Models of Philanthropy
Mark and Terri Little

One of the wonderful things about living in Niskayuna is the friendly and warm sense of community that we get from our neighbors. Mark and Terri Little are just those kind of neighbors – involved and generous Niskayunans who make living here a little better for all of us.

Mark and Terri moved to Niskayuna in 1989 for Mark to take a new position as product general manager for GE Generators. Terri was reluctant at first, as she had a wonderful job as a teacher near Boston, and their families and friends were all in that area. They were soon settled, however, in their new neighborhood in Edison Woods near GE. As Mark rose through the ranks at GE, Terri and the children, Julie and Joe, adapted to life outside the city and came to love our wonderful suburb. Pretty soon, Terri was more worried about Mark getting transferred again and having to leave Niskayuna.

“Niskayuna is a great place to raise kids,” said Terri. “We find this town to be very welcoming, and the school system is wonderful.”

Mark and Terri have both been actively involved in community projects since they moved here. In addition to being on the Ellis Hospital Board and involved with the United Way, Mark was a founding member of the Niskayuna Community Foundation Board. In fact, Mark and Terri helped the group get on its feet with an extremely generous grant of $25,000 at startup. “The two of us feel strongly that community involvement is an important thing to do, and felt that NCF was the right vehicle to support,” said Mark. Since 2003, their sizeable grant has funded the College Promise Scholarship for Niskayuna High School students who need financial assistance for college.

Terri has participated in numerous groups such as the Schenectady Foundation, her childrens’ PTOs, soccer club, and many others. But her true passion is shown in her involvement with Safe Inc. of Schenectady, an organization that provides support and shelter for runaway, homeless and exploited youth.

These days, Mark and Terri’s kids are grown and out of the house, but the Littles continue to be involved in many aspects of the Niskayuna community. Niskayuna has left its mark on the family, however, and their daughter Julie has come back to work at GE and raise her family here.

Mark is now SVP, GE Global Research and Chief Technology Officer, GE and we hope they’re here to stay!
President’s Message:
To Our Community Friends and Neighbors

As the Niskayuna Community Foundation (NCF) enters its 15th year, I would like to thank the community for their continued support. The foundation is managed by a volunteer board, is supported by tax-deductible donations and is dedicated to making our town a better place to live, work, learn and play. We support a wide variety of programs including both educational and need-based efforts.

A key NCF goal in the coming year is to significantly increase the number of grants and mini-grants. However, we can only do so through the generosity of our Niskayuna friends and neighbors. We welcome community feedback on areas that need our help. We also welcome nominations for potential candidates to serve on the NCF board. Your contributions are greatly needed, very much appreciated and play an important role in strengthening our community.

Daniel McCoy, NCF President

2014 Grants

Class of 2014 After Prom $750
To cover Proctors rental costs for a safe after-prom party.

Niskayuna HS Robotics Club $1,000
To pay for robot kit parts and a software upgrade.

Music Mobile, Inc. $1,000
To support free and accessible “Learning Through Music” session for low and moderate income children.

Scotia-Glenville Children’s Museum $1,000
To improve the Museum’s traveling exhibits through repair, replacement and enhancement of artifacts and other interactive resources.

Girls on the Run Capital Region $2,000
To support two seasons of Girls on the Run programs at two Niskayuna schools.

Albany Symphony Orchestra $1,000
To support Niskayuna High School’s music studio with two of Albany Symphony’s season-long composers in residence.

Girls Inc. of the Capital Region $1,500
To build an outdoor science classroom applying conceptual learning to hands-on experiences.

Friends of Music $1,000
For the purchase of world drums for the elementary schools.

Niskayuna Baseball $1,000
For the construction of a scoreboard for future tournaments.

2014 GRANT SPOTLIGHT
Music Mobile

Music Mobile’s mission is to foster self-esteem, confidence, cooperation, tolerance, kindness, diversity awareness, and civic responsibility while teaching language arts, social studies, and critical thinking and leadership skills through participatory music. Serving people of all ages but with a particular focus on the education, development, and socialization of children, Music Mobile presents year-round concerts, workshops, residencies, and special projects in conjunction with schools, after-school and summer programs, parks, libraries, festivals, family shelters, rehabilitation programs, nursing homes, and senior centers. NCF was pleased to help support Music Mobile’s “learning through music” sessions that were part of the “Music Mobile In Central Park” series this summer. The “learning through music” educational design is geared for children and their caregivers, and features singing, building instruments, and engaging in fun-filled instructional and developmentally appropriate activities.
NCF Receives $500,000 Estate Gift

The Niskayuna Community Foundation is pleased to announce that they have received a bequest of $500,000 from the estate of Harriet F. Wall.

The $500,000 bequest will be added to the Niskayuna Community Foundation’s Endowment Fund. Through this fund, the Niskayuna Community Foundation is able to award generous grants to local organizations, while investing the funds to grow the amount available for grants over time.

“The Niskayuna Community Foundation is thrilled to accept this generous gift from the estate of Ms. Wall,” said Daniel F. McCoy, President, NCF Board of Directors. “By carefully stewarding these funds and investing them wisely in our community, the Niskayuna Community Foundation will ensure that Ms. Wall’s gift will make life better for Niskayuna residents and visitors now and far into the future.”

Ms. Wall, who passed away on March 30, 2014 at the age of 95, was a longtime Niskayuna resident with her husband, Robert, a retired General Electric employee.

