Addressing the Needs of Senior Citizens

2022 CFOS Make a Difference Grantees Announced

The Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan has announced the recipients of its 2022 Make a Difference grants. Grants totaling $10,500 have been distributed to five nonprofit organizations that provide programs and services addressing emerging social and emotional needs of senior residents and their caregivers in Orange and Sullivan counties.

“Senior citizens have long been an underserved population, and the pandemic intensified the social isolation experienced by many people in this vulnerable age group,” said Elizabeth Rowley, CFOS President and CEO. “Our distribution committee agreed it was timely to focus these grants on nonprofits addressing seniors’ unique needs.”

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2023 is well underway, and this new year has brought both exciting changes and the return of some Foundation traditions. It’s a healthy combination I expect will serve the Foundation well as we continue to focus on our mission of connecting people who care with causes that matter.

In the exciting changes category, we recently welcomed two new team members. Megan Matthews has taken on the role of Director of Development, and Andréa Bedrosian is our new Administrative Assistant.

As far as Foundation traditions, we were thrilled to host the CFOS Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Reception after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. We will again host Hudson Valley Gives this May, an online giving day that has raised nearly $3 million dollars for local nonprofits since its inception eight years ago, and return to Newburgh Brewing Company for our celebration of success party.

It’s also the time of year when a new crop of high school seniors apply for nearly $500,000 in scholarships established by generous donors, many in memory of loved ones whose legacy will continue in the promise of the next generation.

Giving Matters is more than this publication’s name, it’s our truth. Please know your gifts are appreciated and will make an impact in our communities now and forever!

Elizabeth Rowley
CFOS President and CEO
CFOS welcomes NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Megan Matthews
CFOS Director of Development

Andréa Bedrosian
CFOS Administrative Assistant

CFOS recently welcomed Megan Matthews as its new Director of Development and Andréa Bedrosian as its Administrative Assistant. Megan enhances the overall fund development and fundraising efforts of the Foundation. Her responsibilities include donor cultivation and solicitation, relationship building with professional advisors and spearheading a planned giving program to grow current and future assets.

Andréa’s role is rooted in record keeping and organization, directing meeting logistics, and general fund maintenance. In addition to her other duties at CFOS, she serves as the first friendly face or voice to welcome visitors and callers.

“We are thrilled to have Megan and Andréa as the most recent additions to our already strong team,” said Elizabeth Rowley, CFOS President and CEO. “Megan will excel in the cultivation and strengthening of ties with new and existing community partners and donors, and Andréa is thriving in her first role in the nonprofit sector as a rising young professional.”

Megan formerly held the role of Chief Operating Officer at the Orange County Partnership. She brings 17 years of experience in sales, marketing, management, and event planning experience to the role. She holds a bachelor’s degree in international business from Susquehanna University and is a 2022 Leadership Orange graduate.

Andréa is a 2022 Siena College graduate with a multifaceted degree in psychology, writing & communication, and criminal justice.

Former Director of Development Nicole Feller Lee now serves in the role of Communications and Creative Consultant acting as the wordsmith and creative vision behind the Foundation’s annual report, Giving Matters newsletters, as well as other branding and external communications.

Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster has announced its 2023 Caritas Award honorees, and the Community Foundation is among them. The Caritas Awards are presented to organizations and individuals who exemplify the agency’s mission to provide help and create hope.

“We are grateful for strong community partners, like the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, who embrace our mission, embody the spirit of Caritas, and share in our commitment to creating brighter futures for our neighbors in need,” said Shannon Kelly, CEO, Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster. “During the pandemic, the Community Foundation’s COVID grant program provided much-needed funding to help Catholic Charities, and so many other organizations, meet the growing and changing needs during extraordinary times. We are thankful for their support that helped us feed the hungry and provide baby supplies to families.”

The awards will be presented at the 17th annual Catholic Charities Celebration of Charity dinner on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at the Kartrite Resort. To purchase tickets, contact Kristin Jensen at kristin.jensen@cccsos.org.
A total of 140 scholarships worth nearly $500 thousand will be distributed from funds at the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan this spring. High school seniors and adults returning to college are encouraged to apply now for these scholarships.

