



CATTARAUGUS REGION  
**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**25** YEARS GROWING**GOOD**. 1994-2019

## 25 Years Serving Our Community

### 1994 - 2019 Board of Directors

1994-1996: Walter Nye, Carol O'Connell, John Stevens, Nicholas DiCerbo, Grey Fitzpatrick, Joseph Higgins, Ed Selee, Nancy Walsh

1997-1998: Ed Selee, Nancy Walsh, Joseph Higgins, Grey Fitzpatrick, Carol O'Connell, John Stevens, Nicholas DiCerbo, Mike Kasperski, Michael Patton, Douglas Price, Eleanor Lawrence, Ward "Skip" Wilday, Barbara Chew

1999: Barbara Chew, Grey Fitzpatrick, Joseph Higgins, Barry Jordan, Mike Kasperski, Marcia Kelly, Carol O'Connell, Ed Selee, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2000: Barbara Chew, Grey Fitzpatrick, Joseph Higgins, Barry Jordan, Marcia Kelly, Cathy Koebelin, Carol O'Connell, Douglas Price, Jeff Reed, Ed Selee, Art Titus, Nancy Walsh, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2001: Barbara Chew, Cathy Koebelin, Jerry Moriarty, John Northrup, Carol O'Connell, Douglas Price, Jeff Reed, Ed Selee, Art Titus, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2002: Barbara Chew, Joseph Higgins, David Koebelin, Jerry Moriarty, John Northrup, Carol O'Connell, Douglas Price, Jeff Reed, Ed Selee, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2003: Barbara Chew, Joseph Higgins, Marcia Kelly, David Koebelin, Carol Mahoney, Jerry Moriarty, John Northrup, Carol O'Connell, Douglas Price, Jeff Reed, Ed Selee, Nico VanZwanenberg, Nancy Walsh, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2004: Dr. Francis Bohan, Barbara Chew, Joseph Higgins, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Marcia Kelly, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Carol Mahoney, Jerry Moriarty, Douglas Price, Jeff Reed, Irene Rissi, Ed Selee, Larry Sorokes, Nancy Walsh, Jack Whipple, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2005: Dr. Francis Bohan, Michelle Caya, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Marcia Kelly, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Douglas Price, Gregg Prockton, Jeff Reed, Irene Rissi, Ed Selee, Larry Sorokes, Nancy Walsh, Jack Whipple, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2006: Dr. Francis Bohan, Michelle Caya, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Karen Fohl, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Marcia Kelly, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Dan Palumbo, Douglas Price, Gregg Prockton, Jeff Reed, Ed Selee, Bob Simon, Larry Sorokes, Jack Whipple, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2007: Dr. Francis Bohan, Ted Branch, Michelle Caya, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Karen Fohl, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Dan Palumbo, Douglas Price, Gregg Prockton, Bob Simon, Larry Sorokes, Gail Speedy, Carol Stitt, Jack Whipple, Ward "Skip" Wilday



Ed Selee



Barbara Chew



2008: Dr. Francis Bohan, Ted Branch, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Karen Fohl, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Dan Palumbo, Douglas Price, Bob Simon, Larry Sorokes, Gail Speedy, Audra Stevens, Carol Stitt, James M. Stitt, Ward "Skip" Wilday

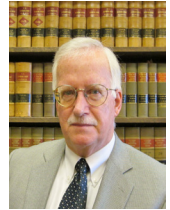


Dr. Frank Bohan and  
Carol Stitt

2009: Dr. Francis Bohan, Vicki Blessing, Ted Branch, Wendy Brand, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Karen Fohl, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Mike Kasperski, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Dan Palumbo, Douglas Price, Bob Simon, Larry Sorokes, Audra Stevens, Carol Stitt, James M. Stitt, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2010: Dr. Francis Bohan, Vicki Blessing, Ted Branch, Wendy Brand, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Karen Fohl, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Mike Kasperski, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Dan Palumbo, Douglas Price, Bob Simon, Larry Sorokes, Audra Stevens, Carol Stitt, James M. Stitt, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2011-2013: Vicki Blessing, Ted Branch, Wendy Brand, R. Dennis Casey, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Karen Fohl, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Mike Kasperski, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Dan Palumbo, Douglas Price, Bob Simon, Larry Sorokes, Audra Stevens, Carol Stitt, Vic Vena, Ward "Skip" Wilday



Bob Simon

2014: Vicki Blessing, Ted Branch, Wendy Brand, R. Dennis Casey, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Karen Fohl, Eric Garvin, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Mike Kasperski, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Dennis Pezzimenti, Douglas Price, Bob Simon, Larry Sorokes, Audra Stevens, Carol Stitt, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2015: Vicki Blessing, Ted Branch, Wendy Brand, R. Dennis Casey, Barbara Chew, Dr. Tony Evans, Karen Fohl, Steve Foster, Eric Garvin, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Mike Kasperski, Yogi Kothari, Dennis Pezzimenti, Doug Price, Theresa Raftis, Bob Simon, Larry Sorokes, Audra Stevens, Carol Stitt, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2016: Lucy Benson, Vicki Blessing, Ted Branch, Wendy Brand, R. Dennis Casey, Barbara Chew, Steve Foster, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Mike Kasperski, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Tim O'Keefe, Dennis Pezzimenti, Doug Price, Theresa Raftis, Jeff Reisner, Bob Simon, Audra Stevens, Carol Stitt, Dan Strauch, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2017: Lucy Benson, Vicki Blessing, Ted Branch, Wendy Brand, R. Dennis Casey, Dr. Tony Evans, Steve Foster, Mary Freeman, Mike Higgins, Mike Kasperski, Dr. Yogi Kothari, Sharon Myers, Tim O'Keefe, Dennis Pezzimenti, Doug Price, Theresa Raftis, Jeff Reisner, Carol Stitt, Dan Strauch

2018: Lucy Benson, Vicki Blessing, Wendy Brand, R. Dennis Casey, Andrew Caya, Dr. Tony Evans, Steve Foster, Mary Freeman, Mike Higgins, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Sharon Myers, Tim O'Keefe, Dennis Pezzimenti, Theresa Raftis, Jeff Reisner, Carol Stitt, Dan Strauch, Ward "Skip" Wilday

2019: Lucy Benson, Vicki Blessing, Wendy Brand, R. Dennis Casey, Andrew Caya, Dr. Tony Evans, Steve Foster, Mary Freeman, Mike Higgins, Dr. Naheed Hilal, Mike Kasperski, Sharon Myers, Beth Palumbo, Dennis Pezzimenti, Doug Price, Theresa Raftis, Audra Stevens, Carol Stitt, Tyler Threehouse, Ward "Skip" Wilday

## 25 Years of Growing Good

### September 20, 1994

First named the Greater Olean Community Foundation, CRCF is founded with the purpose of enriching life in the Olean area by providing a vehicle and service for donors to pursue varied philanthropic interest and to serve as a resource for charitable activities.

### September 20, 1995

- Receives 501(c)(3) status.

### 1996

- Allegheny River Valley Trail Fund and project begins under leadership of Joseph Higgins.
- Carol Stitt named first Executive Director (an unpaid position).
- Foundation concludes year with \$43,835 in assets.



Allegheny River Valley Trail

### 1998

- Kay and Oliver Williams/ Rushford Fund – foundation's first 6-figure endowment – and Hinsdale Alumni Association Memorial Scholarship Fund established.



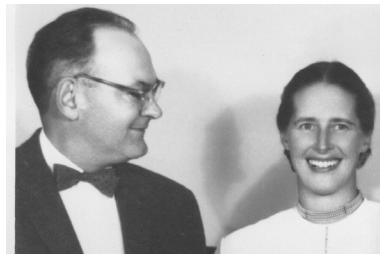
Jonathan Teuscher

### 1999

- First memorial scholarship created - in memory of Jonathan Teuscher by his parents and family.

### 2000

- Two new six-figure endowments established: Doris Reisner Endowment benefiting 10 charities and Lewis & Doris Reisner Endowment Fund benefitting the Olean General Hospital.



Lewis and Doris Reisner

- Community Fund established by board of directors to support changing needs in the area
- Foundation's name officially changed to Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation to reflect broader geographic range of services.
- CRCF assets reach \$765,000.

## 2001

- Burt Scholarship established providing four scholarships each year to students in financial need – thanks to the Burt Committee of the First Presbyterian Church in Olean and established through a bequest from Dr. Rudolph Burt.
- Foundation's largest fund, Mildred Milliman Fund, established with \$6 million as an anonymous donor-designated fund.



Mildred  
Milliman

## 2002

- Kaleigh Wilday Endowment Fund established in memory of 8-year-old Kaleigh, daughter of Skip and Greta Wilday, to support numerous nonprofits' youth and scholarship programs.
- Two popular funds established – Rose Pappas Foundation Fund and Olean City School District Foundation Fund.



Kaleigh  
Wilday

## 2003

- F. Donald Kenney Fund established to support Southern Tier Biennial art exhibit under Cattaraugus County Arts Council (now Tri-County Arts Council) and Olean Public Library.



Southern Tier Biennial

## 2004

- 10-year anniversary marks assets of more than \$7 million and more than 30 funds. Grant awards top \$350,000 while scholarship awards total more than \$7,000.

## 2005



- Tyler Bihler Memorial Scholarship established in memory of 9-year-old Tyler Bihler, with first award made in 2014 – the year he would have graduated from Olean High School.



Tyler Bihler

**2006**

- Woodland in the City Fund established, setting loose an array of 4-foot-high fiberglass squirrels throughout Olean.
- Carol Stitt retires as executive director after nine years of service and becomes president of the board of directors. Under Mrs. Stitt's leadership the Foundation grew from \$75,000 in assets to more than \$9.6 million.



