



A core focus of our strategic plan is **Elevate Community**—a comprehensive framework through which we will strengthen and expand people’s impact on our community through partnership, convening, grantmaking, and service.

All of our community initiatives, technical assistance programs, and strategic investments are aligned under three foundational pillars of impact:

- **Strengthening Nonprofits:** Providing tailored training, leadership development, equitable access to funding, technical support, and practical workshops.
- **Convening & Collaborating:** Leading, joining, and supporting cross-sector community efforts to address high-stakes regional challenges.
- **Driving Collective Change:** Leading and investing foundation capital into priority grant programs and high-impact community initiatives.

Community Initiatives 2026

As part of our mission to Strengthen our community through philanthropy, we support nonprofit leaders and organizations by building capacity, convening, and fostering collaboration. Below is an overview of the community initiatives currently supported by our staff and leadership.

Responsive Grantmaking

Nonprofit Training & Advancement Fund

The Foundation established this fund to offer one-time training grants up to \$1,000 for leadership development, succession planning, and frontline training. Nonprofits complete a simple Google Doc application on a rolling basis. Since its inception in 2021, the Fund has provided 177 grants totaling \$143,904.59.

Community Impact Support Fund

This fund allows staff to make responsive grants of \$5,000 or less to address unique opportunities, special sponsorships, and community needs as they arise. Since its inception in 2021, the Fund has provided 88 grants totaling \$141,405.50.

Strengthening Capital Region Nonprofits

These initiatives focus on providing capacity-building support beyond grantmaking to help nonprofits strengthen nonprofit leaders and organizational effectiveness.

Catalyst for Change Leadership Program

This 10-week series prepares individuals to serve as effective nonprofit board members while increasing diverse community representation across local leadership teams. Each year, we select a cohort of 15 community members interested in board service. Upon completion, graduates are connected with local organizations actively seeking new board members and join an ongoing alumni network committed to inclusive and diverse regional governance.

Virtual Workshop Series

Delivered monthly in collaboration with local subject-matter partners, this series provides accessible, practical training to strengthen regional nonprofit capacity. Workshops cover essential operational domains, including:

- Board Governance & Development
- Leadership & Organizational Health
- Financial Management & Budgeting
- Strategic Planning & Execution
- Fundraising & Marketing Strategy
- Legal Compliance & Human Resources

Technical Assistance

To help nonprofits overcome operational challenges and adapt to an evolving environment, our technical assistance program offers deep-dive workshops and personalized support. By pairing practical, actionable training with hands-on, tailored consultations, we help organizational leaders navigate change, clarify strategic priorities, and unlock new opportunities for collaboration and growth.

COMPASS

Launching its inaugural cohort, COMPASS is a new 6-month private network convening designed for senior leaders of established nonprofits navigating high-stakes decisions. Built around a confidential "trusted boardroom" model, the program addresses real-world organizational challenges through peer advisory, just-in-time learning, practical workshops, and dedicated 1-on-1 coaching. By focusing on dual-capacity growth, COMPASS eliminates executive isolation and invests simultaneously in the strategic excellence of the individual leader and the long-term sustainability of their organization—strengthening our region's nonprofit ecosystem from the inside out.

Community Initiatives

Albany Food Initiative

Powered by our Hortense Rubin Community Health Fund, the Albany Food Initiative is a targeted regional effort dedicated to addressing food insecurity across Albany County. By strategically deploying fund resources toward collaborative, community-driven projects, the initiative focuses on expanding equitable access to fresh, nutritious food in underserved neighborhoods. This targeted investment addresses critical public health disparities while helping build a more resilient and sustainable local food system.

Capital Region Funders Convening

We facilitate a quarterly meeting with multiple public and private funders throughout the region to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Capital Region Indicators

A joint initiative providing data and interactive visualizations to inform the community on critical topics.

The Emerging Nonprofit Leaders Accelerator (ENLA) supporting the University at Albany program to develop future nonprofit leaders.

Previous Community Collaborations

Supporting Community Initiatives

The Foundation partners with various community efforts to address pressing issues through grant dollars, technical assistance, and convening stakeholders. Current initiatives include:

- **Saratoga Communities of Excellence:** A collaborative working to advance the well-being of Saratoga County residents.
- **Clean Energy Hub:** Connecting Capital Region residents with clean energy opportunities.
- **Black Chamber of Commerce (ATEAM):** Supporting small business startups through a new educational and mentoring program.
- **The Innovation Collaboration:** An accelerator to support capacity building for local nonprofit organizations.
- **Research and Data Sharing:** Focusing on the impact of chronic kidney disease in the Capital Region.

Past Initiatives

The Foundation has spearheaded several impactful initiatives, including:

- **The Capital Region IDEA Collaborative** to enhance diversity on nonprofit boards.
- **The Nonprofit Board Inclusion Series** to foster inclusive board cultures.
- **The Capital Region COVID Response Fund** provided flexible resources to organizations working with communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.