Cape Vincent and Theresa. These small tight-knit communities make serving easy. It's important to have the school as a vital focal point in the community. Whether it's making connections with the local American Legion to help students learn more about patriotism and holidays we celebrate or connecting with the local library to connect families with literacy opportunities, or creating opportunities at the school that allow the school and community to partner in events like our annual literacy walk at Theresa Primary, it is all important. Connecting with the community is how we can best serve and support our students and families.

What do you find special about Northern New York that keeps you committed to maintain your involvement and efforts to give back?

Northern New York is a very special place. My husband and I chose to stay in this area and raise our children here because of its uniqueness. It is a safe place that offers so much for families. The small communities that I have lived and worked in create a family feel that allowed us as parents to feel comfortable raising our children. It makes it easy to give back to communities that have believed in me and supported me throughout this journey. Some of my "biggest fans" live in these small communities and without them I would not be where I am today.

Class of 2023 Boldt scholars honored at castle

Chantell L. Beach, Cameron L. Derouin, and Sadie S. Pasinello, were named as the 2023 recipients of the **Northern New York Community Foundation George C. Boldt Scholarship** during a celebration at Boldt Castle. Each student was awarded \$10,000 in educational support. Each of the Class of 2023 recipients will begin studies this fall at **Jefferson Community College**. Chantell, a **Watertown High** graduate, will study human services; Cameron, a **Sackets Harbor** graduate, will study fire protection technology; and Sadie, a **South Jefferson** graduate, will study liberal arts. **Brayden Wiley**, a 2022 **Thousand Islands High** graduate who attends **SUNY Oswego**, was also honored as a Boldt Scholar. **Malcolm Goodridge**, the great-grandson of **George C. Boldt Sr.**, established the scholarship at the Community Foundation in 2017. Mr. Goodridge's son, **Charlie**, and granddaughter, **Gracelyn**, presented recipients with their awards. Now in its fifth year, the scholarship supports Jefferson County students and honors the life and legacy of Boldt Castle builder **George C. Boldt Sr.**, a noted philanthropist and hotelier who once owned New York City's Waldorf Astoria Hotel.



HONORING A NEW CLASS OF BOLDT SCHOLARS: From left, **Shane Sanford**, retired Boldt Castle operations manager and Boldt Scholarship committee chairman; **Gracelyn Goodridge**, great-great-granddaughter of **George C. Boldt Sr.**; 2023 Northern New York Community Foundation George C. Boldt Scholarship recipients **Sadie S. Pasinello**, **Chantell L. Beach**, and **Cameron L. Derouin**; 2022 Boldt Scholar **Brayden P. Wiley**; and **Charlie Goodridge**, great-grandson of **George C. Boldt Sr.** on the grand staircase of Boldt Castle during a reception and celebration in July.



Help restore the tower

■ Those who wish to support the restoration project can **double their impact** make gifts and to: **Northern New York Community Foundation**, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. Secure online giving at nnycf.org/giving

Double your gift to help save Sackets landmark

A \$25,000 Community Foundation matching grant working to help restore a more than century-old Sackets Harbor landmark in the heart of the historic village is still open for donors to double their impact.

The **United Presbyterian Church** clock and bell tower has stood at the corner of Broad and Main streets for nearly 125 years.

More than a century of north country winters has left the tower in need of masonry repairs to strengthen its structural integrity. In 2019, a survey revealed critical infrastructure was at risk of failing. With a total project cost of \$600,000, a tower restoration

committee comprised of congregation and community members has secured a combination of church resources and state grant funding, and initial work was completed in 2021.

Banners on display outside the tower capture the committee's charge: "Preserving a Landmark, Sustaining a Legacy."

Last June, the committee kicked off a community campaign for the project with a goal to raise \$300,000, roughly two-thirds from community members, and another \$100,000 from the church congregation. To help, the tower committee established a charitable fund at the Community Foundation for the project.

Committee members said last month that the "overall fundraising goal for the project is nearly met." They're reminding the community of the opportunity to double their gifts in support of the project.

Janet S. Quinn, a retired Sackets Harbor High School teacher and tower committee co-chair, and other committee members said partnering with the Foundation is "just the catalyst we needed to ensure a successful fundraising effort."

The Foundation's matching grant challenge means all gifts from non-parishioners to the campaign, up to \$25,000, will be doubled, dollar-for-dollar.

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 1,000 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

Dr. John F. Lormore Charitable Fund

Designated Funds

Gabriel A. Renzi Endowment Fund for Glenwood Cemetery

Field of Interest Funds

Concert in the Park Endowment Fund
Cranberry Lake Flower & Banner Fund
Dr. Robert B. Brown Community Fund

Organization Funds

Cranberry Lake North Shore Hub Endowment
Mannsville Free Library Endowment

Project Funds

The North Country Music Project

Thomas Memorial AME Zion Church
Preservation, Restoration and Renewal Fund
Thompson Park Bandstand Project

Scholarship Funds

Clayton Rotary Club Scholarship
Dr. Thomas A. Baker Scholarship
Elizabeth Carroll Woodard Nursing Scholarship
General Brown Trade Scholarship
Howard and Dona Barney Scholarship
James V. Gosier Memorial Scholarship
Jordan Jerome Award
Lucy Reff Memorial Scholarship
Patricia Taylor Scholarship
Richard Edgar Scholarship
Richard J. Van Arnam 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.

