

2021

# Niagara Area Foundation Community Connections



Niagara Area Foundation

A division of the Community Foundation  
for Greater Buffalo

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Over the past two decades, dozens of leaders with deep roots in Niagara County have served on the NAF's Council and guided the mission forward. The current members are:

### Officers

Molly Anderson, *Chair*  
Betsy Diachun, *Vice Chair*  
Jane Killewald, *Secretary/  
Treasurer*

### Council

Dorothy Kelley  
Margaret Nucci  
Jennifer Pauly  
Michelle Vanstrom  
Michael Williamson

## Niagara Area Foundation Continues to Strengthen the Niagara Region

Dear NAF clients and community partners:

As we reflect on the last 20 months, we have seen uncertainty result in collaboration, generosity and hope. Individually and collectively, we have all faced challenges, and we continue to find innovative solutions together.



*Anne Orr*

The passing of our Chair and dear friend, Anne Orr, was a sudden and heartbreaking loss for the Niagara Area Foundation. Anne was a tireless advocate for the NAF, committed to carrying out its mission of strengthening the Niagara region. The impact of her efforts will be felt for a long time and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to know her. Her commitment and perseverance will guide the NAF for a long time to come.

In early 2020, the NAF was one of the first foundations in Western New York to support the WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund with instructions for those charitable dollars to benefit Niagara County. As of July 31, 2021, \$14.2 million has been granted to organizations serving all eight counties of Western New York.

Other highlights of our recent work include:

In August, the NAF was a proud sponsor of "Summer of the BPO" at Old Fort Niagara. Many attendees stopped by our table to learn how the NAF makes the most of its clients' generosity.

In September, the NAF opened its 2021 grant process. The grants will support programs that have maximum positive impact on Niagara County in the areas of health, human services, arts, civic needs, community development, education and the environment, with an emphasis on positive youth development.

To date, the NAF has awarded more than \$4.5 million in grants to numerous organizations that are located in – and support – the Niagara region. It has also grown its assets to more than \$8 million with more than 35 funds under its umbrella.

We hope you enjoy some other stories about our work in this newsletter. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to strengthen the Niagara region by addressing critical needs to improve lives.

With gratitude,

Molly Anderson, Chair



## NIAGARA AREA FOUNDATION FUNDS

Henry E. & Susan W. Beamer Endowment Fund	Stanley A. Brzezinski Memorial Fund	Laird Family Foundation	Elsie & Eugene Oliver Memorial Scholarship Trust	Wilson Free Library Forever Friends Endowment Fund
Thelma L. & Milfred R. Beck Fund	Jerry and Liz Canada Fund	Lockport Public Library Endowment Fund	Our Lady of Lebanon Fund	YWCA of Niagara Fund
Martha H. Beeman and Judge William L. Kellick Endowment Fund	Joanne and Franklyn Collins Fund	Stephen C. McKinney Scholarship Fund	Patricia L. Parkinson Scholarship Fund	YWCA of Niagara Munk/Human Memorial Scholarship Trust
The Lorraine M. & Eugene P. Brady Memorial Scholarship Trust	Eugene A. DeFelice, M.D. & Maryanne Harvey Fund	Joseph and Riva Mehr Fund	Positive Youth Development Philanthropic Fund	YWCA of Niagara Ruth N. Downes Fund for Domestic Violence
Barbara C. and Edward M. Brink Fund	Eastern Niagara Fund	Thomas F. Miklejn Scholarship Fund	The Thomas K. Singer Charitable Trust	
BRI-NK Foundation	Ross & Mary Alice Eckert Fund	Niagara Area Foundation Endowment Fund	Daunt & Irene Stenzel Scholarship Fund	
Agnes Clarke Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund	Barbara Ennis Endowment Fund	Niagara Education Foundation Fund	Fern J. White & Neva A. Jackling Scholarship Fund	
	Grace Foundation	Fund for Niagara Hospice		
	Theresa Elizabeth Insana Memorial Scholarship Fund			

### 2021 GRANTS TOTALING \$58,585

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns of WNY  
*\$6,585 for Academic Success Project*

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.  
*\$6,500 for Girls Circle*

