



2023 Newsletter

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OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Chair: Ms. Judy Hunt
Vice Chair: Ms. Christine Cheronis
Secretary/Treasurer: Ms. Christine Ball
Trustee: Ms. Donna Winfield
Trustee: Dr. Marlene Garone
Trustee: Dr. L.J. Baylis

STAFF

Dr. L.J. Baylis, Executive Director
Dr. M. Garone, NORC Director
Ms. C. Ball, Administrative Director
Ms. R. Svetz, Community Health Advocate
Ms. D. Phelps, Community Health Advocate
Ms. J. Miller, Community Edu. & Wellness Advocate
Ms. J. Odell, Home Companion
Ms. C. Svetz, Home Companion

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT FINDLEY LAKE MISSION STATEMENT

Community Connections at Findley Lake, Inc. gives residents of Findley Lake and the surrounding areas the means and confidence to live their lives to the fullest in their own communities.

**** We do our best to ensure the print in this newsletter is readable by everyone, including our elders. We realize we could cut costs by reducing this size, but it is more important that we publish a newsletter that can be read by most everyone.****



GREETINGS FROM COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Welcome from the Board of Directors

Greetings from the Board of Directors and staff! We hope you enjoy this ninth edition of the Community Connections at Findley Lake's Newsletter and Annual Report. This edition summarizes highlights of programs and activities from June 2022 through June of 2023. The Annual Report is for fiscal year 2022.

This year, we celebrated a milestone for our non-profit organization. We celebrated our 10th year anniversary with a "Happy 10th Birthday Party" in May. Look for pictures from this fun event in this newsletter. Keep reading our Facebook posts and emails for upcoming interesting and fun events.

A huge **THANK YOU** to all our staff, community volunteers and generous donors who are the reasons why Community Connections has been able to serve our communities for ten years.

Speaking of **Thank You**, we are including comments from many of the notes & cards we received from our community. We sincerely appreciate their notes, letters and cards and wanted to acknowledge them also. These will be seen throughout the pages marked as:



Foundations and Partners

Alexander Findley Community Library

Chautauqua Co. Dept. Health & Human Srv.

Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services

Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department

Chautauqua Region Community Foundation

Erie Community Foundation

Findley Lake Community Foundation

Findley Lake & Mina Historical Society

Findley Lake Volunteer Fire Department

New York State Office for the Aging

Nonprofit Partnership, Erie, PA

RSVP (Retired and Sr. Volunteer Program)

Town of French Creek

Town of Mina

United Way of Southern Chautauqua County

Univera Healthcare

Village to Village Network

V.I.T.A. (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

Young at Heart, Findley Lake



"Thank you for making me feel so special." S.W.

BUSINESS PARTNERS & SPONSORS

One of our strategic goals, sustainability, is helped by support from businesses within the community. These business partners and sponsors are a foundation upon which we are able to build services. We thank the following partners and sponsors and look forward to establishing new business relationships with others.

Platinum Business Partner: Our Own Candle Company

Larry and Terri Gross continued as Platinum Business Partners for 2023. It is this kind of community spirit that sets them apart from many businesses. They have been very generous and supportive since the beginning. Thank you Larry & Terry.



Business Sponsor: Alexander's on the Lake

Tyler & Molly Hess, Cody, Mimi and all of the staff have worked with Community Connections for several fun events. They continue to seek ways to collaborate and provide help, entertainment and food to community residents and Community Connections.



Business Sponsor: Pine Junction Tavern in the Pines

Michelle Lloyd, General Manager continued as a 2023 Business Sponsor. She graciously offered the use of their outside room at no cost for our Volunteer Recognition Celebration for the 2nd year in a row. The catered food was excellent and a great time was had by all.



PATRON'S CIRCLE A Special Thanks to These Donors

ANONYMOUS DONOR

(YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE)

BRENT BALL

JOSH & BRELYNN BALL

L.J. BAYLIS & MARLENE GARONE

STEVE BOOZEL

MARGOT BRIGHT

FNDLY. LK. IMPROVEMENT ASSOC.

