Community Engagement News
As part of a continued commitment to DEIJ, Community Foundation is pleased to introduce Gloria Coicou, as the first Chief Inclusion & Community Engagement Officer. Gloria is a service-oriented leader who is passionate about fostering an environment where inclusion, diversity, equity, and racial justice are explicitly recognized as fundamental parts of the Community Foundation.

She pledges to begin this work by applying an iterative and intentional process to all that the Community Foundation does such as in grantmaking, hiring practices, and daily operations. One of her goals is to create spaces for the Tompkins community to feel empowered and valued regardless of what they seem to be on the outside.

Cayuga Lake Sunset

Philanthropy Magnified Reception
The annual Philanthropy Magnified Reception held in September, recognizes our most generous supporters, HEROES Circle, and Legacy Society. This special reception is held to thank, and to share the impact and results of community philanthropy. This year, held onboard the M/V Teal of Discover Cayuga Lake.

MISSION: We bring people and resources together to build a more equitable Tompkins County by inspiring diverse philanthropy, catalyzing collaborations and championing inclusion and justice.

Community Foundation Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank YOU, our individual and business donors.
Spotlight on our Rural Communities  This year the Community Foundation sponsored Tompkins Chamber’s Community Conversations Series. This series offers a space for hyper-local networking and advocacy with business owners, non-profit leaders, and elected officials in each municipality in Tompkins County. Events were held in Trumansburg, Lansing, Dryden, Newfield, and Groton. We learned community members have a desire to better promote existing community amenities, are concerned about rising costs & inflation on small businesses, struggle with employee recruitment and retention, need expanded workforce development programs specifically youth training, and residents often request better housing, childcare, and public transportation.

The series continues in 2023 with visits to Danby, Caroline, Collegetown, and Ithaca’s West Side.

LASTING LEGACY  In recognition of the recent passing of John Semmler who served as an incorporating board member in 2000, a long-standing donor, Legacy Society member, and a donor advisor.

Charitable Gift Annuity Testimonial: John Semmler

“I set up a Charitable Gift Annuity with appreciated stocks because it saved me capital gains and now I earn income from the transfer to my CGA. These stocks were not providing me with income. At the end of my life, the balance is used for the community instead.”

I get income for life and a tax benefit now but in the end, it goes to the Community Foundation, and they do great work. We needed something like this here.”

Collaborations and responsive funding  Since its inception as the UW/211 COVID-19 Response Program, this direct service collaboration between United Way of Tompkins County and Human Services Coalition has proven to fill a needs gap.

While still helping to address impacts brought on by COVID-19, the program expanded on July 1, 2021 to assist all ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) households in Tompkins County who face potential disruptions in housing, utilities services, child care, and the ability to travel in order to work or learn.

This program was developed in order to provide “last dollars” when other resources for qualifying households are exhausted as a crisis mitigation, direct services program.

The program has proven to serve marginalized populations. At the end of the last reporting period, 70.9% of applicants assisted are women. 53.8% of the households served identify as non-white.

Community Foundation responded with a $20,000 grant to increase the direct assistance pool of funds available. This reflects additional need and demand for the program as well as support for the collaborative nature of this work from multiple members of the Tompkins County Local Funders Group.

2022 SUMMARY (thru 9/30/22)

400 gifts total $1.1 million, fuel grants, deepen community connections and grow resources.

514 grants total $2.0 million, make community investments impacting lives in Tompkins County and beyond.

152 funds hold $21.3 million, with 65% endowed ($13.8 million) and 35% expendable ($7.5 million).