



**Contact**  
Mary Holleran  
585.943.4835  
[mholleran@racf.org](mailto:mholleran@racf.org)

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## **Wayne County Community Endowment Distributes 31 Grants Totaling \$95,890 for Specific Programs, COVID Recovery and Rebuilding Efforts**

In the past year, the Wayne County Community Endowment has awarded 31 grants totaling \$95,890 to support nonprofits that serve Wayne County residents, with \$33,750 distributed from its Wayne Emergency Relief Fund to address local needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The pandemic greatly strained the operations of many nonprofits providing critical services to Wayne County residents and we knew that our role was to make sure these services would continue,” says C.J. Britt, chair of the Wayne County Community Endowment all-local advisory board. “We are grateful for all of the contributions from those in our community who helped to make the emergency support possible.”

The Emergency Relief Fund, established in May 2020, has focused on supporting immediate and urgent needs, recovery as nonprofits serving Wayne County return to normal operations, and resiliency relief to help nonprofits most crucial to communities’ ability to thrive.

The Endowment also awarded grants this year during its regular 2021 grant round. Fifteen nonprofits received a total of \$62,140. Those grantees are:

**Arc of Wayne:** Supports a commercial laundry operation that will provide employment opportunities for four individuals with developmental disabilities. **\$5,000**

**Catholic Charities of Wayne County:** For the coordination and organized distribution of thousands of pieces of clothing and related items to those in need in Wayne County. **\$5,000**

**Cracker Box Palace, Inc.:** Supports this farm, located in Alton, in its efforts to establish a greater commitment to area youth in terms of programming focused on education, training, job skills and the values to be found in agriculture and animal husbandry. **\$5,000**

**EZ Kids Creativity Shell:** For three summer camp sessions at the Walworth Recreation Center for 36 children from low-income households. **\$5,000**

**Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes:** Supports services to Wayne County youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, and/or questioning. **\$5,000**

**Historic Palmyra:** For the Dig Camp, which offers a hands-on experience to local students to learn about archeology and history. **\$1,200**



**Home Meal Service:** Supports the delivery of hot, nutritious meals to seniors and homebound residents in Wayne County. **\$5,000**

**House of John, Inc.:** To replace the carpet in the guest bedrooms and stairway to improve the experience for patients receiving end-of-life care. **\$2,500**

**Mercy Flight Central:** To supplement the cost of services for uninsured and underinsured patients. **\$1,000**

**New York State Network for Youth Success:** Supports the Wayne Maximizing Out-of-School Time program to provide daycare for children from Newark in kindergarten through sixth grade. **\$5,000**

**Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc.:** For a two-week summer day program for 35 children from low-income households in and around Lyons, particularly children of farmworkers. **\$5,000**

**Sodus Bay Junior Sailing Association:** To purchase a Rapid Inflatable Boat and necessary accessories as a crucial support to association programming and initiating replacement of outdated aluminum staff boats. **\$5,000**

**Wayne County Action Program:** Provides support for the STEADY Work Program, which focuses on skills, training, and employment access for the development of Wayne County youth. **\$5,000**

**Wayne County Action Program:** For expansion of the peer-to-peer support program, which creates a system where adult clients living in the Success Center Transition House will receive peer support in navigating the Medicaid and behavioral and mental health systems. **\$4,940.80**

**Wayne County Rural Ministry Come-Unity Center:** To support families with emergency funding for rent or electricity. **\$2,500**

Grants from the Wayne Emergency Relief Fund were awarded to these nonprofit organizations (number in parentheses indicates more than one grant) from August 2020 through May 2021:

**American Red Cross, Western & Central New York Region:** Support basic needs, health services, and recovery assistance for Wayne County families that experience home fires. **\$3,000**

**Arc of Wayne:** School supplies for students at Roosevelt Children's Center. **\$1,500**

**Catholic Charities Community Services:** To upgrade appliances at client residences due to overuse and increased cleaning required during the pandemic. **\$1,250**

**Cornell Farmworker Program:** To support 20 or more agricultural farmworkers in Wayne County suffering financial hardships after contracting COVID. **\$2,500**

**Family Promise of Wayne County:** For emergency alternate guest housing and support for homeless and low-income families who struggled during the pandemic. **\$2,500**



**The Green Angels:** To purchase winter boots for teens, personal toiletries for children and teens, mattresses and bed bug-proof bags. \$2,500

**House of John Inc.:** Operational support to continue the essential work of this comfort care home in Clifton Springs. \$2,500

**Lyons Community Center:** To maintain the facilities and continue to offer essential services such as blood drives, the senior feeding program, outdoor youth sports programs, and food distribution. \$5,000 (2)

**Newark Food Closet:** For supplies to keep this food pantry open for those in need. \$1,000

**St. Katharine Drexel Parish:** To help individuals and families who need help with rent and utility bills during the pandemic. \$2,500

**Victim Resource Center:** Support installation of high-speed internet for school-age children staying in the safe houses who attend school remotely. \$2,000

**Wayne County Action Program Inc.:** Provide PPE, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies to volunteers in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. \$1,500

**Williamson United Methodist Church Food Pantry:** To purchase supplies to continue operations of this emergency food distribution site. \$6,000 (3)