



Thoughtful Giving

Newsletter of the Northern New York Community Foundation

» YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT HEALTH & WELLNESS

Foundation donors help strengthen our region's health care

Lewis County
Health System
Surgical Pavilion

Charity Glenn, left, Lewis County General Hospital medical-surgical and critical care unit nurse manager, stands with **Dr. Steven Lyndaker**, Lewis County General Hospital medical director in front of the new Surgical Pavilion. / Kara Dry Photography



LOCATED WITHIN THE NORTHERN
NEW YORK PHILANTHROPY CENTER

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WATERTOWN, NY 13601

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CANTON, NY 13617

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Your leadership strengthens the North Country for everyone

Throughout 2024, it has been a joy to share with you the difference your support has made throughout Northern New York. Because of your generous leadership, meaningful investments have been made in the people and places of our region.



RANDE RICHARDSON

Community Foundation donors know that with their gifts they can positively affect aspects of quality of life that are both immediate and lasting in ways that other gifts might not. Your support of the **Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Annual Fund** represents making a difference in the greatest way possible, casting a wide net to benefit Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties.

Your support last year helped our neighbors in need by keeping the shelves of local food pantries well stocked. You have also helped give a boost to those pursuing their educational dreams, including those train-

ing for careers in trade and technical fields. Your generosity supported programs and projects that have strengthened various human services efforts for many of our friends and neighbors. Because of your dedication, arts, cultural and recreational opportunities were enriched. Local environmental efforts were strengthened, and historic preservation projects were assisted. Grants were made to support children, youth, and seniors in ways that deeply mattered as well as animal welfare efforts.

You make a difference in our communities as broadly as possible and in ways that affect us all. We hope you will stand alongside us again this year as we work in partnership for the people and places of Northern New York.

Thank you for inspiring more good things to happen. The example you set is powerful. We are continually grateful for your friendship and trust. Being a partner with you to make your community a better place is something to celebrate both now and in the new year ahead!

YOUR ANNUAL GIFTS BRING JOY TO CHILDREN IN NEED



A BRIGHTER SEASON FOR CHILDREN: A \$2,500 Youth Philanthropy Council grant will support local efforts for this year's **U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots** program, ensuring that every child has a gift to open on Christmas. An additional \$1,000 Community Foundation Micro-Grant will also help purchase toys for the 2024 Christmas campaign. Clockwise from left: Youth Philanthropy Council students **Vincent Knapp**, Watertown High senior; **Colden Marks**, General Brown Junior/Senior High senior; **Rosamond Hunt**, Lyme Central senior; and **Michelle Tinsley**, Jefferson County Toys for Tots coordinator. (Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving.)

YOUR GIFTS HELP IMPROVE HEALTH & WELLNESS



HONORING THE LEGACY OF CARE: JoAnne Rhubart, left, Lewis County Hospital Foundation executive director, and Dr. Steven Lyndaker, Lewis County General Hospital medical director, stand in front of a window from the original Lewis County General Hospital that opened in 1931. It was installed in the new **Surgical Pavilion** to preserve the hospital's legacy and symbolizes **Lewis County Health System's** commitment to provide rural health care services. A \$3,500 grant from the Foundation's **George R. Davis Fund for Lowville** helped to restore and install the original window.

Foundation support helps modernize Lewis County General Hospital

Grant commitment ensures strong future for rural health care

Community Foundation grant funding totaling \$175,000 recently helped modernize and expand the 93-year-old **Lewis County General Hospital** in Lowville into a patient-centered facility that will serve Lewis County residents for years to come.

The Community Foundation's Board of Directors approved a grant for the **Lewis County Hospital Foundation** to support the hospital's capital project, which was completed earlier this year.

A grant of \$125,000 was directed toward the "Honoring the Legacy, Building the Future" campaign. The total grant award includes a \$50,000 commitment to the **Lewis**

County Hospital Foundation Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation.



"The Community Foundation's commitment to and support of our capital campaign validated, inspired, and served as a catalyst for the 'Honoring the Legacy, Building the Future Capital Campaign,'" **Gerald Cayer**, Lewis County Health System chief executive officer, said.

The \$33 million project included a new 26,000-square-foot surgical pavilion and renovation of the med-

ical, surgical, and critical care units on the hospital's main campus off North State Street in Lowville.

The project transformed medical and surgical services to help meet the community's current and future health care needs. It also positioned it to more easily attract, recruit and retain medical and clinical professionals to Lewis County.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Community Foundation. Its lead gift for our capital campaign supported a project that will improve health care for our rural community for generations to come," **JoAnne Rhubart**, Lewis County Hospital Foundation executive director said.

"I am extremely grateful and humbled to stand with the Community Foundation, an organization whose commitment and service to Northern New York, just as the Lewis County Health System, began in 1929, evolving into a mission-driven commitment to service, giving, and community."

— Gerald R. Cayer, Lewis County Health System chief executive officer

Lewis County Hospital
FOUNDATION
Investing in the future of our hospital

Endowment Partner

■ The **Lewis County Hospital Foundation** is one of more than 150 tri-county nonprofit organizations that partners with the Community Foundation. In 2013, the Lewis County Hospital Foundation established a permanent **endowment** at the Community Foundation. Gifts to help build the Lewis County Hospital Foundation 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.**

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL: YOUR GIFTS DEVELOP FUTURE GENERATIONS OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

YPC CLASS OF 2024-25:

Top row, from left: **Sienna Virga**, Watertown senior; **Hannah Eldridge**, Watertown senior; **Rosamond Hunt**, Lyme senior; **Kiera Covey**, General Brown junior; **Anastaja Smith**, Watertown senior; and **Mia Kelly**, Watertown senior. Middle row, from left: **Ella Smith**, Watertown senior; **Lillian Jareo**, Watertown senior; **April Wang**, Watertown junior; **Julia Tontarski**, Immaculate Heart sophomore; **Alexandra Zajac**, Immaculate Heart sophomore; **William Steward**, South Jefferson junior. Front row, from left: **Vincent Knapp**, Watertown senior; **Mia Mouaikel**, South Jefferson senior; **Colden Marks**, General Brown senior; **Finley Swartz**, Watertown senior; **Trey Urf**, Watertown sophomore; **Bennett Pistner**, Watertown senior.

