

Community

CONNECTIONS

A newsletter of the Niskayuna Community Foundation ... enhancing the quality of life in Niskayuna through organized philanthropy.
The Niskayuna Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the Capital Region.

Caring for our community

First annual NCF grant program an immediate success

The Niskayuna Community Foundation (NCF) is pleased to announce the inaugural distribution of the Grant Program. Initiated in the spring of 2003, the NCF Board of Directors voted to distribute \$20,000 in grants with a cap of \$5,000 per grant. Weeks after the announcement, the NCF Grant Distribution Committee received over \$70,000 in requests to fund 19 projects for 16 organizations.

The NCF Board had a plan to distribute funding using a scoring scale that took into account every aspect of funding so that all organizations applying would receive equal review. The Grant Distribution Committee also conducted interviews and site visits, allowing for a thorough and fair analysis of each grant request. Committee members were Pearl Frosch, Mike Mullaney, Dave Putz, Bob Sowinski, and Cynthia Shultz.

The NCF Distribution Committee was impressed with the quality of each application and felt that requests received were an indication of needs within the Niskayuna Community. Applicants sought to expand programs with necessary capital improvements and to create new programs aimed at enriching the lives of Niskayuna town and school district residents.

The NCF Distribution Committee and Board is pleased to announce the following recipients of 2003 Foundation Funding:

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N-CAP Presidents Carol Baldwin (center) and Carol Mondello (right) receive grant funds from NCF Co-President Cindy Phillippe (left) at the foundation's award night in November.

NCF GRANTS RETURN IN 2004

* The Board of Directors of NCF has announced that they plan to resume the grants program in 2004. The funds available for grant applications will be announced in mid-January, based on the success of the end of year donations received by NCF. Dates to be aware of for 2004 are:

- Mid-January - Amount of funds available announced
- March 1 - Letter of inquiry is due
- April 15 - Applications are due
- June - Announcement of grant recipients

* A limited number of mini-grants will also be available for quarterly distribution. See the related article on page 3 for further details. Questions may be directed to NCF Distribution Co-Chairpersons Bob Sowinski at 393-4729 and Dave Putz at 785-0764. 



Niskayuna Community FOUNDATION

Giving Made Easy

NCF, through its affiliation with the Community Foundation for the Capital Region, offers contributors three distinct features.

- *Personalized* giving means almost any type of asset is accepted. The Community Foundation will work with donors and/or their legal and tax advisors to create the right gift, or a fund, using those assets that will achieve the most beneficial tax savings.

- *Broad, Flexible Purpose* means that a named fund can be tailored to achieve the dreams and visions of the individual donors — as long as the fund is serving a charitable purpose and will have an impact in the Capital Region.

- Finally, *Permanence* indicates that donors can create a fund in their name, or the name of someone significant in their life. The assets of that fund are then invested and the income earned will be used to make grants for the donor's chosen purpose(s) — for good, forever.


Planned giving opportunities for all

NCF is the ideal resource for individuals and families working on their estate plans who are considering a planned gift. Once the family is taken care of, donors can look to planned giving vehicles to help avoid estate and/or wealth transfer taxes.

The easiest way to make a planned gift is through a bequest. Other popular future gifts include the use of insurance policies and IRAs. Additionally, the Foundation can work with donors looking for additional income on Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder or Lead Trusts and/or Pooled Income Funds.

All planned or future gifts qualify the donor(s) for membership in our Legacy Society — so they can be recognized and thanked during their lifetime.

Also, all these types of gifts can be utilized to establish a permanent named fund designed to fulfill the lifetime wishes of individuals long after they have passed on.

If you would be interested in attending an information session (no pressure, just information) about giving opportunities including donor-advised funds, planned giving, etc., please call Kris Vrtiak Gregory at 377-5048 or 370-5360. 

Who are we?

The Niskayuna Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the Capital Region (CFCR). CFCR was founded in 1968 and is referred to as "The Regional Center for Charitable Giving." CFCR distributed \$2.6 million in grants last year and has distributed \$18 million since its inception.

What is NCF?

There is an old saying that "charity begins at home," so it makes sense for Niskayuna citizens to build a better community through their own generosity.

The mission of The Niskayuna Community Foundation (NCF) is to enhance the quality of life in Niskayuna through organized philanthropy. The NCF will:

- Distribute grants to such fields as arts and culture, education, health, recreation, environment, and human services.

