Greetings from The Community Foundation!

This edition of our newsletter highlights some of the remarkable work made possible by many dedicated donors and focused community partners in 2018. Thanks to you, our collective efforts are making a significant difference in the lives of many.

In this issue, we share profiles of a few outstanding individual and organizational donors whose care and concern for our community shines brightly. We think these stories—Anita Vitullo and the Staffworks Charitable Fund, Ron and Sheila Cuccaro, and the M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund—are remarkable examples of philanthropy. You’ll also find examples of how The Community Foundation, and our collective partnerships, are making an impact across our region. We strive to meet the considerable needs of those in cities, towns and rural areas who make up our one community.

All of us at The Community Foundation are proud to share the latest examples of these “Endless Possibilities” with you. Your dedication and support make them possible, and our community is the beneficiary—past, present and future.

Alicia Dicks
President/CEO &
Lucy Dicks
Family Pup
The M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund recently celebrated two major milestones—the fund’s tenth anniversary and surpassing the $2 million mark in grants.

Created in 2007, the M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund (MTPT) was established by Partners Trust Bank Charitable Foundation during the merger of Partners Trust and M&T Bank. It was decided that the generous contributions from Partners Trust Bank would be managed through a donor-advised fund at The Community Foundation and that grant-making would be jointly advised to provide continued support for the Mohawk Valley.

The enormous impact of MTPT’s community investments over the past 10 years is cause for celebration. Since its inception, MTPT has distributed more than $2 million locally, awarding more than 155 grants to support a variety of programs and organizations throughout Herkimer and Oneida counties. David Manzelmann, MTPT advisory committee member and M&T Bank Utica market president, recognizes the importance of collaborating with nonprofit partners to best address community needs.

“The MTPT Fund is committed to supporting nonprofit organizations and programs that work to enhance our communities’ local strengths,” said Manzelmann. “It is through these organizations that we can invest in the education of our children and improve the quality of life for families. We share a passion to achieve these goals and look forward to developing new partnerships that create significant and lasting change in our community.”

Initially focused on supporting literacy programs, MTPT expanded its investments to address additional areas of need and to focus on partnering with organizations that provide educational enrichment, with the hopes that funding opportunities for learning will contribute to strengthening the community for the future.

Potential grant opportunities are reviewed by an advisory committee, led by Manzelmann. The group of local advisors meets quarterly, awarding strategic support to programs in education and other civic causes in Herkimer and Oneida counties.

“Members of the MTPT advisory committee play an active, personal role in the charitable giving process,” said Alicia Dicks, president/CEO of The Community Foundation. “This hands-on approach allows many of our donors and advisors to shape their giving to reflect the causes they’re passionate about, amplifying the impact these investments make in our community.”
One of MTPT’s recent grants, a $100,000 investment in support of Hope House’s new building, was the fund’s single largest grant and helped garner additional funding for the project.

The fund’s history reveals a chronology anchored in partnership, bookended by milestones of continued support and punctuated by an increase in grants awarded each year; the impact of MTPT’s investments goes beyond the fund’s impressive stats. Equally noteworthy are the immeasurable everyday triumphs made possible through the generosity of MTPT. Thanks to the fund, inner-city students have the opportunity to attend college through the On Point for College Program, single parents are able to pursue higher education through Mohawk Valley Community College’s New Career Scholarship Program, and countless others of all ages and abilities have benefited.

“The M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund has made a tremendous difference to our healthcare system,” said Michele Adams, annual giving director for the Mohawk Valley Health System Foundation. “We have many diverse needs, from caring for our littlest patients to the most senior individuals in our community. MTPT’s generosity is helping to make the patient experience better for every single individual and every family who walk through our doors.”

In 2016, MTPT provided $10,000 to help MVHS acquire the Utica area’s first 3D mammography machine. The equipment benefits the more than 14,000 women who have annual mammograms at MVHS, helping with early detection and identifying tumors that regular 2D scans might miss.

“Looking beyond the equipment, everything that’s made possible through the generosity of funds like MTPT directly affects the people who live here. It’s extraordinary to live in a community with such generous donors that make it a priority to give back,” said Adams.

