

Winter 2026

# Nonprofit Link

A Northern New York Community Foundation Publication Connecting the Region's Nonprofit Community

» THE POWER OF PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

## Helping nonprofit partners grow more sustainable futures



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Community  
Foundation

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## Grants for Good program at a glance

- Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence county nonprofit organizations
- Quarterly application deadlines **April 17, July 17, and October 23**
- Quarterly application deadlines **April 17, July 17, and October 23**
- Learn more at [bit.ly/grant-portal](http://bit.ly/grant-portal)



**HELPING MASSENA'S SCHINE SHINE AGAIN:** Right, Massena Arts and Theater Association board President Allison Smith in front of the entrance to the Schine Theater. In December, the Association was awarded a \$50,000 Community Foundation matching grant and a \$10,000 grant from the Dr. D. Susan Badenhausen Legacy Fund at the Foundation to support the \$3.2 million project.

# Grants for Good program launches

## Applications for funding due April 17 for Q2 review

The Community Foundation recently launched its **Grants for Good** program for Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. The program is an opportunity for tri-county nonprofits to carefully evaluate their needs and select a top priority project where grant funding could make a meaningful difference.

Based in part on findings from a nonprofit assessment survey completed last fall, Foundation staff has updated the previous "General Grant Program" to a new, county-specific application process that is better positioned to serve each region and its respective communities. The Foundation is grateful to have garnered valuable insight from survey participants, including priorities and challenges regarding sustainability, the changing economic landscape, and specific regional considerations.

"Grants for Good combines the generosity of charitable donors across Northern New York into a program

designed to strengthen our local nonprofits in critical and lasting ways," said Max DelSignore, Community Foundation vice president. "This is an opportunity for tri-county organizations to present their most important projects and the Foundation responsibly evaluating these efforts and identifying proper funding for these needs."

## GRANTS for GOOD

Northern New York Community Foundation

Grants for Good is made possible, in part, by generous donors to the **Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Annual Fund**. Grant support from the program is also provided through a variety of named legacy funds, entrusted to the Community Foundation to support charitable interests that align

with the needs of local nonprofits.

As a public charity operating for more than 96 years, the Community Foundation is the largest non-government grantmaking organization serving Northern New York. In 2025, the Foundation awarded more than \$2.7 million in grant funding to support the work and missions of hundreds of nonprofit organizations, the majority of which serve Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence county residents.

Grants for Good applications must be completed through the online grant portal at [bit.ly/grant-portal](http://bit.ly/grant-portal). We encourage nonprofits to contact the Community Foundation to discuss identified needs or requests before starting an application. Proposals will be reviewed after the following quarterly deadlines: **April 17, July 17, and October 23**.

Grants for Good funding is approved quarterly during meetings of the Community Foundation's Board of Directors.

## Sign up for future issues of 'The Link'

- The Community Foundation will publish two additional issues of "Nonprofit Link" this year as e-Editions. Ensure you don't miss valuable information about grant opportunities, nonprofit capacity building, professional development, and more. Email philanthropy associate Emily Pfeil at [emily@nnycf.org](mailto:emily@nnycf.org) to sign up today.

# Foundation kicks off two efforts to support nonprofit strength

## \$250,000 endowment challenge, new grant opportunity offered

The Community Foundation is launching two new initiatives aimed at helping tri-county nonprofits build long-term stability while strengthening daily operations. Together, these efforts are designed to support organizations serving Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties, now and in the future.

### Endowment Match Challenge

The Foundation has committed \$250,000 to help grow nonprofit endowment funds it stewards, offering **ten matching grants of \$25,000 each**. The opportunity is available to nonprofits that already have an endowment fund at the Foundation and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Endowments are a proven tool for nonprofit resilience. They generate permanent, reliable support while giving donors a meaningful way to sustain organizations and missions over time. Partnering with the Community Foundation also expands planned giving opportunities, increases organizational visibility, sup-

ports a wider range of charitable gifts, and provides access to professionally managed, diversified investments.

The Foundation currently stewards endowment funds for more than 100 nonprofit organizations across the tri-county region.

Participating organizations will have **up to three years** to raise the required \$25,000 match. Nonprofits with an existing, unfulfilled endowment match must complete that commitment before becoming eligible for this new opportunity. Only new donor gifts made on or after **February 9, 2026**, will count toward the match; transfers of existing organizational funds do not qualify.

Eligible nonprofits may declare their interest by email to **Kraig Everard**, director of philanthropy, at [kraig@nnycf.org](mailto:kraig@nnycf.org). Only organizations with a current, active 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter are eligible.

