

# Community Connections

WINTER  
2024

**2023  
Community  
Grants** *pg 4*



**Tribute:  
Nancy  
Brownell** *pg 3*



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF THE HUDSON VALLEY



Nancy's legacy by carrying forward the spirit of collaboration that defines the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dear Friends,

As I step into the role of President and CEO of Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, I am filled with both excitement and gratitude. I extend my deepest thanks to each of you for your support and dedication that have been instrumental in shaping the success and impact of our organization. I am eager to build upon this history, and I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

I also want to reflect on the legacy of Nancy Rossi Brownell, a remarkable woman whose influence reached every corner of our organization. From her role as Board President to her pivotal position as Vice President of Development for Putnam County, Nancy's warmth, kindness, and generosity have left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

As we navigate this period of transition and embrace new beginnings, I hope to honor

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Laura Washington*

Laura Washington  
President & CEO

# *A Life Dedicated to Service and Community*



It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our esteemed colleague and dear friend, Nancy Rossi-Brownell, after a brief illness. Nancy joined Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley in 2015 and served most recently as Vice President of Putnam, where she played a pivotal role in asset development, marketing, and outreach efforts in Putnam County. Prior to her staff position, Nancy dedicated eight years to serving on the

Board of Trustees, including two years as Board Chair.

Charles “Chip” Simon, Chair of the CFHV Board of Trustees, said: “We all mourn Nancy’s loss and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family. She brought her expertise, dedication, and passion to every project she touched, leaving an indelible mark on our organization.”

Nancy’s contributions were profound. She played an instrumental role in growing CFHV’s assets to more than \$100 million, awarding \$11 million in grants to 700 nonprofit organizations and awarding more than \$400,000 in scholarship grants to Hudson Valley students. “Nancy was the consummate professional, easily moving between her roles as volunteer, board chair, and staff member of the Community Foundations with her grace, intellect, compassion, and loyalty,” said Andrea L. Reynolds, President & CEO of the Dyson Foundation and former CFHV President & CEO. “She believed in the Community Foundations so strongly and gave more than was expected. She was the perfect person to launch and grow the Putnam County arm of the Community Foundations. Her impact will long be remembered and missed.”

Nancy’s impact extended beyond her professional achievements. She was a beacon of warmth and kindness, with an infectious laugh that lit up the room. Her legacy of service will continue to inspire us all. “Nancy was a trusted friend and partner in our work. The deep sense of loss and the knowledge that her talents are silenced, has been devastating. Her work with the Community Foundations and especially Putnam County, stands as a testament to her dedication and perseverance. A one-of-a-kind person that has left a great void,” said Kevin Quilty, VP of Development, Ulster.

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# TRANSFORMING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



(above)- 2023 Community Grant Recipients, (right) - VP of Programs, Cristin McPeake

The CFHV Community Grants program allows us to have an outsized impact on our community. In 2023, \$250,000 in grants were awarded to 68 organizations in Dutchess, Putnam, and Ulster counties. “We are very grateful for the support we receive from the Community Foundations,” said Career Support Solutions Executive Director, Tina Cornish-Lauria. “Their generosity helps us change the lives of people with disabilities.”

The missions of this year’s grantees include a variety of initiatives — animal welfare, arts and culture, food security, health and well-being, refugee and immigrant services, and efforts to support resilience and economic mobility. Our growing Community Grant endowment funds, along with generous contributions from Garden Party supporters and other donors, made 2023 an exceptional year. “These funds are not just an investment in our organization”, said Rebuilding Together Dutchess County’s Executive Director, Darcy J. McCourt, “but a direct investment in the well-being of homeowners facing critical repair needs”.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this resounding success.



Scan for full recipient list on our website



### PROPOSED CHANGES TO IRS REGULATIONS FOR DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

As an organization that establishes and manages donor advised funds (DAF's), the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley is staying updated on any changes to regulatory requirements. Since November 2023, the Internal Revenue Service has been reviewing regulations relating to DAF's and collecting public comments. Once we learn of any final determinations or changes, we will share them with you.

For additional information please visit: [www.regulations.gov/document/IRS-2023-0053-0001](https://www.regulations.gov/document/IRS-2023-0053-0001)



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS' BREAKFAST

##### **CHARITABLE ESTATE PLANNING: LEGAL, FINANCIAL, & TAX IMPLICATIONS**

**April 30, 2024, 8:00-10:00am**

**The Henry A. Wallace Visitor & Education Center, Hyde Park, NY**

CFHV will be hosting an event for professional advisors and their clients which will address strategies for effectively achieving charitable & financial goals in the estate planning process. Topic areas include: Details & Implications of Charitable Giving Through Wills, Estates, and Direct Designations; The Cy Pres Doctrine; and the Role of the Surrogate Court and the NY Attorney General.

**CLE/CFP Credit Information Pending**

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON TO OUR WEBSITE & VIA EMAIL**

*Nancy* from pg. 3

Nancy was a recipient of the Joseph A. Bonura Award for Leadership Excellence and the Southern Dutchess Exchange Club Meritorious Service Award. Her dedication to the community was unwavering, evident in her involvement with organizations such as Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, Directors of the Estate Planning Council of Putnam County, Putnam County Service Network and Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess Counties.

When asked how she will remember Nancy most, Cristin McPeake, VP of Programs, said, "Some of what I will treasure most is watching in awe as Nancy pulled together the most impeccable CFHV events with Rick by her side, visiting nonprofits together (including paddling out on Constitution Marsh one spectacular afternoon), seeing her impressive shoe and outfit choice each year for the Garden Party, and hearing stories and updates of her family, beloved sons, daughter-in-law, and 'grand pets'."

As we mourn Nancy's passing, our thoughts are with her husband Rick, their sons Tyler and Justin, and their extended family. May they find solace in the cherished memories and profound impact she had on the lives she touched.



# COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

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**Inspiring and celebrating local charitable giving and  
civic engagement**

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## The Newsletter is GOING PAPERLESS

In an effort to conserve our paper resources and take advantage of our ability to communicate digitally, CFHV will be moving towards paperless communications. You'll be able to read our newsletters online via our website. If you haven't already, sign up to receive our email for regular updates!

Visit: [communityfoundationshv.org](http://communityfoundationshv.org) and click **SUBSCRIBE** at the bottom of the page



## Our 2024 Scholarship Portal is Open!

Last year, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley awarded over \$400,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors to attend college or trade schools. The majority of these scholarships were awarded to students who applied through our online scholarship portal. Visit the scholarship page of our website to apply.

[communityfoundationshv.org/scholarships](http://communityfoundationshv.org/scholarships)

