



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.*

Founders Celebration a Success!!!!

A reception was held on Monday November 14, 2005 to celebrate the completion of the Founders' Campaign and the creation of the Niskayuna Community Foundation in 2000. *Founding Members* received invitations and announcements were placed in area newspapers. Almost 200 Founding Members were guests at the event which was underwritten by RBC Dain Rauscher, Schenectady Hardware and Electric, First New York FCU, Nixon Peabody LLP, Schenectady International, Fenimore Asset Management, and Schenectady Insuring Agency.

Founding Members were recognized for their vision and generosity. A plaque placed in Town Hall this winter will honor all Founding Members and also those in whose names gifts have been given *in honor of* or *in their memory*. Assemblyman James Tedisco spoke of how the foundation gives Niskayuna an advantage in its efforts to remain competitive as a vibrant and progressive community in which to live and work. Resolutions were received from Assemblyman Tedisco,



Guests (left to right) Nan Murphy, Phyllis Demont and Mary Jane Dike enjoy the festivities.

Senator Farley and the Niskayuna School Board. Town Supervisor Luke Smith announced that the week of November 14th was Niskayuna Community Foundation Week. A highlight of the night was the student speakers Ethan Strayer, Brianna Conley and Ashik Desia. They represented the Van Antwerp Double H Hole in the Woods Camp project and showed all of us how helping others has positively impacted their lives. The evening was festive and upbeat...bringing a caring community together to celebrate their success.



Honorary Board Members (from left) Barbara Landon, Barbara Stratton, and Dick Huether, discuss the grant awards.



From left, Honorary Board members Helen George and Ned Landon have been leaders in developing NCF since its inception.



Niskayuna

Community

FOUNDATION

Thank You to those who helped to make the Founders Community Celebration a success....

Special Thanks to the Corporate Underwriters of the Founders Community Celebration:

Bridge Builders (\$1000 - \$2500)

RBC Dain Rauscher
Schenectady Hardware and Electric

Gate Keepers (\$500 - \$999)

First New York FCU
Nixon Peabody LLP
Schenectady International

Stepping Stones (\$250-\$499)

Fenimore Asset Management
Schenectady Insuring Agency

Also thank you to the following people:

Chairman – Christine Perlee...
and Planning Committee – Sally Arnds-Willette, Cindy Ball,
Debbie DeLuke, Elaine Kennedy, Debby Mullaney, Cindy
Phillippe, Kathy Putz

Program....Megan Allen

Operations....Kathy Putz

HOSTS for the evening.... Tracy DuFresne, Madelyn Mallein,
Jonathan Markowitz, Tori Messer, Leela Moore, Lisa Salerno,
Rose Scisci

2000-2005 Grant Recipients....for preparing exhibits
highlighting programs funded during the Founders
Campaign so Founding Members could view areas where
their donations made a difference.

ATTENTION DONORS

Are you aware that the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act (KETRA) offers potential additional tax savings on cash, checks, or credit card contributions made between August 28, 2005 and December 31, 2005? Please check with your tax or financial advisor to see if KETRA would benefit you.

2005 Grants Awarded

The Grant Distribution Committee was pleased to award grants to the following organizations at the recent Founders Community Celebration. 2005 committee members were Co-Chairmen Bob Sowinski and Dave Putz, and Judy Dannes, Bill McPartlon, and Mike Mullaney. NCF received 33 grant inquiries seeking over \$100,000 this year alone.

- **Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks** - \$3,800 - for computers and video equipment for historic preservation.
- **Bellevue Hospital** - \$897 - to assist with 9-week educational program.
- **Birchwood PTO** - \$1,030 - to purchase and install Adaptive Swing Set for handicapped children.
- **High School PTO** - \$2,100 - for display case to recognize and encourage academic achievements.
- **JCC** - \$3,000 - for early childhood playground facilitating outdoor activity and exercise for increasing numbers of young daycare and after school children.
- **Niskayuna Day Care** - \$2,000 - for equipment and to assist with ongoing needs for expansion and improvement of needed facility.
- **Niskayuna Drama Club** - \$1,000 - toward the purchase of a light system at the Little Theater.
- **Niskayuna English Dept** - \$1,500 - to support "writer-in-residency" program.
- **Niskayuna Lacrosse Club Inc.** - \$3,000 - to assist with safe equipment needs for expanding community based program.
- **Town of Niskayuna Recreation Department** - \$1,000 - for handicapped equipment for Town pool.

