



Thoughtful Giving

Newsletter of the Northern New York Community Foundation



» FRIENDS BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Donors help provide opportunities for youth development

A Community Foundation matching grant will help the nonprofit Watertown Area Boxing Club build charitable support for its work with local youth.

See story on page 13

Kara Dry / For Thoughtful Giving



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Our friends make a difference in immediate and lasting ways

One of life's greatest gifts is the blessing of friendship. At the Community Foundation, we are thankful for our many relationships rooted in a deep love of community. Those listed on the following pages have made a thoughtful choice to be part of the work we do together across Northern New York. Some made their first gift this year. Many have supported our work and mission steadfastly for years. We consider all of you a part of our extended family and the inspirational force that makes more good things happen. Your commitment symbolizes a belief in the importance of investing in the quality of life of our region for this generation and the next.

We are mindful that there are many options for your charitable giving. We are thankful that we have earned your trust, something we never take for granted. Our friends know that great communities don't happen by themselves; they choose to take an active role in making them so.



RANDE RICHARDSON

As a supporter of the Community Betterment Annual Fund, you are a part of everything we do, all throughout the year. By making a gift each year, you touch a wide range of programs, projects, and initiatives

and invest in the things that affect all our lives. You recognize the value of a community foundation to the citizens it serves. Without you, this would not be possible. Whether a first-time donor or one who has been with us for a while, we thank you for standing alongside us in that important work. Thank you for your commitment to giving back to our community in such a meaningful way and for affirming the power of committed citizens to make a difference in ways that are immediate, lasting, and inspirational.

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS STRENGTHEN ESSENTIAL NEEDS



HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED: Throughout 2024, donors to the Community Foundation's **Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Annual Fund** helped make possible \$59,000 in support to strengthen programs and stock shelves at 47 local food pantries, soup kitchens, and school-based backpack programs in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. The total support includes \$40,000 as year-end aid to 37 organizations across the region. An additional \$19,000 was awarded throughout the year to 14 tri-county organizations, including the **Community Action Planning Council (CAPC) of Jefferson County** to support its new mobile food pantry. Pictured, from left: **Ella Smith**, vice chair, Community Foundation **Youth Philanthropy Council**, and **Watertown High School** senior; **Craig Cashman**, CAPC chief executive officer; and **Caroline Feasler**, CAPC Family Center director.

Foundation Business Partners

Helping make Northern New York stronger – together.

The Northern New York Community Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts of businesses and organizations in support of Community Foundation leadership programs and initiatives. Featured below are those that directly supported the **Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Annual Fund** and/or the Foundation's **Youth Philanthropy Council, LEAD Council, Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge** or **Operation Snowstorm**. Their gifts help make our work together possible. Business partners that made gifts between **January 1** and **December 31, 2024**, to help strengthen the quality of life in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties are listed here. **THANK YOU!**



RIPLEY, GARLOCK & ASSOCIATES
FINANCIAL PLANNING GROUP



Friends of the Foundation

2024 Community Betterment Annual Fund

Making Northern New York stronger for everyone.

The **Northern New York Community Foundation** gratefully acknowledges donors whose gifts provide for the future of our community and its people. Your gifts help make possible our work together in the community, including addressing emerging and evolving needs in the areas of animal welfare, arts and culture, children, community development, conservation & environment, education, elderly, families, health & wellness, history, human services, recreation, and youth. All donors to the **Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Annual Fund** between **January 1** and **December 31, 2024**, to help strengthen the quality of life in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties are listed here. **THANK YOU!**

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(continued from page 5)

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Includes gifts from Nov. 7, 2024, to Feb. 19, 2025, to the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund, or for those who have recently passed.

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Personnel of the Community Foundation Who Help Us Accomplish Our Goals Throughout The years

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STEPHANIE MATHOUS BOSSINGER TEAM PLAYER AWARD

Stephanie N. Mathous Bossinger was a bright light who brought joy and laughter to those around her. She was a deeply devoted mother and accomplished athlete who played a starting role on South Jefferson's first girls basketball state championship team in 2004.

At the time of her sudden passing in December 2021 at the age of 34, she was married and had two daughters, **Kennedy** and **Bristol**, and a son, **Jarrett**.

Born in 1987, a daughter to **Nellie** and **Kenneth Mathous**, Stephanie graduated from **South Jefferson Central High School** in 2005. She went on to earn a master's degree from **Canisius** and **D'Youville**

universities in health services administration in 2017.

Stephanie lived each day with purpose, focus, and attention to detail. She had an influential personality, making everyone she connected with strive to be a better person through her constant display of honesty and purity.

The footprint she left with her children will forever remain her greatest legacy and she will continue to be a monumental



piece in many people's lives.

Shortly after she passed away, former South Jefferson coach **Pat Bassett**, who guided her team to the state championship, established the **Stephanie Mathous Bossinger Team Player Award** at the Community Foundation.

"Her passion for group success made her an incredible teammate, family member, co-worker, friend, wife, and mother," Mr. Bassett said. "Her ability to maintain a positive attitude in the face of adversity was inspirational."

Stephanie's fund provides an award for a college-bound senior from South Jefferson Central School District who exhibits the character traits that made her so

loved by her coaches, teachers, friends, and teammates.

Above all, Stephanie modeled positivity with a willingness to perform good deeds. Awardees should be a compassionate helper, willing to assist those in need, and value team success over individual success. Preference may be given for a student with an interest in athletics or fitness. Three students have earned the award to date.

