Geoffrey Canada made it clear that brighter futures for our children and community start with education. In Utica, that begins with the Universal Pre-K Program funded by the City School District. But the program can’t help youngsters unable to get there.

For those attending the pre-k class at Thea Bowman House, regular transportation is now provided on a new mini school bus the agency was able to purchase with a $55,000 grant from The Community Foundation.

The vehicle holds up to 36 students, like Aaron Howard and Shy’nitta Ferguson, who often are from working and economically challenged families, and might otherwise not have transportation to the pre-k program. Besides boosting attendance, the bus has increased learning time and actually reduced costs.

“We realize how imperative early childhood education is and we need to make every effort to give each child in our community an equal opportunity at success,” said Sandy Wright, Thea Bowman's site director. “Providing reliable and safe transportation — thanks to The Community Foundation — allows us one more way of evening the educational playing field for our children.”

To hear Aaron and Shy’nitta tell the story in their own words — and learn more about how this grant is making a difference — visit foundationhoc.org.
It’s no surprise that generosity was a theme referenced frequently in 2012 during The Community Foundation’s 60th anniversary celebration. It was the generosity of our founders — toward their fellow men and women, their community and the region’s long-term well-being — that drove the creation of our organization.

As last year came to a close, that quality was exhibited again in remarkable fashion by the more than 150 donors who responded to our annual appeal. Their gifts richly supported The Foundation’s work and many honored or remembered special people, raising more than $220,000. In addition to extending our sincere gratitude here, we have recognized those donors by listing them prominently on our website, foundationhoc.org.

Also in this issue, we are honored to recognize another demonstration of generosity by welcoming five new companies — Adjusters International, Adirondack Bank, Charles A. Gaetano Construction Corp., Clifford Fuel, and Oneida Savings Bank — to our Corporate Partners Program. These public-spirited firms have joined the 14 other local businesses that are partnering with The Foundation to improve life in Herkimer and Oneida counties today and tomorrow. We recognize and thank them all.

For further and regularly updated information about The Community Foundation, including all of our latest donors, grants, Corporate Partners, and many philanthropic programs and opportunities, I invite you to visit our recently redesigned and expanded website. For more about that, please see the story on page 4.

— With warm regards,
Peggy O’Shea, President & CEO

The Corporate Partners of The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc. are area companies that have joined forces with The Foundation to:

• Address broad-based community issues
• Expand and inspire philanthropy
• Build the capacity of nonprofits to excel

We gratefully acknowledge:

Adjusters International
Adirondack Bank
Bank of America
Bank of Utica
Birnie Bus Service, Inc.
Carbone Auto Group
Cathedral Corporation
Charles A. Gaetano Construction Corp.
Clifford Fuel
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield
Fastrac Markets
Jay-K Lumber
M. Griffith Investment Services
NBT Bank
The Observer-Dispatch
Oneida Savings Bank
Pacemaker Steel & Piping Company
Staffworks, Inc.
Strategic Financial Services

Mark Your Calendar
Celebration of Community Leadership May 22

The Community Foundation’s annual event honoring donors, partners and innovative programs in our community will be Wednesday, May 22 at the Dorothy Smith Center for Advocacy at the Resource Center for Independent Living in Utica. The program will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception to follow.

This important event is sponsored by The Foundation’s Corporate Partners. Invitations will be mailed in April. Reserve the date now!
In December, The Community Foundation developed a new program that allows individuals to make a gift now and receive fixed, secure payments for life. The tool — a charitable gift annuity — is designed to help you meet your needs while being charitable.

Individuals use charitable gift annuities to increase retirement income, provide income to elderly parents or loved ones, or to have the income when needed — all while supporting the future of our community.

Gift annuity rates range from 4.4 percent to 9 percent depending on the age of the income beneficiary.

To learn more about this great tool, e-mail development@foundationhoc.org, visit foundationhoc.org/plannedgiving, or call the office at 315-735-8212.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

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NEW WEBSITE IS ULTIMATE CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Grants come alive in compelling videos and photos. Donors are engaged in ways they can make a difference. Timely news and activities are shared via social media — Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and RSS feeds.

All of this and more is now available on The Community Foundation’s website, foundationhoc.org.

“It’s new from the ground up, and in both form and function is state-of-the-art in every way,” said Cassaundra Baber, Marketing and Communications Officer. “From a recap of our earliest days, to all that we are doing today, to how our broader new role of advancing leadership on community solutions is carrying us forward, it’s all powerfully presented.

“The site will keep our constituents up to date on The Foundation’s work and progress better than ever. We invite and encourage everyone to visit it often.”