The Community Foundation offers caring individuals an effective way to endow their community in a manner that is responsible, responsive and lasting.

Responsible
• provides leadership and resources to address problems of our regional community
• encourages individuals and organizations to participate in organized philanthropy
• preserves and enhances assets entrusted to our stewardship

Responsive
• identifies and evaluates the ever-changing needs of the region
• makes grants consistent with needs
• offers flexible options of charitable giving for individuals of varying means

Lasting
• builds capacity for community problem solving
• builds endowment in order to enrich quality of life and improve the human condition for generations to come

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At the start of 2020, few of us could have imagined the trauma our world would soon endure.

But as COVID-19 reached the United States in January and February, we knew we had to be ready to respond to whatever conditions the disease created in our region. We prepared to shut the Foundation’s office, work remotely, partner with other funders, reinvent the grantmaking process and start fundraising to meet emerging needs. We believed that things would return to “normal” sometime in the summer, or fall at the latest. Little did we realize that as 2020 drew to a close, the pandemic would be entering an even bleaker phase.

Our offices closed on March 16. All staff began to work from home, and all Board, committee and grant review meetings moved to Zoom, a platform we had never used before. We spent that first month scrambling to get everything in place. From spring through late summer, we took part in countless online meetings involving our Board of Directors, our grants review committees, local, state and national funders, philanthropy associations, nonprofits and community leaders.

We conducted surveys of nonprofits in March and in late August, asking what they needed most and how we could help. We consulted with local foundations and United Ways. We attended virtual seminars, webinars and informal meetings of organizations around the state and the nation. What were others doing, and how were they doing it? It was all hands on deck and—no surprise to us—everyone stepped up in ways both mundane and remarkable.

The needs we discovered in our communities were alarming. People were going hungry. Nonprofits were closing and laying off employees. Parents couldn’t work: the schools were closed or had moved online, and the parents had no access to child care. No one could find enough personal protective equipment (PPE) or sanitizing products.

Nonprofits that responded to our surveys told us they were starved for funds due to closures, cancelled performances, cancelled fundraisers and lost fees for service. Without this money, they could not serve their constituents. If the crisis lasted beyond three months, it would cripple them severely, they said. They were also concerned about employees who made minimum wage, had little or no paid time off and lacked health insurance.

As the pandemic continued well past the three-month mark, the toughest challenge for most nonprofits was the uncertainty. How long would this last? How bad would it get? What financial supports might be available for individuals and organizations? What would the federal and state governments do to help? The questions went on and on.

While the country wrestled with the twin health and financial emergencies in 2020, it also faced a reckoning on racism, prompted by the deaths of a number of Black men and women in confrontations with the police, including the death of George Floyd in May. Many philanthropic organizations, ours included, responded to the call for racial justice and equity, starting to examine our internal practices and external funding procedures.

In this annual report you will read how organizations and programs responded to the COVID-19 crisis. But you’ll also learn about longer-term initiatives we launched in 2020. For example, we opened our first Racial Justice and Equity Fund, and the community responded with 16 applications for projects and programs to address these important concerns. (See story and grant awards list on pages 10 and 11.) We also initiated a Restart the Arts campaign, supporting the quality of life in our communities by helping arts and culture organizations survive the pandemic and continue to thrive. (See story on page 5).

We could not have weathered this storm without the generosity of our donors, the guidance of our Board of Directors, the work of staff and volunteers and the commitment of the numerous organizations working daily to serve the region. As always, we take their dedication of time, talent and resources seriously, and we thank them for making it possible to fulfill our mission. We hope that you will see in the following pages the important and critical work your friends, colleagues and neighbors accomplished in their communities under very challenging circumstances.
Even before COVID-19 put New York State on “pause,” philanthropies in our region could see the emergency racing toward us. “By the second weekend in March, it became clear to all of us that our community—as with everyone else—would be facing challenges never seen or imagined before,” said Lori Welch, executive director at United Way of Broome County.

Hit by furloughs and layoffs, many people would soon need help with basics such as food and rent. Nonprofits that serve essential needs would struggle to stay open. Without an immediate cash infusion, COVID-19 would rip the safety nets on which our communities depend.

In the face of this threat, foundations in Broome and Tioga Counties that had been working as allies for several years swung into action, pooling resources to deliver a quick, efficient response.

In Broome, United Way, the Community Foundation, the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation, the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, the George A. and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation, the Dr. G. Clifford and Florence B. Decker Foundation and the Roger Kresge Foundation formed the COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

United Way took fiduciary responsibility for the fund, while the Community Foundation served as administrator. We also contributed $50,000. The alliance formed a steering committee, plus a panel to review applications and recommended grants. The Broome fund raised $387,370 from the foundations, corporate donors, churches and other local groups, and individuals, Welch said.

