



# give 'til it helps

THE SCHENECTADY FOUNDATION • DECEMBER 2014

## Transforming Community Now...and in the Future

In April 2013 we launched our 50th Anniversary Celebration — a bold plan of grants, scholarships and community programs. I am pleased to report that we have met and exceeded nearly all the ambitious goals of our Golden Celebration. With our most recent \$1 million Transformational Grant to the Schenectady Bridges Partnership (*see article inside*), our 2013-14 Golden Grants have eclipsed \$2.6 million — \$600,000 more than we had originally committed.

As we close our Golden Anniversary, it is important to point back to those who started The Schenectady Foundation, particularly Bill Milton and Charles W. Carl, Jr. These two gentlemen, who I knew well and admired deeply, were the architects of an institution that has proven to be a reliable, sustainable champion of the community. Thanks to their forethought and leadership, over the years TSF has returned more than \$18 million to charitable causes in Schenectady County.

Now it's our turn. Our last goal remains unfulfilled — to reseed the endowment of The Schenectady Foundation for the next 50 years by receiving commitments from individuals and couples through annual giving and estate plans. How can you help us meet this final goal?

We of course welcome your year-end donation to any of our current initiatives. But we also hope that you will think about your long-term support to the community by considering a gift through your will or estate plan to The Schenectady Foundation. Help us ensure that The Foundation is here for our community not just today — but for years to come — helping to support stronger families, more resilient youth, and advancing the well-being of the community. With your help, the momentum achieved in the past year will continue to grow. The best is yet to come!

— Robert Carreau, TSF Executive Director

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# Forging Partnerships that Work

*The Schenectady Foundation is not only an endowment for the people of Schenectady County, it is also a community leader, building strong partnerships that leverage resources to grow and expand effective projects.*

## Weekend Backpack Fund

An alarming number of Schenectady's elementary school children don't get enough to eat during the weekend. Thanks to a partnership among the Foundation, MVP Health Care, SEFCU, City Mission, the Regional Food Bank, Schenectady City Schools and others, about 750 children are receiving backpacks every Friday filled with nutritious food.



## Schenectady Bridges

The Foundation's early support of Schenectady Bridges has enabled 2,500 individuals from 75 community organizations to be trained in Bridges and better understand the barriers impoverished families face and the assets they have to build on. Bridges has become a community-wide movement of culture change to help families escape from generational poverty and build sustainable lives.

## UMatter Community Health Initiative

With a grant from The Schenectady Foundation, a coalition of more than 40 organizations conducted an extensive health survey door-to-door to improve response to health disparities in our neighborhoods. One early result: a collaboration of Ellis Medicine and Schenectady County Public Health Services to significantly improve the care of the high-risk asthmatics who come to the Ellis Emergency Department — currently more than 1,000 visits a year.



## Flood Recovery Coalition

When tropical storms devastated Rotterdam Junction, Scotia and the Stockade, TSF rallied numerous organizations and formed the Flood Recovery Coalition, which restored the homes of 75 families who had been made homeless, and helped dozens more with food, clothing, building supplies and counseling.



## Strengthening Families

The Foundation has invested in a continuum of community resources essential to the strength of Schenectady County families. The initiative has itself been strengthened by the involvement of many community partner organizations that have united around its vision of supporting the success of families. Among these, Samaritan Counseling Center has launched the Strong Families training program to strengthen families by promoting a multi-systems view of working with families in crisis.





## A Powerful Collaboration

The Bridges Partnership includes key partner organizations and dozens of additional supporting partners. City Mission of Schenectady is serving as the lead agency, and will coordinate the activities among the other partners, including: Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP), Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady, Community Fathers, Schenectady County Community College (SCCC), Neighborhood Transformation Coalition and Union Graduate College.

“This is a powerful partnership,” said TSF Executive Director Robert Carreau. “It has the capacity to pull resources together and move things forward much more quickly than any single organization working on its own.”



