2012 John D. Hamilton Community Service Award

Much like the Boy Scouts, John Anderson has been known to perform quite a few Good Turns throughout the Chautauqua Region. On September 6, Mr. Anderson was presented the 2012 John D. Hamilton Community Service Award at Moon Brook Country Club in front of 150 guests.

As a 32° Mason, Mr. Anderson has been committed to the betterment of humanity through widespread community involvement. A Boy Scout in his youth, he served on the Board of Directors for the Allegheny Highland Council of the Boy Scouts for 25 years. Other organizations benefitting from his selflessness include: The Robert H. Jackson Center, Lutheran Social Services, Annual Fund Drive for the Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua Striders, Sunset Hill Cemetery Board, James Prendergast Library Association and Chautauqua County Tobacco Asset Securitization Commission.

While many have inspired Mr. Anderson to perform these Good Turns in our community, he attributes it all to a higher power.

"After my wife died, I thought God's purpose for me was to make all I can and give it to worthwhile organizations. That's what I have tried to do," Mr. Anderson said.

Currently, Mr. Anderson serves as president of Bodell, Overcash, Anderson and Company. He is also one of the founding directors of Jamestown Savings Bank, as well as the founder and president of the Judith J. Anderson Family Foundation, created in memory of his late wife. The John D. Hamilton Community Service Award is given annually to an individual who has shown dedication, leadership and support in furthering community spirit and enriching the quality of life in the Chautauqua Region.

2012 Axel W. Carlson “Unsung Hero” Award

Norman Merrill, a man often behind the scenes on opening night, stole the show on August 10, when he was named the 27th Axel W. Carlson Award recipient.

For 47 years, Mr. Merrill has volunteered at the Lucille Ball Little Theatre, building sets, maintaining and repairing the building, and even serving on the House Committee. To date, Mr. Merrill has built 83 sets for various shows and productions at the Theatre. During this time, he has also been an integral part of the Junior Guilders, a children’s show choir created by his wife, Helen.

Surrounded by 250 family members, friends and community well-wishers, Mr. Merrill accepted the award following performances from the Junior Guilders, Jamestown Harmony Express, Little Theatre President Bob Ostrom and others.

This award, also called the "Unsung Hero Award," is given annually to an individual who exudes community service and dedication to the area without expecting any sort of recognition.

Mr. Merrill was nominated by Kim Earle and her son Michael, a former Junior Guilder. After retiring from the construction industry in 1998, Mr. Merrill says he was offered three paying jobs in the field. “I turned them all down,” he said. “I loved being a full-time volunteer.”
New Employees

Beverley M. Lubi
Fund Development Officer

Prior to joining the Foundation, Bev was the Administrative Director for YMCA Camp Onyahsa, the resident Camp Program of the Jamestown YMCA, since 2003.

Bev looks forward to cultivating relationships with individuals, local not for profits, prospective and current donors as well as professional advisors for the long term benefit of the Foundation and community.

She can be reached by phone, 716.661.3390, or email, blubi@crcfonline.org.

Sarah M. Marciniak
Communications Associate

Sarah is a 2011 graduate of the Russell J. Jandoli School of Journalism and Mass Communication at St. Bonaventure University. She has completed internships with the Lancaster Central School District, Buffalo Museum of Science and Roaming Buffaloes.

Sarah can be reached by email, smarciniak@crcfonline.org or phone, 716.661.3390.

New Funds Spotlight

When the leaves start changing colors, many in the Chautauqua Region begin to ready themselves for pumpkins, cool weather and the Busti Apple Festival.

This year, attendants at the 38th annual festival had the unique opportunity to visit the Busti Grist Mill, which has undergone extensive renovations over the past year. In March, the Busti Historical Society established the Busti Historical Society and Grist Mill Fund to provide funding for continued progress on the Mill, as well as other projects affiliated with the Society. To make a donation to this fund, contact the Community Foundation.

The Lucile T. Valvo Memorial Fund was established in honor of Lucile Valvo, a long time member of the Forestville Central School District.

Although she attended South Dayton High School and graduated from Jamestown Business College, Mrs. Valvo served as Clerk to the Board of Education for 57 years at Forestville.

When she passed away, her family created this scholarship in her name.

This annual award will be presented to a Forestville senior, or seniors, majoring in a business-related field who show good character and citizenship.

A life-long dairy farmer, Willis Archer grew up understanding the impact agriculture had not only on his life, but on his community as well.

