



The Community Foundation
for South Central New York

COMMUNITY *News*

New Fund Supports Binghamton's Four-legged Finest

It takes a special dog to work in law enforcement.

Consider Falco, a member of the Binghamton Police Department's K-9 Unit. Falco



often works as a teacher, conducting hundreds of demonstrations at schools, senior centers and community events.

One minute he's following commands from his partner, Patrolman Patrick Brady, and gently submitting to caresses from school kids. The next minute, you might find him racing into a commotion of sirens and yells at a crime scene, sniffing out evidence or confronting a suspect.

"We demand a lot from the

dogs," Brady says. They need the right kind of temperament, and they need to have the stamina of athletes.

A dog bred and raised for police work costs \$5,000 to \$6,000. Training and caring for these animals, and providing for their health and safety, adds to the expense.

The police department's budget doesn't cover all the costs, and in the current economy that's not going to change. To provide extras such as nutritional supplements for their canine partners, the four officers in the unit dip into their own pockets, Brady says.

But police dogs are no luxury. They help to make the Binghamton Police efficient and the city safe.

For example, when officers searching a building for drugs come up empty, often a police dog will zero in on the well-hidden stash. "We'll find it in a dryer vent, the ceiling, anywhere," says Captain Chris Bracco, another member of the K-9 Unit. Without the dog's help, a weeks-long investigation might come to nothing. With the animal's assistance, police can close a drug house and get the dealers off the street.

It's because the dogs are so important to their mission that members of the K-9 Unit turned to the Community Foundation to establish the Binghamton Police K-9 Fund in 2011. The fund will help the K-9 Unit buy food, medications, medical care, training and equipment for current and retired police dogs, and to purchase new dogs as needed.

Community members have already shown generous support for the canine members of the Binghamton Police. The Wegmans pharmacy in Johnson City donates \$359 a month worth of medications, says Bracco. Creature Comforts, a pet shop in Binghamton, provides dog food and equipment at a discount, and the Companion Animal Clinic in Binghamton donates veterinary services.

Individuals and groups who enjoy the K-9 demonstrations sometimes offer donations as well. But as city employees, police officers are leery of raising funds directly. "It's a conflict of interest," Bracco says.

Bracco approached the Community Foundation after reading that police in Boise, Idaho had established a K-9

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Need Assessment Update

Thanks to a strong collaboration between non-profits, foundations and community members, *A Community Need Assessment: Broome County* was completed in the Fall of 2010. The assessment was developed to provide local foundations with information regarding community needs when allocating resources and making funding decisions in Broome County. Over 100 organizations and individuals participated in either the focus group sessions or the on-line need assessment survey. What follows is a synopsis of the progress made to date based on the information we received:

■ The Community Foundation is proud to announce that we have addressed one of the most commonly stated needs of local non-profits: a Uniform Grant Application (see sidebar for details). The new UGA can be found under the icon “forms and guidelines” at our website www.donorswhocare.org. The foundations that are participating in

Uniform Application Simplifies Grant Proposals

Starting with the spring cycle of 2011, the new Uniform Grant Application (see main story) will provide a single form for submitting proposals to the Community Foundation for South Central New York, the Dr. Clifford G. and Florence B. Decker Foundation, the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation and the Roger L. Kresge Foundation.

Applicants will still need to follow each foundation’s unique guidelines, which describe the kinds of proposals that are eligible. But once an organization confirms that its proposal is right for a specific foundation, the grant writer can make multiple submissions by copying one completed form.

Tina Barber, the community investment assistant at the Community Foundation, working on behalf of a group of area foundations, created the UGA to help both non-profits and philanthropies.

During the community needs assessment that Barber conducted last year, grant writers described how hard it is to prepare an

entirely new proposal, for the same project, for each of several foundations. Foundation officials noted that long, complex and often redundant applications make grant evaluations difficult. The UGA was designed to reflect a commonly agreed upon framework for grant-making.

The uniform application released in 2012 is a pilot effort. As non-profits use it, foundations will solicit feedback so the form can be made even better in the future.

Organizations applying to the Community Foundation will find that the UGA makes for a shorter proposal than they needed to send us in the past. Although the package includes a six-page introduction with tips on how to write an effective proposal, the form that grant writers need to complete is only three pages long.

Now that the process is simpler, we hope that organizations won’t hesitate to apply even for small sums. We also hope that a less-intimidating process will encourage new applicants and level the playing field for all eligible organizations.

the UGA are currently exploring the possibility of a uniform reporting process as well.

■ Even before the 2011 flood, non-profits were reporting difficulty meeting increased operating costs with decreasing budgets. The revenue lost by many non-profits as a result of the 2011 flood has led the Community Foundation to respond by devoting our spring 2012 cycle to the capital and operating needs of non-profits affected by that disaster.

■ The Community Foundation has begun a comprehensive review of its giving over the past several years. We are doing this to ensure that we are in step with the needs currently presented by the community, and to help us effectively manage our resources.

■ As many non-profits expressed an interest in learning more about how to assess the needs of their organizations and their constituencies, we have partnered with the New York Council of Nonprofits to provide capacity building workshops on this topic in the coming year. NYCON will also address the issue of how non-profits manage the outcomes of their programs.

