2017 Garden Party to Recognize Five Philanthropic Leaders

September 24 event at Obercreek estate

Community spirit and philanthropy will be celebrated once again at the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley's annual Garden Party. This year's event recognizing five philanthropic leaders will take place at Obercreek in Wappingers Falls, the estate of Alexander Reese and architect Alison Spear. Proceeds from this signature event have provided more than $1.1 million in support to regional nonprofits since 2000.

Elizabeth Peale Allen and her late husband, John M. Allen, both served as trustees of the Community Foundations. Mrs. Allen, who served for nine years on the Community Foundations board and for 13 years on the town of Pawling planning board of Dutchess County, is the daughter of author Norman Vincent Peale, whose book, The Power of Positive Thinking, has been a regional best-seller. D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP is a regional public accounting firm with offices throughout New York State and a strong presence in the Hudson Valley. From their professional staff who serve as volunteers with nonprofits, to their auditing and financial services, plus pro bono services and sponsorship support for nonprofits, D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP leads by example as a community-minded business partner.

John “Jack” Cina, Jr., CPA/PFS, joined D’Arcangelo & Co. LLP in 1981, following in the footsteps of his father, one of the firm’s original members. As a partner since 1990 and Managing Partner of the Mid-Hudson offices since 2000, Jack leads the firm’s community-minded culture.

In the 1990s, Jack became involved with the what was then the Community Foundation of Dutchess County through board member and long-time friend Arthur L. Gellert, Esq., who encouraged Jack’s subsequent service on the Community Foundation’s finance and investment committee.

Giving Back to the Community and the Community Foundations

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President’s View

The Impact of Your Generosity

Dear Friends,

You often will hear us talk about how donors and professional advisors are critical to the work of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. But did you know that our business partners in the community play an equally important role?

Every nonprofit supported by grants through the Community Foundations also benefits from the service of local business professionals who volunteer, serve as board members and contribute financially. These professionals share their time, talent and generosity and many serve on our volunteer boards and committees to oversee finances and advise on grant-making. But that is not all – community-minded business partners (including D’Arcangelo Financial Advisors, LLC, profiled here) give back by providing additional support in the form of sponsorships, direct contributions and in-kind donations.

Our business partners are critical to the success of the annual Garden Party and other work throughout the year. Preparations are underway now for the 2017 Garden Party on September 24, attended by more than 400 business, community and philanthropic leaders annually. This year’s venue is the beautiful and architecturally significant Obercreek estate of Alexander Reese and Alison Spear, and our honorees are profiled on the cover. We hope you will join us and support this event with a sponsorship, program book ad or ticket purchase, as the proceeds will provide community grants for regional nonprofits.

As always, we are thankful for ALL of our partners – donors, businesses, professional advisors, individuals, as well as nonprofits, schools and government. Together, we continue to improve the quality of life for all who live and work in our region. Thank you again for all that you do.

Sincerely,

March S. Gallagher, Esq.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Community Impact

The Board of Trustees recently approved the following grants totaling $318,591:

Nonprofit Grantees

- American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc.
- Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Inc.
- Boy Scouts of America - Hudson Valley Council
- Chabad Lubavitch of the Mid-Hudson Valley
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Clinton Community Library
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Dutchess County Historical Society
- Dutchess County Regional Science Fair
- Experience Camps (Manitou Camps Foundation)
- Franklin Pierce University
- Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
- Grace Smith House
- Hadassah The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
- Half Moon Theatre
- Historic Huguenot Street
- Howland Chamber Music Circle
- Hudson Highlands Land Trust
- Hudson Highlands Nature Museum
- Hudson Valley Guns and Hoses
- Hudson Valley Seed Shed
- Hudson Valley Veterans Alliance
- Kalamazoo College

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At the Community Foundations, we are dedicated to helping generous people create a charitable legacy to achieve their goals and benefit our region forever. We have the knowledge and flexibility to create funds with lasting impact.

Providing Permanent Support for Evolving Interests

Q. We are creating our estate plans and our attorney suggested we ask how we can support the causes we are passionate about. We have specific local organizations that we would like to name in our plans, but what if our interests change over time? What charitable options will give us the greatest flexibility – now and in the future?

