



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Community Foundation Assets Reach All-Time High; Local Philanthropists and St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center Honored

Marking its 46th year in operation, Rochester Area Community Foundation today reported that the assets it holds on behalf of the community have reached an all-time high of \$492 million, up \$48 million from last year.

For four of the last five years, the assets experienced double-digit increases, said Elizabeth Thorley, a Community Foundation board member and chair of the Audit Committee.

"The continued growth of these assets means that the Community Foundation can provide more grant support to effective programs and projects that nonprofit organizations offer to communities throughout the greater Rochester-Finger Lakes region," said Thorley.

Nearly 6,600 grants and scholarships totaling \$29.4 million were awarded during the last fiscal year ending March 31, 2018 — second highest in the Foundation's history.

The Community Foundation set another record — donors created 90 new charitable funds that support their favorite causes or nonprofit organizations, help the communities they love, and provide for those most in need.

A surprise announcement was made by Adam McFadden, executive director of the Foundation affiliate Quad A for Kids. McFadden, who is vice president of Rochester City Council, shared with the audience of nearly 500 that on Tuesday City Council unanimously approved legislation that he and Council President Loretta Scott introduced to memorialize a portion of East Avenue — from Alexander Street to Goodman Street — as Joe U. Posner Way. This vote took place 46 years to the day that the Foundation was established.



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Posner was the founding board chair of the Community Foundation and the main driver behind its creation on September 18, 1972. The Foundation office is located on the portion of East Avenue in the legislation.

This special legislation, which will go before the city's Planning Commission, "will be a lasting tribute to (Posner's) commitment to empowering the community to make change through collective philanthropy," McFadden said.

Posner, who died in 2001, also was a founder of Foundation affiliates Quad A for Kids and Rochester's Child. His daughter, Mara Posner Metzger, attended the luncheon to receive the news of this honor.

President and CEO Jennifer Leonard spoke about the Foundation's work in the community, using the event's theme "The Power of Many" to illustrate her points about the effectiveness of working together to help tackle tough community problems.

"This year, the power of many can also be seen through the statues of Frederick Douglass popping up around the city ... and the dozens of organizations in Rochester taking part in this year's celebration of Douglass' 200th birthday," said Leonard, who marked her 25th year with the Foundation in April .

Continuing a tradition started 28 years ago, the Foundation also honored local philanthropists who make a difference in our communities with their giving, volunteering, and can-do spirit.

The Philanthropy Award recipients were **the Bud and Peggy Frame family** of Pittsford and **Randy and Marion Henderson** of Webster. **Kathy Nixon** of Penfield received the Foundation's top honor, the Joe U. Posner Founders Award.

And **St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center** received the Ames-Amzalak Award for Nonprofit Excellence, which is given out every other year and comes with a \$10,000 grant.

This agency, founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph 25 years ago, is well-known for providing comprehensive physical and mental health services to uninsured and under-insured individuals. A few years ago, its staff took on the issue of structural racism and organized in-depth training and reflection over a two-year period that involved 29 local agencies and more than 200 employees. Those agencies committed to attending four all-day group sessions and worked to address structural racism within their own organizations.



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Philanthropy Award Recipients

Joe U. Posner Founders Award recipient **Kathy Nixon** is a former Community Foundation board chair and retired executive director of the former Rundel Library Foundation.

Kathy is a big supporter of endowment, which is the focus of what the Community Foundation is about. After the sale of a local radio station in which her husband, Ted, was a partner, they made a generous donation to the Foundation's Early Childhood Education Fund and recruited many others to give, allowing the Foundation to receive a \$500,000 challenge grant from the Ford Foundation to support efforts to bolster early childhood here. The fund has made nearly \$1 million in grants to help our community's youngest citizens.

At Kathy's urging, they have intentionally focused much of their giving on supporting women and children in a variety of ways — again, keeping the dollars local.

Inspired by a Fresh Air Fund child they hosted through adulthood, the Nixons opened the Fund for Self-Esteem, which supports projects that increase an individual's self-worth. Grants primarily support the Empire Justice Center's C.A.S.H. program to help low-income individuals complete their income tax forms and learn how best to use their refunds.

Kathy served on the Community Foundation board for eight years, plus a two-year stint as board chair, retiring in 2016. But she has stayed connected by joining the Foundation's Advisory Council of close friends and former board members and co-spearheading the annual Community Sponsors campaign. She has contributed annually to support the LGBT, African American and women's giving circles. Kathy and Ted also are members of the Foundation's Legacy Society.

Kathy, a Penfield resident, also volunteers in a variety of ways in the community. Every week she helps out in the classroom of a teacher at School 2. Earlier, she was active with the AAUW's Women Helping Girls program and was paired with a 12-year old, who is now 29 years old and a mom. They remain in contact and this former mentee brings her daughter to play with Kathy's youngest granddaughter. Kathy also serves on the Advisory Board of Teen Empowerment.

Bud and Peggy Frame and family: Bud and Peggy are also strong advocates of endowment and faithful Community Foundation supporters. They have had a fund at the Foundation since 1991 and their endowed donor advised fund has been used to support projects in the community they believe in — particularly The Harley School and the summerLEAP programs.

Some of their more visible gifts are donated clock towers that stand in downtown Pittsford and on the campuses of the University of Rochester and the UR Medical Center, the last two in memory of family members.



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In 2015, this Pittsford couple took a portion of their advised fund to create three separate permanent funds, one for each of their sons (Scott, Michael and Duncan) and daughters-in-law. Their goal was to continue the family's legacy for giving back to their community and make sure their children stayed connected to the organizations they support and believe in.

Randy and Marion Henderson: This well-known Ford dealer and his wife set up the Henderson Family Legacy Fund in 2010 to support education and address issues affecting families and the elderly. Randy and Marion were early members of the Foundation's African American Giving Initiative. Both are active with their church and in the community, volunteering and serving on boards.

This Webster couple focuses their giving on youth and faith-based programs. Through the dealership, they have provided incentives, including a car, to a diligent and highly motivated graduating senior from several different schools each year. They work with other businesses to collect new and gently used books for students in the city. They started a Partner Program with local churches and nonprofits where the dealership makes a donation back to those entities when their members or employees do business with them. The Hendersons also set up an endowed scholarship for a business student attending Roberts Wesleyan College.

A comprehensive list of previous community philanthropy award recipients can be found at racf.org/Awards.

About Rochester Area Community Foundation: *The Community Foundation serves an eight-county region, which includes Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Yates, and Wayne counties. Last year, the Community Foundation distributed \$28.9 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and scholarships to help local students with college expenses. Money for these grants comes from more than 1,300 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 \$442 million in grants and scholarships.*