

LOCAL

Anonymous donor pledges \$100,000 to Community Foundation a second year in a row

Matt Steecker ithacajournal.com

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For a second consecutive year, an anonymous donor pledged \$100,000 to Community Foundation of Tompkins County to fund an endowment supporting several nonprofit organizations.

The long-time Ithaca resident and local professional made the gift with the hope that she would encourage other residents to donate to Community Foundation. Last November, the donor made the same pledge.

Half of the donor's gift was designated for the Tompkins Today Tomorrow Fund, which has supported numerous local organizations, including the Newfield Public Library, the Finger Lakes Toy Library, Village at Ithaca and Historic Ithaca. Created in 2003, the fund is administered by the Community Foundation's board of directors.

The other half will be used to support Community Foundation's current operations. Community Foundation was established in 2000 by civic leaders who believed Tompkins County needed a local resource to address local needs.

In 2017, Community Foundation distributed 418 grants totaling \$1.6 million to nonprofits in Tompkins County. As of the end of the organization's third quarter in 2018, Community Foundation has distributed about \$1.3 million dollars in 328 grants to 200 organizations.

In addition to distributing grants, the organization provides philanthropic services to make donors gifts more effective.

George Ferrari, chief executive officer of Community Foundation, said the latest "substantial, large donation" comes from a donor who has a history of being philanthropic.

“This is someone who is showing her gratitude for living in our community,” Ferrari said. “As we enter the giving season and people reflect on giving thanks, this is a great example of somebody putting those thoughts into a powerful action.”

Ferrari said the individual decided to donate to the Community Foundation because of its flexibility in supporting a wide range of organizations from arts and culture to human services and other categories.

This fall, the anonymous donor learned that a couple is making plans in their will to donate a major gift to the Tompkins Today and Tomorrow endowment.

“More people are seeing the value of making gifts for flexible grant-making,” the donor said in a press release. “That is just what I hoped would happen when I made these gifts.”

Those interested in making a donation can go to cftompkins.org. Donors can also provide stock gifts or other contributions. Those interested in donating their time also can call 607-272-9333.

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