Philanthropy Runs in the Family

The Niskayuna School District has a long history of academic excellence. Sixty years ago one of the School Board members who advocated the building of a high school in Niskayuna was Edwards B. Murray. He believed that the school would be measured by the quality of its teachers and to that end he and the Board searched far and wide to recruit the best teachers available - those who would initiate a creative curriculum, and who would set the highest of standards.

In 2004 his daughters, Jeanne Murray Veasey (Niskayuna High School Class of 1961) and Kathy Murray Crowe (Class of 1963), initiated the Edwards B. and Sally Murray Award for Excellence in Education in his and their mother’s honor. This award recognizes high school teachers for their positive impact on their students. To help fund this award they established a special interest fund with the Niskayuna Community Foundation, the recipient of a bequest from their father. In addition NCF was the recipient of a $50,000 bequest from Jeanne when she died in 2005. Since that time, Kathy Murray Crowe and her husband, Dr. Jack Crowe, continue to support the granting of the Murray Award.

Kathy and Jeanne had wonderful memories of Niskayuna. They attended Rosendale, Van Antwerp and the High School. While in high school they hosted a foreign exchange student from Sweden. Jeanne and Kathy both loved sports and while at Niskayuna they were on the field hockey, volleyball, and basketball teams. Kathy was an enthusiastic and spirited cheerleader. Jeanne thrived in band with Mr. Schiff and English with Mr. Hogan. Mr. Shea’s approach to teaching history by challenging students to support their opinions led to Jeanne’s choosing History as her major at Stanford while Kathy went on to Law School at Duke. Both continued their study of Classics in college, inspired by Anne Peterson’s Latin classes.

Kathy and Jeanne grew up in a home where they witnessed the importance of supporting and embracing family and community. Ed and Sally were very civic minded. In addition to the school board Ed was on the boards of the YMCA and Ellis Hospital. Sally was devoted to Girl Scouts and the 1st Reformed Church. With these people as her parents, Kathy and her husband, Jack, have been philanthropic role models to their own children, Becky, Jed and Matt. Kathy is involved in the Boys and Girls Clubs and her local schools, including fundraising for scholarships. She believes people should give at any level. “If each person can step in and do something, everyone can make a difference.” Jack is a trustee of the American Board of Radiology and a past president of the American Roenten Ray Society. He has been president of the medical staff of Scottsdale Healthcare and of the Scottsdale Charros, which raises money for the community including scholarships for students, educators and nurses.

Their children have followed in their footsteps when it comes to making the community a better place for all who live there. Becky runs a non-profit foundation for public education. Jed and his wife are involved in supporting the Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital and Matt is beginning his residency in orthopedic surgery.

Kathy says, “Philanthropy is contagious.” She feels anyone can help out. “Just pick up the phone and call a non-profit organization and ask how you can help.” It’s obvious that Jack and Kathy and their family do that. And NCF is grateful that they do!
President’s Message:
To Our Neighbors in The Community

Welcome again to the Niskayuna Community Foundation. I am personally honored and humbled to be the incoming President of this organization which continues to do so much for our community. I want to thank the members of the Board for their confidence and support. I also want to recognize and express thanks to my predecessors, Chris Perlee and Vince Valenza for their continued assistance and encouragement.

We have recently held our first annual Nisky Cup Charitable Golf Tournament at the Mohawk Golf Club. Fortunately the weather favored us as a number of individuals competed on the links. The great turnout of players along with the sports memorabilia auction and dinner has strengthened the philanthropic aspect of our Foundation. That in turn will benefit the community groups that approach the Foundation for financial support through the grant process. I want to thank the members of the Golf committee for arranging this on somewhat of a short notice and especially the co-chairs, Dan McCoy and Eric Aronowitz. They diligently and incessantly strove to bring all of the elements together for a successful enterprise. We look forward to next year’s event to be even more successful.

Once again, it bears repeating: this is our community’s Foundation, providing grants to worthy causes and organizations benefitting our neighbors and the Niskayuna Community as a whole. Through those grants we strengthen the recreational, educational, cultural and beneficial aspects that make us what we are. Please consider a contribution in any amount which in turn will only benefit and strengthen our town and its residents. Thank you and I look forward to a very productive year.

Dr. Michael Breault, President

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**2011 Grants**

- **Concerned for the Hungry** $1,750
  Thanksgiving food baskets for 94 Niskayuna families.

- **Environmental Clearinghouse** $1,000
  Signs for nature walk at Niskayuna Library.

- **Town of Niskayuna** $1,000
  Counselors for special needs kids at summer camps.

