Six Town Connections

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



» BUILDING CRITICAL LIFE SKILLS

Community Fund donors help youth thrive on the water

Northern New York Community Foundation

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

315-782-7110 | nnycf.org/six-town | /company/nnycf | /nnycf

Six Town COMMUNITY FUND

A Northern New York Community Foundation affiliate

ESTABLISHED 2013

MISSION

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

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Northern New York Community Foundation
SINCE 1929

LOCATED WITHIN THE NORTHERN NEW YORK PHILANTHROPY CENTER

131 WASHINGTON STREET
WATERTOWN, NY 13601

315-782-7110 • info@nnycf.org

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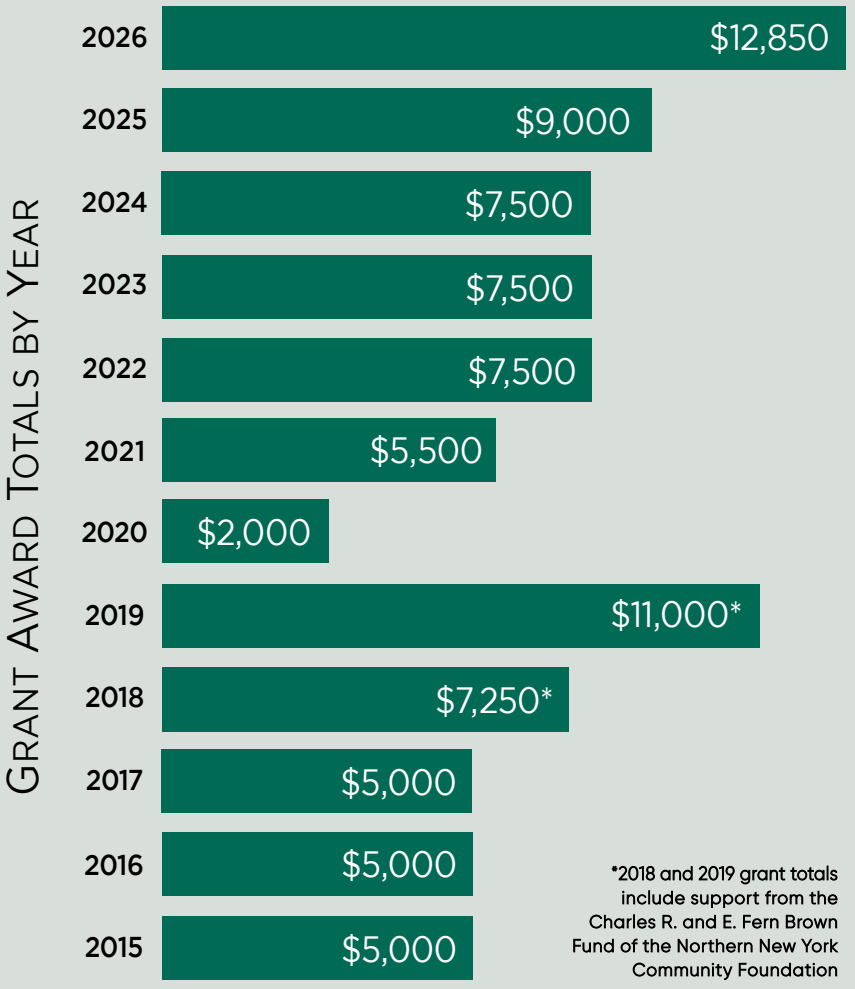
COMMUNITY IMPACT / BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL GRANT SUPPORT
$85,100

TOTAL GRANT AWARDS
63

TOTAL GRANT RECIPIENTS
30

AVERAGE GRANT AWARD
$1,350



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

Six Town Community Fund now online!

The Six Town Community Fund has a new online home on the Community Foundation's redesigned website at nnycf.org/six-town. Visitors may explore ways to give, learn about the Community Fund's impact and history, read past issues of *Six Town Connections* and more!

COMMUNITY FUND DONORS SUPPORT ESSENTIAL NEEDS



TEACHING LIFE-SAVING SKILLS: A recent $1,500 grant helped the South Jefferson Rescue Squad restart a youth program for ages 8 to 14. During a series of three evening classes, participants learned about fire safety, CPR and other important skills that will helped prepare them to face different emergencies.

From fire safety to food insecurity, Six Town donors strengthen most vulnerable populations

In the past 11 years, Six Town Community Fund grant funding has helped address essential needs, improve community safety, and provide a stronger foundation for individuals and families across southern Jefferson County.

From teaching local youth lifesaving skills and promoting fire safety to helping replenish shelves at food pantries and school-based backpack programs, the Community Fund has made an enduring difference in the lives of residents facing some of life's most difficult challenges.