In addition, Mini-grants were distributed earlier this year to:

- **Class of 2006** - \$600 - to fund a safe, healthy alternative for the junior class post prom celebration.
- **Proctors Theatre** - \$1,000 - to fund a dance residency program at Rosendale School.
- **Van Antwerp** - \$400 - to underwrite a program for Niskayuna youth to help the Double "H" Hole in the Woods Camp. Under teacher Mr. Pletman at Van Antwerp Middle School, students learned the value of helping others through this project which helped to make the environment nicer for children facing critical illnesses.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

The Board of Directors extends its sincere appreciation to the following generous *Founding Members* for their belief in and support of the Niskayuna Community Foundation. If we have made an error on the list below, we apologize and request that you contact Cindy Phillippe at 374-0326 right away. This will be alphabetized within each giving level on the plaque in town hall. Thank you!

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Gifts were given in memory of special people by those who were touched by their lives.

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- Thelma Lally...by
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Louise Lowe...by
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Justin Lynch...by
Dr. and Mrs. David D. Kim
- Kathleen Corcoran Macy...by
Wilma and Jim Corcoran
- Paul and Barbara Marble...by
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Gary Italo Massaroni...by
Ms. Lynn Massaroni Chrys/
A Gary's Treasures
- Chief John J. McGovern...by
Brian and Kathleen McGovern Lansley
and Family
- Mr. Victor J. Micieli...by
Vincent and Tina Bianchi
- Ruth Heath Mong...by
Cindy and Dick Phillippe
- Anna Mae Morris...by
Brian Aylward
- Edwards B. Murray...by
Howard W. Budge
Roy E. and Marge Burris
Helene A. Daly
Mr. and Mrs. Emmett DeLay
Al and Phyllis Demont
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Fontaine
Eileen S. Fox
GE Elfun Society-Schenectady
Helen W. George
Cynthia W. Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hammock
Elizabeth Strong Hughes and
Thomas H. Hughes
- Mr. and Mrs. John L. Ingersoll
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Jennings
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Katona
Patricia R. Kellam
Barbara R. Levy
Marvin & Co., PC
Caleb and B. Paine
Anne L. Peterson
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
Kathryn S. Pontius
- Don and Sarah Schermerhorn
Suzann L. Smart
Dr. and Mrs. Sheldon B. Staunton
Lois A. Van Dyck
Peter C. Van Dyck
Harriet F. Wall
Mrs. K. C. Wallender
Emile and Ann Walraven
Glenn and Martha Winchester
- Sally Murray...by
Howard W. Budge
Helene A. Daly
Mr. and Mrs. Emmett DeLay
Al and Phyllis Demont
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Fontaine
Helen W. George
Cynthia W. Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hammock
Elizabeth Strong Hughes and
Thomas Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Jennings
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Edwards B. Murray
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
Kathryn S. Pontius
Don and Sarah Schermerhorn
Suzann L. Smart
Dr. and Mrs. Sheldon B. Staunton
Harriet F. Wall
Emile and Ann Walraven
Glenn and Martha Winchester
- Mara Berman Oakes...by
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Collins
- Patricia O'Connor...by
Her parents and sister,
Dick, Shirley and Karen O'Connor
- Jane Osthoff...by
Cynthia W. Hamilton
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Billie Pemberton...by
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Billie Pemberton ...by
Her son, Jay Pemberton
- Mary Beth Pezzula...by
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- James W. Pontius...by
Janne and Stan Mathes
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- Chad Rivera...by
The Rivera Family
- Jeffrey Roberts...by
Dick and Barbara Roberts
- Jacqueline Salisbury Rockefeller...by
Her cousins,
Susan Arnds Braidwood
Sally Arnds-Willette
- Kathleen Rosenberg...by
Rodney Rosenberg
- Katherine S. Rozendaal...by
Cynthia W. Hamilton
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Eli Rudnick...by
Alice J. Rudnick
- Philip Stark...by
Valerie L. Stark
- Michael R. Valletta...by
Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Valletta
- Grace Vandewater...by
Helen W. George
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Jeanne Murray Veasey...by
Patricia Dykstra
Elizabeth Strong Hughes and
Thomas Hughes
Mr. Richard A. Fuerst, Esq.
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- David Wallender...by
His mother, Mrs. K. C. Wallender
Kenneth C. Wallender...by
His wife, Mrs. K. C. Wallender
- Jan Jacobus Walraven...by
Helen W. George
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
Mark Wemple and Liz Yezzi Wemple
- Jim Walraven...by
Helen W. George
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Gertrude Ward...by
Cynthia W. Hamilton
Clark & Marilyn Wemple...by
Mark Wemple and Liz Yezzi Wemple
- Marilyn Wemple...by
Cynthia W. Hamilton
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Gladys Whittingham...by
Truman and Dee King
- Doris Willard...by
Susan Arnds Braidwood