Kara Dry Photography /
For Thoughtful Giving



YPC grant opportunity

■ The Community Foundation's **Youth Philanthropy Council** is now accepting 2025 funding proposals. Grant applications are due **Friday, Jan. 3, 2025**. 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. This opportunity is **not limited** to organizations that serve youths; **all tri-county nonprofits** are welcome and encouraged to apply regardless of their work and missions.



Lessons in community leadership, service

Above, left, from left: Council members **Mia Kelly**, **William Steward**, **Ella Smith**, **Alexandra Zajac**, Watertown Family YMCA CEO **Shawna Cutuli**, and Council members **Colden Marks** and **April Wang** participate in a mentorship activity. Students were required to visit with leaders at three local nonprofit organizations and return with something that represents their work and mission. The 2024-25 YPC class began in late August to prepare members for the year ahead. Students participated in several team-building activities that will help shape their perspectives on leadership, community

service, and philanthropy. Right: **Youth Philanthropy Council** first-year member **April Wang**, a Watertown High junior, searches local newspapers while participating in an analysis of the tri-county region to help understand community needs while YPC Senior Advisor and Foundation Board Vice Chair **Emily Sprague** coaches. The small group exercise was conducted during program orientation at the Philanthropy Center. These lessons will prove helpful as students evaluate grant proposals from local nonprofits in the weeks ahead. **Kraig Everard** and **Leslie Renzi** also serve as YPC advisors.

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 Community Betterment Annual Fund** and generous support from the following business leaders:



Watertown Savings Bank

**Wealth
Management**

**Mart Liinve Fund
Timerman Family Fund**

LEAD COUNCIL: YOUR GIFTS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



Foundation's LEAD Council celebrates a decade of community engagement, impact

The Community Foundation believes in inspiring young professionals across the region to be philanthropic in the communities where they live, work, and play.

The **LEAD Council** was chartered in 2014 as an advisory committee of the Community Foundation empowered to identify and address strategic needs in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. The Council is comprised of 22 young professionals who reside and work in the tri-county area with an interest in enhancing the quality of life in the North Country.

The LEAD acronym reflects four important principals of the council's work: **Leadership, Engagement, Access, and Direction.**

Council members serve as strategic grantmakers and make a proactive difference in the region. Members gain

LEAD: By the numbers

65

Young professionals who have served on the LEAD Council

45

Programs, projects, or initiatives supported by LEAD grant funding

\$94,000

Grant support awarded to date

a deeper understanding of community needs, issues, and the nonprofit sector that helps augment the Foundation's overall mission and work.

Since its inception, LEAD has been a platform for young professionals to share creative ideas, start initiatives, and connect their talents to help

the region become more vibrant. Examples of their thoughtful efforts include the "LEADing the Way" volunteer program, community giving challenges, and the "Canstruction for Northern New York" initiative in area schools to combat food insecurity. The culmination of the council's work is the announcement of their annual LEAD Impact Grant Program recipients each December.

"Our LEAD Council has much to celebrate. I am most pleased to welcome a new class of emerging leaders to our team from across the tri-county area," Vice Chair **Marc Piche** said. "With new voices, unique perspectives and fresh ideas, from all corners of our communities, we are better equipped to lead meaningful change and strengthen our collective impact across Northern New York."

LEAD COUNCIL CLASS OF 2024-25:

The newest members of the Community Foundation's **LEAD Council** in front of the **Northern New York Philanthropy Center**. Visit nnycf.org/programs/lead to learn more about this advisory committee of young professionals.

LEAD supports local seniors

■ A recent Community Foundation **matching challenge** helped build charitable support to bring joy to vulnerable individuals, children, and families in need this holiday season through the **LEAD Holiday Giving Fund**.

■ All gifts were matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$5,000. Total gifts will be evenly distributed to the following community initiatives and nonprofit partner organizations:

■ **Meals on Wheels** through Watertown Urban Mission — Gifts will support meal expenses to provide food and meal support to local seniors.

■ **Santa for Seniors** through the Lowville Food Pantry — Gifts will help purchase presents for seniors during the holiday season.

■ **Meals on Wheels** through the St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging — Gifts will support a holiday gift card drive sent to local participating seniors to help purchase groceries and essential needs.

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



A PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER RECOVERY:

Jaylyn Heames, Snow Belt Housing Company executive director stands in front of her Lowville office. The **Community Foundation** recently partnered with the **Dyson Foundation** to provide Snow Belt Housing with \$20,000 in grant funding to help Lewis County residents recover from summer flooding.

Kara Dry Photography
/ For Thoughtful Giving



Continuing a warm winter for children

A **Community Foundation** partnership that helps provide winter clothing to children at two **Lewis County** schools will continue to make a big difference for another three years. The collaboration with the **Dyson Foundation** called “**Operation Snowstorm**” supplies **Lowville Academy** and **Beaver River** students with essential winter garments. This fall, and in 2025 and 2026, the two schools will evenly share an annual grant to support **Lewis County** youth and families. **Operation Snowstorm** is now in its 18th year at **Lowville Academy** and its 13th year at **Beaver River**. The program helps nearly **200 Lewis County** students annually. Since 2007, more than \$160,000 has been provided.

YOUR GIFTS HELP NEIGHBORS RECOVER FROM DISASTER



Partnership delivers flood relief

Together with Dyson Foundation, grant aids Lewis residents

A \$20,000 grant, in partnership with the **Dyson Foundation**, is helping **Snow Belt Housing Company** provide emergency relief to Lewis County residents impacted by summer flooding. The **Community Foundation** and the **Dyson Foundation** each provided \$10,000 to aid with losses.