NCF Grant Helps Fund Chromebooks in the Classroom

“I don't collect a single piece of paper from these students,” says Frank Adamo, 8th grade English teacher at Iroquois Middle School.

Mr. Adamo’s students are using Chromebooks in their classroom that are partially funded through a grant from NCF. The teachers at Iroquois are using the technology to pave the way to a more efficient learning experience. These Chromebooks allow the teachers to coordinate assignments, students’ work, grades and information among the 8th grade team. They can travel from class to class and be used by different disciplines.

With the latest in modern technology, students are entering a paperless world where they obtain assignments online, join an online forum specific to their class, grade and period, turn in their work, and receive grades and feedback from their teacher. They can also access the internet to further enhance their learning – for example, if Mr. Adamo sees that a student is misusing punctuation, he can embed a link to a YouTube video about that punctuation, right into the student’s paper.

This grant from NCF is helping put Niskayuna students onto the cutting edge of educational technology.

2014 Golf Tournament

This year’s golfers faced a gorgeous but chilly day for the fourth annual NCF “Nisky Cup” charitable Golf Tournament. The event was held at the Mohawk Golf club on Friday, September 12 and attracted a wide range of golfers to help support the NCF’s grants and programs.

Golfers fueled up with breakfast before heading out in foursomes for their rounds of 18. When they reached the second hole, they spied the pristine Ford F150 truck, donated by Metro Ford, that was theirs for the price of a hole-in-one. Sadly, no one qualified this year, although there were a few impressively close balls!

Also impressive were the scores of our winning teams. Four $100 gift certificates to the Mohawk Club Pro Shop were awarded to the team from Mohawk Honda with lowest mens’ score. The 2nd lowest score, to the couples team of Roberts and Kelly, took home $50 gift certificates to the pro shop. Sondra’s Fine Jewelry donated four $50 gift certificates to the women’s team with the lowest score – Anne Aronowitz, Shelley Burgio, Dana Donohue and Susanne Gerstenbluth. Awards were also given out for Closest to the Pin (men and women) and Longest Drive (men and women). All golfers enjoyed a celebratory lunch to finish up a successful and fun day.

The Niskayuna Community Foundation would like to thank all of our wonderful and generous sponsors for supporting this special event.

NISKAYUNA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Golf Tournament Sponsors

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Please Send a Tax-Deductible Gift to NCF Today!

It’s easy!
1. Write a check to the Niskayuna Community Foundation and send 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.

Call (518) 935-7899 for further details.

YOU Can Join the Legacy Society

Be a part of helping Niskayuna remain a strong and healthy community in the future! To support programs and organizations that make life in Niskayuna so enjoyable, please consider joining the Niskayuna Community Foundation’s Legacy Society.

A gift of any size is welcome and you do not need to tell us how much you are planning to give. However, if you tell us during your lifetime that you are planning to leave a bequest upon your death, we can recognize your thoughtfulness during your lifetime.

You can make a gift through a variety of giving tools, such as a charitable gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust, a pooled income fund, or a gift of life insurance. If you leave a bequest in your will, please use the following language to ensure that your gift is directed to NCF:

I give, devise, and bequeath to the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, in the city of Albany, State of New York, [the sum of money, specific property, a stated percentage of the estate, or the remainder of an estate] to be directed fully to the Niskayuna Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region.

For further information, please call Cindy Phillippe at (518) 374-0326.

Apply for a Grant from NCF!

Would your 501c3 organization like to apply for a grant from NCF? The NCF offers two grant programs – a rolling mini-grant program for requests up to $1,000 and an annual grant-making program for requests up to $5,000.

For more information or to apply, please contact Maggie Rush Vinciguerra at grants@niskayunacf.org.
ANNUAL FUND — “The Power of Many”

Thank you to the donors who contributed to funds of the Niskayuna Community Foundation between September 30, 2013 and October 1, 2014. 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 518-446-9638.

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

Please Support Niskayuna with a Gift

NCF’s Murray Award Honors Niskayuna’s Best Teachers

Every year, the Niskayuna Community Foundation presents two Niskayuna High School teachers with a special award created by the Murray family. The award began in 2004 by Kathy Murray Crowe and Jeanne Murray Veasey to honor their parents’ involvement in the formation of Niskayuna High School and their belief that educators in the high school would be the foundation of the “uncompromising excellence” that is typical of our school district.

A committee comprised of students, parents, and peers choose each year’s winners based on criteria such as outstanding classroom practices, growth potential and a school presence that positively impacts their students.

This year, the committee burst in on Laura Favata (math) and Meghan Miller (Latin) to surprise them with the awards.

Mrs. Favata has been described by students as a hardworking, dedicated and accommodating teacher who always takes extra time to make herself available. Active in the Niskayuna community and a regular presence at school events, Mrs. Favata gives much of herself both in and out of the classroom.

A highly regarded Latin teacher, Mrs. Miller is described as energetic and engaging. One student enthusiastically says “Her goal is not that everyone pass the class, but that they do well and really learn the material. She made it impossible not to love Latin!” Outside the classroom, Mrs. Miller leads overseas trips and acts as a faculty advisor for the school Latin Club.

If you’re a Niskayuna High School student, keep your eyes open for next year’s amazing teacher winners in June!

2014 Scholarships

The Niskayuna Community Foundation congratulates the following college-bound high school students who were selected to receive NCF scholarships.

- Robert Palatsky
  College Promise Scholarship
- Katherine Quinn
  Huether Gillan Scholarship
- Felicia Dodge
  Community Service Award