



The Schenectady
FOUNDATION
Catalyst for Community Change

gifts & grants

We're Turning 60!

Honoring our past, forging a new path forward.

About sixty years ago community leaders came together to form The Schenectady Foundation. The effort was started without funding, and so the first grants from the Foundation were gladly written by the volunteer founders from their own checkbooks.

When they made their first grant in 1963 — \$250 to the YMCA — little could they imagine that sixty years later Schenectady's community foundation would be investing more than \$2 million annually into dozens of projects to help our neighborhoods thrive, and make for a healthier, food-secure community.

Along the way our assets have grown, but the mission remained steady and on target: **to improve the health and welfare of the people who live or work in Schenectady County, NY.**

We have granted roughly \$31 million in grants and scholarships since 1963 — more than 25% of that in the past five years. But today the Foundation is more than a grant-maker and a good steward of contributed funds. We are also a convener of people and organizations, bringing about change by working together. We are supporting the engagement of residents in making their own neighborhoods stronger, and working with other funders and donors for greater impact.



Robert A. Carreau,
Executive Director

Recently we've started down a new path to build a more equitable community — one in which all residents have opportunities to thrive. You'll be hearing more about our **"Community-Driven Change"** initiative as it takes shape this year. In short, we believe people closest to a problem are also closest to the solution; our decisions informed by the experiences of the people who live here.

With thanks to all who are part of making our world a better place,



Our anniversary is far more than a celebration – it's a renewal of our commitment to the people of Schenectady County.

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New Food Council Aims to Make Schenectady Food-Secure

How do we ensure that all Schenectady County residents have access to nutritious and affordable food?

That's one of the big questions guiding the work of the newly created Schenectady County Food Council.

Spearheaded by The Schenectady Foundation, the Food Council is composed of organizations and individuals that make up the county's food infrastructure — pantries, farms, manufacturers, consumers, retailers and others. Together, they'll create a long-term vision for Schenectady County's food system that emphasizes sustainability, equity and good health.

"How do we make better connections between urban, suburban and rural areas?" said Melissa MacKinnon, a food council member representing Schenectady Urban Farms. "We have to be able to grow food in ways that take care of the land and take care of our communities."