“Snow Belt Housing is grateful to the **Community Foundation** and the **Dyson Foundation** for awarding this grant funding. This support will make a significant impact on our community by helping our neighbors recover and rebuild in the wake of such devastating events,” said **Jaylyn Heames**, **Snow Belt Housing Company** executive director.

Snow Belt Housing Company was recently awarded state grant funding to support homeowners with emergency repairs to make their homes

safe, sanitary, and habitable. Extreme weather not only caused tens of thousands of dollars in property damage, but many families also reported the loss of essential personal property, which is not covered under any funding source, leaving many to rebuild without financial help.

Lowville-based **Snow Belt Housing** facilitates access to safe and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents, and partners with others to catalyze community revitalization in **Lewis County**.

The **Community Foundation** and the **Dyson Foundation** are longtime collaborative funding partners. The **Dyson Foundation** is the primary funder for the annual “**Operation Snowstorm**” initiative that helps provide warm winter clothing for **Lowville** and **Beaver River** students.

“Family connections in the

Lowville area have provided a reason and an opportunity for the **Dyson Foundation** to partner with the **Community Foundation** on this and other important and timely supports for families in need,” **Dyson Foundation** President and CEO **Andrea Reynolds** said. “We are grateful to our partners in the region for their local knowledge and for the real impact that partnership brings to helping meet community needs.”

The **Dyson Foundation**, **Millbrook**, supports nonprofits and transformative projects in the **Mid-Hudson Valley** region to improve quality of life, create opportunities for the economically disadvantaged, and strengthen nonprofits. It also provides quality-of-life support in the greater **Lowville** area, through its invitation-only **Legacy** and **Family Interest** grantmaking program.

“It is truly inspiring to see how organizations like these step up during times of crisis, demonstrating a commitment to community resilience and support. We look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen our community.”

— Jaylyn Heames, **Snow Belt Housing Company** executive director

Scholarship honors a life of perseverance

Henry "Tyke" Wood was a great example to others of compassion and empathy

Henry "Tyke" Wood was always willing to help others when they needed it. His compassion and empathy were authentic and he cared deeply for his family and friends. It was always easy and natural for Tyke to help someone in need.

His legacy of caring will forever endure through the Community Foundation's **Henry "Tyke" Wood Memorial Scholarship**, which was established in 2024 to support Thousand Islands High School graduates who plan to continue their education in agriculture or criminal justice.

Tyke was born in 1977 in Watertown. He grew up on the Wood Family farm and graduated from Thousand Islands High school in 1995 and from Canton ATC in 1997 with a criminal justice degree. Tyke began his career as a corrections officer and had just taken the



Gifts in support of the Henry "Tyke" Wood Memorial Scholarship

Diane E. Baltz / On Behalf of the Schnauber Family
Charlie & Maureen Caprara
Celtic Energy Farm
Marshal & Patti Linder
Mary & Ted Mascott

Melissa Pallop
David Peters
Daniel & Linda Schleher
James Schnauber & Patricia Wood
Steven J. Smith
Vicki & John Weller
Donna Wiley

To join others in helping to honor Henry "Tyke" Wood, make gifts to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601, or visit nnycf.org for secure online giving.

New York State Trooper exam when an accident left him with a traumatic brain injury.

in the wake of tragedy, kindness and compassion for others can and will endure.

Despite this drastic change in Tyke's life, so much of his personality remained unchanged. He was a hard worker and loved being part of the daily operations on his family's farm. He also enjoyed working construction and was quick to offer his skills to anyone who needed a helping hand.

Being productive was always part of who Tyke was; rarely was there a moment that he sat still. He had a way of turning every bit of life into an adventure and was skilled at finding fun and joy in each day.

We are honored to be the permanent home of Tyke's legacy. The special way Tyke will be remembered is an example to others of perseverance, and an inspiration that even



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.

NEW JUNIOR TENNIS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

To encourage greater interest in and access to local tennis programs for children and youth, the **North Country Tennis Association (NCTA)** is leading an effort to establish a scholarship fund for those interested in participating in youth tennis instructional programs at the Watertown Family YMCA. In addition to the NCTA, initial gifts to the fund were made by **Adrienne and Paul Alteri**, the Community Foundation's **Mart Liinve Fund** and **Margot Remington Oman Fund**. This new resource will provide scholarship assistance for ages 5 to 17. To support this endeavor, gifts can be made to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or visit nnycf.org for secure online giving.



Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving

Youths participate in the **Red Ball Tennis Program** on a recent afternoon at the **Watertown Family YMCA**.

Scholarships Offer Broad Flexibility

■ Donors may establish **scholarship funds** at the Community Foundation to support a broad range of criteria. You may choose to be very specific, naming a **school district** or **college**, or support some aspect of a school or college like music, arts, athletics, STEM, reading, or professional development. Scholarship funds **may also support programs** that are not tied to post-secondary education like the example on the left. To learn more about how you can establish a scholarship fund, contact **Mary Perrine**, coordinator of partnerships, **315-782-7110** or maryp@nnycf.org.



Jeannie Irene Kafka Brennan

Longtime Sackets Harbor resident **Jeannie Irene Kafka Brennan** left a lasting imprint on countless students during a 30-year teaching career. Throughout her lifetime of 101 years, Jeannie was devoted to family and community, supporting local organizations and meaningful causes, including the Community Foundation. Born in 1923, in Watertown, a daughter to **Agnes** and **Stephen Kafka**, she was a graduate of Sackets Harbor High School and Albany State Teacher's College. She later earned a master's degree from Oswego State Teacher's College. Her teaching career included Dexter, Belleville Academy, and Sackets Harbor Central School. Together with her husband, **Robert E. Brennan**, they raised a daughter, and celebrated 70 years of marriage before Robert passed away in 2014. Jeannie was dedicated to community service, volunteering for many local nonprofit organizations and serving as historian for the Village of Sackets Harbor and Town of Hounsfield. We are grateful for having known Jeannie and express our sincere condolences

to her daughter, **Connie** and son-in-law, **Larry Barone**, as we celebrate her life and legacy of kindness and love for community.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Jeannie Irene Kafka Brennan**

