



Thoughtful Giving

Newsletter of the Northern New York Community Foundation

» YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT ARTS & CULTURE

**Foundation donors
strengthen the arts
across our region**

Fireworks light up the sky over Watertown's historic Thompson Park as the Orchestra of Northern New York presents its annual summer concert.

Kara Dry Photography /
For Thoughtful Giving



LOCATED WITHIN THE NORTHERN
NEW YORK PHILANTHROPY CENTER

131 WASHINGTON STREET
WATERTOWN, NY 13601

315-782-7110 • info@nnycf.org

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY EXTENSION
CANTON, NY 13617

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE
NNYCF.ORG



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cheryl R. Steckly, Lowville
Chair

Emily Sprague, Watertown
Vice Chair

Mark R. Lavarney, Watertown
Secretary / Treasurer

Catherine Burns Quencer, Dexter
Immediate Past Chair

Victoria Hasseler Collins, Croghan

Jeffrey Ginger, Adams Center

Marie A. Hess, Sackets Harbor

Maja Lundborg-Gray, Clayton

Elizabeth Perry, Adams

Theresa L. Quintin, Evans Mills

Brent V. Sanford, Clayton

Robert M. Sligar, Carthage

Timothy L. Savage, Canton

Mark W. Thompson, Watertown

STAFF

Rande Richardson
Executive Director
rande@nnycf.org

Max DelSignore
Vice President
max@nnycf.org

Stephen Magovney
Chief Financial Officer
steve@nnycf.org

Michele Jeican
Director of Finance
michele@nnycf.org

Ken Eysaman
Director of Communications
ken@nnycf.org

Kraig Everard
Director of Philanthropy
kraig@nnycf.org

Mary Perrine
Scholarship & Program Manager
maryp@nnycf.org

Tara Hess
Scholarship and Program Associate
tara@nnycf.org

Emily Pfeil
Philanthropy Associate
emily@nnycf.org

Mary Loftus
Program Assistant
mary@nnycf.org

A LIFE OF COMPASSION ENDURES



HONORING KINDNESS AND POSITIVITY: Ann Renzi Haynes' sister, **Jennifer Renzi Kelly**; Ann's mother, **Joyce Renzi**; Ann Renzi Haynes Award recipient **Allyson Robinson**; and Ann's brother, **Eugene R. Renzi**.

Award celebrates a legacy of kindness and determination

The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence's **Allyson Robinson** is the inaugural recipient of the Community Foundation's **Ann Renzi Haynes Award**.

A General Brown High School graduate, Allyson works through the Arc's supportive employment program at its Bradley Street facility, where she plays a vital role in fulfilling Impacto contracts. Her colleagues describe her as a joy to work alongside — always smiling, uplifting others, and approaching every task with pride and positivity. Supervisors praise her strong work ethic, resilience, and ability to inspire those around her.

"Allyson's journey is a testament to resilience, positivity, and personal growth," said **Lynn Pietroski**, Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence CEO. "She embodies

the very spirit of this award."

The award was established in 2023 by **Dr. Eugene** and **Joyce Renzi** and family in memory of Ann Renzi Haynes, who passed away that year at age 61.

Ann was a loving mother, respected professional, and community leader whose kindness and grace left a lasting impression. She worked for Teachers Insurance, now TIAA, before retiring to care for her daughter, who lived with a seizure condition.

Presented annually, the award supports general quality of life for Jefferson County residents with developmental disabilities and special needs. Honorees demonstrate positivity, perseverance,

and joy — qualities that defined Ann's life and now shine through Allyson's example.



Ann Renzi Haynes

'Love the River, for Good' features series of donor legacies



This summer, the Community Foundation published a special booklet featuring stories about donors who have left legacies for their communities along the St. Lawrence River. From Cape Vincent to Clayton to Alexandria Bay and points in between, the St. Lawrence River is one of the special places within the area the Foundation serves. In addition to its natural beauty, the Thousand Islands region is home to charitable organizations that enhance the quality of life in many ways. Since 1929, we have been fortunate to work alongside individuals, families, organizations, and businesses committed to the betterment of the region, during their lifetimes and beyond. A few of these stories are presented in "Love the River, for Good." If you didn't receive a copy and would like a copy mailed to you, email our Director of Communications, **Ken Eysaman**, at **ken@nnycf.org**.

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT: AMANDA STICKEL, WATERTOWN



FOUNDATION SCHOLAR AT WORK: Amanda Stickel, Watertown High School Class of 2008, is the CEO of Stickel Financial Services. She is a past Community Foundation scholarship recipient who recently established the **Amanda Stickel Accounting Scholarship** at the Community Foundation.

Sarissa Melissa
Photography / For
Thoughtful Giving

Foundation scholar: Engage the next generation in meaningful community leadership opportunities

Amanda Stickel never forgot the Community Foundation scholarship that helped her attend **Jefferson Community College** after she graduated from **Watertown High School** in 2008. Today, she leads her own business in Watertown, **Stickel Financial Services**, serving clients across the region. She recently established the **Amanda Stickel Accounting Scholarship** at the Community Foundation to help other local young women who are pursuing careers in accounting. We caught up with Amanda and asked about her experience and the importance of giving back to her community.

How did you learn about the Community Foundation and its many scholarship opportunities? I learned about it initially from my high school English teacher, **Mrs. Emily Sprague**. As an older adult I learned more about the Community Foundation from its efforts with local organizations and businesses through grant opportunities and seeing them in the community.

AMANDA STICKEL

AGE: 35

HOMETOWN: Watertown

EDUCATION: **Watertown High School**, 2008; **Jefferson Community College**, 2010, associate degree, accounting; **Franklin University**, 2012, bachelor's degree, accounting

FAMILY: Parents: **Mark** and **Daphne Battista**; Husband: **Greg Stickel**; Children: **Joshua**, **Alexandria**, and **Avalynn Stickel**

CAREER: Accountant and CEO, **Stickel Financial Services**, Watertown; IRS Enrolled Agent

COMMUNITY: Watertown First, Downtown Block Party Series, Family Counseling Services & The Resolution Center

PERSONAL: NNY Women Who Lead; Remarkable Women of the North Country; and NNY Business 20 Under 40 Emerging Leader

How did a Foundation scholarship help you on your educational journey? Not only did it help me financially to support my college journey paying for books, but the process was impactful as well. I remember having to write an essay

about how I planned to make an impact in my community, and I remember I wrote about how I planned to open my own accounting business on the Square and support other people with their business journeys. Looking back on the experience is an amazing reflection to see how far I have come. While I do operate my own accounting firm, I do so virtually and not on the Square, but I do various other efforts to make a positive impact on the Square and our local community.

How can we best lead younger generations to be involved in their communities? By inviting them to be involved in our community through boards, apprentice programs, volunteer opportunities, and just including them in discussions to get their input. I believe giving them a platform and respecting them while also encouraging and pushing them in an empowering way will make a huge impact.

See **EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT** on page 30

What's your story?

INVESTING IN EDUCATION:

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

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL: YOUR GIFTS DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL GRANTS

The Youth Philanthropy Council of the Northern New York Community Foundation made the following grant awards to local nonprofits during its 2024-25 program year:

Compassionate Care Foundation, Dexter, \$10,000 to provide therapies for up to 10 patients during or after treatment. The Foundation facilitates integrative therapies for cancer patients, working alongside traditional medicine to support mind, body, and spirit. Services are provided in partnership with Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center's Richard E. Winter Cancer Center, Samaritan Medical Center's Walker Center for Cancer Care, and Cancer Connects.

Hospice Foundation of Jefferson County, Watertown, \$5,000 to support its new Wave Riders of Hope initiative, an adolescent grief support program slated to launch this fall at Watertown High School. Grant funding will support a pilot program and help develop outreach materials for other local schools.

ACT Children's Theatre, Ogdensburg, \$4,000 to support licensing fees and script rights, costumes, props, and set materials for upcoming shows. Founded in 2014, it is St. Lawrence County's only nonprofit children's theatre. Stage productions are held in the fall with grades kindergarten through six and in the spring with grades seven through 12.

Children's Home of Jefferson County (CHJC), Watertown, \$3,000 to help purchase local produce, workshop materials, and educational resources to deepen the understanding of healthy, sustainable living through its Seed to Supper initiative. CHJC operates the SoZo Teen Center as a safe and supportive drop-in center for youth in grades seven through 12.

Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, Watertown, \$3,000 to support its Off the Floor Fund, which helps survivors purchase new beds and bed frames, addressing a critical need for comfort, dignity, and healing. Grant funding will help to secure safe, stable sleeping arrangements for individuals and families beginning new chapters in their lives.



HOSPICE FOUNDATION GRANT: Council representatives recently presented a \$5,000 Youth Philanthropy Council grant to the **Hospice Foundation of Jefferson County** to support its new "Wave Riders of Hope" initiative. The adolescent grief support program will launch at **Watertown High School** this fall. Pictured, from left: **Tina Lane**, **Watertown City School District** assistant superintendent for personnel and student services; 2025-2026 Council Chair **April Wang**, Watertown High, and 2025-2026 Council Secretary **Julia Tontarski**, Immaculate Heart Central; **Kathy Arendt**, Hospice director of foundation operations & development; and **Janetta Brown**, Hospice bereavement counselor & youth educator.

The Youth Philanthropy Council of the Northern New York Community Foundation's Class of 2024-2025 recently awarded \$25,000 in grant funding to five tri-county nonprofit organizations that will support a wide range of community programs and projects.

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

The Council received 18 funding proposals for this program year with six agencies invited to present requests to the full Council.

Council Chair **Hannah Eldridge**, a second-year member and 2025 Watertown High School graduate, said the Council had many meaningful applications this year.

"I am impressed and proud of the work that

has been done on the Youth Philanthropy Council this year. Each application we received was extremely impactful," Ms. Eldridge said. "Our Council has chosen through deep conversation and careful consideration to grant organizations that will make an exceptional impact on our community."

Council Vice Chair **Ella Smith**, a third-year member and 2025 Watertown High School graduate, said she and her peers "selected five organizations with the utmost confidence that each of their projects will create a lasting impact and reach the unique needs in the communities they serve."

In addition, Council members in December awarded grant support to five regional nonprofits to strengthen their respective work and missions. The **Maple Ridge Center**, Lowville, **New Beginnings Clothing and Food Outreach**, Madrid, the **Thousand Islands Arts Center**, Clayton, the **Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund**, Clayton, and the **South Jefferson Rescue Squad**, Adams, each received \$1,000.

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



Watertown Savings Bank



Wealth Management

Mart Liinve Fund

Timberman Family Fund

THOUGHTFUL YOUTH

BRIGHT FUTURES

**YOUR GIFTS HELP DEVELOP THE NEXT GENERATION
TO ENSURE OUR COMMUNITIES REMAIN VIBRANT**

The Community Foundation's **Youth Philanthropy Council** Class of 2025 had the largest number of seniors the Council has ever graduated. We asked each graduating Council member to share their most memorable lessons from their service. Below, and on the pages that follow, are their answers. By empowering

youth through active involvement in investing in the place they live, we hope our region will be better positioned for the future. This year's graduates come from, **General Brown, Lyme, and South Jefferson** central schools, and **Watertown High School**. Most graduates served two or more years.



// YPC has built my confidence and extended my knowledge of our community. I have learned so much about philanthropy and the nonprofit community and have grown a passion to lead, which I hope to continue in college.

**Hannah
Eldridge**

— Watertown High School; 2 years Council service; Hobart and William Smith Colleges; public health; health care administrator

// I have learned that anyone with a mission to improve the community can be philanthropic. Volunteering and being aware of the impact that community organizations have plays a big role in contributing toward community.

**Rosamond
Hunt**

— Lyme High School; 2 years Council service; Jefferson Community College, natural science; animal sciences



// Council service taught me the value of collaboration, active listening, and community-driven decision-making. I learned how to assess community needs and grant proposals, and make thoughtful, impactful choices that reflect empathy and responsibility.

**Lillian
Jareo**

— Watertown High School; 1 year Council service; University at Buffalo, biomedical sciences; pediatrician



YPC mission and vision

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

Continued on next page

YPC — Did you know?

■ Since **2010**, the Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council has awarded **155** grants totaling **\$285,070** in support to nonprofit organizations that serve tri-county residents, and nearly **170 students** from **eight different North Country high schools** have served as Council members.



Support the YPC endowment

■ To contribute to the Youth Philanthropy Council Endowment Fund, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or visit **nnycf.org** for secure online giving.

THOUGHTFUL YOUTH



“ YPC developed my self-confidence and gave me a chance to meet students from other districts. In addition to new friends, I learned about so many more fantastic organizations within the community that I never knew existed.

Vincent Knapp

— Watertown High School; 2 years Council service; Le Moyne College, biology; dentist

“ Learning how to respectfully and efficiently work with others while advocating for your side is one of the most important skills I learned. Through meaningful professional discussion, we always reached a fair compromise.

Colden Marks

— General Brown High School; 2 years Council service; Virginia Tech; chemical engineering; chemical engineer



“ YPC has shaped the way I view leadership and service, showing me the power of collaboration, listening, and thoughtful action. I'll carry these lessons into my career and community, striving to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact.

Mia Mouaikel

— South Jefferson High School; 1 year Council service; Cornell University, biology & society; mental health care & research

“ Philanthropy isn't just about giving money; it's about building relationships, listening to real needs, and collaborating for long-term change. YPC showed me that philanthropy isn't just for wealthy individuals or big organizations.

