

Leadership

2025
2026

The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region

touches countless lives and works to understand and address the critical needs of those living throughout the Greater Capital Region.

Since 1968, the Community Foundation has awarded more than \$110 million in grants and scholarships to improve the quality of life throughout the Greater Capital Region. The Foundation's success is directly related to the generous donors who invest in effective nonprofit organizations and scholarships for local students through funds of the Community Foundation.

Board of Directors

The Foundation's Board of Directors is representative of our region's robust business, civic, and cultural diversity. Board members guide the Foundation's success in strategic grantmaking, philanthropic services, and community leadership. The Board establishes policies and organizational priorities to ensure operational integrity and financial accountability.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Belinda Hilton
Chair

Alicia D. Lasch
Past Chair

Jean Bedell, CPA/PFS, CFP
Treasurer & Chair Elect

Robert S. Reynolds, Esq.
Secretary

M. Christian Bender
Chair, Governance

Christopher Cimijotti, CPA
Chair, Audit

Eldon S. Harris, CPWA®,
CRPC®, QPFC
Chair, Scholarships

Meaghan E. Murphy, Esq.
Chair, Grants and
Community Initiatives

Robert F. Audi, CPA

Aimee Dake

David Hollander

Mark R. Holtzman

Walter Klisiwecz, CFP

Heidi Knoblauch, Ph.D.

Eileen McLoughlin

Chet Opalka

Crickett Thomas-O'Dell

Walter Thorne

Alex Zhang, CPA

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Arianna Bullock
Finance Associate

Shelly Connolly
Vice President, Community
Grantmaking

Mindy Derosia
Vice President, Development

John Eberle
President and CEO

Ralo Faqiry
Administrative Assistant

Dylan Hall
Director, Strategic Initiatives

Melisa Logan
Program Officer

Terry Mariano
Chief Financial Officer

Partners in Giving

Guided by the needs of our region and accountable to our community, we partner with generous individuals, families, foundations, and corporations who share a commitment to strengthening our community. For more than 50 years, the Foundation has been dedicated to improving the lives of our neighbors.

GIVE

Since 1968, individuals and families have put their trust in the Community Foundation to support their charitable giving. As stewards of these legacies, the Foundation strives to preserve the donors' intent and build a pool of charitable capital to support innovative strategies to address our region's changing needs.

GIVE

The Community Foundation provides a simple and highly personal approach to giving. We help to make giving convenient and rewarding by listening to your goals and offering flexible choices that best fit your unique situation.

GRANT

The Community Foundation's grantmaking and initiatives fuel programs that make a positive difference in the lives of Capital Region residents. We are committed to investing in organizations and programs that serve the common good.

LEAD

Harnessing the power of collaboration, the Community Foundation works to tackle our community's most pressing issues. We work to leverage resources to achieve ambitious goals with public, nonprofit and private sector partners toward a greater collective impact.

Working with Professional Advisors

The Community Foundation considers attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, investment managers, insurance agents and other professionals to be our partners in the charitable giving process.

The Professional Advisor Council helps with the Foundation's outreach to professionals in the fields of law, accounting, insurance, and financial planning so that they may become a referral source of charitable clients when appropriate.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR COUNCIL

Jean Bedell, CPA/PFS, CFP, Co-Chair
The Bonadio Group

Robert Reynolds, Esq., Co-Chair
Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP

Anthony J. Capobianco, ChFC, CLU
Capobianco & Associates

Chris Cimijotti, CPA
MMB & Co.

Steve Egna, ASA, CM&AA
Valuation Resource Group

Audra Higgins
Curran Wealth Management

Charlie Joseph, CAP
Retired, Janney Montgomery

Alicia Lasch
Graypoint, LLC

Amy O'Connor, Esq.
Whiteman Osterman & Hanna, LLP

William Pfeiffer, Esq.
Pfeiffer Law Firm

Louis Pierro, Esq.
Pierro, Connor & Strauss, LLC

Jeffrey Rosenbaum, CPA
Ayco, A Goldman Sachs Company

Ann Sharpe, Esq.
Ballston Spa National Bank