Founders Honorary Gifts

Gifts were given in honor of special occasions in the lives of these extraordinary people by those who care.
Given in honor of....

- Carol Baldwin...by
Lil Stacy
- Duane Ball...by
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Jean Bundy...by
Bob and Carolyn Aklund
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald M. Bentley
David W. Bundy
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Elizabeth A. Pease
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
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Nancy Sieper
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- Christopher Chadwick...by
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- Jeremy Cohen...by
Donna and Bob Evans and Family
- Al and Phyllis Demont...by
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Roland and Nancy Fitzroy...by
Helen W. George
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Cynthia W. Hamilton...by
Mike and Debby Mullaney and Family
The Phillippe Family
- Louise LaBombard...by
Kathleen Guarnier
- Barbara Landon...by
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
Barbara Dobbins Stratton and Roy O. Stratton
- Ned Landon...by
Cris Cioffi and John Sharkey
Helen W. George
Barbara Dobbins Stratton and Roy O. Stratton
- Dick and Cindy Phillippe
Emile and Ann Walraven
- Betty Wolfe Lawrance...by
Helen W. George
- Doris Lisy...by
Lynn Lisy-Macan and Ronald Macan
- Susan and Alan Maycock...by
Mike and Debby Mullaney and Family
- Dr. J. Briggs McAndrews...by
Friends, Family, and Colleagues
Niskayuna Director's Association
Paul Hasler
- Isabelle McAndrews
Jean and Francis McAndrews...by
Isabelle and Briggs McAndrews
- Niskayuna School Educators...by
Jules E. Scheinzeit
- Wendy O'Connor...by
Lil Stacy
- Dick Phillippe...by
Barbara and Ned Landon
Jennifer, John and Jeffrey Phillippe
- Joanne and Arden Pieper...by
Mike and Debby Mullaney and Family
- Jean and Dominick Pizzo...by
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- The Philip Snell Family...by
Marjorie W. Kenney
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Nancy Stevenson
- Fran Wusterbarth...by
Dr. and Mrs. David D. Kim
- Lisa D'Aniello
Audrey Henderson
Gregory Mullaney
Matthew Stopera
Anton Ushkin...by
NCF Board of Directors



Front Row, From Left: 2004 Murray Award winner Catherine Snyder, and student and NCF selection committee members Allison Weingarten and Tyler Ashley. Back Row, From Left: NCF CharterBoard Member and lifelong Murray family friend Ned Landon, 2004 Murray Award winner Paul Scott, 2005 winners Paula Brinkman and Mark Treanor, and PTO Co-President and committee member Debra Rosecrans

NISKAYUNA HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS RECEIVE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

The 2005 recipients of the second annual **Murray Award for Excellence in Education** were presented in May to Mark Treanor, a special education teacher, and Paula Brinkman, music department choir and vocal group director, in surprise announcements in their classrooms. A crowd of students, parents and teachers stunned Mr. Treanor and Ms. Brinkman, as they were in the middle of teaching their classes, by walking in with plaques and balloons, reporters and a television camera. Each recipient will receive \$2500 for use in a professional development activity of their choosing. In developing the award, the Murray daughters recognized their parents' high school focus but also hoped it would initiate other awards that recognized excellent educators in the K-8 grade levels as well.

Based on the wishes of the donors, the award recognizes the belief of Edwards B. and Sally Murray, and their daughters Jeanne Murray Veasey and Kathy Murray Crowe, that outstanding educators who continue to learn are essential to fostering student growth, improving schools and enhancing the education of students. The \$5000 in award money has been provided for by a fund held at NCF and contributed by the Murray daughters. Although established by the daughters in memory of their parents last year, this year it was also given in memory of Jeanne Murray Veasey who sadly passed away in March. Education was a lifetime passion for Jeanne and she always valued her school years in Niskayuna and gave particular emphasis to the quality of teaching she experienced in the high school. Through her development of this recognition award Jeanne was also a visionary leader as she recognized the diverse potential opportunities that NCF offers Niskayuna.

