If you’re a regular reader of this newsletter, you know that we like to focus on the positive outcomes made possible by our fundholders and donors. We always want to share how our nonprofit partners continue to serve Herkimer and Oneida counties, and we want you to know what the Community Foundation is working on—a first-ever community giving day, “Mohawk Valley Gives,” is featured in this issue, for example.

Each of these successes support a larger strategy, driven by signature projects and initiatives that we’re devoting more and more time, energy and resources to as our organization turns 70 this year. We’re grateful to donors past and present who have made our first seven decades possible—their foresight continues to power the strategic work that will help transform our two counties in the years to come.

Like you, we look around and see global, national and regional challenges such as the pandemic, war, political strife, racism and violence. But we are not discouraged. Thanks to all those who have believed in this community and continue to support our nonprofit ecosystem, the Community Foundation is working strategically with our partners to overcome the effects of social and economic challenges to our community. Revitalizing neighborhoods, Healthy housing, Planning community growth, Enhancing and strengthening our workforce. Working to achieve racial equity and social justice.

Collaboration helps us make the entire community stronger. Beyond the many grants and scholarships our donors make possible, we have grown their generous gifts to support today’s work—and to meet the community’s future needs. Working together to harness the power of collective effort, we know that we can make even greater strides toward our vision: A vibrant region with opportunity for all.

Thanks for all that you’ve done and continue to do to give these two counties an even brighter future.
Introducing our new Funding Opportunities Catalog!

The Community Foundation’s new online funding opportunities catalog gives all our fundholders the latest information about opportunities to support nonprofits’ charitable needs!

WHAT IT IS
The funding opportunities catalog is an online directory of needs submitted to us by nonprofit organizations. Our fundholders and donors often ask “What do nonprofits need right now?” This tool allows us to proactively share those needs in real time.

The catalog includes a brief summary about the organization and the project, program, or other need for which they are requesting funding.

HOW IT WORKS
Community Foundation donor-advised fundholders can support any organization’s catalog-listed need by clicking the “Recommend Grant” button on the webpage foundationhoc.org/catalog, filling out a brief form and sending it to funds@foundationhoc.org. Grant recommendations of partial or full amounts may be made to any of the opportunities listed in the catalog. Please be sure to specify the amount you would like to donate on the form.

FIND OUT MORE
For more information on the catalog, contact Ely Arnone-Earl, earnone-earl@foundationhoc.org, 315-725-7572. In some cases, she may have or be able to obtain more information about a particular organization’s project or need.

Visit foundationhoc.org/catalog to explore the latest pool of funding opportunities!
Established by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York in 1958, the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) is a preeminent biomedical research institute whose research focuses on finding causes and treatments for heart, brain, and autoimmune disorders. Currently, their work centers around understanding the mechanisms that underlie heart disease, from pediatric genetic disorders to heart failure, and from cardiac inflammation to diabetes and obesity related cardiac disease. In addition, they are working to uncover novel genetic causes of neurocognitive disorders such as autism and Alzheimer’s, and on autoimmune diseases, such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and colitis.

For the past four years, MMRI has undergone significant growth. Under the direction of Executive Director and Director of Research, Dr. Maria Kontaridis, the Institute has undergone a complete renovation, updating, and creating five floors of state-of-the-art research space, and expanding to over 50 new scientific, administrative, and research staff from all over the world, bringing them right here, to Utica, New York.

MMRI’s Principal Development Officer, Stephen F. Izzo described this period as “a Renaissance . . . a period during which we have not only increased the scope of the diseases we study, but also the science staff studying them, our physical plant and equipment and our scientific and even business and local central New York collaborations. While we are still very deep in cardiac research, we are in the process of expanding our research to address other neurodegenerative and autoimmune diseases, including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and even Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.”

That expansion, Izzo further explained, also includes studying autism and its biological components as well as other diseases such as cancer:

“All this research is at a cellular level,” Izzo explained. “We are looking inside the cells to determine which genes correlate to a particular disease, with the hope that inhibiting, or turning something ‘off’ in that gene might reduce or prevent the recurrence of the disease.”

In addition to its scientific scope, MMRI has also expanded its focus on educational programs. Through MMRI’s Summer Fellowship Program and internships, which immerse undergraduate, graduate, and medical students in guided training in biology, physiology, molecular biology, chemistry, medicine, and other life sciences, MMRI is furthering its mission to provide education for future STEM-based careers, including researchers and medical doctors.

