



Six Town Connections

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

A permanent charitable fund for 'Six Town'

Established in 2013, the **Six Town Community Fund** was created as a geographic-specific fund to support projects and programs that positively impact the quality of life in the south Jefferson County region, specifically in the towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman, and Worth.

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



"Community philanthropy is using resources to make the greatest positive impact on the people and places that raised you."

— Owen Newton,
South Jefferson High School
Class of 2023 and Youth
Philanthropy Council alumnus



PARTNERS FOR PUBLIC SPACES: From left, **Adams Community Park Committee** members **Kate Albrecht Fidler, Karen Denny, Tanya Dunn, Lory Cobb, Laurie Hudson, and Marlene Norfolk** at the new playground in Adams Community Park off Wardwell Street in the village. Absent from photo: Committee members **Olivia Barker, Kathy Hannon, and Amber Roberts**. (Kara Dry Photography / For The Community Fund)

Community Fund grant support helps redevelop playground in village of Adams

Nearly \$40,000 in combined grant support from the **Six Town Community Fund**, the **Community Foundation**, and its **Youth Philanthropy Council** helped the **Adams Revitalization Committee** reach its fundraising goal for a new playground and community park in the heart of the village off Wardwell Street.

All gifts made by individuals, businesses, and organizations in support of the project were



doubled, up to \$30,000.

Adams Community Park Committee Member **Karen Denny** said the matching grant from the Foundation "came at the perfect time."

"The committee was working hard to close the funding gap to complete the project when we received the news," Mrs. Denny said. "Around the same time, we received word that site work would soon begin, and playground equipment was on its way."

She added that the matching grant, which dozens of local donors helped to meet, was "a great opportunity for businesses and

See PARK on page 2



Northern New York
**Community
Foundation**

Newsletter of the Six Town Community Fund, a Northern New York Community Foundation affiliate

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Six Town COMMUNITY FUND

A Northern New York Community Foundation affiliate

ESTABLISHED 2013

MISSION

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Karen Denny, Adams
Chair

Vince Guarrera, Mannsville
Vice Chair

David Zembiec, Adams
Secretary

Dave Stone, Adams
Honorary Member

Andrew Beckstead, Adams

Joe Brown, Ellisburg

John Crimi, Lorraine

David Geurtsen, Rodman

John Gleason, Henderson

Barb Greene, Henderson

Laurie Hudson, Adams

Bilkey Moore, Lorraine

Marlene Norfolk, Adams

Barry Ormsby, Ellisburg

Lisa Porter, Rodman

John Treadwell, Henderson



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Community Foundation**
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YOUR GIFTS BUILD LONG-TERM RESOURCES

Community Fund donors respond to meet 10th anniversary challenge

Foundation doubled gifts to '60 for Six Town' campaign

A \$30,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation helped the **Six Town Community Fund** celebrate its 10th anniversary last year with the "60 for Six Town" campaign, which focused on securing \$60,000 in new gifts to increase available resources for grantmaking.

The campaign was a success with more than \$30,000 in gifts that were doubled to build the Community Fund's permanent endowment.

Six Town Community Fund Committee member and Immediate Past Chair **Barb Greene** said the campaign energized members and helped to raise awareness with sustaining and prospective first-time donors. The matching grant was "excellent timing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the community fund and its achievements."

"Because of Six Town's success in the first decade, the matching opportunity enabled us to build upon its growth," Mrs. Greene said.

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 46 different community projects led by Six Town-area nonprofit organizations with nearly \$56,000 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.

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 help grow the Community Fund's impact across the Six Town region, mail checks to **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.**

"We appreciate the Community Foundation's generous support and confidence in our stewardship. Our committee believes in the purpose and importance of this fund that has made a meaningful impact across southern Jefferson County."

— Barb Greene, Henderson

Six Town Community Fund Immediate Past chair

PARK from page 1

individuals to support a community park."