“It’s extraordinary to live in a community with such generous donors that make it a priority to give back.”
Dozens of organizations have benefited from the generosity of the M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund over the last decade, helping to fulfill the fund’s mission to strengthen the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abraham House</th>
<th>Kids Oneida</th>
<th>St. Joseph &amp; St. Patrick Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross of CNY</td>
<td>Little Falls City School District</td>
<td>Stanley Center for the Arts</td>
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<td>Arc Herkimer</td>
<td>Little Falls Micro Fund</td>
<td>SUNY Polytechnic Institute Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts of America - Leatherstocking Council</td>
<td>Masonic Medical Research Laboratory</td>
<td>The House of the Good Shepherd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Club of the Mohawk Valley</td>
<td>Mid-York Library System</td>
<td>The Neighborhood Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camden Area Food Pantry</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency</td>
<td>The Research Foundation for SUNY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities of Herkimer County</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Community College Foundation</td>
<td>The Root Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Family Life and Recovery</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Frontiers</td>
<td>The Suddes Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Association for the Blind</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Health System Foundation</td>
<td>Thea Bowman House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compassion Coalition</td>
<td>Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees</td>
<td>United Way of the Valley &amp; Greater Utica Area</td>
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<td>East Canada Valley Vision</td>
<td>Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute</td>
<td>Upstate Cerebral Palsy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Services of the Mohawk Valley</td>
<td>North Utica Senior Citizens Recreation Center</td>
<td>Utica Academy of Science Charter School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front of the Class</td>
<td>Notre Dame Jr/Sr. High School</td>
<td>Utica Children’s Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>HealthFriends CNY</td>
<td>On Point for College</td>
<td>Utica City School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herkimer College Foundation</td>
<td>Parkway Center</td>
<td>Utica College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herkimer County Hunger Coalition</td>
<td>Resource Center for Independent Living</td>
<td>Utica Food Pantry</td>
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<tr>
<td>HomeOwnershipCenter</td>
<td>Rome Hospital Foundation</td>
<td>Utica Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hope House</td>
<td>Rome Rescue Mission</td>
<td>Utica Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Technologies Corporation</td>
<td>Salvation Army of Herkimer</td>
<td>Women’s Employment &amp; Resource Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insight House</td>
<td>Samaritan Counseling Center of the Mohawk Valley</td>
<td>YWCA of the Mohawk Valley</td>
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### INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS & INVESTMENTS

The Community Foundation is making an impact in all corners of our community through unique and innovative partnerships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Organization</strong></th>
<th><strong>Investment</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abraham House</strong></td>
<td><strong>$85,000</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A partnership of The Community Foundation, the Mele Family Fund and one other donor-advised fund to create a six-bed community care facility for the terminally ill at the site of the former Rome House.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Camden Central School District</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,600</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>An investment by the Mele Family Fund to create a makerspace classroom for elementary students and provide robotics kits for high school students, promoting technical skill development through hands-on activities and an interest in STEAM-related careers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clinton Youth Foundation</strong></td>
<td><strong>$500</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support from the Richard L. &amp; Jean P. Williams Fund for the Jack Boynton Community Pool that serves residents of all ages with swimming lessons, special events, leisure activities and more.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Erwin Library and Institute</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,200</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A grant from the Robert and Sara Smith Fund to re-zone the heating system to include the children’s room, a gathering place for a pre-school story hour, educational summer reading and theatrical programs, and arts and crafts for young children.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank</strong></td>
<td><strong>$100,000</strong></td>
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<td>An equity investment to rehabilitate properties in Little Falls for reuse as rentals, helping to address housing needs and keep the Mohawk Valley landscape picturesque.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Home Ownership Center</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,900</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>An investment in office and computer technology that supports the HomeOwnershipCenter’s efforts to engage and educate local individuals on financial responsibility and homeownership resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North Woods Community Center</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,000</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support from the Adirondack League Club Community Fund for facility improvements required to maintain the safe operation of this important community space used by several organizations in northern Herkimer County.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oneida County Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,500</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>An investment in the Bike Thru History project, which provides cyclists a unique experience highlighting the region’s rich history on existing and newly created bike routes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Utica Zoo</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An investment by the Senator James H. Donovan Memorial Fund for an upgrade to the zoo’s sea lion exhibit, home of Porter, Munchkin and baby Niko.</td>
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</table>
We're fortunate here at The Community Foundation to work with many amazing individuals who are motivated to make change a reality. Generosity comes in many forms, often as a charitable donation but also through commitment of time, energy and thoughtfulness to making our communities better, more vibrant places to live.

The names of these outstanding individuals often become symbolic of their leadership, generosity and the positive outcomes of their efforts. Among Community Foundation staff and our nonprofit partners, the name Cuccaro is well known.

Introduced to The Community Foundation through friends and colleagues, Ron and Sheila Cuccaro learned that establishing a fund would help their charitable investments grow over time, maximizing their philanthropic impact for the benefit of the community they’re passionate about.

The Cuccaros sought to contribute to both established nonprofits as well as smaller, startup organizations and were drawn to The Community Foundation because of its broad reach and impactful community partnerships. In 2006, the couple established the Ronald and Sheila Cuccaro Family Fund and in the years since have granted more than $100,000 to more than 30 local nonprofit organizations and programs.
“The community has been good to us,” said Ron. “We raised our children here, and we always believed we needed to give something back.”

Ron is the founding president and executive chairman of Adjusters International, one of the nation’s premier disaster recovery consulting organizations. Effortlessly charismatic, with a smile that’s been known to be contagious, Ron is distinguished for both his professional and philanthropic accomplishments. His elevated position as a prominent community leader is grounded by the genuine kindness and integrity he displays in every interaction.

