

NEWS

Anonymous donor donates \$100K to Community Foundation

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A longtime Ithaca resident has pledged \$100,000 to Community Foundation of Tompkins County to create a new endowment that will support a wide range of local nonprofit organizations.

The gift is the first made to the endowment for the Tompkins Today Tomorrow Fund, administered by Community Foundation's board of directors. Since it was created in 2003, the fund has supported more than 30 organizations, including Friendship Donations Network, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Tompkins County and the Discovery Trail.

"This pledge represents a great beginning of our effort to build an endowed grant-making program and put it on a solid footing," said George Ferrari, CEO of Community Foundation of Tompkins County.

According to a press release, the anonymous donor said she wanted to make the pledge to show her commitment to the community and to set an example she hopes others will follow.

The gift will be split equally between the endowment and operational support for Community Foundation of Tompkins County, which last year distributed \$2.1 million in grants to 364 nonprofits in the county.

Community Foundation of Tompkins County was established in 2000 by community leaders who believed the county needed a local resource addressing local needs. Since it was established, the organization has awarded \$12 million in more than 3,000 grants locally.

Community Foundation of Tompkins County board members, stewards of the endowment, expressed gratitude for the gift and look forward to other potential donors supporting it as well, the news release stated.

“We are so grateful for this gift,” said Randy Ehrenberg, current board chair. “It is a vote of confidence in how our grant-making engages the community to address local needs.”

“This new endowment gives us greater flexibility and more resources to meet emerging local challenges today and well into the future,” Incoming Chair Susan Murphy said.

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