HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY IN YOUR WILL?

☐ Yes, CFOC is in my will. ☐ No, but I might be interested. Please send me more information.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY

CARING TOGETHER · STRONGER TOGETHER

I/WE WISH TO DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY

☐ Enclosed is a check in the amount of $_____ payable to CFOC.

☐ Please charge $_____ to my credit card: ☐ AMEX ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ DISCOVER

name on credit card

address

phone email

my contribution will be matched by my company (company name)

credit card number

name(s) as you would like them to appear on listings (or anonymous)

city, state, zip

my gift is ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of (name)

☐ my company form is enclosed ☐ will be sent

expiration date CVV number

Donations can also be made online at: www.cfotsego.org by clicking the DONATE button on the home page.
Please mail to: Community Foundation of Otsego County, P.O. Box 55, Springfield Center, NY 13468

©CFOC2025

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS $100,000 TO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Arts organizations are vital contributors to the quality of life in Otsego County.

In June, the Community Foundation of Otsego County awarded $100,000 to local arts organizations as part of our spring grants cycle. These grants were made possible by our donors and the Mildred Parish Donor-Advised Fund at CFOC.

Thank you to our generous community, and congratulations to the following organizations:

- Butternut Valley Arts and Crafts
- Council Arts Network of Oneonta (CANO)
- Catskill Choral Society
- Cherry Valley Artworks
- Cherry Valley Community Facilities Corp (fiscal sponsor for Telegraph School)
- Fenimore Art Museum
- Film Otsego
- The Friends of Huntington Memorial Library
- Friends of Music and Art Cooperstown
- Foothills Performing Arts and Civic Center
- Greater Oneonta Historical Society
- Hartwick College
- Helios Care
- Hyde Hall
- Klinkhart Arts Center
- Little Delaware Youth Ensemble
- Oneonta Community Concert Band
- Orpheus Theatre
- Otsego 2000
- Richfield Springs Community Center
- Salvation Army
- Worcester-Schenevus Library
- The Worcester Wieting Memorial Association

CFOC BY THE NUMBERS

432
Total number of awards/grants

$1,674,770
Total amount invested back in the community since CFOC started in 2019

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COOPERSTOWN, NY

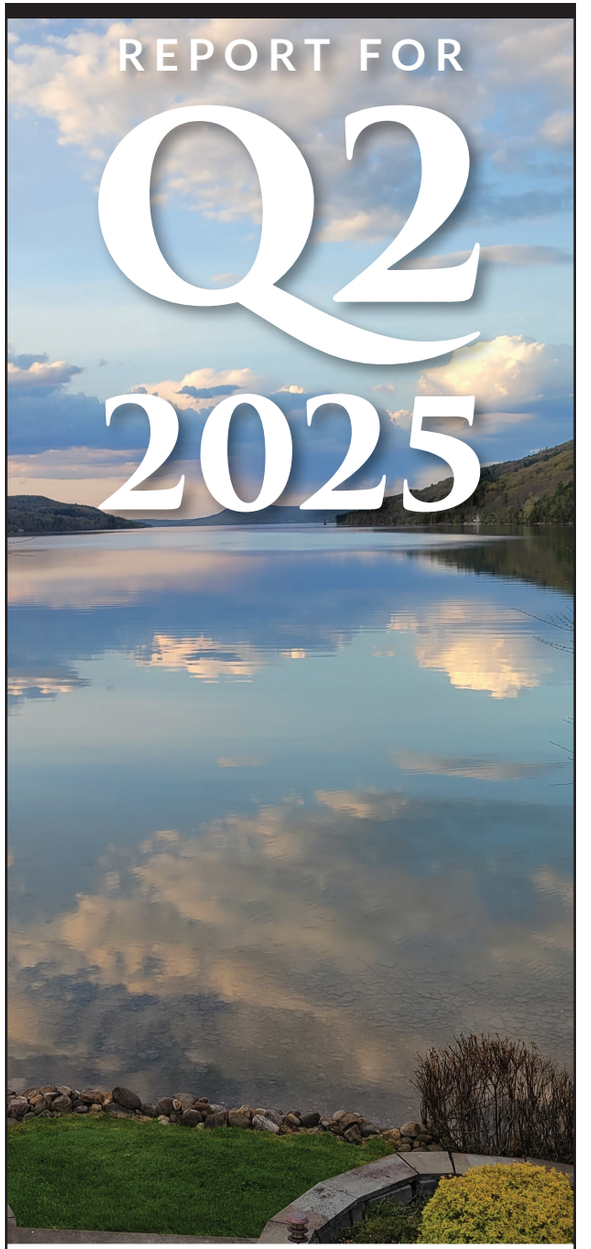
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY

CARING TOGETHER · STRONGER TOGETHER

P.O. Box 55
Springfield Center, NY 13468
www.cfotsego.org
www.facebook.com/CFOtsego

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! MOHAWK VALLEY GIVES RETURNS TO OTSEGO COUNTY ON SEPTEMBER 19.

Our county-wide day of giving returns this September. More than 80 local non-profit organizations will be eligible for funds from the Community Foundation because of their participation, and donors can easily support their favorite causes through the CFOC-sponsored online platform. Gifts go directly to our charities—CFOC takes no fees. Be a part of this community event to support our nonprofits and make good things happen in Otsego County! For more information, visit www.givemv.org.