YOUR GIFTS PRESERVE LOCAL HISTORY

Foundation grant helps Massena Museum with artifact storage

A recent Community Foundation grant will help the Town of Massena's efforts to purchase a storage building for the **Celine G. Philibert Memorial Cultural Centre and Museum**.

The Community Foundation approved a \$5,000 award for the Museum that will help properly protect its collection and artifacts.

In early May, Community Foundation staff learned that officials with the Town of Massena and Museum were raising money to purchase a building for artifact storage.

Partnerships with other repositories, individuals, and



The **Celine G. Philibert Memorial Cultural Centre and Museum** on Main Street, Massena

institutions in the North Country promote the identification, preservation and use of all records and artifacts for understanding the North Country's history.

Additional artifacts were being stored at the former Massena Museum building on East Orvis Street and other locations. They

had to be moved about a year ago and space was secured at the former Hallmark store at the St. Lawrence Centre mall under a rental agreement with the town. Moving items to the mall solved a storage issue, but the collection and archive items should be more accessible to rotate into displays.

The Museum board has organized a fundraising campaign to raise approximately \$57,000 for a storage building that will be placed on town property behind the Museum.

The Massena Museum completed its move to the Main Street facility in November 2017. The new Cultural Centre also houses an exhibition gallery.

The Museum collects and preserves historical records and artifacts pertaining to the Town of Massena and makes them available for historical and educational research and exhibits that involve community members in interpreting local history.

Scholarship continues legacy of longtime General Brown teacher

A beloved elementary school teacher, **Clarice D. "Teddy" Snell Harris** devoted her life to educating several generations of North Country children. At a very young age, she knew she wanted to teach and she held a special place in her heart for every child who crossed her path.

Born in 1929 in Wilna, she grew up in a tight-knit family in Glen Park with three brothers, one of whom was her twin. She graduated from General Brown

High School in 1948 and earned a teaching degree from SUNY Potsdam in 1953.

After living away for a several years, she returned home to teach kindergarten through eighth grade at Glen Park Elementary School from 1971 until her retirement in 1992.

Teddy's passion was teaching



Clarice D. "Teddy" Snell Harris

children. She always knew which children were struggling and needed extra help and she was there for them, taking whatever time was needed to ensure they understood each lesson. She was very proud that she was able to teach for almost 40 years.

Even after her retirement and until the day she passed in March 2022 at the age of 92, Teddy continued to teach, mentoring many nieces and nephews.

It was always Teddy's wish to help students who wanted to fol-

low her path and teach children of all ages.

Through a gift from her estate, the **Clarice D. "Teddy" Snell Harris Memorial Scholarship for Education** was established at the Community Foundation in 2022. The scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors from **General Brown Central School** who are pursuing careers in education.

The Community Foundation is humbled to steward this meaningful legacy that will honor Teddy for years to come.

First recipients of Gabriel A. Renzi Legacy Scholarship named

Six Watertown-area students were recently named as the inaugural recipients of the **Gabriel A. Renzi Legacy Scholarship**, a new Community Foundation award that was established in 2022 as a component of the **Gabriel A. Renzi Legacy Fund**.

Recent Watertown High graduates **Trey Augliano**, **Isabelle Emerton**, **Owen Lalonde**, and **KaiAnna Navarra**, Immaculate Heart Central graduate **Grady Petersen**, and Sackets Harbor Central graduate **Sara Thorp** each received a \$1,000 award.

Trey will attend Syracuse University for business and

finance; **Isabelle** will attend Syracuse University for biology; **Owen** plans to study computer science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; **KaiAnna** will study liberal arts at Syracuse University; **Grady** will study physics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; and **Sara** will attend Syracuse University for psychology.

Gabriel A. "Al" Renzi was a 1942 graduate of Watertown High School and enlisted in the United States Navy, serving throughout



Gabriel A. "Al" Renzi

World War II. Following his decorated military service and honorable discharge, he attended Syracuse University, earning a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in geography. He worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and later

returned to his hometown of Watertown to assist his family with their grocery store.

Gabriel passed away in September 2020 at the age of 96. Subsequently, the **Gabriel A. Renzi Legacy Fund** was estab-

lished as a Community Foundation fund.

The fund will broadly support education and a series of charitable initiatives while spreading goodwill in the tradition of the Renzi family. Gabriel's family directed that the gift helps local students, United States military veterans and active-duty soldiers, and provide for general community betterment.

We are grateful for Gabriel's special gift and are honored to steward this resource that will perpetuate his life and legacy of service and community pride while helping others for years to come.



Northern New York
Community Foundation

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OUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FAMILY

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

— Chuck & Linda Goolden, Madrid



HOMETOWN GIVING: Community Foundation donors Linda and Chuck Goolden are pictured on the campus of the **St. Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum** in Madrid. The couple grew up in Madrid and have been instrumental in creating change in the community. Together, they operated a funeral home for nearly 20 years that was in Chuck’s family. Chuck later served as vice president of administration at SUNY Canton and Linda was a French teacher.