After graduating from Randolph Central School, where he was president of the Future Farmers of America, Mr. Archer owned and operated his family’s fourth generation dairy farm for 41 years.

He lived by the thought, “Everyone needs to give back to the community in which they live.”

After his passing in June, his wife, Gretta, established the Willis N. Archer Agricultural Scholarship Fund.

This scholarship will assist a graduating Randolph Central School senior, or seniors, who are active participants in the Future Farmers of America program with a GPA of a 3.0 (“B” average) or better.

A hard worker and dedicated family man, Robert Van Every set a strong example to those around him.

A Falconer High School graduate and World War II Army veteran, Mr. Van Every was a successful businessman in his hometown.

He was elected mayor of Falconer in 1962 and served for four years. He also served as a volunteer firefighter for 50 years and as a member of the Falconer Rotary Club.

Following his death in May, his children established the Robert and Katherine Van Every Falconer High School Scholarship Fund to assist graduating seniors who demonstrate the ability to work hard for their future, despite life’s obstacles.

After suffering funding cuts in 2011 and eventually losing all County funding this year, the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County 4-H Youth Development program was in a hard spot.

In September, they created the Cornell Cooperative Extension Chautauqua County 4-H Endowment Fund. With a goal of $2 million by 2017, this fund would provide money for 4-H programming.

Currently, the Chautauqua County Chapter of 4-H serves 478 members between the ages of 5 and 19. With 68% of members living in rural areas, 4-H reaches out to those with limited access to youth development programs and provides them an opportunity to experience the core values of head, heart, hands and health. To make a donation to this fund, contact the Community Foundation.
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Create an Unrestricted Fund to Help our Community

By Michael B. Engdahl, JD, CFP®

Since 1978, individuals have been turning to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF) to make effective philanthropic giving. The CRCF assists donors with creating a “fund” in order to support charitable goals. A donor can create a fund in honor of someone he or she loves or to celebrate a special event. The gift can be directed to satisfy a broadly or narrowly defined need the donor cares about or to assist wherever the community’s needs are greatest.

However, according to Randy Sweeney, Executive Director of the CRCF, the most critical needs of our region can only be addressed through unrestricted funds (a.k.a. community service funds). Unrestricted funds offer the broadest giving option and allow grants to be made wherever the CRCF Board of Directors determines our community’s needs are the greatest. According to Mr. Sweeney, “our community currently has several pressing and significant needs. These include recruiting quality physicians to our area, maintaining areas on and around Chautauqua Lake, and renovating Jamestown neighborhoods. Therefore, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation is focusing its efforts on increasing unrestricted funds through charitable giving.”

Since the ability to meet changing needs is vital to our local community, donors establishing funds at the CRCF should consider unrestricted funds. Potential donors can learn more by contacting the CRCF at (716) 661-3390 or going to www.crcfonline.org.

Michael B. Engdahl, JD, CFP® is an Associate Professor of Financial Services and Business Law at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, a “fee-only” CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner, and an attorney, who represents investors in their disputes with brokerage firms and the financial services industry. He is also a member of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

Thank you, Molly and Lucy, for your donation to our unrestricted fund. Their contribution will help better the community they grow up in.

Northwest Bancshares, parent company to Northwest Savings Bank, was named one of “America’s Most Trustworthy Companies of 2012” by Forbes. Recently, Northwest Savings Bank established the Northwest Savings Bank Community Service Fund at the Community Foundation. This fund will assist needs throughout the community, as determined by the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Thank you, Northwest, for trusting us as much as your customers trust you!

These are some of the local organizations that received unrestricted funds this year to keep making our region a better place!
Good things can happen when you don’t even expect them to.

That was the lesson many at the Community Foundation learned in 2003 when a check arrived in the mail from a mysterious donor. Isabelle Jones, a lifelong member of Bethel Lutheran Church, was a modest woman who enjoyed reading, crocheting and watching old movies. She graduated from Jamestown High School and worked as a clerk for the former Jamestown Telephone Company until her retirement.

So what would make this relative stranger give such a generous donation to an organization she wasn't affiliated with? When asked, she simply stated, “I see your picture in the paper all the time. You are doing good things in the community.”

When Ms. Jones passed away in February 2010, she dedicated a portion of her estate to the Foundation. While she saw many good things happening in the community while she was with us, she is now a part of continuing that legacy.

To discuss a planned giving strategy that fits your charitable interests, contact the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, 716.661.3390.