With the colder months’ arrival comes a special time of year when family and friends share joy and give thanks. The Community Foundation staff would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to you, our donor-advised fundholders. Your dedication and passion make our work more meaningful with each passing year. Through our fundholders, The Community Foundation is able to make a significant impact on our community and its people. Your contributions have already had a lasting influence and set both Herkimer and Oneida counties on a course for continued growth and success in the years to come.

As 2018 draws to a close, donor-advised funds have already awarded more than 230 grants to nonprofits, totaling nearly $2.1 million. Grants awarded have addressed basic community needs, provided opportunities for youth, supported animal care organizations, healthcare and the arts, and assisted many other worthwhile endeavors. These meaningful initiatives and projects are happening all because of your generosity and engagement.

In this newsletter, we are excited to share the results of our first-ever Community Choice Awards. Winners selected by a community-wide vote are receiving funding from five donor-advised funds to support programs that will enhance their work. You can also find an update on Abraham House’s new campus in Rome, which was discussed at last year’s donor-advised luncheon. Lastly, we showcase a variety of investment opportunities for our fundholders to consider as part of their end-of-year giving.

We look forward to another great year in which we will strive to fulfill The Community Foundation’s mission—engage, invest and lead. From all of us at The Community Foundation, we wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.
The Community Foundation held the first-ever Community Choice Awards, a $50,000 contest to help five local nonprofits with community projects in the categories of Animals, Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness, Human Services and Youth.

The Community Foundation partnered with five donor-advised funds that generously agreed to sponsor the contest, awarding $10,000 prizes to the winner of each category. Dozens of nonprofit organizations in Herkimer and Oneida counties submitted grant proposals for consideration. Community Foundation staff in consultation with category sponsors selected three finalists in each category, and then community-wide voting determined the winners. On October 17, staff, Trustees and donors traveled to the five winning organizations to deliver their award and celebrate the exciting news.

Read on to learn more about the funds that sponsored each category and the organizations selected as winners. The winning organizations will be featured in the next edition of the donor-advised newsletter. Interested in participating in next year’s Community Choice Awards? Please contact Lindsey Costello, donor relations manager, lcostello@foundationhoc.org, (315) 731-3726.

BULL FAMILY FUND
ARTS & CULTURE CATEGORY

The Bull Family Fund is one of The Community Foundation’s most active donor-advised funds, having awarded more than $376,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations and programs in Herkimer and Oneida counties. Since 2001, the fund has made 48 grants to benefit a diverse group of programs and organizations that work to address a broad spectrum of community needs in education, healthcare, arts and human services. “Many times, the smallest grants have the greatest impact because they mean so much to the organization and the community receiving that grant,” said Larry Bull, fund advisor. The three finalists in the Arts & Culture category were Arc Herkimer, Players of Utica and Rome Capitol Arts Complex.

And the winner is…Rome Capitol Arts Complex!
MELE FAMILY FUND
HEALTH & WELLNESS CATEGORY
Since 2009, the Mele Family Fund has awarded nearly $2.5 million in grants to nonprofit organizations that enrich the community in strategic and significant ways. Known for their stewardship and community engagement, the Mele family is passionate about supporting projects and programs that focus on creating long-term impact in areas of education and health. “Our family strives to make proactive investments that strengthen local nonprofit organizations so that they can continue working to create significant impact,” said Ray Mele, fund advisor. The three finalists in the Health & Wellness category were Catholic Charities of Herkimer County, Mid-York Library System and Rome Hospital Foundation.

And the winner is…Mid-York Library System!

M&T BANK/PARTNERS TRUST BANK CHARITABLE FUND
YOUTH CATEGORY
The M&T Bank/Partner’s Trust Bank Charitable Fund (MTPT) recently celebrated its tenth anniversary and has awarded more than 155 grants to support a variety of programs and organizations throughout Herkimer and Oneida counties. Over the years, many of these grants have focused on projects and programs that empower youth through education. In 2018, the MTPT Fund surpassed the $2 million mark in grantmaking. “Advancing the variety of opportunities available for our children is a priority for the MTPT Fund. When we support programs for our youth, we’re investing in our community’s future generations,” said Dave Manzelmann, fund advisor. The three finalists in the Youth category were the Oneida County Youth Bureau, The Kelberman Center and the Utica Zoo.

And the winner is…Utica Zoo!

RONALD & SHEILA CUCCARO FAMILY FUND
HUMAN SERVICES CATEGORY
Ron and Sheila Cuccaro established their fund in 2006 and in the years since have granted over $100,000 to more than 30 local nonprofit organizations and programs. Through the fund, the Cuccaros focus their grantmaking in support of human service organizations and programs that help individuals struggling to meet basic needs. “Through our partnership with The Community Foundation, we are able to maximize the impact of our investments to benefit community members who are most in need,” said Ron Cuccaro, fund advisor. The three finalists in the Human Services category were Abraham House Rome, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees and Mother Marianne’s West Side Kitchen.

And the winner is…Mother Marianne’s West Side Kitchen!

STAFFWORKS CHARITABLE FUND
ANIMALS CATEGORY
The Staffworks Charitable Fund was established by Anita A. Vitullo in 2006 to support programs and services related to domestic animal welfare. Since 2009, nearly $1.4 million in grants has been awarded to community organizations, including more than a dozen animal welfare organizations across the region. In 2018, the Staffworks Charitable Fund surpassed the $10 million mark, becoming the first and only fund of this size at The Community Foundation with a living fundholder. “The Animals Category draws attention to the mission of a humane community for at-risk animals and the dedication of the organizations advancing that mission,” said Anita Vitullo, fund advisor. The three finalists in the Animals category were Humane Society of Rome, Spring Farm CARES and Stevens-Swan Humane Society.

And the winner is…Spring Farm CARES!
Abraham House is extending its services to the Rome community with plans to open a six-bedroom facility in the former Rome Home on North Washington Street in spring 2019.

The only facility of its kind in Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties, Abraham House has provided care for the terminally ill free of charge since 1998. Since the Utica home offers just two guest rooms, Executive Director Gina Ciaccia knew it was time for the organization to grow and serve more people. She was confident that the organization could duplicate its model to expand services to another nearby community in need.

This idea became real when Ciaccia spoke about the proposed project at a Rome Chamber of Commerce event. Working alongside City of Rome Mayor Jacqueline Izzo, Ciaccia was invited to view the Rome Home. She soon learned that the Rome Home was closing, with the organization’s board of directors planning to donate it to a worthy recipient.

“‘This was a generous, significant gift, but also a huge undertaking for myself and my leadership team to make this happen,’ Ciaccia said. ‘It happened so organically, but we approached it very seriously to make it a reality.’

Abraham House Rome will provide six more beds for the three counties, doubling the number of rooms available to provide 24-hour care to the terminally ill. Abraham House Rome is building a relationship with Rome Memorial Hospital for referrals through their continuum of care, and Ciaccia is anticipating referrals will also come from Hospice & Palliative Care.

Veteran Abraham House caregivers in Utica will play a leadership role in Rome, especially in training new staff and keeping all instruction consistent. Caregivers will be cross-trained so they can work at either facility. Right now, Abraham House Utica has about 12 part-time caregivers on staff, and Rome will double that.

In addition to more Abraham House staff, Hospice & Palliative Care will occupy space in the Rome facility as well, allowing for easier access since the only area hospice location is in New Hartford. This shared space arrangement will allow Hospice & Palliative Care to serve residents of Rome and surrounding communities.

The Rome location is in the final stages of being cleaned out, and many items have been donated or made available at The Bird’s Nest, the Abraham House thrift store. Companies such as BME have also helped, with volunteers moving items out of the home to get ready for renovations.

Moving forward, Abraham House is building a $200,000 fund that will be used to match private gifts dollar for dollar. Abraham House has already secured $50,000 from The Community Foundation in addition to $25,000 from the Mele Family Fund and $10,000 from one other donor-advised fund at The Community Foundation.

Abraham House Rome was also a finalist in The Community Foundation’s Community Choice Awards, competing for funding to provide guest services and amenities for the Rome home’s guests and their families.
DICKS FAMILY FUND

The Dicks Family Fund is a donor-advised fund established by Alicia and Robert Dicks. The fund will be used to support general charitable purposes.

KEVIN “BING” CROSSLEY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Kevin “Bing” Crossley Memorial Foundation was created in honor of Kevin “Bing” Crossley, a Village of Whitesboro police officer who lost his life in a motor vehicle accident while on patrol in April 2018. The foundation will support areas that interested Kevin, such as small engine repair and criminal justice, as well as community outreach programs that help bring together local youth and law enforcement communities.
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

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS
Per IRS guidelines, the following deadlines must be adhered to in order for gifts to count for 2018 tax deductibility.

ONLINE GIFTS
Online credit card transactions must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, December 31, 2018.

PHONED-IN OR IN-PERSON GIFTS
Phoned-in or in-person gifts must be received by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 31, 2018.

MAILED GIFTS
Gifts mailed to The Community Foundation must be postmarked by Monday, December 31, 2018.

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*PHOTO TAKEN AT THE HAGE BUILDING, A LEED GOLD CERTIFIED FACILITY IN DOWNTOWN UTICA.