"The Adams Community Park committee is especially grateful for the Community Foundation's generous support."

Officials celebrated completion of the new playground at the site of the former Adams Elementary School with a ribbon cutting and grand opening in June.

The Community Foundation has been a strategic partner as the project has evolved.

In 2022, the **Six Town Community Fund** awarded a \$3,250 grant to help purchase new playground equipment. That same year, the Foundation's **Youth Philanthropy Council** awarded a \$4,500 grant to support architectural and design planning.



A PERFECT PLAYDATE: Grace DelSignore, Watertown, enjoys the new slide as children and families celebrate the grand opening of the **Adams Community Park** in June.

COMMUNITY FUND GRANTMAKING / A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

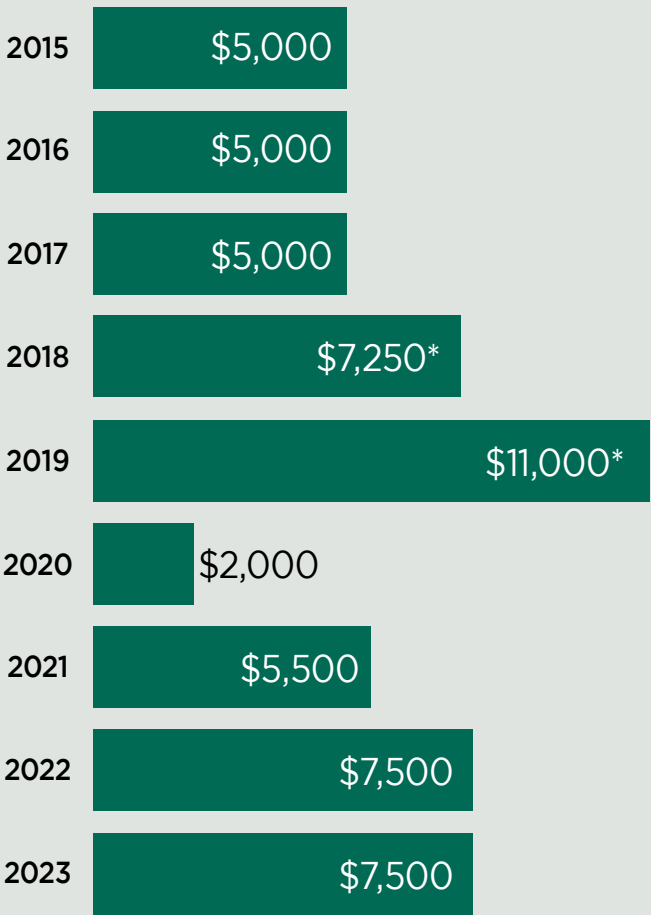
TOTAL GRANT SUPPORT
\$55,750

TOTAL GRANT AWARDS
46

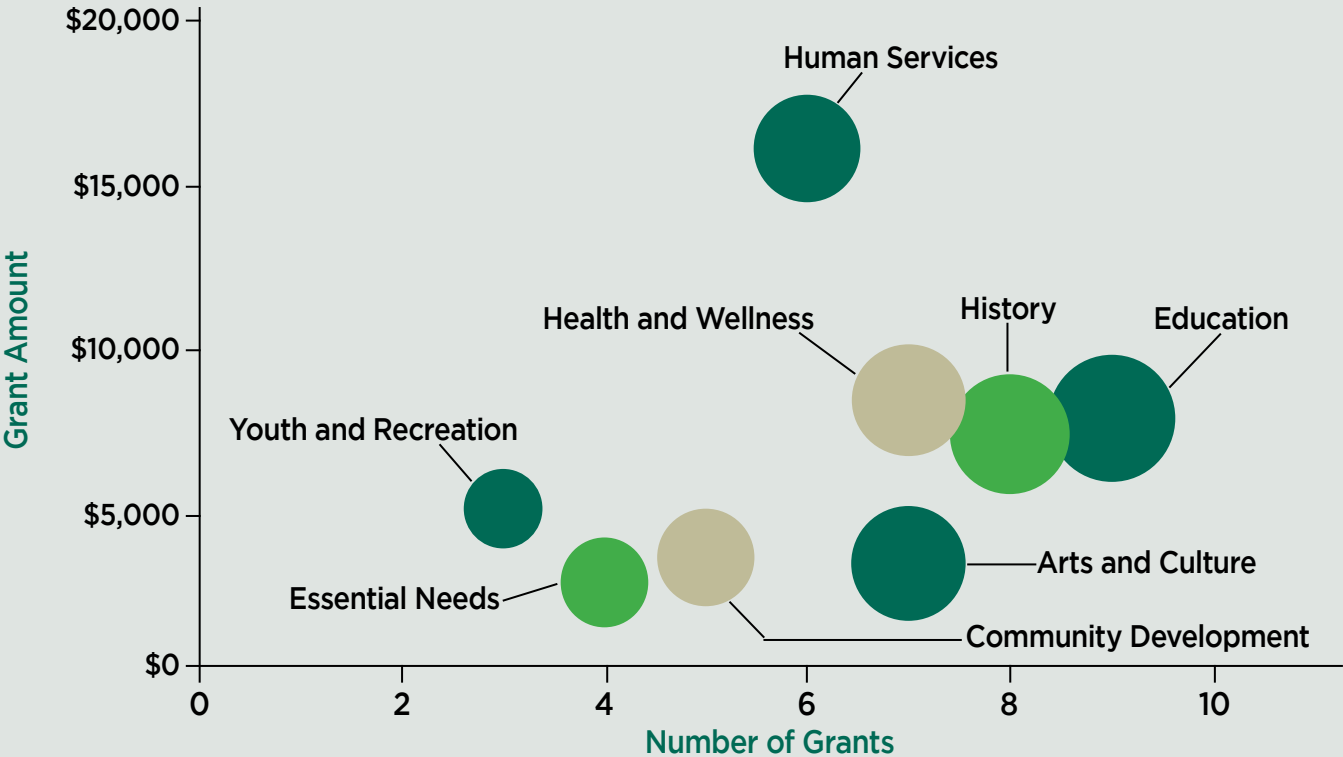
TOTAL GRANT RECIPIENTS
27

AVERAGE GRANT AWARD
\$1,012

*2018 and 2019 grant totals included support from the Charles R. and E. Fern Brown Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation



Grants and Amounts by Grant Type



YOUR GIFTS BUILD LONG-TERM RESOURCES

COMMUNITY FUND

PIONEERS: From left, **Six Town Community Fund** founding members **Marlene Norfolk** and **Dave and Mary Stone** outside of Honeyville Manor Bed & Breakfast, with Community Fund Committee Chair **Karen Denny**, Dave and Mary Stone's daughter.

Kara Dry Photography /
For The Community Fund



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 to organizations that help improve the quality of life in the communities of the Six Town region.

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

A decade later, reflections and gratitude Vision for permanent Six Town region resource endures

More than a decade ago, a handful of Jefferson County residents came together to realize a vision that would strengthen communities in the southernmost part of the county.

In 2013, then-Adams resident **Dave Stone** approached the **Northern New York Community Foundation** to consider the best way people could make a meaningful difference in the lives of southern Jefferson County residents. He quickly recruited others to join the effort, including longtime Adams Center resident **Marlene Norfolk**.

After an establishing gift in December 2012, Mr. Stone and Mrs. Norfolk assembled a group of citizens who represented communities in the county's southernmost towns — **Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman, and Worth** — to help build a permanent charitable fund at the Community Foundation

to benefit residents of the Six Town region in perpetuity.

"We were looking for a way that smaller communities in the south Jefferson County area could access Community Foundation resources in a more local way," Mr. Stone said.

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.