Students can apply online for scholarships at cfosny.org until April 14. After filling out a universal application, they will be notified of which specific scholarships they are eligible for and whether those scholarships have additional application requirements. This streamlined process makes it easier for students to find the best fit scholarship opportunities for their unique circumstances and abilities.

“Thanks to the generosity of our incredible donors, the Foundation is able to offer a wide range of scholarships annually which make a tremendous difference for local students and their families,” said Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan President and CEO Elizabeth Rowley. “A college education gets more costly each year, and we’re proud to support deserving young people and other students realize their dreams of higher education or career training.”

For more information or to apply for Community Foundation scholarships, visit cfosny.org or call CFOS Programs and Donor Services Coordinator Lisa Mitchell at 845-769-9393.

A recently established fund at the Community Foundation is the Robert Garloch Memorial Scholarship Fund. Robert was a dedicated tradesman always working to hone his crafts and use his skills for the betterment of his community and to help others. This year, a scholarship to honor his memory will be distributed to a hardworking Orange County BOCES student.

“Bob loved working with his hands and was a man of many talents,” said Robert’s widow Elizabeth Garloch who established the fund. “Providing a scholarship for a BOCES student pursuing the trades is a meaningful way to establish a legacy honoring his life and career.”

For more information or to apply for Community Foundation scholarships, visit cfosny.org or call CFOS Programs and Donor Services Coordinator Lisa Mitchell at 845-769-9393.
Among the Make a Difference grantees was Jewish Family Service of Orange County (JFS). The JFS Safety Net Program provides friendly visitor support throughout Orange County by trained volunteers to neighbors over 60 years of age. Organizers say volunteers enjoy helping their neighbors remain independent with a little extra help.

“Loneliness and declining mobility rob our senior neighbors of their dignity and independence,” said JFS Board President Janet Davis. “JFS Safety Net services help them feel supported, connected, and valued. Our new collaboration with the Community Foundation will open our doors to more of the underserved groups we have been striving to reach.”

The full list of 2022 Make a Difference grantees follows:

The Pine Bush Area Public Library

The Happier, Healthier You Series

The Happier, Healthier You program teaches seniors good sleep habits, laughter, healthy thinking, and healthy eating so they can build a strong immune system, age gracefully, age-proof their brain and even become their own best friend.

Liberty NY Rotary Club Foundation, Inc.

Community Friends: Engaging Seniors

Community Friends engages seniors, lessens social isolation, and provides a sense of involvement with the community beyond their home or residence with the arrival of a personalized note and small gift monthly.

Jewish Family Service of Orange County NY

Safety Net

The Friendly Visitor Program helps frail seniors age 60+ and adults with disabilities live independently, with dignity, and a good quality of life by developing a service plan to assist with daily living and providing opportunities for social stimulation and community inclusion.

Town of Montgomery

Seniors Independence Project (TOMSIP)

TOMSIP helps seniors remain living in their homes by pairing them with volunteers who perform services such as giving rides for medical appointments, food shopping and maintenance of their homes such as snow shoveling.

Association for the Visually Impaired

AVI Senior Support Program

This program provides social and emotional support for seniors who are blind or visually impaired by conducting wellness check-ins and providing low vision tools, better lighting, and magnification tools that will directly improve quality of life.

The Make a Difference Fund was established by CFOS leadership in 2003 to meet emerging needs in the areas in which it serves.
The following funds have joined the CFOS Family of Funds since the start of our fiscal year on July 1. We are honored to support their charitable intentions. Please visit cfosny.org to learn about these funds or make a contribution.
Thank you to all who joined us on February 9 at the Wallkill Golf Club for the CFOS Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Reception. We were thrilled to bring back this special event to show our love and appreciation to our loyal volunteers and committed donors. Congratulations to longtime dedicated volunteer Patricia Zang-DeClue, this year’s recipient of the Karen Minogue Award for Distinguished Service.