

CELEBRATING

35

YEARS

Chautauqua Region



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF LIFE
IN THE CHAUTAUQUA REGION

1978-2003

“To give away money is an easy matter and any man’s power. But to decide to whom to give it and how much and when, for what purpose and how, is neither in every man’s power, nor an easy matter.”

— Aristotle, 384 B.C.-322 B.C.

This year, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation is celebrating a legacy of 25 years in pursuit of its mission to enrich the quality of life in the Chautauqua Region. It is only fitting that at this time, the Community Foundation acknowledge those responsible for the gifts that first put it on this path—the gifts of time, dedication and leadership. Without those three ingredients, which our founders gave in seemingly endless amounts, there might not be a Community Foundation today.

When one reads the quote above, it should spring to mind that a community foundation can answer each of the questions posed therein, or at least provide guidance. Unfortunately for Aristotle, the community foundation concept was developed too late to be of help. Here in Jamestown, however, a group of forward-thinking citizens learned about community foundations and, in 1978—after a long period of investigation and work—established one dedicated to enriching the quality of life in the Chautauqua Region.

Although the Community Foundation is thriving 25 years later, its founding was by no means a guarantee of success. Indeed, Eugene Struckoff, a nationally recognized expert on community foundations contracted to investigate the viability of such an organization in the area, first arrived in Chautauqua County with doubts that a community of this size could ever support a healthy community foundation. In fact, it was his experience that most such organizations languished, rarely going over \$1 million in

assets. It was only after his visit that Struckoff discovered what those living here already know: our community is blessed with a population possessed of a strong sense of identity and community spirit, an active donor base and a supportive financial community.

Based on his findings, Struckoff—who arrived as a skeptic—recommended to the group that a community foundation was, in fact, a viable option. He then suggested that the founders of the Community Foundation move quickly to reach the \$1 million level in assets.

Things moved quickly from there. The founders, who consisted of Kenneth W. Strickler, Miles L. Lasser, Elizabeth S. Lenna, Samuel P. Price Sr., John L. Sellstrom and Richard W. Parker, established the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation with the aid of a \$300,000 grant from the Gebbie Foundation. John D. Hamilton, the long-time president of Gebbie, was an avid supporter of the community foundation project.

Ken Strickler was elected as the fledgling foundation’s first board president and, with the help of the rest of the board of directors—including Francis Grow—the Foundation began to work with the local banks and attorneys to reach a target goal of \$1 million in assets in 5 years. In just one short year, the Chautauqua Region Community Fund (as it was first known) had bucked the odds to become a success story. The stage was set for the Foundation to become one of the fastest-growing community foundations of the 1980s and 1990s.



Volunteers are what makes the Community Foundation a success.

Over the past 25 years, the Community Foundation has benefited from the leadership of a number of dedicated individuals. As board presidents, they solicited donations to help the Foundation grow, served as guides for the Foundation through the ups and downs of the financial markets, helped create effective grant programs and set the course for the future that would ensure that the Foundation was in a position to respond to the future needs of the community.

Read on below for some remembrances from our former presidents.

KENNETH W. STRICKLER 1978-1987

“It was certainly exciting to be a part of something new and innovative in the community! Everyone involved in the founding of the Community Foundation put in a great deal of hard work, with others stepping up to offer their assistance.”

“Of course, the initial goals for the Foundation were based around developing endowment assets. Francis Grow, secretary of the board and a longtime employee of the Bank of Jamestown and Marine Midland Bank, was instrumental in the initial goals of \$1 million and \$5 million.”

“With so many people working so diligently throughout the past 25 years, it is no surprise that the Community Foundation is the success that it is.”

CRAIG P. COLBURN 1987-1989

“My time with the Community Foundation was my most enjoyable and rewarding community service endeavor. In the early years, the community’s interest in giving was wonderfully challenging. We were constantly innovating new fund concepts, such as Donor-Advised or Field of Interest, in support of emerging donor interests. The challenge was to balance donor initiatives with long-term manageability and fiduciary obligations.”

“What is truly amazing is that the community itself has never stopped challenging the Foundation in that regard, and I suspect that it never will. Perhaps that is the essence of a community foundation!”

