At The Community Foundation, fulfilling our “Engage, Invest, Lead” mission has taken on a new sense of urgency. Like organizations and people everywhere, we’re adjusting to new realities resulting from the global pandemic. But our commitment to build a better community demands more than just “adjusting.”

Even as staff worked remotely from mid-March on, we began to address some of the many challenges our partners and constituents faced as the impacts of the pandemic deepened. You may have already heard of the joint COVID-19 fund that was established and our other partnerships; these efforts are just the beginning.

Meeting rising needs as market forces put pressure on charitable assets has challenged organizations like ours—and fundholders like you have seen current values affected. While we share your concerns, it’s important to remember that assets will recover from this downturn, just as we will, collectively, overcome this societal crisis.

As is always the case in troubled times, some in our community rise to meet the challenge; in this newsletter, you’ll see evidence of that spirit. All of us at The Community Foundation take great pride in the commitments made by our donors and fundholders.

And even as we address the harsh realities of the current situation, our top priority has quickly become strategizing to support our community’s future well-being as we plan for the pandemic’s unknown aftermath—and a potential “second wave.” One of the major ways we’ve been able to do so is through the creation of a joint fund with the United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area, called the Mohawk Valley COVID-19 Response Fund. This fund is truly the priority and center point of our work in real time and we ask that you please consider contributing to help us make the greatest impact possible. I’m confident that—whatever lies ahead—your help and support are strengthening this community and brightening its future.

Sincerely,

Alicia Dicks
President/CEO
t’s true: people are looking at life through a different lens. We all now appreciate things we once overlooked. Often unsung, the dedicated nonprofits that tirelessly lift this community up, especially during trying times, continue to provide essential services. Arc Herkimer, a multifaceted agency serving people with disabilities, knows all too well that during times of crisis nonprofits are the glue that holds the community together.

The impact of the pandemic has challenged Arc Herkimer’s several divisions—support services, an industrial sector; career connections and transportation services—all of which exist to help individuals with developmental, psychological and physical disabilities. Because of the nature of the work the organization does, remaining proactive in support of community needs and those it serves is now Arc Herkimer’s top priority.

“For agencies like ours, we’re all considered essential employees, including the administration, so we’re trying to operate business as usual, even though it’s not,” said Kevin Crosley, president/CEO of Arc Herkimer.

The organization’s industrial sector, Herkimer Industries, is in the process of looking at how it can utilize its sewing center to produce various types of personal protective equipment, items there will certainly be a market for long after the crisis subsides.

“There’s always opportunity in the throes of crisis,” said Crosley. “If you have the ability to take advantage of them, it can really do some great things for your company or organization.”

“At the same time, we’re trying to figure out how best to do this—keeping people in an area where they can congregate but is still separate and maintains social distancing, and doing all the things from a sanitation perspective that we need to do to keep everyone safe.”

Through the Mohawk Valley COVID-19 Response Fund, established by The Community Foundation and United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area, Arc Herkimer was awarded a $13,500 grant to purchase sanitation equipment to ensure the health and safety of its staff, volunteers and clients.

Aside from reacting to the stress points and challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic created, the agency has many exciting projects on the way that give hope for a bright future ahead. For example, it will bring more unique services to the individuals it supports in the community through a newly acquired property.

The MV Golf & Event Center, formerly known as the Mohawk Valley Country Club, is a 150-acre property with an 18-hole golf course, restaurant and bar. Located along Route 5 in Little Falls, the facility was recently donated to Arc Herkimer by the Castle/Bailey family. Under its...
ownership, new ventures and capital upgrades will bring the organization’s dream project to fruition. In addition to bringing more diversity and inclusion to the greater community, the facility will offer employment opportunities for the individuals that Arc Herkimer serves.

Crosley says a project of this nature is a wonderful opportunity for an agency that serves people with disabilities, one that “just doesn’t happen.”

“We’ve identified 24 part-time jobs for people that we support that can function in a variety of capacities. It just opens up a whole new world for us. Our industry is big on integration right now—people with and without disabilities working collaboratively in an inclusive setting. This is the perfect example of that type of fully integrated facility.”

Even as it looks to the future, Arc Herkimer’s current projects continue to meet with success. In 2017, the organization introduced Arc Park, an initiative supported by several Community Foundation fundholders. The $1.6 million recreational facility includes three age-focused playground areas for people of all abilities, a fitness trail, refurbished basketball court, band stand, family pavilion and more. Since opening three years ago, it has become a focal point for recreation in the region.

“Our tagline for the agency is ‘Building Community,’ and the result of Arc Park could not be more in line with that statement,” Crosley says. “It is 100% doing exactly that. It’s just incredibly fulfilling and why we do what we do. Not every business can say that at the end of the day, they’ve really truly made a difference in people’s lives and that’s what we do here every day.”

In 2018, M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund and the Mele Family Fund, both donor-advised funds of The Community Foundation, awarded Arc Herkimer $250,000 to support its Day Habilitation Program. The program provides services to a group of individuals daily, promoting learning in an environment conducive to their growth.

For Crosley, The Community Foundation’s support for these transformational projects has been phenomenal.