"When we started out the concept was to keep it local," Mrs. Norfolk said. "We asked a lot of people who loved our communities to invest in the region so that in the future we could do great things. So many people joined to help our communities and

make them better."

Today, the Six Town Community Fund belongs to the Six Town area and each of its residents. Every gift each donor provides is designated to help residents of the six towns. Projects that are supported would not be possible without a collective effort that continues.

As Mr. Stone and Mrs. Norfolk reflect on nearly a decade of impact, the two agree that great joy has come from developing a tool to address the needs of the Six Town communities and connecting with people who are committed to seeing the Community Fund's legacy continue.

"While the needs are different in each community, this wonderful resource has helped bring all of our towns together," Mrs. Norfolk said. "It's especially encouraging to see new committee members who really want to make a difference get involved."

"Together, we made this happen by not attempting to solve someone's problem, but by helping to make good things possible in our communities."

— Dave Stone, Six Town Community Fund charter member

COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY AT WORK

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

Six Town Sustaining Gifts

The following supporters made gifts to the Six Town Community Fund between Sept. 10, 2021, and Oct. 22, 2024

Kevin J. Ackerman
John W. Allen
Anonymous (5)
Casey S. Aubin
P.J. & Jennifer Banazek
Noel D. & Terese Bibbins
Charlene Bangs Bickford
Bill Elliott & Sons Tree Service
Steve & Karen Blevins
Melanie Bolton
Joseph S. & Nancy L. Brown
Frank & Ann Cean
Mary & Phil Chatterton
Claude H. Dunk & Frances S. Dunk Fund
John & Sheila Crimi
Max & Sara DelSignore
Kirk & Karen Denny
Trent & Janine Dickey
William & Carol Doe
James G. Elliott
The Estal Family
Gretchen G. Eysaman
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
John & Mary Lou Ferry
Neil & Mary Fisher
Dave & Melanie Geurtsen
Clinton & Barbara Gillett

Jeffrey L. Ginger
Frank & Sharon Graves
Dwight & Barbara Greene
Deborah & William Griffith
Vincent Guarrera
Mike & Kathy Hannon
Hendershore Farm
Nina O. Hershey
Marian & George Higgins
Hillcrest Holsteins
Denny & Laurie Hudson
Lynn & Sandra Hunneyman
RoseAnn Jakubowitch
John Allen Sanitation Service
Janet Jolly
Jayson & Tammi Jones
Fred & Ginny Karnas
Julie & Stephen Kealy
Beth Porter Kerley
Gregory & Diane Lake
Sally & George LaPlante
Mary Alice LaQuay
Chaz & Joanna Loomis
MacIvennie & Brown Insurance Agency
William & Beth Maguire
John Mantle
Bud & Marvel Masters
Amy Jo & Vincent Moore
Bilkey L. Moore

Niagara Mohawk/National Grid Retirees Club of the Watertown Area
Fred & Marlene Norfolk
Barry & Betsy Ormsby
Peter & Nancy Ouderkirk
Kurt Overton
Thomas & Katrina Overton
Keith & Elizabeth Perry
Joan B. Peterson
Stacey L. & Vicki L. Pitkin
Bruce & Jenny Porter
David G. Porter
Douglas & Lynda Porter
Greg & Lisa Porter
Jack A. & Michele N. Porter
Jamison Porter
Richard Porter & Lisa Jeschawitz
David Poulin
Rande Richardson
Glenn & Michele Richter
Thomas Richter
Richard & Betsy Roberts
Rudd Spray Service
Wilson F. & Daryl Rusho
John U. & Gaylee S. Scheuer
Mark & Beth Shelmidine
Pat & Bob Simpson
David, Brian, & Kevin Sischo & Families
Brad & Nancy Smith