GREGORY L. PETERSON 1989-1994

“The goal of the Community Foundation during the 5 years that I served as president was to raise the community’s awareness of the organization. We certainly did that, garnering a lot of publicity for a number of things, like creating the first ever local scholarship booklet for school counselors, students and their families.”

“The community has many assets, but none that is so pervasive and so enduring as the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. I was glad to be a small part of its rich legacy.”

TYLER C. SWANSON 1994-1996

“My tenure as CRCF president was busy. The Foundation relocated its office from the Hotel Jamestown Building to the Commons Mall and assets rose to approximately \$21 million. The growth in assets led the board to consider its investment strategies, which resulted in the addition of new managers, as well as a move to the ‘total return’ definition of income.”

“I have been fortunate to have worked with or assisted many local community service organizations, but none of my efforts have been more rewarding than my time spent at the Community Foundation.”

DONALD L. MEYER

1996-1997

“I think often of the farsighted founders of the Community Foundation, especially those who are no longer with us, and how pleased they would be to see the tremendous benefit the Foundation has been to the Chautauqua region. The Foundation is a reminder of the importance of big dreams.”

“I treasure the opportunity to have worked with such a talented and gifted staff, some of whom continue to serve. The entire community has been greatly enriched because of the Foundation’s work, and I consider my service with the Foundation as one of the significant highlights of my life.”

RANDY M. ORDINES

1997-2000

“In the 1990’s, the Community Foundation was rapidly becoming a household name. By my term as president in 1997, there were over 230 funds, \$24.9 million in assets, hundreds of donations each month and over 100 volunteers to coordinate.”

“To ensure the Foundation’s ability to professionally manage its growing responsibilities, the board made a number of administrative decisions that have since borne fruit. At the same time, we began a long-term commitment to education in our community. By the end of 1999, the Foundation had over 300 individual funds totaling \$40.3 million and had drastically decreased overhead expenses.”

“I must confess that it has been amazing to have been involved with the Community Foundation’s incredible volunteer effort. Thousands of people have given passionately of their resources in its shaping, and I am very thankful to have been a small part of their effort and the Foundation's legacy.”

MAX R. PICKARD

2000-2003

“What an exciting time it was during my tenure as president of the Community Foundation. The Foundation purchased, renovated and moved into the former National Fuel building in Jamestown; assets peaked at approximately \$41.2 million, grants crested the \$2 million mark and scholarships surpassed \$500,000. The Foundation also received its largest single gift ever of \$3 million.”

“And, thanks to the commitment of the Gebbie Foundation, the Community Foundation was able to provide support to the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena project.”

“I will always be proud of what the Community Foundation has accomplished, because it was done with the support and dedication of the entire community; and I suspect I will take away as much as I contributed to the organization.”



ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

1978

Seed Grant from Gebbie Foundation To Establish Chautauqua Region Community Foundation

1980

Assets - \$659,386
Unrestricted Grants - \$30,180
First Funds - Roger C. Seager Memorial Scholarship Fund

1981

Assets - \$890,642
Grants - \$43,893
Scholarships - \$6,500
Moved to Hotel Jamestown Office

1982

Assets - \$1,067,211
Grants - \$65,855
Scholarships - \$7,000
Axel W. Carlson Memorial Fund Established



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With an organization as active as the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, with such a broad scope—Enriching the quality of life in the Chautauqua Region—you can expect a mountainous list of accomplishments over a 25 year period. So, what should we talk about when faced with a list of things that far exceeds the amount of space available?

Well, it goes without saying that we must acknowledge the efforts of that first Community Foundation board of directors, which was comprised of the following individuals: Carl Cappa, Barbara Carlson, Francis Grow, Miles Lasser, Betty Lenna, Marion Panzarella and Kenneth Strickler. Their efforts, all done on a purely volunteer basis, were responsible for the Foundation's stable footing and quick realization of its initial \$1 million goal.



Members of the Foundation's first Board of Directors discussing its future course.



Francis B. Grow.

Among that group was the man who would become the Community Foundation's first paid Executive Director—Francis Grow. Mr. Grow, a respected individual from the area's banking community, was perhaps the leading reason that so many banks allowed trusts in their care to be transferred to the responsibility of the fledgling foundation. Several of the Foundation's largest funds to date, such as the Walter and Grace Hazzard Scholarship Fund, are trusts that were brought here by Mr. Grow.

