



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Community Foundation Announces Record Assets and Grants at 45th Anniversary Celebration; Honors Six Local Philanthropists

Marking its 45th year in operation, Rochester Area Community Foundation today reported that the assets it holds on behalf of the community has reached an all-time high of \$444 million, up \$52 million from last year.

“When these assets grow, it means that the Community Foundation can more readily address unexpected or critical needs as they arise in communities throughout the greater Rochester and Finger Lakes region,” said Jennifer Leonard, the foundation’s president and CEO.

Nearly two-thirds of those community assets — or more than \$286 million— is permanently endowed for the future.

“Endowment is the key to continued and lasting impact for our region — and what sets the Foundation apart from other nonprofits,” said Board Treasurer Kim VanGelder, who shared financial highlights today during the foundation’s 2017 Philanthropy Awards and Annual Report to the Community Luncheon. “Endowment gifts provide an ongoing source of funding to address critical needs today and prepare us to meet the unknown needs of tomorrow.”

The Community Foundation set another record by its distribution of more than \$29.6 million in grants and scholarships during the foundation’s fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. VanGelder said this reflects a 40-percent increase in total dollars awarded by the Community Foundation in the past five years.

The growth of assets and grants was bolstered by \$49 million in new gifts to the Community Foundation from individuals, families, and businesses wanting to have more impact with their charitable dollars and nonprofit organizations that want to invest their endowments along with the foundations’.



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Another record was the luncheon attendance — 660-plus — which surpassed last year's high of 615.

Continuing a tradition started 27 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 **Sherman and Anne Farnham** of Fairport, **Mimi Hwang** of Brighton, **Chuck Lundeen and John Williams** of Pittsford, and **Mike Buckley** of Conesus, Livingston County, who received the Foundation's top honor, the Joe U. Posner Founders Award.

The Foundation also recognized **Irene Weinberg**, who represented the family that made the first gifts to the foundation in 1973, the year after it was founded. The foundation's **Rochester Women's Giving Circle** was lauded for its 10th anniversary and for raising and distributing more than \$1.1 million in grants to help local women and girls.

Leonard, who has led the Foundation since 1993, reminded the audience of the Foundation's purpose over its 45-year history.

- Serving as the community's endowment;
- Making giving easy and joyful;
- Investing in the future of our community;
- Building on our region's assets;
- Strengthening the effectiveness of community innovators; and
- Informing the community about changing needs.

"Think of us as the community's savings account — there in good times and bad, helping the community reinvent itself as times change," she said.

Fundamental to the Community Foundation is the concept of building community-based financial capital. "An invested endowment provides a perpetual stream of grant support for outstanding ideas and programs. Over 50 years, our endowment funds will yield grants four times the original gift amount, while the principal remains to generate more grants in the future," Leonard explained.

She highlighted the Foundation's many partners in efforts to address serious community issues today, such as the extreme concentration of poverty, racial and ethnic disparities, and education. "These issues cannot be addressed by any one organization. ... We need government, business, labor, media, community residents, and faith organizations to join nonprofits in collaborative problem-solving."



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Donors also can and do play a role in helping address these concerns. “Over the course of the Foundation’s history, donors have given from the heart to support the causes that matter most to them, which generally have reflected what matters most to our communities,” Leonard said.

Here are more details on the Philanthropy Award recipients:

Anne Morris Farnham and Sherman Farnham Jr.: This couple had great role models for giving back in their parents and grandparents. Sherm’s father and his maternal grandfather, T.J. Hargrave, then-president of Kodak, were among the founding trustees of the George Eastman Museum. Anne’s parents, William and Eleanor Morris, and her maternal grandparents, Elsa and Herbert Eisenhart, were generous benefactors of the Rochester Museum & Science Center and Allendale Columbia School. The Farnhams recently established a fund to help students at Hillside with college expenses. At Genesee Country Village & Museum, the Farnhams supported the creation of an insurance agent’s office (a nod to Anne’s last career), and set up a scholarship recognizing community service at their now joint alma mater, Allendale Columbia. As a trustee for a Virginia-based family foundation that focuses on history, medicine, and education, Anne has been able to recommend projects here to support.

Mimi Hwang: An accomplished cellist, Mimi is an assistant professor of chamber music at Eastman School of Music and music lecturer at Nazareth College. She has played with orchestras and participated in chamber music performances locally and across the country, and is a founding member of her current musical group, the Amenda String Quartet. Mimi’s love for music drives her other volunteer work in creative ways. In addition to being on the boards of Hochstein and the national Chamber Music of America, she took over as director of a concert series fundraiser for Foodlink called “If Music Be The Food.” A couple of times each year, she and friends offer a dinner concert in her home for local organizations’ fundraisers – she performs and her friend does the cooking. Mimi is a former Community Foundation board member and a current volunteer. Looking ahead to the future, her estate plan includes establishing a fund at the Foundation to support her passion — music education and performance.

Chuck Lundeen and John Williams: When it comes to their philanthropy, this couple firmly believes it’s about being intentional and proactive. Together, they work out their giving plan a year in advance. The focus is on LGBT causes and grassroots and smaller organizations. Lundeen, a retired teacher, and Williams, a retired lawyer and legal editor, helped to launch the Foundation’s LGBT Giving Circle in 2011. They’ve become members of the Foundation’s Legacy Society, including the Giving Circle in their estate plans. They were sought out by Nazareth College to establish a scholarship for LGBTQ students there. The Williams-Lundeen Scholarship, which has supported nine students so far, attracted donations from alumni and



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encouraged others to consider what they can do for their own alma maters. John also created a scholarship to increase diversity in the membership of the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Receiving the **Joe U. Posner Founders Award**, the Foundation's highest honor, is Mike Buckley, a partner at the law firm of Boylan Code LLP in Rochester.

Mike Buckley: After graduating from Cornell Law School, Mike moved to Rochester for his first job in a law firm. Not a lot of time went by before one of the partners told him in no uncertain terms "to get out there and do something for the community." That was the beginning of Mike giving back to our community. His impact goes beyond his board service to the Community Foundation. When you add up the time he has devoted to other boards in our community (University of Rochester Medical Center, Wilmot Cancer Institute, Highland Hospital, Highland Hospital Foundation, Strong Partners Health Systems, Inc., Daystar for Medically Fragile Children, and YMCA of Greater Rochester), it easily surpasses 80 years. Mike has referred many clients to the Foundation who are interested in supporting their favorite causes or helping their community. One of his more newsworthy clients was a Brighton librarian who left more than \$7 million to assist older adults in Genesee County.

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

About Rochester Area Community Foundation: The Community Foundation serves an eight-county region that includes Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Yates, and Wayne counties. Last year, the Community Foundation distributed \$29.6 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 \$413 million in grants and scholarships.