

Message from the President

2007 is a landmark year for The Community Foundation. It marks our 55th anniversary in philanthropic partnership with both donors and nonprofit organizations spread over the length and breadth of Herkimer and Oneida counties.

This anniversary year presents us with an opportunity to pause and reflect upon our past and also to plan for our future. Zachary Lazovik, our research intern, spent six months gathering information from a myriad of sources about The Foundation's history. Presently, his research is being expanded upon and a book telling the story of the Foundation's first 55 years will be published in May.

In looking back, we know that in 1952 a group of individuals made a commitment to create a charitable endowment for their community — our community. They had the foresight to know that present and future gifts are necessary ingredients to enable an endowment to grow and flourish.

While none of the original incorporators are alive today, new and equally committed individuals continue to emerge to fill their roles. Our huge network of donors and grant recipients is the realization of the dream that a small founding group had for our community. We at The Community Foundation are community builders and our 55th anniversary message, "where a gift gives forever," embodies the mission statement of our foundation.

We would like to hear from you during this celebratory year. Thank you all for your continued efforts, support and ambassadorship on behalf of this foundation.



Community Building: The Foundation and Partners Launch a Board Leadership Seminar

The Community Foundation is pleased to be working in partnership with Excelsus BlueCross BlueShield and United Way of the Greater Utica Area in launching a new initiative to strengthen non-profit board performance.

The timing of this joint initiative is excellent, for the need is now," said Community Foundation president & CEO, Peggy O'Shea, "Our nonprofit providers, our partners, will be strengthened as their boards of directors become better educated and more engaged in the important work that they are called to do. Working as a team, staff and board members can be a powerful force."

The program will start this fall with the first of nine monthly sessions. Each monthly topic will provide board members with additional skills and materials to bring back to their respective organizations. Sessions will be conducted by local and regional business leaders, nonprofit practitioners and staff from the three organizations.

Local non-profit leaders will be contacted to nominate board members in the coming months and invitations to attend will be extended to participants by the three organizations later this year. In the meantime, for more information please contact The United Way of the Greater Utica Area at 315-733-4691

For a Short Time, You Can Make the Gift of a Lifetime

Qualified charitable IRA transfers to your Community Foundation are tax-free—through December 31.

New temporary tax benefits allow qualified seniors to experience the joy of giving more during their lifetimes.

Now through December 31, 2007, Americans over age 70 1/2 no longer pay federal income tax on individual retirement account (IRA) funds given directly to charity up to \$100,000 per person, per year. This lets older adults make their retirement funds go farther than ever before. Gifts can support an existing fund, with the exception of a donor-advised fund, or establish a new fund in their name or that of a loved one.

In 2006, four donors made gifts (totaling \$121,000) to The Community Foundation under this program, creating permanent financial support for eight local charities they care about.

"We're ready to help our donors take advantage of this legislation and make gifts that will have a real impact through our personalized service and local expertise," said Peggy O'Shea, Community Foundation president and CEO.

For more information on this opportunity, please contact Peggy O'Shea or Elayne Johnson at 735-8212.

Gifts of Tribute

The following donors have honored special people in their lives through a gift of tribute. The contributions were received between October 1 and December 31, 2006. The donor is listed below the honoree.

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Blue Mountain Lake Fund Fundraising Update

When Joe & Rita Coney and Rooney & Dick Poole created the Blue Mountain Lake Fund in September of last year, they were adamant about approaching Adirondack neighbors and friends to quickly build this fund to a significant size, so it might have a stronger impact on the area it serves.

In a few short months – they have been most successful. The Foundation extends sincere congratulations to these two special couples for their vision and determination. To date, the Coneys, Pooles and the "Founders" (14 other donor families who made sizeable gifts to the fund in 2006) have grown the fund to nearly \$100,000. We salute their commitment to the mission of this very special fund – protecting the waters and shores of the Eckford Chain of Lakes in perpetuity.

Opportunity to DOUBLE Your GIFT Today!

