Inspiring Stories
Empowering Community

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Community Foundation
of TOMPKINS COUNTY
People tell stories to share information, to pass on values, to make connections and to inspire others to take action. When we tell our stories and listen to the others’ stories, we build on the power of community.

Each year, Community Foundation empowers a wide range of local nonprofits so they can have an impact on the lives of people in Tompkins County. Through our donors, we make it possible for nonprofits to tell the stories celebrating the people who are able to fulfill their dreams and contribute to our community.

In 2017, our donors made a record number of gifts — totaling $3.7 million — to Community Foundation, which allowed us to award 418 grants to local nonprofits. These generous contributions from our donors helped us increase our assets to more than $18.2 million last year.

Our donors created 18 new funds in 2017 to support issues they are passionate about in our community. These new initiatives include a fund honoring the retirement of Dr. Marguerite Uphoff, a longtime local pediatrician, that will benefit children and youth, as well as a fund that will support environmental education in the Cayuga Lake watershed.

Another highlight from last year was our new partnership with the Park Foundation and Chamber of Commerce Foundation to fund a study on the housing challenges Tompkins County faces. This study is an outgrowth of the housing summit Community Foundation supported, along with several other partners, at the end of 2016.

Sharing philanthropy stories elevates what is possible and causes a community to experience optimism, a sense of agency and confidence. As we continue to work on addressing the varied needs in our community, we are eager to hear your inspiring stories and we look forward to working with you to continue empowering this amazing community in 2018 and beyond.
OUR MISSION
The mission of our Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life in Tompkins County by inspiring and supporting enduring philanthropy.

OUR VISION
Tompkins County thrives thanks to engaged philanthropy.
Throughout the year, we hear many voices and important insights from across the community. These conversations help identify key issues, highlight available resources, uncover the gaps, and guide us to solutions.

Let’s Talk Philanthropy results include:
- Multi-dimensional exchange of ideas, information, and enthusiasm
- Connecting donor resources with community needs
- Synergy and building on “what’s working” heightens interest in supporting initiatives

In 2006 Tom and Maria Eisner created their donor advised fund named the Butterfly Fund. Over the years, many grants were nominated by the couple to support local nonprofits. They also added to their fund with generous gifts. Changes in their circumstances brought about by Tom’s passing in 2011 and more recently by Maria’s moving out of the area invited a reconsideration of these charitable assets.

Community Foundation Philanthropic Services staff met with Maria to create customized plans for how to transform this fund to better meet current needs. The results are four designated funds for specific organizations. These new funds are endowed to ensure support in perpetuity.

”Ithaca Health Alliance is one of my favorite organizations in Tompkins County. It is one of the best examples of what Ithaca stands for, a place for all people to live in good health or – at least – being cared for and helped by their neighbors.”

MARIA EISNER

Tom and Marie Eisner Ithaca Health Alliance Endowment Fund
Tom and Marie Eisner Finger Lakes Land Trust Endowment Fund in memory of her husband Tom
Tom and Marie Eisner Planned Parenthood of Southern Finger Lakes Endowment Fund in honor of her three daughters: Yvonne, Vivian and Christina
Tom and Marie Eisner Loaves & Fishes Endowment Fund in honor of League of Women Voters
Before Susan Christopherson, chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, died of cancer in 2016, she asked her attorney, Michael May, how she could create a fund in which she could leave her assets to the community. When they met at her home to discuss her estate planning, they both came up with the same organization to establish and oversee an endowed fund — Community Foundation. In 2017, the assets from her estate initiated the Susan Christopherson Community Planning Fund, a field of interest fund. Students and colleagues also continue to make gifts to this fund. Susan envisioned communities in Central New York engaging their residents effectively and meaningfully in decision making around planning issues that affect their day-to-day lives. This fund will launch grants beginning in 2019 to assist residents who want to improve their communities through planning and design.

As a lawyer who often draws up estate plans, May said he recommends his clients work with Community Foundation to help them meet their charitable goals.

See how Community Foundation can help you achieve your philanthropic goals. cftompkins.org/resources/for-donors
Honoring Dr. Marguerite Uphoff

When Dr. Marguerite Uphoff decided to retire as medical director of the Ithaca City School District in 2017, nurses from the district knew they wanted to honor her legacy of serving students for 25 years.

They turned to Community Foundation and created the Dr. Marguerite Uphoff Endowment Fund, so that one of Ithaca’s longest serving pediatricians could continue to help children and youth in Tompkins County.

“Forever the children in this community who have health issues, no matter what they are, will benefit from this endowment fund,” said Judy Hoffman, the former head nurse at the Ithaca City School District, who spearheaded the fund drive. “I think that using Community Foundation was the perfect way to create this fund.”

The fund created for Dr. Uphoff will support Community Foundation’s Children and Youth Fund, which awards grants to nonprofit organizations that help promote the healthy development of children and youth. The community is invited to contribute to the fund, named in honor of Dr. Uphoff, to address the needs of Tompkins County children.

Creating an Environmental Education Fund

Gerry and Caroline Cox took the adage, “Think globally, act locally,” and put those words into practice when they created an environmental education fund at Community Foundation in 2017.

The Coxes wanted to establish an endowed fund that would support organizations that educate the public about ecological issues in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. They also wanted to encourage other donors to contribute to a fund that will protect the local environment.

