

Community Connections



SPRING
2024

A group of approximately 18 people, mostly women, are standing in a line outdoors on a grassy field. Many of them are holding framed certificates or awards. They are dressed in a variety of casual to semi-formal attire. The background shows a line of trees and a small wooden building in the distance.

CELEBRATING EDUCATORS IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

2024 PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARDS RECOGNIZE INNOVATION AND IMPACT IN EDUCATION

In 1998, Elyse Joy, a teacher at Orville A. Todd Middle School, happened upon an opportunity that would transform her classroom and the lives of her students. A memo left in her school mailbox introduced her to the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley's Partnership in Education (PIE) grant initiative. With a modest budget of \$100 and a daunting task of teaching science to 135 students, securing a PIE grant offered a lifeline, allowing her to enhance her curriculum. Fast forward to today, with close to a hundred grants under her belt, Joy describes the process as "one that requires minimal time and yields maximum impact."

This year, Joy utilized a PIE Nuvance Taconic IPA Science Education grant to procure a game-compatible desktop, monitor, and game license. The result? Students engaged in an eSports team

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Garden Party

PAWLING, NEW YORK

KIRBY  HILL
FARM

EST. 2015

9.15.24

Honoring
**Tim & Alicia
Dean**

**Rick & Nancy*
Brownell**

Andrea L. Reynolds

Tickets available @
communityfoundationshv.org



*posthumously

From The CEO'S DESK



Dear Friends,

Recently, I reached a significant milestone: my first 100 days as the President and CEO of Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV). It has been an incredible journey. As I continue to immerse myself in our community and refine our Strategic Plan, one thing remains clear from this process: the power of community and the collective wisdom we possess. That's why I am turning to you. Your voice is crucial in shaping our future direction. I believe in the power of community-driven solutions, and that's where you come in.

I am thrilled to announce the launch of a year-long series of community conversations. These discussions will serve as a platform for us to hear directly from you — our valued community members — about the strengths, challenges, and aspirations of our region. Your input will inform our strategic direction.

I invite you to join us in this mission. If you're interested in hosting a conversation in your area, please don't hesitate to reach out to info@communityfoundationshv.org. I look forward to engaging with you and collaborating on building a stronger, more vibrant Hudson Valley together.

With gratitude,

Laura Washington

Laura Washington
President & CEO

PIE *(continued from pg 1)*

and developed complex problem-solving, physics, collaboration, and risk-taking skills, enriching their educational experience beyond the traditional classroom setting.

The significance of initiatives like PIE cannot be overstated, especially against the backdrop of the financial challenges faced by educators nationwide. According to an analysis by My eLearning World, teachers spent an average of \$820 OF THEIR OWN MONEY on classroom supplies in the last school fiscal year, amounting to a staggering \$3 billion. These out-of-pocket expenses not only induce stress but also contribute to the attrition of educators, as highlighted by the National Education Association.

Since its inception in 1986, the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley's PIE initiative has distributed over \$1 million in grants. Made possible by 18 separate funds established by local businesses, generous individuals, and families, the PIE initiative exemplifies a community's belief in its educators, manifesting in both time and treasure.

This year, approximately \$50,000 in scholarships and grants were awarded at a ceremony held at Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie.

For Michael Stolarski, a teacher at Poughkeepsie High School, the PIE grants from the Fund for Excellence in Education and Nuvance Taconic IPA have facilitated the introduction of drones into his physics curriculum. Through hands-on experience with drones, students gain insights into the principles of flight, opening doors to potential career paths in aviation-related fields.

Dr. Steven Birnbaum, a chemistry teacher at John Jay High School, says he is grateful for receiving a Fund for Excellence grant through PIE, which enabled him to purchase a package from Flinn Scientific with supplies



PIE *(continued from previous page)*

and chemicals to conduct 32 separate labs. One of the experiments allowed students to explore the copper plating process.

The ceremony also celebrated the recipients of prestigious scholarships, such as the Stephanie D. Brown and Barbara M. Murphy Scholarship, awarded to Giuliana Calderon, a senior at John Jay High School. With aspirations to pursue degrees in education, Giuliana embodies the spirit of dedication and passion for teaching.

Another scholarship recipient, Olivia Groucher, the valedictorian of Poughkeepsie High School, expressed gratitude for the Dennis J. Markle Scholarship, sharing her plans to major in early education and psychology.

These stories serve as a testament to the transformative power of education and the impact of community support. To learn more about these educational endeavors and to explore scholarship and grant opportunities, visit our website.

It's a poignant reminder that Elyse Joy's annual budget, even years 26 years later, remains a mere \$100, underscoring the enduring need for support and investment in education.

Pg. 3 Photos from top (1) Steven Birnbaum, Elyse Joy & daughter (2) Olivia Groucher w/ family & June Markle (3) Michael Stolarski & Gwen Saylor (4) Giuliana Calderon w/ her father & Michael Murphy

**The Community Foundations
of the Hudson Valley, through
the Partnership for Education
initiative and 18 different funds,
awarded 38 grants to teachers
from 23 schools.**

**To support PIE or to start a fund,
contact our offices at [info@
communityfoundationshv.org](mailto:info@communityfoundationshv.org) or
call (845) 452-3077**



THANK YOU!

ADVISOR'S CORNER



2024 Professional Advisor's Breakfast

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley hosted an educational breakfast for professional advisors on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at the Henry A. Wallace Center in Hyde Park, in collaboration with the Dutchess County Bar Association and the Hudson Valley Estate planning Council. The event attracted a full house audience that included financial advisors, CPAs, attorneys, and bankers. Moderator Rachel Flanagan Frost, PC., founder and lead attorney of the Law Office of Rachel Flanagan Frost, guided an accomplished group of panelists through the legal, financial and tax implications of charitable estate planning.

Judith Nolfo, Esq. principal court attorney for the Ulster County Surrogate Court kicked off the discussion with insights into distributing assets to charities. **Darrelyn A. Brennan, CFP**, Senior Vice President of Investments at Benjamin F. Edwards, expanded on this by providing an overview of the tax implications of charitable planning. **Rebecca Blahut, Esq.**, a specialist in elder law, estate planning, guardianships, and trusts addressed types of beneficiary designations. **Hon. Michael G. Hayes**, Dutchess County Surrogate Court, talked about the probate process and the role of Surrogate's Court and the NYS Attorney General (Charities Bureau) in carrying out a decedent's wishes. **Hon. Sara W. McGinty**, Ulster County Surrogate Court, completed the panel presentation with a description of the Cy Pres Doctrine as a necessary step "when the wheels fall off the bus" instigated by a significant change in circumstances such as a charity no longer existing or becoming part of a different charity.

Thank you to our esteemed panel members and everyone who attended!

The Board & Staff of Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley would like to congratulate Board Chair Chip Simon and Karen Simon on the Family Services - Family of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award!

Congratulations Community Foundations' counsel, John Gifford, Esq., on receiving the Quality of Life Award from the Vincent & Carol W. Dean Family Charitable Foundation!





COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

25 Van Wagner Road
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**Inspiring and celebrating local charitable giving and
civic engagement**

Address Service Requested

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 and click **SUBSCRIBE** at the bottom of the page. You must be subscribed to our mailing list to receive this newsletter.



New Kid in Town

Zoaya Fatima has joined our team as the Philanthropic Services Associate in our Development department. She is responsible for administrative support in all areas related to fund management, donor relations, planned giving, estate administration, and events. She holds a Bachelor's in Psychology and a double Master's in Marketing & Communications and Instructional Design.

Welcome to the team Zoaya!