MMRI is not alone in its mission to “improve the health and quality of life for all humankind,” Izzo said. It is supported by a variety of partners who help make their work possible, including external federal research agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, national foundations such as the American Heart Association, and pharmaceutical companies. As these resources provide funds—principally to conduct research—additional resources are required to provide for the operational expenses supporting the Institute’s scientific research. Specifically, MMRI reaches out to its philanthropic supporters, including Masons and non-Masons, community members, nonprofits, businesses, and other organizations.
Izzo says fundraising for ongoing and long-term research can be challenging; it can take time for research goals to come to fruition and for people to realize the impact of their gift. But Izzo is quick to point out that MMRI has numerous current and past successes—ones they are now heralding more publicly than they had previously—and MMRI can be a one-of-a-kind partner for those donors who recognize that a long-term investment in its research can significantly enhance the quality of life of so many afflicted by disease.

MMRI is the only laboratory in the world founded by, directed by, and governed by Freemasons. It is an entirely separate and independent entity from any organization or campus. As such, it has full control of the scope and extent of the research it conducts. Being an independent laboratory, however, can also be challenging, Izzo said, as MMRI “does not have access to the deep resources associated with a university or a medical facility.” Accordingly, Dr. Kontaridis is focusing her and MMRI’s efforts on enhancing the Lab’s collaboration with colleagues around the world as well as with colleges and universities in the Mohawk Valley.

Raising awareness about the work done at the laboratory is another challenge the organization is overcoming, Izzo said, and MMRI seeks to become better known in the community, across the country and even globally. Obtaining and retaining support from donors, businesses, and individuals is not an easy task, but he said the Community Foundation has helped by connecting the Institute with new potential supporters and partners across the Mohawk Valley. Indeed, the Community Foundation itself has its own longstanding history of supporting MMRI, awarding more than $880,000 in grants to the Laboratory since 1987. The funding has been allocated primarily to the Summer Fellowship Program while also supporting the purchase of critical medical and scientific-research equipment. Much of the funding from the Community Foundation has, in turn, emanated from grants it has received from more than eight donor-advised funds.

The groundbreaking work MMRI is doing is valuable far beyond the Mohawk Valley, where the Institute continues to be an important part of the community. Across the nation and around the world, MMRI’s extensive research is critical to the advancement of science and medical discoveries, and the development of new diagnostics, treatments, and therapies to cure disease.
Each year, the Community Foundation works to fulfill the commitment of fundholders who have established scholarship funds to benefit local youth and help them continue their educational journey.

Our 72 active scholarship funds have awarded more than $2.3 million in scholarships to thousands of students since the first fund of this type was established in 1986. Award criteria differ, with some scholarship funds stipulating that student recipients focus on a particular area of study or attend a designated school. On the other hand, some awards cast a wider net and can be given to students studying in a variety of areas or at any college or university. Fields of study range from aviation to veterinary sciences—and everything in between.

The Community Foundation also manages one fellowship fund—the Hayes-Couper Fund—which provides fellowship opportunities to teachers at Clinton Central School District.

Behind the scenes, our team is working to ensure that the scholarship process goes smoothly each academic year.

“The process begins in January where we work to identify scholarship amounts and determine which schools to reach out to,” said Allison Campbell, Community Foundation fund administration coordinator. “Area high schools and colleges are contacted in February so they can begin to spread the word to students about available scholarship opportunities. Beginning in March and through the summer months, we are in constant contact with local schools and guidance counselors to identify candidates that meet the criteria for each award. We also collect necessary documentation from students and make sure that the funds are directed to their school of choice.”

Of those more than 70 active funds, 23 are coordinated by longtime partner Utica Dollars for Scholars (UDFS). Established in 1994, UDFS is a local, volunteer community group under the umbrella of Scholarship America, a nonprofit scholarship foundation providing financial awards and recognition for students pursuing higher education.

The local Utica chapter partners with area businesses, families, service organizations, individual donors, and the Community Foundation to establish annual awards and funds to recognize excellence and potential in local students.

“We’re an entirely volunteer-led organization,” said Lee Kowalsky, UDFS president and scholarship manager. “Any gift that comes to us goes right out the door in the form of a scholarship. Our entire focus is getting students to apply and finding the right fit for each award.”

The partnership between the Community Foundation and UDFS began in the mid-1990s and continues today. The organization acts
as a support system for the Community Foundation, promoting these scholarships at various schools, selecting the nominees and making awardee recommendations.

“It’s amazing to me how excellent some of our kids are and how wonderful they are going to be in their lifetime,” said Bruce Brodsky, UDFS founding chair and treasurer. “For me, the best time of the year is reading those applications, meeting young people, and talking to family members and kids about what their ideas are for the future. I just think Dollars for Scholars gives me an opportunity to contribute something to their future.”

Campbell agrees.

