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**For immediate release**

## **Yates Community Endowment Awards \$34,900 in Grants to Support Yates County Programs**

At its annual meeting and celebration on August 26, the Yates Community Endowment Advisory Board thanked the community for its generosity and awarded seven grants totaling \$34,900 to support a variety of Yates County programs.

Since its founding in 2011, the Yates Community Endowment, in partnership with the Community Foundation, has awarded \$122,000 to support Yates County efforts. This is in addition to \$178,000 in community contributions to the Endowment's Disaster Relief Fund. That money was distributed through the Keuka Housing Council, in partnership with the Finger Lakes Economic Development Center, to assist individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofit organizations affected by the devastating floods in spring 2014.

The annual meeting and celebration, which drew more than 80 residents, was held at the Yates County History Center in Penn Yan

The grants were distributed by the Yates Community Endowment Fund and several of its affiliate funds (see more details at [www.racf.org/Yates](http://www.racf.org/Yates)). The grants were given to:

**Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation:** The Community Healthy Home Program for Persons with Disabilities assists low-income individuals in Yates County who have physical disabilities by offering housing accessibility to improve their ability to perform activities and to provide opportunities for independent living in the community. \$3,500

**Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates, Inc.:** The Changing Lives: Adult Literacy Services Pulling the K-Train program involves adults and their children with low-literacy levels who will receive one-on-one tutoring in Parent-As-First-Educator curriculum and Kindergarten Readiness curriculum, resulting in the development of skills needed to reach their full potential. \$3,500 (*an additional \$845 to be awarded from The McMullen Family Fund*)

**Yates Performing Arts Series Inc.:** Concerts on the Courthouse Lawn offer a variety of musical performances for the enjoyment of residents and visitors as well as an opportunity for local musicians to be seen and heard. \$1,000

**The Empire State Winery Cupola Restoration Project:** The restored cupola will be the centerpiece of a place of quiet reflection for residents, an attraction for tourists, and a magnet to visitors at nearby hotels, inviting them onto the trail and into the village with its stores and restaurants. \$1,000

**Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes Inc.:** Provides personal safety presentation and follow up to Yates County youth in pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade on how to keep safe from sexual and domestic violence. \$4,000 (*an additional \$1,000 to be awarded from The Robert F. Flickinger Fund*)

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County:** Supports Food Preservation workshops in Dundee and Penn Yan that offer instruction in research-based, best practices in food preservation techniques and increase access to a healthy, fresh, and safe supply of local produce far past the regular growing season. \$1,900 (*wholly granted by The Robert F. Flickinger Fund*)

**Yates Cultural & Recreational Resources Inc.:** The new and expanded Health and Wellness Fitness Center provides fitness programming to enhance the physical well-being of Yates County residents. \$20,000 (*wholly granted by The Willie Taaffe Memorial Fund*)

For more information on the Yates Community Endowment, contact Regional Coordinator Joy Benson at 585.341.4412 or [jbenson@racf.org](mailto:jbenson@racf.org). If you are interested in making a contribution to the Endowment, you can mail a check payable to Yates Community Endowment to P.O. Box 311, Penn Yan, NY 14527.