Although much has been accomplished, much remains to be done! Our discussion surrounding effective community investment will continue, as will our commitment to responding to the needs of the communities we serve. We thank those of you who took the time to participate in the process and welcome any additional feedback you may have.

Binghamton’s Four-legged Finest

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fund in conjunction with the Idaho Community Foundation.

Working with our Community Foundation, Binghamton’s K-9 Unit was able to establish an institution that isn’t connected with the city government, and which therefore can raise funds without any hint of impropriety. The Foundation also provides all the legal and accounting services needed to manage the fund, Bracco says.

As the fund gets up and running, the Community Foundation is also helping with some basics, for example by promoting the fund on its Web site, providing a

link for online contributions and getting envelopes and donor cards printed for donations.

“We’re in the infancy stages now, starting to build up our fund,” Bracco says.

Operating an effective K-9 Unit isn’t easy. “There are a lot of police dog teams that are not successful,” Bracco says. “We try to do it right. But therein lies the problem—doing this right and trying to afford it.”

With the K-9 Fund to engage community support, the K-9 teams of Binghamton will gain the means to continue to do their best for the citizens they serve.

Grants

Recent Grants from the Community Fund

Binghamton Philharmonic: \$4,000 toward expansion of regional marketing efforts (*Broome*)

Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES: \$10,000 toward support of a Service Learning Program in partnership with local non-profits (*Multi-county*)

Delaware Support and Services: \$14,796 toward a pilot adult day care program in Walton (*Delaware*)

Food Bank of the Southern Tier: \$15,000 to expand and sustain the Back-Pack supplemental food program for low-income youth, in current and to additional Broome County Schools (*Broome*)

Goodwill Theater: \$5,000 toward an integrated customer and donor management software purchase (*Broome*)

Opportunities for Chenango: \$10,000 towards operating support for a financial literacy program for low-income families (*Broome/Chenango*)

Roxbury Arts Group: \$7,500 for operating support (*Delaware*)

Samaritan Counseling Center: \$7,500 towards operating support for an additional counselor (*Broome/Tioga*)

United Way of Broome County: \$14,716 towards development and operation of a regional volunteer center serving non-profits (*Broome*)

Village Improvement Society of Gilbertsville: \$9,000 capital grant towards foundation repair and asbestos abatement at historic post office building (*Otsego*)

YMCA of Broome County: \$7,500 towards replacement of fire doors at West Family YMCA (*Broome*)

Total: \$105,012



Food Bank of the Southern Tier is both a past and present recipient of funds from the Community Fund.

April 11th and June 13th FREE CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING!

Needs Assessment and Program Design

Presented by Susan Weinrich, VP of Organizational & Community Development, New York Council of Nonprofits

This workshop will provide an overview of how to conduct a needs assessment and explain its fundamental relationship to program development and design. Participants will learn about different needs assessments methodologies including primary data collection and secondary research. The session will define terms such as inputs, outputs, and outcomes and help participants strengthen the correlation between identified needs and program activities. Attention will be paid to market forces such as consumer choice. Discussion will address the development of new programs as well as how to use data collection and analysis to strengthen, validate, and modify existing programs.

Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Follow this link to register:

<https://binghamtontrainingapril11.eventbrite.com>

Program Evaluation and Outcome Measurement

Presented by Susan Weinrich, VP of Organizational & Community Development, New York Council of Nonprofits

Building on the discussion in the Needs Assessment and Program Design workshop, this workshop will further explore the relationship of outcomes to the program planning, implementation and evaluation cycle. The session will define commonly used (and misused) terms and clarify the distinction between program evaluation and process evaluation. We will discuss the relationship between short-term, intermediate, and long-term outcomes and help you begin to identify the data and outcomes that are feasible for you to measure based on your program goals, funding, and staff capacity and resources. Participants are encouraged to bring a copy of their logic model, program description, or grant application for reference and discussion purposes.

Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Follow this link to register:

<https://binghamtontrainingjune13.eventbrite.com>

Both workshops are *free* to non-profit directors, board and staff (limit two per organization) thanks to the support of the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation and the Community Foundation for South Central New York.

**Location: Broome County Public Library, Decker Room
185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13901**

Participants will qualify to apply for the 2012 Southern Tier Capacity Building Mini-Grant Program, as well as special assessment support offered directly by the New York Council of Nonprofits.



The Community Foundation
for South Central New York

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The Community Foundation for South Central New York serves
Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga counties.



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Board Welcomes Patrick J. Doyle



The Board of Directors is happy to welcome its newest member, Patrick Doyle. Doyle is director of business development at the Broome County Industrial Development Agency, where he works

to attract new businesses to the area and help existing businesses expand.

He previously served as executive director of the Broome-Tioga Workforce Development Board, worked as a career counselor at Colgate University and spent many years in his family's business, the Pleasant Valley Wine Company in Hammondsport.

Doyle chairs the regional board of the American Red Cross of South Central New York and is a trustee of the Roberson Museum and Science Center. He also chairs the Colgate University Admissions Alumni Advisors Committee, serves on the advisory board of the Binghamton University

Systems Science and Industrial Engineering program and heads the Town of Dickinson Planning Board.

In addition, he has filled several volunteer roles with Broome County's Spiedie Fest and Balloon Rally and the LG&T Tennis Challenger in Binghamton. Doyle earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and religion from Colgate in 1990 and a master's degree in political science from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University in 1994.

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