

Community

CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2021



And The Beat Goes On...

There is nothing “usual” about the current state of affairs. The vaccine rollout and recently-passed federal relief offers hope on the horizon, as well as an opportunity to reflect and begin tentative plans for the future. The headline conjures a well-known song and invites thoughts of dancing together. We hope you, our partners and supporters continue to join us in a ‘dance’ that works to improve lives.

The world we are moving towards is different in many ways. Out of the pandemic’s ravages, we see the need for improvements to the systems we’ve come to rely upon. But

we have also been grateful recipients of your generous gifts as you stepped up to support our emergency response and our Pivoting to Respond recovery initiative.

Recognizing wide gaps exposed by Covid, the Community Foundations has become more involved in collaborative efforts to address the needs of our region. Today we are more in touch than ever with you, our donor advisors, and funding partners. We are collaborating to provide grants and other resources for nonprofits as we work to improve lives.

As part of the Hudson Valley Funders Network we are offering as-

sistance to our nonprofit partners. In this newsletter we provide a few highlights of how your support is helping nonprofits address current challenges. In our Professional Advisors column we take a look at how this important group has responded to changing attitudes. We are adapting in real time to keep ahead of the curve as we face an uncertain but hopeful future.

You are our partners in our mission to meet community needs and adapt to new ways of moving forward. As this ‘dance’ continues we’d like to acknowledge how much your support means. You are the fuel of our success. **Thank you!**

Bright Lights Ahead

Dear Friends,
When Covid 19 swept into our region, generous donors like you were among the first to step forward. Working in the face of unprecedented uncertainty, our nonprofit partners stepped up to respond to the sudden and increased needs created by this crisis.



You showed your commitment to our region by giving and granting more than ever before.

As the year gets underway, the vaccine rollout and Congressional passage of a major relief bill are bright lights at the end of a still long tunnel.

The Community Foundations continues to examine every aspect of our operations from how we serve our mission to how we can maintain vital connections with supporters like you.

As you look ahead and decide when you feel safe doing 'normal' activities, the Community Foundations has also changed some plans. We are postponing until next year the Professional Advisors Breakfast and Partnership in Education reception, as well as the Garden Party. I remain optimistic that our year-end receptions can be held safely, and I look forward to thanking each one of you personally at those gatherings.

As you look for ways to make a difference this year, are there ways we can help you? The Community Foundations is your partner in giving and your local charitable resource. You can reach me at 845-452-3077 or scross@communityfoundationshv.org.

Thank you for all that you do,

**Sally J. Cross, CFRE
President & CEO**

Welcome Serena Marrero

We are delighted that Serena Marrero has joined the Community Foundations staff as Director of Planned Giving. An experienced development professional, Marrero's role is to strengthen relationships with local attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, nonprofits, and donors.



Marrero serves on the board of Arts Mid-Hudson and chairs its Development

Committee. She is a founding board member and past president of the Mid-Hudson Valley Association of Fundraising Professionals and has served on Arts Mid Hudson grant review committees. She holds an associate degree in Graphic Design and Advertising Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Development from SUNY New Paltz.

Welcome, Serena!

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley Board and Committees JULY 1, 2020- JUNE 30, 2021

BOARD

JEFFREY D. WOOD, CHAIR
Aziz Ahsan, Esq.
William A. Brenner, CPA
Eleanor Charwat
Yu-Shin Chen
Linda B. Clarke
Robert J. Cotter
Charles A. Freni Jr.
Kevin Hamilton
Ashley Knox
Peter Krulewicz
Wesley J. Lee
Cora M. Mallory-Davis
Thomas J. Murphy
Darlene L. Pfeiffer
Nathaniel S. Prentice
Myrna Sameth
Brenda K. Santoro, CPA
Chip Simon, CFP
Steven R. Tinkelman, AIA

Dutchess County Board of Advisors

YU-SHIN CHEN, CHAIR
Charles A. Freni Jr.
Sandy Arteaga
Eleanor Charwat
Ann Gifford, Esq.
Kevin Hamilton
Anita Jones
Cora M. Mallory-Davis
Edward McCormick
Chip Simon, CFP
Paul Stoddard
Gabriela Vega-Matthews
Lisa Wilson