Elizabeth Alverson
Betsy & Michael Cuccinello
Inger Curth
Paul & Mary Curtis
John & Mary Jo Deans

Max & Sara DelSignore
Dick & Sandy Dodge
Sally Duxtater
Christine & Douglas Eggleston
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Bonnie J. Gestwicki
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Morgia Wealth Management
James & Patricia Newell
Mark & Patricia Pacilio
Ray & Laurie Petersen
Marc & Becky Reitz

Rande Richardson
Robert E. Brennan Living Trust
Daphne Sterling
Stephen & Kezia Sullivan
Mary Ann Van Der Jagt
Village of Sackets Harbor
James & Vicki Wilson



Michael J. Roukous

Throughout his 29 years, **Michael Joseph Roukous** forged close connections with others and brightened the lives of those who knew him. His enjoyment of the outdoors led to many adventures while hunting with family and friends. Dozens of North Country families and friends responded to honor his life after his tragic passing in September following a hurricane in South Carolina. Born in 1995, a son to **Michelle** and **Joseph Roukous**, he graduated from General Brown High School, where he excelled on the football and lacrosse fields. He continued his education at SUNY Potsdam, competing in lacrosse and earning a degree in environmental science. Michael's work ethic and love for nature led him to various roles in the North Country before he pursued his lifelong dream to become a lineman. In August, he graduated from the North American Lineman Training Center in Tennessee. To honor his life and generous heart, his family established the **Michael J. Roukous Lineman Scholarship Fund** at the Community

Foundation to help future linemen fulfill their dreams. We are honored to be part of the enduring way Michael will be remembered and join his family in thanking those listed below who made meaningful gifts of affection in his memory. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family as we celebrate Michael's legacy of love, loyalty, and friendship.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Michael J. Roukous**

Sebby R. Abbate
Scott, Linda & Chase Alexander
Paula Amato
Anonymous (5)
Pat Archer
Anne Astafan
The Sheahia & Jacob Astafan Family
Beth A. Augustus
Terry Ault
Aunt Becky & Cousin Montana
Catherine Behling
Trevor Bell
Steve & Diana Branche

Charles & Carolyn Brox
Bernie & Wendy Brzostek
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Dan, Wendy, Erin, Kelli &
Riley Mullen

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Bruce & Beth Nutting
Carol Oliver
Scott & Shannon Phillips
Kathy A. & Frederick C. Piche Jr.
Laurie & Pete Pike
Susan & David Puccia
Christine Ramus / The Ramus Family
Steve Soluri & Amy O'Brien
John & Renee Stano
Robert & Catherine Ward
Watertown Savings Bank
Gary & Kim West
Elizabeth C. & John M. Whalen

Maureen Gough

Maureen Gough devoted her life to family and education, mentoring countless children through a 23-year career as a fifth-grade teacher at South Jefferson School in Adams Center. She cared deeply about her students and was an encouraging, positive influence on them. Born in Hudson Falls in 1932, a daughter to **Susan** and **William Nevins**, she earned a teaching degree at SUNY Potsdam. Maureen married **Glenn Gough** in 1992 and enjoyed nearly 30 years together before he passed away in April 2022. She was dedicated to serving her community as a volunteer for many local nonprofits. Maureen and Glenn genuinely loved the North Country and supported many charitable causes and organizations, including the Community Foundation. We are grateful for her friendship and share our sincere sympathy with her daughters, **Colleen**, **Chris**, and **Andrea**, stepson, **Stephen**, and extended family as we celebrate her life and legacy.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Maureen Gough**

Friendly Service, NCZ
Rande Richardson

HAROLD B. JOHNSON II 1954-2024

Harold B. Johnson II adored his wife, children, and grandchildren and cared deeply for his community and the North Country. He supported many local and regional causes while sharing his gifts with a wide range of organizations throughout his life of 70 years, including the Community Foundation. Harold served two terms on the Foundation's Board from 2005 to 2015. Harold was born in Watertown in 1954, the youngest of four children to **John B.** and **Catherine Common Johnson**. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H., in 1973 and earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University in 1977. He married **Susan Ann Meylor** in 1983 and celebrated a loving marriage of 41 years before he passed. Together, they raised a son and two daughters. Harold was a newspaper executive and worked with his father and brother in the family business; but he started out in



television, working at WWNY Channel 7, the station his family established and later sold. He and his brother became co-publishers of the Watertown Daily Times in 2001 after the death of their father. A man of diverse interests and immense desire to pursue happiness in all things, Harold was very active in his community, serving on the boards of several local and regional nonprofits. We share our heartfelt sympathy as we join Harold's wife and children, **Alec, Anna, and Leslie**, in mourning his loss and celebrating his life and legacy. When he passed away in July, his family chose the Community Foundation as the place to honor his memory. We are honored to be part of the special way he will be

remembered and continue to impact the community he loved. To those listed below, we are grateful for your gifts that honor Harold's leadership, community service, and sincere friendship.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Harold B. Johnson II**

Cynthia R. Ahlheim

Phillip J. Bajjaly

Board & Staff of the

Northern New York

Community Foundation

Nancy Boynton

Ellen C. Collins

Gregory & Katherine Couch

Margaret C. Couch

William & Kimberly Couch

Michael & JoAnne Crowley

Roger & Nancy Datoush

Debbie Daub

Steven M. Daub

John & Melanie Day

John & Mary Jo Deans

Max & Sara DelSignore

Trent S. & N. Janine Dickey Esqs.