GERRY CONRAD

MARILYN EVANS

BECKY & JOHN FAULKNER

PAUL FELLINGER & MARY FORD

TIMOTHY & JACQUELINE FENNEL

JEANETTE FISKE

LARRY & TERRI GROSS

BARB HARRIS

JOAN HIMELEIN

JUDY HUNT

IRENE KUGLER & C. STORELLO

DAN & MARY NORCROSS

RITA READAL & KIM GREENTREE

SHERRI SCHENK & JACK HAMILTON

JOSEPH & MARINA SIPERSTEIN

MARTIN & GINNY SMITH

LYNN & AL STOHR

JOHN & HELEN SWARTZ

KENT & LOUISE WIGGERS

DONNA & TERRY WINFIELD

MATTHEW & ELIZABETH WISE



DONOR RECOGNITION JANUARY 2022– DECEMBER 2022



Community Connections is extremely grateful to all the donors who have given so generously to our organization. This support is crucial to us and our ability to bring services to the area each year. Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate and complete. This list includes all donations, *both financial and tangible items*. We apologize if your name has been omitted or otherwise improperly reported. Please contact us if there is a problem. We also would like to thank those who contributed to our organization through the Amazon Smile Program. Amazon does not provide the names of donors, so we cannot thank each personally. Every donation is appreciated! THANK YOU!

ANONYMOUS DONOR	TIMOTHY & JACQUELINE FENNEL	LYNN & DENNIS MCGILL
JOSH & BRELYNN BALL	PAUL FELLINGER & MARY FORD	JIM & SHIRLEY MEHS
BRENT BALL	FIND. LK. IMPROVEMENT ASSOC.	JOHN & SUSAN MITCHENER
LIN BAYLIS & MARLENE GARONE	JEANETTE FISKE	MARK MOORE
DENNIS & DONNA BENSINK	ANDREW & LISA GOODELL	RON & GLORIA MOORE
MARK BOOZEL	JOHN & JOAN GRAHAM	ROBERT & GINNA NEWTON
STEVE BOOZEL	DAVID GORDON	DAN & MARY NORCROSS
VICKI & BILL BORIA	CHERYL GREY	DEAN & KIM NORCROSS
JOHN & BONNIE BREEN	LARRY & TERRI GROSS	GENEVIEVE OCEPEK
KENT & CAROL BRIGHT	BARRY HAERTEL	LINDA OLDANI
MARGOT BRIGHT	JACK HAMILTON & SHERRY SCHENK	GAIL & RALPH PFEIFER
MELISSA & LEX BRUMAGIN	BARBARA HARRIS	TERRY & DARLA PHELPS
REBECCA BRUMAGIN	BECKY & ED HART	SUE POLLUTRO
NANCY BURLINGAME	WILLIAM & SANDRA HARVEY	DON & BARB PROCTOR
NANCY CARD	JIM & DONNA LEE HIGGINBOTHAM	RITA READAL & KIM GREENTREE
MIKE & PAT CARPENTER	JOAN HIMELEIN	JEFF & CHRISTINE RICHARDS
BARBARA & LEIGH CHAFFEE	MARY & RICHARD HOFER	KATIE ROCHE
CHRISTINE & JIM CHERONIS	JUDY HUNT	MARNE & HOOP ROCHE
GERRY CONRAD	CAROL & HAYES JENKINS	NANCY ROCHE
BARB COOPER	ERIK & MINDY JOHNSON	JOHN & ELLEN SHIFLER
JANNI COOPER	ROBERT & CONNIE KNAPP	STEPHEN & CHRISTINE SEBLINK
FRED & MARY COVATTO	JEFF & BRENDA IRELAND	JOSEPH & MARINA SIPERSTEIN
CINDY CROSS, SNAPPY SNIPPERS	DON & SKIP KLECKNER	AUDREY & DOUG SLIKER
PAT & ROBIN CUNEO	IRENE KUGLER & C. STORELLA	GINNY & MARTIN SMITH
DAVID & CHRIS ELIASON	SANDY LEWIS	CHARLES & EDITH STANSBURY
ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	ANNETTE LOZIER	AL & LYNN STOHR
GLORIA EMORY	DENNIS & DONNA BETH LUCE	ALEX & ALEXANDRA SUTO
MARILYN EVANS	JOANNE & FRANK MALECKI	JOHN & HELEN SWARTZ
BECKY & JOHN FAULKNER	TERRY & SUSAN MALONEY	SHERRIE TANNER
		DAVID & LINDA TEWINKLE