CARING TOGETHER · STRONGER TOGETHER
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY

DONOR PROFILE: DOUG AND RHONDA WILLIES

Otsego Lake has long been an important part of the lives CFOC supporters Doug and Rhonda Willies. Their home is on the site of a camp built there by Rhonda's parents in 1968; Doug and Rhonda have lived lakeside full-time for the past 10 years and spent summers there since 1979. Like Rhonda, their daughters grew up on the shores of the lake, and the Willies can recall many happy days of the girls canoeing, swimming, and fishing for sunnies off the end of their dock.

Over the past 50 years, Doug and Rhonda have observed many changes to Otsego Lake, including a decline in water quality brought on in large part by invasive species, and a delay in the time of year the lake freezes over (if at all)—a visible impact of climate change.

In order to help preserve the health of the lake they love, Doug and Rhonda have been very active as volunteers, through service on the lake advisory council for the Biological Field Station and on the board of the Otsego Lake Association, and by participating in programs to reduce the impact of invasive species and monitor lake quality.

In 2023, the couple decided to partner with the Community Foundation of Otsego County to create a fund (known as a "field of interest fund") specifically to support projects to help Otsego Lake.

"Otsego Lake is an invaluable yet vulnerable resource," said the Willies. "We have always believed that we all share responsibility to be good stewards of the precious resources that nourish us. Working with the Community Foundation of Otsego County and others who share these views has given us the opportunity to initiate the creation of the Otsego Lake Watershed Sustainability Fund."

Through a generous gift, the Willies established the fund and a matching-gift challenge. They were quickly joined by others who appreciate Otsego Lake, bringing the balance of the fund up to $500,000.

The hope is that the fund will not only provide a reliable financial resource but also help to coordinate efforts to care for Otsego Lake and its watershed. The Otsego Lake Watershed Sustainability Fund is a tribute to what a concerned community can achieve and a wonderful legacy for Doug and Rhonda, who have helped to ensure that something so important to them will be sustained for generations.

The Otsego Lake Watershed Sustainability Fund was created to support Otsego Lake now, and for future generations. Pictured here are members of the Willies family, photographed at the Biological Field Station during an open house that Doug and Rhonda attended with their daughters' families, including their five granddaughters. From left to right: Rhonda, Jade, Madelyn, Genevieve, Lorelei, Sage, and Doug.

TARGET YOUR PHILANTHROPY: CREATE A FIELD OF INTEREST FUND

Field of interest funds represent a unique and impactful way to direct your philanthropy. When you establish a field of interest fund with the Community Foundation of Otsego County, you decide specifically where you want to make a difference. Perhaps you care deeply about environmental issues, or social-justice initiatives, or education, or the arts. When you create a field of interest fund with CFOC, you provide a resource for organizations whose missions align with what you value. Once the fund is established, CFOC manages the gifts to appropriate nonprofit organizations. Your giving is streamlined, and you know that your philanthropy is in good hands. You also create a legacy with the fund, as it will continue to reflect your vision long after you've gone.

If you have a traditional IRA, you can easily establish a field of interest fund at CFOC by gifting your required minimum distribution. Or establish your fund with appreciated securities. You'll avoid capital-gains tax and receive a tax deduction. Please contact Director of Development Joanne Tobey for more information: joanne@cfotsego.org or (607) 435-8838.

SUNY ONEONTA BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION

Poised on the shore of Otsego Lake, the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station (BFS), focuses on education, research, and community engagement. Serving as a living classroom for nationally recognized lake management and biology graduate programs, BFS' team of scientists guide students and summer interns in environmental field research and data generation to help understand important ecosystems.

A key focus for BFS is Otsego Lake, a true treasure in Otsego County. BFS has studied Otsego Lake for decades, and the data collected has been used to form management plans and provide insights to those who make decisions about policies and regulations in the watershed. Currently, BFS is part of a major community effort to formulate an updated lake management plan referred to as the "9E" (nine element) Plan that is being led by the Otsego Watershed Supervisory Committee (a committee comprised of representatives from the municipalities that border the lake – Springfield, Middlefield, Otsego, and Cooperstown). These activities are made possible, in large part, owing to the support of a diversity of local community organizations, including grants from the Otsego Lake Watershed Sustainability Fund at the Community Foundation of Otsego County (CFOC).

In the summer of 2024, a grant from the Lake Fund at CFOC enabled BFS to hire two college summer interns, Elizabeth DuBois and Braeden Victory (a Cooperstown High School graduate who now attends the University of Maine), who focused on research directly related to the 9E Plan. Their research topics included taking water quality measurements, and tracking algae populations as well as the invasive zebra and quagga mussels. A key finding from Braeden's work was that quagga mussels, first observed in 2020, have almost completely displaced zebra mussels which were first observed here in 2007.

A grant from the Otsego Lake Watershed Sustainability Fund will support two summer interns again in 2025, whose research projects will also focus on water quality assessment.

Support from our local community is vital to continue these activities. BFS encourages the public to visit during its Open House (4-7 p.m. July 31).

For more information, see https://suny.oneonta.edu/biological-field-station

CUT-OFF DONATION FORM

PLEASE DETACH, PLACE IN AN ENVELOPE, AND MAIL TO:

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY
P.O. BOX 55, SPRINGFIELD CENTER, NY 13468

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY

CARING TOGETHER STRONGER TOGETHER