Bennett Pistner

— Watertown High School; 2 years Council service; Penn State University, mechanical engineering; return to NNY and better my community with my degree



THOUGHTFUL YOUTH

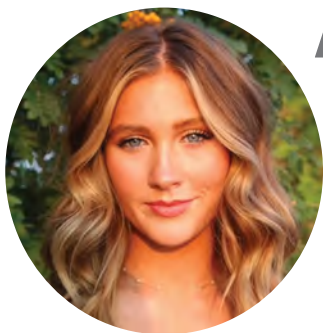


“ YPC has taught me lessons that I’ll never learn in the classroom. Everything, whether big or small, can help someone in our community. I have also learned to express opinions confidently, and I have become more selfless.

Anastaja Smith — Watertown High School; 2 years Council service; St. Lawrence University, biomedical science; pediatrician

“ YPC service has taught me that it’s okay to ask for help. As a very independent person, I often find myself struggling to ask for help. Our advisors taught me and our entire Council the importance of asking for help.

Ella Smith — Watertown High School; 3 years Council service; University at Albany, business administration; corporate lawyer



“ I love the support system that YPC has given me. I have met inspiring people who had an amazing influence on me. I plan to apply lessons learned in future endeavors through thoughtful dedication and meaningful ways to help people.

Finley Swartz — Watertown High School; 2 years Council service; Hobart and William Smith Colleges, pre-law; lawyer and eventually open my own law firm

“ I learned the importance of listening deeply, collaborating with diverse perspectives, and making decisions that balance immediate needs with long-term impact. YPC gave me an inside look at how nonprofits serve our communities.

Sienna Virga — Watertown High School; 2 years Council service; University of Virginia, commerce; marketing executive



2025-26 Grant opportunity

■ The Community Foundation's **Youth Philanthropy Council** will accept 2025-26 funding proposals in the fall. Contact **Emily Pfeil**, Community Foundation philanthropy associate, **315-782-7110**, or **emily@nnycf.org**, to learn more about how to apply for up to \$25,000 in support. Youth Philanthropy Council grants are not limited to youth programs.



Inspired by what you read here?

Join us. Make a difference. Give to the **Community Foundation** and support the many nonprofits featured in these pages. Together, Foundation donors strengthen quality of life for everyone. Visit **nnycf.org** to learn how you can make a difference today.

Bequest leaves gift to 'help where need is greatest'

Mary Antonene "Toni" Silliman and her husband, **Loron E. Silliman Jr.**, shared a quiet but powerful commitment to strengthening the place they called home. As longtime Community Foundation donors, they believed deeply in the value of giving to improve the quality of life for their neighbors.

For more than two decades, Toni served as an assistant librarian at Watertown's Knickerbocker School, where she encouraged countless children in their love of reading and learning. Loron, a proud U.S. Army veteran and former vice president of engineering at New York Air Brake, dedicated his professional life to innovation while devoting his personal life to family and community.

Toni and Loron's lives reflected service, humility, and generosity. When Loron

passed away in 2020, followed by Toni in 2024, their legacy of care did not end. Through their wills, they each chose to leave enduring gifts to the community they loved. By making their bequests unrestricted, they ensured their support would have the broadest impact, both today and in the years to come.

Earlier this year, when the Foundation received their gifts, their daughter **Lori Larson** noted how, "It would please my parents knowing their support went to where the need is greatest."

We are profoundly grateful for Toni and Loron's foresight and generosity. Their story is a lasting example of how an unrestricted bequest empowers the Community Foundation to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities, ensuring that legacies of care continue for generations.



Mary Antonene "Toni" Silliman and Loron E. Silliman Jr.

Devoted nurse will aid students on paths to become caregivers

Sally M. Marra devoted her professional life to caring for others, guiding patients and families through some of their most difficult moments with compassion and skill. With determination, she pursued a degree later in life, graduating with honors from Jefferson Community College.

Sally began her career at The House of the Good Samaritan in Watertown, where she was



known for her warmth and kindness. She continued her work at Spring Hill Regional Hospital in Hudson, Fla., touching the lives of countless patients until her retirement. Her dedication to nursing reflected not only her professionalism but also her deep belief in service, empathy, and the power of care to make a

difference. When Sally passed away in May, her family sought a way to honor the values that

defined her life. They chose to create the **Sally M. Marra Nursing Scholarship** at the Community Foundation. By supporting future nursing students, the scholarship will extend Sally's legacy of compassion and commitment, helping others follow the path she so fully embraced.

To join others in helping build the **Sally M. Marra Nursing Scholarship**, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation**, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601, or access secure online giving at nnycf.org.

CLAYTON OPERA HOUSE MEETS MATCH, BUILDS ENDOWMENT



The **Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund** at the **Clayton Opera House** earlier this summer presented "Ann Hampton Callaway — Finding Beauty" as its 2025 endowment fundraiser.

Proceeds from the show exceeded their goal and will help build TIPAF's endowment fund at the Community Foundation to ensure the organization continues its work and mission for years to come.

The Community Foundation matched \$10,000 in gifts to support the fundraiser. With the match, TIPAF added nearly \$23,000 to its endowment fund.

The organization established a permanent endowment at the Foundation in 2011 to help plan for its future.

Julie Garnsey, right, Clayton Opera House executive director, presents a \$12,737 check to **Emily Pfeil**, Community Foundation philanthropy associate, for the endowment fund.

Cape Vincent Arts Council invests in future through Community Foundation partnership

For more than 25 years, the **Cape Vincent Arts Council** has connected residents and visitors with the arts. Now, with the creation of two charitable funds at the Community Foundation, the organization is securing its future while strengthening its mission.

In December, the **Dr. William James Grant Fund** and the **Cape Vincent Arts Council Endowment Fund** were established at the Foundation. Both will help sustain annual programs while ensuring long-term stability for the Arts Council.

"The funds ensure we can deliver exciting art and music programs with confidence in our financial future," Arts Council President **Liz Brennan** said. "We're grateful to all who made this possible."

The **Dr. William James Grant Fund** was launched with a \$57,000 lead gift from the **Dr. William James Grant Trust**. This restricted fund supports the **Thousand Islands International Piano Competition for Young People**, founded in 2004 by Dr. Grant and CVAC. Now in its 22nd year, the three-round competition welcomes pianists from around the world to Cape Vincent to perform works by Chopin, Bach, and other masters in a setting



overlooking the St. Lawrence River.

The **Arts Council Endowment Fund** was seeded with a \$25,000 grant from **The Lily Fund**. To help build it, the Community Foundation and The Lily Fund each committed an additional \$15,000 to offer a **\$30,000 matching challenge** to inspire community support. Gifts to the endowment will be matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling donors' impact.

By partnering with the Community Foundation to steward these funds,

the Arts Council gains a trusted resource to manage charitable giving, grow its capacity, and ensure its programs enrich Cape Vincent for generations.

"The Foundation's support boosts our reputation, attracts new partners, and affirms that the Arts Council is secure in its mission," Mrs. Brennan said. "As these funds grow, so does our ability to bring the arts to our community, sustaining both our cultural vitality and local economy."

A CLASSICAL MASTERWORK:
Sophia Ou, 10, of Great Neck, performs during last year's **Thousand Islands International Piano Competition for Young People** in Cape Vincent.

Photo courtesy Watertown Daily Times



Double your gift

To help build the **Cape Vincent Arts Council Endowment Fund**, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation**, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601, or access secure online giving at nnycf.org. For a limited time, all gifts to this fund will be matched, dollar-for-dollar.

Donors Establish New Funds

Donors frequently establish new funds at the Community Foundation. We manage a wide range of more than 1,100 funds that support hundreds of organizations and causes. We are honored that donors continue to place their trust in us to administer these resources and carry out specific charitable objectives. Donors may make additional gifts to help extend support and build these funds.

Designated Funds

Dr. William James Grant Fund for Cape Vincent Arts Council
North Country Bird Conservation Fund
Opportunity Charitable Fund

Field of Interest Funds

Antwerp Children's Services Fund
Deacon Bruce W. Daugherty Memorial Fund
James Greenwood Charitable Fund
Northern New York Community Foundation Fund for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Organization Funds

Cape Vincent Arts Council Endowment Fund
Children's Home of Jefferson County Endowment Fund
Children's Home of Jefferson County Sustaining Fund
Hammond Presbyterian Church Founders Memorial Fund
Northern New York Library Network Sustaining Fund
Sackets Harbor Central School Backpack Program Fund
Sherri L. Smith Birds Rise Above It All Fund
St. Joseph's Foundation Sustaining Fund
Town of Watertown Ambulance Service Endowment Fund

Project Funds

Beaver River Central School Recognition Fund
Coach Steve Fisher Memorial Statue Fund
Jefferson County Revolutionary War Monument Fund
Paw and Order Animal Rescue Fund
Sackets Harbor Community Project Fund

Scholarship Funds

Amanda Stickel Accounting Scholarship
Barbara Schnauber Landon Music Scholarship
Cathleen Freeman Memorial Scholarship
Danny Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Hon. Eugene Langone Jr. Scholarship
Frank Avallone Jr. Scholarship
General Brown Performing Arts Booster Club Scholarship
Glenn "Stub" Heise Memorial Scholarship
Harrison S. Horning Scholarship
Jaybird Memorial Fund
Judith A. Converse Memorial Scholarship
Kiwanis Club of Boonville Scholarship
Law Enforcement Appreciation Scholarship
Ruth E. Seaman Scholarship
Shawn M. Baker Memorial Scholarship
Sue Gwise Scholarship for the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program

What do you believe in? Consider establishing a fund to keep your passions alive, honor a friend or loved one, or to support the causes, organizations and communities that you care about — forever. We're here to help. Contact Max DelSignore, vice president, 315-782-7110, or max@nnycf.org.



THE DIFFERENCE YOUR GIFTS MAKE

Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge

Grant recipients & winning students

"Ogdensburg library is an amazing place that greatly benefits our community. It provides people with a variety of resources, engages with the community.

The staff are nice and they help students and adults to read more and use their imaginations."

— Olivia Nowell, Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner



OGDENSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY: Executive Director **Penny Kerfien**, left, and Lisbon Central School student Youth Giving Challenge winner **Olivia Nowell**.

"The SPCA helps the community by protecting animals and, in turn, the community adopts them into safe homes. This connectivity between the SPCA and the community shows how strong the ties are and how beloved they are in our community."

— Jolene He, Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner



JEFFERSON COUNTY SPCA: Medical Director **Janea Bartlett**, dog Stone, and General Brown Central School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner **Jolene He**.

"The YMCA gives kids opportunities to take care of their well-being while teaching responsibility, leadership, teamwork and, most importantly, to have fun. The Watertown Family YMCA proves to me that my community is a good place to live, work, and play."

— Lola Johnson, Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner



WATERTOWN FAMILY YMCA : From left: YMCA CEO **Shawna Cutuli**, Watertown City School District student and Youth Giving Challenge winner **Lola Johnson**, and Fairgrounds YMCA Branch Director **Paul Passino**.

"Canton Free Library embodies many traits that allow a community to thrive. It has some terrific clubs like Lego, Chess, Anime, and Reading clubs, the new Art Club, and more. I also appreciate the library for its support of my intellectual growth."

— Li Lin, Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge winner



CANTON FREE LIBRARY: From left: Children's Library Coordinator **Valerie White**, Canton Central School student and Youth Giving Challenge winner **Li Lin**, and Library Director **Emily Owen Hastings**.

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 Annual Community Betterment Fund, a leadership gift from an anonymous donor, and generous support from the following business leader:


**Community
Bank**

2018-2025 Program Partner

New charitable fund will help honor Revolutionary War vets

Jefferson County Legislator and Town of Champion farmer **John Peck** recently established the **Jefferson County Revolutionary War Monument Fund** at the Community Foundation to help create a lasting tribute to the area's earliest veterans. The monument will honor Patriot Soldiers of the Revolutionary War who later settled in Jefferson County and its towns, many of whom are buried here.

The effort is part of a larger vision to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in July 2026. A committee is working toward dedicating the monument in Watertown during the summer of 2026, ensuring future generations

remember the sacrifices of these early settlers. More than 350 names of known Patriot Soldiers buried in Jef-

ferson County have been compiled through the efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, local historical and genealogy societies, and dedicated family researchers.

Mr. Peck's decision to partner with the Foundation ensures gifts for this project will be stewarded locally and used to bring this vision to life. Community members are invited to make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or access secure online giving at nnycf.org.



WILLIAM I. GRAF AWARD HONORS ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE



A pair of **Watertown High School** seniors were recognized in June as the top graduating athletes and the 2025 recipients of the coveted **William I. Graf Award**.

Samantha G. Booth was selected as the women's recipient, and **Jack Adams** was named as this year's men's honoree.

Samantha will attend Creighton University this fall to study psychology on a pre-med track with a minor in behavioral cognitive neuroscience. She aspires to practice medicine as a psychiatrist. Samantha is the daughter of **Laureen** and **Sam Booth**, Watertown.

Jack will attend Le Moyne College this fall to study business and continue his athletic career on the Dolphins NCAA Division I lacrosse team. He aspires to work in finance. Jack is the son of **Amy** and **Ed Adams**, Watertown.

The **Italian-American Civic Association**

established the **William I. Graf Award** in 1954 to honor Mr. Graf's leadership and civic engagement in the community. Mr. Graf was a multi-sport coach and athletic director at **Watertown High School**.

Since 1954, 125 Watertown High School athletes have been named recipients of the **William I. Graf Award**. View a list of all past Watertown High School recipients online at bit.ly/Graf-All-Time.