CELEBRATIONS/DONOR RECOGNITION



**Donor Recognition
(Continued)**

ANNETTE & JERRY THOMAS
ANDY & JO-ANN TRAVIS
SHARON UTEGG
SUE WEBER
SHELLY WELLS
TOWN OF FRENCH CREEK
TOWN OF MINA

TWIN DOCKS
NANCY WHITE
KENT & LOUISE WIGGERS
TERRY & DONNA WINFIELD
MATTHEW & ELIZABETH WISE
WILLIAM WOLFE & JAN PROCTOR
JOYCE WALFORD

Donations from everyone helped us to help our community! Thank you all



Professional musician and Findley Laker, Ed Hart, graciously donated his time and talent to the birthday celebration. Thank you Ed!

Enjoying our 10th birthday celebration were:
(Left front around to right front)
Judy Hunt, John Faulkner, Kris Gleason,
Chuck Miller, Trudy Miller



Our amazing volunteers were recognized at our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration at Pine Junction



Kris Gleason (L), Kent Bright (R)



A special thank you to all those that have been volunteers since 2013

LJ Baylis

Judy Hunt

Kent Bright

Barb Howard

Marlene Garone

JoAnne Malecki

Kris Gleason

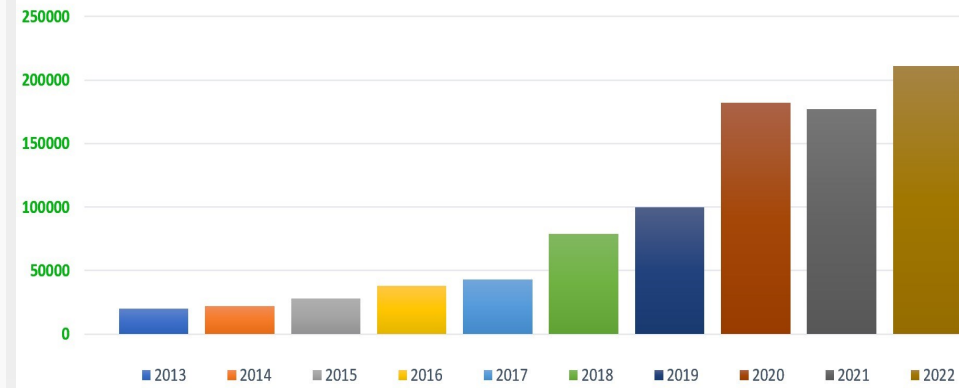
"Thank you, to all of you dedicated women for all that you do for our local community and for so many individuals." S.P.



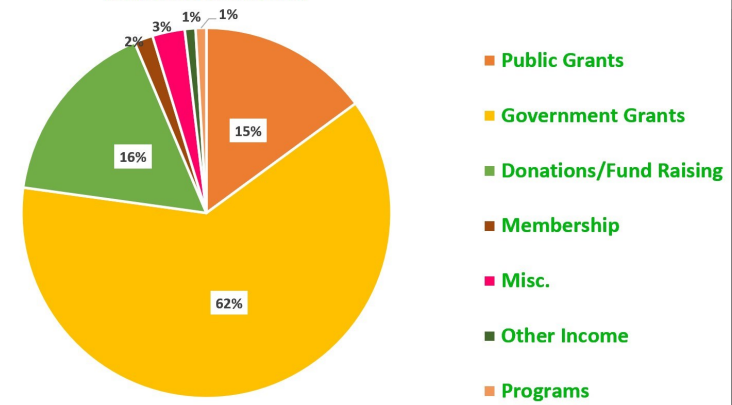
FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022