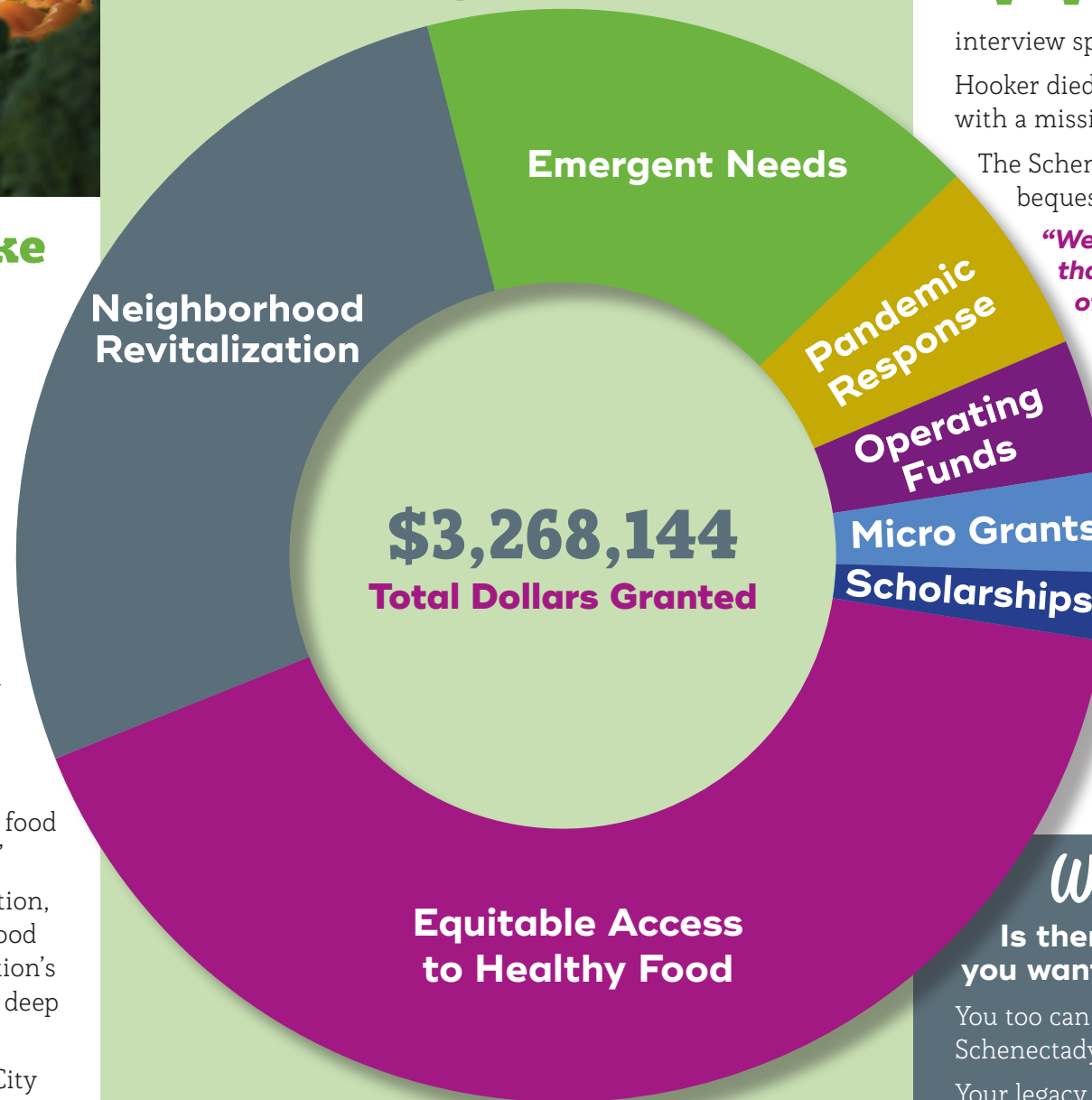
The Food Council is a natural next step for The Schenectady Foundation, which has made reducing food insecurity and building a more just food system for Schenectady County residents a top priority. The Foundation's focus on food grew out of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed a deep need in the community.

The work of the Council is being funded jointly by the Foundation, City of Schenectady ARPA funding, and support from Cornell Cooperative Extension.



"Providing food where needed is critically important, but it's not enough," said **Kristi Milligan, director of grants and community programs for The Schenectady Foundation.** **"We need to be digging deeper to address the root causes of food insecurity."**

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH \$3.2 MILLION: Two Years of Impactful Granting (2021/2022)



of grants • Dollar Amount • Percent of Dollars Granted

Equitable Access • 20 Grants • \$1,354,127 • 41%

Neighborhood Revitalization • 12 Grants • \$885,000 • 27%

Emergent Needs • 5 Grants • \$548,679 • 17%

Pandemic Response • 5 Grants • \$189,363 • 6%

Operating Funds • 13 Grants • \$128,550 • 4%

Micro Grants • 18 Grants • \$96,924 • 3%

Scholarships • 12 Scholarships • \$65,500 • 2%

Donor's Bequest Creates Fund for Arts in Schenectady

Paul Hooker loved Proctors.

When he retired as head of the Schenectady theater's volunteer bartender group, a fund was created that enabled school groups to attend performances at Proctors for free in his honor.

"I really like the performing arts, almost all of them," the Scotia native said in an interview sponsored by the Proctors Historical Committee. "Choral singing is my favorite."

Hooker died in 2019 at 81, but his love of the arts will live on through a new charitable fund with a mission of promoting the arts in Schenectady County.

The Schenectady Foundation will manage the fund, which was established with a \$322,765 bequest from Hooker's estate.