John Doldo III & Amy Doldo

Sally Doxtater

Alice & Brian Draper

Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Janet J. George

Eugene & Gillian Hayes

Mary M. Hoffman

Nate & Kay Holloway

Richard & Sharon Howland

Kate & John Johnson

Kevin A. Kieff

Dr. Patrick J. & Caren C. Lanigan

Mark & Joanne Lavarnway

Mary & Ted Mascott

Jim & Signe McGowan

Judith Morley

Ann & Herman Morosini

Burr & Linda Morris

Cyril & Marlene Mouaikel

Jim & Martha O'Donnell

Cathy Pircsuk & Jim Burr

Greg & Lisa Porter

William & Catherine Quencer

Peter Quimby

Dr. Frank & Joanne Rhode

Elizabeth A. Rice

Rande Richardson

Margaret & Ronald Roberts

Pattie Schreck & Neil Katzman

P.J. Simao

Phil & Emily Sprague

Anna Van Slyke

LEE CLARY 1937-2024

Lee Clary was a deeply devoted husband and father who served his community in ways that strengthened the quality of life for others. His 10 years of leadership on the Community Foundation Board from 2000 to 2010 included two years as president. Born in 1937 in Geneva, a son to **Margaret** and **Leo Clary**, he graduated from Cathedral High School in Syracuse and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, in 1959. He continued his education at Syracuse University College of Law, earning a Juris Doctor. There, he met **Shirley A. McDonald** and the two married in 1964. Together, they raised two daughters and two sons. Lee and Shirley settled in Black River and Lee continued his legal career with various firms in Watertown, before being elected Jefferson County District Attorney 1976. A decade later, he was elected as County Court Judge, a position



he held until his retirement in 1999. Lee valued community service throughout his life of 86 years. He was a board member and volunteer for several local nonprofit organizations and was elected to the Carthage Central Board of Education. He was also very active in his faith and church. He especially cherished watching his children and grandchildren participate in sports and school activities. We express our heartfelt sympathy as we join Lee's wife, **Shirley**, his daughters, **Mary Beth** and **Karen**, sons **Kevin** and **Timothy**, and his extended family and friends in mourning his loss and

celebrating his life and legacy of faithful service, friendship, and leadership.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Lee Clary**

Board & Staff of the
Northern New York
Community Foundation
Max & Sara DelSignore
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson



J. Richard Munro

J. Richard "Dick" Munro cherished his family and generously shared his gifts with his community, serving as a volunteer and supporting efforts to help those who needed it most. Born in 1931 in Syracuse, Dick was first called to service when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after high school and deployed to the Korean Conflict, earning the Purple Heart three times. Following an honorable discharge, he graduated from Colgate University with an English degree. Together with his wife, **Carol**, they raised three sons. Dick began his career in advertising at Time Inc. for Sports Illustrated, rising through the ranks from publisher of Sports Illustrated to spearheading the development and launch of HBO, to chairman and CEO. Dick loved the St. Lawrence River and the home he and his wife made in Clayton. He was active in many local organizations and was a longtime friend of the Community Foundation. We are grateful for having known Dick and express our sincere condolences to his family as we celebrate his life and legacy of selfless service.

Tribute gifts in memory of
J. Richard "Dick" Munro

Erin & Dick Greene
Rande Richardson



Dr. Howard Henry Splete Jr.

Dr. Howard Henry "Howie" Splete Jr. was a natural and lifelong educator, serving for decades as a teacher, counselor, mentor, and supportive friend to many throughout his life of 92 years. Born in 1931 in Watertown, he grew up in Carthage and earned degrees from St. Lawrence, Syracuse, and Michigan State universities. Howie began his career as a school counselor and teacher in New York, Germany, and Michigan. He later served as a professor of counseling at Wayne State and Oakland universities, and a past president of the National Career Development Association. Together with his wife, **Marlene**, they raised two sons and a daughter. Howie cherished time with family, especially his grandchildren. He and his brother, **Allen**, completed research for a book about their parents service in Carthage. Allen and his wife, **Marilyn**, are writing the narrative. The publication is planned for release in 2025. When Howie passed away in July, his family directed memorial gifts to

Tribute gifts in memory of
Dr. Henry Howard Splete Jr.

Max & Sara DelSignore
Derek & Char Lough
Rande Richardson
Allen & Marilyn Splete

the Community Foundation to support the **Howard H. Splete Sr. Memorial Fund**, which honors Howie's father, longtime director of the Branaugh Memorial Boys' Club in Carthage and Camp Mohawk. We are honored to be part of the special way that Howie will be remembered and share our deepest sympathies with his family as we mourn his loss and celebrate a life that left an enduring imprint on countless others.



Mary Antonene Silliman

Mary Antonene "Toni" Silliman was deeply devoted to her family and community and sought ways to strengthen both through a lifetime of service. Born in 1938, in Jacksonville, Fla., a daughter to **Frances** and **Holt Roberts**, she graduated from Irondequoit High School in Rochester and attended SUNY Potsdam and Florida State University. She married **Loron E. Silliman Jr.** in 1958. Together, they raised a daughter and two sons and celebrated more than 61 years of marriage until he passed away in 2020. For more than 20 years, she was an assistant librarian at Watertown's Knickerbocker School, sharing books and joyfully inspiring a love of reading in schoolchildren. Toni was dedicated to serving her community, volunteering for many local charitable organizations, and supporting causes that held special meaning to

Tribute gifts in memory of
Mary Antonene "Toni" Silliman

Janet J. George
Judith Morley
Kimberly Oliver
Sharon Potter
Rande Richardson
Anna Van Slyke
Sharon & Steve Van Slyke

her, including the Community Foundation. Most of all, Toni was a proud mother and grandmother. We join her children **Alan**, **James**, and **Lori** in mourning the loss of a friend who led by example in service to her community.

Brick Riverside Foundation supports River Hospital

The Cary and Janet Brick Riverside Foundation, a Community Foundation affiliate, recently awarded a grant to River Hospital to support its Post-Traumatic Stress Services program.

A \$1,000 grant will assist current service members and military veterans, as well as those who serve their communities as first responders with Post-Traumatic Stress treatment.

The hospital's Post-Traumatic Stress Services, "works closely with our military members, veterans, and first responders to help heal invisible wounds through innovative care and treatment in their own back yard."