A selection committee of students, parents and teachers considered a number of criteria in choosing these recipients. Criteria included outstanding classroom practices and professional contributions, past accomplishments as well as growth potential and a school presence that inspires and positively impacts students, colleagues and the community.

Town Hall Recognition

This winter a plaque will be hung in the Niskayuna Town Hall. The purpose will be to recognize this period in town history when the Niskayuna Community Foundation was created and the "Founding Members." The plaque will list every donor who contributed during the Founders Campaign and will read as follows.

**"A society grows great when men
plant trees under whose shade
they know they shall never sit."**

Dedicated with grateful appreciation to the Founding Members of the Niskayuna Community Foundation, whose dream of preserving and enhancing the quality of life for current and future generations inspired the foundation's creation and development. Embracing the power of grass roots philanthropy, the Founding Members addressed the challenge of a community determined to honor the past, celebrate the present and prepare for the future. The Town of Niskayuna and the Niskayuna Central School District will benefit from their vision, sense of civic responsibility, philanthropic spirit and love of our community into the 21st century and beyond.

The Founding Members anticipate that throughout the years others will join with them to ensure that the Niskayuna Community Foundation will continue on a path of progress and growth for the betterment of Niskayuna, positively impacting all Schenectady County and the Capital Region. Through their mutual benevolence and leadership, Niskayuna will remain a thriving and forward-moving community, building bridges for our families and neighbors for perpetuity.

**For more information about NCF,
please contact: Briggs McAndrews 782-0644
or Cindy Phillippe 374-0326**



Tyler Nowak receives a ride on the new adaptive swing set at Birchwood, which was partially funded with a grant from NCF.



Niskayuna Community Foundation

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(* In Memory)

2006 Grants Funds Announced...

The Board of Directors has allocated \$20,000 for grants and mini-grants in 2006.

To be eligible, the applicant organization must qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code as a non-profit organization, operate under the fiscal sponsorship of an organization that does, or be sponsored by either the Niskayuna Town or the Niskayuna School District. *NCF places the highest priority on projects that address significant community issues.* Grants may be awarded in; 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, 2006. It should not exceed two pages, and should include: introduction to organization's mission, recent achievements, problems or opportunities to be addressed, specifics about the grant, and total costs. Eligible organizations will be invited to submit a final application in April. Mini-grants up to \$1000 may be applied for throughout the year. To receive information, please contact Grant Distribution Co-Chairmen Dave Putz (785-0764) or Bob Sowinski (464-1100 Ext. 310).

Congratulations Students!

Scholarship and Award Committee Chairperson Kristine Gregory announced the recipients below in June. Committee members were Judy Dannes, Katie Kelleher, Ginny Gritman and Kathy Putz.

Community Service Award

Matthew Stopera was the 2005 recipient of the NCF Community Service Award. This is given annually to recognize a graduating senior, who is a resident of the Niskayuna Town or School District and who has performed significant community service.

Matt was a model of volunteer service while attending Niskayuna High School. During high school his activities included Key Club, National Honor Society and golf team, and he served as the Treasurer of the Student Council and the Drama Club. His commitment to *Special Olympics* was ongoing and included 4 years of coaching golf and 3 years as a *Special Olympics* bowling coach. Matt was named one of the "13 Kids Who Care" in the Capital District and received the President's Volunteer Service Award. He is attending New York University.

College Promise Scholarship

Anton Ushkin was named the beneficiary of the NCF College Promise Scholarship. Established last winter by a generous anonymous family with an interest in helping students attain their goal of attending college, the 2005 scholarship is for \$1000 per year for up to four years.

During his high school years, Anton worked as a camp counselor at the Schenectady Jewish Community Center and participated in Varsity swimming and annual *Special Olympics* events. Anton's positive attitude, persistence and motivation enabled him to embrace the "American Dream" and to grow in his academic challenges. He became a well respected and loyal member of the Niskayuna High School community. Anton is now attending St. John's University.

NCF, an affiliate of The Community Foundation for the Capital Region



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*What's happening here
in your community?*

See news inside!

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