"We are so grateful for Mr. Hooker's thoughtfulness in leaving a legacy that will live on in our community," said **Robert Carreau, executive director of The Schenectady Foundation.** **"His gift will enable us to establish a Fund for the Arts – a source of support for arts programs of all kinds. It's a fund other donors can add their own donations to, so it will grow over time to ensure we sustain the arts as an integral part of Schenectady's culture."**

Hooker was a good ambassador for Proctors, according to friend and colleague Carol Stearns, who worked with him at Shaker High School, where he served as a guidance counselor.

Like many of her co-workers, Stearns began volunteering at Proctors in part because Hooker suggested it.

"He was an encyclopedia of knowledge when it came to shows and plays and books," she said. "He talked about these things endlessly, and he encouraged people to go to Proctors and see shows."

To make a gift to the Fund for Schenectady Arts go to www.schenectadyfoundation.org

What is your passion?

Is there something you care about deeply? A cause or issue that you want to see supported for the long-term?

You too can make your community better through a bequest or planned gift to The Schenectady Foundation.

Your legacy gift to the Foundation will grow over time, yielding income each year that is invested back in the community as grants and scholarships that help improve the lives of those most in need.

Here's how to get started:

- 1. Just give us a call at 518-393-9500.** We will guide you through a confidential discussion about your charitable intent, and how we can help you achieve lasting impact through your will, estate plan, or by making gifts during your lifetime.
- 2. Talk with your legal advisor** about revising or creating your Will and including the Foundation as a charitable beneficiary.
- 3. Let us know** when you have finished your plan. We'll gladly recognize you in our Stockade Legacy Society.

To Support Programs like these – give online at www.schenectadyfoundation.org/giving.php

Contact Us

518.393.9500

www.schenectadyfoundation.org

Foundation Welcomes Four New Board Members

The Schenectady Foundation is building on its governance capabilities and diversity. The addition of these talented community leaders expands the board from seven to nine members, giving it the broadest range of ages in its 60-year history.



Jennifer Kenneally — Kenneally, 65, returns to the board after a four-year absence, having previously served two terms. A financial consultant, she is excited to pick up where she left off. During Kenneally’s decade on the board, the Foundation transformed into a more visible community

presence, with an emphasis on collaboration and empowering residents.

“I’m thrilled to go back and see where the Foundation has gone since I left,” Kenneally said.

Pamela Pearlman — Pearlman, 71, started her career in social work, then became an accountant, preparing tax returns until she retired. She volunteers with the two organizations at Schenectady’s Central Park, the Rose Garden Restoration Committee and Friends of the Greenhouse.



“I feel like The Schenectady Foundation has the capacity to be a changing force,” Pearlman said. “We can tackle some major issues.”

Kevin Smith — Smith, 42, is a familiar face at the Foundation, having joined the organization as assistant treasurer in 2022. Now treasurer, he is eager to help Schenectady County residents by funding community-driven projects.



“There are neighborhoods and communities across the county in need of help,” Smith said. “I’m excited about providing financial support to residents with a vision for their neighborhoods.”

In his day job, Smith serves as director of private client services for Fenimore Asset management.



Raysheea Turner Bryant — Turner, 33, is a partner at Wallace Turner Law in Albany, established in 2020 and believed to be the first Capital Region law firm owned by two Black women. She has been named one of the Albany Business Review’s 40 Under 40 and one of the National Black Lawyers’

Top 40 Under 40. She also serves as chair of Destine Prep Charter School in Schenectady.

“One of my firm’s mottos is: Be an active part of the change you seek,” Turner said. “I’m hoping to participate in some positive things for the community.”

The new members join returning members: Omayra Padilla De Jesus (Chair), Mona Golub (Vice Chair); Kimberly Kilby, Johan Matthews and Alfred Tompkins. Non-voting members are Michael Ozimek (Assistant Treasurer) and Robert Carreau (Secretary).