Ron’s family immigrated from Italy, arriving in Utica with just a few belongings. He was fortunate to grow up during a time when opportunity was plentiful, and his family thrived; he would like others who are new to this area to have that same opportunity. The Ronald and Sheila Cuccaro Family Fund focuses on human services and programs that help those struggling to meet basic needs. The Cuccaros feel strongly that everyone deserves access to fundamental care and are inspired to give to groups that help individuals attain food, clothing and housing.

The Cuccaros also support childhood education initiatives and nonprofits that serve the community’s growing refugee populations. Over the years, they have awarded grants in support of these causes through organizations such as the Utica Public Library and the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees.

“We believe in helping children achieve a solid education,” said Sheila. “It’s one of the most important aspects of building the foundation for a successful life.”

Ron and Sheila’s community involvement goes beyond their grantmaking and includes significant commitments of time and energy to causes they care about most. In fact, Sheila refers to Ron as “the master volunteer,” a role that gives him perspective on our community’s greatest needs. Since 2012, Ron has advanced countless projects and initiatives as a member of The Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees, serving as Board chair from 2015 to 2017.

Ron is quick to share how meaningful his experience has been as a representative of The Community Foundation.

“Working with a lot of great, young people at The Community Foundation—many of whom were not here when I first got involved—has been one of the most rewarding experiences,” he said. “Watching the organization transform and seeing all the progress that has taken place, even in just the last five years, makes it very worthwhile to be a part of it all.”

In his opinion, the most significant change has been The Community Foundation’s transition from transactional grantmaker to proactive leader of initiatives that address the community’s greatest needs.

Sheila hopes these changes will encourage others’ generosity, leading them to establish a donor-advised fund and experience the opportunities it affords donors.

“I hope others with the ability to give in the future discover the benefits of creating a fund that can benefit their charitable passions as well as make a difference to the organizations whose work inspires them,” she said.

Timeless as Ron and Sheila’s partnership, the Ronald and Sheila Cuccaro Family Fund will have a lasting impact. Through their dedication to the community they love, the pair has shaped a family legacy that will be remembered for years to come.
In 2017, New York’s iconic Erie Canal celebrated its 200th anniversary with celebrations across the state, including Rome—a city with a special connection to the cross-state waterway.

Rome was the site of the “first dig” on July 4, 1817, when ground was broken for what would become the second longest canal in the world. Stretching from Albany to Buffalo, the Erie Canal helped position New York state as the commercial center of the nation and opened a critical gateway for America’s westward expansion.

To commemorate the bicentennial, Rome engaged in a year-long series of events that included the annual Honor America Days and Locktoberfest celebrations, at which the new Rome Navigation Center was dedicated and the former General Cable water tower was lit for the public.

The Community Foundation helped support the tower illumination project through a $5,000 grant to the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce for the purchase and installation of programmable LED fixtures and luminaires. Visible from land and water, the illuminated tower and Navigation Center are a beacon to boaters, residents and visitors, signaling the myriad waterfront amenities offered at Bellamy Harbor.

Ten years in the making, the illumination culminates the site’s transformation from a former brownfield area into a canal-side tourism destination.

Just as the city’s expansion flowed from the canal in 1817, the tower wields the torch of progress, foretelling what can be achieved by capitalizing on history to light a new way forward.

A display of celebratory hues visible from East Dominick Street, the Barge Canal and multiple points throughout the city brightens Rome’s skyline. The tower’s lights are programmed to change color schemes to coordinate with the seasons and special events.
For more than 25 years, Hope House has provided a safe haven for the hungry living in Utica’s Cornhill neighborhood, where nearly half the population lives in poverty. Opened to the public this February, Hope House’s new location at 112 South Street provides the organization with expanded kitchen, storage and dining space to assist those in need.

Hope House provides up to three meals a day, 363 days a year, to an increasing number of people living in poverty, serving between 175 and 225 people daily. As the number of those served increased, Hope House outgrew its original location on Eagle Street.

To address the growing needs of the community, plans for an expansion began in 2008. As the project moved forward, it became clear that relocation would be the best solution for Hope House. In 2016, the organization learned that a one-story building just a few blocks away was for sale and plans to acquire the South Street property were set in motion.

The Community Foundation awarded Hope House a $100,000 grant for the purchase of the new building and continued to support the project during the organization’s capital campaign through $137,500 in grants from seven donor-advised funds, including:

- Alexandra G. Kogut Memorial Fund
- Dave & Christine Zumpano Family Fund
- Earle C. Reed Fund
- J.K. & Hedy Anne Hage Family Fund
- M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund
- Mele Family Fund
- Utica National Group Foundation Fund

“The Community Foundation’s support has given this project momentum, bringing together critical partnerships to make the funding of this building possible,” said John Madej, Hope House executive director. “The people we serve are in dire need; opening the doors of this new facility makes it a lot easier to serve this great need in our community.”