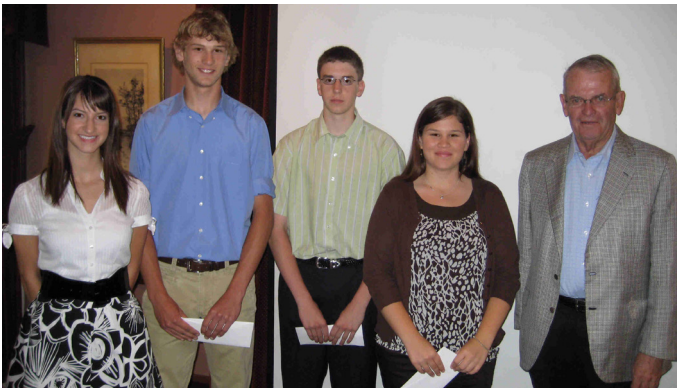
Vincent Sterner and Todd Reisner with the "InVinceble" Woodland in the City squirrel

**2007**

- Foundation provides 166 grants totaling \$499,000 and \$19,825 in scholarship awards for the year. Donations top \$269,000.

**2008**

- John J. Murphy Family Scholarship established, providing \$10,000 4-year scholarships to four new students each year.



Jack Murphy and 2009 John J. Murphy Family Scholarship students

## 2009

- 15th anniversary year board officers: Carol Stitt, president; Larry Sorokes, vice president; Mike Kasperski, treasurer; Douglas Price, secretary.
- Foundation manages more than 50 funds and \$8.9 million in assets, awards \$450,000 in grants.

## 2010

- Carroll Anstaett Little League Fund created by Carroll Anstaett – known as Mr. Baseball in Olean – and his wife, Dolores, to provide perpetual funding source to support up-and-coming sluggers.
- Karen Niemic Buchheit hired as first full-time executive director.



Carroll Anstaett Olean Little League Fund

## 2011

- CRCF hosts first annual Nonprofit Networking Day to help local nonprofit organization generate ideas to build capacity and learn from one another.



Karen Buchheit, Dr. Yogi Kothari and Kathy Burch at Nonprofit Networking Day

## 2012

- Foundation assets reach \$11.5 million among more than 60 funds.
- New funds include Ellicottville Great Valley Trail Fund, Higgins Memorial Golf Tournament Fund, Stitt Family Fund.

## 2013

- CRCF manages several agency funds including Council on Addiction Recovery Services (CAREs), Challenger Learning Center, Family Partners Group (Olean Business Development), and Mental Health Association in Cattaraugus County funds.
- Awards total over \$684,900 from more than 280 grants; donations top \$2.1 million.

## 2014

- Louis Zamperini Tribute Fund makes possible \$22,773 in grants to create granite monument honoring Louis Zamperini, Olean native, Olympic athlete, World War II hero and subject of “Unbroken.”
- Foundation assets reach \$13.6 million among more than 80 funds, including more than 20 scholarship funds.
- In its 20th year, Foundation marks more than \$4 million in grants and scholarships since inception.



Louis Zamperini Monument dedication

## 2015

- Ray Hunt, long-time friend to late John J. Murphy, donates \$100,000 to John J. Murphy Family Scholarship Fund, providing sustainable funding for annual, renewable \$10,000 scholarships.
- 23 funds established, including Nicolas G. Pendl Memorial Scholarship, Thomas W. Conklin Scholarship and Dr. Donald A. Wormer Family Scholarship.
- CRCF ends year with more than \$15 million in assets.

## 2016

- Wendy Brand elected board president after Carol Stitt steps off the board for a year after serving three consecutive three-year terms.



## 2017

- Board of directors approves its largest ever unrestricted grant, \$10,000, to Olean Food Pantry for expansion project.
- Barbara Chew named honorary board member in recognition of her 20 years distinguished service as board member.
- YMCA of the Twin Tiers establishes \$2 million agency fund, includes a number of sub-funds to support its programs.
- Foundation holds first-ever Cattaraugus Gives during state-wide NYGIVESDAY program, raises over \$28,000 for 40 participating nonprofits in Cattaraugus County, also sponsors \$5,000 in incentive prizes.
- CRCF awards total of \$1,086,529 in grants, ends year with total assets of \$20,765,529 -- an increase of over \$4 million from 2016.

## 2018

- CRCF begins the year with more than \$21 million in assets.
- Karen Fohl, who served 10 years on board, helped facilitate establishment of Mildred Milliman Fund, Foundation's largest fund, named honorary board member.
- Second Cattaraugus Gives program raises over \$32,000 for nonprofits, CRCF again sponsors \$5,000 in prizes - Olean City School District Foundation earns state-wide prize for highest number of donors in New York State.
- CRCF grants over \$1.1 million, receives more than \$1.8 million in gifts.
- 19 new funds established.



Karen Fohl

Thank you for helping  
make CRCF the region's  
**trusted, supportive, responsive**  
Community Foundation  
for 25 years.