There is no greater honor than to be entrusted with the legacy of a loved one, and we are humbled to be part of the special and meaningful way Stephanie will forever live in the hearts of those she inspired.



Linda Nichols Lahey Fay

Linda Nichols Lahey Fay was devoted to the care of others through a decades-long career as a Registered Nurse and nursing educator that touched countless lives. Linda's caring heart, friendly nature, and desire to help others were cornerstones in her career, family, and community. Born in Ogdensburg in 1946, a daughter to **Helen** and **John "Jack" Nichols Lahey**, she graduated from Massena High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Plattsburgh State and a Master of Education from St. Lawrence University. She began her career as a nurse in Manhattan, where she worked for five years. Upon returning to the North Country, Linda became a professor in the nursing program at SUNY Canton, where she taught, mentored, and inspired thousands of students during her tenure. She married **Daniel G. Fay** in 1972, and the couple settled in Canton, where they raised a daughter and two sons. Linda was an integral part of her community, serving on the boards of numerous clubs and charities. She was a longtime Friend of the Community Foundation and was a charter member of its St. Lawrence County Advisory Council. During that time, she also established named family funds to benefit the people and places of the region. We are grateful for her friendship and share our sincere sympathy with her husband, **Dan**, and children, **Kelley**, **Ed**, and **John**, as we celebrate her life, legacy and important role in advancing the Foundation's work in St. Lawrence County.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Linda Nichols Lahey Fay
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson



Marion E. Kirkland

Marion E. Kirkland was proud of her North Country heritage and cherished her family and faith while serving her community in meaningful ways that made a positive impact on the lives of others. Born in Watertown in 1932, a daughter to **Catherine** and **William Barrisford**, she graduated from Watertown High School in 1952. Marion married **Edward J. Kirkland** in 1953 in Watertown and celebrated 65 years of marriage before Edward passed away in 2019. She began her professional career in television, working for WCNY-TV in Carthage before moving offices to the Hotel Woodruff in Watertown, where she was a copywriter for both WWNY-TV and WWNY Radio. In 1977, Marion went to work for the New York State Department of Labor, later transferring to the Department of Environmental Conservation, retiring as the secretary for Real Property Services in 1993. She was active in her church and community, serving on the boards of several local clubs and charities. When she passed away in January at age 92, memorial gifts were suggested to the Community Foundation. We are honored to be a part of the special way she will be remembered. Our thoughts are with Marion's family as we celebrate her life and commitment to strengthening community through service.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Marion E. Kirkland
Evelyn Kormanik
Rande Richardson



Emma May Lyon

Emma May Lyon was deeply passionate about music, performing as a vocalist in musicals and at the highest levels of competition throughout her high school years. Born in 1989 in New Hartford, a daughter to **Anne** and **Christopher Lyon**, she was raised in Forestport and graduated with honors from Adirondack Central School in 2017. She continued her education in general studies at Mohawk Valley Community College and was a very gifted artist, excelling in several disciplines. She later enrolled in the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Emma May was an avid outdoorswoman and especially enjoyed fishing. She was employed as a receptionist at Rome Pediatrics. Emma May was devoted to her faith and was active in her church community. When she passed away suddenly in December at the age of 25, her family designated memorial gifts to the Community Foundation to help build the **Lyon Family Scholarship Fund**, which was established in memory of her grandfather in 2020 to support graduates of Adirondack and Town of Webb schools who are pursuing conservation or environmental studies. We are grateful to her parents, **Anne** and **Christopher**, and extended family for the special way she will be remembered. Our thoughts are with Emma May's family as we celebrate her legacy of kindness.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Emma May Lyon
Max & Sara DelSignore

Thoughtful Legacies

HONORING THOSE WE LOST:
Since 1929, the Northern New York Community Foundation has been built by those who have made the thoughtful decision to provide enduring support for the communities they love. We are very grateful for these acts of generosity that help perpetuate lives of great meaning, not only for those who knew and loved them, but for those who will forever benefit from their vision for a better region. To learn how you can **honor a loved one's** legacy, contact us at info@nnycf.org, or **315-782-7110**.



Mary P. Sanford

Mary P. Sanford deeply cherished her family, faith, and community, and was dedicated to making the world around her a better place for all throughout her lifetime of 92 years. Mary was born in Jeffersonville, Ind., in 1932, a daughter to **Blanche Rose** and **Joseph R. Peyton**. She graduated from Jeffersonville High School in 1950, and from the Norton Memorial Infirmiry School of Nursing in 1953. While working as a nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Louisville, Ky., she met **Douglas M. Sanford**, and the couple married in 1954. Mary worked as a nurse while Doug attended medical school. Following Doug's honorable discharge from the United States Army's Medical Corps in 1967, the couple moved to Watertown and Doug became a partner in the Watertown Ear, Nose and Throat Group. Together with her husband, they raised two daughters and two sons. Throughout her career and life, she remained active in her community and church, supporting many worthy causes and organizations she held dear,

including those that enriched the culture of our region through the arts and music she so loved. Mary was awarded the Israel A. Shapiro Citizenship Award in 2004, which was a great source of personal pride. As a fitting tribute to her devotion to the nursing profession and her love for family, the **Mary P. Sanford Nursing Scholarship** has been established at the Community Foundation to honor her legacy of service. We are grateful to Mary's family to be a part of the special way that she will continue to touch the lives of our youth. Our condolences are with Mary's children, **Janet, Douglas Jr., David, and Martha**, and her extended family. We join her family in thanking all those who made gifts of affection in her memory as we celebrate her life and legacy of service to community and devotion to family.

