Spring/Summer 2020

When the pandemic hit, the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan (CFOS) quickly launched the Orange and Sullivan COVID-19 Response Fund to address immediate and longer-term needs of residents in Orange and Sullivan counties. The fund distributes grants of up to $5 thousand each to established non-profit organizations and initiatives that provide front-line services to the counties’ most vulnerable populations – food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, protective personal equipment for healthcare workers, online access to education for students, diapers and formula for babies, telehealth for the elderly and those with special needs and even supplies for animal shelters.

Since its inception, the fund has received overwhelming support from local individuals, corporations and foundations alike and raised more than $500,000. Grants totaling over $400,000 have been distributed to 95 local nonprofit organizations. Grant requests are coming in daily, and CFOS continues to look to the public for donations to meet escalating needs in both counties.

“The grant requests haven’t slowed down and with the combination of more adults being out of work and children not receiving services or nutrition in school, there’s a greater need for area nonprofits to fill those gaps,” said Elizabeth Rowley, CFOS President and CEO. “We hope that those who can will continue to give.” (See insert for details on how to get involved.)

Orange and Sullivan COVID-19 Response Fund Addresses Critical Needs
CFOS Awards Scholarships to Class of 2020

It was a challenging spring for high school seniors who had their school year cut short due to COVID-19. Fortunately, the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan now has a completely online scholarship portal so students were able to apply for scholarships from the comfort and safety of their homes.

In all, CFOS awarded more than $400,000 in scholarships to students in school districts throughout the region. 180 students received scholarships, all made possible through generous donors who have established charitable funds within the Community Foundation.

Timothy Batzel, a graduating senior from Port Jervis High school who is headed to Syracuse University in the fall, is the recipient of the largest CFOS scholarship, The Oscar B. Greenleaf Scholarship.

Mr. Greenleaf was an ordinary person with extraordinary goals: to live life to its fullest and give so that others could learn. His bequest will ensure that children in Port Jervis will not only benefit from scholarships now, but in perpetuity. His goodwill will live on forever because of his gift to the Community Foundation.

Hudson Valley Gives Raises Half a Million Dollars

In a year of crisis and uncertainty, Hudson Valley Gives had its most successful campaign in the five year history of the online initiative. After the pandemic struck, the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan considered canceling the annual event. However, nonprofits in the region urged CFOS to move forward with the online day of giving on May 20th since their budgets were stretched thinner than ever and traditional fundraising events were canceled. By the end of the 24-hour effort, it was clear that even in tough times, Hudson Valley residents are as generous as they come. More than $500,000 was raised, the most in a single year since the collaborative, online fundraiser began five years ago.

Most of the more than $500,000 raised was donated online over a 24-hour period to support 133 nonprofit organizations throughout the region. The event exceeded this year’s fundraising goal and saw a 25% increase in donations over last year. A total of 3,889 donors gave to support charities in seven counties providing life-enriching programs and critical services that Hudson Valley residents appreciate or depend upon.

“We were humbled and so appreciative of the incredible support we received for Hudson Valley Gives, especially during this uncertain time. So many stepped up to support SUNY Orange students,” said Dawn Ansbro, Executive Director, SUNY Orange Foundation. “Many thanks to the Community Foundation for providing non-profits with this platform to share our stories.”

Special Thanks to Our HV Gives Corporate Sponsors!