### Nonprofit Capacity Building

The Community Foundation is also launching the **Nonprofit Capacity Building Initiative**, a new

grant program designed to strengthen organizational effectiveness. Grants of **up to \$5,000** will support nonprofits seeking outside expertise and resources to improve internal systems, leadership, and practices.

This initiative encourages nonprofits to assess their present operating models and identify focused opportunities for improvement. Eligible requests may include strategic planning, leadership or executive coaching, fundraising and development strategy, grant writing support, governance and board development, organization assessments, collaboration plans, or joint ventures.

Applications will be **reviewed on a rolling basis**. Eligible nonprofits must be located in and serve residents of **Jefferson, Lewis, or St. Lawrence** counties. Applicants should present a clear and compelling case for how the investment will strengthen their organization and improve impact. Conversations with Community Foundation staff are encouraged before applying.

Learn more at [bit.ly/NPOCapacity](https://bit.ly/NPOCapacity).

### Matching challenge at a glance

- **\$250,000** endowment challenge
- **Ten \$25,000** matching grants available
- Up to **three years** to raise required match
- **Active** endowment fund **partners** eligible
- First-come, first-served via email to [kraig@nnycf.org](mailto:kraig@nnycf.org)
- Match applies to **new gifts** on or after **February 9, 2026**

### Capacity building at a glance

- Grants up to **\$5,000**
- Applications reviewed on a **rolling basis**
- Learn more at [bit.ly/NPOCapacity](https://bit.ly/NPOCapacity)

**Lewis County's Constable Hall Association** became a Community Foundation nonprofit partner in 2018, establishing a permanent endowment and a sustaining fund to help perpetuate its work and mission to maintain and preserve Constable Hall.



### Nonprofit Bootcamp

- The Community Foundation believes in strengthening tri-county nonprofits. Last fall and this winter, the Foundation, in partnership with **Lewis County** and the **Tug Hill Commission**, sponsored a series of free Nonprofit Bootcamp sessions, offered in-person and virtually. Stay tuned for details about the final session, which is scheduled for **Thursday, March 5**. Previous sessions focused on guidance for growing nonprofits, financial oversight, and building better boards.

# Nonprofit Partner Organizations

## Collaborating to strengthen enduring success

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

### Jefferson County

4 River Valleys Historical Society  
 Adams Center Free Library  
 Adams Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary  
 Alexandria Township Historical Society  
 All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence  
 Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Foundation  
 Cape Vincent Arts Council  
 Cape Vincent Community Library  
 Cape Vincent Village Green  
 Carthage Central School District  
 Carthage YMCA  
 Child Evangelism Fellowship  
 Central Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired  
 CHJC (Children's Home of Jefferson County)  
 City of Watertown  
 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County (Camp Wabasso)  
 Crescent Yacht Club Junior Division  
 Densmore Church  
 Depauville Free Library  
 Dexter Historical Society  
 Disabled Persons Action Organization

Faith Fellowship Christian School  
 Food Bank of Central New York  
 Foundation for Community Betterment (Alexandria Bay Chapter)  
 Friends of the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library  
 Friends of Thompson Park  
 General Brown Central School District  
 Grindstone Island Research & Heritage Center  
 HarmoNNY Performing Arts Community  
 Hawn Memorial Library  
 Hay Memorial Library  
 Hearts for Youth  
 Henderson Historical Society  
 Henderson Harbor Water Sports Programs  
 Herring College Memorial Educational Trust  
 Historical Association of South Jefferson  
 Honor the Mountain Monument  
 Hospice of Jefferson County  
 Indian River Lakes Conservancy  
 Jazz in the Classroom of Jefferson County  
 Jefferson Community College  
 Center for Community Studies  
 Jefferson County Historical Society  
 Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES

Knights of Columbus Council #259  
 Lorraine United Methodist Church  
 Lyme Central School District  
 Lyme Free Library  
 Macsherry Library  
 Mannsville Free Library  
 Meals on Wheels of Greater Watertown  
 Mental Health Association in Jefferson County  
 Minna Anthony Common Nature Center  
 National Association of the 10th Mountain Division  
 Nature Conservancy  
 North Central Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association  
 North Country Council of Social Agencies  
 North Country Family Health Center  
 North Country Goes Green Irish Festival  
 Northpole Fire Company  
 NYS Zoo at Thompson Park & Conservancy  
 Ontario Bays Initiative  
 PIVOT  
 Point Vivian Preservation Corp.  
 River Hospital  
 Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library  
 Sackets Harbor Central School District  
 Sackets Harbor Historical Society  
 Samaritan Medical Center  
 St. John's Episcopal Church, Cape Vincent  
 Save The River  
 South Jefferson Central School District  
 South Jefferson Rescue Squad  
 SPCA of Jefferson County  
 Stage Notes  
 Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity  
 Thousand Islands Arts Center  
 Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service  
 Thousand Islands Foundation  
 Thousand Islands Land Trust  
 Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund at the Clayton Opera House  
 THRIVE Wellness & Recovery  
 Town of Watertown Ambulance Service  
 Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust  
 United Way of Northern New York  
 Village of Dexter  
 Volunteer Transportation Center  
 Watertown City School District  
 Watertown Downtown Business Association



**ALL THAT JAZZ:** Members of the **Brighton Beat** band visit **Carthage High School** in 2022 for a jazz lesson with music students. An offshoot of the Clayton Jazz Festival, **Jazz in the Classroom of Jefferson County** brings professional jazz musicians to schools across the county each year. The initiative established a permanent endowment at the Community Foundation in 2020 to help perpetuate its work and mission.



**PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY:** From left: **St. Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum** Trustees **Gilbert Rivers, Kirke W. Perry, Lee W. Dezell, Roger S. Austin, and Robert J. Marshall** gather on the new foundation for the historic Nevin Memorial Church on the museum's village green in the summer of 2021. The museum was one of the first nonprofits in St. Lawrence County to become a Foundation partner, establishing a permanent endowment at the Community Foundation in 2012.

Watertown Family YMCA  
 Watertown Lyric Theater  
 Watertown Musicales  
 Watertown Noon Rotary Club  
 Watertown Sunrise Rotary Club  
 Watertown Urban Mission  
 WPBS-TV

## Lewis County

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

## St. Lawrence County

Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence & Rotary Dodge Pond  
 Canton Community Fund  
 Canton Fountain Fund

Canton Free Library  
 Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country  
 Church & Community Program of Canton  
 Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center  
 Clifton-Fine Community Fund  
 Clifton-Fine Hospital  
 Colton-Pierrepont Central School  
 Community Health Center of the North Country  
 Cranberry Lake Fire & Rescue  
 Edwards Arts Council  
 Edwards-Knox Central School District  
 Fort La Présentation Association  
 Friends of the Potsdam Museum  
 Gouverneur Hospital  
 Grasse River Heritage  
 Hammond Presbyterian Church  
 Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley  
 Indian Creek Nature Center  
 Little River Community School  
 Madrid-Waddington Central School  
 Massena Music Friends  
 Massena Public Library  
 Massena Rotary Club  
 Morristown Central School District  
 New Beginnings Clothing & Food Outreach  
 North Country Children's Museum  
 North Country Public Radio  
 Northern New York Library Network  
 Norwood-Norfolk Central School District  
 Norwood Village Green Concert Series  
 Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club  
 Ogdensburg Command Performances  
 Ogdensburg Free Academy  
 Ogdensburg Public Library

## School Educational Foundations

In recent years, donors have expressed interest in supporting their favorite local school in either a broad or more directed way, for things other than scholarships. Through educational foundations, alumni, parents, teachers, retirees and others for whom their school holds special meaning can leave a legacy. Donors may also designate a specific use — music, athletics, library, etc. — and fund name.

### School Educational Foundations and general endowment funds stewarded at the Northern New York Community Foundation:

- Adirondack Central School
- Copenhagen Central School
- Hermon-DeKalb Central School
- Immaculate Heart Central School
- Indian River Central School
- Madrid-Waddington Central School
- Massena Central School
- Lowville Academy & Central School
- Potsdam Central School
- Sackets Harbor Central School
- South Jefferson Central School
- St. James School, Gouverneur
- St. Lawrence Central School
- Watertown City Schools

- Orchestra of Northern New York
- Police Activities League of Massena
- Potsdam Holiday Fund
- Potsdam Humane Society
- Potsdam Public Library
- Sandstoner Foundation
- St. Lawrence County Historical Association
- St. Lawrence Land Trust
- St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum
- Traditional Arts in Upstate New York
- United Church of Madrid
- United Helpers
- Wanakena Historical Association
- Wilderness HealthCare Foundation



**“The Community Foundation has been an indispensable partner to WPBS-TV going way back to the 1970s. Our legacy of educational and cultural service to the North Country would not have been possible without the Foundation’s support and strategic advice. We are deeply grateful all the Foundation has done and continues to do for our organization and for our community.”**

– Mark Prasuhn, president and general manager, WPBS-TV, Watertown



**THE ARC LEADERSHIP:** From left: **Michelle Carpenter**, executive director, The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Foundation, and **Lynn Pietroski**, The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence chief executive officer, outside the Gaffney Drive building.

