Kids Discover the Trail!
Program Expansion Brings Learning to Life

This spring, hundreds of elementary school students experienced a 19th century classroom in the Eight Square Schoolhouse, dug for fossils at the Museum of the Earth and identified wildflowers in the Cornell Botanic Garden. A record number of children in Tompkins County — 4,400 — participated in Kids Discover the Trail! (KDT!) program, a series of field trips that bring learning to life at eight educational organizations. This year, 80 percent of district elementary students from all six school districts in Tompkins County participated in the program.

KDT! was expanded to all six school districts last year after Community Foundation, along with several other donors, funded a 2011 feasibility study.

Community Foundation contributed $10,000 toward the study, which examined how the program could be introduced into elementary schools beyond Ithaca and Trumansburg. “The feasibility study was critical in documenting both the need as well as outlining the required logistics,” said Charlie Trautman, a member of the DiscoveryTrail Board of Directors and former executive director of the Sciencenter. “Each site had its own challenges and opportunities. Once we had the study, it was possible for the Discovery Trail board to outline a way forward.”

After the study was completed, new schools were phased each year until all six districts had been added by last spring. The newest groups to take a field trip were the third graders in Newfield, which visited the Johnson Museum of Art, and the fifth graders in Dryden, which visited the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Janet Cotraccia, program officer for Community Foundation, said the funding was awarded to the feasibility study because Community Foundation saw the value of providing access to local arts and cultural resources for all children in Tompkins County. “Scaling up this kind of programming to allow access for all, while engaging our fund advisors in dynamic ways to support this kind of programming, is a great example of how we magnify philanthropy.”

Thank You Community Leaders
Speakers, serving on grant review teams, committee and board service, community engagement and more. Photo: Millie Clarke Maynard
Community Connections

We would like to recognize our 2018 HEROES Circle corporate members: Cayuga Radio Group, CFCU Community Credit Union, Chemung Canal Trust Company, Cornell University, C.S.P. Management, Dryden Mutual Insurance Company, Elmira Savings Bank, Hancock Estabrook, LLP, Insero & Co CPAs, Park Foundation, The Philanthropic Fund, Triad Foundation. List current as of 6-30-18. The designation of 2018 HEROES Circle is available through 12-31-18 for donors making a gift of at least $1,000 or more designated for programs and services. Thank you to our business community and private foundations for your partnership in local philanthropy!

By The Numbers (6/30/2018)

Assets: $18.7 Million
- $12.2 Million Endowed Funds
- $6.5 Million Non-Endowed Funds

Fund Types (112 Funds)
- 7 Community Impact Funds
- 11 Field of Interest Funds
- 30 Agency and Designated Funds
- 64 Donor Advised Funds

R2P is Running Home! Donor advisors from several funds granted more than $20,000 helping Running to Places create a permanent theatre and continue universal access with no mandatory fees for participation.

Community Investments

Thank you to our donors who made the following milestones possible! In our 18th year with over $13.5 million in 3,400 awards, Community Foundation is a leading public grantmaker in Tompkins County.

2018 Grant Cycles ($ Granted)
- $162,304 Library Grant Cycle
- $121,285 Spring Grant Cycle
- $9,800 Out of Cycle Requests
- $61,292 Fall Grant Cycle 2-year cycle 2017-18

2018 Grants (ytd 6/30/18): $1,110,128
- Arts and Culture
- Community Building
- Education
- Environment
- Health and Human Services

Several Spring Grant Cycle Grantees
Photo: Janet Cotraccia, Beth Myers, Bronwyn Losey and Karen Yearwood

2018 Corporate sponsor and HEROES Circle member: Hancock Estabrook, LLP