Celebrating 15 Years of Service to Niskayuna

Once upon a time, there were two concerned Niskayuna citizens who were pondering how to make a difference in the lives of our students. One was an involved parent and alumna of Niskayuna High School, the other was the Superintendent of Schools. Cindy Phillippe (the parent) and Briggs McAndrews (the Superintendent), were both thinking about ways to support student activities, and they organized a community conference to address those issues. A steering committee of interested Niskayunans was established. When Briggs and Cindy suggested a community foundation, the steering committee jumped in to make it happen. Ultimately, NCF was born on December 31st, 1999. The decision was made to create a foundation that would support a wide variety of local not-for-profit programs in our town and school district, including, but not limited to, those for students.

The first board of NCF, made up of a handful of devoted Niskayuna residents, immediately started raising funds and establishing a grant process. An honorary board, which continues to this day, was also created, and has provided invaluable assistance since the beginning.

Since its founding, the NCF has seen many engaged town citizens participate as board members, apply for grants for the projects they’re involved in, and donate money to support those grants. (In fact, several of our current board members have been with NCF since inception.) Over the past 15 years of service to our town, the NCF has supported more than 110 different organizations, with 180 grants and raised over $1,200,000!

This year, as NCF looked back to all that has been accomplished, the board considered how best to celebrate the ongoing dedication of so many people. The decision: a day of service involving town residents, working on 15 different service projects, at non-profit organizations that support and serve Niskayuna.

On September 26th, more than 200 people came from all corners of Niskayuna to work together supporting those organizations. Local businesses provided much needed sponsorship to buy materials for the site projects – everything from food to paint to fencing.

A horde of generous volunteers made a difference to our community through the following projects:

» Building a garden at the Niskayuna Senior Center.
» Creating blankets for stray cats for the Animal Protective Foundation.
» Painting and moving a collection at MiSci.
» Gardening and picking tomatoes for a local emergency food pantry at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County.

continued on page 3...
President’s Message
To Our Community Neighbors and Friends

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Niskayuna Community Foundation, I would once again like to thank our friends and 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 hope you had the opportunity to see or participate in our 15th Anniversary Day of Service. The success of the day is due in large part to the hard work and dedication of Susan Polsinelli, Michelle Ostrelich, Eileen Handelman and Heather Schecter. Thank you to these women and the committee for an amazing day!

As we enter our 16th year, our goal is to not only continue this level of support but to increase it, especially for those in need. We can only do this, however, through the generosity of our friends and the Niskayuna community. In addition, we welcome feedback on areas that need our help, as well as nominations for candidates to serve on the NCF board.

Daniel McCoy, NCF President

2015 Grants

- **Craig Elementary School** $3,300
  For the blacktop playspace project.
- **Concerned for the Hungry** $1,500
  To support the Thanksgiving food basket program.
- **N-CAP** $2,500
  To support a town mental health assessment.
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension Roots and Wisdom** $1,000
  To support the employment of a Niskayuna youth in the summer agricultural program.
- **miSci** $5,000
  For the purpose of sending all 6th graders to the Challenger Learning Center to complete a space mission.
- **Girls, Inc.** $1,000
  To help send 7th grade girls from Niskayuna middle schools to the 2015-2016 “Girls Summit” program.
- **Niskayuna Booster Club** $1,000
  For the renovation of the weight room at Niskayuna High School.
- **Van Antwerp Middle School** $1,900
  To help purchase a protective covering for the renovated gymnasium floor.
- **Best Buddies** $500
  To help fund the Best Buddies programming (friendship and inclusion student partnerships) at Niskayuna Middle Schools.
- **Town Playground Camp** $1,000
  To help pay for additional specialists to support special needs campers.
- **Schenectady Family and Child Services** $2,500
  To support the cost of homemaking services for Niskayuna elderly.
- **Schenectady Family and Child Services School District 60th Anniversary Scholarship** $2,500
  To support the cost of homemaking services for Niskayuna elderly.
- **Girls, Inc.** $1,000
  To help send 7th grade girls from Niskayuna middle schools to the 2015-2016 “Girls Summit” program.

Please Send a Tax-Deductible Gift to NCF Today!

It’s easy!
1. Write a check to the Niskayuna Community Foundation, c/o Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, 6 Tower Place, Albany, NY 12203.
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) 446-9638 for further details.

