

COMMUNITY *News*

Four years ago, the Community Foundation published a detailed study on the critical needs communities face across our five-county area. Now, we're following that Regional Needs Assessment with a new research project, the 2019 Community Assessment.

The Needs Assessment took a broad look at challenges related to health, housing, child care, transportation and other concerns. The Community Assessment will focus on one crucial topic, economic development.

In recent years, the Foundation has been exploring how philanthropy can foster economic development, and

we've formed several partnerships to work on this issue. In line with those efforts, we'll use the Needs Assessment to

in particular: diversity, inclusion and equity, and the impending leadership gap.

In the first case, we want

since nonprofits often run lean operations, there's not always a second in command who is ready to step in when an

New Community Assessment Spotlights Economic Development

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try to figure out what it would take to cultivate the strong, robust workforce our regional economy requires.

The Community Assessment will both define today's challenges and look into potential solutions. It will concentrate on two key workforce challenges

to learn how local companies and nonprofits might do better at diversifying their ranks. "A lot of research shows that the more diverse the workforce, and the more diverse your leadership, the more effective you are," says Lisa Horn, president of Horn Research in Slaterville Springs, N.Y. The Foundation contracted with Horn to conduct the 2015 Needs Assessment and has re-engaged her for the current study.

Horn will also look into the challenges organizations face as their leaders reach retirement age. There is widespread concern that our region lacks enough younger professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to take over top positions. This leadership gap may pose an especially tough challenge for nonprofits, which usually can't offer attractive salaries to lure top talent. And

executive director retires.

At least, those are the common assumptions, Horn says. "We need to figure out, first of all, is that story true? And then figure out what some potential solutions might be."

Horn developed the Needs Assessment largely by assembling data from many different sources, supplementing those figures with some interviews. While the Community Assessment will also entail some data gathering, for the most part Horn will take a qualitative approach. The heart of her research will be a series of in-depth interviews with 70 to 80 stakeholders from throughout the region. These informants will include people from nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, K-12 school systems, colleges and universities, faith communities,

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6 on the Square in Oxford is a good example of how arts organizations can help drive economic development in a community.

Competitive Grants

Grant Funding for Capital Projects, Programs, and Operating Support

6 on the Square \$1,500 for the 2018-2019 season (*Chenango*)

Binghamton Philharmonic \$3,000 for the phone system upgrade (*Broome*)

Binghamton University Science and Technology Program \$4,600 for the Engaging Johnson City at-risk Youth in Robotics Program (*Broome*)

Boys and Girls Club of Binghamton \$5,000 for busing children to their summer program (*Broome*)

Broome-Tioga BOCES \$15,000 for the Compass Academy for students at risk for/ experiencing substance use issues (*Broome/Tioga*)

Catskill Development Foundation \$4,500 for commercial kitchen equipment for the FoodWorks+ program (*Delaware*)



Grant Helps to Close Fresh Produce Gap

People in northern Otsego County who need extra help putting food on the table have greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables, thanks to a partnership between the Cooperstown Food Pantry and the Price Chopper supermarket chain, plus a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation.

The Cooperstown Food Pantry has offered emergency feeding assistance to local families since 1977. Based in the First Presbyterian Church of Cooperstown, the pantry serves an average of 200 families each month, from 18 Otsego County townships. Most of those families come in just once or twice a year, when unexpected expenses strain their budgets, says executive director Stacey Smith. In 2018, the pantry served 640 families in total.

Smith recently joined the food pantry as its only paid staff. About 100 volunteers keep the doors open 32 hours a week.

Besides distributing food at its facility, the Cooperstown Food Pantry runs a backpack program to make sure children who receive no-cost meals at school don't go hungry over weekends and during breaks. The pantry also provides vouchers that let families choose fresh produce at the Cooperstown Farmers Market. In 2015, it formed its partnership with Price Chopper to create the Fresh Recovery Program.

Under this program, Price Chopper donates food that has reached its sell-by date. "This is good food that would otherwise be thrown away," says Smith. The produce might have passed its peak of freshness,

and some fruit might sport a bruise or two, but it's perfectly wholesome, she says.

The pantry launched the partnership with the Cooperstown Price Chopper in 2015 and added the store in Richfield Springs in early 2018. Last year, the two stores provided 126,000 lbs. of food, including 71,000 lbs. of produce.

Besides providing fresh food that families might otherwise not be able to afford, in 2018 these donations cut the cost of stocking the pantry's shelves by \$30,000. At the same time, the partnership created a challenge, since the Richfield Springs store is 16 miles from Cooperstown. Retrieving and transporting that store's donation takes roughly two hours a day. "It's difficult to find someone who would be willing to volunteer their time to do that," Smith says.

So the food pantry contracted with an individual to make the daily run, paying him by the hour and also reimbursing him for mileage. The cost for the year is \$5,000. The pantry managed to cover that in 2018, but for 2019 things were looking tight. To budget money for the transportation, the pantry might have had to cut back on vouchers for the Farmers Market, Smith says—reducing access to fresh produce in one venue to make it available in another.

That's where the Community Foundation comes in. Our \$5,000 grant lets the food pantry hire a driver for the daily trip to Richfield Springs without putting a dent in any other program, Smith says. "In 2019 we can do the Farmers Market vouchers and we can pay for him to make the trip as well."

The 2019 Community Assessment

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funding organizations and economic development organizations.

The conversations will help Horn paint a different kind of picture than she could with data, she says. "We're able to get a more nuanced understanding of what the challenges are."

