

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Barbara P. Shineman
Chairman

I am continually amazed by the number of not-for-profit organizations in our region who are providing services or programs to improve the quality of life in Oswego County. Our foundation's vision is to be a transformative "Catalyst for Change" to create a vibrant community life for the Oswego County region. The only way this vision will be achieved is through the efforts of the organizations we partner with. They represent a large cross section of focus areas, including education, health and human services, civic benefit, economic revitalization, art and culture, environment, historic preservation and religion. Our foundation's focus areas for funding are this broad because we know that each area must be contributing positive change in order to create the vibrant community life we envision.

The exemplary not-for-profits that we support financially are the ones doing the work. Through their efforts, we are beginning to see positive change occurring in Oswego County. The success stories we hear from these organizations motivate our foundation to keep using its resources to stimulate economic vitality, encourage social bonds that strengthen the community, and to build the capacity of our not-for-profit partners.

We are also very encouraged by the increasing collaborations we see happening between the business community, government, social service agencies, school districts, colleges and universities and the not-for-profits. Working together will have a much greater impact on our region than working as "silos". It is our sincerest desire that all of us, together, will be the positive "Change Agents" in our county. Our future depends on this collaboration.

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GRANTS IN THE COMMUNITY

H. Lee White Maritime Museum



The purpose of the Maritime Museum is to "promote, protect, enhance and collect the historical resources associated with the Oswego River and its drainage basin, the Oswego Canal, and Lake Ontario."

Thanks to the 2013 investment provided by the Richard S. Shineman Foundation and matched by the CNY Community Foundation, the H. Lee White Maritime Museum at Oswego is now in a position to grow, expand and be the regional center for the education of Oswego's maritime history, heritage and culture. The merger, as funded by the Shineman Foundation, resulted in the museum being awarded a provisional charter from the NYS Board of Regents. This provides five years to ensure adherence to professional museum practices and procedures in order to receive an absolute charter. This final absolute charter is a mark of excellence for educational institutions, including museums, within New York State. The museum will add full-time professional staff to ensure the standards set by such a charter are met and continue to remain so.

The new grant provided by the Shineman Foundation in July will move the museum into the first phase of its reinvention by creating concrete steps and plans towards the goal of establishing a professionally run educational institution that will serve as the leader in the community for museum heritage both past and future. Specific plans are newly funded exhibits, newly established collections storage and work space, significant progress on the lighthouse restoration, advancement on projects, vessel planning and staff development.

The museum has always been a driving force for change in the local community. It regularly advocates for the preservation of local maritime resources, creation of partnerships that drive change and is always at the forefront of big ideas that use combined cultural resources to further the community's success in many ways. The museum seeks to improve quality of life beyond the local community and into the entire region with this grant. Shineman funding will provide a professional curator to ensure that historic preservation projects, collections management practices and educational initiatives are successful in the long-term, and will create an opportunity for the museum to help lead major changes locally and regionally by advocating for the NYS Blueway Trail and for Oswego as a National Marine Sanctuary site. This will also ensure the museum's ability to complete the restoration of the Oswego West Pierhead Lighthouse, making it available for public tours, leading to continued development of the community's on-the-water cultural resources.

RECENTLY AWARDED GRANTS

- **Child Advocacy Center**— This \$20,000 grant will provide the CAC with resources and equipment to enhance the efficiency and prosecution of child abuse investigations through the purchase of state of the art video equipment that will be used to address and reduce crimes against children, minimize the costs associated with such by minimizing the number of times children must recount their incidents and will have a lasting impact on the healing of child abuse victims and their families in Oswego County.
- **Farnham Family Services**— The \$38,000 grant will support a dedicated part-time Coalition Coordinator that will facilitate a new project, the Coalition to Combat Adolescent Substance Abuse in Oswego County. One of the intended outcomes of the coalition is to raise awareness and prevention of alcohol and other drug use among youth throughout the county.
- **Ontario Center for Performing Arts (Oswego Music Hall)**— \$10,000 will be used to replace outdated and worn-out sound equipment to improve sound, produce more sophisticated shows, attract modern technicians and engineers, and increase professionalism, public perception and participation.
- **Palermo United Methodist Church**— Support from the Richard S. Shineman Foundation, with a grant for \$13,000, will enable the church to make building modifications and offer their facility as a training center, partnering with other community agencies to provide public education in the area of parenting skills and life skills in areas such as budgeting, money management, and healthy food preparation.
- **Symphoria**— \$25,000 will be used to connect community members of all ages with the excitement of live classical music through a three-part project, Creating Community through Music, in and for Oswego area youth and families.



Symphoria

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT

CNY Arts Center



Community residents and artists came together in April 2011 as ART's pARTners to raise awareness of the economic and cultural benefits of the arts and establish a multi-arts center in Central New York. The group organized an arts festival and other events, opened a gallery in downtown Fulton, launched Arty Day Camp and a full theatre season in donated space at State Street Methodist Church. Bringing visual arts together with performing arts created a strong foundation for collaborating with other community organizations and schools.

In 2014 the Arts Center partnered with Cayuga Community College and moved its location to the River Glen Plaza, right next door to the institution. With easy access, great visibility and ample parking, CNY Arts Center created a great new gallery space, a larger stage with increased seating for 200 and expanded Arty Day Camp to six weeks of visual and performing arts in two locations.

Their successful Children's Theatre program attracted more than 50 children to audition for the classic musical Wizard of Oz. One of the children was Justin, a 14-year old autistic boy who, as a young child, it had been anticipated, would never learn to talk or have a meaningful place in society. Justin, and other children ages 6 to 17, many with no previous theatre experience, learned stage presence and theater techniques, gaining life skills such as self-confidence, pride, and satisfaction that will have a permanent effect on their lives. As Justin developed his leading character, Head of the Monkeys, he memorized lines and gave a rousing rendition of his assigned solo, never missing a cue. His family was moved to tears over his performance and championed the theatre experience as a highlight of his young life.

In 2015 the organization was recognized as Nonprofit Business of the Year by the Greater Oswego/Fulton Chamber of Commerce. The classic musical Oliver will close out the year onstage in November. New projects in development with Cayuga Community College and continued support from the community mean the Arts Center is poised to deliver engaging art experiences in all arts for all ages.

OCT 9 Grant application submission deadline for Round 3 grant awards