



# A Sense of Communities

Newsletter of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley serving Dutchess, Ulster, and Putnam Counties

## A Legacy of Heart and Service: "That lives may be saved"

— Motto of the Sloper-Wilen Community Ambulance Service, 1958-2005

From 1958 to 2005, Sloper-Wilen rescue vehicles were a common sight throughout Dutchess County. Its founder, John T. Sloper, was a former NYC stage manager and also a founder of the County Players, an all volunteer theater troupe based in Wappingers Falls.

Following Sloper's death in 1983, the Ambulance Service continued to serve the region. But by 2003, faced with growing competition with hospital-based

member Joseph A. DiPalo, who is now an advisor to the fund.

The John T. Sloper Fund was established as a permanent endowment, and made its first grant to County Players in 2006 for the purchase of an AED and training.

Since then, the Sloper Fund has given out more than 100 grants to provide AEDs and emergency medical training throughout Southern Dutchess and Putnam counties. Stanley Straub, chair of the ambulance company's board for 15 years, continues to serve as chair of the Sloper Fund advisory committee. "He's always asking what we can do for the community," commented DiPalo, "He comes from a 'community first' kind of background."

The ambulance company was one of the first in the area to promote the installation and use of AED's at local nonprofit organizations, an emphasis that continues with the Sloper Fund.

Keeping John Sloper's legacy alive is central to the considerations of the board as they review grant applications each year. "The fund's value is greater than when we started, even after giving out over \$340,000 in grants. Without the support, leadership and financial acumen of the Community Foundations, we're not sure we would have been able to accomplish what we've done these past 10 years," said DiPalo.



Vassar Brothers Medical Center AED Training

### 2015 Sloper Grants

- American Red Cross Northeastern New York
- Bardavon 1869 Opera House
- Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps
- Beekman Library
- Brewster Police Department
- Clinton Alliance Church
- Dutchess Community College Foundation
- Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
- Family Services
- Foundation for Vassar Brothers Medical Center
- Grace Smith House
- Hudson River Housing
- Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center
- Westchester Medical Center Foundation
- YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester
- Zion Episcopal Church

### New Funds at the Foundation

More than 500 individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits have chosen the Community Foundations to help them accomplish their charitable giving goals. Below is a list of funds, whose founders and donors recently placed their trust in us.

- Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue Designated Fund
- Continuum Movement Arts Foundation Fund
- Mental Health America Organization Fund
- Jim Steinmeyer Scholarship for Excellence Fund
- Sweetie Fund

### The John T. Sloper Community Fund by the Numbers:

Founding gift: ..... \$ 1 million  
 Grants to date: ..... 140+  
 Dollars Granted:..... \$ 344,402  
 Current Endowment Value: ..... \$ 1.2 million

ambulance services, its board decided to sell the company. The board's goal was to use the net proceeds from the sale to further John Sloper's vision of supporting and enhancing EMS services in the region and encouraging Dutchess county residents to enter into the field of emergency services.

The board members originally planned to establish a separate charitable foundation. However, Arthur DeDominicis, CPA and Community Foundations trustee, encouraged them to consider establishing a fund with the Community Foundation instead. "It was a natural fit, had the infrastructure, leadership and track record of success we were looking for," said board



(l-r) Outgoing Board of Trustee President Nancy Brownell with Incoming Board President Arthur Upright and Interim President and CEO Sally Cross

### Board of Trustees & Advisors

#### Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

##### Board of Trustees

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#### Community Foundation of Dutchess County

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In Dutchess and Putnam, 845.452.3077  
In Ulster, 845.338.2535

[www.cfhvny.org](http://www.cfhvny.org)

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, Andrea Reynolds will have begun her new position as the President and CEO of the Dyson Foundation. Andrea led the Community Foundations through a decade of growth, from \$22 million to more than \$51 million in philanthropic capital, expanded our service area to include Putnam and Ulster counties, and oversaw distribution of approximately \$17 million in grants and scholarships. We look forward to continuing to work with Andrea in her new role.

The board has undertaken a national search for a new leader. As the search progresses, to ensure that the Community Foundations continues to meet the needs of our communities, Sally Cross, Vice President for Philanthropy, is serving as interim President and CEO. This issue includes photos from our annual spring events, the Partnership in Education grants reception and our largest yet Professional Advisors' breakfast. We anticipate that the Garden Party, honoring Darlene L. Pfeiffer and Richard C. Strain and Karen Strain Smythe will be one for the record books. We hope that you will join us on September 27th to recognize these outstanding philanthropists.