“It has been an unbelievable relationship,” he reflected. “We’ve been able to figure out a way to utilize The Community Foundation’s resources for some great projects that have turned into stories that we’ve been able to tell in various ways about how amazing the organization has been in helping us reach our goal of building community.”

For an organization like Arc Herkimer, the possibilities of its service and significance in the community are limitless. Better days are surely on the way, and Arc Herkimer is one of the organizations taking care of the community until it is whole again.
There are many ways to memorialize a loved one’s legacy far into the future. It can be as simple as continuing a tradition that the person loved, planting a tree in their memory—even just celebrating their life on a special occasion. For Jerome Donovan, honoring his remarkable father by giving back to the community that meant so much to him was important.

In 1991, the Senator James H. Donovan Memorial and Scholarship Fund was established at The Community Foundation to continue the Senator’s 30 years of commitment to public service and his love of community. In 1998, the memorial fund was amended to establish The Community Foundation’s first donor-advised fund.

The memorial fund supports organizations that serve local youth and families through education, arts & culture, literacy, recreation and social services. Since its creation, the fund has awarded more than 130 grants to over 50 community organizations, totaling nearly $172,000.

“Continuing my father’s legacy of advancing educational opportunity, promoting the arts and economic development and advocating for the disabled, veterans and the preborn is the most rewarding part of supporting different organizations,” says Donovan, fund advisor. “Knowing my father as I did, he would say, ‘Is there even more that we can do?’”

With the community pulling together during this challenging time, Donovan realized that there was indeed more to be done. The Donovan fund made one of the largest grants in its history to the Mohawk Valley COVID-19 Response Fund, established to meet the needs of those nonprofits most impacted by the crisis.

“At this difficult time and given the objectives of the COVID-19 Response Fund, there was no better way to assist the communities my father served for more than a quarter-century.”

“Generally, we identify with programs, projects and agencies that my father would have supported, both personally and in his legislative initiatives,” says Donovan. “The Community Foundation has been a cooperative partner in this endeavor. They are always ready to offer advice, facilitate our grant recommendations and help us make a larger impact by partnering with others on projects within our field of interest, but beyond our means.”

One local organization that Senator Donovan identified with was the Utica Zoo. In 1988, he obtained state funding to help establish its Siberian Tiger exhibit, and the Zoo dedicated it to his memory shortly after his death in 1990. Twenty years later, Donovan renewed the memorial dedication with a $5,000 grant from the fund to support the Zoo’s “Big Cat” exhibit and its two African Lions, Moni and Bakari.

“Though it was an opportunity to assist the Zoo in its mission to protect endangered species and...
support a quality of life showcase in our region, it was equally as important for our family to continue my father’s legacy of service and his shared interest in the conservation of endangered wildlife.”

Then, the Zoo began discussing the idea of having a “naming campaign” for the newest addition to its family, Moni and Bakari’s lion cub, to ensure sustainable funding and care for some of the Zoo’s larger animals. The Donovan fund’s $5,000 grant jumpstarted the campaign, and Donovan was asked to name the cub. Over the last nine years, “Donovan the Lion” has become quite an attraction at the Zoo. Today, the naming campaign now includes a component that requires a multiyear commitment to sponsor a portion of the animal’s care and housing, which is also supported by the Donovan fund.

Additionally, the Donovan family’s scholarship fund benefits students in Oneida, Herkimer and Lewis counties who are attending Mohawk Valley Community College and Herkimer College. “Donovan Scholars” must demonstrate academic prowess, involvement in community affairs and financial need. Thanks to the fund, more than $50,000 in scholarships has been awarded to help provide higher education to area students.

“Partnering with The Community Foundation makes abundant sense,” Donovan says. “The Community Foundation provides ease of administration, opportunities for collaboration, and the confidence of knowing recipient organizations are qualified and screened nonprofits. Your investment in the community is professionally managed to maintain principal and ensure years of future grantmaking.”

Keeping a legacy alive is rewarding in many ways, especially by creating real, tangible impact in people’s lives and their community.

Through acts of generosity, Donovan is fulfilling his commitment to keep the spirit of his father’s work and image ever present—a gift that we as a community will continue to benefit from for years to come.

Thanks to the fund, more than $50,000 in scholarships have been awarded to help provide higher education to area students.
When the impact of the global pandemic began to be felt, we at The Community Foundation knew that the unprecedented crisis would require a comprehensive response. Even as the pandemic affected the entire community, it was going to challenge the way our organization functions, and the ways in which we support the community.

As an organization that funds nonprofits in Herkimer and Oneida counties, our top priority was to create a fund that could quickly meet the most critical nonprofit needs as they arose. It was also important to help those working diligently to keep the community safe and healthy. Here’s a summary of efforts—The Community Foundation’s and our partners’—that paints a clear picture of a community coming together during a time of historic need.

MOHAWK VALLEY COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND
A partnership between The Community Foundation and United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area led to the establishment of a response fund to support frontline partners and community needs that resulted from the pandemic. As of mid-May, more than $800,000 has been awarded to dozens of organizations in Herkimer and Oneida counties for needs relating to telehealth equipment, food for residents, childcare, and more.