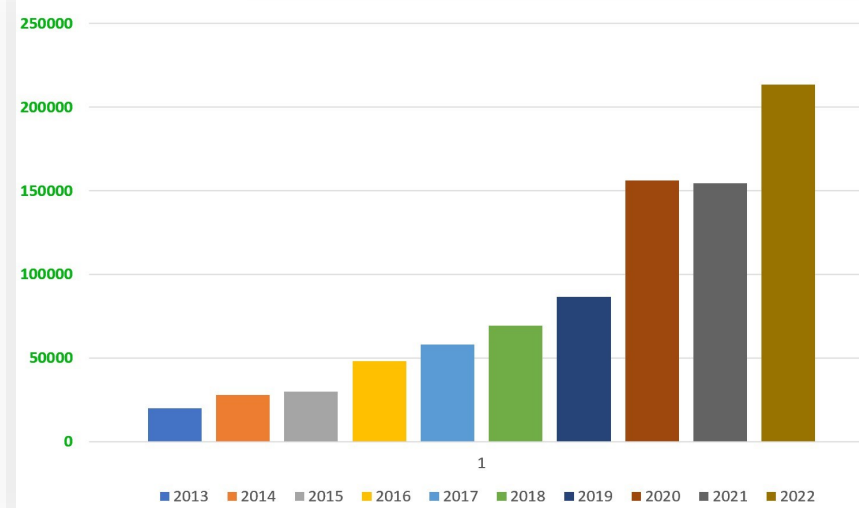
YEARLY INCOME COMPARISON



Income Sources



YEARLY EXPENSE COMPARISON



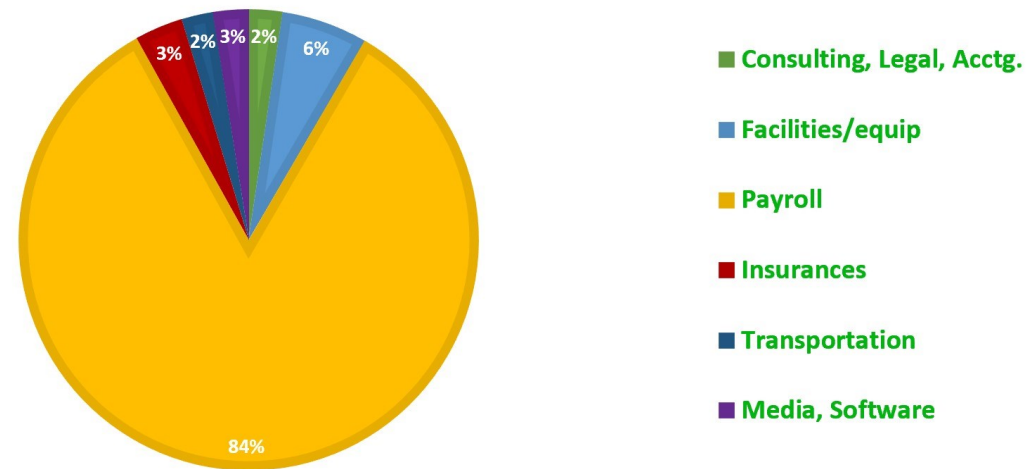
“You give all of us older people here hope. Some of us do not have their family in their lives. So you are our fill-in family.” J. W.



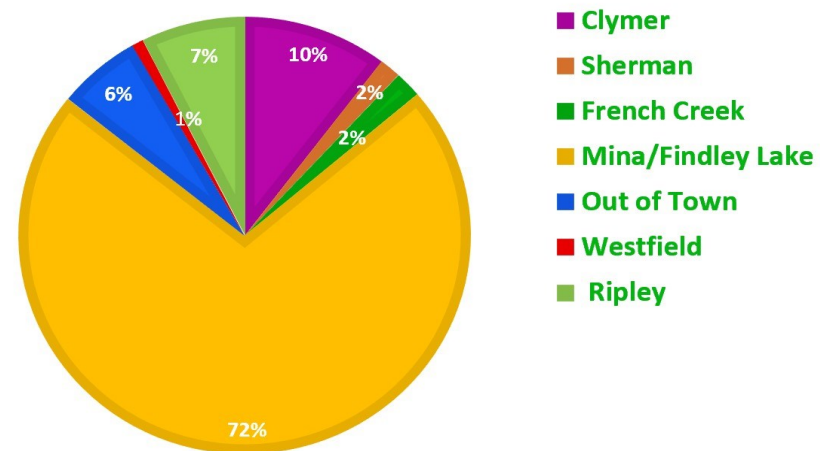
FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022



