



# LEGACY FOUNDATION

of Tompkins County

Celebrating 77 Years of  
Making a Difference for our Community



## Letter from the President

We are celebrating our 77th anniversary this year! Legacy was started

by 5 local businesspeople who loved their community and wanted to create a fund that would help Tompkins County continue to thrive and serve its residents. That original vision from our founders remains our guiding light – to help make our community a great place to live.

This past year we have seen the needs in our community impacted by lingering pandemic concerns as well as economic uncertainty and talent shortages. Organizations supporting our areas of focus – Health, Education, Recreation, Human and Social Services, Aging, and the Arts – report challenges and changing needs. These organizations work hard to ensure their core services remain available for our community, despite current stresses. The Legacy Board continues to respond to the complex needs in our community with thoughtful determination. We are so grateful to our local non-profit community for the excellent services they provide. We remain committed to supporting them because we know that their services are an integral part of our community's strength and well-being.

This year we were able to award over \$200,000 to 54 Tompkins County agencies. I hope you will take a moment to turn to page 3 to see the wonderful organizations and programs Legacy was able to support this year.

To learn more about the Legacy Foundation and how you can get involved visit [www.tclegacy.org](http://www.tclegacy.org).

Wishing you the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary George Opperman". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

**Mary George Opperman**  
Board Chair, Legacy Foundation



## The Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County

is a private foundation committed to improving the quality of life in Tompkins County by supporting non-profit organizations through semi-annual grant awards. Funding for grants comes from our endowment that continues to grow from careful management by our board, and donations and planned gifts from our generous community. We invite those organizations needing assistance to apply for support, and we invite those community members who love Tompkins County and the quality of life it strives to provide for its citizens, to join our efforts by making a gift to Legacy.

**Our History** In 1945, five public-spirited businessmen, Paul Brainard, William Burns, Sherman Peer, George Rogalsky, and Gerald Williams dreamt of a way to provide for the betterment of the community that they had grown to love. On October 13, 1945 they created the Ithaca Foundation and began receiving gifts to build an endowment that would support worthy organizations and the work that makes our community a great place to live. Gifts poured in from local residents, and soon grants were being awarded, fulfilling the goals and dreams of the original founders. In 1961 the foundation was renamed The Tompkins County Foundation, to officially recognize the foundation's dedication to serving all of Tompkins County. Support continued to pour in and by 1990 the fund was almost \$1 million. In 2007 the foundation was renamed Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County. Because of the generosity of the community and well-managed investments, the endowment is currently over \$3.75 million. This allows the foundation board to award grants totaling over \$200,000 each year to worthy Tompkins County organizations, making our community a better place for us all.

Over its 77-year history, more than **\$5 million** has been distributed to local organizations that serve our community.

The Legacy Foundation has supported over **250** Tompkins County organizations over its 77-year history

## Our 2022 Grantees

The Legacy Foundation supports programs, projects, and capital expenditures in the areas of: Health, Education, Recreation, Human and Social Services, Aging, and the Arts. Support may also be given to requests for “seed” money for new or innovative projects or programs.

Legacy Foundation also provides endowment funds for two award programs created by Tompkins Trust Company, now Tompkins Community Bank. The James J. Byrnes Awards for Excellence identifies and rewards excellence in volunteering within Tompkins County, and the Raymond Van Houtte Education Awards, identifies and rewards outstanding teachers and other employees of Tompkins County schools.

## SPRING CYCLE

**Beverly J. Martin Elementary School/PTA:** Funds support the Students and Families Program that assists families dealing with housing insecurity and homelessness.

**Black Hands Universal:** This grant will help to cover expenses for their Pre-Apprenticeship Program which is designed to help people of color successfully enter into the skilled labor force.

**Brooktondale Community Center:** Funds will help support new technology, a ramp for handicapped accessibility, and a summer concert series.

**Cancer Resource Center:** Funds supported the purchase of outdoor furniture for their Healing Garden.

**Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties:** Funding supports A Place to Stay, a short-term transitional housing opportunity for homeless single woman in Tompkins County.

