

Yates Community Endowment

The Yates Community Endowment is under the guidance of an all-volunteer, all-local advisory board chaired by Katie Nord Peterson. Since its beginning in 2011, Yates Community Endowment has distributed more than \$600,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations serving Yates County. These grants have provided scholarships for Yates County youth to attend summer camp, helped with disaster relief efforts after the flood in 2014, assisted in the creation of the HOPE Center, and connected people in need with programs to help improve their lives.



Year in Review: Continuing Our Impact

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We are grateful for the support of so many to build a permanent endowment for Yates County, and the work of nonprofit organizations to make Yates County a better place for all. Please consider joining us in our work to improve the quality of life in Yates County!

Grant Recipients

The Yates Community Endowment Advisory Board approved the 2018 distribution of \$17,000 for the following grants. Affiliate funds contributed \$17,500. The total investment from all sources is \$34,500.

Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, \$2,000 To support the LGBTQ Center Program, an existing effort that provides education and support to Yates County youth who identify as LGBTQ and their families to bolster feelings of inclusion and reduce the high rates of bullying, suicide, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse.	Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc., \$5,000 For ongoing support of the Keuka Food Pantry, which serves as the county's main food distribution center and also provides basic needs and makes referrals to additional services within Pro Action and throughout Yates County.
Finger Lakes Cultural and Natural History Museum, \$3,000 Outdoor Programming will include free programs that provide outdoor education training and inspire appreciation and stewardship of the cultural heritage and ecological evolution of the Finger Lakes region.	Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, \$4,000 This program educates Yates County children in Pre-K to grade 8 on how to keep themselves safe from sexual and domestic violence. Each classroom discussion is age-appropriate and school approved. <i>Fully funded by the Spring Hill Fund.</i>
Keuka Housing Council, \$7,000 Supports HOPE Center renovations to add more office space, two ADA-compliant bathrooms, two new entrances, and a community kitchen that will be connected with the Keuka Food Pantry. <i>Fully funded by the McMullen Family Fund.</i>	Yates Cultural and Recreational Resources, Inc., \$5,000 The ELEVATE youth program will partner with the Penn Yan Central School District and equator Sam Casler for the IDEA Art Trail project, which will offer students knowledge of the arts and culture skills in construction, engineering, leadership, and communication. <i>Includes \$2,000 from the Robert H. Flickinger Memorial Fund and \$1,500 from the Willie Taaffe Memorial Fund.</i>
Our Town Rocks, \$3,500 The Rocks and Reads Team will partner with the Dundee School District to establish a Resident Child Yoga study, with the goal to improve student behavior and mindfulness.	YMCA of Greater Rochester, \$5,000 Provides scholarships for Yates County youth to attend the 'N' Camp-Out during summer 2020. <i>Includes \$3,000 from the Robert H. Flickinger Memorial Fund.</i>

The advisory board approved the Endowment's eighth round of grants totaling \$34,500. The grants were awarded in June 2019, and you can learn more about them in our [2019 Annual Report](#). Read about the Endowment's [previous grants](#) awarded to nonprofits serving Yates County.

Help During the Pandemic

The Yates Community Endowment has established the **Yates Emergency Relief Fund** to collect donations from the community to support the community during this crisis. Every dollar contributed to this fund will be generously matched by the Nord Family Foundation, up to \$25,000, and every dollar will be used to support nonprofits providing services to Yates County. You can make your donation online [here](#).

How We Got Started

In November 2010, Katie Nord Peterson of Penn Yan approached the Community Foundation about the possibility of expanding into Yates County with some assistance from her family's foundation. The following June, the Nord Family Foundation of Amherst, Ohio, awarded a \$100,000 challenge grant to the Yates Community Endowment to match dollar for dollar any contributions up to that amount designated for broad support of Yates County.

In late August 2011, the first two major gifts to the endowment and eligible for the matching dollars were announced – a \$50,000 gift from Carolyn and Tom Argust of Rochester and the Town of Italy, and \$20,000 from the Yunis family and two of their businesses.

In addition to its annual competitive grantmaking, the Yates

Community Endowment has had a great deal of impact. For example:

- In 2014, when flash flooding devastated homes, businesses, and roads, the Endowment raised \$177,000 in just a few months to assist those affected.
- In 2016, the Endowment surpassed a five-year goal it had set to raise \$1 million in permanent funds to support Yates County.
- In 2017, the Endowment's advisory board kicked off a goal to raise another \$1 million in permanent funds. A \$50,000 gift from Tom and Carolyn Argust jump-started that effort.

Major Funds

Yates Community Endowment Fund (2011): The goal of this endowment is to support local nonprofit organizations that are on the front lines dealing with the area's evolving needs now and in the future.

Robert F. Flickinger Memorial Fund of the Yates County Endowment (2012): Created with gifts from friends, family, and others to honor this steadfast community supporter.

Spring Hill Fund (1995): Established by descendants of Ontario County pioneers, this fund benefits youth in Yates and Ontario counties.

Mitchell Family Community Leadership Fund (2010): A gift of a

lakefront cottage created this fund to assist Yates County area charitable organizations.

Willie Taaffe Memorial Fund of the Yates Community Endowment (2013): Created with gifts from friends, family, and others to honor this founding member of the Endowment's advisory board. [Click here](#) to contribute to this fund.

Yates County Demographics

This county, named for New York Governor Joseph Yates, covers about 400 square miles and is in the heart of the Finger Lakes. The rolling hills and spectacular views also include 64 precious miles of shoreline on Canandaigua, Keuka, and Seneca lakes.

A Transfer of Wealth report commissioned by the Community Foundation contains detailed information on each of its regional counties, including [this overview](#) of Yates County.

Get even more data on Yates County on the [ACT Rochester](#) website.

Through its annual grantmaking, Yates Community Endowment seeks to create long-term positive impact in Yates County.

For more information about the Endowment's grant criteria and annual cycle, [click here](#).