The Foundation will use that picture to help guide our grantmaking. Today, when we evaluate grant requests, we look for projects that address issues identified in the 2015 Needs Assessment. In the future, we'll also seek proposals that focus on economic development, especially on the needs and solutions that the new assessment describes.

We plan to share the Community Assessment with the public, so others also can use the findings to inform their work to enhance the quality of life in our communities.

from the Community Fund and Special Funds

Chenango County United Way \$500 for an in-school tooth brushing campaign (*Chenango*)

Cooperstown Food Pantry \$5,000 for a volunteer stipend to recover fresh food from grocery stores for pantries (*Otsego*)

Town of Deposit \$5,000 for an update to the Upper Delaware River Cold Water Fishing and Boating Economic Impact Study (*Broome/Delaware*)

Deposit Foundation and Rural Housing \$6,905 for rural transportation programs for seniors (*Broome/Delaware*)

First Ward Action Council \$5,000 for the purchase of a truck for their home repair service for seniors (*Broome*)

Good Shepherd Communities Foundation \$12,947 for hospital bed replacement at Chase Nursing Home (*Chenango*)

Town of Hancock Volunteer Ambulance \$12,000 for general operating support (*Delaware*)

Maine-Endwell School District \$7,000 for the high school student-run café (*Broome*)

Mom's House \$4,895 to upgrade their computer system (*Broome*)

Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network \$15,000 for the Norwich Parents as Leaders (PAL) Center (*Chenango*)

Otsego Rural Housing Assistance \$8,000 for the rural mobile home repair program (*Otsego*)

Samaritan Counseling Center \$5,000 for EDMR Training and Certification for the Trauma Treatment Program (*Broome*)

S.E.E.D Financial Group \$500 matching support for a holiday meal program for community members in need (*Broome*)

Springbrook \$12,987 for the preschool playground resurfacing (*Delaware/Otsego*)

Stand With Me Assistance Dog Team Training, Inc. \$5,000 for companion dog training for veterans (*Broome*)



Tioga County Arts Council \$5,065 for an All-Girls Podcast and Service Learning Program (*Tioga*)

VINES (Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments) \$15,000 for operating support (*Broome*)

Windsor Central School District \$3,450 for the First Tee program introducing golf in elementary schools (*Broome*)

Your Home Public Library \$10,161 for computers for general public use (*Broome*)

Total: \$173,010

BOCES Extends New Safety Net for Students at Risk

Broome-Tioga BOCES has joined the fight against opioid addiction with a new program for high school students. This fall, it opened New York State's first Recovery High School, designed to help students who have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder or are at risk for this condition. The Community Foundation is supporting the new Compass Supportive High School Program with a \$15,000 grant.

Broome County Executive Jason Garner declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency in 2017. Recent surveys point to a particular problem in local schools, says Doug Titus, supervisor at the Office of Communications and Development at Broome-Tioga BOCES. "There are some indications that drug use in schools in Broome County may be even higher than some of the averages we're seeing elsewhere in the state."

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services provides the primary funding for the Compass program through a grant to the Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC).

BOCES expects to have 10 to 15 students enrolled in the Compass program by the end of this school year. The students attend the Evertech Academy alternative high school on the BOCES campus. When school ends at 2:30 p.m., counselors from ACBC arrive to spend three hours with the Compass students. "They do

some group therapy work, some individual counseling work and some guidance on socialization," Titus says. "We feed them a meal, and then the counselors themselves take the kids home." That ride provides extra time for one-on-one or small group discussions.

Students' families come to campus once a week for group activities that range from movies to art therapy or psychodrama.

Over the summer, students in the Compass program will join ACBC staff for a mix of counseling, group discussion and recreation, either on the BOCES campus or at ACBC's facility in downtown Binghamton. In the future, ACBC plans to establish a satellite clinic at BOCES, where it can offer mental health treatment beyond what it provides in the after school sessions.

ACBC and BOCES will use the Community Foundation grant mainly for transportation. That includes the cost of driving students home each day in minivans owned by ACBC, transporting families to the BOCES campus and transporting students to the summer program.

The program includes this broad range of activities partly because they keep kids from going unsupervised outside of school hours, when young people with substance abuse challenges face particular risks, Titus says. "The more time we can spend with them, the better."



The Community Foundation for South Central New York serves Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga counties.

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Jamyie L. Lindsey

Board Welcomes New Member and Bids Farewell to an Old Friend

Welcome, Jamyie Lindsey

We're excited to welcome Jamye Lindsey to the Community Foundation! Jamye relocated to our community in the summer

of 2001 after graduating from Syracuse University College of Law, when she began her law career with Levene Gouldin & Thompson. Jamye says that she found our area welcoming to newcomers, with lots of varied opportunities for her to explore to complement her professional and personal life. She lives in Maine, New York with her son, Brady (12). Her law career is focused on working with families and individuals planning for wealth and asset preservation, and she states that she has been "fortunate to have contact with many of our local institutions and not-for-profit

groups and the individuals whom they serve." She "looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Community Foundation and participate in our community in a new way," and we look forward to working with her as our newest Board member.

Good-bye, Heather Cornell

As Jamye joins the board, we bid a fond farewell to Heather Cornell—board chair, board member for nine years and energetic community leader, supporter and enthusiast. Heather joined us in 2009 and immediately immersed herself in all things Community Foundation-related. She was a tireless and dedicated committee member, on the Women's Fund as well as on the Board, and could be called upon, often at the drop of a hat, for wise counsel as well as "in the trenches" work. We will miss her!