



Gerald Skoda, Skoda Enterprise Inc.

Why did you join the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan's (CFOS) Board of Directors?

The OC Community Foundation was expanding its coverage area to include Sullivan County. Several friends encouraged me to join the Board.

What do you enjoy doing when you aren't working or volunteering?

Working and Volunteering! Since retiring as Exec. Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sullivan Co; my schedule is full. My farm is my biggest joy, exercise and diversion. President of Mid-Hudson Insurance Co-operative has been like a second career. Travel and a few rounds of golf with Rosemary complete the calendar.

What is one quote that you try to live by?

"Isn't it more enjoyable to give with a warm hand?"

What are your favorite worthy charitable causes?

We support local charitable efforts like the Community Foundation; Hospitals; youth; and programs for the disadvantaged. We contribute to Delaware Valley University every year because they gave me the education that qualified me for my career with Cornell. The IRA RMD provision which allows tax free charitable contributions from IRA accounts has been my favorite tool. We used that to establish our Family Scholarship, support the Community Foundation, Catskill Regional Medical Center, Cornell Cooperative Extension Capital Campaign and United Way. We grow and donate vegetables for the Boys and Girls Club and several food distribution groups.

What is one thing that people don't know about you?

Both of my parents were immigrants. My father, a zinc miner, died when I was nine. Our only income was Social Security Survivors Benefits, but we grew all our vegetables, meat and fruit. At eight I began walking two miles every day to a dairy farm. My pay was a gallon of milk and a veal calf. As I grew older and more valuable to them I got picked up and worked there until college.

What are two things that make you the happiest?

My family and our farm.