



**LEGACY  
FOUNDATION**  
of Tompkins County



Making a Difference in our  
Community Since 1945



## Letter from the President

The Legacy Foundation's mission for the last 76 years has been to make a

positive impact on the quality of life in our community. But the past 18 months have been like no other. Through it all, Legacy continued this commitment – providing additional funding and working with our non-profit partners – doing our best to provide the critical assistance and addressing issues caused or exacerbated because of the pandemic.

The Board of the Legacy Foundation remains focused on our mission, and we are grateful to our many organizations that have submitted thoughtful and data-driven proposals to address new and emerging needs. As we begin to plan for life after the pandemic, our community will continue to have opportunities to address the critical issues of hunger, poverty, racial inequity, housing, health care, quality of life, and education, just to name a few, and Legacy remains committed to supporting these efforts. We are thrilled to have been able to award over \$200,000 annually in support of these important causes.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Greg Hartz for his dedicated volunteer service to the Legacy Foundation. Greg has served on the Legacy Board for 15 years, seven years as board chair. His hard work and commitment to the work of the foundation has been transformative. We are so grateful for his service.

I hope you enjoy this Report to the Community. We are thrilled to be able to share some of the stories of those organizations that we have supported, and the stories of donors who have stepped forward to support our work. Together we remain committed to our community and to Tompkins County as a great place to live now and in the future.

To find out more about the Legacy Foundation and how you can help go to [www.tclegacy.org](http://www.tclegacy.org).

Wishing you the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary George Opperman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

Since inception,  
more than

**\$5 million**

has been distributed  
to local  
organizations

**On the cover:** A nurse practitioner and patient at The Ithaca Free Clinic. Legacy supported the clinic by funding technology that modernized their systems, increasing their efficiency and ability to serve the community better.

The Legacy Foundation has supported many child-focused organizations during Covid-19, helping provide camp and outdoor experiences, while following Covid-19 safety protocols.





**Our Legacy** 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. Their goal was to “... receive and accept private gifts and to create therefrom an enduring fund designed to encourage and support character, health, building, educational, recreational and welfare activities in the larger Ithaca community.” The Ithaca Foundation was born on October 13, 1945, with 4 gifts totaling \$22,600. By 1952 the young foundation was already making gifts to support critical needs in the community, with the first grants going to the Tompkins County Legal Aid Society and the Practical Nurses Association Student Fund. 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 1964 the fund had assets of over \$100,000. Many of the gifts came from community members whose deep love for Tompkins County inspired them to leave planned gifts to the foundation in their estate plans. 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 to worthy Tompkins County organizations each year, making our community a better place for us all.



### **Our new website is live**

Find out more about our grantees and how you can get involved at [www.tclegacy.org](http://www.tclegacy.org)

The Legacy Foundation has supported over

**250**

Tompkins County organizations over its 76-year history

## Our 2021 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 the Tompkins Trust Company. 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

**Challenge Workforce Solutions:** Supported the development of a Transitional College Program for individuals with disabilities in collaboration with Tompkins Cortland Community College.

**Child Development Council:** Grant covered essential basic needs for families including safety gear for young children, infant formula, car seats, strollers, and diapers.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County:** Supported the 4-H Urban Outreach Program which offers free after-school and summer programs for under-served and minority youths ages 5-18.

**Family Reading Partnership:** Funding supported The Books to Grow On program which provides brand-new, high-quality books to all children in Tompkins County from before birth through kindergarten.

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels:** Helped to purchase a compact cargo meal delivery van to replace an old inefficient full-size delivery van.

**Groton Recreation:** Funding supported the repair and repainting of the public recreational tennis court surfaces in the Village of Groton.

**Ithaca Community Childcare Center:** Funding helped to offset costs associated with its COVID-19 cleaning and safety protocols, technology purchases, and necessary facility improvements.

### Ithaca Neighborhood

**Housing Services:** Funding supported INHS' Minor Repair Program which helps low-income aging, disabled, and/or single head of household homeowners to maintain their homes, age in place, and continue living independently.

**Ithaca Health Alliance:** The grant supported the purchase of two new laptops to enable clinic staff to provide critical health care services in remote and virtual environments during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Paleontological Research Institute:** Funding supported the necessary Covid-19 safety protocols to operate the Cayuga Nature Center summer camp.

### PhotoSynthesis Productions/Dorothy Cotton Institute:

Funding from Legacy helped to support the new feature film **MOVE WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS MOVE** which will honor the life and work of Dr. Dorothy Cotton, an important civil rights leader and local Ithacan.