By collaborating, rather than working independently, funders gained three important things, said Amanda McIntyre, executive director of the Klee Foundation. Those were: capacity—an efficient infrastructure to make many grants quickly; clarity—a single process for organizations that wanted to apply for funds; and camaraderie.

“Being able to lean on this group of informed, caring, empathetic people on the steering committee, and in the funder’s group, was tremendously valuable,” McIntyre said.

For this effort, Welch and the Community Foundation’s executive director, Diane Brown, received the 2020 Community Champion Award from the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce.

In Tioga County, the Community Foundation was one of nine organizations that comprised the Tioga County Foundations.
Coalition (TCFC). That group also responded quickly, raising more than $73,000 for its TCFC Emergency Fund, said Abbey Hendrickson, community development specialist at Tioga County Economic Development.

Collaboration produced a streamlined grantmaking process, moving efficiently from application to decision. “Within a week, we were able to tell an organization whether or not they received funding,” Hendrickson said.

The Community Foundation contributed $15,000 to Tioga’s Emergency Fund.

Our Board also decided to refocus our own spring grant cycle on pandemic-related needs. Including our contributions to the Broome and Tioga alliances, by the end of the summer we had made 100 grants across our five-county region, totaling $485,000. The biggest chunk of that money went to programs addressing food insecurity. But we also helped nonprofits assist local residents with rent, utilities and other basics. We supported purchases of personal protective equipment (PPE) and technology. We helped with child care, re-opening expenses and general operations. We supported arts organizations and artists and helped with COVID-19-related farm safety and animal welfare challenges.

The Unadilla Community Farm, an organic farm and education center in West Edmeston, received $3,485 to help expand its Veggie Box Program, which lets local residents buy healthy fruits and vegetables on a pay-what-you-can basis.

“The grant allowed us to double the food we produced,” Zarro said. To reduce the risk of infection, the program also started delivering all of its boxes to participants at their doors, rather than offer in-person pickups.

A $5,271 grant to Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), Delaware County helped give kids some of the fun of summer camp, even after COVID-19 forced CCE to close its 4-H Camp Shankitunk, in Delhi. CCE created “Camp in a Box,” packaging all the materials needed to enjoy an array of hands-on activities. Families could purchase any of five boxes, each related to a different theme, such as nature or crafts.

“It was designed so a single child could enjoy it for approximately ten hours,” said Corrine Tompkins, 4-H Camp director at CCE, Delaware County. In all, CCE distributed 370 boxes, including some that were subsidized by scholarships, she said.

Along with grants, the Community Foundation used Facebook to help nonprofits during the emergency. Our new page, “CNY Organizations Respond to COVID-19,” provided a central source of information on everything from where to buy PPE, to which programs were still open, to where organizations could apply for grants. The Facebook page and the Foundation’s program officer, Tina Barber, received a Community Advocate nomination for this effort, from the Broome Chamber.

The pandemic made 2020 a tough time for all. But in the face of massive challenges, it was heartening to see how much good our communities could achieve, and how quickly, through collaboration.
RESCE
and
RECOVERY

COVID-19 hit nonprofit organizations like an earthquake.

Libraries closed their doors or launched curbside service. Therapeutic programs moved counseling sessions to Zoom. Food pantries struggled with soaring demand. Nonprofits of all kinds lost revenue while forced to foot the bill for new safety protocols. Staff juggled work-from-home and child care duties while wondering how much longer they would still have jobs.

Unfortunately, 2021 could be even worse. That’s especially true for human services organizations that do much of their work under contract to New York State, which faces huge deficits due to the pandemic.

Wanting to learn how best to respond, the Community Foundation conducted two surveys, in March and August 2020, to assess the needs of nonprofits in our five-county region as they struggled with COVID-19. We received 111 responses. The results were alarming.

For instance, among the 67 organizations that provided numbers to show how COVID-19 had affected their bottom lines, combined losses totaled $5.8 million. Nearly all those organizations planned to keep operating, but with big modification—upgrading technology to move services and operations on line; cutting staff, reducing staff hours or reducing salaries; shifting programs outdoors during the warm weather; restricting the use of volunteers.

Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP), in Binghamton, usually relies on 500 to 600 volunteers, who contribute as many as 12,000 hours each year. “We still have some of that, but it’s a very small fraction, in the interest of being safe and not bringing unnecessary folks into the office,” said John Barry, STAP’s executive director, interviewed in October.

STAP continued to serve clients in 2020, but even with help from a rainy day fund, the organization had to pull its belt tight. In March 2020, the state stopped paying on vouchers for services rendered and didn’t start catching up on those payments until late September, Barry said.

Moreover, the pandemic forced STAP to cancel most fundraising activities, wiping out much of the $350,000 to $400,000 those efforts produce each year, Barry said.