T R A N S F O R M A T I O N : I T T A K E S A C O M M U N I T Y

## TSF Awards \$1 Million to Schenectady Bridges Partnership

The Schenectady Foundation brought its Golden Grants campaign to a close by awarding a \$1 million transformational grant to help Schenectady families build bridges out of poverty to sustainable lives.

The grant, awarded to the Schenectady Bridges Partnership, is the capstone of the Foundation’s 50th Anniversary Golden Grants program, which has resulted in more than \$2.6 million in grants and scholarships being invested in the Schenectady County community.

The Schenectady Bridges Partnership brings together more than a dozen organizations all focused on creating job opportunities for underserved community residents, and reducing barriers to health care, education, youth services and basic community supports.

Because of the Bridges Partnership, people like Eddie Polanco — who broke free of his addiction and became meaningfully employed — are transforming their lives.

“Schenectady Bridges is so important to me today because it has helped me become a better man, a role-model citizen, a leader in our community and most of all important to me, it gives my kids a chance to say, ‘my daddy turned it all around,’” Polanco said at a press conference announcing the grant.

The Bridges Partnership plans to leverage more than \$1.5 million in additional resources and is expected to assist as many as 1,000 individuals to obtain, retain or improve their employment over the next three years.



T H E C O M M U N I T Y ’ S  
P A R T N E R S H I P I S K E Y

The Foundation’s \$1 million investment is designed to be catalytic, but this is a challenging long-term endeavor. The financial support of the community will be essential to achieving the transformation we all seek.

*The commitment we’ve seen to date has us believing that the transformation we have seen in downtown Schenectady can indeed be shared and seeded among our citizens and in our neighborhoods.*

— Robert Carreau, TSF Executive Director

## Employer Resource Network Early Win for Bridges Partnership

The Employer Resource Network (ERN) is one of the Bridges Partnership’s early core initiatives. The ERN uses Success Coaches to assist both employers and employees in successfully retaining entry-level workers — particularly those who are coming from poverty or have had difficulty maintaining employment in the past.

Currently, six Schenectady employers participate in the ERN: Best Cleaners, Ellis Medicine, Union College, Schenectady ARC, Northern Rivers Family Services and City Mission. ERN will be greatly expanded over the next couple of years.

Additional new programs are being developed by the Partnership, and will be announced as they are piloted and ready for implementation.

*“Our experience in the ERN has been nothing short of phenomenal.”*  
*“Since we started working with the ERN our employee turnover rate has gone down significantly. This has the two-fold benefit of decreasing our operating expenses, and keeping community members in employment. It’s a win for everyone.”*

— Susan Vellano of Best Cleaners



# Give 'til It Helps!

*Contributing to The Schenectady Foundation is one of the best ways that you can reach out to help people right in your own community. 100% of your donation stays right here in Schenectady County to advance the well-being of our community, and ensure that our current and future needs can be effectively addressed:*

- Give our young people educational and employment opportunities;
- Strengthen under-resourced families, helping them to move from poverty to sustainability;
- Build community partnerships to better serve our community;
- Respond to emergency needs like hunger, homelessness and natural disasters;
- Ensure that young children have health and development support to be ready to succeed in school.

**There are three ways you can “Give 'til It Helps.” Choose any or all that best suit your needs.**



## 1. Give Now.

Make a donation now to support our on-going work in the community. Your donation by check or by giving appreciated stock is not only tax-deductible, but directly helps our community today.

- ☐ Yes, my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed to The Schenectady Foundation.
- ☐ Please bill me for my pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Please contact me to discuss a donation of appreciated stock or other gift.

## 2. Give Online.

Go to our website: [www.schenectadyfoundation.org](http://www.schenectadyfoundation.org) where you can make a confidential and secure online donation via paypal or credit card.

## 3. Give for the Future.

Make a gift in your will or estate plan. It's easier than you might think, provides tax benefits to your estate, and ensures that support will be there in the future for the community and people that you love.

