



Celebrating Canton Today and Tomorrow

A Newsletter of the Canton Community Fund

Fall 2015

Recent Canton Community Fund Grants Benefit Quality of Life in Town and Village

From a tool library to acting classes for children to support for this fall's St. Lawrence International Film Festival, the Canton Community Fund (CCF) continues to provide financial grants aimed at improving the quality of life for all residents of the Town and Village of Canton.

Since February 2015, the CCF has made the following grants:

*To Canton Central School, two grants, one for its Lego Team competition, and one for pedometers for McKenney Middle School's Smart Steps for Success program. For the latter, teacher Amy DiSalvo, speaking for the McKenney Middle School Building Council, explained that the grant will, come spring, purchase pedometers for all 400 students in grades 5-8 so they can integrate walking into their studies. "We hope this will help our students grow in their physical, academic, and emotional well-being," she wrote. "We are trying to encourage not only healthy living, but also student-driven learning."

*To the SLU Women's Initiative Student Steering Committee, for its Girls Empowerment Initiative, which brought women leaders in the region together with girls from the community to discuss leadership and empowerment for young women.

*To the Grasse River Players, for summer acting classes for Canton children.

*To the Grasse River Players and the Occupational Health Clinical Center, for the printed program for their production of the play *These Shining Lives*, about workplace safety and responsibility.

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Why Support the Canton Community Fund?



Main Street, Canton

*Sixteen 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.)

*To Canton Free Library, for a lending library of tools. Once it is equipped, the “Tool Library” will offer patrons home, garden and kitchen tools to borrow, just as if they were books. “The intent of the Tool Library is to allow residents to share tools and items that they might use occasionally but not wish to keep permanently—for example, seasonal garden tools or canning equipment—or to try out a tool before purchasing it,” wrote library director Emily Owen in her application. She noted that gifts of tools to the library included saws, a post-hole digger and cake pans, and that purchases of additional tools would be made at local businesses “whenever possible and cost-effective.”

*To GardenShare, in support of the North Country Food Day Youth Summit. The grant helped support participation by a group of Canton High School students in the summit in October. In its application, GardenShare described the summit as “a day of workshops and action planning for high school students from across [the North Country], focused on important food and agriculture issues like diet and health, sustainable agriculture, hunger in our communities, and junk-food marketing to kids.”

*To the Deep Root Center for Self-Directed Learning, for computer hardware and software, such as a Pro Tablet, a webcam animation package and a graphic designer. The center provides educational opportunities to area children ages 7 to 18 who benefit most from those opportunities outside the traditional school setting, “by facilitating their interests and putting them in charge of their own learning,” in the words of the application.

*To the St. Lawrence County Arts Council, for sponsorship of one of the venues at Canton’s American Theater during the October 2015 St. Lawrence International Film Festival.

For more on some of these projects, see the “Anatomy of a Grant” stories elsewhere in this newsletter.

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>.

Why Do We Care About Canton?

I moved to Canton in 1990 with my family. My husband and I were looking for a community where people not only lived together, but also cared about one another and shared common hopes for themselves and their children. Canton fit our needs perfectly. Being on the board of the Canton Community Fund is my chance to give back to this amazing community. Please help sustain our shared hopes for Canton by becoming a donor to the Canton Community Fund. Thank you.

JoAnn Pfeil

Anatomy of a Grant: Lego Robotics

A Canton Community Fund (CCF) grant in 2015 went to McKenney Middle School for its FIRST Lego League (FLL) Robotics team. “FIRST Robotics is a nationwide program focused on exposing children at an early age to science, technology, and problem-solving,” in preparation for regional competition, wrote technology education teacher Suzanne Creurer, who was assisted by Clarkson professor Stephanie Schuckers, in the grant application. The grant helped cover expenses for a “starter” Lego robot kit (robot computer, software, Lego parts, and so on) and competition materials.

“Your donation will help sustain our club and provide us with some discretionary funds to sustain interest in this valuable student club,” Creurer and Schuckers wrote in a thank-you letter to the CCF. “Our robotics program introduces students to hands-on STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics] curriculum that is motivating and inspiring. This was a great start to what we hope will be a long-lasting and popular extracurricular activity.” The letter was co-signed by Robert, Emily, Blake, Abby, Cooper, two Sams, and nearly two dozen other middle-school students.



McKenney Middle School's robotics team sported special logos on their team t-shirts.

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. Earlier this year, the CCF board extended its congratulations and gratitude to Chris Angus, who stepped down as board president after 10 years of outstanding service.



Paul Mitchell

Pictured in September 2015, Board members are, from left, JoAnn Pfeil, Dwight Stevenson, Louis Tremaine, Barbara Beekman, Brett Thacher, Neal Burdick and John Vose.



Brittany Hanson

From left, Board members are Bryan Parker, Lenore VanderZee and John Casserly.

Anatomy of a Grant: Acting Classes

A Canton Community Fund grant provided scholarship money for children who wanted to take last summer’s children’s acting class sponsored by Grasse River Players. Teacher Karen Wells reports an average of eight children in the five Saturday sessions, four of whose families requested financial help.

“All the children memorized and presented a Shakespearean monologue and a more contemporary monologue, such as from *You’re a Good Man, Charlie, Brown*,” Wells said. They also presented scenes involving situations and improvisations from real life, written by Wells.

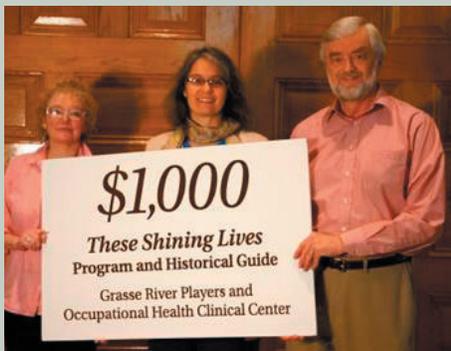
“They learned to take direction, to listen for cues and to understand that preparation and understanding is the key to being ‘onstage’ comfortably, even if you have some stage fright,” Wells explained. “Insight into the pretend situations helps children understand human motivations. The children gained confidence, poise, and interactive skills that will benefit them as they grow into well-rounded citizens of our community.”

Angela Rodriguez wrote that her son Christopher “landed a part in the play *Kreepy Hollow* in Ogdensburg in October. It is a musical, so we really had to prepare. Thank you for all the work you’ve done with him! He has always loved acting, but your classes have really helped him.”



Hilary Weissbard

Acting teacher Karen Wells, standing center, works with Naomi Crowell on acting techniques. One benefit of acting classes is that children learn poise and control in public situations.



Jana Prudhomme

Anatomy of a Grant: These Shining Lives

An estimated 250 people attended the four performances of the play *These Shining Lives*, sponsored by the Occupational Health Clinical Center of the North Country and presented by the Grasse River Players last February. “The play features the seriousness and depth of occupational legal, medical and social issues in the context of women’s lives,” said producer Relani Prudhomme.

“The grant from the Canton Community Fund went toward the design of a beautiful 38-page program and historical guide which allowed theater-goers to gain a sense of the background behind the women portrayed in *These Shining Lives*, as well as some broader information about occupational health and resources in our area for preventing deaths, illnesses and injuries from workplace exposures,” Prudhomme said. In the photo, Canton Community Fund board member Neal Burdick, right, symbolically presents the CCF grant to Prudhomme, center, and Karen Wells, representing Grasse River Players.

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 member Louis Tremaine, ltremain@richmond.edu. 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, or email us from www.cantoncommunityfund.com.

Check Out Our Website!
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,
and follow the simple instructions.
Or, send a check payable to
Northern New York Community
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organization) and designated
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