"Our Foundation is honored to support institutions and programs that aid our military heroes and first-responders who greatly benefit



Mary Perrine, Community Foundation coordinator of partnerships, right, presents a \$1,000 grant to **Bradley Frey**, River Hospital Community Wellness Program director on behalf of the **Brick Riverside Foundation**.

from this critical program," Mr. and Mrs. Brick said in making the award. "River Hospital's

medical professionals excel in treating patients with compassion and dignity, as well as comfort when it is needed the most."

River Hospital's Post-Traumatic Stress Services program focuses on building coping skills and supports within the community while keeping active-duty service members close to home as they heal and learn to cope with combat-related trauma and other traumatic experiences.

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

Recent Tribute Gifts

Includes only gifts made to the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund from July 24, 2024 to Nov. 6, 2024, or for those who have just recently passed.

In Memory of Given by

Jane Alteri

Michele & Tim Jeican

Dean C. Anthony

Max & Sara DelSignore

Christopher Douglas Atkinson

Rande Richardson

Thomas E. Bartelson

Kathleen Burgess
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson

Michael Malcolm "Berky" Berkman

Rande Richardson

Marc C. Biondolillo

Rande Richardson

Deacon Francis W. Bradley & Patricia Ann (DeLadurantey) Bradley

Rande Richardson

Patricia Ann (DeLadurantey) Bradley

Max & Sara DelSignore

Alvin H. Bregman

Rande Richardson

Bruce Buckingham

Mary Lee O'Brien
Jannet G. Seelman

Natale "Nate" G. Carbone

Max & Sara DelSignore
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande, Evan & Braeden Richardson
Dan & Denise Young

Gary "Coach" Raymond Clark

Patti Scordo

Mark D. Craig

William & Beth Maguire

Vivian Curtis

Debra & Randy McIntyre

Mario DeCastro

Albert & Theresa
Desormeaux & Family

David B. Duff

Max & Sara DelSignore
Erin & Dick Greene
Rande Richardson

Darren J. Duffany

Rande Richardson

Ernest Harold Duvall, Jr.

The Bonadio Group
Department of Defense North
Range Crew, Fort Drum, NY
GYMO Architecture, Engineering &
Land Surveying
Members of the Town of Watertown
Fire Department
Brian & Michelle Watson

Fred Easton

Albert & Theresa
Desormeaux & Family

Philip Edward Eggleston

Rande Richardson

George Erdman

Albert & Theresa
Desormeaux & Family

Charles J. Fairchild

Rande Richardson

Rhett P. Ferguson

John Treadwell

Cheryl Ann Fetterly

Max & Sara DelSignore

Raymond G. Filley

Max & Sara DelSignore

Rose E. Frattali

Kevin A. Kieff

Randall Gene Gearsbeck

Rande Richardson

Rev. Walter E. Giles

Rande Richardson

Bruce H. Gleason

Rande Richardson

Gail M. Graham

Max & Sara DelSignore
Friendly Service, NCZ
Rande Richardson

Mary Jane Elizabeth Guthrie

Rande Richardson

Cathleen A. Haggerty

Malcolm Biedekapp
Alice Jean & David Boucher
Gregory & Katherine Couch
Jane Gendron
Susan Lustick
Judith Morley
Steven & Ruth-Ellen Van Arnem

Charlene Hall

Sheila Barney-Pullus

Doris Jones Hall

Rande Richardson

Joshua Hartz

Caroline Kelly

Gregory Hayes, WHS 1979

Thomas S. Brett

Gregory Herrick "Cookie" Hayes

Judith Morley

Elizabeth A. Hewitt

Max & Sara DelSignore

Timothy F. Jerome

Fuller Road Home Church
Rande Richardson

Gary Johnson

Judith Morley

Marjorie Joyner

Friendly Service, NCZ

Annette "Honey" Katzman

Rande Richardson

David L. Kay

Erin & Dick Greene

Robert J. LaComb, Sr.

Rande Richardson

Homer R. Lanphear

Rande Richardson

Rev. M. Russell Lee

Ethel E. Smith
Robert & Carolyn "Callie" Smith

Bruce Lehman

Rande Richardson

Barbara Clark Lendrum

Thomas S. Brett

Father Clyde A. Lewis

Rande Richardson

Sabatino A. Luciani I

Rande Richardson

Timothy Michael Lynch

Rande Richardson

Anthony J. "Freckles" Marra

Rande Richardson

Ennis Mason

Albert & Theresa
Desormeaux & Family

Nancy Kissel Maur

David Crossley
Rande Richardson

Jacqueline Jane "JJ" O'Brien

Rande Richardson

Judith Perry

Michele & Tim Jeican

Stephen J. Perry

William & Beth Maguire
Richard & Cindy Parker

Zane Cree Carl Petersen

Joshua Canale

Joan D. Pflugheber

Sheila Barney-Pullus

Rhonda Lee Gearsbeck Phelps

Rande Richardson

Joshua Pierie

Judith Morley
Rande Richardson

Michael G. Powers

Rande Richardson

Edward J. Queal

Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson

Brion W. Remington

John Treadwell

Dr. Bruce E. Rippeteau

Rande Richardson

Lisabeth Weeks Ross

Rande Richardson

David Spies

Elliott & Marjorie Hillback

Rhody Spooner

Mary, Martika & Noah Perrine &
Gina Meola
Rande Richardson

Edgar Zell Steever V

Max & Sara DelSignore
Erin & Dick Greene

Zoeey Dawg Stone

Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Karen L. Stumpf

Friendly Service, NCZ
John J. Gaffney
John Treadwell

Helen Thomas

Judith Morley

Leah H. Cerow Tidd

Susan J. Mitchell

Eleanor Van Ness

Barbara Bashaw
Marlene Booth
Kathy Crouse & Pam Murray
Richard & Virginia Edsall
Anne Knight
Bilkey L. Moore
Phyllis Putnam
Sandra Dudley-Rooney
James & Tamasina Sharlow
John R. Smelski
Thomas & Margaret Stevens
Sunny Banks Mobile Home Park
Donald & Diane Tedford
Robin & Alan Weston

