A Cause for Celebration:
25 Years Toasting Philanthropy

Scene: March 8, 1994.
Community Foundations’ Board of Trustees Meeting

“To celebrate our 25th anniversary, I would like to propose a unique event—one to offer networking and conversation. A Sunday afternoon cocktail party would be a fun way to offer a retrospective, bring people together and present our goals for the future,” said Susan Roeller Brown, then Development Committee Chair. Six months later the inaugural Garden Party was held at Wethersfield Farm in Amenia.

In addition to commemorating the anniversary, the event served as an opportunity to honor John ‘Jack’ Gartland Jr. Dubbed as the ‘founder’ of the Community Foundations, Gartland served as President of the McCann Foundation and was a dedicated city of Poughkeepsie citizen. As he recounted it, Gartland posed the idea of creating a publicly-funded foundation to James J. McCann in 1965. The new foundation would operate through the participation and generosity of the community it served. While McCann conveyed interest in the concept, it would be four years before the foundation materialized. In August of 1969, the idea was finally and fully incorporated.

At the first Garden Party in 1994, the Foundations had much to report to the community. In 25 years it: led capital campaigns to build and restore historic buildings in Poughkeepsie, established the Partnership in Education program and made grants and scholarships in excess of $1.5 million. These achievements...continued on back cover
Community Grants have helped farmers rebuild after hurricanes, purchased life-saving equipment for first responders, fed thousands of families, created economic opportunities for veterans and countless other stories. Your support of the Garden Party makes these charitable efforts possible.

In the spirit of coming together for a greater purpose, we will join with friends to raise awareness and commitment to the community at our signature event. We invite you to join our 50th anniversary celebration under the iconic tent, where we will recognize our path to raise awareness and commitment to local, national and international nonprofits.

What should my nonprofit do with a windfall gift?

It’s a nonprofit fantasy come true: a letter from an attorney that says your organization will receive a large, unrestricted bequest. You think of the many needs your organization faces, and how this could help. You could expand the reach of your work, or pay this month’s payroll, or give a well-deserved raise to your staff.

But instead of using your windfall for budget relief, have you considered investing in your organization’s long-term sustainability?

By investing a windfall in an endowment fund, your organization can receive annual income payments forever.

Dear Friends,

Something palpable and potent was in the air during the summer of ‘69. Conversations about who and what defined ‘community’ brought people together in action. Famously, the Woodstock Festival influenced the Hudson Valley—but so too did the founding of several organizations. That summer sparked the launch of Family of Woodstock, Hudson Valley Sloop Clearwater, Putnam Land Trust and Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

You have been with us at each step since and we thank you for your ongoing support. Working together, we have invested more than $51 million into the region.

In my role, I am privileged to see firsthand the impact you create. Nowhere is this more evident than through our Community Grants program. A model of community support. Working together,

Each step since and we

You have been with us at

Community Impact
Between February and May, grants from the following funds supported hundreds of local, national and international nonprofits.

Axel & Elizabeth Uchitelle Fund
Alexa Hite Fordster Fund
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund #1
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund
Bernard and Shirley Handel Foundation Donor Advised Fund
Carol W. and G. Vincent Dean, Jr. Fund
Carolyn and Black Charitable Fund
Chip and Karen Simon Chansky Fund
Ciminello Family Fund
City of Poughkeepsie PFA Charitable Fund
Cross Rahn Family Fund
Dana and Susan Fron Fund
DePauza Kilpat Charitable Fund
Foundation for Community Health Fund
Galagher Family Donor Advised Fund
Grimaldi Family Helping Hand Fund
Irving and Gloria Schlossberg Family Fund
Jacob and Mollie Featherman Fund
John and Nancy O’Shae Charitable Fund
John and Vivian Wadlin Local History Donor Advised Fund
Johnson Sherman Family Fund
Judith & Paul Stoddard Family Fund
Kim Anne Pedersen Memorial Scholarship Fund
Lucie M. Walker Memorial Fund
Maysland and Fern Brownell Family Fund
Melissa D. Boscia Memorial Donor Advised Fund
Meyers Family Fund
Michelle D. Smith Fund
Niko Fund
Rhinebeck Rotary Club Fund
Richard S. and Harriet K. Fein Fund
Robert G. Auchincloss Advised Fund
Rodriguez Foundation Donor Advised Fund
Rosalie Beinstein Memorial Fund
Stevens Family Fund
Stinchcomb Family Fund
Tancreo IPA Donor Advised Fund
The Date Fund
Through Dylan’s Eyes, the Dylan Felller Memorial Fund
Valk C. Simons Donor Advised Fund
Wallenda-Fausto Family Fund


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The Summer of ‘69

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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The Summer of ‘69
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and the visionary leadership of Gartland created a celebration of philanthropy and a model event that continues today.

The format has largely continued as Brown envisioned – a fun and unique event that focuses on community connections. Subsequent Garden Parties have honored community members and couples from Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties. The most significant change was how to handle the proceeds.

In 2006, the Foundations decided to apply revenue from the event to its Community Grants program. As a new initiative at the time, Community Grants provided capacity building and program sustaining support to local nonprofits. The first round of recipients included 34 nonprofits, with grants totaling $33,000.

“This was an exciting development for the Community Foundations,” said Kevin Quilty, Vice President of the Foundations and lead organizer of the Garden Party. “The community knew the event as an opportunity to catch up with friends and network – but with a honed sense of purpose, the day took on a new meaning. The Garden Party would gather to celebrate philanthropy, and in turn, generate funding for the community.”

To date, the event has awarded more than $1.3 million through the Community Grants program. With an eye on its 50th anniversary, Quilty and CFHV staff are focused on creating another memorable event.

“We are breaking the mold for our milestone celebration! A refreshed program, delectable seasonal foods including an oyster bar and more will bring this Garden Party to a new level. With thanks to our incredible sponsors and Garden Party committee – we believe this celebration will commemorate the size and scale of our history and commitment to the future.”


Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available at CommunityFoundationsHV.org/GardenParty