2015 Scholarships

- **Emily Casey-Wagemaker**
  Huether/Gillan Scholarship
- **Bianca Sciocchetti**
  Community Service Scholarship
- **Rea Mittal**
  Community Service Scholarship
- **Alexandra Betancourt-Perez**
  College Promise Scholarship
- **Grace M. Palmer**
  Harriet Wall Memorial Scholarship
- **Noah Chaskin**
  Scott McAndrews Outward Bound Scholarship
- **Rajiv R. Kommareddy**
  School District 60th Anniversary Scholarship
- **Julia B. Schantz**
  School District 60th Anniversary Scholarship
Mike Bowman, Inspiring Leader at GE and in Niskayuna

Congratulations to Mike Bowman, who received GE Global Research's 2015 CTO Award for Inspiring Leader. Mike selected NCF as his non-profit recipient.

“After receiving the Niskayuna Community Foundation newsletter last fall, my wife Erika and I were impressed with the foundation and how it supports so many organizations throughout Niskayuna,” said Mike. “We liked that the donations went directly to the local community and are distributed to a variety of areas such as: scholarships to Niskayuna students, grants to local organizations, support of the arts, education, recreation, environment, health and human service programs.”

“When presented with the opportunity to donate back through an award from GE, we knew exactly where we wanted the money to go, back to our community through the Niskayuna Community Foundation. Thank you NCF, your organization is truly making a difference.”

Celebrating 15 Years of Service to Niskayuna continued...

» Sorting clothing donations for the needy at City Mission.
» Organizing the inventory of clothes, toys and other necessities for foster children at The Quest for Grace Foundation.
» Sorting food donations for distribution at the Regional Food Bank.
» Collecting food and money donations for Concerned for the Hungry.
» Painting structures and refurbishing the playground at River Road Park.
» Sorting and organizing donated toiletries and clothing for exploited and at-risk young adults at SAFE Inc.
» Building a new preschool library at the Schenectady JCC.
» Cleaning up the community playground and painting the play rooms at the Girls, Inc. site.
» Repainting playground equipment at Dean Street Park.
» Landscaping, weeding and planting signature purple tulip bulbs at the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Capital Region center.
» Putting together emergency bags of snacks, comfort items and basic toiletries for displaced children at the Children's Advocacy Center.

Our truly productive day was capped off with a fun evening party at LT's Grill. Familiar Niskayuna faces helped increase the day's fund-raising total by acting as honorary bartenders and donating their (very impressive!) tips to NCF.

As we look forward to our next 15 years of service to Niskayuna, we’d like to thank everyone who participated in our wonderful celebration. Whether you wrote a check, painted a wall, or sorted supplies for needy children, you made a difference in the lives of your neighbors.
ANNUAL FUND — “The Power of Many”

Thank you to the donors who contributed to funds of the Niskayuna Community Foundation between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015. Funds included in this listing: NCF General Fund, NCF Scholarship Endowment Fund, NCF General Endowment Fund, NCF Alumni Fund, Niskayuna School District Education Enrichment Fund, the Ball Family Fund, the Neil and Jane Golub Donor Advised Fund of the Niskayuna Community Foundation, Neil and Jane Golub Unrestricted Fund of the Niskayuna Community Foundation, the McAndrews Family Fund, the Sally S. and Edwards B. Murray Designated Fund, the Phillippe Family Fund.

Names designated with an (*) denote donors to the Niskayuna Day of Service event in celebration of the Niskayuna Community Foundation’s 15th Anniversary.

Please accept our apologies if we have erred by misspelling or omitting your name in reproducing our donor list.

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(Gifts of $25,000 and above)
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Gifts in Honor

The donations below represent gifts made to funds of the Niskayuna Community Foundation in honor of special occasions in the lives of these people.

