



The Community Foundation
for South Central New York

COMMUNITY *News*

Research to Pinpoint Community's Most Pressing Needs

When you make a gift to the Foundation, you want your gift to make a significant impact. That's why we've enlisted Tina



Tina Barber is conducting a series of focus groups with help from community investment intern Rich Whalley of Binghamton University's College of Community and Public Affairs.

Barber, our community investment assistant, to do a thorough investigation of community needs in Broome County. Tina's ultimate mission is to create a tool to help local foundations allocate funding as effectively as possible.

Funded by a grant from the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation, Tina's two-year project will assemble a detailed picture of Broome County's needs in health and human services, the arts, education and recreation, plus the special needs

of the county's aging and rural populations. Insights will come from the people who know those needs best—employees and clients of the nonprofit organizations that serve local residents.

To gather information, Tina is conducting a series of focus groups with help from community investment intern Rich Whalley of Binghamton University's College of Community and Public Affairs.

"These focus groups are designed to get nonprofits around the table and ask, 'What do you see as the greatest needs that are being presented right now?'" Tina says. "What programs are working for you that we want to make sure will get continued funding? Where are there gaps in service that perhaps foundations could take a role in helping to fill?" She also

will ask participants to critique the grant application processes that foundations use.

In addition, to capture as many views as possible, Tina will distribute a needs assessment survey to nonprofit organizations that don't take part in the focus groups.

After analyzing all the information she collects, Tina will develop a tool that the Community Foundation—and any other foundation that is interested—can use to help match grants with the community's most pressing needs.

In the area of health, for example, the tool might show that many respondents rank five specific issues among their top priorities. It will also provide data on local health indicators, such as rates of obesity, diabetes, hypertension and teen pregnancy.

Continued on page three

In This Issue:

- Make the Gift of a Lifetime
- Out and About: 2010 Fall Grant Site Visits
- Capacity Building Workshop Announced

OUT AND ABOUT: 2010 Fall Grant Site Visits



The Foundation supported Family Resource Center programs in Owego and Waverly with an operating grant of \$15,000, helping keep play areas like this available to families in need.

During the fall and early winter of 2010, staff and board members traveled far and wide to visit grantees and observe Foundation grants in action.



Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith is both a past and present recipient of funds from The Community Foundation. In 2011 the museum will rebuild an historic and unique water turbine power system thanks to a \$15,000 grant.

Welcome Board Member Garet Livermore

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Garet Livermore to the Board. Mr. Livermore, vice president for education at the New York State Historical Association, joined NYSHA and The Farmers' Museum in 1998. He is also on the faculty of the Cooperstown Graduate Program, where he teaches Museum Education courses and directs student projects and internships on topics ranging from agricultural interpretation to developing educational programming for adolescents. Professional activities include: membership on the editorial board of *AltaMira Press* of the American Association for State and Local History; serving as a reviewer for state and

federal grant programs; and membership in the Education and Museum Professional Training Committees of the American Association of Museums. Mr. Livermore has served on the board of directors of Great Camp Sagamore, a National Historic Landmark in Raquette Lake, New York, the Brookwood School and the Susquehanna SPCA in Cooperstown, New York. Mr. Livermore received a bachelor's degree in American Studies from the State University of New York at Purchase in 1981 and a master's degree in History and Education from Teachers College of Columbia University in 1988.



Local wood was often crafted into fine furniture like this, on display at Roberson Museum. A new marketing initiative, partially funded by a \$6,000 grant from the Community Foundation, will highlight such exhibits.

Grants Recent Grants from the CommuniFund™

Afton Central School District: \$7,000 toward upgrade/renovation of the school playground, to meet safety guidelines (*Chenango*)

Catholic Charities of Broome County: \$7,500 for the Effective Parenting Project; designed to assist parents of young children in expanding their parenting skills and strategies (*Broome*)

Central New York Resource and Development: \$14,610 toward expansion of the CNY Bounty local foods delivery program to Broome County (*Broome*)

Central New York Ronald McDonald House: \$15,000 for a capital campaign for a new, expanded, ADA compliant house (*multi-county*)

Chenango River Theater: \$6,000 toward a development professional hired to enhance the organization's sustainability (*Chenango*)

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County: \$15,000 toward program and operating support for Family Resource Centers serving Owego and Waverly (*Tioga*)

Hanford Mills Museum: \$15,000 toward restoration of a unique historic water turbine system (*Delaware*)

Humane Society of Binghamton: \$8,551 for purchase of specialized isolation cages designed to reduce contamination (*Broome*)

Mom's House: \$5,339 toward a consultant providing social/emotional development programming to staff, parents and children (*Broome*)

Roberson Museum and Science Center: \$6,000 toward a new marketing initiative (*Broome*)

Total: \$100,000

Researching Community Needs

continued from page one

If respondents and the data both point to the same problem, grant-makers will know they have identified a crucial need.