Ethel E. Smith
South Jefferson Central School District
Karen & Douglas Spooner
Dale R. & Donna L. Stevens
Leone Stinson
Brian & Amy Stone
Dave & Mary Stone
John & Abby Stone
Bill & Teresa Stoodley
David & Carol Stoodley
Mark & Sarah Sugden
Thomas & Audrey Voss
Martin W. Tokos
John & Sara Treadwell
Leo & Jennifer Valley
Craig C. Velej
Deborah Vink & Martin Clark
Paul & Barbara Porter Wiley
Stephen & Karen Williamson
Richard D. Wood
Stephen W. Yaussi
David & Barbara Zembiec

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

Recent Tribute Gifts

The following supporters made gifts to the Six Town Community Fund in memory of or in honor of a loved one between Sept. 10, 2021, and Oct. 22, 2024

In Memory of
Given by

Charles & Mollie Bangs
Charlene Bangs Bickford

The Belloff Family
Nina O. Hershey

Richard D. Bice
Jayson & Tammi Jones

Anna May Radway Denny
Joan B. Peterson
Karen & Douglas Spooner

David Estal
The Estal Family

Kenneth J. Eysaman II
Gretchen G. Eysaman
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Thomas J. Ferguson
John & Sara Treadwell

Clayton P. Hyde
Rande Richardson

Valery Jakubowitch
RoseAnn Jakubowitch

Timothy F. Jerome
Rande Richardson

Richard G. "Dick" Jones
Jayson & Tammi Jones

David M. LaQuay
Mary Alice LaQuay

Donald & Arlene Moore
Melanie Bolton

Barbara Moran
Neil & Mary Fisher
Thomas & Katrina Overton

Glenn & Ruth Porter
Paul & Barbara Porter Wiley

Our Military Fallen Soldiers & POWs
John U. & Gaylee S. Scheuer

Thomas A. Robinson
Rande Richardson

Robert & Frances Sischo
David, Brian, & Kevin Sischo & Families

James F. Stockwell
Max & Sara DelSignore

Brian C. Thomas
Peter & Nancy Ouderkirk

Matthew James Waite
Rande Richardson

Donald W. Whitney
Anonymous
Karen & Douglas Spooner

In Honor of
Given by

Dave & Mary Stone's birthdays
Kirk & Karen Denny
Mike & Kathy Hannon
Brian & Amy Stone
John & Abby Stone

The Kitto Family
Denny & Laurie Hudson

Constance A. "Connie" Elliott's birthday
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

COMMUNITY FUND / GRANT AWARDS IN ACTION

Grant funding supports seven community organizations, projects

Earlier this year, seven non-profit organizations serving residents of the Six Town region shared \$7,500 in grant funding to support projects that strengthen the quality of life.

Three of the grant awards are pictured here and a fourth is featured on page 8. The remaining three grant awards include: \$2,000 to the **Henderson Historical Society** to help restore siding on its 184-year-old building that was once a Universalist church; \$500 to the **Belleville Philomathean**

Free Library to help expand and update second-floor space in its present location for use as a community center and meeting venue for local Boy and Girl Scouts, youth groups, the Union Academy Board, and others; and \$500 to the **Six Town Chamber of Commerce** to help deliver holiday meals to senior citizens across the Six Town area. The organization partners with the **Adams American Legion**, and **South Jefferson Central School** to deploy approximately 500 meals each December.



LORRAINE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY: From left: **Barry Ormsby**, Six Town Community Fund committee member; **Brian Soules**, Lorraine Volunteer Fire Company 1st Assistant Chief and EMT; **Brent Nichols**, Lorraine Volunteer Fire Company president; and **John Crimi**, Six Town Community Fund committee member. A \$2,000 Community Fund grant helped purchase an updated automated external defibrillator (AED) compatible with the South Jefferson Rescue Squad.



VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION CENTER: **Barry Ormsby**, left, Six Town Community Fund committee member, presents a \$500 Community Fund grant to **Jeremiah Papineau**, Volunteer Transportation Center director of communications and foundation director. The grant was awarded to help with mileage reimbursement for volunteer drivers who provided assistance to residents living in Six Town region communities.



