

2021

Wyoming Foundation Community Connection



The Wyoming Foundation was created in 1974 by a group of community-minded individuals with a goal of improving the lives of Wyoming County residents. Today, more than 45 years later, it would be hard to find someone in the county who has not benefited from the programs and organizations that have received support from the many funds at the Wyoming Foundation.

The Wyoming Foundation continues to:

- Provide a vehicle through which individuals give to charity
- Maximize clients' generosity by investing and growing their charitable assets
- Support organizations on behalf of clients

In addition to the work that the Wyoming Foundation does assisting generous individuals and families make a difference through their giving, each year it runs a competitive grant process where funding is distributed to support local nonprofit organizations.

Priority is given to local organizations supporting the arts and cultural, as well as those providing educational opportunities for youth which equip them for future careers. These two areas were selected after county residents were convened in 2012 to determine the priority funding opportunities for the community. The awardees from the 2021 competitive grant process are listed below.

2021 Competitive Grants Cycle

Arcade Free Library

\$1,600 for Enjoy Outside in Arcade

Arcade Historical Society

\$488 for 50 Years of Winterfest

Eagle Free Library

\$1,300 for March into the Library

LEAD Wyoming County

\$2,584 for Wyoming County Underground Railroad Brochure

Oak Orchard Community Health

\$5,000 for Grow Your Own Healthcare Worker Project

Shake on the Lake

\$5,000 for Sea Serpent Puppet Parade

WNY Rural Area Health Education Center

\$4,988 for REACH Youth Mental Health Awareness Training

Wyoming Free Circulating Library

\$4,000 for Caring for Our Community

Young Audiences of WNY

\$3,500 for Creative Family Programming

Thank you to our clients who make this work possible!

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We appreciate your continued support!

A lifetime of giving



Charles “Bud” and Marjorie “Mardi” Van Arsdale met in 1949 when Mardi was visiting a college friend in Warsaw. Six weeks later, the two were engaged and shared 56 years of marriage together. Giving back to the community was central to their life together. Bud volunteered as a Boy Scout leader, Treasurer of the Wyoming County Fair Association, and a Board Member of the Castile Library. He also cared deeply about entrepreneurship and business development in the community and after retiring as CEO of the Bank of Castile, founded the Small Business Development Center at SUNY Geneseo.

Mardi was a teacher and a firm believer in reading skills, who recognized the literacy challenges presented by small rural communities. In 1978, she organized Project Read, a family reading program aimed at fostering interactions between parent and child while increasing reading skills among even

the youngest family members. Since its inception, Project Read has enjoyed success in daycare centers, preschools, schools, libraries and social service programs throughout Wyoming County.

Following Mardi’s passing in 2006, Bud established the Marjorie Z. VanArsdale fund through the Wyoming Foundation to carry out Mardi’s legacy forever by providing annual support to Project Read. He also created the Marjorie and Charles VanArsdale Family Fund at the Wyoming Foundation, that the family could use to continue supporting organizations and causes that were important to them.

“I absolutely believe that we should all do what we can to help future generations. The Foundation makes it easy for us to do this,” Bud once said.

After Bud passed away in early 2020, both funds received a generous distribution from his estate. Today Bud and Mardi’s children use the funds to stay connected to the community that meant so much to them and their parents. The Wyoming Foundation is proud to support this legacy of generosity.

Wyoming Foundation Council

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As a grantee of the Wyoming Foundation, Wyoming County YMCA serves youth, families, adults and seniors in Wyoming County. The Wyoming Foundation helps to support its efforts, including its before and after school programs that offer children a safe and nurturing environment while assisting families with childcare.

“Over many years, the Wyoming Foundation has supported the Wyoming County YMCA’s services and programs which strengthens the community as a whole, helping individuals grow positively and creating a community of good neighbors,” said Matt Hilton, Branch Director, Wyoming County YMCA. “The impact of the Wyoming Foundation’s support is deeply rooted and has helped to create a stronger community fabric. The Wyoming County YMCA is very appreciative of the Wyoming Foundation’s support and understanding of what the YMCA intends to do in the community.”



Featured GRANTEE

Wyoming County YMCA



Wyoming Foundation

*A division of the Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo*

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