A. Many donors are passionate about the organizations where they volunteer – such as their local volunteer fire/rescue squad or hospital. We recommend that your attorney designate a gift in your will to create a fund at the Community Foundations, and to create a fund agreement with us that includes the list of charities to receive grants from your fund. This way, you retain the flexibility to update the list of charities with the Community Foundations, without having the trouble and expense of revising your will. Your generosity will provide ongoing future support, through annual grants from your fund, to the charities and programs you care about most.

Do you have a story you would be willing to share about how you have worked with the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley to help achieve charitable goals? Contact Sally Cross at scross@cfhvny.org or 845-452-3077.

Giving Back to the Community and the Community Foundations

“The investment committee was spending significant time managing the Foundation’s assets across multiple accounts, with growth further reduced by investment fees,” Jack explained.

D’Arcangelo offered a pro bono arrangement to the Community Foundations that placed assets with Dimensional Fund Advisors (DFA), an exclusive and high-performing investment provider usually available only to very large institutions.

Today, thanks to DFA’s strong performance and internal fund fees among the lowest in the industry, the Community Foundations’ assets continue to grow. With the Community Foundations’ assets now totaling over $60 million, this pro bono arrangement saves the Foundation upwards of $75,000 in investment fees annually, and makes more funding available to Hudson Valley nonprofits.

“The value of the Community Foundations is that it helps focus money where it is needed most in the community,” explained Jack. “Most people manage their own philanthropy by writing annual checks to support the causes they care about. However, with just a little extra advance planning to create a fund with the Community Foundations rather than a large corporate entity, they can magnify their impact significantly. First, their assets stay local. Second, we help them get a better investment return for the lowest possible cost. Third, the Community Foundations can help them direct their philanthropy for maximum effect.”

Brenda K. Santoro, CPA, a partner with D’Arcangelo & Co. LLP, and a current member of the Community Foundations’ board, has worked with many nonprofits over the years as a CPA in the firm’s auditing practice. She notes, “At D’Arcangelo, we believe it’s important for partners and staff to be involved in the community, not only as finance professionals, but as board members and volunteers. We know how hard it is for nonprofits to find and keep the funding they need, and so we want to give back — with our professional expertise and with our time and energy.”

Thank You Volunteers!

Special thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who read more than 1000 scholarship applications this spring. We couldn’t do it without you – our scholarship recipients thank you too!

We are especially grateful to the following individuals who went above and beyond in their commitment of time and energy to the scholarship review process:

Linda Clark
John Degilio
Maria Morgan
Dwight Paine
Neville Smythe
Stanley Straub
Allison Withers

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generated an entire movement around the principles of living a faith-based life. Mrs. Allen is currently board president of Trinity Pawling School, a director of Americares, and board chair of Guidebar

Seamus Carroll and Marie Wieck, who firmly believe that “charity begins at home,” have been instrumental to the Community Foundations’ growth in Putnam County. Grants from their fund are earmarked for programs that improve lives and protect the beauty of the region. A retired engineer, Mr. Carroll serves on the boards of Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and as board chair of Hudson Valley Seed. Ms. Wieck, an IBM executive, has volunteered with MentorNet, the Society of Women Engineers, Vital Voices, Haldane Technology Committee, and Girls Who Code. She serves on the boards of Charity Navigator, the Anita Borg Institute, and as Co-chair of the National Association of Female Executives (NAFE) Roundtable.

Tim and Laurel Sweeney of Ulster County, known for their tireless energy and generosity, make "giving back" a priority. A wine connoisseur, Mr. Sweeney owns and operates Stone Ridge Wine and Spirits. He serves on the Marbletown council and as board president of both SUNY Ulster and the Hudson Valley Catskill Region Multiple Listing Service. Additionally, he directs the Rondout Valley Business Association and serves as a vestry person at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Stone Ridge. Mrs. Sweeney’s professional career has evolved from critical care nurse at Benedictine Hospital to medical sales and marketing to her current position as associate broker with Berkshire Hathaway Nutshell Realty. She serves on the boards of the Mohonk Preserve and SUNY Ulster.

Please join us as we honor Elizabeth Peale Allen, Seamus Carroll & Marie Wieck, and Tim & Laurel Sweeney on Sunday, September 24 at Obercreek in Wappingers Falls.

Visit CommunityFoundationsHV.org/Events to purchase sponsorships, tickets and journal ads.