A recent $1,500 grant helped the **South Jefferson Rescue Squad**, pictured above, restart its Youth Sheep Dog Program for ages 8 to 14. During a series of three interactive classes, participants learned about emergency first aid, active shooter, fire safety, outdoor survival, and other important skills that to prepare for different emergencies. The program emphasized the mantra "Build Skills. Save Lives. Be Ready." Free first aid kits were also provided to participants.

Whether helping ensure children have nutritious food outside school hours, equipping community members with important emergency preparedness skills or supporting programs that protect the health, safety and well-being of vulnerable residents, Six Town grants reflect the generosity and compassion of donors who believe in caring for their neighbors.

The impact extends beyond individual grant awards. By investing in local organizations and practical solutions, Six Town donors are helping build a stronger, more resilient community where residents have greater access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

Essential needs support

Since 2015, grant funding totaling $30,830 has been awarded to support 20 different initiatives at 12 organizations, including:

Adams Fire Corporation
Adams Village Baptist Church
Belleville Volunteer Fire Department
Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County
Lorraine United Methodist Church
Lorraine Volunteer Fire Company
Six Town Chamber of Commerce
South Jeff Backpack Program
South Jefferson Rescue Squad
The Rohde Center
Town of Ellisburg
Volunteer Transportation Center Foundation

COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY AT WORK

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

Six Town Sustaining Gifts

The following supporters made gifts to the Six Town Community Fund between October 23, 2024, and October 13, 2026

Ann M. Adams
Timothy & Renee Alford
John J. W. Allen
Deacon Larry & Vickie Ambeau
Anonymous (4)
John P. & Judith A. Bailey
P.J. & Jen Banazek
David Belloff, Belloff's
George & Christine Bibbins
Charlene N. Bickford
Carl & Janna Bingle
David & Polly Brown
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Kirk & Karen Denny
William & Carol Doe
Connie Elliott
The Estal Family
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Gretchen G. Eysaman
John Ferry
Rob & Julie Gayne
Clint & Barbara Gillett
Jeff & Natalie Ginger
John & Sara Gleason
Brian Gorman
Arden Greene
Dwight & Barbara Greene
Harvey & Susan Grimshaw
Vincent Guarrera
Mike & Kathy Hannon
Denny & Laurie Hudson
Lynn & Sandra Hunneyman
Brianna Jaspersohn
Pamela Jones
Fred & Virginia Karnas
Sally & George LaPlante
James A. & Constance B. Leana
Chaz & Joanna Loomis
Dave & Kathy Lunman
MacIlvennie & Brown Insurance Agency
William & Beth Maguire
Candace & John* Marsellus
Jeff & Claudia Marsh
Bud & Marvel Masters
Dee C. McConnell
John McNeely & Robert Woodside
John & Jamie Moesel
Bilkey L. Moore
Fred & Marlene Norfolk
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Barry & Betsy Ormsby
Peter & Nancy Ouderkirk
Thomas & Katrina Overton
Lisa & Jeff Parsons
Lee & Margaret Pennock
Mark Pennock
Keith & Elizabeth Perry
Alan & Gayle Peters
Jill & David Peters
Billie & Lyle Pickert
The Pitrone Family
Scott & Tammy Pooler
Greg & Lisa Porter
The Porter Family / Bruce & Jenny Porter
Bob & Janet Quinn
Mark & Patricia Randall
Bill & Wanda Reardon
Alan Reed
Rande Richardson
Glenn & Michele Richter
Ed & Karen Ringwald
Betsy & Rick Roberts
Rudd Spray Service
Mark & Beth Shelmidine
Robert & Patricia Simpson
Nancy A. Smith
Rosanne Sorensen
Dale & Donna Stevens
Leone Stinson
Brian & Amy Stone
Dave & Mary* Stone
Dawn Stone
John & Abby Stone
Teresa & Chris Stone
David & Carol Stoodley
Pat & Sandra Storino
Robert & Julia Storms
Mark Sugden & Sarah Sugden
Robin Thorne
Martin W. Tokos
Anna J. Van Slyke
Craig C. Veley
Tom & Audrey Voss
Barry & Julie West
Joan Treadwell Woods
David & Barbara Zembiec

Recent Tribute Gifts

The following supporters made gifts to the Six Town Community Fund in memory of or in honor of a loved one between October 23, 2024, and October 13, 2026