Matthew James Waite

Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson

Nathaniel Philip Wardwell

Eileen Butler & Brad Furlong
Carol Hills

René Warneck

Joyce & David Crossley

Mary J. Whalen

Mary G. Colton

Ethan J. Whitton

Andrew Parisian

Richard C. "Dick" Williams

Rande Richardson

Douglas Ross Wilson

Stephanie M. Deans
Gretchen G. Eysaman
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Jim Fanning
John Homburger
Kathleen Scheible
Barry & Julie West

James C. (JC) Wilson

Rande Richardson

In Honor of Given by

Adriana S. Cavallario's 100th Birthday

Max & Sara DelSignore

Tom Luckie's Retirement

Max & Sara DelSignore

Deacon Bernie Slate's Retirement From Active Ministry

Rande Richardson

Jason White's 50th Birthday

Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson

THE ADVISOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Why should I protect my wishes in a will?

In New York State, if you pass away without a will, the law provides that assets titled solely to you will pass “through” your estate. Assets that are titled jointly with others with a right of survivorship, such as my home owned with my spouse and my joint bank account with a named beneficiary, pass “around” your estate.

If you pass away without a will, the law provides that your assets that are going “through” your estate will pass to your “next of kin.” For example, the assets of an individual survived by a spouse and two children would pass as follows:

The first \$50,000 to your surviving spouse and half of the balance to your surviving spouse and a quarter to each of your surviving children. Someone would then be appointed to handle the assets that would pass to any beneficiary who is under the age of 18 and/or who is incompetent to handle his or her own assets.

A reason to have a will is to accomplish a different result. What result would you like to accomplish?

Most people want to provide for loved ones who depend on us. Even if we have no “dependents,” we want to provide for those who we love and/or “causes” about which we care deeply.

Some people are ready, willing, and able to contribute for the benefit of those who they do not know. They want to promote “good” in the world and to include “strangers” as beneficiaries.

Those who are fortunate to be in a position to leave assets to others often select a nonprofit or not-for-profit charitable organization to carry out their intentions.

The Northern New York Community Foundation is a valuable resource for those who wish to

have someone manage their assets in a manner to maximize the return on investments, both in terms of the financial return on their investments and the ability to be flexible as needs of our community may change.

For example, I may want to assist a charity such as a local library, a rescue and ambulance squad, or animal shelter, but after my death things change such that the charity has an excess of resources or, unfortunately, and more likely, the charity has closed its doors. Leaving the Community Foundation with discretion to meet unforeseen changes with a sensibility as to what your values are, i.e., how you would like to direct your assistance if you were able to do so, may make good sense.

If I learned that I have an illness such that I likely will not survive more than a few months, I would like to have my assets restructured so that all of my assets pass “around” my estate, and I “avoid probate.”



LARRY HASSELER

Leaving the Community Foundation with discretion to meet unforeseen changes with a sensibility as to what your values are, i.e., how you would like to direct your assistance if you were able to do so, may make good sense.

I often suggest to clients the analytical framework of

- What do I want?
- How do I get what I want?
- Do I wish to avoid probate expenses? Perhaps I should re-title my assets?
- Do I wish to provide anything for my grandchildren?
- Are there particular “causes” or people who I would like to assist?
- Do I wish to avoid nursing home expenses? Perhaps I should purchase long term health insurance or establish an irrevocable living trust?
- After I have passed away, for what will I be remembered?

You should know that each state has different laws. If I should relocate from New York State to Florida, I should retain an attorney licensed to practice law in Florida to review my estate planning.

LAWRENCE D. “LARRY” HASSELER is a founding member of Collins & Hasseler Law, PLLC, Carthage. He has more than 47 years of experience and has spent his entire career practicing law in Northern New York. After graduating from Watertown High School, he graduated from Syracuse University, earning his undergraduate degree and later, his Juris Doctorate from Syracuse University College of Law. He retired as a partner from Conboy McKay Bachman & Kendall, LLP, in 2020. Shortly after, Larry came out of retirement to serve his local community of Carthage and surrounding areas. His practice concentrates on the areas of estate planning and administration, municipal law, Social Security law, and real estate law. Contact him at **315-519-1113** or email **larryhasseler@gmail.com**.



Through your **Community Foundation ...**

- Can I create a fund that will **continue my annual giving after my lifetime** to my favorite charities or church, knowing that if an organization ceases to exist, the fund is protected and can be re-purposed?
- Can I establish a named fund that will **allow my children and grandchildren** to make community grants in perpetuity?
- Can my charitable legacy be directed to **support a specific city, village, town or county**? Can I further designate the type of things that will be supported within that geographic area, and name the fund?
- Can I establish a **charitable gift annuity** with tax-deductible benefits that will provide me with guaranteed income during my lifetime, and then the remainder can support my charitable interests or a specific Foundation fund after my death?
- Can I name the Community Foundation as a **beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy** either to support the Community Foundation or a specific fund within the Foundation?
- Am I able to start a fund at the Community Foundation to support my interests now and then endow it later as part of my estate planning?
- Can I start a fund to **support my church**, providing stipulations on how it is to be directed (i.e., music ministry, buildings & grounds, education) and also have assurance that if the church should ever cease to exist, my charitable provisions can be re-purposed for another designated interest or charitable cause?
- Can I create a **scholarship fund for a specific school district or college**, with certain criteria, or support some other aspect of my school or college (music, arts, athletics, library, reading, professional development)?
- If I own a business, can I give more effectively, efficiently and in a more formal and structured way, with enhanced visibility, coordination, branding and impact?
- Can I make a gift of appreciated stock to start a donor-advised fund, avoid capital gains, receive a tax deduction and then make grants to charitable causes I recommend over time?

Can I make a small gift that will make a BIG difference?

The answer to each of these questions is YES!

The best gift planning begins with a conversation. We are always **HERE FOR YOU**:

Contact us today to learn how you can tailor and customize giving YOUR way, 315-782-7110 or info@nnycf.org.