“This is a way to say to others who have this interest, ‘You too can help make this happen,’ ” said Caroline, a former Community Foundation board member. Gerry added: “The fund can influence what happens here if others learn more about the environment and realize their stake in it.”

The Environmental Education Fund created by the Coxes reflects a growing interest in environmental grantmaking to local nonprofits. The fund will begin making grants in 2019.
Anonymous Donor Supports Endowed Fund

A longtime Ithaca resident pledged $100,000 anonymously to Community Foundation in 2017 to show her commitment to the community and to set an example she hopes others will follow.

The gift was the first made to the endowment for the Tompkins Today Tomorrow Fund, which is the most flexible and responsive of the more than 100 funds administered by Community Foundation’s board of directors.

“Community Foundation has reached a level of maturity where it can be more proactive in its grantmaking,” the donor said. “This gift is a vote of confidence in the board and staff to serve this community.”

Tompkins Today Tomorrow Fund was created in 2003 and has received current use gifts every year. This Fund has already supported more than 30 organizations, including those providing for basic needs such as food and shelter, for museums and libraries and for all variety of community building and arts work in the local community.

"This is a way to say to others who have this interest, 'You too can help make this happen.' ”

CAROLINE COX
Behavioral Challenges and Summer Camp

In 2017, our Children & Youth Fund supported the KIDS FIRST Summer Recreation Program, a program of the Mental Health Association in Tompkins County. This program serves youth with developmental, behavioral and/or emotional health challenges. Highly trained staff provide campers with a place to learn, grow, build relationships, connect to the community, and maintain a healthy sense of structure. For many participants, most of which are low-income, KIDS FIRST is the only summer day camp in the county equipped to serve them. KIDS FIRST also serves as an entry point for families to access a range of other support services needed beyond summer camp.

Rural Youth – Unique Challenges

Rural youth often have unique challenges with issues of isolation and limited access. The Rural Outreach Program of Family and Children's Service of Ithaca is serving all of Tompkins County. Community Foundation supported therapeutic one-on-one mentoring, family case management, and recreational skill building activities to youth in rural communities who have very limited access to counseling or other supportive services. These youth were experiencing mental and behavioral challenges that were often complicated by poverty, chaotic home lives, and/or abuse/domestic violence. This program has four years of success building infrastructure and strengthening relationships with local institutions. Rural outreach is now integrating into existing programs and supported more sustainably through existing funding streams.

Arts and Culture for ALL our youth

Kids Discover the Trail, a collaboration of eight cultural institutions in Tompkins County, now serves children in all of the county’s six school districts, following a feasibility study funded by Community Foundation and other local funders. A $10,000 grant helped finance a study to determine the need and the logistics required to expand Kids Discover the Trail beyond the Ithaca City School District. Field trips including to the Johnson Museum of Art, The History Center in Tompkins County and Cayuga Nature Center, reached 80 percent of all school children in the county this year.

ASSURING EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL YOUTH

Tompkins County is fortunate to have a vibrant array of services for our children and youth and Community Foundation has a long track record of making grants for these programs. But, how do we assure that we are providing equal access, particularly for youth who might have barriers to services?

Two weekly programs — LEAP (Library Elementary Assistance Program) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) — are developing enthusiastic young readers in Groton.
Adapt and Include: Building Capacity for Children with Sensory Issues

In 2015, Tompkins County Public Library noticed that their traditional story times were not meeting the needs of some of the youngest children with sensory challenges. Their application to Community Foundation’s Library Grant Cycle resulted in a grant for enhanced and expanded programming for children with sensory processing challenges. Sensory tools and equipment were purchased, making the library a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all children and families.

In 2017, the Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund supported similar programming for the Lansing Community Library resulting in more inclusive services. Most children on the autism spectrum are very concrete thinkers so it helps to have a tangible way for them to understand the story. During the sensory story time the presenter uses figures on a table or shapes on a felt board to tell the story, rather than just turning pages and showing pictures. Staff work to maintain quieter and calmer lighting and background sounds.

Also, in 2017, the Myrtle Dee Nash Memorial Fund supported two “Sensory Hours” events at the Sciencenter. Children with autism spectrum concerns and sensory processing disorders and their families are especially invited to experience the Sciencenter exhibits and to engage in a comfortable environment that caters to their special needs.

“I wanted to show my commitment to this community and hope others will follow. It is a deep vote of confidence in how grant making by the board and staff serve this community well into the future.”

ANONYMOUS DONOR
CORPORATE SPONSORS

We are happy to help support your efforts again... and include a little extra this year. Best wishes for continued success!"

MIKE WAYNE
SENIOR VP & DIRECTOR OF MARKETING,
CHEMUNG CANAL TRUST

Thank you to our additional 2017 business supporters!

Alternatives Federal Credit Union
Cayuga Landscape
DiMarco, Abiusi & Pascarella
Express Employment Professionals
Firelight Camps
First National Bank of Groton
Glen Wood Financial
Hancock Estabrook
Ithaca Foreign Car Service
Larkin Agency
Morgan Stanley
Schlather, Stumbar, Parks & Salk
Sciarabba Walker & Company
The Frame Shop
Tompkins Trust Company
Wegmans
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ASSETS

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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<td>Total net assets</td>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE

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EXPENSES

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<tr>
<td>Net Assets at End of Year</td>
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Additional annual report resources are available online.
www.cftompkins/about-us/annual-report/