In Memory of
Given by

Isadore & Agnes Belloff
Betsy & Rick Roberts

Anne Sprague Brown
Rande Richardson

Bonnie J. Clark
Rande Richardson

Ann Denny
Warren & Mary Beth Denny

David Estal
The Estal Family

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

Donald H. Feickert
Connie Elliott

Mary Lou Edmonds Ferry
John Ferry
Jeff & Natalie Ginger

Beverly Franklin
Sally & George LaPlante

Timothy J. Hall
Connie Elliott

Sue Lyman Herse
Lynn & Sandra Hunneyman

Karen Jamieson
Mark & Patricia Randall

Randy R. Jerome
John J. W. Allen
David Belloff, Belloff's

Richard "Dick" G. Jones
Pamela Jones

Michael C. MacMillan
Rande Richardson

Rhonda McNeely
Connie Elliott

Donald & Arlene Moore
Bilkey L. Moore

Barbara Moran
Thomas & Katrina Overton
Dick Mullin
David Belloff, Belloff's

John Ramus
Mark & Patricia Randall

Barbara Elizabeth Riccio
Rande Richardson

Rick Stevens
Bob & Janet Quinn

Jay F. Stone
Dawn Stone

Mary C. Stone
Ann M. Adams
John P. & Judith A. Bailey
David, Polly, Kevin & Mary Brown
Peggy Coe
Susan A. Cole
Katie & Jason Compo
Jody & Zoe Cook & Family
Max & Sara DelSignore
Kirk & Karen Denny
Connie Elliott
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Gretchen G. Eysaman
Rob & Julie Gayne
Brian Gorman
Barbara & Dwight Greene
Denny & Laurie Hudson
Brianna Jaspersohn
James A. & Constance B. Leana
William & Beth Maguire
Jeff & Claudia Marsh
Bilkey L. Moore
Fred & Marlene Norfolk
Lisa & Jeff Parsons
Lee & Margaret Pennock
Mark Pennock
The Pitrone Family
Greg & Lisa Porter
Rande Richardson
Ed & Karen Ringwald
Betsy & Rick Roberts
Robert & Patricia Simpson
Nancy A. Smith
Teresa & Chris Stone
David & Carol Stoodley
Robin Thorne
Anna J. Van Slyke
David & Barbara Zembiec

Brian C. Thomas
Peter & Nancy Ouderkirk
John & Marcia Treadwell
Joan Treadwell Woods

Ann Williams
David & Polly Brown
Connie Elliott

Robert C. & Elaine M. Zembiec
Denny & Laurie Hudson

In Honor of
Given by

Connie Elliott's Birthday
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

David Kellogg's Retirement
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
Denny & Laurie Hudson

Dave Peters
Alan & Gayle Peters

Bob Simpson
Carl & Janna Bingle

Amy Starnes & Lori Porter & the donors
Connie Elliott

Dave Stone's 90th Birthday
Kenneth J. Eysaman III

Dave & Mary* Stone's 90th Birthdays
Mike & Kathy Hannon
Brian & Amy Stone
John & Abby Stone

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

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

COMMUNITY FUND DONORS SUPPORT YOUTH & EDUCATION





A vital investment in our **shared future**

For more than a decade, the Six Town Community Fund has invested in the next generation by supporting educational enrichment, youth development, and experiences that help students build knowledge, confidence and important life skills.

A $1,000 grant recently helped **South Jefferson Central School's Spanish and French clubs** introduce immersive cooking experiences to more than 400 students, pictured at left. Funding provided new cooking utensils, allowing students to explore the food and traditions of Spanish- and French-speaking cultures through hands-on learning.

Another $1,000 grant helped **South Jefferson's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)** chapter launch a community book study, pictured above, examining the psychological and biological effects of social media and screen usage on emotional and mental health.

Committed to promoting positive choices and a healthy school culture, SADD brought together students, parents, school officials and local employers for constructive conversations about technology, mental wellness and the importance of meaningful personal connections.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how Six Town donors are helping young people explore new interests, navigate important challenges and develop skills that extend well beyond the classroom. By investing in opportunities for youth to learn, grow and succeed, the fund is helping build a stronger future for the entire community.

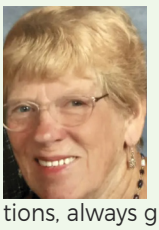
Support for youth & education

Since 2015, grant funding totaling $20,050 has been awarded to support 18 different initiatives at eight organizations, including:

- Adams Center Free Library
- Adams Free Library
- Adams Revitalization Committee
- Belleville Philomathean Free Library
- Henderson Free Library
- Henderson Harbor Water Sports Programs
- Mannsville Free Library
- South Jefferson Central School District

OUR SIX TOWN FAMILY / IN MEMORIAM

MARY C. STONE



Mary C. Stone was deeply rooted in family, service, and generosity, values that she proudly passed on to her children and grandchildren. Born in Rodman in 1936 and raised on a farm on Dry Hill, Mary learned early that love and hard work outweigh circumstance. A 1953 valedictorian of Adams Center Central School, she later graduated from Watertown School of Commerce. In 1956, she married **John David "Dave" Stone**, and together they raised two daughters and two sons, setting a steady example of accountability and kindness. Mary's commitment to community was hands-on. She served 28 years on the Adams Town Board and remained active in her church and local organizations, always giving without seeking recognition. She and Dave also shared a love of travel, exploring most of North America and many places overseas together. Mary's legacy lives on through the **Six Town Community Fund** at the Community Foundation, which she and Dave helped establish. When she passed away in April following a brief illness, her family suggested memorial gifts to support the fund. In this special way, her belief in strengthening the place she proudly called home continues.

