

## ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE

At the Community Foundation of Otsego County, our mission is to help build a community that provides healthy, prosperous, and enriching opportunities for all. Though our focus is on Otsego County and local needs, we are still connected to the world, and the invasion of Ukraine has concerned residents and donors asking how they can help.

CFOC has been in touch with regional nonprofits preparing for issues of possible resettlement in our area of as many as 5,000 Ukrainian refugees. To contribute to this work, visit [cfotsego.org](http://cfotsego.org), click Donate, and choose Ukraine Relief as the Gift Designation. 100% of your funds will be sent to the area nonprofits working on Ukrainian resettlement and designated for this purpose.

CFOC has also heard from concerned Otsego County residents interested in helping house Ukrainian refugees. If you are interested in providing housing, please let us know at [contact@cfotsego.org](mailto:contact@cfotsego.org).



### Ukraine Relief

Village Hall in Cooperstown with U.S. and Ukraine flags. (Photo: J. Odell)

Women making pierogi for fundraising for Ukraine, St. Volodymyr Church, Utica. (Photo: Alex Cooper for the Sentinel)



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## CFOC BY THE NUMBERS

**531**

NUMBER OF DONORS

Including Founders, Covid, fund sponsors and others

**\$3,241,100**

TOTAL AMOUNT GIVEN BY DONORS

Since CFOC began in 2019

**111**

TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS

Since CFOC began in 2019

**\$359,792**

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED & GRANTED

Total awards & grants, including Covid Funds

## CFOC DONOR FUNDS INFO

**LONG-TERM DONOR INVESTMENT FUNDS** are available to generate returns for charitable awards well into the future. There is a wide range of funds available. Find more information at [cfotsego.org/donate-pledge](http://cfotsego.org/donate-pledge)

**ESTATE PLANNING ASSISTANCE** is also available to attorneys, financial advisors, and CPAs in Otsego County. Get more information at [contact@cfotsego.org](mailto:contact@cfotsego.org)

## 2022: SECOND QUARTER REPORT



"PLANT THE SEED." PHOTO FROM SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF OTSEGO  
COUNTY

## BEN BAUER OFFERS YOUTH, POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT, PHILANTHROPY



Otsego County residents say, "Living in Otsego County isn't what young people want these days."

Meet Ben Bauer, born and raised in Cooperstown. A graduate of Cooperstown Central School and Brown University, he made his way to New York City, but had his eyes on returning home. "Coming back to the area was always on the table," said Ben.

When COVID hit in early 2020, Google, where Ben is a software engineer, decided to let people work remotely. Ben seized the opportunity and returned to Cooperstown, first as a renter, then as a homeowner.

It wasn't easy to find a place to live. "When you search the internet in New York City, there are hundreds of rentals. When we (Ben and his girlfriend Sydney Sheehan) went online in Cooperstown, there was nothing." With the help of community friends they found a place. But the housing scarcity had made itself felt, as did other areas of need in the community.

Philanthropic by nature, Ben learned of the Community Foundation of Otsego County. Impressed by the group, from its website to its Board of Directors (a Who's Who of Otsego County), Ben donated. Ben also saw in Google's corporate matching an opportunity. "Google matches employee donations dollar for dollar. It would be a shame to let that go to waste," Ben said.

Ben and Sydney have settled into their new house, committed to Cooperstown and the community. He's here for the long haul, committed both personally and financially to the well-being of his fellow residents. How committed? On January 3, 2022, Ben, at 28 years old, was sworn in as the new Town Supervisor of the Town of Otsego.

## ADVOCATES FOR SPRINGFIELD ANNOUNCE FIRST GRANTS

When Advocates for Springfield created a field of interest fund at the Community Foundation of Otsego County, their hope was that local nonprofits deeply connected to the community would apply for grants. The three awardees in the first year are vital to the residents of Springfield.

**Springfield Library:** A \$500 award for the library's 2022 Summer Adult Educational Programming "These programs will make a difference in our community this summer," said Hanna Conbeer, Library Manager.

**Springfield Historical Society:** A \$500 award for a timeline and exhibit illustrating the history of Springfield in celebration of the 225th anniversary of its founding. Historical Society Trustee and exhibit curator Nancy Einreinhofer said, "We are grateful to Advocates for Springfield for their support of this project. It has energized a group of residents interested in the history of our town. Bringing Springfield's past to life has caused us all to think intensely about our future."

**Springfield 4th of July Committee, Town of Springfield:** A \$500 award for the treasured 4th of July parade. "Springfield is the place to be on the 4th of July," said Ernie Whiteman, chair of the Springfield 4th of July Committee. "It's been a long two years since our last parade."



"The Community Foundation of Otsego County is extremely happy to help these three awardees in our first year of distributing Advocates for Springfield grants," reflected Jeff Katz, CFCO Executive Director. "We look forward to Round Two, coming in 2023."

## UNADILLA COMMUNITY FARM RECEIVES CFCO AWARD



The 2022 award supports internships, seeds, and the veggie box program of the Unadilla Community Farm (UCF), a non-profit farm and education center on 12 acres in West Edmeston. The farm provides agricultural workforce development, teaches sustainable farming practices, and assists young farmers in understanding financial and climate issues.

Farmer trainees are introduced to agroforestry, integrated pest management, permaculture design, business planning, and more. The no-cost program covers classes, trainings, and room and board, in an immersive farm experience where participants experience rural, agricultural life in Otsego County.

Students also participate in the farm's free and sliding-scale veggie box delivery program, which fills a need for fresh, accessible produce for the Edmeston area, a USDA-designated "food desert."

CFCO support has also helped subsidize the cost of compost, delivery vehicle expenses and more for the veggie box program, which allowed the farm to donate the vast majority of its produce to food banks in 2021. This included almost two tons of vegetables for 80 weekly food boxes delivered to families by the Community Cupboard of Edmeston throughout the season, and new partnerships with the Cooperstown and Utica Food Pantries.

With the help of many supporters, the Unadilla Community Farm lives out its mission of teaching and practicing sustainable skills and addressing local food insecurity while making its programming accessible to all.