



gifts & grants

The Caring Season



Robert A. Carreau,
Executive Director

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

– Margaret J. Wheatley

There are so many possibilities for us to express what we care about in our community. And as so much has shifted over the past several years, we might also be rediscovering what we care about most.

As priorities shift and new issues emerge, innovative approaches are needed to understand the new challenges — and then to take action.

That’s where we come in.

The Schenectady Foundation balances its community investments between services that are working well, and promising pioneering programs exploring innovative ways to take us to a higher level of impact.

In working to make Schenectady County food-secure, we address the root causes of hunger imbedded in the broader food system, even while we support on-going emergency food programs that are culturally responsive.

Many ways to care.

We empower people to bring about change through civic engagement, volunteerism, and giving to charitable works. If we collectively get behind what we most care about, we are far more likely to achieve the kind of impact we want to see in our community.

This giving season, we hope you will reflect on what you care about most, and pledge your time, talents and treasure. We’ve devoted space in this newsletter to provide ideas on how you can be part of bringing about the change they wish to see.

Thank you for caring, and best wishes for a peaceful holiday season.



I Am Father Festival:

Capturing a moment at the I Am Father Festival, an annual celebration of Fatherhood and the diverse ways fathers express their love and devotion to their children. This heartwarming event is a tribute to the vital role fathers play in their families and communities.

What’s inside

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Have it your way:
Options for impact
giving via the
Foundation



518 Common Unity Cup: At the heart of the community, the 518 Common Unity Cup – where unity knows no bounds. Pictured are the closing ceremony awards after a month of bringing community members together through five weeks of sporting events with local police and firefighters.



Porchfest: Capturing the lively spirit in the GE Realty community event during its inaugural year. Porchest features members to enjoy, with performances taking place on neighborhood stages.

Small Grants, Big

While our larger projects often take center stage, it's the light on our invaluable micro-grants, transforming and empowering non-profits.



Schenectady Kids Arts Festival: Exploring the world of creativity at the Schenectady Kids Arts Festival. This festival promotes art, music, fashion, and more. Here, a pair of contestants showcase their own designs in the first-ever fashion show, a testament to the festival's celebration of young talent and imagination.



Schenectady Nature Bus:

Discovering the beauty of our local parks with the Schenectady Nature Bus. Residents enjoy free bus rides to programs like this hike led by the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy team at Fox Preserve.



On the Cover – S.T.A.G.E.: Students enjoy a magical night at Proctors Theater with the S.T.A.G.E. program, attending a pre-show reception and the Broadway production of Aladdin, all at no charge. A total of 40 children and families joined the fun.



Capital Region Classical: A series of classical music featuring Benjamin and the String Quartet at Union College's Memorial Hall. The event was made accessible to all with a 'pay what you can' policy.

To Support Programs like these – give online or



...y Lot of Schenectady, a vibrant
...ured free music for community
...ighbors' front porches.

Impact
...t's time to shine a
...our community and



Music Haven

2023: Celebrating the universal language of music and the power of unity, the vibrant crowd assembles at the concert. Central Park in Schenectady comes alive with diversity and community as guests eagerly anticipate world-class music.



An enchanting evening
Grosvenor and the Doric
monial Chapel. The concert
-as-you-wish' approach.

A Tribute to Jerry Burrell: Empowering Community Through Art

As program director at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center, **Jerry Burrell** drove around the neighborhood, picking up local children and bringing them to dance classes at the longtime Schenectady organization.

A talented visual artist, dancer, and drummer, Burrell embodied the generosity and grassroots spirit of Hamilton Hill, where people quietly do what they can to make the neighborhood a better place to live. "He didn't wait for money or perfect circumstances to do things — he just did them," recalled Rachel Conn, executive director of the Hamilton Arts Center.



Burrell was a victim of medical racism: In 1975, he went to the hospital with appendicitis, but staff assumed he was a drug addict and sent him home, according to Conn. He later died. Today his legacy lives on at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center, which promotes African and African-American arts and culture with enriching programs, and the nearby park that bears his name.

Few people remember Burrell, who was just 36 when he died, or know much about him. A new project, the **Jerry Burrell Park Arts Collaborative**, will change that by telling Burrell's story.

This vision for the park was developed with community input, which is key, said Mary Moore Wallinger, principal at LAndArt Studio in Schenectady.

Using an \$75,000 grant from The Schenectady Foundation's emergent needs program, the initiative will install a learning path at **Jerry Burrell Park** that includes informational signage, a basketball court mural, and murals depicting victims of racial injustice with their mothers. The project also has a research component: Local youth will interview people who knew Burrell or were involved in the effort to create Jerry Burrell Park and develop educational materials such as a website.

This vision for the park was developed with community input, which is key, said Mary Moore Wallinger, principal at LAndArt Studio in Schenectady and project team member. "It allows people to see themselves in their park and understand there's a history," she said.

Four other organizations — Safe Inc of Schenectady, Operation at Ease, 518 ElevatED and Crossroads Center for Children — received grants from the Foundation's emergent needs program, a total of \$330,000. To read about these new grants go to our website www.schenectadyfoundation.org.



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We've Moved!

Our new office is located at:

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**PO Box 710
Schenectady, NY 12301**

Contact Us

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Your options for impact giving

As Schenectady County's community foundation we value being accessible to everyone -- people from all walks of life who want to make our community the best it can be. We welcome gifts of any size, from anyone, in ways that are easy and impactful.

Give to what you care about, or to what's needed most.

Most gifts to the Foundation are unrestricted, meaning donors trust our discretion in supporting the causes and issues that require immediate support.

We also offer a range of cause-related funds, including:

- **Equitable Access to Healthy Food** – making Schenectady food-secure.
- **Grassroots Fund for Equity** – helping neighborhood and resident-led projects.
- **Weekend Backpack Program** – ensures a weekend supply of food for students.

- **Endowment Fund** – gifts invested for the long-term, generating annual income for grants.

Many ways to be the change.

- Write us a check
- Sign up for automatic monthly gifts charged to your credit card.
- Donate appreciated assets such as stocks.
- Make a gift directly from your IRA - you won't pay income tax on your withdrawal.
- Make a planned gift; include the Foundation in your will or estate plan.

Questions?

Just give us a call at 518-393-9500, or send an email to our associate Larry Snyder at lsnyder@schenectadyfoundation.org.

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

www.schenectadyfoundation.org