COMMUNITY FUND DONORS STRENGTHEN RECREATION, HEALTH & WELLNESS





Since 2015, Six Town Community Fund grants have expanded access to recreational amenities, wellness programs and opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.

From supporting a new playground at the former Adams school off Wardwell Street to improving access to community wellness programs, Six Town donors have helped create healthier, more welcoming places to live and play.

A recent $2,000 grant to **Meadow Path Healing Arts & Yoga Center** in Adams Center, pictured at left, is helping renovate its century-old building with improved windows, steps, handrails and accessibility features. The improvements will provide a safer, more accessible space for yoga, meditation and wellness programs, benefiting hundreds of residents, particularly older adults and individuals with disabilities.

A $1,500 grant to **Henderson Harbor Water Sports Programs**, pictured above, supports swimming lessons, boating safety courses and summer recreation for participants of all ages. The program emphasizes drowning prevention and lifesaving skills while expanding opportunities for disadvantaged youth to enjoy and learn about the water.

Together, these investments demonstrate how Six Town donors are strengthening community spaces, promoting healthy lifestyles and making recreation and wellness more accessible throughout the Six Town region.

Recreation, health & wellness support

Since 2015, grant funding totaling $14,800 has been awarded to support 11 different initiatives at six organizations, including:

- Adams Revitalization Committee
- Henderson Harbor Water Sports Programs
- Henderson Historical Society
- Meadow Path Healing Arts & Yoga Center
- South Jefferson Central School District
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

Choose your gift. Create a plan. *Give forever.*

There are many flexible ways to leave a legacy to benefit the places and organizations you love the most, during your lifetime or as a planned gift. A gift made to the Six Town Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation can be powerful and enduring. Consider these smart and effective giving options as you prepare to discuss plans with your advisors:

Bequests

A bequest is the most common way to support your favorite charities and community in perpetuity. You can leave a specific sum or percentage of your estate in your will or trust to the Six Town Community Fund. The Community Foundation can provide specific language to ensure your gift is designated responsibly.

Charitable Gift Annuity

This gift can generate income for you or a loved one and create partial tax savings with the establishing gift and subsequent annuity payments. The remainder reverts to the Community Fund after your lifetime and can be directed to an endowment the Foundation stewards, or to create a permanent named fund on your behalf.

Gift of stock or appreciated securities

This option presents tax advantages. Receive a tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax on a stock gift to the Community Fund. Establish a named fund at the Foundation to support nonprofits of your choice or direct the gift to an existing Foundation fund.

Life insurance

Many people find that the protection offered by life insurance policies is no longer needed later in life. You can list the Community Fund as the beneficiary of an existing or new policy to increase generosity in support of your objectives.

Retirement Plans

By changing the beneficiary to the Six Town Community Fund, you maximize your gift for the charitable goals you wish to see fulfilled. It is a simple and meaningful way to make a difference.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

If you are 70 ½ or older, a QCD to the Community Fund can be an excellent way to make a gift. Make a distribution from your IRA as part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to the Foundation and avoid taxes. Then, the IRA distribution to the Foundation may be directed to support an existing fund or to establish a named fund of your own to help local charities of your choice. Distributions to start Donor-Advised Funds are excluded.

Real estate and other property

This gift can maximize your charitable intentions, help avoid estate taxes, and reduce the burden placed on heirs. The Community Foundation's gift acceptance policy can help guide the responsible execution of this type of gift.

Making a gift

Mail gifts by check to: **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601.** Please designate the **Six Town Community Fund** with your gift. Online: Giving online is a quick, secure, and efficient way to make a gift. Visit nnycf.org and click the "Give Now" button at the top of the page. You may specify your gift to the "Six Town Community Fund."

It begins with a conversation

Contact the Foundation to discuss your legacy plans:

Rande Richardson, President & CEO, rande@nnycf.org
Max DelSignore, Vice President, max@nnycf.org



A farm, in the Town of Rodman, looking east toward the Tug Hill Plateau.

Kara Dry Photography

Northern New York
Community Foundation
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR SIX TOWN FAMILY



"We have worked with the Northern New York Community Foundation for several years. Through its guidance, and to support our community, a large part of our giving helps local organizations. The Six Town Community Fund strives to advance and support projects and initiatives that have long-standing local impact, funding projects not likely funded otherwise. As a charter donor to the Community Fund, we are proud to be affiliated with an organization that serves these initiatives."

— Robert & Julia Storms, Adams