Tribute gifts in memory of Mary P. Sanford

Cynthia R. Ahlheim
The Barbone Family
Carl & Janna Bingle
Carole J. Brown

Barbara Ellison
Christina Mesires Fournaris
Janet J. George
Janice I. Henderson
Martha B. Jablonski
Kevin A. Kieff

Mary Kirch
Janet Sanford Kowalski &
David Kowalski
Mark & Joanne Lavarnway
Renee Lustick
Dan O'Leary

Peter & Laurie Pike
Theresa L. Quintin
Rande Richardson
David & Kathy Sanford & Family
Samuel Thomas
Anna Van Slyke
Sherry M. Wilson



William Danforth Munro

William (Bill) Danforth Munro was deeply devoted to his family while selflessly sharing his gifts and compassion with many organizations and charitable causes. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and strived to embody kindness, generosity, and support for those in need. His legacy of service and his deep commitment to helping others impacted countless lives. Born in Syracuse in 1935, Bill spent most of his life in West Palm Beach, where he graduated from Palm Beach High School before continuing his education at Colgate University. Throughout his career, Bill held various roles in advertising, marketing, sales, and outdoor writing. The highlight of his career was his time as vice president of sales and marketing at Ande Monofilament and Mako Marine. His work and passion for connecting people left an enduring mark on all those who participated. He married **Judy Behrhorst** in 1962 and together they raised a daughter and two sons, celebrating 60 years of marriage before Judy passed in 2022. Bill was most at home on the

St. Lawrence River, spending summers with family at their Murray Isle cottage where he loved all aspects of nature. With his wife, Bill was a longtime Community Foundation supporter who believed in the work and mission of improving the quality of life for all Northern New Yorkers. We express our deepest sympathy to Bill's children, **Bill, Cindy, and David**, and extended family as we remember his legacy of kindness and generosity.

Tribute gifts in memory of William (Bill) Danforth Munro

Erin & Dick Greene



Carl Joseph "Butch" Inglesby

Carl J. "Butch" Inglesby lived a life of adventure, traveling the world as an airline pilot. Butch was born in Camden, N.J., in 1933, a son to **Alberta Eldridge Inglesby** and **John J. Inglesby Jr.** He graduated from Trenton High School and attended St. Lawrence University before joining the United States Air Force. He achieved the rank of First Lieutenant, flying fighter jets. While serving in the Air Force he married **Joan Patricia Shirley** of Gananoque, Ontario, and they later settled in Yardley, Pa. Together with Joan, they raised two daughters and a son. Joan passed away in February 2012. Upon Butch's honorable discharge from the Air Force, Butch joined Trans World Airlines as a pilot, retiring as a 747 Captain in 1990. He especially loved life on the St. Lawrence River. When he passed away in December at age 91, his family directed memorial gifts to the Community Foundation.

We are honored to be a part of the special way Butch will be remembered. We share our deepest sympathies with his children, **Carl, Patricia, and Michelle**, and extended family as we mourn his loss and celebrate his life.

In Our Next Issue ...

Our summer issue of **Thoughtful Giving** will feature stories and memorial tributes about the lives and legacies of several Community Foundation supporters who recently passed. They include: ■ **Shawn M. Baker** ■ **Frederick D. Belcher**

■ **Douglas S. Brodie** ■ **Judith Ann Converse** ■ **Raymond G. Green** ■ **William James Heary** ■ **Robert Paul Parks**
■ **Ruth E. Seaman** ■ **Charlotte Annette Walldroff**

YOUR FRIENDS GIFTS SUPPORT HISTORIC PRESERVATION



PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE: This spring, **First Presbyterian Church of Watertown** will mark the completion of a \$2.2 million campaign to restore its steeple. Pictured, from left, the **Rev. Andrew Long**, First Presbyterian pastor and **Philip Sprague**, longtime church member and “A Beacon Restored” fundraising committee chair. Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving

Grant support helps restore historic church

First Presbyterian Church of Watertown completes community fundraising effort

A Community Foundation matching grant helped **First Presbyterian Church of Watertown** raise critical support for a more than \$2 million campaign to restore its historic steeple.

The **Rev. Andrew Long**, said a \$50,000 matching grant enabled broad support from the greater community beyond the church membership.

“We’re grateful for the generous support of the Community Foundation and the wider community,” Rev. Long said.

The church is Watertown’s first established house of worship.

The Foundation grant was offered to help encourage non-parishioners to give the effort a boost with a broader community focus.

Philip Sprague, a longtime church member and fundraising committee chair, said the cam-

paign accelerated thanks to the Foundation’s grant award.

“Unquestionably, we were more successful in raising \$130,000 from outside our congregation when we could talk about the match,” Mr. Sprague said.

The Community Foundation has a long history of supporting historic preservation and recently expanded to providing grants to churches when there is a willingness to actively involve community donors outside of church membership.

Across Northern New York, some of the most prominent and recognizable historic properties are churches. Iconic landmarks such First Presbyterian Church add character, identity, and beauty to the local landscape and help link the generations together, and we are pleased to support this aspect of community betterment.



