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.

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A Special Gift to the Community – Neil & Jane Golub

Neil and Jane Golub are the consummate couple not only in marriage, but also in their shared dedication both to Price Chopper Supermarkets and to the world around them. Recognized and well respected in their hometown community, the Capital Region of New York and throughout the industry, Neil and Jane are rarely seen apart. While each of them has received an abundance of accolades for their individual contributions of leadership and philanthropy, it is their collaborative efforts that so uniquely distinguish them. To date, they are the only couple to have received the State University of New York Citizen Laureate Award for their community service.

The Niskayuna Community Foundation is very fortunate to have Neil and Jane as generous long-time philanthropic supporters. They have also served on the Honorary Board since its inception in 2001, being available to share their wisdom.

Together, Neil and Jane have dedicated their efforts to support causes that inspire positive change and instill hope, and they support programs and projects for the long haul. Each has played a major role in improving and changing the lives of people in our community. For more than two decades, they have served hand in hand as the regional chairs for Special Olympics and played a role in underwriting The Center for Disability Services. They also played a pivotal role in Wildwood’s growth and service to clients.

In 1986, Neil enticed Jane, who was a seasoned elementary school teacher, to take a sabbatical after 23 years in the classroom, and to develop an anti-bias curriculum with the Anti-Defamation League called “A World of Difference” (AWOD) for their company to sponsor. It is the only K-12 curriculum that is state approved and includes peer training. Two thousand teachers have been trained and thousands of children have been touched in the region. Neil and Jane played a major role in design and development, and have underwritten its existence for 26 years. In 2011, and in response to the growing need for constructive anti-bullying messages, Neil convinced the local CBS affiliate to join the “Be An Ally” effort with a two-year media campaign for which he and Jane provided the funding. In addition to receiving a Presidential Citation for their efforts from Bill Clinton, both have been honored by the NYS Teachers Association and the Human Rights Commission.

The Neil and Jane Golub Breast Center at Bellevue has served the community with amazing results for five years. What is really new is the establishment of a Women’s Heart Health Center. This concept was Neil’s brainstorm. It was so unique and constructive that Ellis Hospital and Cardiology Associates could not have been more helpful in bringing this new service to the Capital Region. Neil and Jane are also currently co-chairing Ellis Hospital Health Care System’s Fund Campaign for the second time.

Neil led the effort to establish Metroplex, which has stimulated significant growth to the city and county, and re-created a downtown. It has brought life back to Schenectady. He is the Life Chairman of Paul Newman’s Double H Hole in the Woods Ranch and led the effort to keep the camp viable. He has been a telethon host and campaign leader of MDA for 30 years. The New York State Senate awarded him their highest medal of achievement for community service. Jane has been a leader of the Schenectady Day Nursery for over 20 years, and is devoted to the Schenectady Museum. Neil provided the leadership and guidance to the museum board in the major transformation and conversion to the Museum of Innovation and Science… miSci.

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President’s Message:
To Our Community

Once again, welcome to the Niskayuna Community Foundation. After having served as president of this organization for the last year I can attest to a number of positive issues. First is the true dedication in time and effort that is placed in this organization by its volunteer members. Their commitment and efforts to enhance our community are boundless as they strive to continually improve the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Secondly I have seen how these effects are paying dividends to the functionality of various entities, enhancing and strengthening the outcomes of our philanthropic endeavors. To date the Foundation has made over 100 grants, scholarships and awards to over 45 organizations to benefit the arts, culture, education, environment, health, recreation, human services and other community needs. I was personally able to see these effects in action, having recently attended the Nature Trail opening and dedication at Hillside School. The positive response by the teachers, parents and especially school children was remarkable.

Third is the coming together of the members of our community for philanthropic events. Specifically I speak to the Annual Nisky Cup Golf Tournament recently held at the Mohawk Golf Club. This being the second year for this event, the hope was to surpass the success of last year’s tournament. Fortunately a number of individuals came forward to donate their time and fiscal capabilities while actually enjoying the challenge of the links for a worthy cause on a perfect September day. Thanks to their generosity we have surpassed last year’s event substantially and look forward to an even better event next year.

Finally it goes without saying once again that this is your community and Foundation. We can only continue to have a positive impact on our neighbors specifically and the community as a whole by continual participation at every level. As such I would again ask for your consideration of and participation in any venue benefitting our town, be it personal, volunteering or financial. Together we can continue the positive outcomes that have already been accomplished and strive to further strengthen our ties as a community. Thank you.

Dr. Michael Breault, President

2012 Grants

Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York $2,000
To help pay for food distribution to low-income Niskayuna residents.

Concerned for the Hungry, Inc. $1,000
To fund Thanksgiving food baskets in Niskayuna.

Niskayuna Community Action Program, Inc. $1,250
To support community substance abuse prevention initiatives.

Museum of Innovation and Science (miSci) $1,500
To help pay for additional science education programs in Niskayuna Central School District.

Junior Achievement of Northeastern New York, Inc. $1,250
To provide for program material and curriculum to help support the Junior Achievement elementary school programs in the Niskayuna school district.

Town of Niskayuna $1,000
To enable children with special needs to attend Niskayuna Playground Camp in the summer of 2012.