» In honor of Scott Almas
  Lauren Landsay

» In honor of Michael Bowman
  GE Global Research

» In honor of Michael R. Breault, DDS
  Chantal, Karen, Meyra, Michelle, Sharon, Felicia, Mary, Millie, –Prisi and Susan

» In honor of the Carangelo Family
  Donna J. McAndrews, the McAndrews-Pipa Family

» In honor of Niskayuna scholar Michael Dean, grandson of
  Karen and Vincent J. Polsinelli
  Lynn Schnell

» In honor of the Eldaye Family
  Donna J. McAndrews, the McAndrews-Pipa Family

» In honor of Adam Evans as he begins his first year of medical school
  Donna and Bob Evans

» In honor of Ryan Evans and his completion of his first two marathons
  Donna and Bob Evans

» In honor of Joanne L. Fitts
  Laura and John Fitts

» In honor of Cynthia W. Hamilton
  Robert B. Hamilton

» In honor of Barbara Mauro and her many years of service on the Niskayuna School Board of Education
  Tammi and David Apkarian
  Dr. Kevin and Lark Baughman
  Maxine H. Borom
  Barbara and John Burgess
  Jane Carol Glendinning
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  Deborah L. Shea
  Diane and Richard Smith
  Stephanie and Stephen Schechter
  Kim and Daniel Thurn
  Sonya and Michael Ward
  Mrs. Lorene Zabin

» In honor of Briggs McAndrews on the occasion of his 71st Birthday
  Isabelle McAndrews

» In honor of Isabelle McAndrews
  Rand A. Roomi
  Dorothy and Ivan Skomp

» In honor of Isabelle and Briggs McAndrews on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
  Sharon and Thomas Dyckes
  Donna J. McAndrews, the McAndrews-Pipa Family

» In honor of Mr. and Mrs. David C. Murphy on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
  Sharon and Thomas Dyckes

» In honor of the Ognibene Family
  Donna J. McAndrews, the McAndrews-Pipa Family

» In honor of Cindy and Dick Philippe on the occasion of their 45th Wedding Anniversary
  Cindy and Duane Ball
  Marcia and Clement Davis
  Dr. Michael A. DePetrillo Jr. and Lillian M. Bertalan
  Debbie and Bob DeLuke, DDS
  Carol Jo and Duke DuFort
  Linda and Dr. Steven Goodman
  Cynthia W. Hamilton
  Sandy and Fred Kaplan
  Sally and Jack Quinn
  Sarah and Don Schermerhorn

» In honor of Niskayuna scholar
  Leo Polsinelli, grandson of
  Karen and Vincent J. Polsinelli
  Lynn Schnell

» In honor of Niskayuna scholar
  Luca Polsinelli, grandson of
  Karen and Vincent J. Polsinelli
  Lynn Schnell

» In honor of Niskayuna scholar
  Evan Schnell, grandson of
  Karen and Vincent J. Polsinelli
  Lynn Schnell

» In honor of Van Antwerp Middle School Faculty Members:
  James Aldous, Christopher Bianchi, Joseph Carosella, Claudia Cavaleri, Bridget Douts, Jason DeRocco, James Edgar, John Furey, Brian Grastorf, Heather Leader, Paul Marcellino, Adria Marra, Peter Melito, Tracey Newell, Jules Paul, Michael Petrone, Jacob Purington, Jo Ann Sabourin, Maureen Trefethen, and Joseph Spollen
  Donna J. McAndrews, the McAndrews-Pipa Family

» In honor of the Van Antwerp Middle School Science Bowl Team
  Lynn Schnell

» In honor of John R. Yagielski
  William Anders

Gifts in Memory

The donations below represent gifts made to the Niskayuna Community Foundation General Fund in memory of special people by those who were touched by their lives.

» In memory of Malcolm and Virginia Bard
  Cindy and Duane Ball

» In memory of Benjamin F. Bennett, former president of the Niskayuna Community Association, c. 1960
  Douglas M. Bennett

» In memory of Tina Bianchi
  Vincent Bianchi

» In memory of Felix Blanchard
  USMA 1947
  Marilyn and Ronald Tamoschat

» In memory of Glen Davis
  USMA 1947
  Marilyn and Ronald Tamoschat

» In memory of Ladislav Dejnozka ‘41
  Helen G. Dejnozka

» In memory of Lois C. Johnson
  Bonnie and Bill Daggett
  Mark L. Johnson
  Niskayuna Central School District
  Sue and Gene Zeltmann

» In memory of Richard (Dick) Mathews
  Dr. Michael A. DePetrillo Jr. and Lillian M. Bertalan