Pictured, from left: **Lee "Gus" Murray** and **Phyllis Johnson**; **Samantha Booth** and **Jack Adams**; Italian-American Civic Association resident and William I. Graf Award Selection Committee Chairman **Michael Lettiere**, and Italian-American Civic Association Immediate Past President **James P. Scordo**. Phyllis Johnson is William I. Graf's daughter and Lee "Gus" Murray is Mr. Graf's nephew.

Double your gift: Twice the impact with matching challenges

We are presently doubling gifts for some of our nonprofit partners. **Each gift designated to the respective organization's Community Foundation fund will be matched, dollar-for-dollar.** This is a meaningful opportunity to provide long-term support for an organization you care deeply about. This is a gift that is both immediate and lasting and will provide twice the impact.

Endowment Funds

Cape Vincent Arts Council Endowment Fund
Cape Vincent Village Green Endowment Fund
Church and Community Program Endowment Fund
Densmore Church Endowment Fund
Friends of Thompson Park Endowment Fund
Grasse River Heritage Endowment Fund
Hawn Memorial Library Endowment Fund
Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley Endowment Fund
Jazz in the Classroom of Jefferson County Endowment Fund
Jefferson County Historical Society Endowment Fund
Lyme Free Library Endowment Fund
North Country Public Radio Endowment Fund
Save The River Endowment Fund
Sherri L. Smith Birds Rise Above It All Fund
St. Lawrence County Arts Council Endowment Fund
Stage Notes Endowment Fund
The Nature Conservancy — Adirondack Chapter Endowment Fund
Thompson Park Conservancy / Zoo New York
Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY) Endowment Fund
Wanakena Historical Association Endowment Fund
Watertown Community Fund
Watertown Lyric Theater Endowment Fund
Wilderness Healthcare Foundation Endowment Fund (Clifton-Fine Hospital)

Operating & Project Funds

Zoo New York Animal Wellness Fund

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

YOUR GIFTS HELP BUILD CHILDCARE CAPACITY

EXPANDING CHILDCARE CAPACITY:

Right and below:
Toddlers play in the
newly reopened
"Waddler Room" at
**New Day Children's
Center** in Watertown
during a grand-opening
celebration in July.

Kara Dry Photography
/ For Thoughtful Giving



Foundation grant support helps expand childcare capacity in community

Recent Community Foundation grant funding is helping **New Day Children's Center** welcome more families back into childcare in Watertown.

With \$12,500 in support, including \$7,500 from the **CAR-FRESHNER Corporation Charitable Fund** and \$2,000 from the **Jefferson Economic Development Fund**, New Day reopened its long-closed "Waddler Room," serving children ages 12 to 24 months. The funding also helped furnish and equip classrooms with cribs, mealtime chairs, changing tables, teacher workstations, and developmentally appropriate learning materials.



The changes unlock eight new childcare slots, advance infants into a new classroom at 12 months instead of 18, and establish two separate

classrooms for 2-year-olds. The result: shorter waiting lists for infant care and tailored spaces that better support early learning.

Childcare access is often a critical barrier for parents returning to work and for local employers seeking staff. By expanding classroom capacity, New Day is helping meet both needs.

"Thanks to grant support from the Community Foundation and the **CAR-FRESHNER Corporation Charitable Fund**, we were able to purchase furnishings and educational toys for our waddler and toddler classrooms," said **Susan Gibson**, executive director.

"This project could not have been accomplished without the Community Foundation and CAR-FRESHNER understanding our vision to expand and help more families access childcare. We will be forever grateful."

— Susan Gibson, New Day Children's Center executive director



CAR-FRESHNER Corporation Charitable Fund

■ Since it was established at the Community Foundation in December, the fund has awarded \$55,500 in grant funding to nearly a dozen nonprofits to support educational initiatives in the region, including:

Canton Day Care Center
Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County
Constable Hall Association
Hay Memorial Library
Lowville Academy and Central School
Lyme Central School
North Country Children's Museum
Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library
Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY)

YOUR GIFTS CREATE PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS



Grant funding enables new community playground at Theresa Memorial Park

A pair of Community Foundation grants totaling \$4,000 recently helped the **Theresa Youth Commission** equip a new playground at **Theresa Memorial Park**.

Grant funding includes \$2,000 in support from the **Wilcox Community Fund for Theresa** and \$2,000 from the Community Foundation's **Micro Grants Program**.

The Community Foundation has a long history of funding improvements to public parks and spaces, with grants supporting nearly two-dozen park and playground projects in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties in recent years.

Theresa Youth Commission President **Kristopher Ryder** said grant funding from the Foundation helped the project succeed.

"Because of your generous support, this legacy project was made possible for our community," Mr. Ryder said.



"On behalf of the Youth Commission's Playground Committee, thank you for helping with this important effort."

Theresa's new playground includes an area alongside it that features benches, tables and landscaping for the community to enjoy. The project

provides a dedicated space for families and youth to engage in outdoor activities, fostering community pride and strengthening the quality of life in Theresa.

The Theresa Youth Commission was established in 2022 to create more opportunities for youth and families and recently became an independent nonprofit organization.

The Youth Commission sought support from the Foundation after it raised the

majority of funding it needed through individual donations.

The project is part of a wider revitalization effort that includes restoring tennis and basketball courts, adding walking trails, benches, pavers, trees, and other landscaping.

SAFE PUBLIC SPACES STRENGTHEN QUALITY OF LIFE:

Top left and bottom: Children enjoy a new playground and recreation area that opened in **Theresa Memorial Park** behind the Theresa Fire Department in June. Community Foundation grant funding helped acquire playground equipment at the park.

Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving

Parks & playgrounds strengthen quality of life

■ Through several grant awards in recent years across our region, the Community Foundation has invested in public park improvements to strengthen the quality of life for all, including:

- **Alexandria Bay Village Playground**, Watertown
- **Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Playground**, Watertown
- **Augustinian Academy Playground**, Carthage
- **Carthage Community Kids World Playground**
- **Canton Village Park**
- **Deferiet Playground**
- **Erwin Park**, Boonville
- **Fish Island Park**, Dexter
- **Garner Park**, Potsdam
- **Gouverneur Village Park**
- **Grasse River Heritage Park**, Canton
- **Hand In Hand Playground**, Lowville
- **Ives Park**, Potsdam
- **Lucy Colello Playground**, Sherman Elementary, Watertown
- **New Day Children's Center Playground**, Watertown
- **Santway Park**, Theresa
- **St. James School Playground**, Gouverneur
- **Brasher-Stockholm Recreation Park**
- **Thompson Park**, Watertown
- **Veterans Memorial Park**, Lowville
- **Village of Adams Community Park**
- **Village Park**, Lowville

A photograph of two women wearing white hard hats standing in front of a large wooden frame under construction. The woman on the left is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark pants, and is leaning against a wooden beam. The woman on the right is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved button-down shirt and white pants, and is gesturing with her hands. The background shows a clear blue sky and other construction elements like a ladder and a concrete wall.

"The arts center has had a decades-long partnership with the Northern New York Community Foundation, and we share common goals, among them to improve the quality of life for North Country citizens by enriching the art and cultural experiences in the north country."

— Kathryn B. Elliott, TIAC Board of Trustees chair

PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE

A new home for the ARTS ON THE RIVER

Community Foundation support helps advance Thousand Islands Arts Center capital project

Grant support totaling \$250,000 will help the Thousand Islands Arts Center complete its new campus project, which includes construction of a new museum and arts center in the village.

The Foundation will provide a \$150,000 grant in support of the Arts Center's capital campaign with an additional \$50,000 awarded as the campaign reaches certain benchmarks. An additional \$50,000 will be added to TIAC's endowment fund at the Community Foundation.

"The arts center has had a decades-long partnership with the Northern New York Community Foundation, and we share common goals, among them to improve the quality of life for North Country citizens by enriching the art and cultural experiences in the north country," Kathryn B. Elliott, TIAC Board of Trustees chairwoman said. "We are extremely grateful to the Community Foundation for this

very generous grant."

Construction began in 2024 on a new building for the Arts Center, also home of the Handweaving Museum.

The \$5.1 million project was announced in June of 2023 after \$2 million grant funding from New York State was received. The new building site, 321 James St., is directly behind the present Arts Center and was the home of Finders Keepers, a TIAC-affiliated resale store. Construction is expected to be completed in spring 2026.

The project has the potential to be transformational for the arts center and will position it as a hub for the advancement of arts and culture in the region. The Community Foundation grant builds upon its past investment in the Arts Center's work while helping to propel it forward to reach its goal and provide long-term support of its mission through an endowment partnership.



SHAPING THE FUTURE: Above, left: **Leslie Rowland**, project manager for the new arts center and museum, reviews architectural drawings with **Sarah Riddoch**, **Thousand Islands Arts Center** executive director. Left page: **Leslie Rowland** and **Sarah Riddoch** on the site of the new arts center and museum.



Help build the Arts Center's endowment

The **Thousand Islands Arts Center** established a permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation in 2014 to help plan for its future. To help build the fund, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation**, **131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or access secure online giving at **nnycf.org**.

YOUR GIFTS STRENGTHEN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE: From left: **South Lewis High School** Counseling Office Secretary **Tonya Bronson**; **South Lewis Central School District** Superintendent **Douglas Premo**; South Lewis High School senior **Lydia Phelps**, Class of 2025 secretary; senior **Hunter Burrows**, Class of 2025 treasurer; senior **MacCoy Maciejko**, Class of 2025 president; senior **Noah Dailey**, Class of 2025 vice president; South Lewis High School Counselor **Julie Burmingham**; and South Lewis High School Counselor **Jessica Hastwell**.



Schools rise to the 'Challenge'

Four tri-county districts earn share of \$5,000 in grants

Scholarship program / 2025 impact

1,157

Number of scholarships awarded

\$1.56m

Total amount awarded to all students

743

Number of individual students supported

\$2,100

Average award per student

Four school districts across Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties were named winners of the Community Foundation's **Class of 2025 Scholarship Challenge** and earned a share of \$5,000 in funding.

Three districts — one in each county the Foundation serves — each received a \$1,000 grant and a fourth was awarded the top Scholarship Challenge grant of \$2,000.

Lewis County's **South Lewis Central School District** is the top grant winner with 32 percent of its seniors submitting scholarship applications.

"We appreciate all the work the Community Foundation team put into making this scholarship completion campaign so successful," South Lewis High School Counselor **Julie Burmingham** said.

Winning school districts receiving a \$1,000 grant are: Jefferson County's **LaFargeville Central School** with 56 percent of its seniors submitting applications; Lewis County's **Copenhagen Central School** with 50 percent of its seniors submitting applications; and St. Lawrence County's **Lisbon Central School** with 37 percent of its seniors submitting applications.

Schools selected for grant awards were chosen at random during two Facebook Live events. Grant funding may be used to support a schoolwide initiative or project chosen by each school's senior class officers.

This year's challenge sought to inspire greater participation in the Foundation's scholarship program from the Class of 2025 and give schools a chance to earn grant

support for on-campus programs or student-led initiatives.

The Foundation's scholarship program supports graduating seniors pursuing further education — whether at an accredited college, university, technical, or trade school.

The Scholarship Challenge was open to all tri-county schools. To be eligible, schools had to achieve at least 25 percent participation from their senior class in submitting scholarship applications by the March 15 deadline.

Throughout the challenge, the Foundation reported progress at the end of each week on its Facebook and Instagram channels.

A record **24 percent**, or **604** of the 2,472 members of the Class of 2025 from the three counties applied for scholarship support this year.



Copenhagen Central School



Lisbon Central School



LaFargeville Central School

MICHAEL ROUKOUS LINEMAN SCHOLAR



Jon A. Hirschey is the inaugural recipient of the Community Foundation's **Michael J. Roukous Lineman Scholarship**. A veteran New York State corrections officer, Jon began a four-month program at the Kingston, N.Y.-based **Lineman Institute of the North East** in September.

The pre-apprentice electrical lineman training program prepares students for real-world utility and power line work through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on field training.

"I am grateful for this support from the Roukous family and the Community Foundation," Jon said. "Becoming a lineman is a career that will enable me to financially support my family, allow me to be in a safer working environment, and be rewarding."

The **Michael J. Roukous Lineman Scholarship** was established at the Community Foundation after Michael's unexpected passing in September 2024 in South Carolina. A Northern New York native and General Brown High School and SUNY Potsdam graduate, Michael fulfilled his lifelong dream to become a lineman at age 29, graduating from the North American Lineman Training Center in Tennessee in August 2024. To honor his life and generous heart, his family hopes the scholarship in his memory will enable future linemen to fulfill their dreams like Michael. Jon is pictured with Michael's mother, **Michelle Roukous**.

Next Step Education Program expands learning opportunities

The Community Foundation recently launched the **Next Step Education Program** to help adult learners and working professionals advance their education and careers. It continues the Foundation's tradition of investing in local people and their potential. Open to residents of Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties, awards of up to \$2,000 may support tuition, books, and course-related expenses.



Next Step provides flexible support for many pathways, including: College or university degrees; Trade and technical training in high-demand fields; Micro-credentials and professional certifications; Career-skill courses, such as Microsoft Office; Professional licensing (CDL, industry certifications); and Programs at local BOCES campuses.

The program is designed for those who have paused their education, are seeking new career paths, or want to strengthen their career skills to stay competitive.

Applications are accepted year-round and reviewed every 30 days. Learn more and apply: nnycf.org/scholarships/next-step or email **Mary Perrine**, maryp@nnycf.org or **Tara Hess**, tara@nnycf.org.



Kara Dry Photography

Herring College Memorial Trust: A family legacy for education

For nearly half a century, the **Herring College Memorial Scholarship** has opened doors to higher education for students in Jefferson and Lewis counties. As a Community Foundation supporting organization, it has awarded more than \$4.5 million in scholarships since 1978.