Hope House demonstrates that a nourishing meal and the kindness of strangers are often all it takes to lift spirits and offer help—and hope.
The Community Foundation and our like-minded partners share a vision—to create a more vibrant community with opportunities for all. It’s a goal that guides our every decision and determines our future direction.
Central to this vision is the belief that, given opportunity, people can change their circumstances, their lives and the lives of those around them, ultimately transforming the community for the better.

As a gateway to new possibilities, the City of Utica has welcomed immigrants and refugees from around the world for decades. The Midtown Utica Community Center, better known as MUCC, works with these new residents, addressing complex and cross-cultural issues to help them adapt and succeed in their new community.

Located in the former Episcopal church at 43 Scott Street, MUCC was founded as a volunteer entity nearly four years ago to provide a multicultural, refugee-friendly gathering space for programs and services. To support MUCC’s next phase of development, The Community Foundation awarded a $232,000 grant, to be paid over three years, to help the organization establish sustainable programming through the addition of Chris Sunderlin as its full-time director.

Sunderlin, who founded MUCC while a full-time teacher, has shaped the organization into a regional asset—engaging the broader community and spreading awareness of the diverse groups of people who now call Utica home.

MUCC has provided hundreds of community members of all ages with opportunities to study, learn, celebrate, dance, work and serve its community. MUCC has received several awards for its work, including recognition from the Fort Stanwix National Monument, Utica Zoo and Genesis Group.

The services MUCC provides are as diverse as its many partners. The center is an information hub for residents in its low-income neighborhood, an after-school resource for tutoring and a point of connection for a variety of advancement opportunities, including college internship programs. Widely supported through dozens of group and organizational partnerships, MUCC offers classes, workshops and wellness programs.

“One of The Community Foundation’s goals is to create ‘impact centers,’ where people can go for a variety of services,” said Alicia Dicks, president/CEO. “MUCC is a great example of this kind of resource for the diverse population in its neighborhood.”

Sunderlin and program participants affectionately refer to themselves as “MUCCsters.” One unique quality this group brings to the broader community is its ability to transcend the invisible boundaries of place.
MUCC hosts and organizes artistic, musical and cultural events that help educate and inspire people throughout the region.

“Refugees are incredibly resourceful, ambitious, hardworking people, and the culture that they bring with them is really cool too,” Sunderlin said. “It all adds to the flavor of the city.”

One of its most popular events is MUCC’s Cultural Showcase, held at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome.

“It’s amazing to see people who have struggled, who arrive here with nothing, putting on this event and there are hundreds of people watching—who came for them,” said Sunderlin. “They work tirelessly for months practicing and they can see their work paying off, how they’re affecting the community and how they’re helping change the fabric of this city into a more colorful, beautiful thing.”

Eh Ka Paw was a high school freshman when he first met Sunderlin, who “welcomed him with an open heart” and quickly became his mentor.

Forced to flee their home in Burma (now Myanmar), Paw and his family, like thousands of refugees, found themselves struggling to survive in a refugee camp in Thailand. In 2008, the family received an opportunity to immigrate to the United States where they found a new beginning in the City of Utica.

A recent graduate of Proctor High School, Paw was involved in numerous extracurricular activities, community service clubs and leadership development programs. As student council president, ceremonial commander of Proctor’s ROTC program, and a proud MUCster, he visited the center daily, which he refers to as his second home.

“MUCC has been very important in my life academically and socially,” said Paw. “I know MUCC will continue to do wonderful things. Everyone involved has strong spirit and motivation to contribute to the community and help others thrive.”

Prepared for the bright future ahead of him, Paw plans to study engineering. He hopes that his studies will help him give back to those who’ve supported him, and to advocate for people struggling in underdeveloped areas around the world.

“I imagine the idea of MUCC, a diverse center where people are free to express themselves and their unique talents, expanded throughout the world,” Paw said. “It doesn’t have to be a physical center—it can be the center in our hearts. MUCC may even bring the country and the world closer together.”
EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS LEADING THE WAY.

2,556 DONORS WHO MADE A GIFT IN 2017

$7.6 MILLION AMOUNT OF GIFTS RECEIVED IN 2017

3,267 NUMBER OF GIFTS RECEIVED IN 2017

NET INVESTMENT RETURNS: LONG-TERM POOL

1 YEAR 17.1%
3 YEARS 7.8%
5 YEARS 8.5%
10 YEARS 6.3%
INCEPTION* 8.6%


TOTAL ASSETS

$60M $90M $120M $150M

The key performance indicators in this report help tell the story of The Community Foundation, its donors and the tremendous impact we have in the community. Strong investment performance and community partnerships are the driving force behind the organization’s continued success.

