



# Celebrating Canton Today and Tomorrow

## *A Newsletter of the Canton Community Fund*

Fall 2016

### *Canton Community Fund's 2016 Grants Benefit Many Aspects of Town And Village Life*

From support of blood drives to public library renovations to a food pantry freezer, the Canton Community Fund made numerous grants in 2016, all aimed at improving the quality of life for all residents of the Town and Village of Canton.

In addition to those highlighted in this newsletter's "Anatomy of a Grant" stories, recipients have included:

- \*The Canton Unitarian-Universalist Church, for a banner in the village park promoting the church's hosting of Red Cross blood drives.
- \*The Town and Village historian for computer hardware.
- \*McKenney Middle School, toward providing pedometers to every student as part of its Smart Steps for Success program.
- \*The Canton Day Care Center, toward an architectural feasibility study of proposed expansion of its facilities.
- \*The Complete Streets Task Force in partnership with the Village of Canton, for future installation of a bicycle repair station in the Village Park.
- \*The St. Lawrence University Sociology Department and SLU senior Brandon Studler, for Mr. Studler's project to collect used digital learning devices on

*Cont. on page 2*

## *Why Support the Canton Community Fund?*



*Village Park Fountain, Canton*

\*Seventeen years ago, local citizens created the Canton Community Fund (CCF) because of what they perceived as a funding gap in the community. The Fund is the only "general purpose" Fund supporting the Town and Village of Canton.

\*CCF has been a source of good works. It supports initiatives that sustain or improve the life of the community. In particular, it funds activities that are new, that expand the work of an organization, or are hard to fund and yet have community-wide impact.

\*Monies contributed to the CCF are used exclusively in this community. Grants are made by a board of community members who know local people, institutions and priorities, and understand local needs.

\*The Fund has grown steadily over the years since its creation (to more than \$200,000 now) and has thus been able to increase its impact.

\*The Fund is special because your gift continues to give in perpetuity -- for every \$10,000 of principal in the Fund, \$500 can be allocated to worthy causes, every year, year after year.

\*Donations are wisely invested by the Northern New York Community Foundation, the CCF's parent organization, so that the Fund continues to grow even while it distributes resources in the community. (All gifts are tax-deductible in the year they are made.)

Help us build the Canton Community Fund so we can help build Canton!

*(Adapted from a statement prepared by Lynn S. Fox, CCF Board member 2011-14.)*

**Canton's two college campuses and convey them to Canton Central School for distribution to students in need of such devices.**

**\*To GardenShare, for office furnishings for its new facility.**

**One hundred percent of this money came from gifts to the Canton Community Fund, plus the resulting investment performance. Thank you for your support; with your help, Canton can be whatever you want it to be.**

*The Canton Community Fund welcomes donations, requests for support of community-oriented programs, and expressions of interest in serving on its Board of Directors. The CCF especially encourages not-for-profit groups and organizations in the Town and Village of Canton to apply for grants. Guidelines, as well as other information about the CCF, can be found at the CCF website, <http://www.cantoncommunityfund.org>.*

## *Anatomy of a Grant: Church & Community Program*

The Church & Community Program received a needed grant from the Canton Community Fund early in 2016. CCP Director Connie Jenkins explains, "When one of our three freezers broke down and couldn't be repaired, we were in a tough spot. Our pantry provides food, on average, to 200 local families a month. Every freezer and refrigerator here is well used each day. We couldn't go without one of them, and if we'd had to purchase a freezer, we'd have had to shift or cut other items in the budget.

"The Canton Community Fund responded quickly and generously with funding for a new freezer. We purchased it locally through Sears, and it is serving us well. We're very grateful to the Fund for this help," Jenkins adds.

The nonprofit Church & Community Program, located at the corner of Main Street and Riverside in Canton, serves residents in the Towns of Canton, Clare, DeKalb, Hermon and Russell who have household incomes that are equal to or less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Jenkins says she's signing up about four new families every week.

The pantry is looking for more volunteers to help distribute food Monday through Thursday. If you have a couple of hours a week to spare, please call Jenkins at 386-3534.



*Canton Community Fund President Neal Burdick and Church & Community Program Director Connie Jenkins show off the CCP's new freezer purchased through a grant from the Fund.*

*Photo by Sharon White*

## *'Crucial to the fabric of our lives'*

Our family—Pamela, our oldest son, Eben, and—moved to Canton in 2001 for Pamela to join the faculty at St. Lawrence University. Shortly thereafter, Charles was born, followed by Samuel in 2003. We moved here not only for Pamela's work, but also because of the allure of living in a small community along with the promise of long winters of cross-country skiing.

Getting involved in the life of Canton was a natural thing to do as I had grown up and spent my early adulthood in a small town in Southeastern Massachusetts, whose community served. Having three boys below school age made day care a necessity; as they became toddlers off to the Canton Day Care Center they went, and when a call went out for new members for the CDCC Board of Directors, I signed on. I was privileged to be the president of the CDCC Board during our partnership with United Helpers that resulted in the construction of the new daycare center at the Maplewood Campus.

Later, an opportunity arose to join the Canton Free Library Board of Trustees, which I currently serve as president. That led to an invitation to join the Canton Community Fund board. Because of my other board associations, I was aware of the Canton Community Fund's work, which in my mind meets the true measure of community spirit by providing small targeted grants that support or sustain the life of our town and village. While the Fund may not be large, its ability to react quickly to bridge immediate needs is crucial to the fabric of our lives here in Canton.