The Community Foundation used the COVID-19 needs assessment to inform our decisions in the Fall 2020 grantmaking cycle. We invited some organizations to apply for specific kinds of support, while evaluating all the proposals we received in light of COVID-19-related needs. The goal is to invest our donors’ money as effectively as possible, helping nonprofits throughout our area weather the emergency and, we hope, emerge even stronger.

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While other nonprofits struggled to provide essential services during the pandemic, many arts organizations—theaters, museums, orchestras, dance schools, galleries and more—simply had to close. That shutdown spurred a financial emergency.

In Broome County, for example, arts organizations lost about $1 million in revenues and missed fundraising opportunities, said Nancy Barno Reynolds, executive director of the Broome County Arts Council (BCAC).

When the arts went on pause in Delaware County, not only did arts groups and their employees suffer, but so did the artists they would otherwise have hired, said Jenny Rosenzweig, executive director at the Roxbury Arts Group. “And there was an effect on creative workers you don’t necessarily think of—people who work behind the scenes, such as sound technicians and costume designers.”

The arts are vital to our quality of life and important to our economy. But without emergency assistance, the COVID-19 crisis could have toppled some of our region’s cherished arts institutions. “Financial support over the next 12 to 18 months is paramount to survival,” Reynolds said.

To figure out how to provide the most effective support, the Community Foundation asked Reynolds’ and Rosenzweig’s organizations, plus the Tioga Arts Council and the Earlville Opera House, to conduct needs assessments focused on the arts in their regions.

All of the surveys identified a need to replace lost revenues. For instance, when the Tioga Arts Council surveyed individual artists, they reported losing an average of $5,000 in income from creative activities, said Christina Di Stefano, the group’s executive director.

Among other things, artists also wanted help with technology, so they could present and sell their work virtually as well as in person. “Many of them know they should be on social media or Etsy, or developing web sites,” Di Stefano said. Some were computer savvy, but many others struggled with digital tools.

“A lot of the organizations needed general operating support to keep themselves afloat,” said Michelle Connelly, executive director at the Earlville Opera House, whose survey covered Broome, Chenango and Otsego Counties. They also needed program support, especially since many of their traditional sponsors, such as local businesses, also faced a financial crisis.

With these surveys as our guide, the Community Foundation established a $100,000 “Restart the Arts” fund for 2020 and started making grants. We received a record number of arts-oriented grant proposals—26 in all. Since the COVID-19 emergency will doubtless make a long term economic impact, we plan to continue our Restart the Arts initiative in 2021.
The first message came at 1 in the morning: “Jen, it’s all gone.”

Next thing Jennifer O’Brien knew, her phone was blowing up with texts. The news was heartbreaking. Our Space Park, a playground in Binghamton’s Recreation Park, designed as an accessible place of joy for people of all ages and abilities, had burned to the ground.

“About 85 percent of it was damaged,” said Paul Palmer, director of the Binghamton Parks and Recreation Department.

That was on June 1, 2020. But you can’t keep a much-loved play space down for long. “By 8 the following morning, we had a rebuild plan,” said O’Brien, community coordinator on the original Our Space initiative, and on the project to resurrect the playground.

Built in 2016, Our Space Park was a collaborative effort of Binghamton Parks and Recreation and Life is Washable, a nonprofit that O’Brien founded to serve people with special needs and their families. Binghamton University’s Price Waterhouse Cooper Scholars were also involved in the initial planning of the park.

“The park is the only one of its kind in Upstate New York, and it’s a destination for thousands of people across the Northeast,” said Binghamton’s Mayor, Richard David. Hundreds of volunteers helped to build Our Space, with support from New York State, in-kind donations, and contributions to a fund administered by the Community Foundation.

Designed by Ithaca-based Play by Design, Our Space included ramps, a fully-accessible merry-go-round, a swing made for wheelchairs, an accessible tree house, and structures that looked like familiar Binghamton landmarks such as the county courthouse.

The community loved Our Space, and once they heard about the fire, people wanted it rebuilt as soon as possible. “In the days and week that followed that fire, mothers and grandmothers would show up with children and grandchildren, and they would be in tears,” David said. “They just couldn’t believe that somebody would do this intentionally.”

So the community went to work. The city got its insurance company to expedite the claim, and it hired a demolition company to clear the debris. The Community Foundation reopened the Our Space Fund. And donations poured in.

While support for the rebuild included some large contributions from individuals and corporations, much of the money came from everyday people who clearly loved the playground. “There were thousands of donations that were under the $100 mark,” O’Brien said. “There were thousands of $20 donations. These are people who didn’t have much to give but cared.”

In all, by September, the project had received about $284,000 in monetary gifts, $157,000 worth of in-kind services and the equivalent of $78,200 in donated labor, said
O’Brien. Together with the insurance money, those contributions funded the rebuild.

In August, employees from Binghamton Parks and Recreation and a crowd of volunteers assembled in Recreation Park to start rebuilding. The plan was to recreate the original Our Space, but with some additions and improvements, O’Brien said. The new courthouse looks more like the actual building in downtown Binghamton, for instance, and the playground has signage and features designed for people who communicate in a greater variety of ways.

The Parks Department did the biggest jobs, starting on a Monday by installing about 150 posts. On Tuesday, the volunteers arrived.

“If you had been there you would have seen a huge tent with saw tables and construction tables set up underneath,” Palmer said. “If a volunteer wasn’t actually out in the playground, they would be building and cutting pieces that the other folks would use.”

Mayor David joined in, helping Palmer install a climbing wall. “It’s great when you are able to do physical work and have some sweat equity into a project that you know is going to have a huge benefit for kids and families,” he said.

“I loved watching the volunteers who came to the build bring their talents to it,” said O’Brien. And the Parks and Recs employees are incredible, she said. “The heavy lifting they did to get it done was heroic.”

Our Space Park reopened on October 22, less than five months after the fire, bringing gifts that defy measurement. “You can’t quantify the smiles, the laughter, the giggles of children who are excited to be back at the park and had been looking forward to this for months,” David said.

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, and in a season of widespread protest, Our Space also emerged as a sign of hope and unity.

“It doesn’t matter who burned it down. It just matters who it was built for,” said O’Brien. “This time I truly believe that the community built its own legacy. This wasn’t one person driving the ship. This was the community saying, ‘Yes, this is part of who we are, and we want this.’”
In 2020, women held 26 percent of the seats in the U.S. Senate and 23.2 percent of seats in the House. Across the nation, 29.3 percent of state legislators were women, according to the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

Those numbers are better than they used to be. (In 1981, just 12.1 percent of state legislators were women.) And, of course, 2020 saw the U.S. elect the first woman to become vice president. Still, when you consider that women make up more than half the population, it’s clear that they have not yet reached full political equality.

That’s why the Women’s Fund awarded a $7,500 grant in 2020 to Vote Run Lead, a national organization that teaches women how to run successful political campaigns. The grant will help Vote Run Lead promote its programming and resources to women in our five-county region who want to learn how to run for office, or how to help someone else run, said Tina Dolan, a member of the Women’s Fund Grants Committee.

“We wanted to see more women become engaged and get resources to learn how to do this successfully,” said Dolan, director of public policy and program development at United Health Services and a former staffer for state senators Tom Libous and Fred Akshar. “Different points of view and experience
usually bring richer discussion and stronger decision making to the table.”

In short, diversity makes for better government.

Vote Run Lead uses both in-person events and online programs to teach women how to run for office, and connect those women with mentors and advisors. Angela Riley, a local pharmacist and Democratic member of the Binghamton City Council, took training from the organization in Chicago in June 2019, early in her candidacy.

The meeting provided an abundance of tips and tools. “We practiced requesting donations; we talked about selling ourselves; we talked about choosing our teams,” Riley said. “We went from developing ourselves as women in leadership to the nuts and bolts of running a successful campaign.”

Participants also forged valuable relationships. “The biggest win overall was leaving with a network of sisters,” Riley said. Along with women who planned to run for office, attendees also included women who hoped to use their skills to promote women candidates. Public relations professionals offered to write press releases for Riley; a photographer offered to give her advice about head shots.

Other Vote Run Lead alumni from New York State include Samra Brouck, a Democrat who won a State Senate seat in Western New York in 2020, and Lauren Brady, who used resources on the organization’s web site to help her run as a Republican for the Peekskill City Council in 2019. She later had a chance to talk with one of the women whose presentations she had watched.

“It’s a very down to earth way to get resources,” said Brady, who did not win her race but says she is not shutting the door on a possible political venture in the future. “It was the number one resource I used through the entire campaign.”

Vote Run Lead was one of five organizations the Women’s Fund supported in 2020 with a total of $29,568.

We were disappointed that we couldn’t celebrate those grants at the annual Women’s Fund Breakfast in June, 2020. Like so many other events, the breakfast was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Luckily, our speaker—Jami Floyd, a noted legal journalist—has agreed to give the keynote talk at the next breakfast, scheduled for June 24, 2021.

The pandemic knocked us all off track in more ways than we can count. But looking ahead to 2021, members of the Women’s Fund are eager for new occasions to support women and girls in our communities.
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Looking inward and outward in 2020, the Community Foundation expanded its work to promote diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), both in our practices and in the region we serve.

Those efforts build on work we started more than two years ago, when we conducted a preliminary assessment of our Board and staff and updated language on our website and in our employee handbook. We also offered funding to nonprofits that wanted to do similar work.

In 2020, we hired a consultant to do a closer analysis and recommend ways to make our policies, procedures and grant guidelines better meet the goals of DEI. Qiana Watson, a licensed master social worker (LMSW) at Cornell Health Counseling and Psychological Services, teaches a course in Diversity and Oppression in the Master of Social Work program at Binghamton University. She previously worked as a case management coordinator and divisional diversity officer at BU.

Watson takes a broad perspective on diversity. “A lot of times, people think about race and gender when they hear the word,” she said. But other factors, such as ability and socio-economic status, also play a role.

To measure the state of DEI at the Community Foundation, Watson sent

Members of the Racial Justice and Equity Fund steering committee meet via Zoom to launch the fund and determine funding priorities.
questionnaires to members of our Board, staff and grant review panels, and to a sampling of organizations that have received or applied for Community Foundation grants. Questions focused on topics such as: the Foundation's value to the community; how accessible the Foundation is; how well it reflects various groups within the community; and how well respondents understand terms such as diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism.

A new steering committee at the Foundation will guide our future work on DEI. “My role is to lead the steering committee and make recommendations about opportunities for the Foundation to do things better,” Watson said. Based on the expertise they bring to the project, committee members will help the Foundation implement best practices for DEI.

One of the experts on the steering committee is Foundation Board member Tomás Aguirre, vice president for student life and chief diversity officer at SUNY Delhi.

A commitment to DEI is a matter of morality and social justice, Aguirre said. “Every human being has something valuable to contribute, and as a society we are obligated to address and eliminate any barriers and/or historical factors that might have resulted in inequitable conditions for people of color and members of other marginalized populations.”

But that commitment also makes good economic sense. “We know that companies and organizations that value and practice diversity and equity are more likely to succeed,” Aguirre said. A stronger commitment to DEI will increase the amount of good the Foundation can do in the community, he added.

Aguirre also serves on another committee at the Community Foundation, formed to oversee our new Racial Justice and Equity Fund. This fund supports local programs that seek a better future for communities of color. It made its first round of grants in December 2020.

The fund will focus on initiatives that aim, among other things, to promote racial justice and equity, counteract systemic racism or increase the capacity of Black-led organizations. But the panel that reviews grant proposals can also take a broader perspective, Aguirre said. “The panel is welcoming any programs that serve Black people, indigenous people and people of color.”

Grants can range in size, but the group seems to favor using smaller grants to help a larger number of organizations, Aguirre said. “It’s almost like seed money. If you can impact 20 or 30 different organizations, you can build capacity off that.”

There are many opportunities to put those grants to good use, according to Shanel Boyce, a nurse, social worker and community organizer in Binghamton. In the spring of 2020, Boyce helped to facilitate a forum in Binghamton where participants brainstormed potential solutions to problems in the community. The nearly 400 people who attended the outdoor meeting, plus 441 who responded to an online survey, shared ideas about housing, mental health and substance use, criminal justice reform, education and food justice.

“There’s a real need for mutual aid projects,” said Boyce, citing grassroots programs in Binghamton that help families obtain food, clothing, diapers and other necessities and don’t raise complex administrative obstacles. The community also needs more mental health resources to help people deal with challenges such as poverty, grief and racial trauma, she said.

It needs DEI training as well, Boyce said. During the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, many organizations formally expressed their commitments to DEI. “But statements aren’t enough,” she said. Organizations must examine their cultures and look at board recruitment and retention, to make sure that the people affected by their work have a voice in their decisions. “You need to always be asking, ‘Who’s missing from the table?’” she said.

As we continue our work at the Community Foundation, we look forward to seeing new faces at our table and gaining strength from their experience and knowledge.
Child care centers in our region face an existential threat. “Many centers are on the edge fiscally, and there’s a serious question about how much longer they’re going to survive,” said Deborah Fitzgerald, executive director of the Cub Care Children’s Center in Vestal and past president of the New York Association for the Education of Young Children.

Recent surveys across New York suggest that the state could lose as many as 50 percent of its child care centers, Fitzgerald said.

A big reason for the danger is that good-quality care costs more than most families can pay. That’s true even though many early childhood educators earn minimum wage, or just slightly more, with no benefits. To close the gap, child care centers have long relied on support from government and philanthropies.

COVID-19 has made the situation even worse. With many people working from home, revenues have dropped. Yet centers stay open so essential workers can go to their on-site jobs. At the same time, new health and safety protocols have driven up operating costs.

“Prior to this, we were standing on a cliff with our toes over the edge,” Fitzgerald said. “Now we’re hanging by our fingertips.”

In the face of this emergency, the Community Foundation, United Way of Broome County and the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation jointly commissioned a study to identify potential new models for child care. A reimagined system could serve children and their families with better care, provide suitable pay to early childhood professionals, and promote economic development by helping parents stay in the workforce.

Sophia Geringswald, a student in the Master of Public Administration program at Binghamton University, conducted the research, with a focus on Broome County. “I’m trying to come at the project from a policy analysis perspective,” said Geringswald in October 2020. Her first step was to define the problems, gathering specifics from child care leaders and parents. “The next step is to find out what other cities, states and countries have done to address these issues, whether it’s been effective, and will it be applicable to Broome County,” she said. The report would also include policy recommendations.

Geringswald delivered her findings at the beginning of 2021. Go to https://bit.ly/3zu7pxv to download a copy of the report.

Whatever model emerges, early childhood education needs the same kind of financial support that communities give to K-12 education, said Fitzgerald. “We can’t continue depending on our amazing foundations and philanthropic organizations that for years have been propping up early childhood education. That’s just not a long-term solution for a system that’s broken.”
As the Community Foundation raced to help nonprofits offset the burdens of the coronavirus pandemic, we gained some valuable new insights into our grantmaking process. Those discoveries sparked improvements that we plan to make permanent.

For instance, we learned that awarding grants quickly, while also performing due diligence, takes less information than we’d thought. Answering just a few well-designed questions, nonprofits can tell us exactly what we need to know: why they want money, how they will run their programs or projects and how they’ll measure the results. This streamlined process worked so well with our COVID-19 grants, we plan to use it from here on in.

The second change concerns the Community Fund. Unfortunately, in each grant cycle, we can fund only about one quarter of the proposals we receive. To make life easier for our proposers and our grants review panels, we have introduced a new step in the application process. An organization that seeks a grant from the Community Fund will first send us a letter of inquiry. Based on those letters, our grants panels will choose the most promising requests, and we’ll invite those nonprofits to submit full proposals.

That way, organizations are not wasting their time putting together applications that are not likely to be funded,” said Tina Barber, program officer at the Community Foundation. This up-front winnowing will also let our grants panels focus their efforts on proposals that are more likely to succeed.

We also plan to simplify the post-grant reporting process. Rather than ask grantees to fill out a long questionnaire, we’ll pose just a few short questions. After all, to show that they’ve used the grant well, a recipient needs to explain just a few things: What went right with the project or program? What went wrong? What was serendipitous? What advice would you offer someone doing a similar project? These might not be exactly the questions we settle on, but in any case, we’ll make this last step in the grant cycle easier for nonprofits.

The Foundation will also continue another new practice we started in the COVID-19 era—paperless grant distribution. “When we closed the office, we started issuing electronic checks, and that has worked out wonderfully,” Barber said.

It goes without saying that the coronavirus pandemic has produced a great deal of pain. But it’s also produced some important lessons. We appreciate this chance to improve the processes that help our donors invest in their communities.

It is so satisfying to be able to see (and help!) local agencies receive financial assistance to serve our communities. I believe I speak for our whole panel review team when I say I appreciated the streamlined documents for our reviews! The information provided was pertinent and concise, enabling us to make the hard decisions of which grants to approve.

Sherry French
Grants Committee Member

Grants Made Simpler

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Funds

COMMUNITY FUND
Craw Foundation
Executive Director’s Discretionary Fund
The General Community Fund
Dick and Marion Meltzer Fund
John F. and Mary M. Russell Fund

SPECIAL FUNDS
Designated
ACA Memorial Park Fund
Binghamton Police K-9 Fund
Black Knight Fund
Black Knight Legacy Fund
The Lisanne P. Bobby Fund
Lillian Briggs Fund
Broome County Public Library Development Fund
Cibo Fund
Doig Family Fund
Early Childhood Capacity Building Fund
Emergency Animal Care Response Fund
Friends of the ACA Memorial Park Fund
Harriet Ford Dickenson Fund
Healthy Gardens Norwich Fund
Ida Anne Lipshultz Madrigal Choir of Binghamton Fund
Jonas Kilmer Mansion Preservation and Restoration Fund
Lukensmith Fund
Paul G. and Miriam B. Mattern Fund
Oxford Blackhawk Fund
Owego Rotary Arthur B. Stiles Fund
Phelps Mansion Preservation Fund
Pickert-Hickok Fund
E. L. Rose Conservancy Conservation Fund
The Sam and Julia Selkowitz Fund
Taren Family Fund
Tiger Ventures XQ Fund
The Tina Fund
Robert and Dorothy Wells Memorial Fund
Whitney Point Schools Fund

Special Funds awarded a total of $1,897,829 to 193 organizations and programs and $98,000 to 94 scholarship recipients.

Donor Advised
George and Sally Akel Fund
Joyce and David Barber Fund
John J. Barry and Tina M. Barber Fund
David and Linda Barton Donor Advised Fund
Blake Difference Donor Advised Fund
Donald and Shirley Bronsky Fund
Marian Blakeslee Butler Memorial Donor Advised Fund
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GKPH Family Fund
Laura Greger Fund
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The Kerby Fund, Jim and Carol Fish
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Frederick and Lynne Lacey Donor Advised Fund
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Eugene E. and Judith C. Peckham Donor Advised Fund
Pool Family Animal Welfare Fund
Racketa Family Fund
William H. and Audree F. Rincker Fund
Dr. George and Kathi Roberts Fund
The Ruth Fund
Robert L. and Susan Mosher Slavicek Family Fund
Silvestri Family Donor Advised Fund
William G. & Katherine M. Steinbrecher Fund
Kent and Barbara W. Turner Fund
Visions Investment Services Community Impact Fund
Ralph J. Warner Fund
Ron and Cindy Wenzinger Family Fund

Field of Interest
Charles Hibberd Bassett Senior Citizen Fund
Glenda Blake and Leo Cotnoir Fund for Art Empowerment
Barbara H. Chaffee, MD, MPH Educational Fund
Broome County Farm Bureau Cares Fund
CFSCNY Arts & Culture Fund
CFSCNY COVID-19 Response Fund
Chobani Community Impact Fund
Community Foundation Library Fund
Esther Couper Family Fund
Dona Davey Forget-Me-Not Fund
Endowment for Visual Arts in the Communities
Goodall-Komar Family Fund
The Janicki Family Animal Welfare Fund
Katie Titus Early Literacy Fund
The Mighty Max “Just Because” Fund

Women’s healthcare access was supported by an $8,000 grant from the Women’s Fund to Family Planning of SCNY
Legacy Society

The Legacy Society recognizes those individuals who have informed the Foundation that it is a beneficiary of a planned gift in the form of a bequest, charitable remainder trust or life insurance policy.

Anonymous (3)
Peter and Beth Altmann
Ramona M. Aucinachie
Joyce and David Barber
Glenda Blake and Leo Cotnoir
Lisanne P. Bobby
Shirley L. Brossky
Eugene W. Burns
Keith and Gail Chadwick
Dawna J. Cole
Norman and Carolyn Davies
Christina Di Giusto
James A. Doig
Virginia Eisenberg
Mary Farrell
Peter H. Feehan
Stephen and Maureen Feehan
Jim and Carol Fish
Ronald and Betty Goodwin
Daron and Lisa Janicki
Robert E. and Laura J. Jensen
Paul Komar and Teri Goodall-Komar
Victoria A. Kubic
Travis and Lisa Maus
Judith C. Peckham
William and Judith Pool
Dr. George and Kathi Roberts
Stephen and Melissa Rowell
Robert L. and Susan Mosher-Slavicek
Shirley S. Tamulis
Kent and Barbara W. Turner
Amy Tuthill
Ron and Cindy Wenzinger

Edwin A. and Marion Clayton Link Scholarship Fund
Frank Matola and Katherine J. Matola Scholarship Fund
Mello-Dears All Girls Drum and Bugle Corps Scholarship Fund (in honor of Fred Ford)
Viviana Peña Scholarship Fund
Price Family Scholarship Fund
Ruff Farms Memorial Scholarship Fund
Art Sharpsteen Scholarship Fund
Sister Joanna Monticello Memorial Scholarship Fund
Duane R. Skrabalak Memorial Award in Music Fund
SPAN (Sonja C. (Baranowski) and Phillip K. Dunlavy and Nicholas J. Sparaco) Memorial Scholarship Fund
Nicholas Spawn Memorial Upward Bound Scholarship Fund
Elaine S. Stratton Memorial Scholarship Fund
Johny Stringfield Scholarship Fund
Judith and Charles Tokos Scholarship Fund
Alexander J. Wetzel Memorial Scholarship Fund

How Can I Make a Gift?

We are fortunate to receive many generous gifts from individuals, families, businesses, organizations, groups and private foundations—anyone who cares about our region and its people, and who believes in and wants to invest in our collective future. If that sounds like you, then please call us (607) 772-6773 so we can help you make the best, most impactful, and tax-advantaged choice—the choice that’s right for you. You can also find detailed information about giving on our web site: www.donorswhocare.org

How Can My Organization Apply for a Grant?