Best Buddies New York $2,000
To help strengthen and sustain a peer program for developmentally challenged children.

Schenectady Theater for Children, Inc. $900
To help fund the Great Minds Series for Niskayuna students.

American Red Cross of Northeastern New York $1,000
To support the “Be Red Cross Ready” emergency preparedness training to Niskayuna seniors.

Niskayuna High School Engineering Technology Department $1,600
To purchase a VEX Robotics kit.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha After School Program $1,000
To fund the after school literacy enrichment program.

2012 Mini-Grants

Bethesda House $1,000
To assist in serving hungry and homeless Niskayuna residents affected by the economic downturn.

Umbrella of the Capital District, Inc. $500
To help subsidize enrollment of low-income Niskayuna seniors.

Schenectady Symphony Orchestra Association, Inc. $500
To encourage music appreciation by funding Niskayuna High School student attendance at a concert featuring Anthony Bellino, a Niskayuna High School graduate.

Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany, Inc. $500
To provide the KidSight™ vision screening program in Niskayuna.

Niskayuna Baseball League $300
To support hosting the League Allstar Tournament in the Town of Niskayuna.
**2013 Grant Applications**

The Board of Directors of NCF is pleased to announce the continuation of its annual grant program for the calendar year 2013. Grant applications and details of eligibility are available on our website www.niskayunacf.org or by contacting Justin Carangelo at 518-374-8442 or Maggie Rush Vinciguerra at maggievinciguerra@gmail.com

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, 2013 and completed applications are due by April 15, 2013.

Mini grants for requests up to $1000 may be available all year using a modified process.

**A Special Gift to the Community (continued from cover)**

Jane is the Capital Region’s face for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. She has been recognized as a “Woman of Distinction” by the Girl Scouts of America, a “Woman of Excellence” by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce and a “Trailblazer” by The Women’s Fund.

Both Neil and Jane are actively involved with their “Family in Business.” Neil most recently was Price Chopper’s CEO and now serves as Executive Chairman of the Board. Jane is the Director, In-Store Marketing Programs.

Neil and Jane are passionately devoted to excellence – in the workplace, in the community and at home. There are few not for profits in the Capital Region who have not been recipients of their good will. They are truly a gift to their community.

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**Niskayuna High School Class of 1962**

NCF was pleased to receive a gift of $1600 from the Class of 1962 in honor of their 50th Reunion from Niskayuna High School. Don Schermerhorn, Chairman of the Reunion, said an active committee planned a variety of activities for the weekend of September 28-30. On Friday the class had a tour of the high school and then gathered at the Stockade Inn. On Saturday the class viewed a documentary produced by classmate Robert VanDegna, attended a discussion on women’s issues and celebrated at dinner at the Mohawk Golf Club. Farewells were made on Sunday at a gathering at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The documentary, titled *Turning Pages*, drew an audience of over 300 people to Proctor’s Theatre. Twenty-five class members from across the country were interviewed and discussed topics including their upbringing, the Vietnam War, their careers, loss of family members, their health and life’s challenges. Don commented that “the reunion and the documentary have been an incredible journey for everyone, including myself.” He said the documentary is being prepared for wider distribution or national showing. It should be available in December in CD or DVD format.

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**2013 Golf Tournament Announced**

Co-chairmen Dr. Eric Aronowitz and Dan McCoy have announced that there will be a tournament in September 2013. All golfers are invited to participate.

To get on the mailing list to receive a brochure next spring, please leave a message at 518-935-7899.

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**2012 Golf Tournament**

The Niskayuna Community Foundation held its second annual “Nisky Cup” charitable Golf Tournament on September 14 at the Mohawk Golf Club. The tournament was held to benefit the Foundation in its work to maintain and enhance the town’s quality of life through grants to programs operating in the town and in the school district. Approximately 75 people participated throughout the day.

Winners of the various contests included the low-score (60) foursome of Nick Bennice, Mark Popeleski, Matthew Ross and Matt Brennan. Close behind in second place (score of 62) were Dave Armenia, George Vassolas, Bob Parkes and Neil Stark. There were winners for Closest to the Pin: Matt Ross won in the men’s division, while Dana Donohue won in the women’s division. The Longest Drive contest was won by Matt Ross in the men’s division and Shelley Burgio in the women’s division. Although there was a chance to win a lease of a car in the event of having a hole-in-one, regrettably nobody achieved that goal (for the second year in a row). Debbie DeLuke watched over the players, preventing any “irregularities” in scoring.

Sports enthusiasts were able to bid on wonderful sports memorabilia, including photographs, autographs and the like.

The tournament was chaired by Dan McCoy and Dr. Eric Aronowitz. The tournament committee included Adam Bach, Dr. Michael Breault, Debbie DeLuke, Dr. Robert Gerstenbluth, Mike Mullaney and Cindy Philpette. Planning is already underway for next year’s tournament.
SPECIAL THANKS...

... to Golf Committee Chairmen, Dr. Eric Aronowitz and Dan McCoy, for planning another successful tournament.