Other early funds include the Roger C. Seager Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Axel W. Carlson Memorial Fund, and the Blossom Fund.

The 1980's were heady days for the Community Foundation as it rode a wave of growth that marked it as one of the fastest growing community foundations in the country. After reaching the \$1 million mark in assets in 1981, the Foundation rose quickly to just over \$3 million in 1985. After that, the Foundation realized almost \$7 million in asset growth, hitting the \$10 million mark in assets just in time for its 10 year anniversary celebration.

"The James Prendergast Library salutes the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, a community asset, on its 25th Anniversary. The Foundation's loyal and generous support of our book and other materials budget, as well as our many service programs throughout the past 25 years, is one reason why Prendergast is one of the top 100 public libraries in the United States. Thank you and congratulations!"

— Catherine Way
Asst. Director,
James Prendergast Library Association

E I N T H E C H A U T A U Q U A R E G I O N

1983

Assets - \$1,558,110
Grants - \$104,553
Scholarships - \$7,672
The Blossom Fund
Established



1984

Assets - \$1,697,981
Grants - \$100,046
Scholarships - \$6,925
Gebbie Foundation
Provides Funding For
Administrative Expenses
Walter and Grace Hazzard
Fund Established

1985

Assets - \$3,158,800
Grants - \$311,924
Scholarships - \$212,815
First Axel Carlson
Award Recipient



1986

Assets - \$6,947,818
Grants - \$183,031
Scholarships - \$121,866
Catherine Campbell Rexford
Scholarship Fund
established



Frances P. Marra, 1997 Axel W. Carlson Award recipient.

During that time, growth wasn't merely limited to asset size. At the same time, grants—which in 1980 totaled only \$30,000, grew to a total of \$560,000 at the 10 year mark. Scholarships, which began in 1981 at \$6,500, grew to \$170,000. The Community Foundation now had 71 funds to manage, including the Gordon and Mabel Morse Danielson Memorial Fund and the Hanna-Carola Art Scholarship Fund.

It was during that first decade of operation that the Community Foundation began to honor local volunteers with the Axel W. Carlson Award. Designed to honor the “unsung heroes” among our many volunteers, the award was first given to David Robbins in 1986. Since then, 16 more awards have been made to our “unsung heroes”; people in this community who quietly give of their time, energy and commitment to make this area a better place.

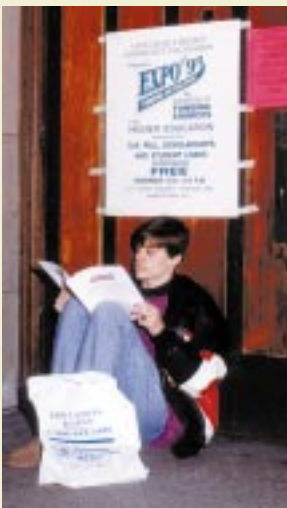
The time from 1986 through 1993 marked a period of steady growth, with the Community Foundation reaching \$17.5 million in assets. Funds like the Cappa Family Fund and the Kathy Wilson Memorial Education Fund were established; and in a significant move, the Community Foundation received the assets of the Karl Peterson Foundation, a private foundation with ties to the family that established the former Crescent Tool Company. Those assets allowed the Foundation to establish the Karl Peterson Grant program, which is one of the few in the country sponsored by a public foundation that allows churches to apply for funding. It also demonstrated the trust and reputation that the Community Foundation had built in the community.

Grants and scholarship awards continued to grow as well, reaching \$830,000 and \$466,000 respectively.

1993 was an important year in terms of events. The first ever EXPO - Funding An Education event was held at the Jamestown Armory. Developed as a way to promote the Foundation scholarship program, as well as provide information on financial aid options, the Foundation offers EXPO to this day as a part of the Jamestown Community Foundation's College & Career Night. As a part of the event, the Foundation also began publishing the Scholarship Survey, a booklet that listed every scholarship it offered, as well as instructions, timelines and even other scholarship sources outside of the Foundation.