All figures calculated as of December 31, 2017.
## 2017 Financial Statements

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$1,830,103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>135,184,574</td>
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<td>Other Current Assets</td>
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<td>Charitable Lead Trust</td>
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<td>Charitable Remainder Trusts</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment, Net</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$143,923,370</strong></td>
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### Liabilities

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Agency Funds</td>
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<td>Grants Payable</td>
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<td>Accounts Payable &amp; Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>Charitable Gift Annuity Obligations</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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### Net Assets

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$44,183,883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>29,485,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$136,128,928</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**  
$143,923,370
Watson Williams Elementary School recently celebrated the installation of an interactive sports wall made possible through the generosity of a $14,400 grant from the M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund and other community partners.

Located in the school’s gymnasium, the climbing wall encourages children to participate in imaginative play, while enhancing their social skills and physical health.

“All children deserve a safe place to play and exercise and it is our hope that the Watson Williams Elementary sports wall will provide this for current and future students,” said David Manzelmann, M&T Bank Utica market president. “We are pleased that we could help the Utica City School District bring this important project to fruition.”

Children of all abilities can use the recreational space, which will enhance the physical, social and emotional development of students by complementing the intellectual development taking place within the classroom.

“Play is vital to healthy development in children,” said Dr. Cheryl Minor, principal at Watson Williams Elementary. “Research shows that students who have the opportunity for regular physical activity do better in the classroom and are healthier overall.”
Through the achievements of our partners and donors, The Community Foundation is moved forward in innovative directions. Steering this new direction are funds like the Staffworks Charitable Fund, which is pushing the boundaries of what's possible through advocacy and philanthropy.

In June, the Staffworks Charitable Fund became The Community Foundation’s first $10 million fund with a living fundholder. Established in 2006, the donor-advised fund was created by Anita A. Vitullo on behalf of Staffworks. Vitullo is founder and president of the staffing agency, which provides temporary and direct placement services through nine branch offices in Central and Southern New York.

“I learned from my early career in the staffing industry and boiled it down to a regionalized, customized service model, and that’s how Staffworks was born,” says Vitullo.

Vitullo built her company by understanding that each organization has its own unique goals and mission. Staffworks helps organizations find the “perfect fit” for a job, and in turn, assists career-seeking individuals in finding meaningful employment. Success in the staffing industry requires a highly perceptive, knowledgeable and people-focused approach because work provides a sense of purpose. Vitullo’s professional achievements drive her ability to fulfill her philanthropic goals.
The Staffworks agency’s “perfect fit” philosophy carries over to its charitable fund, supporting animal welfare organizations’ efforts to find homes for animals in need.

Under Vitullo’s leadership, philanthropy and a passion for animal welfare became part of the organization’s DNA. Vitullo’s love for animals began as a child, when her parents took her to Stevens-Swan Humane Society to adopt a dog, an experience she lovingly refers to as the “Princess effect.”

“I was so astounded to see all these dogs in cages who didn’t have homes,” recalls Vitullo. “And that’s when I discovered Princess, a German Shepherd-Collie mix. She really cultivated my love for dogs.”

The Staffworks Charitable Fund is dedicated to supporting the plight of animals, and the organizations whose mission it is to rescue them from harm. Since 2009, more than $1.4 million in grants has been awarded to community groups including more than a dozen animal welfare organizations across the region.

“Staffworks has made a unique investment in an important facet of our community’s quality of life, the love of animals,” said Alicia Dicks, president/CEO of The Community Foundation. “Anita’s amazing philanthropic leadership and remarkable professional achievements provide a shining example to us all—what one person can achieve and inspire within an entire community.”

“Profits from Staffworks are put to good work supporting a humane environment in our communities by funding organizations that care for abandoned, neglected and abused animals,” said Vitullo. “Animal shelters in every community do not receive state or federal funding; and local government support is minimal, causing shelters to operate at a tremendous financial loss. If it were not for the dedicated efforts of staff and volunteers and the generosity of our citizens, at-risk animals in our communities would have little hope of survival.”

“I commend the Stevens-Swan Humane Society, Herkimer County Humane Society and Humane Society of Rome, as well as the many other animal organizations supported by the Staffworks Charitable Fund,” Vitullo stated. “Against all odds, these organizations save animals’ lives.”

Local animal shelters and adoption centers take in thousands of stray, homeless and abused dogs and cats each year. With food, shelter and medical treatment in a safe and caring environment, animals that were once vulnerable have the chance to find the loving home they deserve.

Adoption is a truly special act of kindness that can move hearts and minds. Opening our homes to a dog or cat in need is rewarded with unconditional love and loyal companionship.

Vitullo at Stevens-Swan Humane Society

Celebrate the Princess effect on October 28th at the Staffworks’ annual HS Telethon and HS Telesale! Our biggest fundraising events of the year feature a live auction, raffle, and more. The best part? All donations go directly to our community’s animal rescue organizations.

