CFOC NAMES TIM LORD NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dave Rowley, CFOC Board President, has announced Tim Lord has been appointed its second Executive Director, effective January 1, 2027. Lord succeeds founding ED Jeff Katz, who retires at the end of 2026 after five years of dedicated service to the foundation and the communities it serves. To ensure a smooth transition Jeff and Tim began working together in July 2026.

"I am honored to be named next Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Otsego County and excited to have the opportunity to build upon the fantastic work of founding ED Jeff Katz and our small but mighty staff," Lord said. A member of the CFOC Board since 2021, Lord brings a deep understanding of the foundation's mission and impact. As he transitions he has stepped down from his Board seat and currently serves as an ex officio member of the Board. Having spent much of each year in Otsego County since 2020, he is committed to building on the foundation's growth and strengthening partnerships that enhance quality of life throughout the county.

Lord is co-founder of the DreamYard Project, an award-winning arts and social justice organization in the Bronx that works with youth, families, and schools to promote equity and opportunity. Before his nonprofit sector work, Lord pursued a career as an actor and director in New York City. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

Chris Franck joins CFOC as its newest board member member following his appointment at the June Board of Directors meeting. Franck brings a wealth of experience to the board. He served as a partner with Deloitte, one of the world's largest professional services organizations.

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Jefferson Historical Society
PO Box 143
Jefferson NY 12093-0143

CFOC BY THE NUMBERS

As of June 30, 2026

Total invested in the community since 2019
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Total number of awards/grants since 2019
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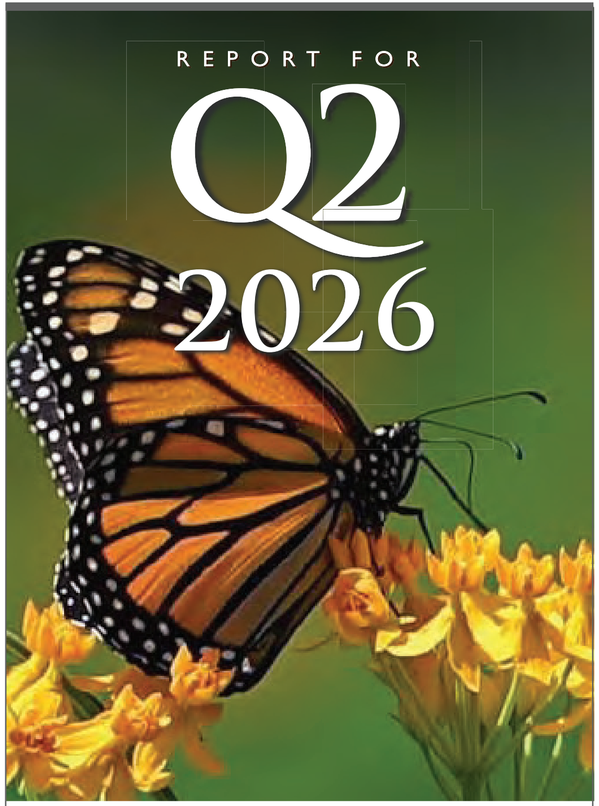

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY
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CFOC AWARDS $20,000 TO LOCAL LAKE PROJECTS

Three projects have received funding totaling $20,000 through the Otsego Lake Watershed Sustainability Fund at CFOC. The projects support collaborative initiatives to protect and sustain the long-term health of Otsego Lake, its watershed, and surrounding communities.

The following organizations have received funding:

The Biological Field Station at SUNY Oneonta received funds to support two summer college internships, providing students with valuable hands-on experience in environmental research and watershed stewardship while collecting data important to monitoring water quality of Otsego Lake.

The Otsego County Conservation Association was awarded funding to support ongoing stewardship efforts, including monitoring and containment of invasive species that threaten the watershed ecosystem's health.

The Town of Springfield received assistance for construction of a new salt storage shed, an important infrastructure improvement that will help protect water quality by reducing salt runoff into the watershed.

These projects reflect the shared commitment of local organizations, municipalities, and educational institutions to protect the health of Otsego Lake and its watershed, and advance efforts to preserve this vital natural resource for future generations.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MOHAWK VALLEY GIVES

Mohawk Valley Gives is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that brings our community together to support the nonprofit organizations that strengthen Otsego County and improve lives throughout the region. Every gift – large or small – helps local nonprofits continue their important work and expand their impact. Join thousands of generous donors in celebrating the power of philanthropy and makinga difference for the causes you care about most. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community – one gift at a time.

Mohawk Valley Gives is September 18, 2026

2026 SPRING AWARDS CYCLE

CFOC dedicated its 2026 Spring Awards Cycle to projects that will preserve and celebrate the rich history of Otsego County while fostering civic engagement and community service. In partnership with the Mildred Parish Foundation Fund at CFOC, a total of $100,000 was awarded to support initiatives on civics education, historic preservation, and community-based history projects, with special consideration given to programs and activities commemorating America 250. Through this funding opportunity, CFOC sought to inspire a greater understanding of our nation's heritage, strengthen local communities, and ensure Otsego County's stories and historic resources would be preserved for future generations.

The grants attracted a strong and diverse pool of applicants from across the county, reflecting the geographic breadth of Otsego County and the creativity of its communities.