“The Community Foundation values these scholarship funds,” she said. “They provide so much not only to individual students, but to their families, their futures, and overall—our community.”

For a full list of scholarship opportunities, visit foundationhoc.org/scholarships.
In celebration of its 70th anniversary, the Community Foundation will host its first ever 24-hour community giving day, “Mohawk Valley Gives,” as the start of a multiyear effort to bring nonprofit need and donor support together through our 75th anniversary year and beyond.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, STARTING AT MIDNIGHT | GIVEMV.ORG**

**130+ PARTICIPATING NONPROFITS**

**TWENTY FOUR HOURS | 1 DAY to make a difference!**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

Staffworks  M&T Bank
With Mohawk Valley Gives right around the corner, now is a great time to start planning what causes and organizations you will support! Over the past few months, our team has been busy communicating the concept of the community-wide giving day to a number of audiences, including nonprofits, and encouraging their participation. We’re pleased to present the full list of amazing organizations that will be a part of the giving day!

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<th>4 Elements Studio</th>
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<th>Rome Historical Society</th>
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<td>4PetSake Food Pantry</td>
<td>Hope Chapel AME Zion Church</td>
<td>Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum</td>
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<td>50 Forward Mohawk Valley</td>
<td>Hospice &amp; Palliative Care</td>
<td>Rome Youth Hockey Association</td>
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<td>A Better Chance Clinton</td>
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<td>Safe Schools Mohawk Valley</td>
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<td>Abraham House</td>
<td>Irish Cultural and Historical Society of the Mohawk Valley</td>
<td>Samaritan Counseling Center of the Mohawk Valley</td>
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<td>Adirondack Foothills Trails Alliance</td>
<td>Johnson Park Center</td>
<td>Sculpture Space</td>
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<td>Kirkland Art Center</td>
<td>Sherrill-Kenwood Free Library</td>
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<td>Anita’s Stevens Swan Humane Society</td>
<td>Kirkland Trails</td>
<td>Sleep in Heavenly Peace</td>
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<td>Arc Herkimer</td>
<td>Krajsnik Football Club</td>
<td>South Rome Senior Citizens</td>
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<td>Bianca Michelle Devins Memorial Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>Lead-Free &amp; Healthy Homes Mohawk Valley</td>
<td>St. Margaret’s Corporation of Utica</td>
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<td>Boilermaker Road Race</td>
<td>Leatherstocking Ballet</td>
<td>SUNY Polytechnic Institute Foundation</td>
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<td>Business &amp; Professional Association of Herkimer</td>
<td>Leatherstocking Council, Boy Scouts of America</td>
<td>The Community at Sunset Wood</td>
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<td>CanCode Communities</td>
<td>Little Falls Community Outreach</td>
<td>The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties</td>
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<td>Little Falls Youth &amp; Family Center</td>
<td>The Country Pantry</td>
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<td>Catholic Charities of Herkimer County</td>
<td>Masonic Medical Research Institute</td>
<td>The Creative Outpost</td>
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<td>Mid York Library System</td>
<td>The Friends of the Arc Foundation</td>
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<td>Midtown Utica Community Center</td>
<td>The House of the Good Shepherd</td>
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<td>Center for Leadership Excellence</td>
<td>Mission Mayhem Wildlife Rehabilitation</td>
<td>The Kelberman Center</td>
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<td>Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts</td>
<td>The KEYS Program</td>
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<td>Central New York Community Arts Council</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency</td>
<td>The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica</td>
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<td>Central New York Conservancy</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Community College Foundation</td>
<td>The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees</td>
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<td>Chamber Music Society of Utica</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Frontiers Club</td>
<td>The Project Fibonacci Foundation</td>
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<td>Charles T. Sitrin Health Care Center</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Latino Association</td>
<td>The Salvation Army of Herkimer</td>
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<td>Christ Child Society of Utica</td>
<td>Morrow Warming Center/Cornerstone Community Church</td>
<td>The Salvation Army of Rome</td>
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<td>CNYHHN</td>
<td>Mosaic Health</td>
<td>The Salvation Army of Utica</td>
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<td>Community Foundation of Otsego County</td>
<td>Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute</td>
<td>The Utica Center for Development</td>
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<td>Community Transportation Services</td>
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<td>The Women’s Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties</td>
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<td>Community Wellness Partners</td>
<td>Notre Dame Schools</td>
<td>Thea Bowman House</td>
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<td>Connor’s Way</td>
<td>Olmsted City</td>
<td>Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust</td>
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<td>Copper City Community Connection</td>
<td>On Point for College</td>
<td>Upstate Cerebral Palsy</td>
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<td>Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center</td>
<td>Oneida County History Center</td>
<td>Upstate Sports Charities</td>
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<td>Empowered Pathways</td>
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<td>Uptown Theatre for Creative Arts</td>
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<td>Erwin Library and Institute</td>
<td>Operation Sunshine</td>
<td>Utica Bike Rescue</td>
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<td>Feed Our Veterans</td>
<td>Planned Parenthood of Greater New York</td>
<td>Utica Dollars for Scholars</td>
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<td>Food 4 Hunger</td>
<td>Players of Utica</td>
<td>Utica Public Library</td>
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<td>Foothills Rural Community Ministry</td>
<td>Prospect Free Library</td>
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<td>Frank J. Basloe Library</td>
<td>Rebuilding the Village</td>
<td>Waterville Area Food Pantry</td>
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<td>Frankfort Free Library</td>
<td>Rescue Mission of Utica</td>
<td>Waterville Public Library</td>
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<td>Friends of Bassett</td>
<td>Resource Center for Independent Living</td>
<td>Western Town Library</td>
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<td>Helio Health</td>
<td>Rome Alliance for Education</td>
<td>Woodhill</td>
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<td>Herkimer 9 Foundation</td>
<td>Rome Art and Community Center</td>
<td>Young Scholars Liberty Partnerships Program</td>
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<td>Herkimer County College Foundation</td>
<td>Rome Colts Pop Warner Football</td>
<td>Youth &amp; Family Center of the Mohawk Valley</td>
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<td>Herkimer County HealthNet</td>
<td>Rome Community Concert Band</td>
<td>YWCA of the Mohawk Valley</td>
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<td>Herkimer County Historical Society</td>
<td>Rome Community Theater</td>
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WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW TO PREPARE FOR THE BIG DAY?

