

Philanthropy Magnified

Community Foundation of Tompkins County, established in 2000, has a mission to **bring people and resources together** to build a more equitable Tompkins County by inspiring diverse philanthropy, catalyzing collaborations and championing inclusion and justice. Thank you for being a friend and for your interest and support of our community. With you and others, we strengthen our communities with \$32 M in grants. You truly make a difference.

Building Bridges: Insights and Inspiration from Our Visit to O.A.R.

A site visit to OAR of Tompkins County reveals their deep commitment to serving individuals transitioning from incarceration to community life or what we know as ‘reentry’. The organization’s services—ranging from employment support and housing assistance to educational and legal resources—are not just about addressing immediate needs but also fostering long-term stability and success.



By supporting our reentry population, OAR is actively working to reduce recidivism, which benefits the community as a whole by promoting safety, economic contribution, and the overall well-being of returning citizens.

The organization’s approach is built on the understanding that when individuals are given the tools to reintegrate successfully, the entire community thrives. OAR’s support network helps break cycles of incarceration, which can otherwise have lasting effects on families and neighborhoods. Their small, but mighty staff works tirelessly to address not only surface-level concerns but also the root causes of justice system involvement, helping individuals rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose. This mission strengthens the social fabric of Tompkins County, making it a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

Executive Director, David Sanders, plays a central role, often seen as the driving force behind the organization’s success, providing leadership that enhances both the team’s effectiveness and community trust. **I call him their ‘Secret Sauce’**. David brings a personal, compassionate approach to his role, ensuring that everyone he meets receives tailored support to rebuild their lives. This is what is most important to him. His energy and his compassion had a presence of it’s own during our visit. We were welcomed with a warm smile and a big heart as we walked through the converted medical office space now designed to be a safe haven. We were left with feelings of gratitude and hope for our community of those with lived experience.

Crucial to OAR’s success is the backing they receive from partners like the Community Foundation of Tompkins County. This partnership provides financial support, and resources that allow OAR to expand their reach and impact.

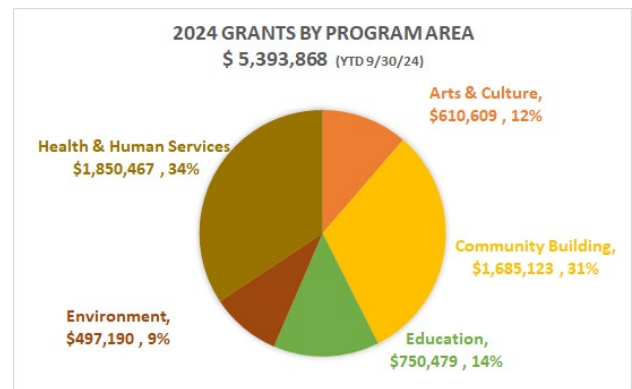
The foundation’s commitment to equity and community development aligns with OAR’s goals, amplifying the work they do and ensuring that these critical services remain available. By supporting OAR, the Community Foundation helps to ensure that the community is not just reacting to challenges but proactively addressing them with compassion and vision.

Community Foundation’s Vision: Tompkins County thrives thanks to engaged philanthropy

2024 Resilient Communities

\$5,393,868 in 527 grants to 302

organizations Typically, on an annual basis, over 90% of grants are made to organizations serving Tompkins County and our region. This year, a directed fund made grants totaling more than \$2 M to national organizations. In addition, to date, in 2024, over \$2.7 M of grants are meeting community needs in Tompkins County and our region. Learn more at www.cftompkins.org under our GRANTS tab.



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

NOV 1

National Philanthropy Awards Lunch

NOV 1

Let's Talk: The State of Literacy with Family Reading Partnership

NOV 12 - 18

Community Foundation Week

NOV 15

Site Visit: Family Reading Partnership

Lots more happening!

Go to our website at cftompkins.org or scan QR CODE below:



We Hope to See You Soon!

Community engagement is about working with, and listening to, communities to build long-term relationships and develop meaningful solutions to complex community issues.

Supporting our Community

Pamela Tan, board member, shares what she has learned about the Community Foundation is impressive.

*"Becoming involved with the foundation has compelled me to make a monthly donation, so that my contribution **joins forces with those of other donors** to make the greatest possible impact in my **beloved local community**, as I trust the Community Foundation to ameliorate Tompkins County's most urgent needs and foster its most **promising opportunities.**"* **Pamela Tan**



New Funds Spotlight

Ithaca Children's Garden Endowment Fund

Ithaca Children's Garden's mission is connecting children to nature to create a more beautiful, resilient, and just world.



Dilmeran Akgoze Mental Health Fund

This fund, established in the name of Dilmeran Akgoze, will support community mental health services with special attention to suicide prevention.



"It is about what I envision the future to be like for my family...planting seeds for the community and our own family." Community Foundation Donor Advisor