

Community

CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2019



**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

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COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

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Above: The iconic Garden Party tent at our 2004 celebration, held at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook.

The Summer of '69

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 grantmaking—funding comes from hundreds of generous friends, is determined by volunteer committees and invested in nonprofits that serve our region.



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 *From Founders to the Future*. We will commemorate this wonderful occasion at the exclusive Mashomack Preserve in Pine Plains on Sunday, September 22nd! We hope to welcome you there, with sponsorships and tickets available online at CommunityFoundationsHV.org/GardenParty.

With appreciation,

Cristin McPeake
Vice President, Programs



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Community Impact

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

Abe & Eileen Uchitelle Fund
Alecia Hicks Forster Fund
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund # 1
Anonymous Fund
Bernard and Shirley Handel
Foundation Donor Advised Fund
Carol W. and G. Vincent Dean Jr. Fund
Carroll and Wieck Charitable Fund
Chip and Karen Simon Charitable Fund
Ciminello Family Fund
City of Poughkeepsie PBA
Charitable Fund
Cross Hahn Family Fund
Dan and Mary Mullan Fund
DaPuzzo Kilpert Charitable Fund
Foundation for Community Health Fund
Gallagher Family Donor Advised Fund
Grimaldi Family Helping Hand Fund
Irving and Gloria Schlossberg Family Fund
Jacob and Mollie Fishman Fund
John and Nancy O'Shea Charitable Fund
John and Vivian Wadlin Local History Donor Advised Fund
Jonah Sherman Family Fund
Judith & Paul Stoddard Family Fund
Kim Anne Pedersen Memorial Scholarship Fund
Lucie M. Walker Memorial Fund
Maynard and Ferne Brownell Family Fund
Melissa D. Bisaccia Memorial Donor Advised Fund
Meyer Family Fund
Michelle D. Smith Fund
NoVo Fund
Rhinebeck Rotary Club Fund
Richard S. and Harriet K. Fein Fund
Robert G. Auchincloss Advised Fund
Rodrigues Foundation Donor Advised Fund
Rosalie Beinstein Memorial Fund
Stevens Family Fund
Stinchcomb Family Fund
Taconic IPA Donor Advised Fund
The Dates Fund
Through Dylan's Eyes, the Dylan Feller Memorial Fund
Valri C. Simmons Donor Advised Fund
Whitefield / Baer Fund
Wollner/Troccia Family Fund

Photos, opposite page, clockwise from top left: A flamenco performance at the 1997 Garden Party. Catherine Eusebio, Mayra Hidalgo Salazar, Callie Jayne, Sarah Salem, Brooke Pickering-Cole and Katherine Hite at the 2018 Garden Party. Susan Roeller Brown and Shaileen Kopec at the 2006 event.

You Asked Staff

What should my nonprofit do with a windfall gift?



Sally Cross,
Vice President of
Philanthropy,
answered:

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 of 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.

The Community Foundations holds more than 65 nonprofit endowment or reserve funds. These funds benefit from the Community Foundations' professionally managed investment portfolio.

Here's an example of how this works: your organization opens its fund with \$25,000.

Using the Foundations' payout rate of 4%, you will receive annual of grants about \$1,000 from income earned on the fund. The fund itself, through investment growth, will gradually increase in value. After 10 years, you will have received \$9,000 or more in annual grants. Based on past performance, in addition to annual grants, your fund will have grown to about \$27,500. What nonprofit doesn't need a \$1000/year donor that gives without being asked?

The Community Foundations is not your only option for managing a windfall gift. It would be prudent for you to investigate them all. But using a windfall to create an endowment can build your organization's "goose that lays golden eggs."



For some of our neighbors, the word "home" does not mean a sense of security, belonging and happy memories.

Rebuilding Together and their enthusiastic volunteers are working to change that – one home at a time. This spring we visited the organization's Rebuilding Day to see their efforts in action. **Your generosity saves lives.** Thanks to Garden Party supporters like you, a recent Community Grant to Rebuilding Together helped save seven lives in our community! Through their homeowners' fire safety and prevention program a Poughkeepsie family was able to safely escape a fire.





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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.

Photos, above, from top:
(L to R): Ward Mintz and Peter Brent, 2018. (L to R): Sue Hartshorn, Sandy Arteaga, Elizabeth Peale Allen, 2009. (L to R): Thomas Campbell, James Earl Jones, Wayne Nussbickel, 2003.

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