Besides using it to help evaluate grant proposals, foundations might use this tool to spur new initiatives, Tina says. "If there's an unmet need and nobody's addressing it because they haven't been able to find the funding, a foundation can step in and say, 'You may be the appropriate agency. Would you be interested in submitting a proposal?'"

In the project's second year, Tina will explore how foundations in Broome County measure the impact of their giving. Traditionally, each foundation has used its own standards to measure effectiveness. Tina will try to learn whether there might be a common basis for those evaluations.

When it's complete, the community needs assessment will provide solid information that we and other foundations can use to make wise investments in our communities. As tight budgets make every dollar especially crucial, this kind of analysis is more important today than ever.

Make the Gift of a Lifetime

Turn your retirement account into good works for your community!

There is good news for Community Foundation donors in their 70s—and for the communities they care about. A new law makes it possible to give individual retirement account (IRA) assets to charity through 2011, free from federal tax. Prior to 2006, all lifetime distributions from IRAs were taxed—even those given to charity.

This means that, now, our donors can give far more with less. This may be an attractive giving option for you if you are:

- Over 70½ and now receiving minimum IRA distributions—but do not need the extra income.
- Interested in making a significant lifetime gift.

Through 2011, the new law allows those age 70½ and older to transfer up to \$100,000 (or if married, \$100,000 per spouse) from an IRA to charity tax-free. Using IRA assets to make a gift during your life, as opposed to giving via bequest in your will, enables you to experience the joy of making a major gift now and watching it do good in your lifetime (*and beyond!*) Our personalized service and local expertise can help you make a gift to meet local needs and address local issues most important to you, assured that it will be well stewarded, now and into the future.

Example: Mrs. Smith, age 75, has accumulated approximately \$1,000,000 in her IRA accounts. She has other sources of wealth and has plans to leave a sizable estate to her heirs and charity.

Under the new law, Mrs. Smith can create a fund (or give to an existing fund) at the Community Foundation to address the causes she cares about most, by transferring up to \$100,000 of her IRA funds tax free. Gifts to Donor Advised Funds, Supporting Organizations and private foundations do not qualify for the special tax treatment, but Field of Interest, Designated or Unrestricted funds do. Please contact us for further information and, as always, we recommend meeting with your professional advisors to discuss IRA giving, as well as the tax advantages of giving other assets.

Open House Honors Donors and Friends

The holiday season provided a wonderful chance to welcome donors, friends and neighbors into the Foundation's new offices on Columbia Drive in Johnson City. On December 9, about 125 people joined us for hors d'oeuvres and wine at our annual open house and donor reception, catered by the Binghamton Club.

Visitors packed the Board room, spilling into the reception area, filling the space with lively conversation. Paintings on loan from the R Wells Gallery gave the office an especially warm feeling, as did a Christmas tree donated by Board member David Guy. Other members of the Board worked together to provide decorations throughout the office.

Many of our old friends, plus new ones attending our open house for the first time, took the opportunity to tour our new offices. Thanks to everyone for celebrating with us. We look forward to working with many of you throughout 2011.



The Community Foundation
for South Central New York

520 Columbia Drive, Suite 100
Johnson City, NY 13790
Phone (607) 772-6773
Fax (607) 722-6752
www.cfscny.org

*Look for our new website
in early summer!*

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



Nonprofits: Announcing Spring Capacity Building Workshops and Mini-Grant Opportunities!

Please join us as we kick off a third year of capacity building workshops and mini-grants in collaboration with the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation and the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation.

Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Boards of Directors

Presented by Doug Sauer, CEO, New York Council of Nonprofits

Now more than ever, community-based nonprofits need to wisely and effectively recruit, engage and retain good board members and leadership. This may be an uphill challenge as the pool of qualified and interested board members appears to be dwindling; there are anxieties around liability exposure, and increased expectations for board members to give time and money, as well as their wisdom.

This workshop is designed to help your nonprofit strategically assess, build and strengthen your board to achieve organizational success. There are no magic bullets. It takes work, determination, a positive attitude and, for some, the courage to change the board's composition if not culture. This session will take a comprehensive look at board development and will offer practical tips and tools for recruitment and retention.

Date: Thursday, April 7th, 2011

Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Cost: Free to nonprofit directors, board and staff (*Limit 2 per organization*)

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

To register please go to: <http://binghamtoncapacitybuildingapril7.eventbrite.com/>

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