Putnam County Board of Advisors

NATHANIEL S. PRENTICE, CHAIR
Robert J. Cotter
T. Jefferson Cunningham III
Peter Hofmann, M.D.
Kenneth Kearney
Frank E. Lucente, M.D.
Frederick Osborn III
Anita J. Rice

Ulster County Board of Advisors

THOMAS J. MURPHY, CHAIR
Rev. Modele Clark
John Finch
Jane Garrity
Pascal Guirma
Linda Hopfenspirger
Johann Huleatt
Ashley Knox
Joan Lonergan
Marianne Murray
Arthur R. Upright



You Asked Staff

Estate Planning During Covid and Beyond



Robert R. Butts (L), Partner and Joshua E. Mackey (R), Managing Partner with Mackey, Butts & Wise, LLP respond:

Has the COVID 19 pandemic affected estate planning?

The COVID 19 pandemic heightened concern for estate planning. The current crisis may be passing, but estate planning is constantly changing. People should monitor their estate plans and keep them up to date.

What changes might impact my estate planning in 2021?

One recent change is the SECURE Act, which took effect last year. It

reduced the number of years that a beneficiary family member (other than a surviving spouse) could stretch out an inherited IRA. Funds from these accounts will be taxable as ordinary income when withdrawn by the beneficiary.

What are tax efficient ways I can make charitable contributions during my retirement?

Tax-deferred IRA's and similar retirement accounts can be a tax-advantaged way to meet your charitable goals. If you are over age 70 ½, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCDs) of up to \$100,000 per year directly to your favorite charity. Such QCD's may count against your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Naming the charity as beneficiary on an IRA will allow the IRA to pass

to the charity at your death free of income tax.

Each person's situation is different. We recommend that you meet with your attorney, accountant and/or financial advisor to review your personal estate plan in light of current developments. For those of you who are charitably minded, the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley can be an excellent team member to assist in the planning process and as a vehicle to achieve your charitable objectives in our community.

Our staff is always available to answer your questions. If you'd like to be in touch, please email us at info@communityfoundationshv.org.

We're In This Together...

We are so fortunate to live in a resilient and generous community. Last year donors like you, businesses, funders, and county governments joined forces in an unprecedented way. Together we provided food to the food insecure, PPE to our frontline workers, mental health counseling to those in desperate need of it, and much more.

Knowing that we have greater impact together, we joined local funders including the Dyson Foundation and neighboring community foundations to address the needs of nonprofits through the Hudson Valley Funders Network



Left, Common Ground Farm: Volunteer food donation pick up, part of the 14,000 pounds moved from their farm to pantries. Right, Woodstock School of Art: The new reality of online classes has been challenging but has added many new out of area participants.



(HVFN). In partnership with the New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON), the network is providing free training and resources on topics identified by the nonprofits.

Common Ground Farm is one of more than 200 groups who have taken advantage of the free webinars and resources offered through the Network. ...continued on back cover

“Building Resilience” in 2021

*With uncertainty still surrounding large gatherings
this year, we are postponing our annual
Garden Party until Sunday, September 25th, 2022.*

This year we will be celebrating philanthropy
with “Building Resilience” as our initiative to
strengthen and support non-profits through grants
to help them be successful in a post-Covid world.

**WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!
PLEASE LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION SOON.**



80 Washington Street, Suite 201
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TSASINC.COM

Return service requested

Executive Director Sember Weinman notes that in addition, Dutchess Responds grants from the Community Foundations “were incredibly helpful in achieving our mission of ensuring that food is accessible to all.” This allowed them to expand local distribution including a backpack program with Beacon City schools, increase food availability at the farmers market, and deliver 14,000 pounds of food from the farm to food pantries.

Nina Doyle, executive director of the Woodstock School of Art says the trainings have been “absolutely invaluable.” She credits them with her success in receiving an SBA loan that ensured she could pay her staff to these trainings. Nina also noted that the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley has been



At Woodstock School of Art, the newly painted and refurbished studio space awaits the return of students.

“instrumental” in their support, and in helping her morph a planned giving event into a campaign.

Of course the story does not end here. The pandemic’s health and economic impacts are a reality that we will continue to address with our partners. The difficult times

of the past year have informed a much needed collaborative future. We are truly in this together!

For more on the resources available to nonprofits through the Hudson Valley Funders Network, visit [hudsonvalleyfundersnetwork.org](https://www.hudsonvalleyfundersnetwork.org)