



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Community Foundation Honors 3 Local Philanthropists; Teen Empowerment Receives Award for Nonprofit Excellence

For 30 years, Rochester Area Community Foundation has been honoring local philanthropists who make a difference in our eight-county region.

At today's **2020 Philanthropy Awards and Annual Report to the Community**, three individuals received Philanthropy Awards, and Teen Empowerment was recognized with the Ames-Amzalak Award for Nonprofit Excellence.

Receiving the **Joe U. Posner Founders Award**, the Foundation's highest honor, was **José Coronas**, a former Community Foundation board member and board chair.

Born in Cuba, José came to Rochester for a summer job at Kodak and returned after graduating from college for a full-time job there. When the division he led was sold to Johnson & Johnson Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, he became its president. After retiring, he and two others who spent their careers at Kodak started Trillium Group to provide seed funding to help start new businesses.

José's earliest connection to the Community Foundation was while he served on the board of Ibero-American Action League, which then established a scholarship fund at the Foundation to support Hispanic high school students going on to college. José and his wife, Karen, also created a scholarship at St. John Fisher College to support Hispanic students there. The Coronases split their time between Canandaigua and Florida.

Other 2020 Philanthropy Award Recipients:

Nancy Robbins: This native of Pennsylvania was recruited by a headhunter in 1961 to be a buyer at the former Sibley's department store. Throughout her life, she has volunteered on many boards, including serving as president of the now-defunct Women's Education and Industrial Union. She chaired the downtown festival during Rochester's sesquicentennial in 1984 and also WXXI's auction. But Nancy is best known for being the lead volunteer and fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House, which opened 30 years ago just a few streets away from the Golisano Children's Hospital. She also served as that organization's first board chair. Nancy, who lives in Pittsford, regularly engages her two daughters and five grandsons in recommending grants from the family's charitable fund at the Foundation.



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Mary-Frances Winters: Named by *Forbes* magazine as one of 10 trailblazers in diversity and inclusion in 2019, Mary-Frances got her start in this important work when she launched The Winters Group in 1984 after she left Kodak. A longtime Rochester resident who now lives in North Carolina, Mary-Frances served on the Community Foundation's board of directors and established The Winters Group Fund to Promote Diversity & Inclusion in 1996. That fund has awarded more than \$200,000 in grants to support innovative efforts at nonprofits across the country to improve diversity and inclusion. Mary-Frances is also a prolific author. Her latest book, *Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit*, was released just last week.

Ames-Amzalak Award for Nonprofit Excellence

Background: Three young immigrants from the British territory of Gibraltar — Henry Ames and his brothers Semon and Daniel Amzalak — came to Rochester and prospered as owners of several businesses, including the Mally Company, a women's clothing store at East Avenue and Main Street. Their Ames Ladies Wear Company also had stores in several cities. Through the years, the brothers had grown to love and appreciate the community that aided their success. Before they died, they created several charitable trusts to benefit the Monroe County community. Thirty-six years ago, the Ames-Amzalak Charitable Trust established a fund at the Community Foundation to recognize innovative and effective local nonprofits. This award, given every other year since 1998, includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant.

The 2020 recipient is the **Center for Teen Empowerment**. Started in Boston in 1992, Teen Empowerment opened in Rochester's Southwest neighborhood in 2003 to help urban youth hone their understanding of the social problems they face and use their many talents and skills to create change in their own lives and in their communities. Teen Empowerment brought youth voice to initiatives aimed at improving youth services, reforming public high schools, and improving relations between youth, police, and community. Youth organizers played a critical role on the Community Task Force on School Climate in the development of new discipline policies for the Rochester City School District that have resulted in a continued decline in suspensions, along with academic gains.

Please note: A recording of the 42-minute 2020 Philanthropy Awards and Annual Report to the Community is available at www.racf.org/Celebrate.