

THE RIPPLE EFFECT: ONE ACTION, MANY RESULTS

# Community Foundation of Tompkins County

## Spring 2016

COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Engaging Youth in the Love of Reading at our Rural Libraries

by Janet Cotraccia

This year's Library Cycle grants total over \$136,000 to 19 libraries in 5 counties.

These grants encourage youth to build a lifelong love of reading and learning and encourage youth to develop the habit of library use among the 33 public libraries of the Finger Lakes Library System, which serves Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga, and Tompkins counties. Our annual library grant cycle was inspired by our **Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund**. This year the fund will make over \$120,000 in grants to 17 libraries with \$16,000 in additional funding to two libraries from the **Myrtle Dee Nash Memorial Fund**.

With the vision of Dr. Rosen and this grant cycle, we have witnessed substantial changes in library services to youth. Successes have included previously unengaged schools now collaborating with libraries to subsidize transportation for youth to participate in library book clubs, to host author visits, and to promote summer reading programs. We have seen local businesses get inspired to provide support with underwriting, free advertising and donated prizes. We have seen new collaborations between local government (i.e. city parks) and the local library. We have seen scores of youth gain access to favorite authors in their library, in

their schools, and at the teen book festival in Rochester. Librarians report an increase in the number of books read, the number of minutes spent reading and higher levels of engagement from preschoolers to teens. Hundreds of books have been given to children, to surround them in their homes with easy access to adventures, imagination, and knowledge.

# 67%

**Libraries offer essential services.** For 67% of households earning less than \$30,000 annually, the local library is the primary source of internet access.

Letters of support from librarians and youth themselves have illustrated the enthusiasm and commitment of many stakeholders that have been inspired and sustained by these grants. Book clubs have not only encouraged more reading by youth, but have also fostered a culture of sharing about reading, forming opinions about what has been read, and growing ownership in the planning of future featured books and other programming that inspires continued engagement.



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



### Expressions of the soul

Foundation board member, Dr. Baruch Whitehead, founded and directs the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers. Come hear the music and share in their potential to bring social justice to our world.



**Finger Lakes Land Trust site visit**  
Charles Spencer Nature Preserve, Newfield



**By The Numbers** (3/31/16)

**\$13.4 Million Assets**

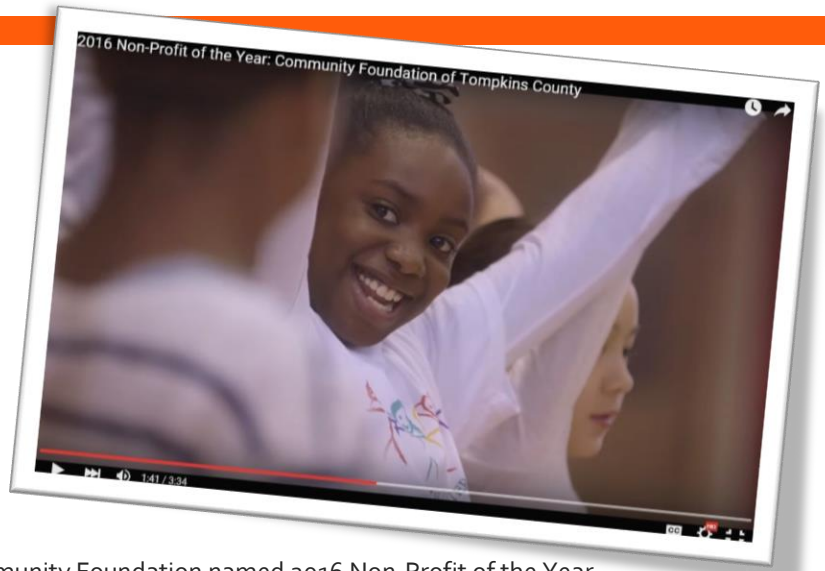
- \$8.3 Million Endowed Funds
- \$5.1 Million Non-Endowed Funds

**Fund Types (95 Funds)**

- 1 Tompkins Today and Tomorrow Fund
- 1 Operational Endowment Fund
- 9 Field of Interest Funds
- 23 Designated Funds
- 61 Donor Advised Funds

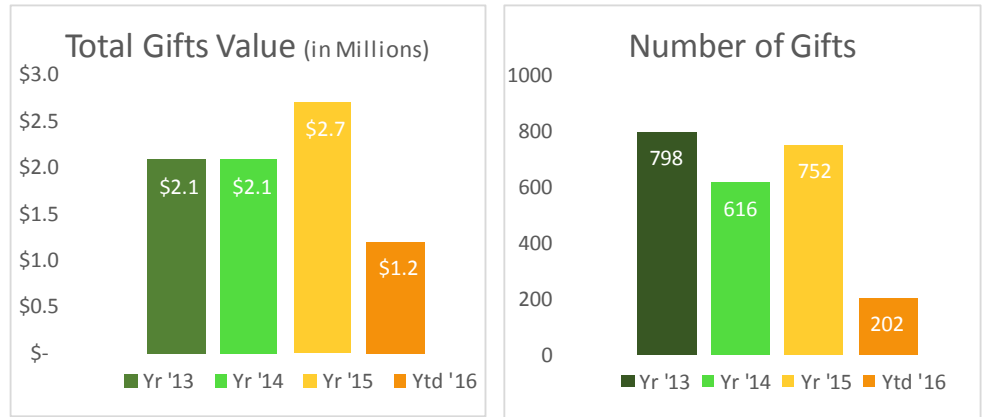
**2016 Grant Cycles (\$ Granted)**

- \$ 32,445 Women's Fund Grant Cycle
- \$ 136,315 Library Grant Cycle
- (June 2016) Spring Grant Cycle



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

**The Community Foundation enables everyone to be a philanthropist.**



**Community Leadership**

The Community Foundation has taken a leadership role in encouraging, supporting, and educating the public about Collective Impact, in which non-profits, businesses, government, and community members combine efforts to solve large, systemic problems in comprehensive ways.

# Community Investments

In our 16<sup>th</sup> year with over \$10 million in nearly 2,500 awards, the Community Foundation is a leading grantmaker in Tompkins County.