Staffworks at The Phone Company

$10 Million Fund Press Conference

VITULLO AT STEVENS-SWAN HUMANE SOCIETY
Vitullo is outspoken about the importance of adoption. Over the years, she’s rescued many dogs and has inspired those around her to adopt as well. Just ask Community Foundation President/CEO Alicia Dicks, who adopted her family’s dog, Lucy, through Stevens-Swan Humane Society’s 2017 Wiggle Waggle Walk-A-Thon.

At press conferences and events, Vitullo is always joined by a special guest—a local animal awaiting adoption, the “face” of her mission as she likes to say. Gizmo, an 8-year-old pit bull, and Teddy, a 7-year-old rottweiler/pit bull mix, were both adopted after receiving community attention as Vitullo’s special guests at recent events.

For years, Vitullo has advocated for no kill shelters and the compassionate care of animals, a message that was received by the many local organizations that have transformed the way they operate and have eliminated kill practices.

“Animal over-population results in endless animal suffering in our own communities and causes the deaths of millions of homeless animals throughout the United States,” she said. “The only hope of reducing this horror is high-volume, low-cost spay and neuter services. No birth equals no kill.”

Despite the Staffworks Charitable Fund’s many achievements, Vitullo believes her work has just begun. Her next goal is to implement an ASPCA national model spay/neuter clinic in the region, setting out to solve the root cause of the problems she wishes to address.

“The Staffworks Charitable Fund has helped us come full circle in achieving our shelter’s goals,” said Stevens-Swan Humane Society Shelter Manager John Treen. “When you’re a no-kill shelter, the amount of money it takes to care for each individual animal is exponentially higher because we’re providing them with the maximum amount of healthcare to make sure that they’re good to go out in the community.”

In recognition of her outstanding community contributions, The Community Foundation presented Vitullo with the Rosamond Childs Award for Community Philanthropy this year. The award honors individuals who exhibit the spirit of giving and a profound commitment to the community, as exemplified by Rosamond G. Childs, The Community Foundation’s first major benefactor. Recipients are known for their selflessness, leadership, compassion and generosity.

Through her work, Vitullo’s inspiring the next generation of advocates and philanthropists including Brenna Baker, owner and creator of Baker’s Doggone Delicious Treats. The 16-year-old from Norwich began making homemade dog treats in 2012, donating the money raised to the Chenango SPCA. She saved up her profits for several months and doubled them for the Chenango SPCA through the Staffworks “Save A Life” Campaign in 2017. Inspired by the campaign, Baker reached out to Vitullo with a special request.

“I wrote a letter to Anita and asked her if she could match my donations from profits I made in 2018, and she said yes! So far, I’ve donated more than $4,000 to the Chenango SPCA,” said Baker.

The Community Foundation is just one group to recognize Vitullo for her recent philanthropic work. She has also been selected as the 2018 Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Central New York Chapter and is the first-ever recipient from the greater Utica area since the award’s inception more than 20 years ago.

Vitullo was also recently inducted into the Oneida County Historical Hall of Fame as a “Living Legend,” an award that recognizes individuals for their service as community leaders and advocates, and for their efforts in furthering the region’s industries, culture and educational opportunities.

At The Community Foundation, we couldn’t agree more with Vitullo’s status as a living legend. But she prefers to sign her emails with a simpler moniker that captures the incredible scope of her work—AAA: Anita, Animal Advocate.”
In addition to grantmaking, the Staffworks Charitable Fund sponsors the annual “Save A Life” Campaign, a matching gift program for local animal organizations. This unique campaign offers these organizations the opportunity to raise much needed funding, increase awareness of their mission and help hundreds of animals in need.

In its fifth year, the Staffworks Save A Life Campaign has raised more than $566,000 since it began with a record-breaking $447,000 raised in December 2017 alone. Nearly 2,000 community members made donations in 2017, demonstrating the community’s tremendous support for our four-legged friends. Many community members shared photos of the pets that inspired their contributions to the cause.
For more than a decade, Donald Van Waes has been involved with The Community Foundation, serving as a member of the grants committee for many years and donor advisor to the fund he established with his wife, the late Margaret (Peg) Van Waes.
“As a result of being on the grants committee, I became familiar with all the different funds and that was where it all started,” recalls Don. “My wife and I had talked about establishing a foundation, and as we discussed it more, we began to see all the potential challenges involved. How do you manage it? How do you decide what agencies to give grants to without the ability to supervise it all? The more challenges that we considered, the more it seemed that The Community Foundation was the place that could handle all of these matters and handle them very well.”

Don and Peg created the Margarets Gaffney and Van Waes Fund in 2004, named for Peg and her mother, to support education-related programs, as well as services that assist young mothers in need—two important causes they believed to be overlooked and underfunded.

Evelyn’s House was their first charitable investment, a decision inspired by Peg’s cousin, who cared for unwed mothers in her home. Don reached out to several agencies to find out what services were available before learning of Family Nurturing Center founder Donna LaTour-Elefante’s desire to create a home for young mothers to raise their children. Once a property had been identified, the Van Waeses provided support for renovations and first-year operations.