- Offer flexible, cost-effective giving opportunities for donors.

- Act as an enduring resource to augment community programs and initiatives.

The NCF joins a rapidly growing community foundation movement nationwide -- more than 650 -- all seeking to enhance and improve their hometowns through a variety of projects. Community foundations build endowments for their community and make grants to meet community needs.

Where?


Right here in Niskayuna, our hometown.

Why a foundation?

NCF will provide and support services that will impact families and individuals now and in the future:

- Enhanced and additional services can attract new people and businesses to our community.

- Community strengths, such as school and town programs, will be retained as NCF responds to changing community needs.

- NCF will assist with "home improvement" planning that will ensure Niskayuna will remain strong and vibrant as it moves further into the 21st century. 

FOR GOOD...FOREVER

continued from page 1

- Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady, Inc. — \$2,500 for the construction of a new educational nature trail along the Mohawk River.

- Friends of Niskayuna Crew Club — \$3,500 toward costs to replace docks at Aqueduct Park.

(Both of these projects also serve to enhance the Niskayuna waterfront.)

- WIRO — \$3,840 for new television equipment including a new camera, VCR and title maker. WIRO is the student-run television production facility at Iroquois Middle School.

- Niskayuna Friends of Forensics — \$1,100 for the creation of a new after-school speech and debate program for both Iroquois and Van Antwerp middle schools.

- Niskayuna Community Action Program (N-CAP) — \$1,600 for operating expenses for the President's Student Service Challenge Program, a national program new to Niskayuna, which encourages and recognizes community service by youth and adults.

- Niskayuna Soccer Club — \$1,200 for field improvements, etc. to provide safer facilities.

- Niskayuna Youth Court — \$3,800 for operating expenses and training for this flourishing program, which offers community service alternatives to youth incarceration by utilizing peers as part of their judicial process.

- Niskayuna Friends of Music — \$1,200 for a new music appreciation program for elementary-age school children.

- Niskayuna Branch of The Schenectady County Public Library — \$1,200 for funding of an adult and family program series.

Prior to November, NCF distributed funds to scholarships for graduating seniors, to the Association for the Preservation of the Adirondacks for the Paul Schafer Research Center and Library, and to the Town of Niskayuna for pool equipment and a defibrillator for the Senior and Recreation Center. [Ω](#)

2004 GRANT PROGRAM DETAILS

NCF is pleased to announce grant funds to be made available during 2004 for organizations serving Niskayuna.

To be eligible, the sponsoring organization must qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit organization, or operate under the fiscal sponsorship of an organization that does. The organization must serve residents of the Niskayuna town or school district.

NCF places the highest priority on projects that address significant community issues. Grants may be awarded in the following fields: health and human services, arts and culture, community development, conservation and historic preservation, and recreation. Grants may also be made for capital projects, including equipment purchases.

Single grants will range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. A letter of inquiry is initially required by March 1, 2004. It should not exceed two pages, and include: introduction to your organization's mission, recent achievements, problems or opportunities to be addressed by the grant, specifics about the grant requested, and total costs. Letters should be sent to:

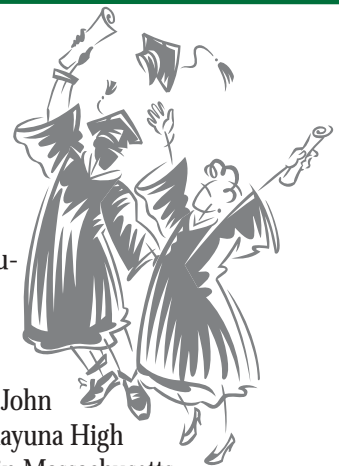
Niskayuna Community Foundation
PO Box 9711
Niskayuna, New York 12309

Eligible organizations will be invited to submit a final application due by April 15, or be notified of the reason for ineligibility. The NCF will also award a limited number of mini-grants that will not exceed \$1,000 per grant and will be awarded quarterly as available. [Ω](#)

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT NAMED

For the third year NCF awarded a Community Service Scholarship to a graduating high school senior, recognizing students volunteer efforts in the school and local community. This year's recipient was Audrey Henderson, daughter of Janet and John Henderson. She is a 2003 graduate of Niskayuna High School and is attending Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

Audrey was an active volunteer with the Niskayuna Youth Court, N-CAP, NICS, Youth to Youth, Reality Check, and at Alterra Clare Bridge. In addition she earned both Girl Scouts Silver and Gold Awards. In 2003, Audrey received the President's Student Service Challenge gold medal. Congratulations to Audrey! [Ω](#)





Community CONNECTIONS

Founding Member Memorials

Thanks to those who made a gift in memory of friends and loved ones:

Dick and Cindy Phillippe, in memory of -

Henry C. Anderson

Bonnie Daggett, in memory of -
Denise Lombardi Ausborn

Cynthia Hamilton,
Dick & Cindy Phillippe,
in memory of ...