**Brett Thacher**  
CCF Board Member

*Edited by Neal Burdick; production and printing by Commercial Press, Canton. The Canton Community Fund expresses its gratitude to the Canton Chamber of Commerce for the use of its postal permit.*

# Who Are We?



*"We" is really all of us, working together for the good of Canton. But the Canton Community Fund does have a Board of Directors. Pictured in November 2016, they are, from left, John Vose, Brett Thacher, Barbara Beekman, Christopher Rediehs, Dwight Stevenson, Lenore Vanderzee, Mary Ann Ashley, Neal Burdick and Louis Tremaine. Not pictured is John Casserly. [credit] Jake Newman / St. Lawrence Plaindealer*

## *Anatomy of a Grant: Deep Root Center*

The Deep Root Center for Self-Directed Learning (DRC) staff and board are grateful to the Canton Community Fund (CCF), which has been one of DRC's leading supporters from the very beginning, for approving our request for a technology grant for the second year in a row.

This nearly \$1,600 grant has funded three new desktop computers and a revolutionary distance learning device called Kubi. This robotic arm, controlled by a person who is in a remote location, holds a tablet (we chose an iPad) which enables him or her to join or lead our classes through video conferencing. This allows volunteer facilitators from around the globe to teach classes from their offices, homes or classrooms, opening a new world of possibilities for our students.

We also purchased an innovative coding instrument called Ozobot. This little gizmo allows students to learn and develop code for computer programs as well as gaming.

Deep Root Center provides the facilities, environment, resources and support to children ages 5-18 who wish to take charge of their education. DRC embraces cutting-edge as well as traditional technologies. The technology grants from the CCF allow us to continue building the physical and virtual, exciting, state-of-the-art, creative space we imagine for our students. **—Maria Corse, Director**



*Photo by Emily Owen Hastings*

*The public library's new floor supports recent intense action by members of the Canton Lego Club.*

## *Anatomy of a Grant: Canton Free Library*

Over the years, Canton Free Library's Benton building has undergone several renovations, the most recent of which began in 2006 for the library's centennial. A few rooms were left out due to cost, including the basement meeting room/kitchen. This area was in good shape overall, but it was likely that there was asbestos tile underneath its linoleum floor, so trustees and staff continued to look for grants to help cover the cost of remediation.

This year, a grant from New York State made it possible to tackle the project. Demolition began in September, but quickly hit a snag: under the tile, a thick layer of cement material had been poured in to level the surface—which meant that the floor underneath was uneven. Years of sticky buildup meant that it could be contaminated with asbestos. It needed to come out, and a new layer had to be poured. Work stopped, and the board and staff had to make a quick decision: how would we cover the unbudgeted costs.

The Canton Community Fund (CCF) had aided the library in the past, helping buy technology for our Morley branch and contributing funds toward our Tool Library. We presented our request to the CCF board and were thrilled to receive good news within only three days. CCF's generous contribution of \$2,000 was the first donation received toward the floor project, and helped convince us that we could resume work.

Quick action by the CCF board let us continue a project that ended up going almost 50 percent over budget but which was very much needed for the health and safety of our library users. I'm happy to report that the project is complete and the library's meeting room has a beautiful new floor—one without unpleasant surprises lurking under it! **—Emily Owen Hastings, Executive Director**

# Have a Project? Need Funding? Want to Request Help? Here's How

The Canton Community Fund supports projects that aim to sustain or improve the life of the community. The maximum award in most cases is \$2,000. No request is too small, though many, unfortunately, are too large. In the case of more costly projects, an organization might ask the Fund to be a partner in seeking additional support from other sources.

## *Eligibility*

**Not-for-profit organizations that are located in and serve residents of the Village or Town of Canton are eligible for grants from the Fund.** The Fund does not award grants to pay for normal operations or projects that benefit only an organization's own members, and it does not contribute to endowments or capital campaigns. Priority will ordinarily go to previously unfunded projects.

## *Application procedure*

**A written application must be submitted to the CCF Board via Board President Neal Burdick, [nealburdick@gmail.com](mailto:nealburdick@gmail.com).**

It should explain the following:

- The purpose of the request
- Whom it will benefit, and how
- The nature of the organization
- How the project will be accomplished
- The amount requested, and how that amount was determined.

Funding decisions are typically made at the May and November meetings of the Board.

## *Community Needs*

**Please help the CCF identify community needs and potential partners.** Speak with a board member, post your ideas on the CCF Facebook page, or email us from [www.cantoncommunityfund.com](http://www.cantoncommunityfund.com).

**Check Out Our Website!**  
**[www.cantoncommunityfund.org](http://www.cantoncommunityfund.org)**  
• *Historic Canton Pictures!* • *Paypal!*  
• *How to Request a Grant!*  
***Much More!***



Donations to the  
Canton Community Fund  
are fully tax-deductible.

Just go to our website,  
[www.cantoncommunityfund.org](http://www.cantoncommunityfund.org),  
and follow the simple instructions.  
Or, send a check payable to  
Northern New York Community  
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P.O. Box 142, Canton, NY 13617.

**Want to make a gift?  
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