First Presbyterian Church of Watertown in the early 1900s. The original structure on Washington Street was dedicated on April 10, 1851. The church will celebrate its 175th anniversary next year.

“The Community Foundation is a catalyst that makes so many good things happen for our communities. To have its support in such a meaningful way is an endorsement that means the world to us. A matching grant from the Foundation helped the community understand how important this project is. It was entirely a game changer.”

— Philip Sprague, longtime church member and “A Beacon Restored” fundraising committee chair

YOUR FRIENDS GIFTS STRENGTHEN LOCAL NONPROFITS

BUILDING ESSENTIAL SKILLS: Encompass

Recreation hosts the first Teen+ Club at the Children's Home of Jefferson County campus on State Street in Watertown. A \$2,500 **LEAD Impact Grant** award will support the initiative to help prepare neurodivergent teens and young adults for adulthood. "Without this support, many of these individuals would have limited access to social and enrichment opportunities tailored to their needs," Encompass Recreation Founder and Executive Director **Kylie Schell** said.

Kara Dry Photography / for Thoughtful Giving



LEAD Impact grants broadly support region

Access to personal hygiene products, reducing food insecurity, and supplies for a new commercial soup kitchen are just three of seven initiatives that will receive a share of nearly \$20,000 in grant funding from the Community Foundation's **LEAD Council**.

A recent series of **LEAD Impact Grant Program** awards will support seven tri-county nonprofit organizations. After thoughtful evaluation of nearly three-dozen applications for funding, Council members sought to address current community needs while supporting a wide breadth of organizations whose work improves the quality of life in Northern New York.

"Projects and initiatives proposed by this year's grantees broadly address many strategic needs across the tri-county region," Council Chair **Jessica Piatt Walczyk** said.

The **LEAD Council** is an advisory committee of young professionals empowered to identify and address strategic needs in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties through community grants and volunteerism.

■ **Children's Home of Jefferson County, Watertown** — \$5,700 to purchase a hygiene products vending machine for its behavioral health clinic in Jefferson County. This initiative aims to provide hygiene essentials at no cost to clients.

■ **Salvation Army of Watertown** — \$3,500 to help combat food insecurity and provide basic human needs for at least 100 individuals and families each day.

■ **Salvation Army of Massena** — \$3,000 to help launch a new commercial kitchen at its Victory Road facility. Funding will purchase new kitchen equipment.

■ **Encompass Recreation, Carthage** — \$2,500 to help lead a newly established Teen+ Club that serves neurodivergent teens and young adults. Funding will help provide a supportive environment for

participants to build social skills, engage in recreational activities, and receive guidance as they age into adulthood.

■ **GardenShare, Canton** — \$2,000 to strengthen food security for vulnerable St. Lawrence County families and promote a local food system. GardenShare removes barriers to access while connecting consumers and producers through equitable food and resource distribution.

■ **Norfolk, Raymondville Food Pantry** — \$2,000 to give the pantry a critical boost to secure more food through the Food Bank of Central New York.

■ **Lyons Falls ALIVE** — \$1,100 to support a coupon program for children to purchase fruits and vegetables at a seasonal market. Lyons Falls ALIVE is a new nonprofit serving Lewis County.



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:



YOUR FRIENDS GIFTS PROMOTE YOUTH PROGRAMS



A POSITIVE OUTLET FOR YOUTH: Above: **Javier Barrera**, 11, works out during a practice at **Watertown Area Boxing Club**. Below: From left, **Brooklyn Morgia**, 17, and **Nigel Spahr**, 14, work with speed bags ringside as **Javier Barrera** and **Evan Jorgensen**, 15, spar. A recent Community Foundation matching grant is helping to build charitable support for the club, which became a federally classified nonprofit organization last year. Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving

Boxing Club builds charitable support

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, Foundation grant will double impact

As it celebrates 20 years of positive youth development in the region, a \$5,000 Community Foundation matching grant is helping to build charitable support for the **Watertown Area Boxing Club**.

The Club became a federally classified nonprofit organization last year, a milestone that Founder and Head Coach **Johnny Pepe** said had been a goal for several years.

At its core, the Boxing Club provides a safe space for positive youth development, teaching youths from pre-teen through high school ages enduring life lessons that are required for success in and out of the ring.

“Respect is the most important fundamental kids will learn here. Respect for their coaches and fellow boxers, but above all, respect for themselves,” Coach Pepe said. “When you give kids respect, it builds trust



and confidence and motivates them to be better people.”

With respect also comes discipline in a structured environment through which youths of all ages train and learn to perform

to their highest potential in all aspects of life. Boxers also quickly learn that the sport does not condone bullying.

“Respect is everything, and that means combating bullying,” Coach Pepe said.

Coach Pepe is working closely with the Community Foundation to maximize opportunities for fundraising and strengthen relationships as he plans for a sustainable future.

“To have the Foundation and its first-rate reputation behind us is one of the biggest things that has ever complemented our program,” Coach Pepe said. “To step up and support us with meaningful grant funding not only says ‘we believe in you,’ it’s like having an all-star coach in our corner.”

To join in supporting the Club, make gifts to **Watertown Area Boxing Club**, 146L Arsenal St., Suite 9, Watertown, NY 13601. Learn more at watertownareaboxingclub.com.



