

2024 Annual Report

This past year, the Wayne County Community Endowment of Rochester Area Community Foundation awarded 18 grants totaling \$127,000 to support nonprofits that serve Wayne County residents.

2024 Grant Recipients

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes: Provides operational support for Community Clothing Center for coordination and distribution of thousands of articles of clothing and related items to people living in poverty in Wayne County. \$8,000

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County: To expand community garden, increasing the capacity to grow vegetables and provide free produce to more residents. \$2,000

Cracker Box Palace: Supports all-inclusive programming, including farm camp, 4H groups, Explorers post, local FFAs, internship opportunities, partnering with Steadywork, Wayne County Community Schools and Americorp, School Tours, Community Booths, Career Fairs and visits with local Wayne County schools and library programs. \$4,200

Delphi Rise: To help combat the youth mental health crisis in rural Wayne County communities by providing a comprehensive approach that combines increased mental health support infrastructure, community outreach, and tailored programs to foster resilience. \$5,000

Expeditions of Empowerment: An intensive leadership development and career mentoring program for emerging women leaders in Wayne County High Schools. \$5,000

Galen Historical Society: Supports the purchase of a digital sign to promote the organization's work and programming. \$2,000

Glow Up Girl: The Girl \$mart! Girl \$ense! program for girls in grades 3-12 teaches life skills in areas like nutrition, budgeting, and finance. \$5,000

Literacy Volunteers of Wayne County: To support the Infant and Toddler Book Club, which gives parents and caregivers tools to support the early learning development of children. Participants receive a free book each month for parent meetings and discussions, with five or more groups expected to meet every month. \$5,000

Lyons Community Center: Supports senior meals and activity programming as well as expanded and improved youth sports program. \$25,000

National Audubon Society: Under the leadership of Montezuma Audubon Center staff, 200 Wayne County students and 50 adult mentors will gain skills and knowledge in social-environmental issues, bird conservation, advocacy, and ecosystem restoration science. \$5,000

Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc.: Supports a two-week summer day program for 35 children from low-income households (particularly the children of farmworkers) at the center in Lyons. \$5,000

Scarlet Thread Ministries: To support an after-school, recreation-based program on Fridays at Christ Community Church in Clyde so that students can have a safe place for social opportunities and meaningful connections with adults who work and volunteer there. \$5,000

Sodus Bay Junior Sailing Association: Supports the Shaping Today's Sailors into Future Employees program by engaging Wayne County youth through sailing to develop skills in problem-solving, teamwork, leadership, and other workforce readiness. \$7,000

Sodus Central School District: To stock food pantries, conduct outreach, and develop a food security strategy for each of the 35 school buildings in Wayne County. \$25,000

Thrive to Survive: A bereavement support group offering community, validation, and education to families who have lost loved ones to cancer. \$5,000

Toys for Tots of Wayne County: To provide toys and materials to children who would otherwise not receive anything at the holidays and, throughout the year, backpacks with basic needs to children going into foster care. \$5,000

Wayne County Rural Ministry Come-Unity Center: To provide emergency financial assistance for the payment of heat or rent to Wayne County residents. \$3,800

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center: Medical Academy of Science and Health (MASH) Camp offers rising 7th- through 10th-grade students hands-on experience and presentations that promote interest in health-related careers. \$5,000

Wayne County Community Endowment also distributed \$15,000 across food pantries in Wayne County. More details on reverse side.

These grants were made possible through the Wayne County Community Endowment Fund and affiliate funds, which include the Arley Mae and Louis Delisio Youth Fund, Dr. Norman and Laura "Jinny" Loomis Fund and Dr. Norman and Laura "Jinny" Loomis Family Outdoor Fund, Wayne County GTF Corporate Fund, Wayne County Health and Quality 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 Mary Elizabeth Conlon Fund, Greater Rochester Women's Fund, the Plumb-Miller Fund, and the William P. and Abigail Roberts Van Wagenen Fund II.

About Us

The Wayne County Community Endowment is a permanent endowment fund at Rochester Area Community Foundation. It was created in 1984 with charitable gifts from the estate of Jeanette “Nettie” Bullis. This lifelong resident of Wayne County believed strongly in her community, education, and projects that improve quality of life.

An advisory committee of local residents ensures faithful compliance with Bullis’ wishes by identifying pressing and changing needs of communities in Wayne County and determining funding priorities and possibilities that are responsive to those needs. The Endowment has distributed more than \$1.6 million in grants since its inception.

Grant Spotlight: Addressing Food Insecurity



Wolcott Food Pantry

This year, a \$25,000 grant to Sodus Central School District supported a countywide food pantry expansion — a collaboration between Wayne County Community Schools, Foodlink, and individual school districts. Distance can be a significant barrier in rural areas, so this grant puts free food in reach of families right at schools. Kids can fill up their backpacks on the way home, or parents can take what they need from a location that’s already on their route. The grant is in addition to \$15,000 distributed to existing food pantries throughout the county during the same grant cycle.

Wayne County Community Endowment Advisory Committee

Clair “C.J.” Britt, Chair
Pamela Heald
Melissa Kumkey
William McKee
Bob Norris
Robert Oaks
Jay Roscup
Hank Stuart
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To learn more, contact us or visit
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Questions about fundraising and how to support Wayne County



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Questions about grantmaking and the work of the Advisory Committee



racf.org/SupportWayne

Please donate and co-invest in Wayne County today!

The volunteers of Wayne County Community Endowment and staff of Rochester Area Community Foundation recognize that rural communities are often less likely to apply for and receive funding to address inequities. To remedy the “rural blind spot,” we have partnered to increase our investment in Wayne County. With your help, we can do more to empower outstanding nonprofits that serve the places you live, work, and love.