FEED OUR FRONTLINE FAMILIES
Feed Our Frontline Families is an initiative started by three partners: Saranac Brewery, the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce and The Community Foundation. The initiative serves a dual purpose to support both local businesses and essential frontline workers by raising money to purchase gift cards from restaurants, then giving them to local workers to help feed their families. So far, more than $25,000 in gift cards have been purchased and distributed to frontline workers.

Other gift card initiatives included $25,000 from donors of Rome Community Foundation to purchase gift cards for frontline workers at Rome Memorial Hospital, and a campaign started by Think Local Little Falls called Little Falls Essentials, aiming to distribute gift cards to three essential workers a day for 30 days.

RISING PHOENIX MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM
Through its donor-advised fund at The Community Foundation, Rising Phoenix Holding Corporation launched a matching gift program for its employees, offering to double gifts up to $250 to organizations both locally and nationwide providing essential COVID-19 relief. The Rising Phoenix Fund will provide $25,000 in support through matching gifts and grants.

ONEIDA COUNTY YOUTH SIDEWALK ART CONTEST
The Community Foundation teamed up with Oneida County to provide prizes for a Youth Sidewalk Art Contest where local residents could submit their chalk masterpieces. More than 90 submissions were received, some of which are featured on the cover of this newsletter!

BLUE AND WHITE BOW MISSION
Blue and White Bow Mission is an initiative started by four Whitesboro students that are making and selling blue and white ribbons for people to hang outside of homes and businesses in support of frontline workers. All the money raised is being donated to local food pantries. The Community Foundation contributed funds to this effort and showed its support by placing five bows outside our Genesee Street offices.

VIRTUAL NONPROFIT TOWN HALL
The Community Foundation hosted a virtual event with local nonprofit partners to learn about the pressure points being dealt with, how organizations have adapted during this time and to provide a forum for the sharing of resources. The feedback provided great insight into the needs of the community and will help shape The Community Foundation’s response to the evolving needs of our partners and those they serve.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY GUIDE
The Community Foundation launched a Facebook group called COVID-19 Community Guide to serve as a place where people can share information about local programs, services, useful tips and more with others.
Our NEWEST funds

ANIMAL ALLIANCE OF GREATER SYRACUSE FUND
An agency fund benefiting Animal Alliance of Greater Syracuse, an animal welfare organization working toward safety and humanity for all animals.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY FUND
An agency fund established by the Community Foundation of Otsego County to provide support for and invest in the educational and social needs of the residents of Otsego County.

EMPOWERED PATHWAYS FUND
An agency fund to benefit Empowered Pathways.

FUNDS TO BENEFIT THE NEW HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
A designated fund established to provide support for the New Hartford Public Library.

HART FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
A scholarship fund established by Todd Hart and Terry Hart to award scholarships to students that have resided in the 1969 Fire District area of the Town of Trenton.

JANE LISBETH WATTS MEMORIAL FUND
A field-of-interest fund established in memory of Jane Lisbeth Watts to provide care for dogs housed at no-kill shelters.

JULIANA WEBER FUND FOR TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
An agency fund benefiting Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Utica.

KATHLEEN A. PERREault FUND
A field-of-interest fund established in memory of Kathleen A. Perreault to provide support for area libraries and scholarships for local students.

KATHLEEN A. PERREault FUND TO BENEFIT THE NEW HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
A designated fund established in memory of Kathleen A. Perreault to benefit the New Hartford Public Library.

PROSPECT SOFTBALL FIELD RENOVATION FUND
A field-of-interest fund established by Town of Trenton to support the renovation of Prospect softball fields.
INVEST IN YOUR Community

MAKE A GIFT THAT WILL FIT YOUR PHILANTHROPIC GOALS AND BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME.

HOW TO GIVE

ONLINE
foundationhoc.org

MAIL
2608 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13502

PHONE
315.735.8212

WAYS TO GIVE

MAKE A GIFT
Cash
Real Estate
Stocks & Securities

CREATE A FUND
Donor-Advised
Scholarship
Field-of-Interest

PLAN YOUR LEGACY
Bequests
Future Fund
Life Insurance

GENERATE AN INCOME
Retirement Plans
Charitable Gift Annuity
Charitable Remainder Trust

TRANSFER INSTRUCTIONS FOR GIFTS OF STOCK

Please provide your bank or broker with the following instructions for transfer of stock to our account at Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc.:

DTC #: 0547
Account #: 1854-6383
Account Name: The Community Foundation

Notify Nick Grimmer, director of giving strategies, 315.731.3737, ngrimmer@foundationhoc.org, that a gift is being transferred. Provide the donor name, number of shares, and the name of the stock or the stock code, as well as the designation.

NICK GRIMMER
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INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE? CONTACT OUR TEAM >

A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry on the New York State Attorney General’s website (www.charitiesnys.com) or, upon request, by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, or The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, 2608 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502. You also may obtain information on charitable organizations from the New York State Office of the Attorney General at www.charitiesnys.com or 212.416.8401.