In 1992, the Karl Peterson Foundation (of Crescent Tool fame) merged with the Community Foundation.



A student discovers the many scholarship opportunities available at the Foundation's first EXPO: Funding An Education event in 1993.

ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

1987

Assets - \$7,255,128
 Grants - \$297,846
 Scholarships - \$169,240
 71 Funds
 Community Service
 (Unrestricted Funds) -
 \$109,890
 Gordon and Mabel Morse
 Danielson Memorial Fund
 Established

1988

Assets - \$8,611,217
 Grants - \$561,371
 Scholarships - \$200,543
 Hanna-Carola Art
 Scholarship Fund
 Established
10th Anniversary

1989

Assets - \$12,043,670
 Grants - \$519,265
 Scholarships - \$239,020
 Lucile M. Wright Air
 Museum Scholarship Fund
 Established

1990

Assets - \$13,040,985
 Grants - \$737,442
 419 Scholarships Awarded
 - \$343,814
 108 Funds
 Kathy Wilson Memorial
 Educational Fund
 Established



The Community Foundation also started its other award in 1993: the Community Service Award. The first recipient was none other than John D. Hamilton, the long-time president of the Gebbie Foundation known for his dedication to the community. After Mr. Hamilton was presented the award, it was promptly renamed the John D. Hamilton Community Service Award. Since then, 10 individuals have been honored for service to the community that reflects the ideals that Mr. Hamilton's actions and deeds inspired.



John D. Hamilton.

The next period of the Community Foundation's development marked a spurt of rapid growth—often several million dollars each year. From 1993 through 2001, the Foundation's assets rose from \$17.5 million to \$41.4 million! While some of that growth may be attributed to the strength of the Foundation's investment portfolio, it is also important to acknowledge the significant gifts that were made during that period.

For example, local philanthropists Reginald and Betty Lenna established funds to benefit the Reg Lenna Civic Center and the SS Peter and Paul Church. Juliet Rosch gave \$1 million to establish the Juliet Anderson Rosch Scholarship Fund for students graduating from Falconer High School. And, in the largest gift ever received by the Community Foundation, the estates of Malcolm and Jeanette Malmstrom Nichols gave \$3 million to be used for a variety of charitable purposes.



Reginald A. and Elizabeth S. Lenna.

Both grants and scholarships grew by leaps and bounds, exceeding both the \$1 and \$2 million marks for grants, as well as the \$500,000 mark for scholarships.

2002 was a time of readjustment for the financial markets, which had an effect on the overall Community Foundation investment portfolio. Thanks in part to the solid investment strategies of the Foundation, coupled with the continued support of the donors of the community, grants and scholarships rose above the 2001 figures. 2003 is showing signs of improvement; and thanks to the continued support of the community, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation will continue to improve on its 25 year history of enriching the quality of life in the Chautauqua Region.

“The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation was born as an infant in 1978, crawled for three years, began grabbing at support for five years, walked steadily, picked up speed as a juvenile, ran a race with a good coaching team, and came to the top as a winner admired by all. It's been a happy journey! Good Work to all the caretakers of the Foundation; the Boards, Staff and Contributors.”

— Elizabeth S. Lenna

Community Foundation founder, board member and donor

E I N T H E C H A U T A U Q U A R E G I O N

1991

Assets - \$14,628,714
Grants - \$693,583
Scholarships - \$359,622
Cappa Family Fund
Established



1992

Assets - \$16,494,679
Grants - \$835,539
Scholarships - \$398,337
Karl Peterson Unrestricted
Fund
Karl Peterson Lutheran
Social Services Fund
Karl Peterson First
Lutheran Church Fund

1993

Assets - \$17,543,959
Grants - \$830,149
Expo—Funding An
Education - First Year
Scholarship Survey
Booklet - First Edition
John D. Hamilton Award -
First Annual
Corl A. Belknap Daughters
of the American Revolution
Fund Established
Alison Ney - Christa
Stineman Memorial
Scholarship Fund
Established

1994

Assets - \$17,412,610
Grants - \$604,972
Scholarships - \$231,347
Kathleen A. Black
Memorial Scholarship
Fund Established
Robert 'Bobby' Guy Pollino II
Memorial Scholarship
Fund Established

In this 25th anniversary year, the Community Foundation is proud to have Kristy Zabrodsky as its first female president.

Read on for some plans for the future from our newest president.

“The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation has a rich history of commitment to the community in terms of families, youth, human services and education. This commitment will continue into the future. In a time of ever-increasing need and decreasing funding dollars, we believe it will be our challenge to use our resources to fund the organizations and projects that will have the greatest impact on improving our community’s overall sustainability.”

“In addition, we are continuing our active involvement in the greater community by collaborating and participating in projects that we feel will have a long-term impact on the Foundation’s mission of enriching the quality of life in the Chautauqua Region.”

— Kristy B. Zabrodsky
current board president

The success of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation over the past 25 years may be attributed to a variety of factors, but two, volunteers and donors, rank as some of the most important.

On one side of the coin are the donors of this fine community – they are where it all starts. Without their generosity, foresight and commitment to the mission of the Foundation, there would be little in the way of funds to help the many charitable organizations and projects throughout the region, nor would there be any funding available to help our students get the higher education that they need to succeed in today’s world.

Through the years, the Foundation has highlighted some of the larger gifts it has received, starting with the \$300,000 gift from the Gebbie Foundation in 1978 and culminating with the recent \$3 million gift from the estate of Malcolm and Jeanette Nichols. Such gifts are greatly appreciated, but are often few and far between.



C. Malcolm and Jeanette Malmstrom Nichols.

More common by far are the gifts from the average donor— usually in the range of \$25. Such gifts are just as important to the Foundation as the larger ones, because they demonstrate the support of the community as the Foundation helps everyone participate in community philanthropy.

On the other side of the coin are the Foundation’s many volunteers. While the donors provide the resources, the volunteers provide the muscle. For example, the Community Foundation uses volunteers to help with a variety of office functions, such as sorting, mailing, data entry and other clerical needs. Individuals like Helen Clark or Barb Josephson, who have volunteered at the Foundation longer than most current employee’s tenure with the organization, help keep the day-to-day operations manageable.



“I choose to volunteer at the Community Foundation so I can have a purpose that helps me and helps others as well. My association with the Foundation has led to my husband and I establishing our own fund there as well.”

Barb Josephson –longtime CRCF volunteer & donor

ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

1995

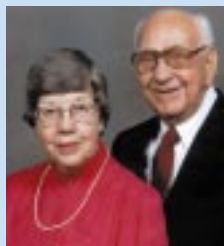
Assets - \$21,054,233
Grants - \$770,944
Scholarships - \$252,464
Fran Grow Honored With
John D. Hamilton Award
Foundation Moved to Office
at 21 East Third Street

1996

Assets - \$24,926,923
Grants - \$823,664
Scholarships - \$251,000
Community Conscious
Youth Group Established
Reg and Betty Lenna
Establish Funds for Reg
Lenna Civic Center and SS
Peter & Paul Church
S. Ralph and Frances P.
Marra Scholarship Fund
Established
Florence L. and Leonard J.
Field Memorial Scholarship
Fund Established

1997

Assets - \$30,439,890
Grants - 1,099,294
Scholarships - \$296,715
Allen R. and Margaret H.
Findlay Fund Established



1998

Assets - \$34,736,047
Grants - \$1,408,886
Scholarships - 419
Recipients - \$392,821
20th Anniversary
Walter J. Colburn Memorial
Scholarship Fund
Established
Juliet Anderson Rosch
Scholarship Fund
Established

Volunteers comprise each and every committee at the Community Foundation. Those volunteers, many of whom are drawn from the Foundation's 39 different Members, put a lot of hours into the work of the Community Foundation. For example, the scholarship arena alone is comprised of a number of individual selection committees totaling approximately 100 men and woman from around Chautauqua County. Each of these individuals has taken it upon themselves to review scholarship applications—sometimes numbering in the hundreds—in order to help the Foundation choose the best qualified students.

Volunteers are also used extensively on the grants side of the Foundation operation, with 3 different committees reviewing applications, making site visits and recommending grant awards to the board. Without their assistance, completing the grant process in a timely and thorough manner would be difficult, if not impossible.