SOUTH JEFF BACKPACK PROGRAM: South Jefferson Central High School students celebrate a successful "Stuff the Truck" event to stock the school-based backpack program with food and other essential items. A \$1,000 Community Fund grant helped purchase food from the **Food Bank of Central New York** to strengthen the program's food inventory for Six Town students and families in need.

MARSELLUS FAMILY SCHOLAR

Peyton M. Bellinger is the Class of 2024 recipient of the **Marsellus Family Scholarship**. A **Belleville-Henderson Central School** graduate, Peyton attended Jeff-Lewis BOCES while in high school, studying marine and power sports. He was also a three-sport athlete, competing in varsity soccer, basketball, and baseball. He served as a varsity soccer captain and earned recognition as an all-star. A Henderson native, Peyton plans to pursue postsecondary studies next year at a technical school. He aspires to work in airplane mechanics. He is the son of **Colleen** and **Mike Bellinger**, Henderson.

The **Marsellus Family Scholarship** was established at the **Northern New York Community Foundation** in 2014 to benefit high school graduates from the Henderson and Henderson Harbor areas. The scholarship is an enduring reminder of the Marsellus family's ties to the Henderson area and their long-standing commitment to support the region.



EMPOWERING SUCCESS FOR SOUTH JEFFERSON ATHLETES



EMPOWERING STUDENT ATHLETES:

Kaleb Ramus is on his way to making a big difference in the lives of North Country student athletes. A rising freshman at South Jefferson Central, he established the **EmpowerPlay Fund** at the Community Foundation earlier this year to help student athletes pay for needed equipment and club fees. "I believe every child deserves the opportunity to participate in sports, regardless of economic barriers," he said in his mission statement. This spring, the **DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation** presented a \$2,000 gift to help build the fund during a grand-opening celebration of DICK'S new Watertown store. Pictured holding the check, from left: **Charlene "Char" Upton**, DICK'S Sporting Goods Watertown store manager; **Kaleb Ramus**, EmpowerPlay founder and South Jefferson High School rising freshman; **Jaxon Smith**, EmpowerPlay Review Committee member and South Jefferson Central rising junior; and **Kraig Everard**, Foundation director of stewardship and programs. Kaleb is the son of **Katie and Kirk Ramus**, Adams.

SIX TOWN COMMUNITY FUND / HOW TO GIVE

Flexible giving where you live, now & forever!

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

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

LEGACY PLANNING

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

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

RETIREMENT PLANS — This option allows you to truly max-

imize your meaningful gift. You can avoid taxes on retirement plan distributions by naming the Northern New York Community Foundation as the beneficiary and designate the "Six Town Community Fund" as your charitable fund of choice.

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

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

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

GIVING OPTIONS

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

ONLINE — Giving online is a quick, secure, and efficient way to make a gift to the Community Foundation. Visit **nnycf.org** and click the "Donate" button. You may specify your gift to the "Six Town Community Fund."

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

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY — The Northern New York Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts received by **Monday, December 31, 2024**, are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law and may be claimed in 2024. Consult a tax professional to learn more.



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YOUR GIFTS HELP TEACH LIFESAVING SKILLS

"Our work with the youth of the Belleville-Henderson Summer Recreation Program would not have been possible without the wonderful support of the Six Town Community Fund. Everyone at Henderson Harbor Water Sports Programs is deeply appreciative of the Six Town Fund and Community Foundation's help to promote safety and improve the lives of those who live in our community."

— Mary Hoffman, Henderson Harbor Water Sports Program

A \$1,000 Six Town Community Fund grant awarded to the **Henderson Harbor Water Sports Program** in 2023 helped support programs that provide drown-proof training, basic swimming skills, and water and boat safety to youths in the Henderson area and beyond. Volunteer Executive Director **Mary Hoffman** is pictured outside the Henderson Harbor Yacht Club, which is home to the Water Sports Program.

Kara Dry Photography