For those who care about North Country Public Radio (NCPR) and the Adirondacks, a generous couple created a challenge fund to inspire others to support an endowment for the Adirondack News Service. An endowed news bureau means continuity of a crucial high-quality service for, and about, the Adirondack community. With the creation of the Adirondack News Bureau in 1999, NCPR has given communities in the Adirondacks a direct and important voice on our airwaves. NCPR provides the only news and cultural coverage – print and electronic – serving the entire Adirondack North Country.

Your commitment of \$5,000 or more by June 30, 2007, to the North Country Public Radio Fund at The Foundation will be matched \$1 for \$1 by the challenge's donors. If you can invest \$5,000, it will mean \$10,000 for NCPR's Adirondack Service.

For more information about this unique opportunity to stretch your support for North Country Public Radio, contact Peggy O'Shea or Elayne Johnson at 315-735-8212. They can be reached via email at moshea@foundationhoc.org and ejohnson@foundationhoc.org.

FOUNDATION LETTER

is published by

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A Reminder...

You can make a gift of tribute or charitable donation to The Community Foundation using your American Express, MasterCard or Visa credit card. These gifts can be made by mail or telephone. Account numbers are never entered into our computers. Security and confidentiality are high priorities.



Funds Recently Established

In the last two months of 2006 The Foundation welcomed many new funds representing the wide range of charitable interests of our caring donors. On behalf of the whole community, we are most grateful for their trust and confidence in our perpetual stewardship.

Francis J. Jenny Fund: a field-of-interest fund created from a bequest to The Foundation with a special, health-related purpose — that it be used to support nonprofits dealing with the care of patients suffering from arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's and AIDS.

Root Farm Fund: an agency fund created through the Root Farm Foundation to establish a permanent stream of income for the unique equine therapy programs and general support of this organization.

Alan & Connie Leist Family Fund: a donor-advised fund created by the Leist children to honor their parents and create a charitable vehicle through which their family could continue to impact the community.

Rev. P.A. & Norma Brindisi/Westminster Church Fund: a designated fund created by a former trustee and his wife who wanted to provide lasting support for their church and its programs through a permanent endowment fund.

Ronald & Sheila Cuccaro Family Fund: a donor-advised fund created by a community-minded couple to provide support for a variety of causes they care deeply about and to enable them to work together as a family to help others.

Dr. Abraham L. & Ruth Shaheen Family Fund: a designated fund created by a caring doctor and his wife who want to "give back" to the community and support causes they are passionate about. The fund will forever benefit Health Friends, Hope House, Abraham House, New Horizons, Resource Center for Independent Living and the Greater Utica Community Food Resource Center.

Doug & Donna Lynch Fund: a donor-advised fund established to support the general charitable and philanthropic interests of a thoughtful couple interested in several area charities and critical issues within the community.

John J. & Janice S. Livingston Fund: a donor-advised fund created by a board trustee and his wife through which they will focus their charitable giving and address community issues that foster growth and enrichment of the area.

Earle C. Reed Fund: a donor-advised fund created by a dynamic community leader and former trustee through which he will recommend grants to support his philanthropy and his concerns for the community to which he is so actively devoted.

Edward Peter Sidelko Scholarship Fund: a special scholarship created by a retired art teacher through a trust and funded upon his death. Per his wishes, the endowment fund will provide a yearly scholarship for an art student for 10 years, then it converts to a fund to feed the hungry through food pantries in Herkimer and Oneida counties.

Richard W. Couper Memorial Fund: an unrestricted endowment, created through the estate of a generous benefactor and recipient of the first Rosamond Childs Award for Community Philanthropy (posthumously in 2006). Grants from the fund shall be made by The Foundation to meet the emergent needs of the community, today and in the future. The Foundation named the fund in his honor, so his legacy of giving to others continues forever.

The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc.

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You will note that our newsletter is somewhat abbreviated due to the fact that, in May of this year, The Foundation will be publishing our 55th anniversary book. Also, in July, our annual report will be distributed. The newsletter will return to its original format in the fall.



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