The fund traces its roots to Rodman native **William P. Herring**, an influential figure in Northern New York's paper industry during the late 1800s. Hoping to leave a lasting impact on the region, he worked to establish opportunities for future generations. In 1915, just months before his death, the New York State Legislature created "Herring College" in Watertown. While Herring envisioned a new campus, resources were never sufficient to build it, and the college remained simply a legal entity for more than 60 years.

His daughter, **Pauline H. Dillenback**, helped



William Prosser Herring



Pauline Herring Dillenback

sustain her father's vision. At her passing in 1971, at age 103, she left most of her estate to preserve the Herring College legacy, ensuring that her family's philanthropic spirit would endure.

In 1978, the courts determined the most practical way to honor Mr. Herring's original intent was to maintain the Herring College Memorial Trust as a supporting organization to

the then Watertown Foundation. Through this relationship, scholarships would be awarded annually to those seeking college-level education in the "chemical or mechanical arts."

Since then, the fund has awarded scholarships to students pursuing studies in math, science, engineering, and related fields while a portion of the annual amount also supports community projects consistent with the activities of a college located in Watertown.

Today, the **Herring College Memorial Trust** provides \$100,000 annually for scholarships and community efforts. In 2024 alone, 48 students received tuition assistance through the fund.

Thanks to the foresight of the Herring and Dillenback families, this legacy continues to transform lives across Northern New York, proof of how one family's charitable vision can strengthen a region for generations.

THOUGHTFUL DONORS

LEGACY IN MOTION

TOOLEY FAMILY SCHOLARS



Indian River High School graduates **Katie Bleam**, **Lillian Walsh**, and **Kallie Delles** are the first recipients of the **Tooley Family Scholarship**. Katie, second from left, is attending **Jefferson Community College** this fall to study early childhood education. Katie is the daughter of **Jennifer** and **Kevin Bleam**, Philadelphia. Lillian, third from left, is attending **Onondaga Community College** this fall to study early childhood education. Lillian is the daughter of **Tricia** and **Jeffrey Walsh**, Hammond. Kallie, not pictured, is attending **Niagara University** this fall to study early childhood education. She is the daughter of **Brooke** and **Michael Delles**, Philadelphia. Each of the three students aspire to become teachers. Dartmouth, Mass., residents and Indian River High School graduates **Jim Tooley**, far left, and his wife, **Nancy**, far right, established the Tooley Family Scholarship in 2024 to support Indian River students pursuing education in social work, liberal arts, education, arts and music, or any helping field.

NANCY L. VECCHIO SCHOLARS



Brock McManaman, left, and **Katelyn L. Whitley**, center, are the first recipients of the Northern New York Community Foundation **Nancy L. Vecchio Memorial Scholarship**. Brock graduated in June from **General Brown High School**. He is attending **Ithaca College** this fall to study physical therapy. Brock is the son of **Heather** and **Shawn McManaman**, Watertown. Katelyn graduated in June from **South Jefferson High School** and is attending **SUNY Canton** this fall to study veterinary science. She is the daughter of **Michelle** and **Jim Whitley**. Nancy Vecchio's longtime friend, **Jennifer Williams**, right, established the Nancy L. Vecchio Memorial Scholarship in 2024 to honor Nancy's life and legacy. Each year, two Frontier League senior athletes — one male and one female — who embody Nancy's values of leadership, community service, and team spirit are awarded this honor.

ADELINE R. ORMSBY SCHOLAR



Lauren E. Bier is the first recipient of the Northern New York Community Foundation **Adeline R. Ormsby Memorial Scholarship**. Lauren is a 2023 **South Jefferson High School** graduate who is entering her junior year this fall at **St. Lawrence University** as a pre-medicine student. Lauren plans to continue her education in medical school to become a pediatrician. She is the daughter of **Erin** and **Jim Bier**, Calcium. The Adeline R. Ormsby Memorial Scholarship was established in 2022 to honor Adeline's life and legacy and support Jefferson County students pursuing studies in the medical or allied health fields. Adeline passed away just before her 9th birthday due to complications from a rare congenital heart defect. Her mother, **Jada Ormsby**, right, is pictured with Lauren.

PROFESSOR LINDA S. DENING SCHOLAR



Jonise Zehr, right, is the first recipient of the Northern New York Community Foundation **Professor Linda S. Dening Scholarship**. Jonise graduated in June from **Beaver River Central School** and is attending **Jefferson Community College** this fall to study business. She aspires to become an entrepreneur. Jonise is the daughter of **Shellie** and **Jared Zehr**, Croghan. The Professor Linda S. Dening Scholarship was established in 2023 to support students who are pursuing studies in business. **Linda Dening**, left, was a Professor of Accounting at Jefferson for 35 years, retiring in 2023.

THOUGHTFUL LEGACIES

STUDENTS EMBARK ON NEW PATHS, EACH MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE KINDNESS OF DONORS

HENRY 'TYKE' WOOD SCHOLAR



Thousand Islands High School graduate **Margaret R. Rork** is the first recipient of the **Henry "Tyke" Wood Memorial Scholarship**. Margaret is attending Jefferson Community College this fall to study psychology. She plans to continue her education at **SUNY Oswego** and eventually earn a master's degree. She aspires to become a child mental health counselor. She is the daughter of **Kristie Stumpf Rork** and **John Rork**, Cape Vincent. The Henry "Tyke" Wood Memorial Scholarship was established in 2024 to support Thousand Islands High School graduates who plan to continue their education. Like Henry, scholarship recipients should embody empathy and compassion. Pictured, from left: Henry's mother, **Patti Wood**; sister, **Missy Pallop**; scholarship recipient **Margaret Rork**, and Henry's father, **Joe Wood**.

DAVID SIMMONS SCHOLARS



Mia Kelly, Mia Mouaikel, and Finley Swartz are the first recipients of the Northern New York Community Foundation **David Simmons Scholarship**. Mia Kelly graduated in June from **Watertown High School** and is attending the **Fashion Institute of Technology**, New York City, this fall to study communications design. She is the daughter of **Jessica Hayden** and **Kevin Kelly**, Watertown. **Mia Mouaikel** graduated in June from **South Jefferson High School** and is attending **Cornell University** this fall to study biology and society and minor in theatre. She is the daughter of **Marlene Hajal Mouaikel** and **Cyril Mouaikel**, Watertown. **Finley** graduated in June from **Watertown High School** and is attending **Hobart and William Smith Colleges**, Geneva, this fall to study pre-law. She is the daughter of **Tricia** and **Christopher Swartz**, Watertown. To perpetuate David's legacy, local arts organizations established the David Simmons Scholarship in 2024. Pictured, from left, David's husband, **Scott Rennie**; scholarship recipients **Mia Kelly**, **Mia Mouaikel**, and **Finley Swartz**.

LEWIS & ANN KIBLING SCHOLAR



Kaleb McCargar is the Class of 2025 recipient of the Northern New York Community Foundation **Lewis and Ann Kibling Memorial Scholarship**. Kaleb graduated in June from **South Jefferson High School** and is attending **Utica College** this fall to study physical and health education. He aspires to work as a physical education teacher and football coach. He is the son of **Amber** and **Daniel McCargar**, Adams. The Lewis and Ann Kibling Memorial Scholarship was established at the Community Foundation in 2022 to provide support for graduating seniors pursuing a college degree in physical education or health studies. Like Lew and Ann, the recipient will have demonstrated good character and be a hard worker. Pictured, from left, **Lew Kibling**; **Sue Kibling Gallagher**; scholarship recipient **Kaleb McCargar**; **Sandy Kibling Drancsak**; and **Steve Kibling**.

MEDICAL SOCIETY HEALTHCARE SCHOLARS



Emeline Barton and Kole Badalato are the first recipients of the Northern New York Community Foundation **Medical Society of Jefferson County Healthcare Scholarship**. Emeline graduated in June from **LaFargeville High School** and is attending **Houghton University** this fall to study biology on a pre-med track. She aspires to practice medicine as a physician. She is the daughter of **Jennifer** and **Bradley Barton**, LaFargeville. Kole graduated in June from **South Jefferson High School**. He is attending **Syracuse University** this fall to study chemistry on a pre-med track. Kole aspires to practice medicine as an osteopathic physician. He is the son of **Becky** and **Todd Badalato**, Watertown. The Medical Society of Jefferson County Healthcare Scholarship was established in 2024 to support Jefferson County students pursuing studies in health care. **Dr. Robert O. Kimball**, MSJC president, center, is pictured with Emeline and Kole.



Robert Frost Asbury

Dr. **Robert Frost Asbury** lived a life of purpose, compassion, and service. A gifted physician and leader, Bob cared deeply for his patients, colleagues, and community. After graduating from Dartmouth and earning his medical degree at Harvard, Bob built a distinguished career in oncology. He served as a clinical professor at the University of Rochester Cancer Center and later became the founding president of Interlakes Oncology and Hematology. Bob gave generously of his time and talents, serving on boards and volunteering for organizations he believed in. With his wife, **Jody Cosgrove**, they supported various Community Foundation funds, including the **Asbury Family Fund** as well as the **Delos M. Cosgrove Jr. Memorial Scholarship**, established in memory of Jody's father. Both her father and grandfather served on the Foundation's board of directors. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Asbury family as we celebrate a life marked by generosity

and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Tribute gift in memory of
Robert Frost Asbury

Rande Richardson



Frank Joseph Avallone Jr.

Franks **Joseph Avallone Jr.** was deeply devoted to family, community, and country. Born in Carthage in 1948 as the eldest of six children, he grew up an accomplished athlete and played semi-professional baseball with the Watertown Royals. After attending Long Island University, Frank proudly served his nation for 26 years as an Army officer, both on active duty and as a reservist, retiring honorably in rank of major. In 1973, he married **Paula Sinicropi**, and together they raised two daughters and a son, sharing 52 years of marriage filled with love and partnership. Frank's greatest joys were his family, lifelong friendships, and his passion for baseball. A leader in his community, he devoted countless hours to coaching, teaching, and mentoring young athletes. Above all, he cherished time with his grandchildren, who were the center of his world. When Frank passed away in May, friends and family responded by establishing the **Frank Avallone Jr. Scholarship** at the Community Foundation to ensure his legacy of service, leadership, and love

continues. We extend our deepest sympathy to **Paula**, their children and extended family, and all who knew and loved Frank.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Frank Joseph Avallone Jr.

Al & Linda Amendolare
Anonymous
Chris Baggott
Mr. & Mrs. Pat & Marie
Biondolillo

Margo Brownfield
Richard J. & Betty J. Carroll
Bud Cole
Richard Edwards
Robert Fox
Mark Harper

Mr. & Mrs. Mike &
Becky Hoy
Lyn-Ann Verrengia Markie
Andrew McGillicuddy
Elizabeth Miner
(Aunt Betsy)

The Morelle Family
John Morgia
Bill Nordaby
Bryan & Susan ODell
Bill Reeves Jr.
Don & Linda Rigabar

Carole A. Rittler
Ralph & Lee Schiavone
Sara, Ryan & RJ Thomas
Henry & Ann Thompson
Dr. Lynn & Rachel Walsh
Jana Wineburg
WWEX Group



Judith Ann Converse

Judith **Ann Converse** gave her life to service, family, and community. Born in Potsdam in 1958 to Mary Abel and C. Robert Converse Sr., Judy graduated from Parishville-Hopkinton Central School and earned an accounting degree from Canton A.T.C. She began her career with a local CPA firm and later became office manager at Seaway Timber Harvesting, where her dedication and strong relationships made her a valuable team member. At just 18, Judy broke barriers as the first female member of the Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department and among the first women firefighters in St. Lawrence County. Judy cherished her family, enjoying close bonds with her siblings, years with her life companion **Bernard A. Smith**, and the joy of being an aunt. Yet her proudest role was as mother to her son, **Jason Smith**. When Judy passed in February, her family honored her life by establishing the **Judith A. Converse Memorial**

Scholarship at the Community Foundation. We are privileged to steward her legacy and extend our sympathy to her son and extended family as we celebrate her life of devotion and love.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Judith Ann Converse

Aunt Dottie & Uncle Steve
Linda Buchanan

Gerald & Karen Burkum
Don & Wendy Chambers
Tammy Frary
Larry Legault

The Loukass Family
Marjorie Meashaw
Anne Moomey
The Phillips Family



Raymond G. Green

Raymond **G. Green** cherished his family and community throughout his life of 76 years. Born in 1948, Ray graduated from Lowville Academy in 1966 and attended Syracuse University. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve for eight years. Ray built a successful career in the industrial construction industry, where he became known for his exceptional problem-solving skills. Ray was committed to his community, serving as a volunteer firefighter in Lowville. He married **Susan Steinaker**, and together, they raised a daughter and a son. When Ray passed away in February, his family directed tribute gifts in his memory to the Community Foundation. We share our deepest sympathies with his wife, and children and extended family as we celebrate a life well lived.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Raymond G. Green

Edward & Mary Earl
Deb & Mike Simser
Thomas J. Yousey II

DOUGLAS S. BRODIE 1933-2025

Douglas S. Brodie's love for his family, faith, and community showed in countless ways. He championed many causes while sharing his gifts with a wide range of organizations throughout his life of 91 years, including the Community Foundation. Doug served two terms on the Foundation's Board of Directors from 1999 to 2009. When he passed away in February, the region lost an advocate for many meaningful causes. Born in Le Roy, N.Y., a son to **Mary and Gordon Brodie**, he graduated from Le Roy High School and earned a bachelor's degree at Cornell University. Doug married **Mary Jane Mancuso McElroy** in 1977. Together, they raised three daughters and a son and celebrated 33 years of marriage before Mary Jane passed away in 2010. A career in banking brought him to Lewis County where he worked for National Bank of Northern New York in Lowville. After a



merger with Key Bank, Doug was named regional manager in Watertown. In 1991, he was promoted to president of the northern region and later appointed district administrator of the North Country, a position he held until he retired in 1994. Throughout his life he remained active in his community and was especially fond of many local charities and organizations, dedicating his time in service as a board member and volunteer. Doug also helped mentor many young people as a youth sports league coach and strong supporter of Lowville Academy's athletic programs. We express our heartfelt sympathy to Doug's family and friends as

we mourn his loss and celebrate his life and legacy. We are grateful for Doug's friendship, service, and community leadership.

Tribute gifts in memory of Douglas S. Brodie

Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson



Shawn M. Baker

Shawn M. Baker believed in people. As a teacher, coach, and longtime high school principal, he poured more than 30 years into guiding young men and women, leaving a memorable mark on thousands of North Country students. A proud North Sider, Shawn graduated from Immaculate Heart Central in 1971, where he was a standout three-sport athlete and later an IHC Hall of Fame inductee. After earning a degree in physical education from Ithaca College, he began teaching at the Union Academy at Belleville, where his classroom and coaching shaped minds and character. He later earned a master's degree in educational administration at St. Lawrence University. By 1984, he was principal, a role he held for 23 years at Belleville Henderson Central School. His leadership was steady and his encouragement constant. Shawn's greatest joy was his family. With his wife, **JoAnn**, he shared 45 years of marriage, raising a son and daughter and building countless friendships rooted in loyalty, laughter, and love of community. He never forgot his Irish

heritage or his North Side roots and was widely involved in his community, volunteering for several organizations that mattered most to him. When Shawn passed away unexpectedly in February, his family knew the best way to honor him was to keep his commitment to students alive. The **Shawn M. Baker Memorial Scholarship** at the Community Foundation now carries forward his lifelong belief in the power of education. We extend our deepest sympathies to Shawn's wife, children, and extended family as we celebrate a life of service that continues to inspire.

Tribute gifts in memory of Shawn M. Baker

Amy Abbate
Paul & Anne Adams
Bridgid Aini
John Allen Sanitation Service
Michael & Margaret Alteri
Fred & Judy Angel & Family
Anonymous (2)
The Family of Jean Bach
The Baker Cousins
Lindsay & Trevor Baldwin
Katherine Barber
Basement Friends at North
Michael W. & Debra A. Battista
John & Christine Bedard
Carl & Janna Bingle
Fred Blum
Joe Brabant
John & Cindy Bufalini
Anthony Burgess
Kathleen Burgess
Dawn M. Burns
Joseph M. Butler Sr.
Andrew & Michele Capone
Dan & Liz Cappon Family
Martin & Christine Capra
Allison Carlos
Sharon W. Carr
Maureen Cheney
Michael & Mary Craig

Joyce & David Crossley
Sara Daniels on behalf of
Lillian B. Johnson
Steven M. Daub
Daniel & Kelly Daugherty
John & Melanie Day
Tom & Nancy Delosh
Max & Sara DelSignore
Fr. John M. Demo Jr.
Tom & Ruth Desimone
Daniel S. Dickinson III &
Patricia M. Dickinson
Edward & Christine Doldo
The Draper Family
Georgia D. Dusckas
Nicholas & Katherine Dusckas
Juliana Eames
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Joe & Tina Fusco
Andrea & Scott Garrabratt
David Gebo (Proceeds
from Masters Challenge
fundraiser)
The Gebo Family
Fred Gill
Marion & Philip Goings
Diane Gould
The Guilford Family
Carol A. Heilman
Harvey Hochberg
Patricia Howell
Lynn Hunneyman

Timothy & Barbara Hunt
Tom & Sue Hunt
Bob Ike
Italian-American
Civic Association
Mark & Sandra Jamieson
Lisa Jeschawitz
Thaddeus & Susan Jones
JRW Auto Rental
Roger & Anelta Kent
Darryl King
Stephen Kowalick
Dick & Donna LaLonde
Mark & Joanne Lavarnway
James A. & Constance B. Leana
Peter & Christina Liberatos
Mary E. Loftus
Stephen & Korinna Magovney
Joe & Marianne Malatino
Mannsville Manor
Elementary School
Barbara & Douglas Marlow
Dan & Linda McNulty
Toni Miller
John H. & Jamie A. Moesel
Bill Montgomery
Michael & Kathryn Moran
Butch & Kay Morgia
Judith Morley
Marc Murphy Jr.

Marc R. & Susan Y. Murphy
David & Nancy Navarra
James & Patricia Newell
Barry M. & Elizabeth A. Ormsby
Elaine Overton
Ralph Overton
Frank A. & M. Jennifer Palumbo
Pete Pike / GNP
Development
Peter & Laurie Pike
Rande Richardson
Kurt & Maureen Robbins
Frank & Joanne Rhode
HTCM David A. Roy,
USN (Ret) & Diane J. Roy
Patti Scordo
Karen Souch
South Jefferson Teachers'
Association
Edward & Kathryn Southwell
Anne Spaziani
Jeff & Starr Stockwell
Bill & Teresa Stoodley
Sunday Morning Golf Group
Don Calarco
Tom Desimone
Joe Fiorentino
Frankie Gorri
Gene Hughes
Gerard Pacifici

David & Christine Thoma
The Thomas Family
Tuesday Golf Group
Mike Stratton
Joe Fusco
Dave Navarra
Paul Adams
Peter Pike
Ed Southwell
Frank Rhode
John Moesel
Steve Williamson
Bill Montgomery
John Bedard
Fred Gill
Paul Trimper & Sarah
Barden-Schantz
Pete & Ann Trowbridge
Susan Veley & Rockney
Maxon
Dorothy Vespa
Gerald & Glenda Wait
Mary Rose & John Warneck
Gary & Kim West
Todd & Sheryl Widrick
Stephen & Karen Williamson
Stephen & Janice Yorton



Bruce Wayne Daugherty

Service was the defining thread of **Bruce W. Daugherty's** life. For 20 years as a U.S. Army noncommissioned officer and 22 years as a Catholic deacon, he led with humility, faith, and devotion to others. Born in 1952 in Hastings, Neb., Bruce joined the Army in 1972 and retired as a Sergeant First Class in 1992. Along the way, he earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia College and a master's in counseling from SUNY Oswego. His service continued beyond the military, working as an adult protective worker for Jefferson County and later as a chaplain with New York State Corrections. In 1975, Bruce married **Elizabeth Yanaitis**, beginning 50 years of marriage rooted in love, faith, and family. Together, they raised a son and daughter who were his greatest source of joy. Ordained as a Catholic deacon in 2003, Bruce dedicated the next two decades to ministry, guiding others with compassion and steadfast faith. Though raised in the Midwest, Bruce made the North Country his true home, giving generously of his time and resources to causes close to his heart. To honor his legacy, Bruce's family established the **Deacon Bruce W. Daugherty Memorial Fund** at the Community Foundation. It will continue his life's mission — helping others grow, thrive, and find hope. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Bruce's wife, children, and extended family and friends as we celebrate a life that will continue to inspire for generations.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Bruce Wayne Daugherty**

Anonymous (2)
JoAnn Baker
Balaban, Cruz & Stifano
Families
Al & Sarah Bertman
Carl & Janna Bingle
Roger & Nancy Datoush

Bill & Bev Daubney
Daniel & Kelly Daugherty
Elizabeth Daugherty
Richard & Darla Davis
Tom & Ruth Desimone
The Draper Family
Steven C. & Regina E. Elliott
Stephen J. Evans
Gould & Hanlin Families

Paul D. Grand Pre
Donna Hajdasz
Stephanie Halferty
Jeff & Sherry Hutter
Deacon Tom & Mary Lou Kilian
Eugene & Mary Kleinhans
Dianne Leavery
Mary* & Ted Mascott
Douglas & Alfreda McLane

Donald & Judith Menger
Rande Richardson
Bernard E. Slate
Mary Rose Warneck
Watertown Firefighters
Benevolent Association
Pamela & Moreau Wheeler
Tim & Erin Yancey

*Deceased



Hon. Eugene Joseph Langone Jr.

The Hon. Eugene J. "Gene" Langone Jr. lived a life defined by family, compassion, and service. Whether in the courtroom, the community, or the outdoors, Gene used his gifts to help others and make a meaningful difference in his community. Born in 1960, in New Hartford to **Mary Susan** and **Eugene J. Langone Sr.**, Gene earned degrees from Herkimer Community College, SUNY ESF, and the University of Dayton School of Law. He began his law career with Kurtz and Associates, later serving as Jefferson County Attorney and as a partner at Hrabchak, Gebo & Langone, PC. In 2014, he was elected as Jefferson County Family Court Judge, where he served with dedication until his retirement in 2024. His service extended far beyond his profession. Gene gave back through leadership roles with the Jefferson County Bar Association, mentoring high school students in the New York State Bar Mock Trial competition, and teaching juvenile justice at the Black River Valley Police Academy. A proud Eagle Scout, he never stopped living out scouting's values, guiding youth as a board member, committee member, and assistant scoutmaster. Those closest to Gene remember his sharp wit, love of nature, and unwavering devotion to his wife of 37 years, **Amy**, their three children, their spouses, and five grandchildren. His legacy shines through the countless lives he touched as a mentor, advocate, and friend. To honor his life, Gene's family established the **Hon. Eugene Langone Jr. Scholarship** at the Community Foundation. It is our privilege to steward this lasting tribute, ensuring his spirit of service and commitment to others continues.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Hon. Eugene Joseph Langone Jr.**

Todd & Tessa Ames
The Anderson Family
Anonymous
The Attorneys & Staff of the
Jefferson County Attorney's Office
Alicia & David Bach
Nancy A. Boynton
Bev & Bernie Brown
Randal Caldwell
Kim Call
Kelly & Greg Campbell
Children's Home of
Jefferson County
Matthew & Stephanie Coryea
Kyle & Valerie Datoush
Roger & Nancy Datoush
Max & Sara DelSignore
Donna & Joe DeNigris
Anthony & Jen Doldo
Gene & Erin Elderkin

Vickie L. Ellis
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Steve & Heidi Fanning
The Forman Family
Stephen Gagnon & Jacqueline
Smith-Gagnon
Paul & Cindy Gallagher
Trevor & Erica Garlock
Mark & Tanice Gebo
Mary Gibbons
Dean & Debbie Gillan
Aunt Linda, Uncle Ray &
Taylor Gladd
Maureen Burns Gorman
The Gray, Morrissey &
Nagle Families
Donna M. Green / Waterville
Central School District
Class of 1978
Cindy & Jim Intschert
Rochelle Jareo
Elaine Johnson

Melissa Koffs
Lori Langone
Mary S. & Eugene J. Langone Sr.
Dr. Christine Lieggi
Jim & Frankie Luley
Kelly & Dan Maychack
Edward & Claire Mentry
Dr. Melissa A. Nashat
Roger & Linda Nichols
NoCo Leadership Team
James & Rebecca O'Brien
Jay & Wendy O'Brien
Gary & Jill Parker
Todd & Sherri Payne
Dr. Ronald G. Perciaccante
Lisa A. Proven
Catherine Burns Quencer
Theresa L. Quintin
James & Kathy Reichhart
The Resolution Center /
Youth Court &
Family Counseling Service

Rande Richardson
Kurt & Maureen Robbins
Christine Robinson
Erin M. Sage
Mrs. Leigh Ann Sanner
Patti Scordo
Randy & Patricia Sitterly
Vicki & Gary Smithers
The Southwick Family
The Staff of Middle School 72
Lisa Storey
The Therapeutic Center /
The Squillacioti Family
Amber Todd
Ulysses & Kelsey Torres
Paul Trimper & Sarah
Barden-Schantz
Waterville Central School District
Class of 1978
Michael & Denise Wells
John J. & Lori S. Williams
Mildred Williams
Michael & Debra Wojcicki



William James Heary

William James “Jim” Heary was a successful and highly respected attorney who was widely involved in the Watertown community through a career that spanned several decades. Born in Niagara Falls in 1938, a son to **James William** and **Miriam Anderson Heary**, he graduated from Deveaux High School, and St. Lawrence University before earning a law degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law. Jim married **Molly A. Howard** in 1968. Together, they celebrated 56 years of marriage before Jim passed away in February. He was an attorney at Conboy, McKay, Bachman, & Kendall for 25 years before starting the James Heary Law Firm, which he led until his retirement at age 77. Throughout his lifetime, Jim generously gave his time and talent to many local organizations, serving as a board member and volunteer. When he passed

away his family chose to honor him by directing gifts in his memory to the Community Foundation. We are grateful to be part of the special way Jim is remembered and express our deepest sympathy to his wife, children, and extended family and friends as we celebrate his life and legacy.

Tribute gifts in memory of
William James Heary
Max & Sara DelSignore
Janice & Carl Falstrom
Deborah Hirschey

Cindy & Jim Intschert
J. W. Burns & Company
The Family of Carleton &
Beverly Lamica
Peter & Laurie Pike

Rande Richardson
Vaughn & Debbie Shoen
Paul Trimper & Sarah
Barden-Schantz
Kay Woodruff



Frederick D. Belcher

Frederick D. Belcher carried the North Country with him throughout his life. Born in Watertown in 1938, he was forever proud of his hometown and his Watertown High School Class of 1956. That pride led him to help create the **WHS Class of 1956 Scholarship** at the Community Foundation, an enduring source of opportunity for local students. After graduating from Clarkson University with a mechanical engineering degree, Fred served as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officer. After he was honorably discharged as a captain, he built a distinguished 32-year career with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. Though his work and family took him to Connecticut and later Charlotte, N.C., his loyalty to Watertown never wavered. Fred and his wife, **Rosemarie**, shared nearly 64 years of marriage and raised two daughters. Giving back was central to his life,

and he found special joy in working with classmates to grow the scholarship fund. When Fred passed away in February, his family fittingly designated memorial gifts to the scholarship. We are grateful for Fred's generosity, loyalty, and friendship, and for a legacy that will continue to help North Country students long into the future.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Frederick D. Belcher

Jack & Sharon Hammond
Elliott & Marjorie Hillback
Joe & Marianne Malatino
Rande Richardson
Art & Pat Williams



Dorrinne J. Lyon

Dorrinne J. Lyon lived a life defined by care, service, and perseverance. Born in Utica in 1932 and raised in Forestport, she built a career dedicated to helping others, first at Marcy Psychiatric Center and, later, fulfilling her dream of becoming a nurse at age 50. She went on to serve at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, UCP, and Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center, before continuing her calling as a caregiver in retirement. Dorrinne and her husband, **Dewey**, shared 62 years together, raising six children and building a life anchored in family, faith, and community. She was active in local organizations and a constant source of encouragement, inspiring others to pursue their dreams and never give up. When she passed away in June at age 92, her family chose to celebrate her legacy by directing tributes to the Community Foundation to help build the **Lyon Family Scholarship**, which was established in memory of her son, **Kenneth**, to

help Adirondack and Town of Webb graduates pursue conservation and environmental studies. We are grateful to Dorrinne's children for ensuring her spirit of care and commitment lives on through the opportunities this scholarship will create for generations to come.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Dorrinne J. (Jowett) Lyon

Janet L. Deis
Max & Sara DelSignore
Lorie & Douglas Ray
Barbara Sovar



John D. Marsellus

John Douglas Marsellus lived a life defined by service, leadership, and generosity. A Syracuse native, he graduated from Deerfield Academy and the University of Virginia before serving proudly in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps. He then embarked on a 40-year career with the Marsellus Casket Company, a family business he deeply loved. To John, it was not only a company but “a business family.” He valued the skills and craftsmanship of his associates and cherished his friendships within the funeral industry. Under his leadership, the Marsellus name earned worldwide recognition as a maker of the finest hardwood caskets. John also gave tirelessly to his community. He served as a trustee, director, and leader for numerous civic and nonprofit organizations, earning many honors for his commitment to strengthening his community. In 2014, he and his wife, **Candace**, established the **Marsellus Family Scholarship** at the Community Foundation to help students from Henderson and Henderson Harbor —

where he treasured summers at his family property — pursue higher education. Together, they also were steadfast annual supporters of the Friends of the Foundation and Six Town funds. John's kindness, vision, and giving spirit enriched countless lives. His legacy will continue through his family, his scholarship, and the many lives he inspired.

Tribute gifts in memory of
John D. Marsellus

Max & Sara DelSignore
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson



Russell I. Wilcox

Russell I. “Russ” Wilcox devoted his life to the people and places of Northern New York. A Theresa native, Russ’s deep roots and steadfast leadership shaped the region in ways that will endure for generations. For 41 years, he served the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority (TIBA), retiring in 2003 after 25 years as executive director. Born in 1941 to **Orin** and **Gladys Wilcox**, Russ grew up steeped in the values of kindness and service. His father, a New York State Assemblyman and hardware store owner, modeled the civic responsibility that became central to Russ’s own life. After graduating from Indian River Central School in 1960 and earning a business administration degree from SUNY Canton in 1962, Russ served in the U.S. Army Reserve until 1969. In 1978, he married **Mary “Cookie” Purpura**, his partner in a shared commitment to giving back. Russ’s service extended far beyond his professional career, serving on numerous boards and committees locally and nationally. In 2019, Russ established the **Russell I. Wilcox Family Fund**

at the Community Foundation to support the people and places he loved most. In addition to funding for the Theresa area, it also provides scholarships to families of TIBA employees and graduates of Indian River Central School. Following his passing in July at age 84, his family honored his legacy by designating gifts to the fund, ensuring his spirit of generosity continues to touch lives. We are deeply grateful for Russ’s friendship, vision, and example. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Wilcox family and join them in thanking those listed below who made thoughtful tributes as we celebrate a life defined by service, stewardship, and enduring love for Northern New York.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Russell I. Wilcox**

Bruce Armstrong &
Holly White Armstrong
Caroline Batterson

Rosalie Burnett
Max & Sara DelSignore
Kraig Everard
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Carl & Lois Herman

Manford & Victoria Jerome
Rick & Theresa Leeson
Mary E. Loftus
Laurie Podvin
Ann Marie Porter

John & Nancy Provance
Rande Richardson
Michael E. Rulison
Jeanne Snow
WPBS-TV Mark Prasuhn



Richard A. Rushlo

Richard A. Rushlo’s life was defined by devotion to his family, his work, and his community. Born in 1937 in Edwards to **Bradford** and **Hazel Rushlo**, he graduated from Edwards Central School. In 1957, he married **Doris E. Given**. Together, they raised two sons and two daughters, celebrating 65 years of marriage before Doris passed away in 2022. Richard worked for the Town of Edwards and Niagara Mohawk before joining Newton Falls Paper Mill. Through every chapter, family remained his greatest joy. When Richard passed away in April at age 87, his family honored him in a way close to their hearts, supporting the **Gina Lynn Rushlo Memorial Scholarship** at the Community Foundation. The scholarship remembers

Richard and Doris’s daughter, Gina, the Edwards-Knox Class of 1995 valedictorian whose life was tragically cut

short in 1996 while attending St. Lawrence University. By directing memorial gifts to this fund, the Rushlo family ensures Gina’s bright spirit continues to inspire local students. We are grateful for their trust in the Foundation and extend heartfelt condolences to Richard’s loved ones.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Richard A. Rushlo**

Charles & Sharon Bullock
Beatrice A. DeFino
Barbara Fenton
Art & Janice Ferry

Susan Hauer & Kyle Mayette
Ryan, Chris, Margie &
Fred LaPoint
Marc Rushlo
SECNY Federal Credit Union
Judy & Michael Stoffel



Ruth E. Seaman

Ruth E. Seaman devoted her life to education, shaping countless students with integrity, and kindness. A Watertown native, she was born in 1948 to **Ellsworth** and **Ruth Phillips Seaman** and was a proud Class of 1966 Watertown High graduate. Ruth earned degrees from Jefferson Community College and SUNY Fredonia, before a master’s in school administration from SUNY Potsdam. She began teaching in Watertown at Ohio Street School, later moving to Wiley School, where she taught sixth grade with passion for decades until her 2006 retirement. She continued to mentor future educators as a student teacher supervisor for SUNY Potsdam, generously sharing her wisdom. Her service reached beyond the classroom, supporting numerous causes and organizations that were meaningful to her. She was a longtime annual Community Foundation donor. When she passed away in February, her family established the **Ruth E. Seaman Scholarship** at the Community Foundation to support Watertown High School graduates, especially aspiring teachers, who demonstrate hard work,

perseverance, and dedication. Through this scholarship, Ruth’s legacy endures, inspiring future educators and exemplifying how one life of service can change countless others. We are privileged to steward this meaningful legacy to a woman who gave so much of herself to others.

Tribute gifts in memory of **Ruth E. Seaman**

Adk Alpha Zeta Sister — Pam SJ
Alpha Data Kappa Sorority
— Alpha Zeta Chapter
Gail F. Ames
Alicia & David Bach

Anthony Burgess
Barbara Cole-Russell &
Edward Russell
Max & Sara DelSignore
William & Debra Dermady
Friendly Service, NCZ
Linda Holley

Tim, Michele & Jessica Jeican
Bridgette & Patrick Keenan
Dick & Donna LaLonde
Dennis & Barbara Marshall
Florence E. Martino
Bridgit & Adam Millard
Judith Morley

Rande Richardson
Diane P. Riggs
Patti Scordo
George & JoAnne Seaman
Ron Shoemaker
Ann Marie Simmons
Kathleen Slocum
Donald & Diane Tedford



Sally A. Smith

Sally A. Smith loved her community of Adams and was a generous supporter of many causes and charitable organizations throughout her lifetime. Born in 1938, a daughter to **Laura** and **Charles Bourcy**, Sally grew up on her family's farm in Cape Vincent and graduated from Cape Vincent School. She went to work for Kemper Insurance Company in Watertown and Syracuse. She married **Robert J. "Bob" Smith** in 1966. Together, they raised two daughters and a son and celebrated 57 years of marriage before Bob passed away in 2023. In 1972, Sally and Bob purchased what would become Bob's Auto Supply. Sally wore many hats working alongside her husband and the two shared an endless drive for adventure. When Sally passed away in May at the age of 86, her family directed memorial gifts in her name to support the **Luke Tyrrell Scholarship** at the Community Foundation, which

honors her grandson who passed away in 2018. We join Sally's children in thanking those who made gifts of affection in her name as we celebrate her legacy of love of family and community.

Tribute gifts in memory of Sally A. Smith

Anonymous
Pat Curry
Robert & Dawn Dick

Bonita S. Dowker
Connie Elliott
Audrey Greene
William & Deborah Griffith
Kimberley A. Hutchison
Anna Belle Hyde

William & Beth Maguire
Jackie Montrois
O.D. Greene Lumber & Hardware
Patricia & Bruce Tyrrell
Mark R. Widrick



Bruce D. Thomas

Bruce D. Thomas lived a life rooted in family, hard work, and generosity. Born in Watertown in 1942, he grew up working alongside his parents in the family business, G.L. Thomas and Sons. Those early lessons shaped a lifetime of entrepreneurship and community spirit. Bruce went on to own the Hotel Adams and build a successful snow plowing business. In the early 1980s, he launched Thomas Excavating, which grew under his leadership and, later, with his stepsons, expanded to include Thomas Trash Service and B&D Mini Storage. His vision and drive left a lasting mark on the Adams community. Equally committed to service, Bruce volunteered as a firefighter, including a year as chief, and was active in a local civic club. He also believed in giving back, supporting many organizations and causes meaningful to him — among them, the Community Foundation. Bruce and his wife, **Donna**, shared 40 years of marriage and raised a blended family of five children.

We are grateful for Bruce's steadfast support and friendship. His thoughtful generosity will continue to inspire and strengthen the North Country for generations.

Tribute gifts in memory of Bruce D. Thomas

Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson



Joseph G. Van Dusen

Joseph Gary Van Dusen was a proud Northern New York native who never forgot his roots. He was a kind man who always took a positive view and assumed the best of people. Gary graduated from Watertown High School in 1956. A U.S. Navy veteran, he and his wife, **Patricia Ann**, settled in Bellmawr, N.J., in 1965. Together, they raised two daughters and a son. Gary worked as a technical editor for RCA and several other companies until he retired from Atlantic Science & Technology. Throughout his life, Gary supported meaningful causes and organizations in his community that were special to him and his family. When he passed away in May, his family directed memorial tributes in Gary's honor to help build the **Watertown High School Class of 1956 Scholarship Fund** at the Community

Foundation. We are honored to be part of the special way Gary will be remembered and express our deepest condolences to his children and extended family as we celebrate his life and legacy.

Tribute gifts in memory of Joseph G. Van Dusen

Anonymous
Jennifer DeLuca
Chris Gomes
The Grossman Family
Jack & Sharon Hammond
Richard W. & Bonnie S. Morton
The John Parker Jr. Family
The Patel Family



Elizabeth B. Van de Water

Elizabeth "Becky" Van de Water cared deeply for her family, friends and community, and lived a life full of joy. Born in 1938, the only child to **Marion** and **Thomas Blaisdell**, she grew up in South Westerlo. Becky graduated from St. Lawrence University. She married her college sweetheart, **Peter Van de Water**, and together, they raised three children in Canton. Becky was widely active in her community, volunteering for and supporting a wide range of local causes and organizations that were special to her, including the Community Foundation. Peter was the first Foundation board member to represent St. Lawrence County, and Becky was proud to support him in his role until he passed away in 2014. The **Peter Van de Water Fund for St. Lawrence County** honors Peter's life and legacy of service and supports a broad range quality of life initiatives for the county, which Becky was committed to growing. During their involvement with the Community Foundation, Becky and

Peter introduced and encouraged many others to support our work and mission in Canton and St. Lawrence County. She worked as an employment counselor for the Department of Labor and an admissions counselor at Vermont Academy. Becky treasured her family and time spent with them. We express our sincere sympathy to her children and extended family as we celebrate a life and legacy of community impact and pride that will endure for years to come.

Tribute gifts in memory of Elizabeth B. Van de Water

Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson



Robert Paul Parks

Robert Paul “Bob” Parks treasured his family and his deep ties to Northern New York. A Watertown native, Bob was born in 1951. He attended Watertown High School and worked for several years at CR Allen Office Supply before joining Gray’s Wholesale, from which he retired. Together with his partner of 38 years, **Jayne White**, they raised four daughters and a son. A lifelong music lover, Bob played guitar in several local bands. In recent years, Bob and Jayne enjoyed spending winters in North Carolina and Florida. When Bob passed away in January at age 73, his family directed memorial gifts to the Community Foundation. We are grateful to be part of this special way Bob will be remembered and share our condolences with his family as we celebrate his life.

