Happy Holidays ... extending a heartfelt “Thank You”!

In May, we encouraged you to direct your energy and financial support locally to your family, friends & neighbors. Our five towns have experienced remarkable generosity and support, enabling the nonprofits to provide the most critical resources for our citizens in need. The level of personal commitment of the dedicated volunteers who organize and carry out these efforts is extraordinary. I found their positive attitudes to “adapt & endure to carry out the task” truly inspiring! We are not yet able to see the end of the pandemic and its negative economic impact will linger far beyond a vaccine. Please remain engaged in the battle and do what you can to support the nonprofits and volunteers. This newsletter celebrates several triumphs of good work carried out with the support of grant funds from the Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region at Adirondack Foundation.

Although we cannot “gather together” this year in our usual ways, let us get creative, share family stories of holidays past, start a new tradition and carry on the spirit of the season. May you discover an adaptation that weaves an interesting detail into the tapestry of your holiday traditions.

Mindy Preuninger, Committee Chair

Grants Awarded in 2020

$17,940 in grant funds from the Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region were awarded to benefit seniors, kids, libraries and more in the towns of Chester, Horicon, Johnsburg, Minerva, and Schroon.

Adirondack Community Outreach - The Food Pantry Goes to the Farmers Market Program
Adirondack Community Outreach - 2020 Kids Summer Meals Program Fresh Fruit and Veggies
Family YMCA of the Glens Falls Area - Supplies for After School Club at North Warren
Johnsburg Historical Society - Newsletter for JHS 2020 + Partial Funding for Hudson River Trail Historical Markers
Johnsburg Youth Committee - Supporting School Year Activities Program
Johnsburg’s Jr Outdoor Club, Inc - Equipment for Youth Hunter Education & additional Outdoor Youth Activities
Minerva Central School - Expanding Horizons Travel Program
Minerva Food Pantry - Supporting the School Children Backpack Program
Minerva Historical Society - Operating Fund Support to keep the History Museum Heated
New York Ski Educational Foundation (NYSEF) - Dare to Dream Scholarship Fund for Local Student Athlete
North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Assoc - Produce a Virtual Tour of the Railway Depot Museum
Schroon Lake Association Inc - Shelter for a Boat Wash Station minimizing impact of invasive species to the lake
Schroon Lake Central School - Robotics Program
Seagle Music Colony - Rent & Utility Support
Tannery Pond Center - Support of Operating Funds & Online Programming Equipment
The Historical Society of the Town of Chester - Storage Racks and Extra Shelving for Historic Artifacts
Town of Chester - Supplies/Games for newly established Senior Adult Community Center
Town of Chester - Pottersville Playground Project
Town of Johnsburg Library - Face Masks for the Library to Supply to Patrons

*Funding in part made possible by our Named Grants that direct funds to causes these donors are most passionate about: Woody Widlund, Ernest Johnson, John & Wanda Callihan, and The McGee - Whitney Family

Adapt: to make (something) suitable for a new use or purpose

This newsletter highlights the creative adaptations of our local nonprofits!

Grant Awards go Virtual ...

The Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region adapted our Grant Awards to an online video this year. The Broadcasting Club at Schroon Lake Central School edited and produced the grant acceptance interviews with equipment purchased with grant funds in 2019. We invite you to view it ... a link can be found on our Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/CFGMR/

Public Services Available

Keeping books, movies and the public computers available to residents when our schools were closed was particularly important. To provide this with safety required not just masks, contact tracing log and hand sanitizer for patrons, but also the need to quarantine books for 72 hours before checking them back in! The library also offered home delivery to homebound patrons. Thank you Library Staff!
A virtual tour of the rich history of the North Creek Railway has been completed with grant funds. The tour highlights the significant role the railroad played in making the central Adirondacks accessible for recreation and industrial development. The depot building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the Theodore Roosevelt Heritage Trail. Beautiful videography and narrative will peak your interest to learn more! A link to the video tour can be found on the North Creek Depot Museum website: https://www.northcreekdepotmuseum.org/.

Farmer’s Market & Fresh Veggie Programs at Outreach

The Adirondack Community Outreach received two grant awards. These funds enabled the addition of fresh fruits & vegetables to the summer youth meal program (an extension of the school year backpack program) and also provided a unique opportunity to offer Farmer’s Market access to Food Pantry recipients. The resource of direct, local produce served a valuable educational experience with expanded variety, food preparation and storage. “It’s been met with sincere enthusiasm” said Anita Abrams, Food Pantry Director, “It’s done multiple things for recipients, healthy food and healthy relationships.”

The Outreach Center got creative in tapping into the youthful volunteer resources throughout the community. Found to be unfamiliar with the food programs, these volunteers got excited and engaged others to join in the effort. They “made it a party!” said Andie Waldron, Outreach Director. Anita and Andie believe this has been a positive experience for this younger group of volunteers with future positive impact to the community.

Backpack Program Builds Cooking Skills!

The Backpack programs across our five towns fill a food insecurity gap for our school children over the weekend when school meals are not available to them.

Amanda Savarie, director of the Minerva Backpack program is using grant funds to expand programming that encourages children to explore food preparation and cooking. The purchase of child-friendly cookbooks, creating video tutorials with children giving instruction and posting to the school website are creative ways she is looking to add a sustaining skill to the current program.

The Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region (CFGMR) now offers a unique way to contribute to the fund as a “gift” on behalf of another person, family or group. Consider making a contribution as a memorial gift or to honor an Adirondack neighbor; a holiday gift to those with a special connection to our area; or as a thank you to one of our local nonprofits. 100% of contributions received are invested into the CFGMR fund and become part of the growing funds distributed each year through our grant process. Details on CFGMR page at www.adirondackfoundation.org.

The Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region is one of more than 250 charitable funds at Adirondack Foundation, a nonprofit community foundation that proudly serves as a philanthropic hub for the Adirondacks. Our partnership with Adirondack Foundation ensures that all gifts qualify for the maximum available tax deduction and means we are part of a much larger effort to support local communities through grantmaking. For more information call 518-523-9004 or visit www.adirondackfoundation.org.

“Spirit of Giving”

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Your gift in any amount is meaningful when invested in the CFGMR fund managed by the Adirondack Foundation. If you are interested in learning how to establish a named grant fund for your family, or you know of someone who may be, please reach out to us.

The CFGMR Advisory Committee

Committee Chair - Mindy Preuninger  Vice Chair - Heidi Kelly
Town of Chester: Peter Heonis, Al Matrose
Town of Horicon: Thomas Magee, Carol Whitney
Town of Johnsburg: Mary Ann Bowers, Beth Maher
Town of Minerva: Kathy Halloran, Heidi Kelly, Mindy Preuninger
Town of Schroon: Ann Breen Metcalfe, Susan Repko, Kristine Tribou

To learn more, including how to contribute, contact one of your local committee members or Mindy Preuninger at 518-586-6557, e-mail mindy.preuninger@gmail.com, or follow the fund on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/CFGMR/