- **Schenectady Symphony** $750
  Tickets for Niskayuna students to attend special concert.

- **Ellis Hospital Foundation** $1,500
  Bi-monthly educational programs for seniors.

- **Umbrella of the Capital District** $1,000
  Increase home repair services for the frail, elderly, and those with disabilities.

- **Niskayuna High School** $3,000
  To build an outdoor science classroom applying conceptual learning to hands-on experiences.

- **Town of Niskayuna Recreation Department** $1,000
  Help provide a healthy activity for over 300 residents of all ages by supporting the Fall Fun Run.

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**2011 Mini-Grants**

- **B’Nai B’rith** $500
  Exercise program for Seniors

- **Roots and Wisdom** $870
  Sponsor student to grow food in community garden for low income residents.

- **Wildwood** $300
  Landscaping for Niskayuna Wildwood residence.

- **Niskayuna High School** $800
  Rental of facility for After Prom Party, keeping students in a safe environment.

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**2012 Grant Applications**

The Board of Directors of NCF is pleased to announce the continuation of its annual grant program for the calendar year 2012. Grant applications and details of eligibility are available on our website www.niskayunacf.org or by calling Nancy Jones at 346-5533.

Organizations must have 501(c)(3) status or operate under the sponsorship of an organization that does, or be sponsored by the Town of Niskayuna or the Niskayuna School District. Letters of inquiry are due by March 1, 2012 and completed applications are due by April 15, 2012.

Mini grants for requests up to $1,000 may be available all year using a modified process.
1st Annual Golf Tournament

The Niskayuna Community Foundation held the Inaugural “Nisky Cup” Charitable Golf Tournament on September 12 at the Mohawk Golf Club. The tournament was held to benefit the Foundation in its work maintaining and enhancing the town’s quality of life through grants to programs operating in the town and in the school district. Approximately seventy-five people participated throughout the day.

Foursomes signed up for eighteen holes of golf. Awards were offered for “low score foursome”, “second lowest foursome,” “longest drive,” and “closest to the pin”. Cindy Ball and Debbie Deluke watched over the players, preventing any exaggerations in scoring!

Golfers enjoyed lunch, a late afternoon mixer, and a dinner where the awards were announced by Co-Chair Dr. Eric Aronowitz. Non-golfing donors were able to attend the dinner, as well. Geoff Stroebel performed at the piano prior to dinner.

Sponsors for the event were recruited. Some sponsors donated $500 for a tee or greens sign announcing their support. Others also signed up a foursome to play for a total donation of $1,000.

Following days of rain from the hurricanes, the sun came out and smiled on the tournament for the entire day, making for an extremely pleasant event. Sports enthusiasts were able to bid on wonderful sports memorabilia, including photographs, autographs, and the like.

Everyone is now looking forward to next year’s tournament.

Power of Endowment

The Community Foundation exists to address a broad range of charitable needs by building an endowment to serve as a perpetual source of community capital. Endowments provide permanent, predictable, and growing revenue sources, and are vital to sustaining vibrant communities.

In 1996, the Marjorie Rockwell Fund for the Disabled was established at the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region (NCF’s parent foundation) through the estate of Marjorie Doyle Rockwell. This gift of nearly $1.5 million could have been spent in 1996, and would have had a substantial impact on the community. But, compare that scenario to the benefit the region continues to realize through the endowment of this gift.

- Since 1996, the Fund has distributed $1.2 million in grants to community organizations who help to meet the needs of people with physical and mental disabilities.
- In 2010 alone, the Fund provided over $86,000 in funding to local agencies working in this field.
- And, despite the recent downturn in the economy, the Fund’s balance has grown to nearly $2.3 million.

Thanks to the power of endowment, Mrs. Rockwell’s gift will continue to benefit our community for generations to come. At the Community Foundation, generosity never loses its value. Your endowed gift of any size to the Niskayuna Community Foundation will help guarantee that the foundation is serving the community in perpetuity.
Golf Tournament Sponsors

Many thanks to our following businesses and individuals for their financial support:

GOLD PATRONS

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» Metro Ford Sales

SILVER PATRONS

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» Dr. John McCambley
» Daniel McCoy
» Michael McGovern, DDS
» Denise Murphy McGraw
» Mr. Neil Rivchin
» Scotti’s Restaurant & Pizzeria
» Trustco Bank

SPECIAL THANKS...

... to Golf Committee Chairmen, Dr. Eric Aronowitz and Dan McCoy, for planning a great tournament.

... to Adam Bach, Dr. Michael Breault, Debbie DeLuke, Dr. Robert Gerstenbluth, Rich Holt, Mike Mullaney and Cindy Phillippe – Golf Committee members.

