Dear NAF clients and community partners:

In 2023, we continue to be inspired by your collective generosity that makes our work possible and continues to strengthen our beloved Niagara County.

The NAF has identified two goals to address the critical needs in Niagara County to improve lives:

**Youth Enrichment:** To build stronger communities through the enrichment of youth, positive youth development, and equity and inclusion.

**Environment:** To support and enhance education and awareness about the importance and creation of a healthy, vibrant, and safe ecosystem for Niagara County residents.

For its 2023 competitive grants process, the NAF considered applications from organizations with the maximum positive impact in Niagara County that align with one of the two goals. You can read about this year’s recipients on page 2.

Since it was established in 2000, the NAF has awarded more than $4.6 million in grants to numerous organizations located in – and supporting – the Niagara region. The NAF has also grown its assets to more than $8.5 million with more than 35 funds under its umbrella.

We hope you enjoy some other highlights of our recent work in this newsletter. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to advance the Niagara region together.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Pauly, Chair

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**Officers**
Jennifer Pauly, *Chair*
Michael Williamson, *Vice Chair*
Margaret Nucci, *Secretary*
Jane Killewald, *Treasurer*

**Council**
Julie R. Berrigan
Allen Booker
Brenda Dysinger
Dorothy Kelley
Marianne E. Koenig
Michelle Vanstrom
Patricia Wrobel
Richard Zucco

Connecting people, ideas and resources to improve lives in Niagara County

Niagara Area Foundation (NAF) Council members attended the NAF’s September Social event at the Niagara Falls Country Club. Pictured, from left: Michael Williamson (Vice Chair), Patricia Wrobel, Julie R. Berrigan, Brenda Dysinger, Margaret Nucci (Secretary), Marianne E. Koenig, Richard Zucco, Dorothy Kelley, Jane Killewald (Treasurer), Michelle Vanstrom and Allen Booker.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of the Northtowns of WNY</td>
<td>$5,000 for North Tonawanda After School Youth Enrichment Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper</td>
<td>$10,000 for Niagara County Watershed Education: Connecting with Youth for a Safer Niagara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis Center, Inc.</td>
<td>$10,000 Francis Center Children’s After School Program- Academic Support and Social Emotional Education</td>
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<td>Kenan Center</td>
<td>$9,000 for Kenan Acres - Computer Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Directions Youth &amp; Family Services</td>
<td>$7,000 for Increasing Educational Opportunities for Children from Families Experiencing Financial Hardship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td>$10,000 for Building Youth Safety &amp; Resilience</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAHI Studio, Inc.</td>
<td>$6,700 for After School Art Club Going Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western New York Land Conservancy</td>
<td>$2,500 for Stella Niagara Preserve Trail Upgrades</td>
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The Niagara Area Foundation is ever growing and seeks to provide its community with more grants each year. For more information, visit TheNiagaraAreaFoundation.org.
In September, Niagara Area Foundation Council members, clients and guests met for a September Social at the Niagara Falls Country Club. Attendees heard from Julie Raynsford Berrigan, Council member; Michael Williamson, Vice Chair; and Betsy Constantine, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, as they shared updates about the Niagara Area Foundation and its commitment to strengthening Niagara County by addressing critical needs to improve lives.
With two locations in Niagara County, including one in Lockport and one in North Tonawanda, Imagine Community Gardens, Inc. seeks to resource churches with products, training and manpower, to create and develop community vegetable gardens, sowing seeds of friendship, hope and faith.

A 2022 grant from the Niagara Area Foundation was awarded to Imagine Community Gardens for garden support and enhancement.

“The grant has helped us immensely,” said Tera Domaradzki, Executive Director of Imagine Community Gardens. “Water costs add up very quickly and are a necessity when growing vegetables, herbs and flowers! The grant also helped cover the cost of herbs, which was higher than anticipated this year. The herbs are not only nutritious and a great addition to have for gardeners for cooking, but they are also beneficial in guarding against insect infestations. This support has helped to ensure another wonderful season of growing fresh, clean produce for communities in need.”