



THE RIPPLE EFFECT: ONE ACTION, MANY RESULTS



Fall 2016

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Ultimate Re-Entry Opportunity (URO) is a community initiative with a unique approach

by Fabina Colon

Ultimate Re-Entry Opportunity (URO) is a community initiative that is dedicated to facilitating community work and actively transforming the culture and process of reentry, reducing the risk of re-arrest and re-incarceration in Tompkins County.

Each year, there is an estimated 728+ individuals returning to Tompkins County communities from jail and prison. Many who are facing the same problems leaving jail or prison as they did entering, including unemployment, unstable housing or homelessness, poverty, mental illness, lack of a support system, and not to mention the psychological impact of the stigma and discrimination they face after release. These social conditions stacked with a reentry system that needs improvement highly contributes to individuals cycling in and out of the criminal justice and corrections systems.

Shared by formerly incarcerated individuals:

"I got denied for public housing because of my record, then only because someone told me to fight it, I did, but had to go through many interviews with people from the agency to basically prove I was a changed responsible man. Who knew. I got the place, but after 3 months of jumping through hoops!"

"I got a scary letter saying that I needed to pay court fees from like 2 years ago and if I didn't pay in full, there would be a warrant for my arrest. I can't afford to pay and I can't go back to jail!"

"I can't look for housing if I don't have a job to pay rent. I can't get a job because of my record. So, what am I supposed to do? This is not easy, but everyone expects it is. I've visited 7 different places to get help, still stuck!"

The URO Mentoring Program is part of a bigger initiative that began in 2014 to address this problem. For two years, the URO has taken the lead in creating a unique systems change approach to plan, develop, implement and support a comprehensive and coordinated reentry system in Tompkins County (heavily guided by formerly incarcerated individuals). The outcome goals for URO are to reduce recidivism, improve public safety, and assist individuals with successfully integrating into their communities. The program was developed in 2016 in response to a high demand and need shared by formerly incarcerated individuals and their families during three large community focus groups held in 2014 and 2015. Mentoring was a key factor to the success of people's reintegration into their communities.



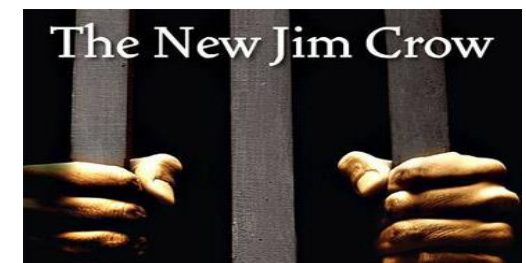
Thank you to our volunteers

From serving on grant review teams, office filing, board service, committee work, and much more; you are ambassadors of community philanthropy.



Cupcake Baking Contest

Raising awareness in support of suicide prevention and enhanced mental health initiatives aiding young people in the Ithaca Community.



Community Book Read

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. Stop by the Community Foundation office and pick up a free copy. Consider joining a book group or attending a free community event.

You can get involved with your Community Foundation, call us, or visit www.cftompkins.org



By The Numbers (9/30/16)

\$14.1 Million Assets

\$9.3 Million Endowed Funds

\$4.8 Million Non-Endowed Funds

Fund Types (97 Funds)

6 Community Impact Funds

9 Field of Interest Funds

23 Designated Funds

59 Donor Advised Funds

2016 Grant Cycles (\$ Granted)

\$ 32,445 Women's Fund Grant Cycle

\$ 136,315 Library Grant Cycle

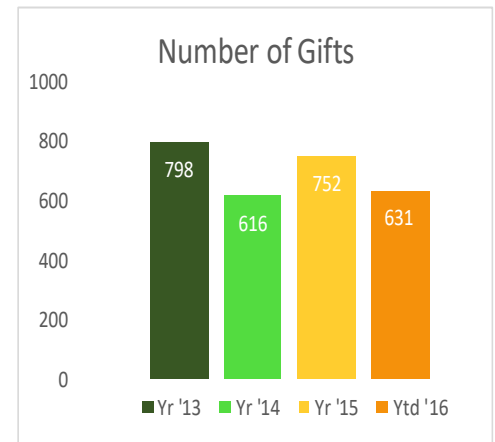
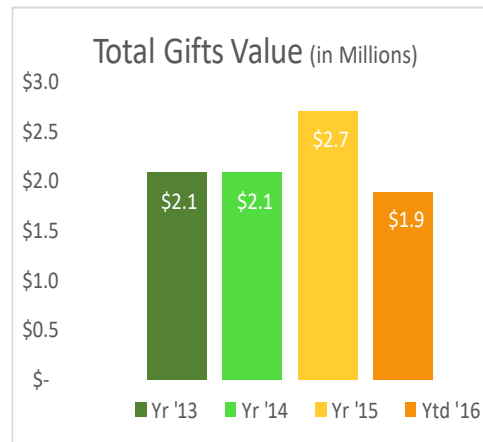
\$ 101,759 Spring Grant Cycle

\$ 7,350 May Letters of Inquiry



Community Foundation named **2016 Non-Profit of the Year** by Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce

The Community Foundation enables everyone to be a philanthropist.



Corporate Sponsors

We value our many local businesses who have partnered with us at all levels in support of the community. **Thank you** to our newest sponsors, Jamie Kehoe at NewPark and Patty Clark at Agava with George Ferrari at our donor reception, October 6, 2016

Community Investments

In our 16th year with over \$10.7 million in more than 2,600 awards, the Community Foundation is a leading grantmaker in Tompkins County.