A NEW HOME FOR THE ARTS: Shannon and Joseph Foy, HarmoNny Performing Arts Community co-founders, at The Strand Theater on Franklin Street in Watertown.

Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving



HarmoNny at home in Strand Theater

Community Foundation partnership a key driver for five-year-old nonprofit

For HarmoNny Performing Arts Community, the past five years has been a whirlwind journey from idea to upstart nonprofit to envisioning the city's newest venue for the arts through the multimillion-dollar rebirth of the historic Strand Theater with Neighbors of Watertown.

Co-founders Joseph and Shannon Foy are quick to credit their success to a Community Foundation partnership that began as HarmoNny was organizing. The partnership continues to grow through endowment and agency funds at the Foundation.

Before it was established, founding board members turned to the Foundation for guidance to help navigate the steps required to become a nonprofit



organization. Mr. Foy credits conversations with Foundation leadership for helping to put HarmoNny on the fast track to incorporation and eventually

obtaining its 501(c)(3) status.

"We made sure to share our vision, which included establishing a performing arts venue centered in Watertown," Mr. Foy said. "This led to the Foundation referring us to Neighbors of Watertown Executive Director Reg Schweitzer who was looking for an organization to run the Strand Theater."

As a result, HarmoNny, together with Neighbors of Watertown, opened the newly renovated space in January.

Community Foundation grant funding has helped set the stage for the Strand as a professional venue. A \$10,000 grant was used to purchase and install the house sound system, and \$5,000 in Youth Philanthropy Council

funding secured a projection system that will permit a wide variety of events.

"Having a house sound system means that we are taken seriously as a venue," Mr. Foy said.

Grant funding totaling \$8,000 from the Foundation's LEAD and Youth Philanthropy councils has also helped HarmoNny develop a musical instrument lending library that offers music students and aspiring performers a chance to check out an instrument for a period.

"We passionately believe that our presence in downtown Watertown fills a much-needed space for this community, and we are thankful that the Foundation believes in our mission and vision," Mr. Foy said.

"We are deeply grateful to have the Community Foundation in our community — and now as neighbors. HarmoNny would not exist as it does today without its assistance."

— Joseph Foy, co-founder, HarmoNny Performing Arts Community

YOUR FRIENDS GIFTS AID LOCAL LIBRARIES



A COMMUNITY LEARNING HUB:

Left: **James Burchez**, 4, participates in the Kids Sew Club at **Hay Memorial Library** in Sackets Harbor. Below: Library manager **Octavia Walker** works with students. In 2024, more than 17,000 patrons visited the library to utilize its services or materials.

Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving

Improving accessibility for all

Foundation grants support capital projects at three libraries

A pair of Community Foundation grants totaling \$55,000 will support accessibility improvements at two public libraries in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties.

Hay Memorial Library is a community hub in the Village of Sackets Harbor. More than 17,000 visitors participated in programs last year, used and borrowed resources, or obtained computer or Internet access.

Library officials have been eager to construct a safe, modern entryway for all patrons, regardless of mobility. Installation of an interior lift and structure is planned to protect it.

The Community Foundation recently awarded a \$25,000 grant to help the library with the estimated \$290,000 project.

"Having the Community Foundation as a major partner for Hay Memorial Library's 'Welcome, All' universal accessibility project will have a positive impact on every person who comes through the entryway of our community library," said **Christine Eggleston**, Board of Trustees president. "This support is the very foundation upon which we



are building our local efforts. This grant creates forward momentum and a commitment to upgrade accessibility for all patrons."

Ogdensburg Public Library has served the community since 1922. Last year, it saw more than 26,000 visitors, presented 230 programs and hosted 100 meetings. After years of temporary repairs, the library is pur-

suing a capital project to install a new handicap accessible lift and sheltered exterior. Patrons have been without handicap access since the existing lift failed last fall.

A recent Community Foundation grant of \$30,000 will help the library with the estimated \$174,000 project. Grant support includes \$5,000 from an individual donor.

"This matching grant is extremely important for the library, as it will help enclose our outside lift to work in all weather," Executive Director **Penny Kerfien** said. "Ogdensburg Public Library is thrilled to receive this support and to continue our partnership with the Foundation."

East Hounsfield Free Library was also recently awarded grant support for a capital project to help replace a furnace. A total of \$15,000, which includes a \$5,000 match to build charitable contributions from the community, was provided last fall.

Thirteen public libraries across the region have established permanent endowment funds at the Foundation, which provide an additional source of income to support their missions.

Library endowment partnerships

■ The Community Foundation is proud to support our public libraries through stewardship of permanent endowment funds that enable some of our most treasured institutions to advance their work and missions now and in the future. Tri-county 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

Nonprofit Partner Organizations

Collaborating to ensure enduring success

Making Northern New York stronger for everyone.

More than 150 nonprofit organizations that serve **Jefferson, St. Lawrence,** and **Lewis** county residents have chosen to form partnerships with the **Northern New York Community Foundation** to ensure their work and missions endure. Partnerships are created through the establishment of endowment funds at the Foundation to benefit the nonprofit. It is a meaningful choice for donors to support the future of their favorite charities.