The funded projects used many approaches to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial, from an Eagle Scout-led Revolutionary War Sitting Garden in Morris, to a community art trail in the Town of Butternuts, to a historical examination of the 1778 Cherry Valley Massacre. Capital improvement projects in Maryland, Westford, and Oneonta will help preserve important community landmarks and ensure historic public buildings remain viable and accessible for generations to come.

Full list of 2026 Spring Grantees:

League of Women Voters Cooperstown Area
Richfield Springs Public Library
Morris Beautification Project
Oneonta NAACP
Town of Westford
Butternut Valley Alliance
Future for Oneonta Foundation
Hartwick College
Greater Oneonta Historical Society
Morris Historical Society
Richfield Springs Community Center
Cherry Valley Historical association
Swart Wilcox House Museum
Fenimore Art Museum
Hyde Hall
SUNY Oneonta Foundation Corp
Community Arts Network of Oneonta
Pathfinder Village
Friends of the Oneonta Theater
Town of Maryland Historical Society
Springfield July 4th Committee
Greater Milford Historical Association

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Grant funding supported the repair of salvageable guitars and brass instruments through a partnership with The Eighth Note Music Store in Oneonta and provided a new keyboard to increase access to piano instruction. The grant also funded art supplies for participants to create a mural in the organization's building, encouraging creativity, teamwork, and a sense of pride in their shared space.

As a result of the grant, the Salvation Army served 18 young people – a 50 percent increase over last year. Several participants attended a week-long music camp and competed in a divisional music competition, gaining valuable performance experience and confidence. Beyond developing musical and artistic skills, the program strengthened relationships with participating families, creating opportunities for the Salvation Army to connect them with resources to address food insecurity and other essential needs.

The project demonstrates how investments in arts education extend well beyond the classroom, building confidence, strengthening families, and creating meaningful connections to resources that help our communities thrive across Otsego County.

DONOR PROFILE: JIM AND DEB DALTON

When speaking with Jim and Deb Dalton about their Otsego County life, it quickly becomes evident they hold a deep affection for the community and the people who call it home.

Since making Otsego County their permanent residence in 1988, the Daltons have embraced the region's unique blend of natural beauty, cultural opportunities, and strong sense of community. Although Jim's medical career took the family to the Pacific Northwest for several years the couple never lost their connection to Otsego County. Their decision to return speaks volumes about the place they consider home. When asked what drew them back, Jim and Deb point to the welcoming community that embraced them and their children, the vibrant cultural life of the area, and the stunning landscape that surrounds it.

Jim and Deb have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to the community through volunteer leadership and service. They have devoted their time and talents to organizations including Helios Care, Otsego 2000, and the Otsego Town Board, helping to strengthen the county and improve the quality of life for all.

As their philanthropic interests evolved, the Daltons sought a way to create lasting impact. They found it through the Community Foundation of Otsego County, establishing a fund reflecting the values and causes they care about most. The fund supports nonprofits dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the region, with emphasis on environmental stewardship, health and wellness, the arts, and faith-based organizations. Beneficiaries include groups such as Otsego 2000, the Otsego Land Trust, Helios Care, local arts organizations, and churches based in Cooperstown.

For the Daltons, giving through CFOC provides a meaningful way to support the organizations and initiatives that help make Otsego County a special place. Their generosity ensures future generations will enjoy the community, culture, and physical beauty that has inspired the Daltons for nearly four decades.

The Community Foundation is grateful to both Jim and Deb Dalton for their enduring commitment to Otsego County and for their vision in creating a lasting charitable legacy.

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Marvin Rodriguez
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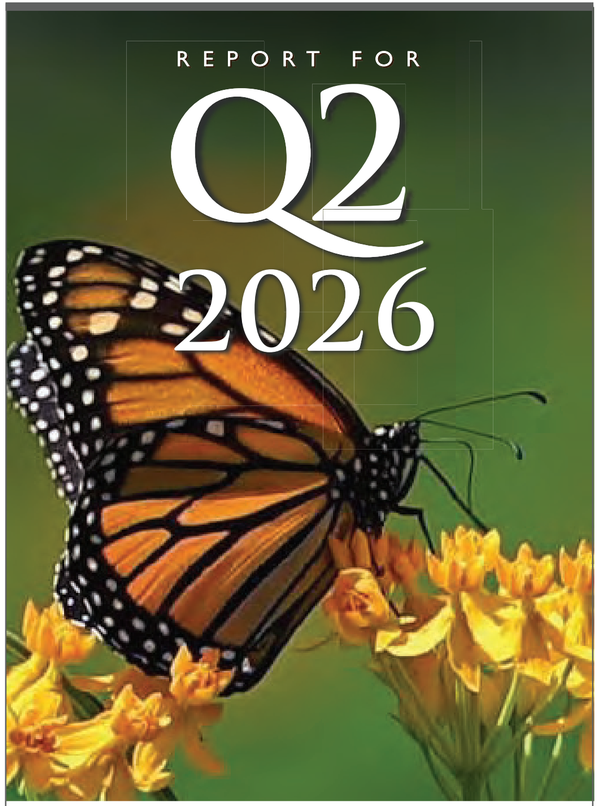

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