“We were insistent on getting this place going and making it self-supporting,” Don said. “We knew it would be a success if we could get by during that first year.”

Personal experience inspired Don and Peg’s other charitable giving as well, including a long partnership with Notre Dame Schools. For example, Don’s family couldn’t afford to send him to college, but he was able to attend Cornell University thanks to the generosity of a kind woman he worked for as a teenager.

“I want to give other students that same opportunity. There are some children who want to go to Notre Dame but can’t afford it. For many years, my wife and I have been able to help with tuition and it’s something that I plan to keep doing.”

Having granted more than $300,000 to local nonprofits, the Van Waeses viewed this as their way to give back to a community that means so much to them.

“This was always the place. This was the place to be. My wife’s family was here, and our children were here and went to school here, we loved the community. It’s encouraging right now because suddenly there seems to be a lot more optimism in the community than there used to be, and that’s a good sign,” said Van Waes. “Giving back over the years has made me a better person. I’ve always made it a point to go and visit the nonprofits we support. By seeing them firsthand, you begin to truly understand the need. It is satisfying to be able to help. It makes you more aware of other people and their challenges, and I think that is important for all of us.”

A few months after their 70th wedding anniversary, Peg passed away in December 2017. Don continues to guide their lifelong commitment to serving others through the fund, and he spends time with the couple’s 13 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and his dog, Murphy.
The generation that lived this reality is the catalyst for yet another shift, this time altering the nation’s census in unprecedented ways. As the median age of the population and life expectancy increases, the fastest growing group of individuals, both nationally and locally, is seniors.

As this trend takes hold, care systems must adapt to meet the unique needs of an aging population. In 2015, The Community Foundation set out to better understand the needs of seniors in Herkimer and Oneida counties.

The Community Foundation embarked on a new initiative with support from the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York—the Community Assessment of Senior Needs for Herkimer and Oneida Counties—to engage stakeholders from the two counties in a process of information-gathering and consensus building called “concept mapping.”

Nearly 250 seniors, service providers and community members participated in focus groups and surveys. Their feedback helped to determine what steps The Community Foundation and its partners might take to help the aging population to remain living independently.

Through the assessment, seniors identified medical needs, financial assistance, help at home and service accessibility as essential to independent living, but not fully addressed through existing services.

In response, The Community Foundation solicited applications for programs and projects that promote independent senior living in the two-county region. Applicants were asked to propose a solution or an enhancement to an existing program that advances seniors’ self-determination and relates to a need identified in the assessment study.

“Identifying programs and services that allow our aging population to remain living independently is essential to becoming an age-friendly community,” said Jan Squadrito, senior community investment manager at The Community Foundation. “Guided by data, The Community Foundation is better able to direct its investments to programs that best serve the needs of seniors.”

Since 2015, The Community Foundation has invested more than $723,000 in grants to organizations that promote independent senior living. Here’s a look at some of the projects supported through the initiative.
CREATING CENTERS OF SUPPORT

NORTHERN HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER
The Town of Webb Health Center Fund conducted a feasibility study that successfully demonstrated the need for a community center that could provide educational, recreational, cultural and wellness opportunities for seniors and community residents. The study assessed the community’s interest, desired services and potential locations. The Town of Webb seeks to offer services and amenities for seniors and families, helping to maintain the vibrancy of this rural community.

SOUTHERN HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER
Herkimer County HealthNet conducted a community needs assessment and is now working with a planning group to establish an intergenerational community center. The center will serve residents of communities along the Mohawk Valley corridor, including Herkimer, Ilion, Little Falls, Frankfort, Mohawk and Dolgeville. Plans for the center will incorporate opportunities for recreation and an integrated system of accessible health and social services to support individuals and families.

LIVING INDEPENDENTLY

VALLEY HEALTH SERVICES
Valley Health Services’ 12,000-square-foot expansion to the Valley Residential Services assisted living facility will increase housing options for seniors in Herkimer County. Valley Residential Services provides assistance with daily needs in a community-based environment that encourages seniors to lead active and engaged lifestyles.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES OF ONEIDA COUNTY
Livable Communities of Oneida County is part of AARP’s network of age-friendly communities that is active in more than 1,000 communities throughout the world. The program, implemented by the Parkway Center in partnership with Oneida County, helps local communities become more age-friendly as the number of seniors continues to increase. Initiatives focus on areas such as housing, caregiving, community engagement, volunteering, social inclusion and combating isolation among older adults.
GETTING FROM PLACE TO PLACE

HERKIMER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING
The Herkimer County Office for the Aging created a program offering transportation for Poland, Ohio, Newport and Middleville residents two times per month for shopping trips and errands.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
Founded in response to the lack of public transportation in the Central Adirondack region, Community Transportation Services assists the elderly, disabled and economically disadvantaged in Old Forge and surrounding areas by providing transportation, without cost, for medical, health and other necessary services.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF HERKIMER COUNTY
HOPE Ministries is a volunteer program of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Catholic Charities of Herkimer County. Designed to help seniors remain independent in their communities, services include shopping for and with a client, laundry, light housekeeping, friendly visiting, nonmedical transportation, meal preparation and respite. Catholic Charities of Herkimer County also provides medical transportation for seniors through the Retired Individuals Driving Elderly (RIDE) program.