Tribute gift in memory of
Robert Paul Parks
Lei Lani Post



Charlotte Annette Walldroff

Charlotte Annette Walldroff cherished her family and the relationships she built with her many nieces and nephews. Born in Watertown in 1958, a daughter to **Jean M.** and **William A. Walldroff**, she graduated from LaFargeville Central School in 1979. For several years, Charlotte provided childcare for many of her nieces and nephews. She was active in her church and deeply valued her faith. When Charlotte passed away in March at age 66, her family designated memorial gifts to the Community Foundation to help build the **Jean McInnis Walldroff Fine Arts Scholarship**, which supports graduating seniors from Alexandria, LaFargeville, Lyme, or Thousand Islands high schools who are pursuing careers in fine arts or music education. We are humbled to be part of this special way Charlotte will be remembered and share our deepest condolences with her family.

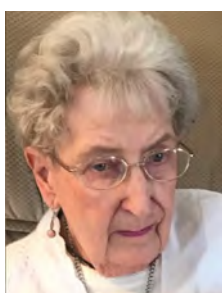
Tribute gifts in memory of
Charlotte Annette Walldroff
Fred & Judy Angel
David & Kari Conklin
Lee A. Murray
Shirley & Joseph Ortego
Juanita L. Washer
Connie Wilson &
Ronald Monnat



Thomas Sawyer Powell

An adventurous spirit, **Thomas Sawyer Powell** filled his days with life. Born in Constableville in 1959, he grew up in Boonville and graduated from Adirondack Central School in 1977. Following graduation, Tom helped rebuild the Adirondack Railroad. He later worked in construction before many years as an independent painter and carpenter. When he passed away unexpectedly in February at the age of 65, his family designated memorial gifts to the Community Foundation to help build the **James Powell Memorial Music Award**, which is presented to a graduating senior at Adirondack Central School who has excelled in vocal or instrumental music. We appreciate the thoughtful way Tom will be remembered as we celebrate his life.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Thomas Sawyer Powell
Christopher & Cynthia
Croliss
Max & Sara DelSignore
Stephanie Schell



Sylvia Schaab Virkler

Sylvia Schaab Virkler was a devoted wife, mother, and daughter whose life reflected service, music, and community. Born in Lowville in 1932, she graduated from Lowville Academy in 1950 and studied at the Crane School of Music before earning a degree from the Eastman School for Dental Hygienists in Rochester. She later worked at Lowville Academy while sharing her gifts as an accomplished pianist, teaching and mentoring many young people. In 1954, Sylvia married **Donald F. Virkler**, and together they raised two children and operated the Donald F. Virkler Funeral Home in Lowville for many years. Married 64 years, Sylvia and Don built a life of faith, family, and community service. She supported numerous charitable organizations, including the Community Foundation and its **Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund**. Her kindness and generosity endure as part of her thoughtful legacy.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Sylvia Schaab Virkler
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson



Mary B. Wormuth

Mary B. Wormuth’s life was defined by love for family, faith, and community. Born in Baldwinsville in 1943, she graduated from C.W. Baker High School and attended Elmira College before marrying her high school sweetheart, Bill Wormuth. Together they raised three children while Bill pursued a career in public education. Mary was a steady presence behind the scenes, nurturing her family, and becoming a mother figure to countless former players and members of their Lowville school community. She later worked in the Merrell Family Law Office and the Lewis County Real Property Clerk’s office, while remaining active in her church and volunteering.

When she passed away in June at age 81, her family chose to honor her through memorial gifts to build the **Wormuth Family Scholarship** at the Community Foundation to inspire and support future generations.

Tribute gifts in memory of
Mary B. Wormuth
Valerie A. Brown
Brian Carpenter &
Carol Clarke
Susan Foster
Martha & John Hannon
Barbara Hemmerlein
Ruth H. Lee

Nancy Putman
Rande Richardson
Anne J. Ross
John & Susan Ross
Gale F. Swiecki
Karen Stowell
Karen & Phillip Winters
AJ & Jeanne Wormuth
Michael F. & Kathleen L. Young

Recent Tribute Gifts

Includes only gifts made to the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund from Feb. 20, 2025 to Aug. 31, 2025, or for those who have recently passed.

In Memory of Given by

Kathleen Burns Amelio
The Baker Family

Jean T. Bach
Max & Sara DelSignore

Jodi White Baytos
Rande Richardson

Jen Bleakley
Tom & Elizabeth Spaulding

Michael J. Bradish
Tom & Elizabeth Spaulding

Richard "Dick" Burgess
Rande Richardson

Laurel Burr
Rande Richardson

Richard A. Cardoza
Rande Richardson

Adriana Palumbo Cavallario
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Helen Chisholm
Mary Ellen Carroll
Friendly Service, NCZ

Peter L. Clough
Anthony Burgess
Max & Sara DelSignore
Bud & Connie Daniels
Bill & Debbie Dermady
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Steve & Cheryl Lane
Rick & Theresa Leeson
Rande Richardson
Kurt & Maureen Robbins
Graeme, Jessica, Audriana &
Filomena Spicer
John W. & Deborah B. Wheat

David T. Coleman
Dr. Day F. Hills

Donna A. Comet
Jean Halstead & Beth Lehman
Rande Richardson

Sally A. Countryman
Rande Richardson

Margaret "Maggie" Jean Crossman
Rande Richardson

William "Bill" Frederick Cuppernell
Alan Crouse
Kathy Crouse
Alan Cuppernell
Pam Murray
Beverly Wilkinson Quencer
John Waterhouse

Christine Ann Denehy
Rande Richardson

William Neville Dowe
Rande Richardson

Shannon E. Drean
Michele & Tim Jeican
Rande Richardson

Linda Nichols Lahey Fay
Ms. Dana Keefer

Mary Lou Edmonds Ferry
Max & Greeta Bovee
Jeff & Natalie Ginger

Jerry B. Flanders
Tom & Elizabeth Spaulding

Terry Neil Fralick
Rande Richardson

Cathleen Freeman
Janelle Eisel
Lori Foote
Michele & Tim Jeican
Janet Ramsey

Darlene "Dolly" Garno
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Ruth W. Gibbs
Rande Richardson

Clarence F. Giles Jr.
Rande Richardson

Rev. Walter E. Giles
Max & Greeta Bovee

Imelda Anne Gorman
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Rande Richardson

Ford O. Gotham Jr.
Rande Richardson

Estelle A. Guardino
Anonymous
Sharon & Peter Bartell
Shelby Cohen
Cynthia Dulmage
Judith Morley

Stanley Edward Hajdasz Jr.
Rande Richardson

Timothy J. Hall
Connie Elliott

Vincent J. Harnas
Connie Elliott

Ellen A. Hayes
Rande Richardson

Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Henry
Rande Richardson

Ellen M. Herb
Rande Richardson

Thomas J. Hickey
Rande Richardson

William "Bill" Henry Hickox
Max & Greeta Bovee
Stacy Hickox

Rev. Stewart E. Hild
Alma H. Hild

Susan J. Hudon
Rande Richardson

Joanne Friend Huffman
Rande Richardson

Carl J. "Butch" Inglesby
Robin Russell

Val Jakubowitch
RoseAnn Jakubowitch

Jet
Rande Richardson

Richard "Dick" G. Jones
Max & Greeta Bovee

Jacqueline D. Keating
Joyce & David Crossley
Rande Richardson

Timothy John Keegan
The Ellsworth Family

Steven S. Kendrew
Michele & Tim Jeican

Ronald G. King Jr.
Tom & Elizabeth Spaulding

Robert M. Kowalick Sr.
Ralph G. & Sue Ann Johnson

Ethel M. LaBouf
Rande Richardson

Richard G. LaFountain
John J. Gaffney
Rande Richardson

Lawrence E. "Larry" LaVere, Jr.
Rande Richardson

Norma R. Lawrence
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

Gerard C. LeTendre
Joyce & David Crossley

Mildred Elaine Squire Linderman
Rande Richardson

Sally M. Marra
Rande Richardson

Leonard R. Marsh
Max & Greeta Bovee

Mary McDonald Mascott
William Couch Family Fund
Max & Sara DelSignore
John J. Gaffney
Erin & Dick Greene
Kevin A. Kieff
Rande Richardson

Robert B. Maur
Rande Richardson

Gary R. McDermott
Pat Archer
Rande Richardson

J. Richard Munro
Susan & Tim Lauraine

Gregory M. Netto
Paul Trimper & Sarah
Barden-Schantz

Thomas (TJ) Nevelidine
Rande Richardson

John J. O'Brien
Max & Sara DelSignore
Sue & Dave Guyton

Robert G. Osier
Michele & Tim Jeican
Rande Richardson

Ruth Paine
Rande Richardson

David Patrick Parker
Rande Richardson

Jason R. Price
Michele & Tim Jeican

James Stanley Purcell
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande Richardson

John Ramus
Friendly Service, NCZ

Donna Louise Ransier-VanWaldick
Michele Gehring Jeican &
Barbara Gehring

Ronald Roch
Friendly Service, NCZ

Maria J. Roche
Rande Richardson
Tom & Elizabeth Spaulding

Kenneth H. Rucki
Judith Morley

Mary P. Sanford
Judith Morley
Douglas Sanford Jr. & Family

Michael D. Saunders
Rande Richardson

Nelson C. Schorr Sr.
Rande Richardson

Cynthia "Cindy" Schreiber
Mary Perrine
Karen Schreiber Tibbits

Robert E. Schweitzer
William Couch Family Fund

David Karl Smithling
Rande Richardson

Howard E. Sprague
John J. Gaffney

David Francis Stamps
Linda Babcock

Ronald L. Timmerman
Rande Richardson

Michael D. Van Ness
Max & Sara DelSignore
Bill & Debbie Dermady

Jerry J. Vecchio Sr.
William Couch Family Fund
Max & Sara DelSignore
Rande & Evan Richardson
James P. Scordo

(continued on page 29)

RECENT FOUNDATION GRANTS

This list includes competitive grant recipients the Community Foundation Board of Directors has recently approved and those suggested by advisors of individual named funds. Most recipients listed are Northern New York based.

1000 Islands Charity Poker Run
ACT Children's Theater
Adams Free Library
Adams Revitalization Committee
Adirondack Central School District
Adirondack Community Chorus
Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association
Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center
Alexandria Township Historical Society
American Cancer Society Eastern Division
American Heart Association
American Red Cross Central &
Northern New York Chapter
Angel Heart Pajama Project
Antique Boat Museum
Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence
Augustinian Academy
Bayside Cemetery Association
Beaver Falls United Methodist Church
Beaver River Central School District
Belleville Philomathean Free Library
Belleville-Henderson School
Boonville Black River Canal Museum
Boonville Cemetery Association
Boonville Concert Band
Boonville Search and Rescue
Boonville Youth Athletic Association
Canton Central School District

Canton College Foundation
Canton Day Care Center
Cape Vincent Arts Council
Cape Vincent Community Food Pantry
Cape Vincent Community Library
Cape Vincent Historical Museum
Carthage Area Hospital Foundation
Carthage Central School District
Catholic Charities-Diocese of Ogdensburg
Chapin Living Waters Foundation
Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department
Children's Home of Jefferson County
Children's Miracle Network Hospitals
of Northern New York at Samaritan
Church and Community Program
Churches of Canton
City of Watertown
Clarkson University
Clayton Cemetery Association
Clayton Volunteer Fire Department
Clayton Youth Commission
Clifton-Fine Central School District
Community Action Planning Council
of Jefferson County
Compassionate Care Foundation
Concert in the Park
Constable Hall Association
Constableville Volunteer Fire Company
Copenhagen Central School District
Cranberry Lake North Shore Hub
Crescent Yacht Club Junior Division
Dexter Historical Society
Dodge Pratt Northam Art and
Community Center
Double Play Sports Community Center
DPAO Foundation

Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Adams
Erwin Library and Institute
Food Bank Fund of Northern New York
Fort La Presentation Association
Frederic Remington Art Museum
Friends of Lewis County Hospice
Friends of the Nature Center
GardenShare
Garnseys Feral Acres
Garrett Loomis Firefighters Fund
Glenwood Cemetery Revitalization
Campaign Fund
Gouverneur Volunteer Rescue Squad
Grace House Services
Gracious Friends Animal Sanctuary
Grasse River Heritage
Grove Cemetery Association
Habitat For Humanity
Hammond Central School
HarmonNY Performing Arts Community
Harrisville Free Library
Harrisville Volunteer Fire Department
Hawn Memorial Library
Hay Memorial Library
Hearts for Youth
Helping Hands of Potsdam
Henderson Community Improvement Group
Henderson Free Library
Henderson Harbor Water Sports Programs
Hepburn Library of Norfolk
Historical Association of South Jefferson
Hospice and Palliative Care of
St. Lawrence Valley
Hospice Foundation of Jefferson County
Hospice of Jefferson County
Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley
Immaculate Heart Central School
Indian Creek Nature Center
Indian River Ambulance Service
Indian River Lakes Conservancy
Jazz in the Classroom of Jefferson County
Jefferson Community College Foundation
Jefferson County Genealogical Society
Jefferson County Historical Society
Jefferson County SPCA
LaFargeville Central School District
Lewis County Amateur Hockey Association
Lewis County Historical Society
Lewis County Hospital Foundation
Lewis County Humane Society
Lisbon Central School District
Little River Community School
Lowville Academy and Central School
Lowville Food Pantry
Lowville Free Library
Lowville Rural Cemetery Association
Lyme Central School District
Lyme Free Library
Lyme Heritage Center
Macsherry Library
Madrid American Legion Post 1513
Madrid Rescue Squad
Madrid Volunteer Fire Department
Mannsville Manor Volunteer Fire Company
Maple Hill Cemetery Association
Massena Fire Department
Massena First United Methodist Church
Soup Kitchen
Massena Meals On Wheels

BETTERMENT MEETS ITS MATCH



Foundation for Community Betterment Alex Bay Chapter co-chair Trevor Garlock, right, presents a \$6,000 check to Emily Pfeil, Northern New York Community Foundation philanthropy associate, for the chapter's permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation. Thanks to a recent Community Foundation grant, \$10,000 in gifts were matched to help build the endowment fund. With the match, the Foundation for Community Betterment Alex Bay Chapter added nearly \$20,000 to its endowment fund. The organization established a permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation in 2018 to help plan for its future.