**Child Development Council:** The grant supports the purchase of basic needs for families who are struggling financially. These items can include diapers, formula, clothing, car seats, and safety items.

**Community Arts Partnership:** Funding supports The Creative Recovery Fund, a grant fund for local artists which provides resources to local artists supporting work that engages the community in dialogue about current affairs, public, and mental health.

**Community Unity Music Education Program:** The grant will support a music education and performing arts program for youth, families, and educators in the community. Programming will be held in the summer and fall of 2022.

### Family Reading Partnership:

Funds supported the creation of a brochure that advertises the Story Walk Trail Program that provides 7 story walks in a variety of parks around Tompkins County.

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels:** Funds supported the purchase of 4 new heated meal transporters essential for maintaining safe food temperatures during home meal delivery in Tompkin County.

**Friends of Stewart Park:** Grant will help cover the cost of development staff for the Wharton Museum Studio Park Center campaign.

**Friendship Donation Network:** In partnership with Youth Farm Project and Ithaca Murals, the grant will support the design and creation of a mural titled “Food Security for All,” which will be created by youth of color from the Youth Farm Project. It will be painted on the side of the JBC Center building.

**Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming:** Funds supported the expansion of the Produce Harvest Station.

**Hangar Theatre:** Funds supported the Next Generation School of Theatre outdoor classroom.

**Hospicare & Palliative Care Services:** Grant supported the creation of the Community Education and Outreach Program, an awareness campaign to help the community better understand the services available to them through Hospicare.





**Ithaca Community Radio/WRFI:** Funds will support the Soundliner Project - a mobile studio that will travel to geographically isolated communities providing access for rural communities to voice their issues on the air.

**Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus:** The grant helps to support the cost of travel, and Covid safety precautions for the choir's upcoming concerts.

**Ithaca Welcomes Refugees:** This grant supports the Global Roots Play School Program that provides a supportive play environment for children of immigrants assimilating into the Ithaca community.

**Kitchen**

**Theatre:** Funds help to support the Trainee Program, giving local youth the opportunity to work at the theatre and gain valuable work experience.



**Paleontological Research**

**Institute:** The grant will help to cover costs associated with the installation of a new boiler at the Cayuga Nature Center.



**State Theatre of Ithaca:** The grant will help support the purchase of a new heating system.

**Story House Ithaca:** The funds are for the "Stages of Life" Intergenerational Playwriting Workshop Program.

**United Way of Tompkins County:** The funds will support the Summer of Service Youth Internship Program. This program will provide 15 students with a paid internship while providing over 2,400 hours of community service to local non-profits.

**Varna Community Association:** Funds supported access to potable water during their summer care programs.

**Vets in Nature:** Funding supports veterans from across New York State participating in the Fred Ink Memorial Fishing Program.

**YMCA of Tompkins County:** Funds supported the establishment of an outdoor restroom facility at the Y's Outdoor Education Center.



## FALL CYCLE

**Advocacy Center of Tompkins County:** Funds supported the repair of their accessible entrance.

**Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County:** Supported the 2-1-1 Helpline Outreach Project

**Lifelong:** Grant supported the purchase of a new server and access point.

**Second Wind Cottages:** Funds will support the installation of heaters in the housing units.

**Ulysses Philomathic Library:**

The grant will support a class in chair yoga for seniors and those with mobility issues.

**Sciencenter:** This grant supports the creation of an up-close/hands-on small animal exhibit.

**Women's Opportunity**

**Center:** Funds help to support the expansion of their collection and sorting area.

**Food Bank of the Southern**

**Tier:** The grant will help to cover costs associated with a Tompkins County School Food Center.

**Family and Children's Service of Ithaca:** The grant will support KINECT, a program that provides intensive, community and home-based services for caregivers and children.

**Historic Ithaca:** The funds will help purchase a new truck for pick-ups and deliveries for the Significant Elements Program.

**Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services:** The funds will support the Tompkins County Minor Home Repair Program.

**William George Agency:** Funds will support the development of a printing and merchandise small enterprise program where underprivileged youth can learn the fundamentals of running a business.

**Downtown Ithaca Children's Center:** Funding supports educational opportunities for staff in STEAM programs – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math – that will help them be better educators to the children in their care.

**YMCA of Tompkins County:** Funds supported the availability of hygiene and daily essentials to be available at their food hub.

**United Way of Tompkins County:** Funds support the creation of community rooms at their location that will be made available for local organizations to use.

**Unity House:** Funds supported the purchase of emergency bathroom call bells in residential homes for people with disabilities.

**Community Science Institute:** Supported their Reducing Hazardous Waste Production During Chloride Testing of Streams and Lake Samples Program.

**Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers:** Supported Sign Language Interpreters for their performances.

**Vets in Nature:** Funds will support an October deer bow hunt for veterans.

**Ithaca Community Orchestra:** The grant will help to underwrite their Fall Concert.

**Southworth Library**

**Association:** This grant supports a free to the public Lunch and Learn Program.

**Challenge Workforce**

**Solutions:** Supports the opportunity for adults with disabilities to have access to a college experience.

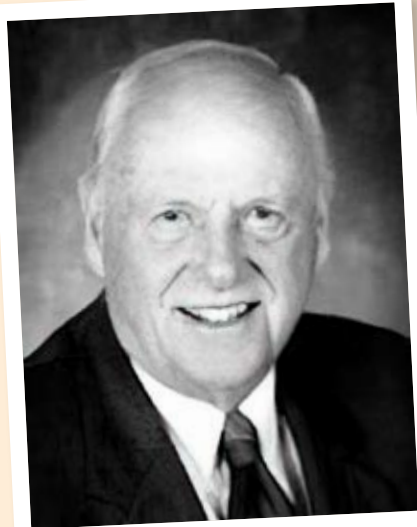
**Free Science:** The grant will help to cover costs for a science enrichment program offered to underserved youth in our community.

**Golden Opportunity:** Grant will help fund The GO Club, an after-school tutoring and enrichment program that gives students performing below grade level one-on-one tutoring with a retired teacher.



## Important People in our History

### R. Davis Cutting



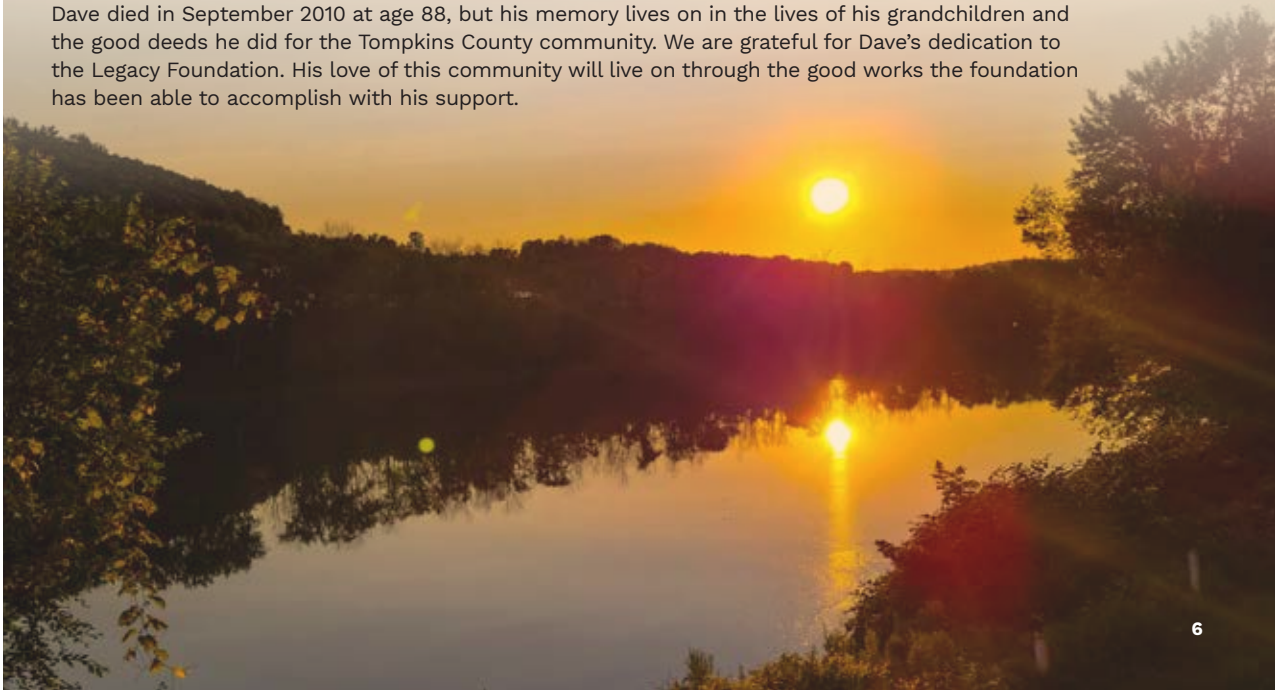
R. Davis (Dave) Cutting had the most wonderful twinkle in his eye. Everyone who knew him loved running into him and hearing a new story, often about one of his grandchildren, or his dear wife Marian, or his latest idea of how to make Ithaca an even greater place to live.

