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Community Connections

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Gifts of all sizes impact lives

You don't need to be MacKenzie Scott to make a big difference

It's cause for celebration when a local organization like the YWCA Ulster County receives a transformational gift from the billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. But the biggest transformations in our community are fueled by your generous spirit. The gifts you give underpin the work of so many local charities.

In this issue, you will read about the impact of Scott's gift on the lives of the women, children, and families served by the YWCA. But we also want to celebrate the power that gifts to the Community Grants Fund have this year and every year.

We are fortunate that you and so many others understand the impact of Community Grants. Your gifts, and those from people who created their charitable legacy, enrich the fabric of our

lives. It's hard to imagine this region without the impact of local groups, large and small. Each is driven by the passion and the support of many.

The Community Foundations' mission is to celebrate all that these gifts make possible. Our role is to create a permanent resource to improve lives in our region, forever.

I thank you for the part you play in making our mission a reality. I encourage you to consider how your charitable legacy can join those of others. And how the Community Foundations can ensure that your legacy, for the causes you care most about, can be preserved forever.

Sally J. Cross, CFRE
President & CFO



Community Grant: TMI Project

What's Inside...

Community Grants News

Our Community Grants criteria are flexible which allows the Community Foundations to respond to immediate and emerging local needs. It is this very flexibility that makes these grants effective. Every gift makes a difference. Taken together, their impact is great.



Community Grants

Small gifts to our funds, when pooled together, can be transformative to nonprofits of all sizes. Community Grants are targeted to where they can do the most good.



Constitution Marsh

A CFHV Community Grant helps fund on-site education for school groups learning the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem.



When Small Grants Make a Big Difference

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

Bishop Desmond Tutu

Community Grants funds are fueled by gifts given by people like you. This program is also supported by proceeds of the annual Garden Party, and gifts to the Fund for the Hudson Valley. By pooling and investing the generous donations from you and your neighbors, you have helped create an important resource for local nonprofits.

Many of our neighbors benefit from and depend on services provided by local organizations. Everything from pre-K to after school education to shelter, food and mental health services for those in need, these vital services are often funded by government grants or contracts. Those resources, while essential, often do not include allowances for investments in program improvements, staff training, updated technology, or innovation. The funds provided by Community Grants are small grants with fewer strings, resulting in their outsized impact.

The list below shows the breadth of support you provided through Community Grants in 2021.

Helping People Experiencing Hunger

Ascienzo Family Foundation/Red Hook Responds
Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster
Common Ground Farm
Exodus Transitional Community
Phillies Bridge Farm Project, Inc.
RDC Loaves and Fishes Inc.
Second Chance Foods
St. Thomas Episcopal Church Amenia Union NY
Underground Foundations
Willow Roots Inc.

Offering Services to Those in Need

Breast Cancer Options, Inc.
Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc.
North East Community Center
People’s Place

Supporting the LGBTQIA+ Community

Dutchess County Pride Center
Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center

Supporting Our Seniors

Philipstown Aging at Home

Enhancing Youth Services

Camp Herrlich
Community Family Development, Inc.
Community Matters 2 Inc.
Desmond-Fish Public Library
Land to Learn (Hudson Valley Seed)

Assisting People Struggling with Mental Health & Addiction

NAMI Mid-Hudson
Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, Inc
Unshattered

Creating Cultural Resources

Howland Chamber Music Circle
Philipstown Depot Theatre, Inc.
Putnam History Museum
Voice Theatre

Enriching the Fabric of Our Community

Dutchess County Historical Society
Ecological Citizen’s Project
Library at the AJ Williams-Myers African Roots Center
Pine Hill Community Center
Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History
TMI Project
YWCA of Ulster County

Helping Victims Escape Domestic Violence

Grace Smith House Inc.

Improving Our Environment

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center

Your support for the Community Foundations fuels these grants and all nonprofit organizations. If you would like to know more about any of these recipients or how you can support Community Grants, please email grants@communityfoundationshv.org or call us at 845-452-3077



The Y’s Magic Circle School offers childcare for working families in three Kingston locations

Kingston YWCA: Investing a Financial Windfall with the Community Foundations for a Sustainable Future



Unexpected gifts, from legacies or bequests, are not uncommon in the Hudson Valley. A gift that is invested creates a permanent source of annual income.

As Executive Director of the YWCA in Kingston, Athena Fliakos faced some daunting challenges. The Covid pandemic reduced revenues while demand for their programs skyrocketed. At the same time, they were preparing to celebrate a century of service in 2023.

But an unexpected windfall – a million-dollar gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott – is breathing new life into this venerable institution. Besides upgrading an aging physical plant, this transformational gift is supporting growth and investments

in the services they offer to the community. Their Magic Circle School offers childcare for working families in three Kingston locations. Athena is proud that they raised the pay of childcare staff. These staff are often the lowest paid jobs, she is honoring and recognizing the important work they that they do.

Athena was able to revisit a long-time dream of establishing an endowment. This fund will help sustain the YWCA’s future. “I wanted to send a clear message that after 100 years we are still here. An endowed fund is a wonderful way to assure our supporters that we are looking at the long-term viability, even as we work today to improve what we do.” The YWCA Century Strong Endowment at the Community Foundations shows that the YWCA is set to address the challenges of the next 100 years.

To find out more about how a nonprofit endowment at the Community Foundations can support a nonprofit organization, contact us at 845-452-3077 or info@communityfoundationshv.org