» In Memory of Scott McAndrews
  Joyce M. Beckley
  Veronica and James Blendell
  Sharon and Thomas Dyckes
  The Greene Family
  Louisa Lombardo and James Dillion
  Cindy and Dick Philippe
  Rand A. Roomi
  Amy and Anthony Salamone
  Helen and Bob Salamone
  Dorothy and Ivan Skomp
  Dr. Jayne Steubing
  Donna and Richard Tanfield
  Beth and Ken Webb

» In memory of Helen Opitz
  Cindy and Duane Ball

» In memory of Bettye Turitto, mother of Kathy Greenhal
  Dr. Michael A. DePetrillo Jr. and Lillian M. Bertalan
  Susan and Roy Keats
  Debby and Mike Mullaney
  Cindy and Dick Philippe

» In memory of Jane Vermilyea
  Sharon and Charles Maneri
**DAY OF SERVICE SPOTLIGHT**

**A New Garden for the Niskayuna Senior Center**

Niskayuna's senior gardeners are in for a treat when the next growing season starts. On September 26th, on NCF’s Day of Service, two teams of volunteers and one generous fence company created a fabulous new garden for the Senior Center.

A few days before the event, J&K Fence Company donated and installed a large chain link fence that outlines the area. Cindy Priest and Judy Tomisman, site coordinators, directed the volunteers building the gardens that day. While some volunteers cut boards to hold in the raised beds, others pounded in rebar to secure the boards and define the two 16’ x 6’ gardens. The inside of each bed was lined with plastic to keep weeds and critters out, and then filled with many wheelbarrows full of dirt.

Come spring, there will be a wonderful garden ready for the seniors to bring to life. The raised beds will provide easy access, as will the wide alleys that are accessible to both wheelchair-bound seniors and those with walkers. In the future, seats are planned for the outside edges, to make weeding, planting and harvesting more comfortable.

The seniors who watched the hard work of our volunteers, and those who have seen the gardens since, have expressed excitement and anticipation for next year’s garden bounty. It is planned that the herbs and vegetables grown in the garden will be utilized in the Senior Center’s meals.

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**HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS**

Neil and Jane Golub are always on the go, but one thing remains true, they love their hometown of Niskayuna. Together they have raised a family here, built their business here and have invested in supporting the organizations that make our community strong!

Last year, Neil and Jane Golub established two funds to support the Niskayuna Community Foundation that will be used to address the Niskayuna community. The funds will support community organizations recommended by the donors and also those identified by the NCF Board as the most pressing community needs. In this way, NCF is able to support its work to strengthen our community, and the Golub’s desire to support the agencies they care about.

Neil commented, “We believe in giving back and like supporting charitable organizations throughout our region. We like efficiency, and because of this found that making a gift to the Niskayuna Community Foundation to establish a donor advised fund and a fund designated to Niskayuna, allowed us to see an immediate tax benefit and be able to support our community for years to come.”

Please join Neil and Jane Golub by investing in positive impact for Niskayuna’s future – call us to create a fund or become involved today.

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**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.
NCF’s Murray Award Honors Niskayuna’s Best Teachers

The Murray family knew: Niskayuna’s teachers are something special. In 2004, Kathy Murray Crowe and Jeanne Murray Veasey created the Murray award to honor those outstanding teachers that are 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 exceptional classroom practices, growth potential and a school presence that positively impacts their students.

This year, teachers Joe Carosella and Janice Lindsay join the impressive list of Murray Award winners.

Mr. Carosella, a German teacher, is described by his students as devoted and passionate. He is often the first person at school and the last to leave. “Herr Care,” as he is affectionately known to his students, doesn’t teach just German, but gives his class a broader view of how languages and cultures relate to each other. A student will enter his class expecting to learn German, but will also learn a little Danish, a little French and come away with a new world perspective. Each August, before school even starts, Coach Carosella is on the soccer field preparing varsity athletes for the fall season.

There is never a dull moment in Mrs. Lindsay’s classroom. Between the curriculum and interactive games, her business classes are always popular and enthusiastically discussed among students. She is described as kind, nurturing and always willing to help out her students. Mrs. Lindsay is also a constant presence in outside events and is a faculty advisor in multiple clubs, including Youth Court and Mock Trial. Whether it is for her fierce devotion to her classroom or her lighthearted nature or her involvement with her students, Mrs. Lindsay is well-known and loved at Niskayuna High School.