**Sciencenter:** Funding from the Legacy Foundation supported the re-opening of the Sciencenter's hands-on exhibits with upgrades that followed current Covid-19 safety protocols.

**The United Way of Tompkins County:** Grant supported The United Way/2-1-1 COVID-19 Response Program, a direct services resource for members of our community experiencing financial hardship during Covid-19.

**YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County:** Funding supported the addition of a farm stand to the YMCA's Graham Road location, creating a dedicated space for food distribution to those in need across the community.

**Unity House of Cayuga County:** Funding from Legacy supported the purchase of laptops to help transition needed habilitation services for people with disabilities to virtual opportunities.





## FALL CYCLE

**Boyce Thompson Institute:** The funding supported the High School Workforce Advantage Program, an immersive seven-week internship program that provides career exploration and work experiences in STEM-research support areas.

**Brooktondale Community Center:** Funding allowed the Brooktondale Community Center to add a new pavilion to accommodate more outdoor activities due to the ongoing pandemic.

**Catholic Charities – Food Bank of the Southern Tier:** Grant supported establishing School Food Pantries as an option to increase access to food support for children and their families.

**Child Development Council:** Grant covered essential basic needs for families including safety gear for young children, infant formula, car seats, strollers, and diapers.

**College Mentors for Kids:** Grant supported this program which serves children from low-income or single-parent homes, matching them with mentors that build one-on-one relationships and encourage a positive sense of self.



**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County:** Funding supported the Healthy Food For All and Ultimate Reentry Opportunity programs that provide vulnerable and marginalized community members with reliable and dignified access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers:** The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers will host a Community Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Concert in January 2022. Funding will cover the expense for a sign-language interpreter.

**Downtown Ithaca Children Center:** The grant covered costs for needed technology for virtual communication between learning environments, teachers, and families.

**Family & Children’s Service of Ithaca:** Funding helped cover costs for a new Group Therapy program in the mental health clinic.

**Finger Lakes Toy Library:** Grant supported the purchase of tables and chairs for The Finger Lakes Toy Library’s new space in the Shops of Ithaca Mall.

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels:** Funding enabled the purchase of two new convection ovens essential for the cooking and production of the daily meal delivery to the homes of Tompkins County’s most vulnerable populations.

**Free Science:** Funding supported their ability to increase the hours of operation, thus serving more children.

**Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways:** Grant helped Comstock Adventure Center to make much-needed renovations and upgrades to the lodge kitchen.

**Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS):** Funding supported the Minor Repair Program which helps low-income aging, disabled, and/or single head of household homeowners to maintain their homes, age in place, and continue living independently.

**Love Living at Home:** Grant helped to cover costs associated with strategic planning for the organization.

**Mental Health Association in Tompkins County:** Funding supported the addition of a NY State Certified Youth Peer Advocate to join the team of Adult Peer Specialists.

**NAMI Finger Lakes:** The grant supported collaboration with Law Enforcement Officers who train to become Crisis Intervention Team members and respond to mental health crisis calls in Tompkins County.

**Paleontological Research Institution (PRI):** Funding helped to pay for climate-controlled cases to protect against specimen deterioration and provide for an improved guest experience.

**The Learning Web:** Grant covered costs to update and improve the website to make it a more effective outreach and engagement tool.

**Lifelong – Tompkins County Senior Citizens:** Funding covered costs to improve website and online presence helping to better serve the needs of older adults in Tompkins County.

**Tompkins Learning Partners:** Fund covered website re-design working with their young adult community to design and implement these changes.

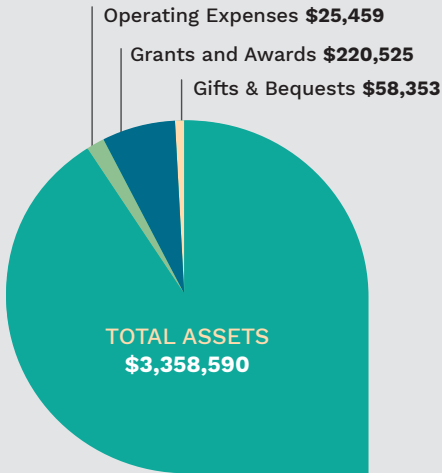
**Women’s Opportunity Center:** Grant helped to fund renovations including replacement of outside doors, addressing foundation issues, replacement of HVAC condenser, and flooring replacement.