DONATIONS
Donors will be able to give in advance of Mohawk Valley Gives starting at 12:01 a.m. on September 1 at givemv.org. By donating early, you won’t have to worry about missing the big day. All early gifts will count toward nonprofit totals for MV Gives, but they will not apply to prizes on the day of giving.

PRIZES
We’ll be awarding various cash prizes on the giving day that will incentivize nonprofit efforts. If your fund is interested in sponsoring any of the prizes below, or if you have an idea for a prize you would like to sponsor, please email Nick Grimmer, ngrimmer@foundationhoc.org.

“GIVE FIRST” PRIZE
Prize will be awarded to the participating organization that receives the first online donation on September 20, 2022.

GOLDEN TICKET
Awarded to nonprofits that garner the most individual donors between set times of the day.

MIDNIGHT SNACK
Prize will be awarded to the organization that receives the most donations from 10 p.m. - midnight.

FINAL FINISHER
Awarded to the organization receiving the last online donation on September 20, 2022. The donation closest to midnight will win.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS
Timing is everything!
Does your fund typically make annual grants to local organizations that are important to you? Consider supporting those organizations on September 20! Timing your grants to align with the giving day will allow our participating nonprofits to leverage more dollars through prizes and matches. Contact us ahead of time if you would like to plan your annual grants to align with Mohawk Valley Gives, funds@foundationhoc.org.

Keeping it simple.
During checkout on the Mohawk Valley Gives website (www.givemv.org), Community Foundation donor-advised fundholders will have the option to select “donor-advised fund” as a method of payment to award grants directly from their fund.
ON SEPTEMBER 20, I PLAN TO SUPPORT:

❤️

❤️️

❤️️️

CONSIDER A PEER-TO-PEER (P2P) FUNDRAISER

Is there a special nonprofit near and dear to your heart? A P2P fundraiser is the perfect way to support them during Mohawk Valley Gives. At givemv.org, you can easily create an account and launch a fundraising page for a specific organization that you can then share within your network to expand the reach of your cause and help that organization bring in new donors.

The sky’s the limit for Mohawk Valley Gives! We hope that you will join us as our community comes together for one day to make a difference.

Mohawk Valley Gives is powered by The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties. It is generously sponsored by Staffworks and M&T Bank.
MAKE A GIFT THAT WILL FIT YOUR PHILANTHROPIIC GOALS AND BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME.

WHY GIVE
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

ONLINE
foundationhoc.org

MAIL
2608 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13502

PHONE
315.735.8212

Our NEWEST fund

LESLIE P. AND MARIE D. CARROLL FUND

A donor-advised fund established by the late Marie D. Carroll to support specific organizations in Oneida County that provide programs for seniors, families with children and homeless veterans.

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
DIRECTOR OF GIVING STRATEGIES
ngrimmer@foundationhoc.org | 315.525.6584

ELY ARNONE-EARL
DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIST
earnone-earl@foundationhoc.org | 315-725-7572

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?
CONTACT >