- ☐ I am interested in learning more about how I can support my community through my will or estate plan. Please contact me.
- ☐ I have already made a commitment in my estate to The Schenectady Foundation.
- ☐ I would like to know more about options for giving during my lifetime, as well as estate planning. Please contact me.

**CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION:** (will be maintained with strict confidentiality)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE/EMAIL

*Please use this pledge form to make your gift now, and return it in the enclosed envelope. Or, just give us a call at 393-9500 so that we can assist you in making your gift. More information about The Schenectady Foundation is available at: [www.schenectadyfoundation.org](http://www.schenectadyfoundation.org)*





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# TSF Invests Over \$2.6 Million in Grants and Scholarships

*During its 50th anniversary celebration, The Schenectady Foundation awarded more than \$2.6 million in grants and scholarships, including a \$1 million transformational grant to the Schenectady Bridges Partnerships (see inside).*

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## Innovation & Capacity Building Grants

**Capital District Child Care Coordinating Council** • \$103,500 for an assessment and outcome measurement system across the 36 early childhood classrooms in the Bigelow Corners Partnership.

**City Mission of Schenectady** • \$107,572 to expand Schenectady Works and the Schenectady Bridges Out of Poverty Partnership to help move people from poverty into sustainable jobs and family life.

**Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region Office** • \$120,000 to support the opening of the CLF Schenectady satellite office, improving access to low-cost loans and technical assistance.

**Northeast Parent & Child Society** • \$150,000 for an innovative curriculum and drop-out prevention strategy to provide a path to graduation and college-level study.

**Samaritan Counseling Center** • \$150,000 to expand training for counselors and therapists to improve outcomes for families and children in crisis, and to seed development of a new "parenting center" model.

## Open Grants

**Empire State Youth Orchestras** • \$80,000 for the CHIME afterschool music program at Yates Elementary.

**Girls Inc.** • \$50,000 for capital improvements to bring its facility into compliance with building codes and increase organizational effectiveness and service delivery.

**miSci** • \$125,000 to help complete the development of the Challenger Learning Center, and bring the experience of space exploration to area students.

**Proctors Theatre** • \$150,000 for ArtsLab, a multi-use arts education center, with a 106-seat black box theatre, three classrooms, a media lab and a dance studio/community event space.

**Regional Food Bank of NENY** • \$150,000 for the Weekend Backpack Fund, providing 750 chronically hungry Schenectady school children with a backpack of nutritious food every Friday.

**SCCC Smart Scholars** • \$100,000 to make this successful early college program available to more Schenectady High School students who face significant barriers to success.

**Schenectady Asthma Support Collaboration** • \$25,000 to improve the care of high-risk asthmatics who come to the Ellis Medicine Emergency Department.

**Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP)** • \$65,000 ensured that Head Start services continued despite budget cuts forced by the federal sequester in March 2013.

**Schenectady County Public Library** • \$23,307 to expand a literacy development program for incoming first and second graders who struggle with reading.

**Working Group on Girls** • \$35,000 for the Girls Day Out program, which helps girls make a positive transition from middle school into high school.

## Micro Grants

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady** • \$8,000 to initiate the Boys Day Out program, linking middle school boys with mentors from the community and promoting their success in school.

**Capital Region BOCES** • \$2,000 for a poverty simulation kit to help educators better understand the impact of poverty.

**Crossroads Center for Children** • \$10,000 for a new curriculum and technology that will increase essential education skills for children with autism.

**Home Furnishings Program** • \$10,000 in matching grant funds to help meet the growing need for beds for children and families who lack this basic need.

**Proctors Theatre** • \$3,000 to enable students from Schenectady High School's robotics program to compete in a National Robotics Competition.

**YMCA** • \$5,000 to support their successful after-school program for students from Oneida, Mont Pleasant, and King Middle Schools.