Celebrating 35 Years of Caring and Giving

In 1978, a gallon of gas cost $0.63, the Dallas Cowboys had just won Super Bowl XII and the idea of an organization designed to support local charitable initiatives was about to become a reality. Now, 35 years later we are going back to our roots to celebrate the spirit of caring and giving that led us here today.

On March 8th, we unveiled the Caring and Giving banner, located on the Lillian V. Ney Renaissance Center in Downtown Jamestown. As part of this unveiling, Jim Roselle and Dennis Webster from WJTN hosted a radio remote in which they interviewed many key participants in our Caring and Giving Campaign.

Founding members Miles Lasser (pictured top left) and Ken Strickler took us back to 1978 and explained the need for a public foundation that is supported by people throughout the region. They reiterated the fact that donations made without restrictions are important for the sustainability of our region.

Unrestricted donations, or the Fund for the Region, support a variety of initiatives as determined by the Foundation’s Board of Directors. Most recently, grants from this fund have been awarded to improve economic development, quality education and healthcare.

We may not know what the next 35 years hold, but by following the path that the founding members, Board of Directors, donors and staff members who have come before us laid out, we can be sure the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation will remain a place where caring and giving prevail.

This Little Piggy Went to the Library

As the future of our region, we believe it is important for our younger generation to understand the concept of caring and giving. Whether this message encourages them to grow up and become community leaders, give their time to help others or care enough to start their own fund to support their charitable interests, they too can make good things happen at any age.

The Piggy Bank Program is an opportunity for area libraries to introduce caring and giving on a simpler level. Children and parents are encouraged to take a bank and fill it with pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters and give back. This money can be earned from chores, found between couch cushions or collected from family members. The amount of money collected is not what is important, but the fact that they are collecting it with the intention to use it to make a difference.
Supporting Your Faith

The mission of the Kennedy First United Methodist Church is, "A church that is sensitive to the community and witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ." In November 2012, a local community member established the Kennedy First United Methodist Church Fund to support the organization and any charitable activities it may provide.

Since 1844 The Methodist Society has been holding meetings in Kennedy. In 1879, after sharing a building with the Poland Free Church, the Society built their own building on the site where the Church still stands today.

New Funds Spotlight

Honoring a Legend

A successful politician, Stan Lundine served as Mayor of Jamestown, Member of the United States House of Representatives and Lieutenant Governor of New York. When he retired from politics in 1995, Mr. Lundine continued volunteering his time to his community and the Chautauqua Region. While serving as Executive Director of the Chautauqua County Health Network, Mr. Lundine served on the Board of Directors for several non-profit organizations, one of which was the Robert H. Jackson Center where he still serves today. The Stan Lundine/Robert H. Jackson Fund has been established to honor both Mr. Lundine and his impact on our region. Grants from this fund will provide financial assistance to the Jackson Center for expenses related to programing events at, or created by, the Center.

Music to Our Ears

Ebba Goranson and her brother Arthur created Jamestown High School’s A Capella Choir, Orchestra and Band programs in 1924. They committed themselves to music, serving as music directors of Jamestown High School well into the 1930s and 1940s.

In the 1940s, the Goransons developed music groups to perform at the train station as draftees left for World War II. Every morning for four years, regardless of the weather, students would gather with their community and play. In 1967, the Allen Park Band Shell was dedicated to honor the Goransons for their hard work implementing choral and instrumental music into the Jamestown public schools.

It is their lifetime of dedication to music and community that led former students, brothers Donald and James King, to establish the Donald West and James Wilson King Endowment Fund, in honor of Arthur and Ebba Goranson. Grants from this fund will support a variety of expenses associated with Jamestown High School’s band program as they prepare for their spring concert.

A “Swimmingly” Good Time

On June 8th, the Chautauqua Lake Triathlon Coalition is asking local residents to get hooked on swimming, biking and running. The inaugural Big Fish Triathlon will highlight Chautauqua County’s best assets; a beautiful landscape that features Chautauqua Lake and a strong, healthy community. All proceeds from the event will be placed in the Big Fish Triathlon Non-Endowed Fund and benefit YMCA Camp Onyahsa with a portion dedicated to the development of a diabetic camp for children.

According to the Coalition, this event is meant to encourage active and healthy lifestyles while raising awareness of Chautauqua Lake and Camp Onyahsa as gems in our community. For more information on the Triathlon visit www.bigfishtriathlon.com.
Honorariums

Gifts were made between July 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 in honor of:

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At left, The Jamestown Elks Lodge #263 presented third graders across the county with brand new dictionaries to use in the classroom. A grant from The Blossom Fund matched the Elks’ donation.

At right, Ed Shults Ford Lincoln Hyundai of Jamestown donated $500 to the 4-H Endowment Fund.

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The Community Foundation’s Annual Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Gateway Train Station. More details and a formal invitation will follow.
Over $1 Million Available in Scholarships

With scholarship season in full swing and over $1 million available for students in 2013-2014, we caught up with some of our past scholarship recipients to see what they were up to today. While many of our “scholarship alumni” call Chautauqua County home we learned that many of them are scattered all over the country! We are proud to have helped thousands of students over the years accomplish their dreams through our scholarship program. A big thank you to our donors who have made this possible. For high school seniors and college students who have not applied yet, what are you waiting for? All materials are due June 1st.

Whitney Gladney (Jamieson)
“I am currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia researching cancer and the immune system.”

Caitlin Burlett
“I own and manage my own small organic farm growing diversified vegetables, meat and milk for a community supported agriculture project.”

Andrew Bohn
“I am currently practicing emergency medicine in the U.S. Airforce at San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Pamela Warner (Wright)
“Since 2001 I have been a teacher at Panama Central School. I anticipate graduating from SUNY Fredonia with a certificate of advanced study-school building administration.”

Bryan Cummings
“Received my B.S. in Ceramic Engineering from Alfred University and currently work as a process engineer at RHI Monotrax in Falconer, NY.”

Laurie Abadie (Darling)
“After 10 years in Mission Control, now works for NASA’s Human Research Program Education and Outreach.”