Jefferson County

4 River Valleys Historical Society
Adams Center Free Library
Adams Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
Alexandria Township Historical Society
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence
Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Foundation
Cape Vincent Arts Council
Cape Vincent Community Library
Cape Vincent Village Green
Carthage Central School District
Carthage YMCA
Child Evangelism Fellowship

Central Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
City of Watertown
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County (Camp Wabasso)
Crescent Yacht Club Junior Division
Densmore Church
Depauville Free Library
Dexter Historical Society
Disabled Persons Action Organization
Faith Fellowship Christian School
Food Bank of Central New York
Foundation for Community Betterment (Alexandria Bay Chapter)
Friends of the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library

Friends of Thompson Park
General Brown Central School District
Grindstone Island Research & Heritage Center
HarmoNNY Performing Arts Community
Hawn Memorial Library
Hay Memorial Library
Hearts for Youth
Henderson Historical Society
Henderson Harbor Water Sports Programs
Herring College Memorial Educational Trust
Historical Association of South Jefferson
Honor the Mountain Monument
Hospice of Jefferson County
Immaculate Heart Central School
Indian River Lakes Conservancy
Indian River Central School District
Jefferson Community College
Center for Community Studies
Jefferson County Historical Society
Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES
Knights of Columbus Council #259
Lorraine United Methodist Church
Lyme Central School District
Lyme Free Library
Macsherry Library
Mannsville Free Library
Meals on Wheels of Greater Watertown
Mental Health Association in Jefferson County
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center
National Association of the 10th Mountain Division
Nature Conservancy
North Central Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association
North Country Council of Social Agencies
North Country Family Health Center
North Country Goes Green Irish Festival
Northpole Fire Company
NYS Zoo at Thompson Park & Conservancy
Ontario Bays Initiative
PIVOT
Point Vivian Preservation Corp.
River Hospital
Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library
Sackets Harbor Central School District

“Our Community Foundation partnership is highly valued and critical to our well-being. Our partnership also enables ONNY patrons to give to our endowment fund, helping to ensure a bright musical future for the North Country’s only professional year-round symphony orchestra.”

– Kathryn M. Del Guidice, executive director, The Orchestra of Northern New York



The Orchestra of Northern New York performs in Watertown's Thompson Park in June 2023.
Kara Dry Photo / For Thoughtful Giving

Sackets Harbor Historical Society
 Samaritan Medical Center
 St. John's Episcopal Church, Cape Vincent
 Save The River
 South Jefferson Central School District
 South Jefferson Rescue Squad
 SPCA of Jefferson County
 Stage Notes
 Thousand Islands Area Habitat
 for Humanity
 Thousand Islands Arts Center
 Thousand Islands Emergency
 Rescue Service
 Thousand Islands Foundation
 Thousand Islands Land Trust
 Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund
 at the Clayton Opera House
 THRIVE Wellness & Recovery
 Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
 United Way of Northern New York
 Village of Dexter
 Volunteer Transportation Center
 Watertown City School District
 Watertown Family YMCA
 Watertown Lyric Theater
 Watertown Musicales
 Watertown Noon Rotary Club
 Watertown Sunrise Rotary Club
 Watertown Urban Mission
 WPBS-TV

St. Lawrence County

Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence &
 Rotary Dodge Pond
 Brasher Falls Central School District
 Canton Community Fund
 Canton Fountain Fund
 Canton Free Library
 Cerebral Palsy Association of the
 North Country
 Church & Community Program of Canton
 Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center
 Clifton-Fine Community Fund
 Clifton-Fine Hospital
 Colton-Pierrepont Central School
 Community Health Center of the
 North Country
 Cranberry Lake Fire & Rescue
 Edwards-Knox Central School District
 Fort La Présentation Association
 Friends of the Potsdam Museum
 Gouverneur Hospital
 Grasse River Heritage
 Hammond Presbyterian Church
 Hermon-DeKalb Central School District



A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS: Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY), Canton, became a nonprofit partner in 2011 when it established a permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation to perpetuate its work and mission. TAUNY Executive Director **Joshua Vink**, left, is pictured with Community Foundation Director of Philanthropy **Kraig Everard**. The Foundation recently awarded TAUNY a \$10,000 matching grant to help build charitable support for its endowment fund.

Hospice & Palliative Care of
 St. Lawrence Valley
 Indian Creek Nature Center
 Little River Community School
 Madrid-Waddington Central School
 Massena Central School District
 Massena Music Friends
 Massena Public Library
 Massena Rotary Club
 Morristown Central School District
 New Beginnings Clothing & Food Outreach
 North Country Children's Museum
 North Country Public Radio
 Norwood-Norfolk Central School District
 Norwood Village Green Concert Series
 Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club
 Ogdensburg Command Performances
 Ogdensburg Free Academy
 Ogdensburg Public Library
 Orchestra of Northern New York
 Police Activities League of Massena
 Potsdam Central School District
 Potsdam Holiday Fund
 Potsdam Humane Society
 Potsdam Public Library
 Sandstoner Foundation
 St. James School, Gouverneur
 St. Lawrence Central School District
 St. Lawrence County Historical Association
 St. Lawrence Land Trust

St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum
 Traditional Arts in Upstate New York
 United Church of Madrid
 United Helpers
 Wanakena Historical Association
 Wilderness HealthCare Foundation

Lewis County

Adirondack Mennonite Camping
 Association (Beaver Camp)
 Adirondack Central School District
 American Maple Museum
 Beaver River Central School District
 Constable Hall Association
 Copenhagen Central School District
 Double Play Sports Community Center
 Friends of Lewis County Hospice
 Fund for Hope of Lewis County
 Hospital Foundation
 Lewis County Agricultural Society
 Lewis County General Hospital
 Lowville Academy and Central School
 Maple Ridge Center
 New York FFA Leadership Training
 Foundation
 Oswegatchie Educational Center (NYSFFA)
 Railway Historical Society of
 Northern New York

"The staff have been a tremendous resource and help as we planned and launched our endowment at the Northern New York Community Foundation. Their professional insight was key to getting it off the ground!"