THE PARKWAY CENTER
The Parkway Center’s Way2Go transportation program uses volunteer drivers who are retired and 55 years of age or older to provide rides to medical appointments for seniors in Oneida County. As the demand for rides increased, so did the need for drivers. A grant from The Community Foundation allowed the Parkway Center to purchase a vehicle for volunteers to use instead of having to drive their personal vehicles, increasing driver participation and number of rides provided.
OUR Newest FUNDS

OVER THE PAST YEAR, 22 FUNDS WERE ESTABLISHED AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION THAT WILL BENEFIT RESIDENTS OF HERKIMER AND ONEIDA COUNTIES FOR YEARS TO COME.

ALL IN FOR VIN MEMORIAL FUND
A donor-advised fund created in memory of Vincent “Vinny” Maugeri. The Maugeri Family and the All in For Vin Committee will recommend grants that support youth-based causes in Vinny’s memory.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND FUND
An agency fund benefiting the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a nonprofit agency that assists people who are blind or visually impaired to achieve their highest levels of independence.

CLINTON ARENA IMPROVEMENT FUND
An agency fund established by the Town of Kirkland to benefit Clinton Arena.

CLINTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY FUND
An agency fund benefiting the Clinton Symphony Orchestra of the Mohawk Valley, an organization that promotes and presents classical music of substance, beauty and noble design to the citizens of the Mohawk Valley.

DICKS FAMILY FUND
A donor-advised fund established to provide support for charitable purposes.

FALCO FAMILY FUND
A donor-advised fund established to provide support for charitable purposes.

FREEDOM GUIDE DOGS CHARITABLE FUND
An agency fund benefiting Freedom Guide Dogs, a nonprofit organization which breeds, raises, trains and places guide dogs with individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

GLASS HILL GOLF CLUB CHARITABLE FUND
An agency fund established by the Glass Hill Golf Club in Barneveld to administer the charitable giving programs of the golf club.

HANDSHAKE.CITY FUND
A fiscal sponsorship of Handshake.City, an urban revitalization project to create a recycled container marketplace and park in downtown Utica.

HERKIMER COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY FUND
An agency fund benefiting the Herkimer County Humane Society, a nonprofit organization that provides a safe haven for animals.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF ROME CAMPAIGN AND INVESTMENT FUNDS
Agency funds established by the Humane Society of Rome to support capital projects and operational needs in support of its mission to promote adoption and provide care to neglected animals.

IRISH CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY CHARITABLE FUND
An agency fund benefiting the Irish Cultural and Historical Society of the Mohawk Valley, a nonprofit organization determined to preserve and share the historical legacy of Irish culture in Utica.

JACK AND TRUDY OWENS FUND
A field-of-interest fund created to support the arts, as well as the Utica Public Library.

KEVIN “BING” CROSSLEY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
A donor-advised fund established 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.

KIDS ONEIDA ENDOWMENT AND CHARITABLE FUNDS
Agency funds established to support the fundraising activities of Kids Oneida.

RICHARD AND CAROL ZWEIFEL FUND
A donor-advised fund established to provide support for charitable purposes.

RUST2GREEN UTICA FUND
A fiscal sponsorship of the Rust2Green Utica project which works to address community needs by creating solutions related to the economic development of New York’s rust belt cities.

UTICA PYTHIAN FOUNDATION FUND
A donor-advised fund established to provide support for charitable purposes.

WANDERERS’ REST HUMANE ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE AND INVESTMENT FUNDS
Agency funds established by Wanderers’ Rest Humane Association to administer giving programs and invest charitable assets to support the mission of providing better lives for animals.
Garth Roberts, founder of the Hero Fund America Fund, a field-of-interest fund of The Community Foundation, shared his positive experience with our organization by writing a five-star review on Facebook. We’d love to hear feedback from our community partners on the work we’re doing. Follow us on social media to share your Community Foundation experiences!

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?  Contact Nick Grimmer, CFRE, director of giving strategies, 315.731.3737, ngrimmer@foundationhoc.org.
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FRIENDS AND FAMILY AT A UTICA COMETS GAME

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RECEIVES AWARD FROM MOHAWK VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM

LEAD-FREE MV PRESS CONFERENCE

CABVI CHALLENGE GRANT PRESS CONFERENCE

SECOND CHANCE TOOLS RIBBON CUTTING

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BUS VISITS WATSON WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WE ARE DEDICATED TO CREATING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING SOCIAL IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY.