



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Three Individuals and a Family Honored With Philanthropy Awards by Rochester Area Community Foundation

Rochester, NY — Rochester Area Community Foundation honored three individuals and a family for their philanthropy during today's 2014 Philanthropy Awards and Annual Report to the Community Luncheon.

The Community Foundation also recognized United Way of Greater Rochester with its Ames-Amzalak Award for Nonprofit Excellence for its community leadership and collaboration on several key projects (ACT Rochester, ROC the Future, early childhood efforts, and C.A.S.H). The Feinbloom Supporting Foundation also was honored with a special recognition for its 25-year partnership with the Community Foundation.

Philanthropy Award recipients included **Dr. Matthew Augustine** of Rochester, **Linda Davey** of Pittsford, and **Bob Sykes** of Brighton and his family. **Tom Argust** of Rochester received the Joe U. Posner Founders Award.

Six hundred guests attended the reception and luncheon at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center's Empire Hall. The "Living, Giving, Better Together" theme was showcased in the debut of the Community Foundation's 2014 Biennial Report and in a report to the community by President and CEO Jennifer Leonard.

"We can be so proud of what we have done together," Leonard said of our region's legacy of entrepreneurship and efforts to nurture arts and culture, feed the hungry, heal the sick, and invest in engines of education for the future. "Now, more than ever, we need that legacy of creativity, generosity, and foresight to face the challenges of today — and forge the Rochester of tomorrow."

She pointed to the sobering statistics in a poverty report released in December by the Community Foundation and ACT Rochester, which found Rochester as:

- The 5th poorest city in the 75 largest American metros;
- The 2nd poorest among comparably sized cities;
- Having the 3rd highest concentration of poverty among the 100 largest metros in America.

The report also found that across our entire region, more than one in every eight people lives below the federal poverty line.

“Ask yourselves: Is this who we are? Is this who we want to be? We are systematically leaving too many of our neighbors behind, and too many of us don’t understand why because we don’t connect,” Leonard said. “We aren’t living together; we aren’t working together; we aren’t studying together. And together, we have built a community that is not lifting people up equally.”

She invited residents to join with the Community Foundation and get involved in any of the initiatives under way to help build an equitable community and strengthen our region’s vitality, which are main goals of the Foundation’s new grantmaking and leadership framework.

Leonard specifically mentioned ROC the Future; Facing Race, Embracing Equity; Unite Rochester; the YWCA’s Person2Person; and a variety of efforts to help Rochester City School District students.

One grassroots effort, called Dialogues Without Borders, starts next week. This series of programs in suburban homes will encourage discussion by neighbors and town officials of the poverty report and its implications for the region. Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren is helping to build the city-suburban connection for these conversations.

“Together, this smart, creative community can successfully tackle our major challenges — and carry on the legacy of people who have invested here for more than 200 years,” Leonard said.

Elizabeth Thorley, former treasurer of the Community Foundation board of directors, reported on several pieces of impressive financial news:

- Community Foundation assets for our region hit an all-time high of \$302 million at the end of our fiscal year on March 31, representing a 11.5 percent growth over the previous year;
- \$231 million — or 75 percent of the total assets — remain permanently endowed, which means they are invested to benefit generations in the future;

- More than \$21.5 million in grants and scholarships was awarded from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014; and
- Thousands of donors from across the region were extremely generous last year, making contributions totaling \$26 million.

Complete financial information for the Community Foundation can be found at www.racf.org/Financials.

Here are short bios of the Philanthropy Award and special recognition recipients:

- **Tom Argust**, retired City of Rochester Commissioner of Economic Development, will receive the Joe U. Posner Founders Award, the Community Foundation's highest honor. Argust, who lives in Rochester and has a second home in Yates County, is co-chair of the Yates Community Endowment. The group just finished raising more than \$170,000 in disaster relief contributions to help those affected by the severe flooding in mid-May and is two-thirds of the way toward its \$1 million goal for the endowment. A former Community Foundation board chair, Argust also helped to champion ACT Rochester during its five-year tenure and is chair of the advisory committee. He and his wife, Carolyn, created a named fund at the Community Foundation that supports neighborhood planning and activities, immigrant services at their church, and the Yates Community Endowment.
- **Dr. Matthew Augustine** was the long-time CEO of Eltrex Industries, which was an outgrowth of the rebellion in July 1964. After a national search, he was hired to lead FightOn, Inc., the predecessor to Eltrex, and moved to Rochester. Augustine has been involved in a variety of professional business organizations and other groups, including the Community Foundation board of directors. The recipient of many local, state, and national awards, he is most proud of the local Urban League Black Scholars Scholarship Endowment program. He helped the Urban League to successfully raise \$1 million in three years to be able to offer scholarship assistance to successful African American students in their later years of college. To this day, he continues to chair the selection committee.
- **Linda Wells Davey** is a University of Rochester graduate and a long-time community volunteer who organized volunteers and volunteer groups for the American Red Cross, WXXI, and Planned Parenthood of Western and Central New York. At the Red Cross, she founded the Volunteer Forum, which matched volunteers with organizations. This program eventually became the United Way Volunteer Connection. Davey is a former Community Foundation board member, who uses her Charitable Checking AccountSM to facilitate her own charitable giving. She created a permanent endowment fund, named for her beloved grandfather, which primarily benefits programs that help city

schoolchildren. After her husband, Bruce, died of cancer, she established the Davey Memorial Award for Outstanding Cancer Research, which is awarded annually to a UR faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to cancer research. She also was one of the founding members of the Wilmot Cancer Institute Advisory Board and served as its first chair.

- **Bob Sykes** and his late wife, Katie, donated Sykes Datatronics stock to open their first fund at the Community Foundation in 1983 — and quietly began making regular donations to their college alma maters and more than two dozen local organizations. In 2009, their giving philosophy shifted to include the next generation. They diverted the balance from their fund into four new donor advised funds, one for each of their adult children — Kate Massie, Bill, David, and Peter — and their spouses. After Katie passed away in 2012, Bob continued to carry on the family’s tradition of giving. He created a designated fund to provide ongoing support to the United Way as well as an endowed Forever Fund that will help take care of the community he calls home — now and in the future.
- The **Feinbloom Supporting Foundation** at the Community Foundation is receiving a special recognition for supporting nonprofit organizations in our region for 25 years. In 1989, when the Feinbloom family sold its Rochester-based Champion Products, Inc., Harold and Joan made a \$3 million gift to create their supporting foundation, which has awarded more than \$4.6 million in grants. These icons of community philanthropy coupled their vocal and financial encouragement with board leadership. Joan has served on the boards of the Memorial Art Gallery, Strong Hospital, and the Community Foundation. Harold served on the boards of Hillside and the RPO, and was a vice chair of the Community Foundation. They received a Philanthropy Award from the Community Foundation in 1994. In 2013, they were given the George Eastman Medal by the University of Rochester in recognition of their outstanding achievement and dedicated service, and honored that same year as a Champion of the Arts by the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester. Sadly, Harold passed away in May at age 85.
- **United Way of Greater Rochester**, one of the most successful community fundraising organizations in the country, has helped many in its nine-county region learn how to give charitably for the past 96 years. Since 2010, United Way has invested more than \$83 million to build our region’s human capital — helping children, families, and older residents live happily and productively. United Way and the Community Foundation have collaborated often to make greater impact in our region.

For more details on this event and previous Philanthropy Award recipients, visit www.racf.org/Events.