

DONOR NEWS

AFTER CFOC WAS FORMED IN 2019 our goal was to kick off a Founders Campaign to raise \$2,000,000. Then COVID hit. For us, as for every other person and organization, the pandemic made us reconsider our immediate goals and we turned our attention to meeting new and urgent needs, starting a COVID relief fund that awarded \$200,000 to 30 recipients. With the COVID fund in place we returned to the Founders Campaign and are gratified to announce we have met our goals. The Founders Campaign funds provided by over 200 new donors provides us with the starting capital to address on-going critical county needs.

CFOC now offers long-term donor investment funds to generate returns for charitable awards well into the future. There are a wide range of donor options, including but not limited to the following donor funds:

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS are the most flexible funds, allowing CFOC to make grants that address evolving community needs.

DESIGNATED FUNDS let you select specific charities to receive ongoing support in the form of regular grants.

FIELD-OF-INTEREST FUNDS let you identify an area of interest or a geographic area to support. CFOC makes grants to match your focus area.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS allow you to recommend grants to your preferred recipients. You suggest how much each receives and when.

Find more information at cfotsego.org/donate-pledge

ESTATE PLANNING ASSISTANCE: Attorneys, financial advisors and CPAs in Otsego County are at the front lines of estate planning, preparing wills, and cementing legacies for their clients. CFOC can, and should be, an important option for area professionals. If you are one of these professionals, or know of one who would benefit from our assistance, please direct them to CFOC at contact@cfotsego.org



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COMMUNITY NEWS

WE WERE FOUNDED by a small group of Otsego County residents to assist local nonprofits working with limited staffs and limited funding.

WE SEE OUR ROLE as a community philanthropy, founded to improve the quality of life for all in our area.

WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND the needs and aspirations of the entire county and we exist to help fill those.

WE LISTEN, ARE TRANSPARENT, COLLABORATE and are here to help, not to dictate or manage others' decisions.

WE PARTNER with innovative and vibrant nonprofits.

WE ENCOURAGE LOCAL PHILANTHROPY because investing locally engages us all in building a sense of community.

OUR VISION is to help build a community offering healthy, prosperous, and enriching opportunities for all.

OUR MISSION is to lead and inspire community wide efforts, and to have a greater impact together than any individual can have alone.

OUR VALUES are inclusion and collaboration, imagination and accountability, respect and integrity, and stewardship of the funds entrusted to us.

2022: FIRST QUARTER REPORT



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF OTSEGO
COUNTY

"LOOK FORWARD." PHOTO COURTESY OF AND COPYRIGHT BY SAM ROSS, COOPERSTOWN, NY.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY



MEET JEFF KATZ, CFOC'S FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Community Foundation of Otsego County is pleased to announce Jeff Katz has been hired as the CFOC's first executive director.

"Jeff brings a wealth of solutions-oriented experience to us," says Board President Harry Levine. "His deep knowledge of Otsego County and commitment to service and skills at building public connections will enable CFOC to help improve the quality of life throughout Otsego County."

Jeff, his wife Karen, and their three sons moved to Cooperstown full-time in June 2003, where they quickly became happily involved in the community. Jeff brings many capabilities to the position of CFOC Executive Director – as a former options trader, published author, head and board member of various local nonprofits, and former three-term mayor of Cooperstown.

"In a short period of time, the Community Foundation of Otsego County has become a strong force for good. It is a true honor and privilege to serve as Executive Director and I look forward to working with residents, non-profits, and donors to improve life throughout Otsego County."

Jeff Katz, jeff@cfo.org

LONG-TIME RESIDENT DENNIS FOWLER CREATES LONG-TERM OTEGO LIBRARY FUND



Overlooking Mill Creek, the family pond, and 100 acres of land, Dennis Fowler talks about his life, his family, and Otsego – the town and village he's called home for 50 years.

Fowler says, "My wife Peggy and I lived in New York City in the early 1970's and we wanted to leave." They knew a little about Otsego County. "We called Wilber Bank and told them we were looking for land. By coincidence, someone had just been at the bank with land to sell." They bought the property and stayed.

A Princeton graduate in economics, Dennis had embarked on a writing career. He now has nearly 60 earlier books to his credit, as well as computer trade columns and publications, and a recent sci-fi novel, "Earth's Song." He found Otsego to be the perfect place for the time and space to think and write.

Peggy became a key to the success of Orpheus Theater and Habitat for Humanity. Then their only child and daughter Celeste arrived. "She was brilliant and her curiosity was endless," her father notes with matter-of-fact pride.

The family loved their home, property, and community. Dennis soon became involved in the Harris Memorial Library in Otsego. At one board meeting he suggested how to expand the library space. The board subsequently asked him to become library board president, which he did.

Reflecting on his life in Otsego and missing both Peggy and Celeste, both sadly passed, Dennis had been looking for

a way to give back to the place he loves. When he heard of the work the Community Foundation of Otsego County was doing he saw a perfect partner.

Dennis then opened a Field of Interest Fund housed at CFOC: The Greater Otsego Library and Education Fund. The fund focuses on maintaining the Harris Memorial Library building, supporting library programs and operations, and encouraging activities to educate and enhance the lives of all the people of Otsego.

Dennis' love for Otsego is obvious. As he watches the world outside his window he excitedly mentions a Bald Eagle that appeared in one of his trees that day. Then he expresses hopes for his hometown and village: "Otsego is such a wonderful place. I just want to see it succeed."



Meet The Catskill Center for Independence and its executive director, Meghan Staring. The Oneonta-area nonprofit serves Otsego, Schoharie, and Delaware Counties; its clients and many of its staff are disabled and its mission is to help them gain independence in daily living. Since 1987 it has been quietly yet effectively serving a population not often in the spotlight. Meghan has been with the Center since 2006 and has served as executive director for the past 5 years.

A CFOC award to the Center funds the home delivery of monthly food supplies to clients who are homebound and lack the ability to go out for food. Our award covers the costs of serving 68 Otsego County individuals for a year.

"CFOC is a wonderful partner. They helped fund our Otsego County program, and also introduced us to a group to provide support for Schoharie County. Were it not for this we were going to have to discontinue the Schoharie County activity."

Meghan Staring, Executive Director, CCFI