Dave was a devoted member of the Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County's board of directors from 1977 to 1994. He then became an Advisory Council Member for Legacy till 2003. During those years the foundation was known as The Tompkins County Foundation and Dave fully embraced the role of trustee, supporter, and fundraiser. Many of the legacy gifts that have been made to the Legacy Foundation in the last 40 years were solicited by Dave. He had no hesitancy when asking friends to consider giving to the Foundation. He knew the Foundation did great work and supported the community. Dave's dedication and commitment to building a better community were admirable and he never hesitated to share the gift of giving with his friends.

Dave Cutting grew up in Rome, New York and came to Ithaca to attend Cornell's School of Hotel Administration. During his sophomore year he left college to join the U.S. Army Air Corps and serve his country as a fighter pilot. He returned to the Hotel School after the war ended and graduated in 1948. He joined his friend, Gordon Pritchard, at J. F. Pritchard & Sons, and after Gordon's untimely death, he founded Cutting Motors. Dave was very successful at business and shared his business and organizational skills with many organizations including Tompkins County Area Development, McGraw House, and was instrumental in bringing Boyce Thompson Institute to Cornell.

Dave chaired the 1989 Empire State Games in Ithaca, highlighted by an F-16 fly-over in the opening ceremony. Dave loved hockey and his favorite creation was the Ithaca Pee Wee Hockey Program in which all of his sons played.

Dave died in September 2010 at age 88, but his memory lives on in the lives of his grandchildren and the good deeds he did for the Tompkins County community. We are grateful for Dave's dedication to the Legacy Foundation. His love of this community will live on through the good works the foundation has been able to accomplish with his support.



## Grantee Spotlight: Foodnet Meals on Wheels



In 1967, responding to an unmet need in the community, a group of volunteers started the delivery of hot meals to seniors that were homebound. By 1974, the Tompkins County Nutrition Program for the Elderly was established and funded through the Tompkins County Office for the Aging. The program grew and became the independent non-profit organization Foodnet Meals on Wheels in 1987.

Foodnet provides congregate and home delivered meals that promotes independent living. Serving over 400 people each day 5 days a week, Foodnet delivers hot nutritional meals overseen by a registered dietician and specifically created to meet the federal nutrition guidelines for seniors. Executive Director Aly Evans says “We have 8 drivers that each have a route covering a part of Tompkins County. Each route includes between 45 and 50 clients who receive meals Monday through Friday. Foodnet brings hot meals to seniors who have barriers to accessing nutritional meals.”

The program is guided by the concept that seniors deserve access to hot meals in a dignified manner. Foodnet clients are interviewed when they enter the program. Drivers get to know the people on their route, and while practicing COVID-safe protocols, they deliver the meals each day, while making sure the person is OK. “The drivers are so much more than just the delivery-person,” says Aly, “They have relationships with the people on their route. They take the time to offer some social interaction and do an informal check-in. If they see something that might be affecting the well-being of the person, the driver reports back to both our registered dietician and Case Manager. Family can then be notified if an issue should be addressed.”

Foodnet Meals on Wheels is the only local agency that delivers hot meals directly to clients in Tompkins County. Different program options are available at a very affordable cost, or clients may pay based on a sliding scale. Program cost may also be covered through insurance or the Department of Social Services. No one is turned away for the inability to pay. Federal support comes through the Tompkins County Office of the Aging, individual donations, and grants. Past grants from the Legacy Foundation include funds for the replacement of two antiquated convection ovens, and the purchase of hot boxes for safe food transporting.



Executive Director  
Aly Evans

### MISSION:

**to provide meals and other nutrition services that promote dignity, well-being and independence for older adults and other persons in need in Tompkins County**





## Donor Spotlight: Tom Butler

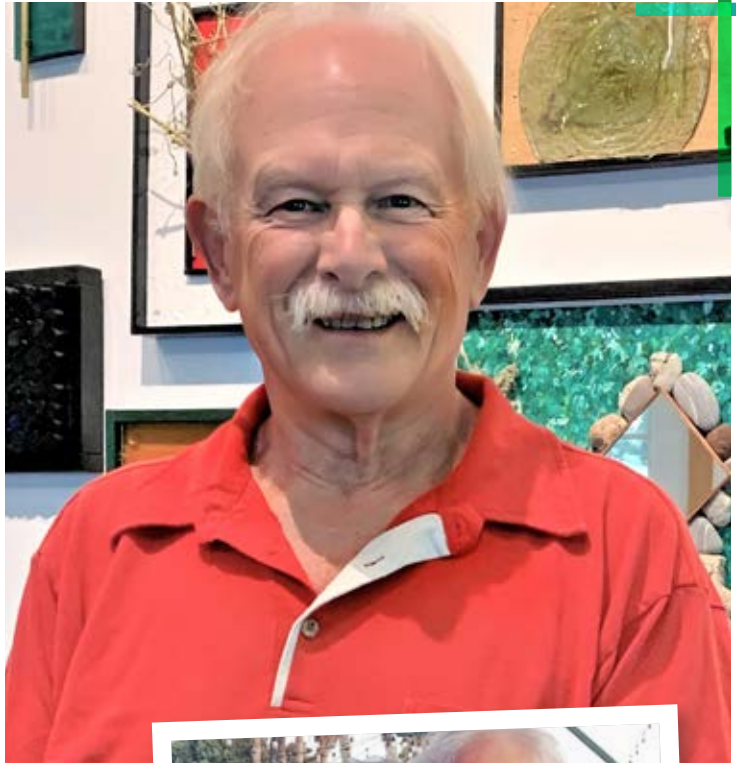
“I was the academic dean and a teacher at a private day school in Connecticut” explains Tom when asked him about his life prior to moving to Ithaca. “After 26 years at the school, I retired and thought it was time to change things up. I had family in upstate NY, so I thought I would look around close by. When I came to the Ithaca area, I knew I had found my new home.”

When he first moved to the area, he bought an old farmhouse in Brooktondale and began renovating it. But then after meeting his wife Joyce, he moved to the town of Ulysses to be with her. “Now I spend my time volunteering and doing my art - collage work. I feel very fortunate. I can be out in the community I love, volunteering and enjoying all the area has to offer, and then go to my studio and create” says Tom.

Tom and Joyce are very dedicated to the community and support a number of organizations besides Legacy including The Community Foundation, and LifeLong. They feel it’s important to give-back. “I grew up watching my family support organizations that were important to them” says Tom, “so for me it was natural to want to get involved when I became an adult.” Tom’s commitment to LifeLong earned him Legacy’s James J. Byrnes Award for Excellence in 2018.

Earlier this year Tom made a generous gift to Legacy specifically to support annual grant-making. Tom says that giving to Legacy in this way made perfect sense to him. “I did some research on Legacy and felt good about how they reviewed and awarded grants. It’s important to me that my charitable dollars are used well, but I do not have the time or resources to vet each organization. I see who Legacy supports and it includes many of the organizations that I feel are important to the community. So why not give the money to Legacy and let them do the work.” Tom also took advantage of the tax laws that allow donors to use their required minimum distribution (RMD) from their retirement account. Instead of taking the distribution, a donor can send it directly to a charitable organization and it doesn’t count as income on their taxes. “It’s a great way to support the community and help your taxes.” Says Tom.

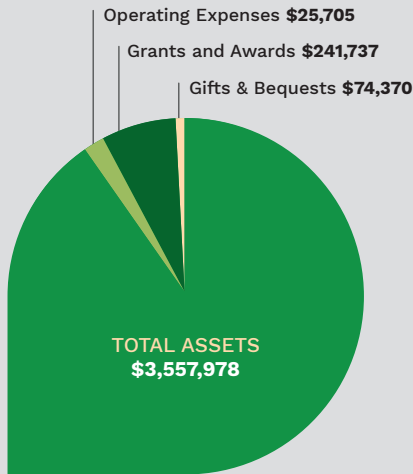
Legacy is thrilled to have Tom’s support. Through his generosity Legacy can help even more local organization that make our community a wonderful place to live.



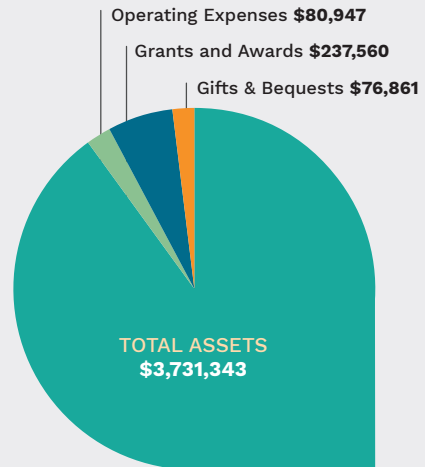
Tom and his wife Joyce

## Financial Picture

**2020**



**2021**



### Summary of Endowments Fund Accounts as of 12.31.21

General Endowment: **\$3,369,365**  
income for grant awards

Catherwood: **\$19,159**  
income to United Way of Tompkins County

Sciencenter: **\$40,511**  
income to Sciencenter

Tompkins Trust Company: **\$265,133**  
income to James J. Byrnes Awards for Excellence

Van Houtte: **\$37,175**  
income to Ray Van Houtte Education Awards

### External Trust Income for 2021

Jewell Trust: **\$10,286**  
to support granting

Strong Trust: **\$6,227**  
to support granting

Smith Trust: **\$48,000**  
to support granting

### A Fond Farewell and Special Thanks

**Jean McPheeters** served as the president of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce for 15 years before retiring and starting her consulting business. In 2014 she began consulting for the Legacy Foundation, managing grantee relationships, and increasing the foundation's visibility in the community. Her extensive management expertise and knowledge of the community has been an invaluable asset to the Foundation. During the first two years of the pandemic she was instrumental in convening all the local funders so they could collectively address critical needs within our community. Jean is retiring from her position at Legacy at the end of the year. She has been a great asset to Legacy and will be greatly missed! Happy Retirement!

**Janet Hewitt** started at the Tompkins Trust Company, now Tompkins Community Bank, in 1985 in the finance department, and soon after took on the additional position of Recording Secretary for the Legacy Foundation. Janet has held several positions at Tompkins Community Bank, and currently is the Executive Assistant to the President & CEO of Tompkins Financial Corporation, as well as Executive Assistant to the President & CEO of Tompkins Trust Company. Janet has been an important part of the Legacy Foundation. In her capacity as Recording Secretary, she has acted as staff liaison for the board, handled all the administrative duties, and been the unofficial Foundation historian. Her commitment to the Foundation has been greatly appreciated. She will be sorely missed!

## Board of Directors

**Supporting the Community through Grantmaking** The Legacy Foundation board consist of 10 Tompkins County residents that have expertise in non-profit management, community building, and financial management.

Twice a year the board reviews grant applications in the Foundation's areas of interest: Health, Recreation, Education, Human and Social Services, Aging, and the Arts. A rating system is applied to all grant applications by each board members and then the board meets to discuss and award grants.



**Mary Opperman,**  
**President**  
President  
The Opperman Consulting Group



**Gregory J. Galvin, Ph.D.**  
Chairman, President & CEO  
Rheonix



**Joanne Volpe Florino,**  
**Vice President**  
VP of Philanthropic Services  
The Philanthropy Roundtable



**Amie M. Hendrix**  
Former Deputy County  
Administrator, Tompkins County



**Peter Grossman, Esq.,**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Partner  
Hancock and Estabrook



**Thomas LiVigne**  
Retired Director,  
Cornell Real Estate Department



**David Evelyn**  
Retired Vice President  
Cayuga Medical Center



**Steve Romaine**  
President & CEO  
Tompkins Financial Corporation



**Dana P. Christofferson**  
President  
Wealth Management Northwestern  
Mutual



**Peter Salmon**  
Managing Director  
IFN Consulting



Legacy Society Members are friends of the Foundation that have made thoughtful provisions in their estate plans for the benefit of Legacy. Some gifts have been realized.

Laura Atwood  
Beverly Baker  
Paul & Henrietta Brainard  
Dorothy Booth  
J. Tracy Brooks  
Willis W. Brown  
Tim Butts  
Seth Warner Burchard  
Martin P. Catherwood  
Eugenia Van Cleef  
G. Ferris Cronkhite

Alice E. Ewald  
Joanne Volpe Florino  
Albert W. Force  
D. Aldus Fogelsanger  
Mary E. Ford  
Raymond Frear  
Greg & Bev Hartz  
John & Mayfred Hirshfeld  
Susie M. Hoyt  
Wallie A. Hurwitz  
Cecilia Jewell

Thomas & Lisa LiVigne  
Perri & Mick LoPinto  
Lawrence McDaniels  
Daniel & Jean McPheeters  
Mary & Kip Opperman  
Mr. & Mrs. Papas  
Katherine V.W. Palmer  
Lillian C. Payne  
Sherman Peer  
Laurence Pumpelly

Edward & Henrietta Richardson  
Marjorie Ruth Ross  
Adaline B. Roe  
Ruth B. Rogers  
Addie A. Sage  
George V. & Jean A. Smith  
Doris S. Strong  
Allan H. Treman  
Anna G. Whitcomb  
Jean White



**LEGACY**  
FOUNDATION

of Tompkins County

P.O. Box 97 Ithaca, NY 14851

**Show your  
Love for your  
Community.**

**Leave a Gift  
to Legacy.**

Over our 77-year history donors like you have generously given to the Legacy Foundation helping to grow the endowment and thus allowing us to support important local organizations that are critical to our quality of life in Tompkins County. As Legacy receives more grant requests each year than the endowment can currently support, your gift can truly make a difference.

For more information on annual giving or to make a planned gift contact:

**Perri LoPinto at 607-592-5485 or [info@tcllegacy.org](mailto:info@tcllegacy.org)**

Or mail your gift directly to:

Legacy Foundation, P.O. Box 97, Ithaca, NY 14851



Global Roots Play School  
gardening activity

**Legacy Foundation**

**[www.tcllegacy.org](http://www.tcllegacy.org)** | email: [info@tcllegacy.org](mailto:info@tcllegacy.org)