



SEPTEMBER 2025

## Philanthropy Magnified

**CELEBRATING our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** 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 local philanthropist. You truly make a difference.**



**25TH Anniversary Speakers, June 26, 2025**  
Pam and Bob Swieringa, Katie Foley, Millie Clarke Maynard, Chavon Bunch, Dan Mansoor

### What's Happening

Sept 2 Women's Fund Holmberg Award Nomination Deadline

Sept 12 Site Visit: Second Wind Cottages

Oct 10 Site Visit: Groundswell

Oct 14 Let's Talk: PROUD: A Conversation with Ithaca Pride Alliance

Oct 16 Women's Fund Celebration

Nov 12 - 18 Community Foundation Week

Our latest **Impact Report and Special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Timeline** at [cftompkins.org](http://cftompkins.org) or scan QR CODE:



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

### Visionary, Dan Mansoor

**Dan Mansoor**, recalled writing a white paper, then meeting with Bill Myers, Joanne Florino and others, set in motion the workings that resulted in the beginnings of Community Foundation of Tompkins County. "I am proud of my 1997 letter, but prouder and indebted to this community for its following up and subsequent commitment to impactful philanthropy. The success of the community foundation **is measured by the impact on people's lives**, it is about **deep civic engagement** by board members, staff and volunteers working together, and it is about the **habit and tradition of collective philanthropic support** embedded into the lifeblood of this community.



### New Funds Spotlight

**Gene and Mary Durham Community Foundation Fund**

**Gene and Mary Durham Women's Opportunity Center Fund**

*Creating a family legacy for years to come! These two funds "ensure my family's philanthropic spirit lived on."*



**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.*



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

## Site Visit to Finger Lakes ReUse: A Pathway to Equity, Opportunity and Transformation

On our recent site visit to **Finger Lakes ReUse**, we were reminded that sustainability is not just a practice—it’s a culture, a community ethic, and for many Ithacans, a way of life. What began as a bold idea rooted in environmental responsibility has grown into a vibrant center of human engagement, where **reuse becomes a pathway to equity, opportunity, and transformation.**

At the heart of this organization is Diane Cohen, a visionary leader whose deep care and compassion have helped shape Finger Lakes ReUse into more than a reuse center—it’s a **place of possibility.** Under her guidance, reuse has become a tool for education, workforce development, and social connection.



Finger Lakes ReUse doesn’t just divert waste from the landfill—they **invest in people.** Through their innovative job training and reentry programs, they offer meaningful opportunities to individuals facing barriers to employment, including those returning from incarceration. Here, participants learn essential skills in technology repair, retail, materials processing, and logistics—gaining confidence, experience, and community.

Their education and leadership pathways create space for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with sustainability in tangible, practical ways. Whether it’s a youth learning to disassemble a computer for the first time or a retiree leading a workshop on furniture repair, ReUse fosters intergenerational learning and leadership rooted in hands-on engagement.

We were inspired by how Finger Lakes ReUse demonstrates that sustainability isn’t a luxury—it’s a **shared responsibility and an invitation to reimagine how we live, build, and connect.** Their model shows that climate solutions can be local, people-centered, and economically inclusive.

  
Community Foundation  
of TOMPKINS COUNTY

25

years of uniting resources and people  
for the mission of building a more inclusive  
and equitable community...

Through grantmaking...

\$32,000,000 +

grant dollars empowering and supporting  
over 750+ organizations












### Success Story: Lansing Community Library



### Expanding Access Through Community Support

Thanks to the combined generosity of the **Lynnette Molesky Scofield Fund** and the **Maralyn W. Fleming Fund**, critical repairs to the library’s elevator were completed—ensuring continued access to resources, services, and social connections for all visitors.

“Many elderly residents rely on the library for more than books—they come here for help with taxes, to socialize, and **to feel connected.**”

-Susie Gutenberger  
Library Director