# THE POWER OF PERMANENCE



**Foundation**

## HOW A FUND FOR THE ARC FOUNDATION GREW OVER THE YEARS

An endowment fund at the Community Foundation is invested for growth so it can make an enduring difference for a nonprofit organization, providing an additional source of annual income. The Arc Foundation has chosen to reinvest its annual distributions into the fund to help grow its endowment for future needs.

**Fund:** The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Foundation Endowment Fund

**Established:** 2015

**Purpose:** To support The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Foundation's work and mission

**Why it's important:** "Our endowment is a long-term investment in our mission and our community. While the Community Foundation has helped our fund grow, the strength of our partnership and connection to the community matter just as much." — Michelle Carpenter, executive director, The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Foundation

INITIAL CONTRIBUTION

**\$100,000**

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION (2026)

**\$7,040**

CURRENT BALANCE\*

**\$219,854**

\*As of December 2025; Past investment performance is not a guarantee of future returns.



**LEADERSHIP ON THE RIVER:** From left: River Hospital Chief Financial Officer **Andy Impaglia**; Chief Executive Officer **Kelley Tiernan**; and Executive Director of Development **Stephanie Weiss**. A \$2 million gift the hospital received was directed to help build the organization's permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation earlier this year.

## After major gift, River Hospital invests in endowment to strengthen future care

**R**iver Hospital's future grew even stronger last year when a transformational \$2 million gift was placed into its permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation. For hospital leaders, the decision reflects a clear belief: long-term stability is essential to sustaining high-quality rural health care.

River Hospital established its endowment fund in 2014. In 2021, hospital leadership partnered with the Foundation on a campaign to help strengthen the endowment with the Foundation providing a \$150,000 matching commitment.

Chief Executive Officer **Kelley Tiernan** describes endowment as both a practical tool and a promise.

"Rural healthcare is built on resilience, innovation, and the belief that every person deserves exceptional care close to home," she said. "Our endowment embodies that promise. It strengthens care today and ensures that, no matter what challenges come our way, River Hospital will be here with strength, readiness, and hope for generations to come."



**The Community Foundation brings deep expertise in stewarding charitable resources and has been a steadfast partner in helping us grow and protect our endowment. We see the Foundation as a true partner in securing the health and well-being of the River community, now and far into the future.**

— Kelley Tiernan, River Hospital Chief Executive Officer

That strength has already made a difference. Endowment support recently funded an automatic chest compressor now in use during cardiac emergencies, a lifesaving investment many rural hospitals often struggle to make.

The endowment also reflects the vision of donors like Wayne Strauss, whose leadership gift was intentionally directed to secure River Hospital's long-term future. His commitment inspired others to invest, growing a fund designed to serve the community in perpetuity.

Hospital CFO **Andy Impaglia** said the partnership with the Community

Foundation brings confidence and stewardship to that vision.

Hospital leaders see the endowment fund as essential to meeting the challenges of rural health care, providing stability, fueling innovation, and giving donors a meaningful way to create lasting impact.

"If your mission matters to your community," Ms. Tiernan said, "an endowment is one of the strongest commitments you can make to ensuring it endures."

## NONPROFIT STEWARDSHIP

**T**he Community Foundation stewards nearly **200** different charitable funds totaling **\$30.3 million** to benefit more than **150** tri-county nonprofit partners.

Permanent endowment funds provide an additional source of annual income while other agency funds help strengthen nonprofit sustainability.

148

NONPROFIT ENDOWMENT FUNDS

\$18.5 MILLION

ENDOWMENT FUNDS VALUE

39

OTHER NONPROFIT AGENCY FUNDS\*

\$11.8 MILLION

OTHER AGENCY FUNDS VALUE

\*Includes nonprofit sustaining and flex funds. Present values are as of December 2025 and unaudited.



Northern New York  
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## OUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PARTNERS

*“A Northern New York Community Foundation endowment makes us invest in our own future. To take that step so early is a statement of our belief in the museum’s sustainability. It also tells the public and potential donors that we have a future worth investing in.”*

- Sharon Vegh Williams,  
North Country Children’s  
Museum executive director  
and co-founder
- Established permanent  
endowment in 2014