... to All participants

... to Metro Ford for donation of a Ford Explorer for a hole-in-one

... to Benchmark Printing for printing of flyers

... to Kathy Putz for administrative assistance

... to Carol Valenza for designing posters

... to Geoffrey Stroebel for playing the piano during cocktails

... to Chris Sabatello for providing the Sports Memorabilia Auction

... to the Mohawk Golf Club staff

NCF Mourns Loss of Helen George

Helen George, Founding Member of the Board of Directors and an Honorary Board member until her death, died on August 24, 2011. Helen was a mentor when volunteers established this foundation. She was a fundraising and organizational resource for NCF. Helen thought that it was wonderful that NCF was raising money to improve the Niskayuna community and was one of our greatest advocates.

Helen had a long history of volunteerism. She was named a “Patroon” in 1987 by the then mayor, Karen Johnson. She was a past president of the boards of Family & Child Services, Proctor’s Theatre, and the Junior League of Schenectady. In addition to the NCF board, she served on the boards of the following organizations: United Way, YWCA, SCCC Foundation, Schenectady Day Nursery, Boy’s & Girl’s Clubs of Schenectady, Ellis Hospital Foundation... and many more. She participated in many capital and fundraising campaigns for these agencies.

Helen loved Niskayuna and the Schenectady community and was a role model in giving back to those communities. For 70 years she set an example for volunteers. We were lucky to have her and the impact she made on Schenectady County was huge! She will be missed by many.
ANNUAL FUND — “The Power of Many”

Thank you to the donors who contributed to the Annual Fund Campaign between October 15, 2010 and October 1, 2011. Please accept our apologies if we have erred by misspelling or omitting your name in reproducing our donor list. Please contact us so we do not err in future publications at 935-7899 or dputz@nycap.rr.com

Philanthropists — ($5,000 to $9,999)
- Kathy Murray Crowe and John Crowe
- Nancy Hershey
- Dick and Cindy Hamilton Philippe

Lamplighters — ($2,500 to $4,999)
- Richard J. Huether
- Isabelle and Briggs McAndrews

Bridge Builders — ($1,000 to $2,499)
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- Dr. N. Balasubramaniam
- Cindy Bard Ball and Duane Ball
- Dr. and Mrs. Michael Breault
- Ray Brownell
- Sarah E. Gage
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- Dr. Douglas and Ms. Susan Lohnas
- William D. and Robin McPartlon
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Gatekeepers — ($500 to $999)
- Bill and Denise Leader
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- Sally Arnds Willette and Hugo Irizarry-Quinones
- Dr. and Mrs. Eric Aronowitz
- Lillian Bertalan and Michael DePetrillo
- John and Eleanor Brown
- Glenn W. Busby and Margaret E. Bean
- Ed & Kathy Carangelo
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- The Valenza Family
- Dr. Steven and Julie Weitz

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- John and Susan Fenaroli
- Debbie and Brian Gordon
- The Greene Family
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Scholarships & Awards

Kathy Putz, Chair of the Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following scholarship and award winners for 2011.

• Huether/Gillan Scholarship – Benjamin Cutler
• Michael E. and Mitchell S. Labanowski Scholarship – Trisha Desarkar
• Scott McAndrews Outward Bound Wilderness Memorial Scholarship – Justice Constantine
• 50th Anniversary Scholarship – Melinda C. Bartlett and Michael J. Held
• Community Service Award – Shalini Nagaraj

Special thanks to the following community members who served on the committee to award the Huether/Gillan Scholarship, Michael E. and Mitchell S. Labanowski Scholarship, and the Community Service Award: Ginny Gritman, Kathy Greenthal and Mary Anne Mangano.

Please Send a Tax-Deductible Gift to NCF Today!

It’s easy!

1. Write a check to the Niskayuna Community Foundation and sent it to PO Box 9711, Niskayuna, NY 12309
2. Give online at our website www.niskayunacf.org and use your VISA or Mastercard.
4. Establish a fund in your name with an initial gift of $10,000.
5. Set-up a bequest in your will or arrange another type of planned gift (such as an investment in a charitable gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust or a pooled income fund).