The Community Foundation has even begun enlisting younger volunteers through the Community Conscious Youth group. This collection of high school-age men and women from the Jamestown area are currently helping the Foundation research and administer the Kids First Mini Grant process, with great results!

And, of course, there is the Community Foundation board of directors—11 men and women from a variety of different backgrounds and experiences—each volunteering their time and expertise to help guide the Foundation. It is due primarily to the efforts of these people, and those who came before them, that the Community Foundation is the healthy, active voice for philanthropy that it is today.

Donors and volunteers—each approaching community service in a different way, but each doing what they do because they have an honest desire to help the community, and because they believe in the Community Foundation's mission to enrich the quality of life in the Chautauqua Region.

"I feel privileged and honored to be part of a decision-making process that tries to responsibly impact our community and benefit its many diverse interests and needs."

Anna Jochum—current board member

"I appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to participate in making the Chautauqua Region a better place to live. My contribution of time, coordinated through the efforts of the many individuals involved in the Community Foundation, leads me to believe that we augment the good causes for our community in a big way."

— Daniel Black,
current board member



2002-03 members of the Community Conscious Youth.

"Chautauqua Striders congratulates the staff and board of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for 25 years of commitment to our community. The professional and financial support we have received from the foundation has allowed us to increase academic, outreach and mentoring opportunities for youth in southern Chautauqua County. We wish you continued success for the next 25 years."

— Deborah Kathman,
Executive Director, Chautauqua Striders

E I N T H E C H A U T A U Q U A R E G I O N

1999

Assets - \$40,282,322
Grants - \$1,555,366
Scholarships - \$437,913
Craig 'Swanny' Swanson
Memorial Scholarship
Fund Established



2000

Assets - \$41,101,288
Grants - \$1,442,680
Scholarships - \$473,218
Patrick Morales Memorial
Scholarship Fund
Established



2001

Assets - \$41,442,032
Grants - \$2,145,852
Scholarships - \$545,574
Southern Chautauqua
County Retired Teachers
Scholarship Fund
Established

2002

Assets - \$35,825,465
Grants - \$2,339,762
Scholarships - \$580,057
Dempsey Lewis Knight
Memorial Scholarship
Fund Established
Edwin J. and Katherine
M. Hegstedt Memorial
Fund Established

THANK YOU



CRCF scholarships produce results!



Margaret B. and David R. Blossom.



Children, education and the Foundation hand-in-hand.

- 357 charitable funds.
- \$6 million in scholarship awards.
- \$11.4 million in grant awards.
- \$25.6 million in contributions from donors such as yourself.

The numbers themselves tell a story of success where experts 25 years ago would be prone to predict failure. The Community Foundation doesn't lay sole claim to this milestone, however; for it is actually a success for the entire community. Without the wonderful donors and volunteers with whom this community has been blessed with in abundance, the Community Foundation could have accomplished little of what it has to date.

John D. Hamilton of the Gebbie Foundation was fond of a particular quote by William Jennings Bryan, which he had the pleasure of hearing directly from the source during a lecture Senator Bryan gave at Chautauqua in the 1920s. It reads, "...but what a person is really worth is what he gives back to the society into which he is born."

That one statement makes so much sense. So, while it is easy to measure the worth of the Community Foundation in terms of numbers, let us instead think about the worth of the Foundation as measured by what it has returned to the community that birthed it. For 25 years, the Community Foundation has provided thousands of students with scholarships, has provided hundreds of organizations and projects with the funding necessary to do good things, all in the name of **ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CHAUTAUQUA REGION.**

We think that that is a job worth doing; and the Board and Staff of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation look forward to doing that job in this community for a long, long time—and always with your help and guidance.



A recipient of a Foundation music scholarship.

