



## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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### **In its 25<sup>th</sup> Year Recognizing Outstanding Philanthropists, Rochester Area Community Foundation Honors 5**

Rochester, NY — Rochester Area Community Foundation honored one individual and two couples today, marking the 25<sup>th</sup> year it has recognized local philanthropists who make a difference in our eight-county region.

The Philanthropy Award recipients included **Leo and Charlotte Landhuis** of Pittsford, **Pin-Seng and Shirley Tschang** of Irondequoit, and **Nathan J. “Nick” Robfogel** of Canadice, Ontario County, received the Joe U. Posner Founders Award. Long-time volunteer **Bob Silver** of Brighton was also recognized for serving as chair of the Foundation’s annual campaign for 20 years and raising \$2.9 million during his tenure to support the Community Foundation’s work.

Five hundred guests attended the reception and luncheon at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center. The event’s “Together We Will” message was showcased in a report on the Foundation’s activities by President and CEO Jennifer Leonard.

Leonard provided numerous examples of how our community — in the past to present day — has achieved great things by having people and organizations work together.

“We are building on the vision and commitment of those who founded Rochester and created a tradition of private philanthropy for the public good,” said Leonard. “Together, we are strengthening the community’s capacity to construct a vibrant future — through its people, institutions, and culture.”

She reminded the audience that Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others together secured the vote for women. “Today, members of the Rochester Women’s Giving Circle, which we proudly host at the Community Foundation, together support projects that help women and girls gain the skills needed to obtain a living-wage job,” Leonard said.

Twenty-five years ago, the Community Foundation helped launch the Early Childhood Development Initiative, whose members worked together to raise standards for child care and prekindergarten in Rochester. Their collaborative efforts continue and just last week, New York State awarded the Rochester City School District \$12 million to enhance its pre-K programs. Receiving 40 percent of the state’s budget for pre-K expansion reflects “the excellence of the early education we’ve built together as well as the critical need to reach children early, when their brains are forming,” Leonard said.

Other collaborations that involve the Community Foundation and that Leonard specifically mentioned include ROC the Future, Facing Race, Embracing Equity, Unite Rochester, the YWCA's Person2Person program, and a variety of ongoing efforts to help Rochester City School District students.

David Still, chair of the Community Foundation's Audit Committee, reported on several pieces of impressive financial news that included:

- Community Foundation assets for our region hit an all-time high for the fifth year in a row — \$328.6 million at the end of our fiscal year on March 31. This represents an 8.6 percent growth over the previous year;
- \$248 million — or 76 percent of the total assets — remain permanently endowed, which means they are invested to benefit generations in the future;
- More than \$22.5 million in grants and scholarships was awarded from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015; and
- Thousands of donors from across the region were extremely generous last year, making contributions totaling \$38 million — third highest in our history.

Complete financial information for the Community Foundation can be found at [www.racf.org/Financials](http://www.racf.org/Financials).

For 25 years, the Community Foundation has been keeping community philanthropy in the spotlight by honoring local individuals, couples, families, and years ago even some companies and organizations. Here are short bios of the Philanthropy Award and special recognition recipients from Thursday's event:

- **Nathan J. Robfogel:** Nick was on the inaugural board of directors when the Greater Rochester Community Foundation of the Genesee Valley was incorporated in 1972. Born and raised in Rochester, this long-time attorney with Harter Secrest & Emery LLP also led the local Democratic Party and volunteered on boards of more than three dozen local and statewide organizations. In his retirement, this resident of Canadice, Ontario County, works as a mediator and arbitrator and continues to play a key role in our community's philanthropy as board chair of the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation. Nick received our top honor, the Joe U. Posner Founders Award.
- **Leo and Charlotte Landhuis:** Because of their work, this Pittsford couple understands the power that one donation can make. A retired ophthalmologist from Missouri, Leo had served as president of the Eye Bank Association of America and Charlotte had been executive director of what is now the Rochester-Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank. Their giving, first in Missouri and for the past 20 years in Rochester, links with a simple and direct philosophy: "If you live in a community, you should give back to that community."
- **Pin-Seng and Shirley Tschang:** Retired from their careers — Pin as a Kodak engineer and Shirley as a nurse — this Irondequoit couple supports a wide range of organizations that align with their beliefs and promote change. Both have volunteered in the community with the former Rochester Chinese Association, WXXI, Rochester General Hospital, Literacy Volunteers, and the Irondequoit Senior Center. The Tschang Family Fund was created at the Foundation in 2002 with the idea of supporting programs that promote inclusion, diversity, and race.

A special recognition was given to **Robert “Bob” Silver** of Brighton. For 20 years, Bob has been volunteer chair of the Community Foundation’s annual campaign and, along with his committee members, raised \$2.9 million to support the Foundation’s work. Bob has also volunteered for many other community efforts — Quad A for Kids, the Boys & Girls Clubs, the Arts & Cultural Council, and his local alma mater, Allendale Columbia School. He has also been honored countless times for these efforts, including the Joe U. Posner Founders Award recipient in 2001, the first year it was renamed to honor the Foundation’s founder.

For more details on this event and previous Philanthropy Award recipients, visit [racf.org/Awards](http://racf.org/Awards).

**About Rochester Area Community Foundation:** The Community Foundation serves an eight-county region that includes Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Yates, and Wayne counties. Last year, the Community Foundation distributed \$22.5 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and scholarships to help local students with college expenses. Money for these grants comes from 1,150 charitable funds created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations to support a wide variety of personal and community interests. Since it was established in 1972, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$363 million in grants and scholarships.