



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Community Foundation Announced Two Record Highs — Grant Amount Awarded and New Charitable Funds Opened; Also Honored 4 Local Philanthropists

Marking its 47th year in operation, Rochester Area Community Foundation announced today that it awarded a record high \$37 million in grants during its fiscal year.

That record high amount is a result of 6,943 grants awarded between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 through the competitive grant process led by the Foundation's Program-Distributions Committee and Board of Directors and hundreds of other competitive and donor-specified grantmaking opportunities.

The generosity of donors also led to another record — the opening of 98 new charitable funds by individuals, families, and organizations who want to support their favorite causes or nonprofit organizations, help their communities, and provide for those most in need.

Last year, there was a great deal of uncertainty over how the new federal tax laws would affect charitable giving by individuals. However, "giving to the Community Foundation reached nearly \$29 million, an increase of more than \$1 million over the previous year," said Mollene Benison, CPA, a Community Foundation board member who presented the financial state of the foundation.

This news was shared at the Community Foundation's 2019 Philanthropy Awards and Annual Report to the Community Luncheon at the Convention Center. The event attracted more than 560 guests from the nonprofit, education, business and government sectors of our region.

Benison also reported that the Foundation finished the year with assets of \$477 million, down less than 3 percent from last year's record high of \$492 million. This decline, the first time in a decade, was due to market volatility and the fact that the Foundation awarded that record amount of grants. Fortunately, Benison added, the Foundation has recovered more than half of that decline since April.



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Building on the luncheon theme, “Writing Our Future — Together,” President and CEO Jennifer Leonard provided an overview of the Foundation’s work in the community, co-investments, and partnerships that are helping to tackle tough community issues.

“We’re all part of Rochester’s story — and central to its next chapter,” Leonard said, pointing to partnerships that are informing action, investing in people, backing coalitions, creating livable spaces, delighting the senses through the arts, and leveraging history to improve the future.

Making change in our communities requires many people. She said that by backing coalitions and collective impact efforts “we will be stronger together.” Leonard pointed to the progress of these coalitions that are working to achieve broad-scale change:

- ROC the Future, which is focusing on making improvements in education so every student from the very young through to high school and beyond can be successful in school and life;
- Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative’s collaborative efforts to increase income, make basic needs more affordable and accessible, and reduce concentrations of poverty;
- The newly formed Racial Equity and Justice Initiative, known as REJI, offers anti-racism training that is reaching representatives from every major City of Rochester department and 16 other public and private institutions;
- The New York Census Equity Fund, built by contributions from foundations across the state to help the U.S. Census reach hard-to-count populations, including locally;
- Geneva 2020, a cradle-to-career initiative like ROC the Future, which has raised the graduation rate for students in our region’s second-poorest city, located in Ontario County; and
- RENEW (the former Rochester Safe and Efficient Homes Initiative), which along with many partners, has made nearly \$3 million in improvements to more than 200 city homes to make them safer, healthier and more energy efficient.

“You know, too often I hear that Rochesterians don’t like to work together,” said Leonard. “I hope you see that’s just not the case.”

She gave a shout out to ACT Rochester, which is marking its 10th anniversary and whose website has been touted as a public utility to power data-driven discussion, debate, and decision-making in our region. “Strategic investments based on data and proven programs are working,” Leonard said.

Four local philanthropists were honored by the Community Foundation during the luncheon:

Clayton H. Osborne received the Joe U. Posner Founders Award, the Foundation’s highest honor.



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Born and raised in Panama, Osborne, his sister, and brother came to the United States to get an education. While working at the New York State Division for Youth and after receiving his master's degree from State University at Albany, Osborne came to Rochester, serving in various roles and later becoming regional director for Upstate New York. He directed operations for Monroe County when the late Tom Frey was county executive, then joined Bausch & Lomb, retiring as vice president for human resources after an 18-year career there.

A former Community Foundation board member and currently an executive coach and consultant on organizational effectiveness, Osborne has offered his expertise to many other nonprofit boards. A founding member of the Foundation's African American Giving Initiative, he also helped launch the Workforce Diversity Network and True Networking Thursdays for African American professionals.

Osborne has been a consistent supporter of Rochester's Child and the Great Schools for All movement, and has worked on the volunteer civic design team for the Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute. He and his wife, Dorelis, live in Pittsford.

The other Philanthropy Award recipients were **Laura "Jinny" Loomis and Norman Loomis, MD, and Harold Samloff.**

Jinny Loomis was the first woman elected to the Ontario Town Board in the early 1970s and returned for another stint in the 1990s. For many years, she also served on the advisory committee of the Foundation's Wayne County Community Endowment and also was a member of the Community Foundation board for 13 years.

As a physician, Norman Loomis took care of tens of thousands of Wayne County individuals and families during his 42-year career. He became one of the first family doctors to get privileges at Strong Hospital. He was chief of the Department of Family Practice at Rochester General Hospital for many years and served on the hospital board. He also was an on-site physician at the Olympics in Lake Placid in 1980.

The Loomises' devotion to their community has not gone unnoticed. Norman was named Town of Ontario's Citizen of the Year in 1973 and, in 2015, he and Jinny received the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Starting with a five-unit apartment, Samloff and his business partner and best friend, real estate developer Larry Glazer, built, redeveloped, and managed many small and large projects in Rochester under the name Buckingham Properties. A Rochester native, Samloff retired about 15 years ago. But after the tragic deaths of Glazer and his wife, Jane, he got re-engaged with the company to help the new senior management.

Samloff, an attorney, has served as co-chair of the grantmaking committee of the Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation for many years and is assisting the Community Foundation in efforts to grow the community's permanent endowment for the future. He and his wife, Judy, live in Pittsford.