Thank you for everything that you do for our communities,

Arthur R. Upright  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Sally J. Cross, CFRE  
Interim President and CEO  
Vice President, Philanthropy

## New Officers and Trustees Elected

Please join us in congratulating the following appointments:

- |                                                      |                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair . . . . . Arthur R. Upright                    | Vice Chair, Finance and Treasurer. . . William A. Brenner |
| Vice Chair, Audit. . . . . Sheila Scott              | Vice Chair, Investments . . . . . Steven Tinkelman        |
| Vice Chair, Dutchess . . . . . Joseph A. Bonura, Jr. | Vice Chair, Putnam. . . . . Nathaniel S. Prentice         |
| Vice Chair, Governance and                           | Vice Chair, Ulster . . . . . Thomas J. Murphy             |
| Assistant Secretary . . . . . Ann Chambers Meagher   | Secretary. . . . . Peter Krulewitch                       |
| Vice Chair, Grants. . . . . Jeffrey D. Wood          |                                                           |

Arthur Gellert is returning trustee, and Kevin Hamilton and Cora Mallory-Davis were elected as new trustees. Peter Krulewitch, John Mack, IV, Patrick Page, Steven Tinkelman and Jeffrey Wood were re-elected to serve three-year terms. We are so grateful to Bob Butts, John Gifford, Sue Hartshorn and Nancy Brownell for all of the time, talent, energy and support they have given to the Community Foundations and to our region.

## Foundation Welcomes New Staff

The Community Foundations welcomes Roksolana Geramita, CPA, as our Chief Financial Officer and Aliza Krevolin as our Development Assistant. Roksolana previously worked at Riverside Bank where she served as Vice President, Auditor for over twenty years. She holds a BA in accounting and Economics from Rutgers University. Aliza previously worked at Generations Incorporated, where she was the Active Aging Program Manager. Aliza received a Master's of Social Work from Boston University and a BA in Sociology and History from Brandeis University.



Roksolana Geramita



Aliza Krevolin

## Foundations Awards Over \$400,000 in Spring Competitive Grants

More than 180 scholarships and awards totaling \$275,000 have been awarded to students in the region this spring. Thank you to our generous donors! In addition, more than \$211,000 was awarded in year two of the Farm Fresh Food grants program.



Meredith Dignan, (center), a graduate of Poughkeepsie High School, is this year's recipient of the Dennis Markle Memorial Scholarship. She will be attending Towson University this fall.



Working the fields: Poughkeepsie Farm Project farming for the 2015 season, expanding crops for their Food Share program. Year 2 Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Food projects, funded by the Community Foundations from a grant from the New World Foundation – Local Economies Project, are underway to ensure access to local, farm fresh food for Hudson Valley families in need.

## Community Foundations Fall Grant Applications Available August 1st

Grants are available to nonprofits in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties to support a variety of capacity building and program related needs. Application information, grant guidelines and deadlines can be found on the Community Foundations web site at [www.cfhnvny.org](http://www.cfhnvny.org) under the Receive section. For questions, please contact Jennifer Killian, Vice President, Programs at [jkillian@cfhnvny.org](mailto:jkillian@cfhnvny.org) or Cristin McPeake, Donor Relations Manager at [cmcpeake@cfhnvny.org](mailto:cmcpeake@cfhnvny.org) or by phone at 845-452-3077.



Paul L. DeLisio, CLU/ChFC



Vince Pangia, CPA

## Professional Advisors' Breakfast Honors Two

On June 9th the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley hosted our annual Professional Advisors Breakfast at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel to recognize the work on behalf of the Foundations by two gifted members of the professional advisors community.

Paul L. DeLisio, CLU/ChFC, from Ulster County and Vince Pangia, CPA, of Pangia & Company, LLC from Dutchess County accepted certificates acknowledging their efforts and spoke about their association with the Community Foundations.

Two members of the professional advisors community, John K. Gifford, Esq, of Van DeWater & Van DeWater, LLP and John J. Wadlin, Esq, of Rusk, Wadlin, Heppner & Martuscello, LLP spoke about the importance of building relationships with the Community Foundations as we work to advance philanthropy and charitable giving in our region, and provide assistance to their clients in establishing charitable funds to benefit our community.

80 Washington Street, Suite 201  
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## *Save the Date!*

Sunday, September 27th • 3 – 6 pm

### Montgomery Place provides perfect backdrop for Annual Garden Party

On Sunday, September 27 the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley will honor **Darlene L. Pfeiffer** and **Richard C. Strain and Karen Strain Smythe** for their dedication and personal contributions to community service and philanthropy.

The afternoon event will be held at Montgomery Place, Annandale-on-Hudson, perhaps the most iconic among the great estates of the Hudson River Valley.

Honorary Co-Chairs for the event are last years' honorees: **Victoria St. John Gilligan** and **Michael and Clare Graham**.

**For information and support opportunities contact:**

Kevin Quilty, [Kquilty@cfehvn.org](mailto:Kquilty@cfehvn.org) • 845-338-2535 or 845-452-3077



Darlene L. Pfeiffer



Karen Strain Smythe  
Richard C. Strain