Take advantage of current charitable tax laws that allow deductions as well as avoidance of taxation of capital gains. Also, donors age 70½ and older, can distribute up to \$100,000 of Individual Retirement Account assets directly to the Community Foundation for unrestricted, field of interest, scholarship or designated funds without triggering federal income taxes or penalties. The IRA Charitable Rollover amount donated directly is excluded from Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

LIGHTING THE WAY FOR LITTLE LEAGUE:

Right, from left: Watertown American Little League Vice President **Bill Soluri**, League booster **Jake Johnson** and League President **Derek Ward** at Watertown's Rand Field off Main Street. Community Foundation grant support will help the league install lights at the field. Below: the three men stand below the scoreboard.

Kara Dry Photography
/ For Thoughtful Giving



Grant support lights Little League

Foundation joins local businessman to help with Rand Field project



Developing local youth for nearly 70 years

Established in 1956, **Watertown American Little League** is one of the longest continually running Little League organizations in the country. The league serves more than **250 children** from **Jefferson and Lewis counties** who attend **eight local school districts**. It runs baseball and softball leagues and owns and operates **Rand Field**. Organization directors and coaches instill principles of **character, courage, and leadership** as part of the playing experience.

Watertown American Little League will play under the lights at its home field next year, thanks in part to \$10,000 in Community Foundation support.

The grant, which includes \$2,000 from the **DeWitt C. Middleton Fund** at the Foundation, will support a field lighting project at **Rand Field** off Main Street in Watertown.

The Watertown American Little League has operated with the mission to promote character, courage, and leadership to the youth of the greater Watertown area through the game of baseball. To do so, it has relied on generous financial support from the community.

The organization decided to pursue field lighting to extend playing time at Rand Field and eliminate the need to rent space at other fields in the city because there wasn't enough time available

for teams at the league-owned field.

Community Foundation partner **Jake Johnson** and his company have agreed to help with lighting construction and costs, providing \$10,000 toward the total budget of \$20,000.

"We are honored to have the grant support of the **Northern New York Community Foundation**, without which this project would not be possible," League President **Derek Ward** said. "For 95 years, the Community Foundation has been a driving force

to improve our local community, and this is yet another example of its philanthropic stewardship for which we are extremely grateful. The Foundation's mission to leave meaningful legacies and enhance the quality of life in the North Country blends well with our mission and this project, providing a brighter future for the local youths."

The Community Foundation is a longtime league supporter. Since 2002, grants totaling \$17,000 to improve Rand Field have been awarded.

As participants in the league grows, officials want to ensure financial stability for future generations of players and provide opportunities beyond the traditional spring season.

Mr. Ward said installing lights at the league-owned field will help the cut operating expenses and enable a fall season to engage additional youth.



YOUR ANNUAL GIFTS INSPIRE COMMUNITY SPIRIT YOUTH GIVING CHALLENGE STUDENTS



PORT LEYDEN FOOD PANTRY: From left, **Heather Collins**, Port Leyden mayor; **Felicity Szucs**, South Lewis Central School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner; **Christine Chauffy**, Port Leyden Food Pantry volunteer; and **Mandy J. Evans**, Community Bank Lowville branch manager and vice president/district manager.



THOUSAND ISLANDS EMERGENCY RESCUE SERVICE (TIERS): From left, **Caralee Handschuh**, Community Bank teller, Alexandria Bay branch; **Madison Calhoun**, TIERS paramedic; **Violet Waterman**, LaFargeville Central School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner; and **Chase Alexander**, TIERS EMT.



CLAXTON-HEPBURN MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION: From left, **Julie Rhodes**, Community Bank retail service officer, Ogdensburg State Street branch; **Peter Sinagra**, executive director, CHMC Foundation; **Ellie Smith**, Indian River Middle School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner; and **Stephanie Wyant**, CHMC Foundation development officer.

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


Community Bank
 2018-2025 Program Partner



GRATEFUL ♥ THANKFUL ♥ BLESSED

As we begin the 2024 holiday season, we are especially mindful of how donors like YOU make our work possible through your leadership, vision, and generous friendship! Because of your thoughtfulness, over the past several years the Community Foundation has been able to strengthen its impact and expand its reach across Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties as a force that inspires people of all ages to consider making philanthropy a fulfilling part of their lives. Your support helps our region rally to increase capacity for its many nonprofit organizations, extending the value of **ALL** of your charitable contributions in the area. We appreciate the many ways your partnership and belief in our work enables us to continue our mission across Northern New York.

Thanks to you, we can continue programs that help instill values of civic engagement, leadership, and responsibility with students and youths. Together, we engage young professionals in ways that perpetuate the type of commitment that the last 94 years of Community Foundation donors like YOU have demonstrated. Our home at the Northern New York Philanthropy Center is a place where nonprofits can collaboratively work to ensure greater sustainability and impact for our region.

Your decision to support the Friends of the Foundation Annual Community Betterment Fund is one of the most meaningful ways you can help nurture our collective work each year. Your gifts touch your community in deep and broad ways, and enhance essential community services and quality of life. Your conscious choice to change and shape lives, in partnership with us, is something we value, appreciate, and never take for granted. You are the very foundation of our work.

Always know how much it means for us to have you as a vital part of our family as we strive to make the wonderful North Country the best place it can be to spend our lives together. October marked the beginning of our 95th year of working with donors like YOU to build a more vibrant and caring community for all. We look forward to finding ways to celebrate this important milestone and recognize the vital role you play in that noble cause throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.

With thanks and gratitude always,

*The Board, Committees and
Staff of the Northern New York
Community Foundation*



Northern New York
Community Foundation

SINCE 1929

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OUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FAMILY

*"I proudly support projects
in the Clifton-Fine area
as a tribute to my family,
which has been here since
the 1960s. Lest we overlook
our neighbors in Northern
New York, please also
consider giving, as I do, to the
Friends of the Foundation
Community Betterment
Annual Fund."*

Paul Flynn, Wanakena

Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving