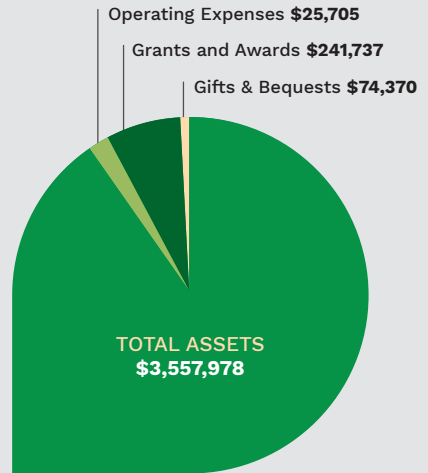
**YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County:** The funding supported the addition of hygiene and daily personal necessities at their farm stand food hub.

## Financial Picture

**2019**



**2020**



Since Legacy's beginning, our endowment has grown through careful management **and the generosity of people like you in our community.**

Each year Legacy awards over

**\$200,000**

in grants supporting important work in our community

## Our Staff

Director of Development  
**Jean McPheeters**

Development Officer  
**Perri LoPinto**

Recording Secretary  
**Janet Hewitt**

## External Trust Income for 2020

Jewell Trust: **\$9,285**  
to support granting

Strong Trust: **\$9,734**  
to support granting

Smith Trust: **\$42,000**  
to support granting

## Summary of Endowments Fund Accounts as of 12.31.20

General Endowment: **\$3,134,164**  
income for grant awards

Catherwood: **\$19,111**  
income to United Way of Tompkins County

Sciencenter: **\$40,409**  
income to Sciencenter

Tompkins Trust Company: **\$264,464**  
income to James J. Byrnes Awards for Excellence

Van Houtte: **\$37,081**  
income to Ray Van Houtte Education Awards

## Board of Directors

### **Mary Opperman**

President  
Vice President/HR  
Cornell University

### **Joanne Volpe Florino**

Vice President  
VP of Philanthropic Services  
The Philanthropy Roundtable

### **Peter Grossman, Esq.**

Secretary/Treasurer  
Partner  
Barney, Grossman, Dubow & Troy

### **Gregory J. Galvin, Ph.D.**

Chairman, President & CEO  
Rheonix

### **Amie M. Hendrix**

Deputy County Administrator  
Tompkins County

### **Thomas LiVigne**

Retired Director, Cornell  
Real Estate Department

### **Steve Romaine**

President & CEO  
Tompkins Financial Corporation

### **Peter Salmon**

Managing Director  
IFN Consulting



# LEGACY SOCIETY

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

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

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

## Donor Spotlight: Greg & Bev Hartz

"Ithaca has been Bev's and my home for most of our lives. We raised three children here and we have wonderful friendships here. We are deeply committed to this community and grateful for all that it has provided us and our family. It is truly a great place to live!

What makes Ithaca so special is the diverse offerings of the many non-profit organizations that work tirelessly to make our community the caring and vibrant place it is. We have a uniquely rich quality of life whether it be in the arts, human services, youth activities, or our stunning natural resources. And we recognize that it takes resources to assure that Ithaca maintains these special qualities.

That is why Bev and I decided to make a planned gift to the Legacy Foundation. Even before my time serving on



the board, I was aware of the foundation's reach and commitment to serving Tompkins County. Once I joined the board, I had the opportunity to see first-hand and in depth the important work of the foundation. From support for mental health programs, to addressing food insecurity, to helping arts organizations and youth programs, Legacy was a place where the non-profits that make our community a better place for us all could come for critical support. We wanted to make sure that support will be

around for future generations; that those that come after us will have the same wonderful community our family has been able to enjoy.

We are happy to be able to support Legacy and thus our community in this way. We hope you will consider making a planned gift to Legacy."



**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 76-year history donors like you have generously given to the Legacy Foundation allowing us to support important local organizations that are critical to our quality of life in Tompkins County. Legacy receives more grant requests each year than the endowment can currently support. That is why your gift is so important. Your gift helps to ensure that Tompkins County continues to be a wonderful place to live for our residents now, and for future generations to come.

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

**Perri LoPinto: [info@tclegacy.org](mailto:info@tclegacy.org)**

The Legacy Foundation supports organizations throughout Tompkins County helping communities provide activities that enrich our quality of life. Seen here are swim lessons offered by Groton Recreation and supported by Legacy.

**Legacy Foundation**

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