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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Community Foundation Joins Wayne County Community Endowment in Supporting Nonprofits Serving Wayne County

In an effort to expand its support for counties in the Greater Rochester-Finger Lakes region, Rochester Area Community Foundation joined forces with its geographic affiliate, the Wayne County Community Endowment, to award \$108,670 to 14 nonprofits serving Wayne County and its residents.

The Wayne County Community Endowment grants, along with contributions from several funds established by county residents to specifically support Wayne County, totaled \$44,500. The Community Foundation added \$64,170 from discretionary and committee-advised funds for a total investment of \$108,670.

The Community Foundation's infusion of grant dollars into Wayne County is part of a new, intentional strategy to expand the Foundation's grantmaking to counties in its service area outside of Monroe.

"Rural counties, often overlooked by funders, need a great deal more support to bolster social innovation and lessen the disparities faced by its residents. With this boost in funding, our goal is to increase access to critical services and enhance operations of outstanding nonprofits that serve our rural neighbors," said Erin Barry, vice president of Community Programs at the Foundation.

In counties where the Foundation has geographic affiliates, like Wayne, "our staff will collaborate with those local advisory committees to make more impact together and co-invest in projects and programs that promote the Foundation's broad grantmaking goals of equity and vitality," Barry said.

With the additional money from the Community Foundation, this grant round represented a 227 percent increase over last year. The 14 grants range from \$1,000 for the Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc. for a kindergarten readiness program to \$20,000 for the Wayne County Action Program's STEADY Work's paid work-study program for at-risk 14- to 24-year-olds.

"This investment has immediate and meaningful impact, leveraging dollars from WCCE and providing resources to fund more requests for programs and services across the county," said C.J. Britt, chair of the Wayne County Community Endowment. "We hope to build on this momentum in the coming years, as we see the needs continue to grow."

The 2023 grantees are:

Arc of Wayne: Supports purchase of equipment for the day habilitation program located in Newark. **\$4,400**

Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, Inc.: Provides funding for home repairs and modifications to ensure families can be safe and remain in their homes. **\$2,250**

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes: Supports the Community Clothing Center's distribution of tens of thousands of articles of clothing and related items from the Wolcott location to Wayne County residents in need. **\$8,000**

Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc.: For a kindergarten readiness program for Wayne County's youngest learners. **\$1,000**

Glow Up Girl, Inc.: Supports programming that empowers and nurtures girls in grades 3-12 in Wayne County to become strong, self-confident leaders in their communities. **\$8,491**

Cornell Cooperative Extension: The "Instant Pot for Cooking Education Project" enables educators of SNAP beneficiaries to partner with community agencies to teach healthy eating habits and cooking methods and techniques across multiple agencies and sites in Wayne County. **\$10,998**

Ibero Business Center of The Finger Lakes: This division of the Ibero-American Action League plans to expand in Wayne County by introducing a six-week business training program for women and minority entrepreneurs just starting out or growing their business that will be led by subject-matter experts. **\$10,000**

Lyons Community Center: Supports the center's after-school program to provide weekly enrichment field trips to participating students. **\$5,000**

New York State Network for Youth Success: Supports bringing together community partners to pursue a sustainable, high-quality after-school and summer system for children and youth in Newark. **\$5,000**

Red Cross/Western & Central New York Region: Provides funding for ongoing and future disaster relief efforts in Wayne County. **\$2,500**

Scarlet Thread Ministries: Supports the improvement of after-school youth center facilities it operates in seven Wayne County districts and one performing arts center, increase access for more youth, and help retain staff. **\$7,500**

Sodus Bay Junior Sailing Association, Inc.: To make sailing and boating education more affordable for all county residents and change the perception of the sport by introducing adults to sailing, paddle boarding, kayaking, and safe powerboating as well as the need for stewardship of Sodus Bay. **\$6,000**

Wayne County Action Program, Inc.: Provides funding for STEADY Work’s paid work-study program for at-risk 14- to 24-year-olds by re-engaging them with school and their community and providing them with the skills and support to maintain long-term employment in a career of their choosing. The goal is to double the number of young adults served in three years. **\$20,000**

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center, Inc.: Supports opportunities for Wayne County students to identify their skills and talents and explore personal interests and possible careers in the medical field through hands-on activities, videos, virtual experiences, guest speakers, field trips, simulated education training, and games. **\$7,672.50**

All grants are made possible through the Wayne County Community Endowment Fund and its component funds, which include the Arley Mae and Louis Delisio Youth Fund, Dr. Norman and Laura “Jinny” Loomis Fund, Wayne County GTF Corporate Fund, Wayne County Quality of Health and Life Fund, and the Wayne County Youth and Seniors Fund. This year, additional funding came from Rochester Area Community Foundation’s Community Impact Fund, the Feinbloom Supporting Foundation, and Greater Rochester Women’s Fund.