

2023

Niagara Area Foundation Community Connections



Niagara Area Foundation

*A division of the Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo*

For more than 20 years, 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

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

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



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.

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

2023 GRANTS TOTALING MORE THAN \$60,000

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns of WNY
\$5,000 for North Tonawanda After School Youth Enrichment Program

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
\$10,000 for Niagara County Watershed Education: Connecting with Youth for a Safer Niagara

Francis Center, Inc.
\$10,000 Francis Center Children's After School Program- Academic Support and Social Emotional Education

Kenan Center
\$9,000 for Kenan Acres - Computer Lab

New Directions Youth & Family Services
\$7,000 for Increasing Educational Opportunities for Children from Families Experiencing Financial Hardship

Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club
\$10,000 for Building Youth Safety & Resilience

WAHI Studio, Inc.
\$6,700 for After School Art Club Going Green

Western New York Land Conservancy
\$2,500 for Stella Niagara Preserve Trail Upgrades

The Niagara Area Foundation is ever growing and seeks to provide its community with more grants each year. For more information, visit **TheNiagaraAreaFoundation.org**.

September Social

STRENGTHENING NIAGARA COUNTY

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 address critical needs to improve lives.





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c/o Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
726 Exchange Street, Suite 525
Buffalo, NY 14210

Grantee Spotlight

IMAGINE COMMUNITY
GARDENS



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.”



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