Yates Community Endowment Distributes $34,022 to Seven Nonprofits Serving Yates County

The Yates Community Endowment awarded $34,022 in grants to seven organizations that are serving Yates County residents. An additional $10,000 in support was a co-investment by Rochester Area Community Foundation for one of the grants.

The Endowment’s all-local advisory board hosted the 2017 annual meeting and grant reception at Climbing Bines Craft Ale Company in Penn Yan.

At the event, advisory board members announced a new goal — to add another $1 million to the permanent fund that provides current and future support for the Yates County community. In 2016, the Endowment exceeded its first goal to raise $1 million in five years.

Tom and Carolyn Argust announced a $50,000 gift to jumpstart this fundraising effort. Tom was one of the founders of the Yates Community Endowment, served as co-chair of the advisory board in its early years, and continues to serve as a board member. The Argust gift combines with $164,000 in other gifts and interest to push the endowment total to $1,214,000.

Since its founding in 2011, the Yates Community Endowment has awarded more than $190,000 to support projects and programs in Yates County. The 2017 grants, totaling $34,022, were awarded by the Endowment and several of its affiliate funds to:

**Arc of Yates, Inc.:** Camp Week 2017 includes every one of the 400 individuals supported by the Arc of Yates — from the preschool to the DRIVE program, and all-day program participants. **$5,000 (Includes $4,000 from the Spring Hill Fund)**
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Greater Rochester: The Mentoring Youth for Educational Success project focuses on enrolling mentees who are chronically truant, at high risk of educational failure, reside in female-headed households in poverty and/or have parents who are incarcerated or affected by incarceration. $5,000 (Includes $1,800 from the Robert F. Flickinger Fund).

Friends of the Outlet: New “Welcome to the Outlet Trail” signs will give interpretive information and enhance visitors’ experience on the trail. Five initial signs will be posted. $4,500 (Includes $700 from the Robert F. Flickinger Fund and $1,300 from the Willie Taaffe Memorial Fund).

S2AY Rural Health Network, Inc.: Supports the purchase of age-appropriate books and supplies for the Fair-y Tale Festival and refreshments for the community reading nights and Back to School Community Gathering. $5,000 (Fully funded by $2,000 from the Robert F. Flickinger Fund and $3,000 from the Spring Hill Fund).

Yates Cultural & Recreational Resources, Inc.: The “You’re Welcome” program, in conjunction with several partners, creates a well-trained workforce in the tourism sector. The grant will allow the Yates County unemployed to access these trainings. $4,222

YMCA of Greater Rochester: Supports scholarships for Yates youth to attend Camp Cory — either four students in a three-week leadership program or contribute toward 25 students attending day camp. $3,300 (Includes $1,000 from the McMullen Family Fund).

ProAction of Steuben & Yates, Inc.: The proposed Hope Center will assist individuals and families living in poverty by offering support to meet basic needs and providing a full assessment to identify other individual/family needs. The Hope Center also will serve as the main food pantry for the county. Referrals for additional resources also will be provided, along with any other needed supports. $17,000 (Includes $10,000 from Rochester Area Community Foundation and $2,000 from the McMullen Family Fund).

For more information on the Yates Community Endowment, visit www.racf.org/Yates or call Jonathan Hoose at 585.341.4363. If you are interested in making a contribution to the Endowment, you can mail a check payable to Yates Community Endowment, 500 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607, or make an online donation at racf.org/SupportYates.