See RECENT GRANTS on next page

Recent Tribute Gifts

(continued from page 26)

Christopher P. Waite
Max & Greta Bovee

Walter L. Wood, Jr.
Rande Richardson

Doris M. Young
Rande Richardson

**In Honor of
Given by**

Leo & Elliot Bowline
Travis & Erika Flint

Sylvia J. Buduson
Rande Richardson

Thomas R. Burns' Retirement
Rande Richardson

**Linda & Al Denning's
50th Wedding Anniversary**
Rande Richardson

**Phoebe Grace DePrimo's
1st Birthday**
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Gretchen M. Eberl's 30th Birthday
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Hannah Eldridge
Rande Richardson

**The Birth of Grayson Matthew
Emerson**
Rande Richardson

Jeff Fallon's Retirement
Rande Richardson

The Birth of Everly Rose Garlock
Rande Richardson

Michele Gefell's Retirement
Rande Richardson

Julie Houghmaster's Retirement
Rande Richardson

Rosamond Hunt
Rande Richardson

Lillian Jareo
Rande Richardson

**David Kellogg's Retirement
from the Town of Adams**
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

**Rebecca Small Kellogg's
Retirement**
Rande Richardson

Mia Kelly
Rande Richardson

Vincent J. Knapp
Mr. & Mrs. James M. McCauley
Rande Richardson

Mart Liinve's 80th Birthday
Rande Richardson

Colden Marks
Rande Richardson

Maria Mesires' Birthday
William Couch Family Fund

Mia Mouaikel
Rande Richardson

Hannah O'Brien
Anonymous

**The Birth of Hayes Franklin
Parsons**
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Bennett Pistner
Rande Richardson

**Father Donald Robinson's
Retirement from Active Ministry**
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

The Birth of Levi Pike Rohrbach
Rande Richardson

Anastaja Smith
Rande Richardson

Ella Smith
Rande Richardson

**Amy E. Stone's Retirement
from Dental Hygiene**
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

**John Stone's Retirement
from Teaching**
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

**Dave & Carol Stoodley's 45th
Wedding Anniversary**
Rande Richardson

Finley Swartz
Rande Richardson

Stephen J. Todd's Retirement
New York State Council of
School Superintendents
Rande Richardson

Sienna Virga
Rande Richardson

Barry W. Walch
Rande Richardson

In our next issue ...

■ Our year-end 2025 issue of **Thoughtful Giving** will feature stories and memorial tributes about the lives and legacies of several Community Foundation supporters who recently passed away, including:

Peter L. Clough
Daniel G. Fay
William P. Doyle II
Cathleen Freeman
Ellen A. Hayes
Mary M. McDonald Mascott
John O'Brien
William D. O'Brien

RECENT GRANTS from previous page

Massena Memorial Hospital Foundation
Massena Volunteer Emergency Unit
Melodic Minds of Potsdam
Naturally Lewis
Nature Up North
New Day Children's Center
North Country Adventure Team
North Country Children's Museum
North Country Family Health Center
North Country Music Project Fund
North Country Public Radio
OBI Land Trust
Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club
Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center Pantry
Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad
Point Vivian Preservation Corporation
Potsdam Central School District
Potsdam Humane Society
Preservation Alliance of Hyde Lake
Pyrates Volunteer Fire Department
Reading Room Association of Gouverneur
ReNew Bremen
River Hospital
Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library
Sackets Harbor Historical Society
Safe Schools Endeavor
Samaritan Medical Center
Samaritan Medical Center Auxiliary
Samaritan Medical Center Foundation
Save The River

Six Town Community Fund
Snow Belt Housing Co.
Society of the United Helpers
South Jeff Backpack Program
South Jefferson Central School District
South Jefferson Rescue Squad
South Lewis Central School
St. Joseph's Foundation
St. Lawrence Central School District
St. Lawrence County Arts Council
St. Lawrence County Cancer Fund
St. Lawrence County Health Initiative
St. Lawrence County Historical Association
St. Lawrence County Renewal House
St. Lawrence University
St. Lawrence Valley SPCA
The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Foundation
The Foundation for Community Betterment
(Alexandria Bay Chapter)
The Nature Conservancy —
Adirondack Chapter
The Orchestra of Northern New York
The Rohde Center
The Salvation Army Watertown Corps
Theresa Fire Department
Theresa Youth Commission
Thompson Park Bandstand Project Fund
Thompson Park Conservancy / Zoo New York
Thousand Islands Arts Center
Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service
Thousand Islands Foundation
Thousand Islands Land Trust
Thousand Islands Museum

Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund
(Clayton Opera House)
THRIVE Wellness and Recovery
Town of Cape Vincent
Town of Diana Historical Museum
Town of Massena
Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY)
Trinity Concert Series
United Way of Northern New York
Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County
Village of Boonville
Village of Canton
Village of Carthage
Village of Castorland
Village of Constableville
Village of Dexter
Village of Potsdam
Village of Sackets Harbor
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
Volunteer Transportation Center Foundation
Wanakena Historical Association
Watertown Area Boxing Club
Watertown City School District
Watertown Family YMCA
Watertown Lyric Theater Productions
Watertown Noon Rotary
Watertown Senior Center
Watertown Urban Mission
Western Town Library
Wilna-Champion Transportation Association
WPBS-TV
WWCL (The Chug Wagon, Clayton)

Liinve honored with Foundation's 'Spirit of Philanthropy Award'

Generous supporter of many local nonprofits



Community Foundation Board of Directors Chair **Cheryl R. Steckly**, left, and Spirit of Philanthropy Award recipient **Mart Liinve**.

The Community Foundation's **Spirit of Philanthropy Award** was presented this summer to longtime community philanthropist **Mart Liinve** in recognition of his years of generous and thoughtful work on behalf of many local causes and organizations.

The Spirit of Philanthropy Award was established in 2010. The honor is given periodically to recognize and pay tribute to individuals or organizations whose achievements embody a commitment toward helping and inspiring others through the spirit of giving.

Mr. Liinve has been a supporter and fundholder of the Community

Foundation for many years and was instrumental in the creation of the Northern New York Philanthropy Center, which opened as the home of the Foundation in 2017. He has also generously supported the Youth Philanthropy Council and many other community organizations.

"Mart symbolizes community philanthropy and what it means to make a difference. When he believes in something, he commits fully, and helps inspire others to believe too," said Rande Richardson, Community Foundation executive director.

Mr. Liinve is well known for his many acts of kindness and his strong belief in giving back. His philosophy and the multitude of acts that affirm his commitment embody the values that the Spirit of Philanthropy Award was created to honor.

The award was presented during the Community Foundation's annual meeting reception in June at the Jefferson County Historical Society's historic Paddock Mansion.

Previous Spirit of Philanthropy Award recipients include Mary H. Macsherry, the Clayton Community Band, Sherman Elementary School, and Alex C. Velto.

New scholarship honors life and legacy of skilled tradesman, technical education advocate

Throughout his lifetime, **Phillip L. Fay** was a strong believer in the value of technical education. As a Watertown High School student in the early 1980s, he enrolled in Jeff-Lewis BOCES for electrical and plumbing, training that laid the foundation for a long and rewarding career. Phil worked for the City of Watertown before joining Watertown International Airport, where his dedication and expertise earned recognition from the FAA for his perfect maintenance score.

Phil never truly retired. Whether troubleshooting for a neighbor, helping a friend, or lending his skills to family, he was always willing to share what he knew. He built a life centered on hard work, service, and love of family. A devoted husband to **Janet** and proud father to daughters **Amber** and **Autumn**, he cherished time with those he loved most and lived out his belief that contributing your skills makes a stronger community.

When Phil passed away in November 2024 at age 60, his family



wanted to honor the values that defined his life. They chose to create the **Phillip L. Fay Memorial Scholarship** at the Community Foundation.

The scholarship will annually support graduating high school seniors or

adult learners pursuing electrical or plumbing studies in a trade or technical program. In this way, Phil's passion for hands-on careers will continue to open doors for future generations.

Tribute gifts in memory of Phillip L. Fay

Mark & Donna Dutton
Family & Friends of
Phillip Fay
Amber S. Fay
Janet Fay
Cathy Labouf
Cynthia & Jim Lawrence
Connie Mastronardi
Nanny & Papa
Phillip's Aunt Diane
Shelley Schneeberger

To join others in helping to honor **Phillip L. Fay**, make gifts to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.**

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT from page 3

What led you to an accounting education and how has that background benefited you in your career today? I never knew what I wanted to do in high school, even though they push that question and various projects throughout the high school years. I planned to only do half days during my junior and senior year of high school because I was already in advance classes and had enough credits, but my guidance counselor strongly encouraged me to take elective courses to fill my schedule and get ahead for college, so I chose an introductory accounting class with **Mrs. Robin Boomhower**. I absolutely loved that class, everything clicked for me, and I continued with it the next year for Accounting 101 at JCC. This is when I met **Professor Linda Dening** and followed through to earn a bachelor's degree and eventually start my own accounting

firm. Professor Dening was a huge inspiration and made a big impact on my education, character, and career. I love the relationships I build with other business owners and the impact we make working together.

What inspired you to establish the Amanda Stickel Accounting Scholarship? I am at the stage in my life where I am ready to start creating a personal legacy. I have always very much appreciated the experience and the financial impact of earning a Community Foundation scholarship. I also have experienced how difficult it can be as a woman in business to be taken seriously, so being able to help a woman with her education in an empowering way that gives them one less thing to worry about is something that I wanted to support. We need more people in the accounting industry who truly have the educational foundation that is typically re-

quired to support business owners with their finances and taxes, so I thought that being able to offer this scholarship would support an increase in people interested in pursuing this career.

What would you tell high school students who are now considering college and career options? Don't be afraid to go for what makes you happy and don't be afraid to change your mind. You won't know what you enjoy doing until you try so many different things, so try the different courses and clubs your high school offers. If you look up to someone and what they do, start a conversation with them and see if you can shadow them for a day or two. Don't feel like you must do any of this alone, there are so many support options and no one successful does anything by themselves. Most of all, don't give up, keep going forward; you are worth it.



Northern New York Community Foundation

Their story is our story.

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 🌳 Robert Frost Asbury | 🌳 Raymond G. Green | 🌳 Robert Paul Parks |
| 🌳 Frank Joseph Avallone Jr. | 🌳 Ellen A. Hayes | 🌳 Thomas Sawyer Powell |
| 🌳 Shawn M. Baker | 🌳 William James Heary | 🌳 Michael J. Roukous |
| 🌳 Frederick D. Belcher | 🌳 Charles R. Hooven | 🌳 Richard A. Rushlo |
| 🌳 Jeannie Irene Kafka Brennan | 🌳 Eugene Joseph Langone Jr. | 🌳 Mary P. Sanford |
| 🌳 Douglas S. Brodie | 🌳 Carl Joseph Inglesby | 🌳 Ruth E. Seaman |
| 🌳 Lee Clary | 🌳 Harold B. Johnson II | 🌳 Mary Antonene Silliman |
| 🌳 Peter L. Clough | 🌳 Marion E. Kirkland | 🌳 David Simmons |
| 🌳 Judith Ann Converse | 🌳 Dorrinne J. Lyon | 🌳 Sally A. Smith |
| 🌳 Bruce Wayne Daugherty | 🌳 Emma May Lyon | 🌳 Bruce D. Thomas |
| 🌳 William P. Doyle II | 🌳 Sally M. Marra | 🌳 Elizabeth B. Van de Water |
| 🌳 Daniel G. Fay | 🌳 John D. Marsellus | 🌳 Joseph G. Van Dusen |
| 🌳 Linda Nichols Lahey Fay | 🌳 Mary M. McDonald Mascott | 🌳 Sylvia Schaab Virkler |
| 🌳 Phillip L. Fay | 🌳 J. Richard Munro | 🌳 Charlotte Annette Walldroff |
| 🌳 Cathleen Freeman | 🌳 William Danforth Munro | 🌳 Russell I. Wilcox |
| 🌳 Maureen Gough | 🌳 John J. O'Brien | 🌳 Mary B. Wormuth |
| | 🌳 William D. O'Brien | |

Their stories live on. Forever.

Your Community. Your Foundation. Your Legacy.



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 5605
Pittsburgh, Pa.

315-782-7110 • info@nnycf.org

nnycf.org • [Facebook.com/nnycf](https://www.facebook.com/nnycf) • [LinkedIn.com/company/nnycf](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nnycf)
[Instagram.com/nnycfcommunityfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/nnycfcommunityfoundation)

LOCATED WITHIN THE NORTHERN NEW YORK PHILANTHROPY CENTER
131 WASHINGTON STREET • WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDHOLDER

"The rewards in giving through the Community Foundation are phenomenal. It's always nice to be able to see the results of the seeds you plant while you're still alive. If you see a need, find a way of filling that need."

Pat & Dick
Alexander,
Watertown



COMING NEXT: Year-End/Holiday Issue — Supporting the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Annual Fund