Call 518-935-7899 for further details.
Gifts in Honor/Memory of People (from 10/08/10 to 10/01/11)

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

- Dr. Kevin Baughman’s retirement... by Lillian Bertalan and Michael DePetrillo
- Friends, Family and Colleagues of Dr. Kevin Baughman
- David and Kathleen Putz
- Adam Evan’s induction into Phi Beta Kappa at Tufts University April 2010... by Bob and Donna Evans
- Dr. Robert Gerstenbluth... by Steven Weitz
- R. Ned & Barbara Landon’s 65th wedding anniversary... by Cynthia Hamilton, Fred and Sandy Kaplan, Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- The Friends of Scott McAndrews... by The McAndrews Family
- J. Briggs McAndrews... by Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Lohnas

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

- Joel Brainard... by Dr. Kevin Baughman, Matthew Bourgeois, John Buhrmaster, Debra Gordon, David Hudson, Dick Mathews, Barbara Mauro, Deborah Oriola, Jeanne Sosnow
- David N. Collins... by William R. Collins
- Jean C. Collins... by William R. Collins
- R. Eileen Corrigan... by Charles and Sharon Maneri
- Donald E. Craig... by Sue and Gene Zeltmann
- Helen George... by Cynthia Hamilton, Sandy and Fred Kaplan, Dick and Cindy Phillippe
- Sam Guarnier... by Kathleen Guarnier
- Sandra Harrsen... by Karen Huggins
- Roy Hershey... by Janet Olin Altschuller
- Jean McAndrews... by Joyce Beckley, Lillian Bertalan and Michael DePetrillo, Larry and Pat Bjurstrom, Mr. and Mrs. James Blendell, Christopher Boam, Ed and Kathy Carangelo, Justin and Tracey Carangelo, Cheryl Cufari

Alumni Fund Receives $10,000

As NCF began an Endowment Campaign in 2010, an Anonymous Niskayuna Alumnus chose to make a $10,000 gift to the endowed Alumni Fund. The Alumni Fund was established to enable alumni and others to show appreciation to their community for the educational system. Our benevolent donor commented, “I am grateful to the Niskayuna school system for the quality of education I benefited from. It prepared me well for college and the future. I encourage all alumni, teachers, parents, and district administrators to give a gift of any size to the Alumni Fund.”

Gifts may be sent to the Niskayuna Community Foundation, P.O. Box 9711, Niskayuna, NY 12309. Please indicate class year if appropriate. Gifts may be made in honor of students, teachers and staff as well.

SPECIAL THANKS!
To the General Electric Matching Gifts Program for Their Support of Our Community.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrin Derosia
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Doberman
Vicki Gold
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Heaberg
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Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McAndrews
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Scott McAndrews... by Briggs and Isabelle McAndrews... for his 43rd birthday
Dominick Pizzo... for his 43rd birthday
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Mr. and Mrs. James Blendell
Ed and Kathy Carangelo
Nancy Hoffman
Louisa Lombardo and James Dillon
Dennis McAndrews
Dick and Cindy Phillippe
Amy and Anthony Salamone
Dr. Jayne Steubing
Beth Webb

Markley Opdyke... by Kay Opdyke

Virginia M. Williams... by Roy H. Williams
NCF has announced the recipients of the eighth annual Murray Award for Excellence in Education. Based on the wishes of the donors, the award is intended for Niskayuna High School educators to recognize the belief of Edward 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.

Congratulations to Patricia Black, a Biology teacher, and Sean O’Connell, a Social Studies and Special Education teacher, for being named the 2011 recipients. A crowd of students, parents and teachers stunned Ms. Black and Mr. O’Connell, as they were in the middle of teaching their classes, by walking in with plaques and balloons and reporters. Each recipient will receive $2500 for use in a professional development activity of their choosing.

Students have spoken of Ms. Black in the highest regard, for her deep understanding and connection to biology, generous warmth to students, and for encouraging students to pursue careers in the field of science. She always challenges her students. She pushes students to excel with problem sets, and includes bonus questions and challenges herself, in order to gain a better understanding. By doing this, she teaches students a far more important lesson; to never stop learning. Students say her wealth of wisdom provides them with real-life stories, which directly correspond to the unit that is being taught. Ms. Black also transformed the recycling club, completely altering the attitude of the entire school when disposing paper or plastic. One of her students said, “Pat Black is a wonderful educator, challenging students, and allowing them to challenge her in return”.

Mr. O’Connell is a National Board Certified Teacher, the recognized gold standard of teaching. This year he was one of 23 recipients selected nationwide to attend the Summer Leadership Institute at Brown University, to increase understanding of Afghanistan with scholars and foreign policy experts. He is a respected professor at Union Graduate College who encourages and inspires young students as they enter the teaching profession. Mr. O’Connell gives selflessly to the betterment of his students. He is kind and supportive and puts extensive energy into instruction as well as nurturing the emotional well being of his students. He supports the neediest of the students and helps them find the success they so desperately seek. His enthusiasm for social studies is infectious and his commitment to teaching is evident in that he is still a learner.