– Michael Judd, Executive Director, Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association (Beaver Camp)

New corporate charitable partnerships established

Two leading Watertown businesses have partnered with the Community Foundation, establishing corporate charitable funds to manage their philanthropic efforts in Northern New York and beyond.

The Watertown-based manufacturer behind the Little Trees air fresheners recently established the **CAR-FRESHNER Corporation Charitable Fund** at the Community Foundation. The fund will help strengthen CAR-FRESHNER's impact and support of the Northern New York community that has been its corporate home for nearly 75 years.

The CAR-FRESHNER Corporation Charitable Fund is designed to support community programs, projects and initiatives with specific focus areas, which will vary from time to time.

In 2025, applications must focus on educational initiatives within Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties.



Car-Freshner Corporation



BCA Architects and Engineers recently established the **15 Public Square Foundation** at the Community Foundation.

In partnership with the Community Foundation, the new charitable foundation solidifies the firm's dedication to the people and places it serves.

"We are honored to partner with the Community Foundation to ensure this legacy of giving continues to grow," BCA Architects and Engineers CEO Travis Overton said. "Together, we're not just designing spaces, we're building

a stronger, more connected New York."

The 15 Public Square Foundation gives the firm a platform to expand its philanthropic reach statewide.

For businesses seeking to make a significant impact, partnering with the Community Foundation is highly effective. In addition to tax advantages, a partnership offers broad flexibility, allowing a business to focus on areas that align with its goals and values or the communities or region it serves.

CAR-FRESHNER and BCA Architects and Engineers join a host of other businesses that have charitable funds at the Community Foundation, including: **Air Products, EDF Renewables, Haylor, Freyer and Coon, Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors, Jake's on the Water, Renzi Family Charitable Foundation, Shaw Harbor, T.F. Wright & Sons, and Waite Toyota.**

Scholarship honors legacy of Watertown arts leader

A new, permanent scholarship fund established at the Community Foundation in December honors the life and legacy of Watertown native **David Simmons**.

To perpetuate his legacy, local arts organizations are working together to build the **David Simmons Scholarship Fund**. It will support students from Jefferson County who have participated in the performing arts during high school. In this way, it will help extend the support and encouragement David shared with arts and



theater students during his life.

David was an integral part of the Watertown arts community and a favorite to local audiences. He had a long history of involvement with community theater organizations and was a Theatre Association of New York State award winner.

David passed away in September 2023 just two weeks shy of

his 61st birthday. He graduated in 1980 from Immaculate Heart Central School and attended Jefferson Community College. In 2012, he married **Scott A. Rennie**.

A friend to countless students, David generously shared his talents with all who were lucky to have known him.

To join others in helping to honor David Simmons, make gifts to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or visit nnycf.org to access secure online giving.

Gifts in support of the **David A. Simmons Scholarship**

Scott, Leslie & Meredith Atkinson
Kyle & Ticia Aumell
Richard & Judi Bates
Alice Jean & David Boucher
Jonathan & Sarah Cole
Michele & Tim Glover
Linda Illingworth
Karyl & Richard Irvine
Jane Bowman Jenkins
Thomas & Lisa Kerber Family
Christina Liberatos
Scott Rennie
Rande Richardson
Mary Antonene "Toni" Silliman*
Jeanne Emery Velto
Stephen & Karen Williamson

*Deceased

Burchell Fellowship helps 'inspirational individuals' pursue dreams

Jonathan "Jono" Burchell was the ultimate dreamer. Not only did he dream big, but he also fully committed to making sure he could make his dreams a reality. It was his unparalleled level of commitment to everything he did that made his many achievements possible.

An accomplished musician, pilot, extreme skier, concert producer, and fishing guide, his life was an inspiration to all whom he knew.

Those closest to him recall his generous spirit. He inspired his peers to live their lives to the fullest and to follow their dreams, too.

His love of adventure and his continued pursuit of his dreams led to his last experience



Jonathan "Juno" Burchell and his mother, Allison, with the muskie he caught on the St. Lawrence River in the Ivy Lea area.

of which he wrote to his mother: "I am learning the ways of bush flying and spreading my wings in the ways I have always dreamed. Thank you for bringing me into this world to enjoy such things."

Jonathan was fatally injured at age 30 in a crash of the bush plane he was piloting in the Kenyan outback in June 2003. At the time of his passing, he was on the staff of the Laikipia Predator Project, tracking, capturing, and collaring lions for research purposes.

He was a graduate of the Fieldston School in New York and the University of Rochester.

Allison McGrath Burchell-Robinson established the **Jonathan Edgar Burchell Memorial Fellowship** at the Community Foundation last year to honor her son and make it possible for those who demonstrate the same spirit and passion, whatever their path may be, to make their dreams a reality.