... to Adam Bach, Dr. Michael Breault, Debbie DeLuke, Dr. Robert Gerstenbluth, 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 Karen Huggins for her assistance.

... to Kathy Putz for administrative assistance.

... to Carol Valenza for designing posters.

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

... to the Mohawk Golf Club staff.

R. Ned Landon

NCF regrets the loss of Ned Landon, a Founding Board member on its inception and a member of the Honorary Board until his death on December 28, 2011. Ned graduated from Knox College and served in the Army in Europe in World War II. In 1954 he was hired by the GE Research Laboratory in Niskayuna where he became manager of communications and was a chief speech-writer for many of GE’s top executives. He worked on the GE exhibit at the 1964 New York World’s Fair and helped design the GE exhibit at EPCOT.

Ned contributed his communication skills to the work of a variety of area civic and charitable endeavors including NCF, Ellis Hospital Foundation, Proctor’s Theatre, the Schenectady Museum, the First Reformed Church and Girls Inc. He helped create the Girls Incorporated Foundation Trust Schenectady (GIFTS) which continues to benefit the Girls Club.

Ned leaves his wife of 65 years, Barbara, four daughters (all Niskayuna High School graduates) and a large family of grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is greatly missed by his family and the community.
THANKS TO OUR 2011-2012 DONORS

Thank you to the donors who contributed between October 3, 2011 and October 15, 2012. 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 518-935-7899 or dputz@nycap.rr.com.

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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.

Scholarships & Awards

Kathy Putz, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, is pleased to announce the following scholarship and award winners for 2012.

• Huether/Gillan Scholarship – Emily E. LaCoppola
• Michael E. and Mitchell S. Labanowski Scholarship – Deepak Aaron
• Scott McAndrews Outward Bound Wilderness Memorial Scholarship – Kathleen Batzinger
• 50th Anniversary Scholarship – Christopher P. Henry and Maarja L. Paul
• Community Service Award – Johnathan M. Marra
• College Promise Scholarship – Shaifaly Budhwani

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: Amy Dufort Galvin, Ginny Gritman, Kathy Greenthal and Mary Anne Mangano.
The gift that keeps giving – forever!

Did you know that when you make a gift to the Niskayuna Community Foundation (NCF) Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, our community will continue to realize the impact of your wise investment for generations to come?

One of the easiest ways to support Niskayuna’s future is to designate that the NCF Endowment Fund receives a specific dollar amount, or a specific piece of property, or a percentage of your estate. A codicil can be added to your will. The language is simple: “I give, devise and bequeath to the Niskayuna Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, Albany, NY (insert the dollar amount, or piece of property, or desired percentage) in support of the NCF Endowment Fund.” To learn more about how you can be a part of our future, contact Cindy Phillippe at 518-935-7899.

A gift of ANY size would be greatly appreciated and would ensure your legacy in our community. Notifying us of a future bequest will make you a member of our new Legacy Society. You do not need to share with us the size of your gift.

PLEASE NOTE: This information should not be considered as legal, tax or financial advice. Consult your professional advisor for further information and guidance.
2012 Murray Award Winners

Physical education teacher John Furey and English teacher Carol White were leading their Niskayuna High School classes on Friday morning, June 1, when they were pleasantly interrupted. School administrators, students, parents, teachers and Niskayuna Community Foundation representatives came to tell them that they had been selected as the recipients of the 2012 Murray Award for Excellence in Education.

An impromptu ceremony of accolades, a plaque, balloons and pictures followed. Kathleen Kemp of the Niskayuna Community Foundation said the award was initiated in 2004 by Kathy Murray Crowe and Jeanne Murray Veasey, the daughters of Edwards and Sally Murray, to honor their parents' involvement in the formation of the Niskayuna High School. The award is also given in memory of Jeanne Murray Veasey, who has since passed away.

A committee representing the students, parents and peers chose recipients, and the Niskayuna Community Foundation facilitated the selection process and award presentation. Criteria included outstanding classroom practices as well as growth potential and a school presence that inspires and positively impacts students, colleagues and the community.

The award comes with $2,500 for the professional development activity of each recipient's choice.

Students have spoken of how Mr. Furey gives tirelessly for the betterment of his students. They recognize him as kind and supportive, and speak of the ample time and extensive energy he puts into his instruction as well as nurturing the emotional well-being of his students. In addition to the demands of coaching varsity football and baseball, he reaches out to all members of the student body with a smile, handshake and most notably a positive attitude that is nothing short of infectious. A testimony to the impact Mr. Furey has on the school are his most frequently uttered words, “It’s a great day to be a Warrior!” These words were placed on the back of a Niskayuna sweatshirt, leading it to not only be a very popular fundraiser but one of the most requested items of the past year!

Ms. White is recognized as one of the most generous and collaborative teachers at Niskayuna High School. Students speak of how kind and supportive she is. Without fanfare she supports the neediest of the students and helps them find the success they so desperately seek. Students recognize her steady presence at the high school and her vibrant and active classroom activities. Her enthusiasm for Shakespeare and poetry, as seen through the establishment of the Shakespeare Club and Poetry in Unexpected Places, does not go unnoticed. She is also a founding member of Java Jive and the underclassmen Creative Writing Club.