In 2020 we awarded $2,536,931 from our Community Fund and special funds to 429 organizations for programs, projects, capital purchases and general operating needs. For details regarding current grant criteria, application procedures, funding policies, priorities and deadlines, please see the Community Foundation’s web site at www.donorswhocare.org
Competitive Grants from the Community Fund and Special Funds

COVID-19 GRANTS

ACHEIVE
Afton Free Library
Alzheimer’s Association
American Civic Association
Andes Public Library
The Angel Network of Cooperstown
ARC of Delaware County
Bainbridge Free Library
Berkshire Free Library
Boys & Girls Clubs of Binghamton
Broome County Arts Council, Inc.
Broome County Council of Churches
Broome County Humane Society
Broome-Tioga BOCES
The Bundy Museum
C.O.R.E. Values
Catholic Charities of Broome County
Catholic Charities of Delaware & Otsego Counties
Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga
Catskill Center for Independence
CFSCNY COVID-19 Response Fund
Chenango County Historical Society
Chenango United Way
Cherry Valley Memorial Library
Christian Neighborhood Center of Norwich
Cooperstown Art Association
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County
Cullman Child Development Center
Delaware County Historical Association
Delaware Opportunities Inc.
Delaware Valley Humane Society
Deposit Free Library
Earlville Opera House
EDD Adaptive Sports/Eric D. Dettenrieder Memorial Fund
Edmeston Free Library
Endicott First Presbyterian Nursery School
Endicott Performing Arts Center (EPAC)
Every Dog’s Dream
Family Enrichment Network
First Presbyterian Church Cooperstown-Food Pantry
First Presbyterian Union Church
Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Franklin Free Library
Franklin Stage Company
Friends of Recovery of Delaware & Otsego Counties, Inc.
Friends of the Mary Wilcox Memorial Library
Good Shepherd Communities Foundation
Hancock Community Education Foundation
Harris Memorial Library
Helios Care
In Memory of Diesel, Inc.
India Cultural Centre
Jewish Community Center of Binghamton
Johnson City Community Action Team, Inc.
Johnson City Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
Kali’s Klub House
Kopernik Observatory and Science Education Center
Lisle Free Library
Literacy Volunteers of Broome-Tioga
Longyear Gallery, LLC
Lower Deck Events
The MARK Project
McKendree United Methodist Church
Meals on Wheels, Western Broome
Mural on Main
New Hillel Academy of Broome County
New Hope Community Church
New Life Ministries
New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health
Norwich Family YMCA
Oneonta Family YMCA
Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.
Otsego County Department of Health
Otsego-Northern Catskills BOCES
Oxford Academy & Central School
Play Yard Concepts, Inc.
Preservation Association of Southern Tier
Richfield Springs Community Center
The Roxbury Arts Group, Inc.
Safe Streets
Salvation Army Empire State Division
Samaritan Counseling Center of the Southern Tier
Second Baptist Church

Chobani Community Impact Fund Grants

Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE) $39,112.50 to buy technology for an institutional purchasing program, creating a platform to connect farmers, distributors and institutional buyers (Otsego)

Charlotte Valley Central School District $28,662.50 toward the purchase of a food trailer for the Plant Posse program (Delaware)

Clear Path for Veterans $69,112.50 toward the purchase of a food truck for the Canteen program, which serves hot meals to veterans (Madison)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Chenango County $63,112.50 for the Regional Beef and Sheep Farming program, helping dairy farmers transition to other sources of income (Chenango)

TOTAL $200,000

Clear Path for Veterans hosts a weekly Canteen lunch, serving 200 meals and facilitating camaraderie and conversations among area veterans. (Photograph taken prior to COVID-19)
Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2020

ASSETS
CASH $1,466,646
INVESTMENTS, at fair value 32,649,430
OTHER ASSETS 17,894
TOTAL ASSETS $34,133,970

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES $82,239
GRANTS PAYABLE 882,267
ENDOWMENTS HELD FOR OTHERS 37,116
TOTAL LIABILITIES 1,001,622
NET ASSETS, unrestricted 33,132,348
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $34,133,970

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2020

REVENUES AND SUPPORT
Contributions $3,932,855
Interest and dividends 654,814
Net realized and unrealized loss on investments 2,144,598
Other income 159,421
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT $6,891,688

EXPENSES
PROGRAM SERVICES:
Grantmaking
Grants made $2,474,431
Grant administrative expense 110,682
Total grantmaking 2,585,113
Managing charitable funds 36,709
Community education and involvement 82,402
Total program services 2,704,224

SUPPORTING SERVICES:
Finance and general administration 484,723
Development and donor relations 34,364
Total supporting services 519,087

TOTAL EXPENSES $3,223,311

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS 3,668,377
NET ASSETS, beginning of year 29,463,971

NET ASSETS, end of year $33,132,348
ACKNOWLEDGMENT: The Community Foundation would like to thank the following organizations for contributing photographs and graphic materials for the 2020 Annual Report: Broome County Council of Churches; Chenango County Historical Society; Clear Path for Veterans; DCMO BOCES; Family Planning of SCNY; Jennifer O’Brien; Our Space Park; Tri-Cities Opera; Vote Run Lead; Windsor Central School District.