FeedMore WNY, Inc.  
*\$4,500 for Backpack Program*

Highland Clubhouse  
*\$6,000 for Camp Citizen*

Horizon Health Services  
*\$10,000 for School-Based Speakers Bureau*

Mental Health Advocates of WNY  
*\$8,000 for Just Tell One Discussion Guide Program for Students*

Service Collaborative of Western New York  
*\$8,000 for Beds for Buffalo in Niagara County*

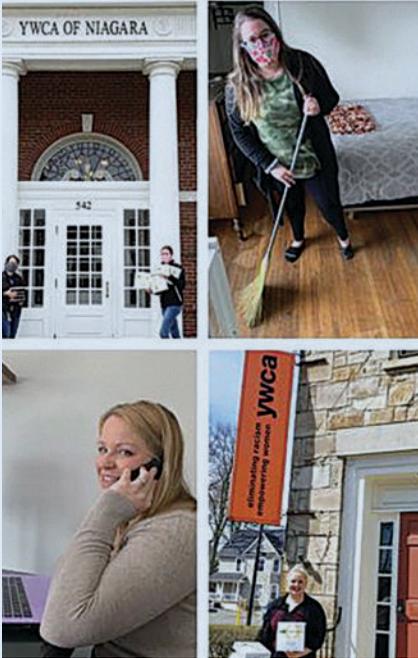
Youth Mentoring Services of Niagara County, Inc.  
*\$9,000 for School's Out*

The Niagara Area Foundation is ever growing and seeks to provide its community with more grants each year. For more information, visit [TheNiagaraAreaFoundation.org](https://www.niagaraareafoundation.org).

**We appreciate your continued support!**



# WNY COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND



## Grantee Spotlight: YWCA Niagara Frontier

In 2020, the NAF was one of the first foundations in Western New York to support the WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund with instructions for those charitable dollars to benefit Niagara County. Here is a thank you note from one of the organizations that was supported:

“The YWCA of the Niagara Frontier staff adapted to serving the needs of our community in many ways with the support of a WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund grant. Our school staff quickly adjusted planning summer care programs and sending virtual connections to the kids and Child Protective Services and local police, and District Attorney’s office liaison staff began checking in remotely with their clients and continuing to get new referrals. The safehouse staff has been taking care of a family and doing a lot of sanitizing and cleaning. Our 19 families of women and children living at Carolyn’s House were given face masks and hand sanitizer.”

## NAF Grantee Spotlight: Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club

For the past 85 years, the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club has helped children in the poorest communities of Niagara County enter into academic and career success, healthy lifestyles, the arts and more. The Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club was awarded a 2020 Niagara Area Foundation grant to continue their work for the youth of Niagara County.

“The Niagara Area Foundation has been a supporter of our organization for many years,” Rebecca Vincheski, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club, said. “They have played a significant role in helping us pilot and build on successful programs such as community gardens, summer educational activities, career exploration and wood shop.”



Most recently, the NAF grant provided support to children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rebecca said they were able to continue Operation Rebound, which provides care to youths who depend on the Boys and Girls club amidst the lockdown and school closings.

“We appreciate your efforts and commitment to helping our area so much and look forward to continuing our efforts of helping Niagara Falls kids and teens thrive with you by our side,” Rebecca said.



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c/o Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo  
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Buffalo, NY 14210

### *Agnes Clarke Brown*

Agnes Clarke Brown's grandsons remember that she could still kick and touch the ceiling in her mid-80s. This feisty, strong and philanthropic woman, who lived to be 97, created a powerful legacy of education that has not only deeply shaped generations of her own family, but generations of families in her beloved hometown of Newfane as well.

Born in 1894, Agnes started working at the age of 16 to support her family. She was married on her 20th birthday and gave birth to two sons in the years that followed. Never able to seek a formal education herself, she made it her mission to provide her sons with an excellent education. Both went on to change lives in ways Agnes probably never dreamed possible: one as a world-renowned surgeon and the other as a senior executive at the State Department.

When it came time to honor Agnes' legacy, her sons agreed it was important to keep connected to the deep family roots in Newfane and pay tribute to her passion for education. A scholarship was established at the Niagara Area Foundation to send one Newfane High School graduate to college each year, covering the costs of a four-year education. Now that her sons have both passed, Agnes' grandchildren continue to carry on the tradition by staying involved in the scholarship fund.



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