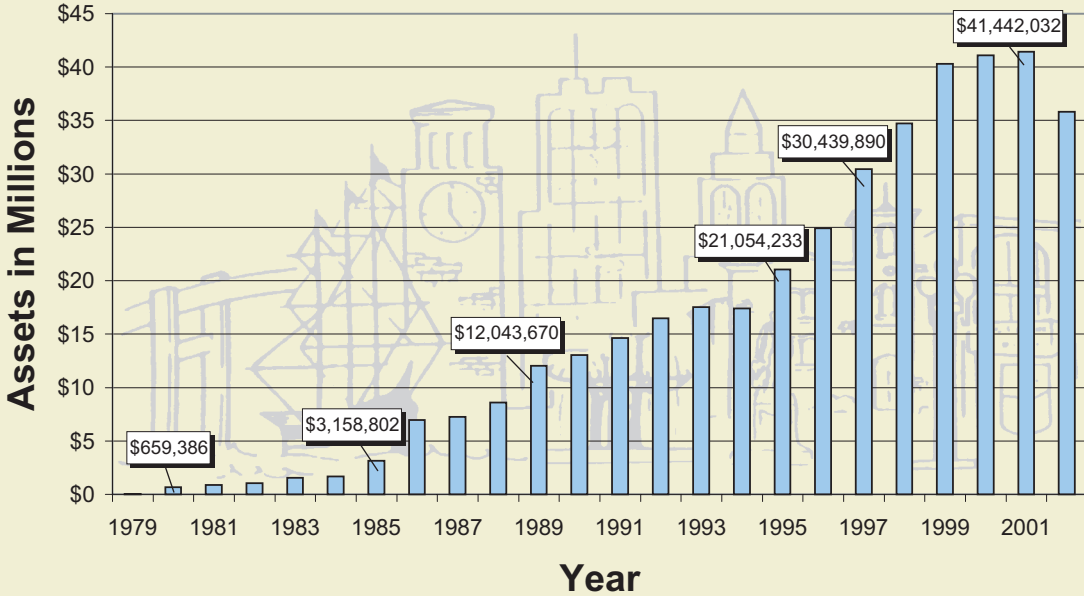


The Community Foundation Grants Committee.

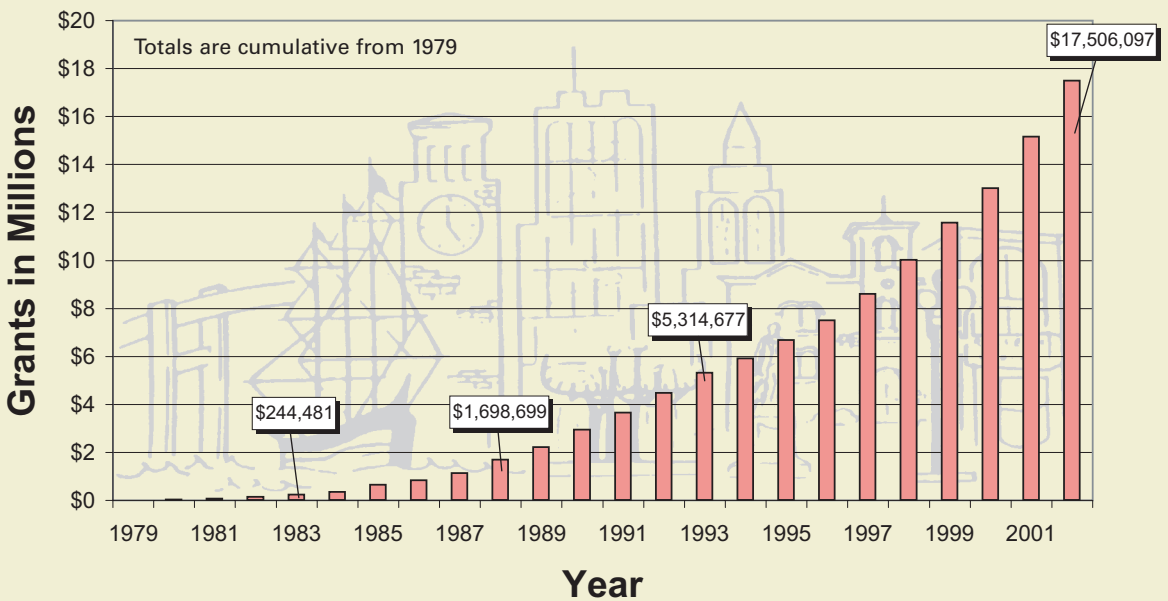


A Foundation grant at work in the classroom.

Your Community Foundation: Building A Strong Base...



... to Enrich the Quality of Life in the Chautauqua Region





Chautauque Region Community Foundation

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