Margaret Barber, mother of
Lary Edwards

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in memory of ...
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Niskayuna Soccer Club, Inc.,
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in memory of -
Jean Kemp Bundy

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in memory of -
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in memory of ...
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Dick and Cindy Phillippe,
in memory of ...

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Lorraine Joel, Mother of
Vicki Gold

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in memory of ...
Marilyn Wemple

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in memory of ...
Gladys Whittingham

Founding Members of the Niskayuna Community Foundation

Many thanks to the following visionary individuals who chose to become Founding Members of NCF during this Founders Campaign, which officially ends on December 31, 2003. If you have not already supported this effort, please consider becoming a Founding Member before December 31.

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Thanks to past NCF Board and Steering Committee members

The NCF Board of Directors thanks the following people for their vision and commitment to Niskayuna's future through their active participation with NCF during its formative stages. Steering Committee members were: *Pat Donnelly, Rick Evans, Bonnie McGuire Jones, Kent Jones, Barbara Mauro, J. Briggs McAndrews, Debby Mullaney, Joe Perrella, Cindy Phillippe, James Pontius*, John Reilly, Mike Rinella, Katherine S. Rozendaal*, and Roy Stratton.*

Board members whose terms have expired are: *Helen George, Kathy Greenthal, Kent Jones, Elaine Kennedy, R. Ned Landon, Mark Little, Joe Perrella, James Pontius*, John Reilly, Katherine S. Rozendaal*, and Roy Stratton.* All shared their time, leadership and resources to the benefit of the foundation and we GREATLY appreciate their support. ☺

*In memoriam

How Can I Contribute?

Send donations to:

The Niskayuna Community Foundation
P.O. Box 9711
Niskayuna, New York 12309

Make checks payable to The Niskayuna Community Foundation. Donors making gifts received by Dec. 31, 2003 will be placed on the list of Founding Members. All gifts are tax-deductible. For more information call Cindy Phillippe at 374-0326 or Briggs McAndrews at 782-0644. ☺



Community CONNECTIONS

A newsletter for residents of the Niskayuna town and school district.

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* Denotes Steering
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Niskayuna community receives grants

Greetings from Co-Presidents Cindy Phillippe and J. Briggs McAndrews

We are proud! On November 18 the Niskayuna Community Foundation awarded grants to nine organizations whose work benefits Niskayuna town and school district residents. The grants are diverse and it can be said that every resident can benefit personally from these grants, if they so choose. We suggest you walk the new nature trail when it is complete, enjoy the river from the waterfront docks, or encourage a middle-school child to learn how to run a television studio at the Iroquois station WIRO. See details of other programs funded in the story on page 1 of this newsletter. It was heartwarming to see how important the grants were to these organizations. Special thanks to all our donors who made this possible!

Our Founders Campaign officially ends as of December 31, 2003. We hope you will become a Founding Member by sending a check or pledge in the enclosed envelope. If you have questions please call Briggs McAndrews at 782-0644 or Cindy Phillippe at 374-0326. The Niskayuna Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the Capital Region, a 501C3 not-for-profit organization, so your gift to us is tax-deductible.

Best wishes to all our Niskayuna neighbors for a happy and healthy holiday season. Ω

Be a part of Niskayuna history

If you make a donation or pledge before Dec. 31, 2003, you (or your family) will be recognized as a Founding Member(s) of the Niskayuna Community Foundation. The enclosed envelope lists the many categories of giving. If more than one gift is given before Dec. 31, they will be totaled to determine your giving category. All donations are tax-deductible.

Founding Members will be recognized in a public display and booklet. Join others who share a vision to enhance and preserve a healthy future for Niskayuna!

Want to donate time? NCF committees could use your help. Call Kris Vrtiak Gregory at 377-5048 or 370-5360 if interested in any of the following areas: development, event planning, grant appeals, grant distribution, donor recognition, scholarship or public relations. Ω

What's happening here in your community? See news inside!

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