The fellowship is committed to providing scholarships and/or financial aid to inspirational individuals. Specifically, to assist individuals in their pursuit of education in the fields of environmental conservation, land conservation, aviation, the arts, and live music production. Individuals should be of outstanding character, highly motivated, and highly committed to the pursuit of their dreams.

Donors Establish New Funds

Donors frequently establish new Community Foundation funds. We have grown to now steward a wide range of more than 1,000 charitable funds that support hundreds of nonprofit organizations and causes. We are honored that donors continue to place their trust in the Foundation to administer these resources and carry out specific charitable objectives. Donors may make additional gifts to help extend support and build these funds. The following funds were established in 2024:

Corporate Charitable Foundation Funds

15 Public Square Foundation
Air Products Greater Massena Community Fund
CAR-FRESHNER Corporation Charitable Fund

Designated Funds

Dominy Family Fund
Lynn Anne Dominy Memorial Fund
Surdo Family Fund
Up Home Fund

Donor-Advised Funds

Charlie Mouaikel Fund
Jim & Julie Ripley Family Fund
M. Russell & F. Marion Lee Fund
Peter & Karen Souch Fund
Roger W. White Sr. Foundation

Field of Interest Funds

Ellen C. Bush Fund
EmpowerPlay Fund
James C. & Sharon R. Blankman Foundation
Jordan Drake Memorial Fund

Organization Funds

4 River Valleys Historical Society Endowment Fund
Cape Vincent Arts Council Endowment

Project Funds

First Presbyterian Church: A Beacon Restored Fund
Glenwood Cemetery Revitalization Campaign Fund
Immaculate Heart Central Events
Junior Tennis Scholarship Program Fund

Scholarship Funds

Air Products Greater Massena Scholarship Fund
Alexandria Bay Rotary Club Scholarship Endowment
Angela Robbins "Believe" Scholarship
Beaver River Central School Class of 2024 Scholarship
Camie E. & James K. Baker Scholarship
Clifford J. Hunter Scholarship
David Simmons Scholarship
Dr. Adam E. Tartell Memorial Scholarship
Francine Root Petersen Scholarship
Gary R. & Patricia E. Stinson Scholarship
Heather Hutchinson Memorial Scholarship
Henry "Tyke" Wood Memorial Scholarship
Heroes of Democracy Award
John Marnell Memorial Scholarship
Jonathan Edgar Burchell Memorial Fellowship
Marie B. Surdo Memorial Scholarship
Mary P. Sanford Nursing Scholarship

Medical Society of Jefferson County Healthcare Scholarship
Michael J. Roukous Lineman Scholarship
Nancy Vecchio Memorial Scholarship
Phillip Fay Memorial Scholarship
South Jefferson Class of 2024 Scholarship
Susan A. Sovie Memorial Scholarship
Tooley Family Scholarship
Ula W. Alton Scholarship
Watertown High School Class of 1960 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 you care about. We're here to help. Email **Rande Richardson**, president & CEO, rande@nnycf.org, or **Max DelSignore**, vice president, max@nnycf.org, or call **315-782-7110**.

YOUR ANNUAL FUND GIFTS HELP STRENGTHEN TRI-COUNTY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



SUPPORT FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS: Eight nonprofit organizations serving youth in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties will share grant funding totaling \$15,500 to support their work to serve children and youth. Tri-county organizations receiving funding to broadly support their missions include: **Jefferson County – Watertown Family YMCA**, \$2,500; **SoZo Teen Center**, Watertown, \$2,500; **Hearts for Youth**, Alexandria Bay, \$1,000; **Carthage YMCA**, \$1,000; **Lewis County – Double Play Community Center**, Lowville, \$2,500; and **Youth of Lewis County**, \$1,000; **St. Lawrence County – Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club**, \$2,500; and **Police Activities League of Massena**, \$2,500. Above: Children and youth attend after-school programs at the Police Activities League of Massena. The league's establishment in 2019 created opportunities for youth in Massena and surrounding communities. Initially chartered as a Boys & Girls Club, it pivoted to its present operation to support at-risk and unsupervised youth.

315-782-7110 • info@nnycf.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



FRIENDS DONORS INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS



2024-25 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge

Grant recipients & winning students

Each of the following organizations were awarded a \$1,000 grant.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Hospice of Jefferson County

Ryaan Rohan Bolla, South Jefferson Middle School

Jefferson County SPCA

Jolene He, General Brown Central School

Mental Health Association in Jefferson County

Annabelle Fletcher, Indian River Middle School

Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library

Nicolas Orsini, Watertown City Schools — Case Middle School

Salvation Army Watertown Corps

Blake Sweet, Watertown City Schools — Case Middle School

Watertown Family YMCA

Lola Johnson, Watertown City Schools — Case Middle School



HOSPICE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY: From left, **Kathy Arendt**, Hospice director of foundation operations & development and **Ryaan Rohan Bolla**, South Jefferson Middle School eighth grader and Youth Giving Challenge winner.

LEWIS COUNTY

Lewis County Agricultural Society, Lowville

Cally Shaw, Lowville Academy and Central School

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

Canton Free Library

Li Lin, Canton Central School

Morristown Backpack Program

Brianna Colby, Morristown Central School

Ogdensburg Public Library

Olivia Nowell, Lisbon Central School



LEWIS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY: From left, Lewis County Fair Manager **Rachel Lisk** and Lowville Academy and Central School seventh grader **Cally Shaw**.

The 2024-2025 **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**
2018-25 Program Partner