



## Quick Highlights 2005

- **Founded in 2000 as a community resource for encouraging community-focused philanthropy in Tompkins County, New York and dedicated to generating broad financial resources to support and enhance the quality of life for all those who live and work in Tompkins County**
- **Resulted from a large group of community leaders and residents meeting to define the needs for and the opportunities through the existence of a community foundation; serves as a neutral hub of philanthropy across Tompkins County; major fields of interest for the Community Foundation are children and youth, health and human services, environment, sustainable communities, and arts/culture; one of over 700 community foundations nationally and represents the fastest growing philanthropic community model around the world**
- **In June 2004 the Community Foundation initiated the process to fulfill its accreditation requirements as part of the Council on Foundations' National Standards; awaiting final credentials (September 2005)**
- **22 Board members currently representing great diversity: ages 26-70, cultural and ethnic representation, other areas of Tompkins County beyond Ithaca, and a broad variety of professional and community interests; members serve one-three year terms and have an option for two renewal cycles; original board nominated through a community-wide process involving over 75 names; 27 is the maximum number for the Board**
- **Original funding came from the community: United Way paid for our incorporation process; Park Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies, Inc. (USA) major funding for grants and operations; Cornell and Ithaca College for general support**
- **Over 85 funds currently at the Foundation (as of 1/05), up from 21 in July 2003; long-term goal is to have hundreds of donor-advised and general funds that provide a deep and perpetual financial base to support the quality of life for all those who work and live in Tompkins County; current donors represent individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit agencies and organizations, other foundations, and past residents who love this area; assets by the end of March 2005 are well over \$3,000,000.**
- **The Women's Fund of Tompkins County, begun in March 2004, celebrated its first year on March 8 at its Inaugural Annual Luncheon, featuring Claire Gaudiani, author of *The Greater Good* as its keynote speaker, Rachel Siegel as the first recipient of the Laura Holmber Award, and TC3's Childcare Program as its first Community Grant; nearly 150 attended; the Women's Fund is endowed but welcomes gifts to grow its potential for serving the women of Tompkins County**
- **In 2005 grants through the Foundation will exceed \$1,000,000; first four years of grants overall total \$969,908 to 220 nonprofits, of which general Foundation funds represent over \$214,685 to 58 local nonprofits; donor-advised funds at the Foundation during the same time period awarded over \$755,223 to 162 organizations, thereby reflecting what is typically the case with Community Foundation donor funds (they represent a 3:1 ratio of gift potential); Giving Options include cash, bequests, appreciated securities, mutual funds, insurance policies, annuities, retirement accounts, real estate; see our website [www.communityfoundationoftc.org](http://www.communityfoundationoftc.org)**
- **The Community Foundation is a public foundation that encourages civic engagement, having open participation for resident and interested citizens of all ages who volunteer or are invited to serve as part of the Community Foundation's committees and in other capacities as well.**

- **Primary activities of the Foundation are: making grants; convening community-wide Critical Issues Roundtables; serving as a catalyst for community collaborations and partnerships; provider of educational programs in nonprofit management, fundraising, Board service, and grantmaking/ grant writing; serving as an administrative or fiscal agent for external funding sources to Tompkins County**
- **Critical Issues Roundtables – *provocative discussions that lead to action*; introduced as an annual series during 2003-2004 as a means of fostering “enlightened philanthropy” and focusing on building broad awareness of unmet needs or opportunities for the community of Tompkins County; Foundation’s role is to convene the discussions and choose partners in co-hosting and planning groups who are best positioned to act on the results of these discussions.**
  - a) **2003-2004 series included: Family & Children’s Services of Tompkins County co-hosted by Atlantic Philanthropies; Housing co-hosted by the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce; the Arts As An Economic and Cultural Force in Tompkins County co-hosted by the Community Arts Partnership; educational opportunities linking schools to community co-hosted by the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) and Triad Foundation; and *Camp Barton: Now and in the Future* (targeting year-round, community-wide uses) co-hosted by the Baden-Powell BS Council**
  - b) **over 2,700 people invited and nearly 1,000 people have attended this 2003-2005 series**
  - c) **2004-2005 series includes: *Hunger in Tompkins County* co-hosted by United Way; *The Vision for Downtown* co-hosted by the Ithaca Downtown Partnership; *Aging in Tompkins County* co-hosted by the Office of Aging for Tompkins County, the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, Lifelong, and Ithaca College’s Gerontology Institute; *Youth Leadership* co-hosted by The Tauck Foundation, GIAC, Ithaca Youth Bureau, and CDRC.**
- **Variety of grants available through the Community Foundation:**
  - Volunteer Grants (\$2,000 or less); given on a rolling basis throughout the year**
  - Community Grants (up to \$50,000 for programs; up to \$25,000 for capital needs); annual application cycle in Spring with decisions made by July 1; involve interviews and presentations**
  - Crime and Sexual Assault Victims Fund (supports a \$5,000 grant annually to those who serve victims of crime and sexual assault in Tompkins County)**
  - Johnson Graduate School of Management Community Impact Fund (grants awarded by Cornell’s JGSM students on an annual basis)**
  - Howland Foundation Grants (Community Foundation serves as application and referral point for Howland Grants in Tompkins County; Spring cycle)**
  - Donor-Advised Grants (Foundation can serve as information source to donors on areas of community needs they might wish to fund)**
- **Special benefit to area organizations or groups wishing to engage in community-focused philanthropy but not having a 501(c)(3): the use of the Foundation’s 501(c)(3) status when a group becomes part of the Foundation (saves the incorporation fees; allows groups to seek funding and grants as if they were independent 501(c)(3)’s; contains the benefits of audited financial processes/reports, investment management, planned giving programs, and gift processing, acknowledgement, and database services); two examples of those using the Foundation’s “501(c)(3) umbrella – Discover Trail Partnership and Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund**

*Thank you for your interest in the Community Foundation of Tompkins County!*