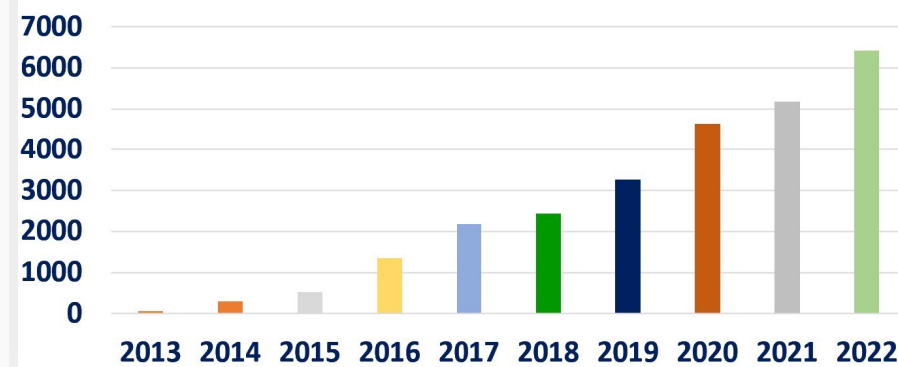
MAJOR EXPENSES



SERVICE AREAS



Services



"Thank you so much for all that you have done for this community! It would definitely not be the same without your dedication & community spirit!"
Anonymous



GRATITUDE FOR GRANTS



Local, State and Regional Funding

The support of our local and regional foundations is a key to success for Community Connections and their generosity continues to make its mark. We are very grateful to all of our local organizations for their ongoing support.

In May of 2022, the [Chautauqua Region Community Foundation](#) approved our grant request for support of staff and operations to be able to provide the programs and services we make available to all community residents. This foundation has been a strong supporter of Community Connections since 2018.

In June of 2022, [The United Way of Southern Chautauqua County](#) also approved our grant application for support of staff and operations. The United Way has been a strong supporter of Community Connections since 2016.

In November of 2022, [Univera Healthcare](#) awarded Community Connections a health equity grant in support of our in-home care programs that assist our community residents to coordinate and access healthcare services.

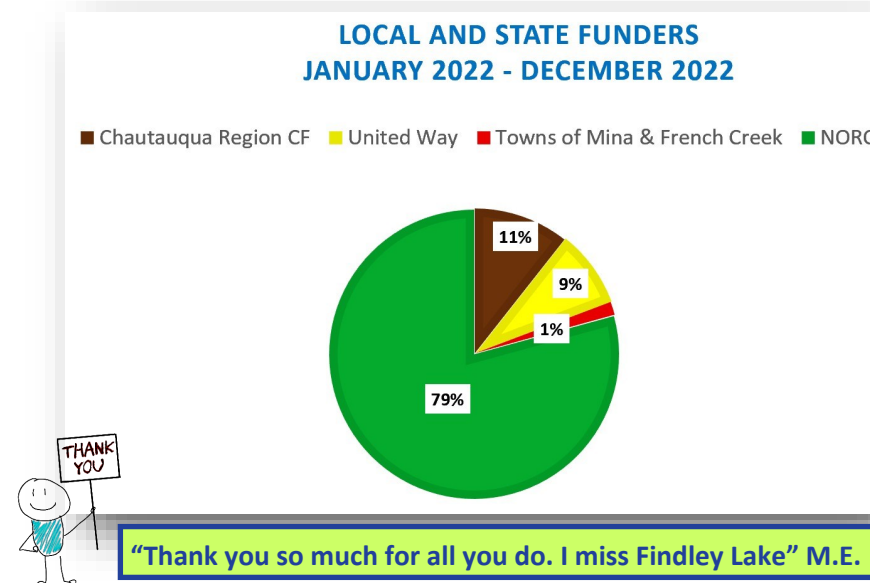
We say THANK YOU to all of these local foundations who support the important work of the non-profits in Chautauqua County.

Our continued appreciation to the [Town of Mina](#) for recognizing the importance of the services we provide and for their financial support to continue to provide them. The town has been supportive of our organization since 2014.

For the last 2 years, [Town of French Creek](#) has supported CC@FL in recognition of the services we provide to their residents. Thank you French Creek. Your support is important to us & our mission.

New York State Office for Aging Neighborhood NORC

We completed the third full year of the New York State Office for Aging grant supporting our town's Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community. Grant resources support the staff and office operations to be available 5 days a week to respond to residents' requests. This grant supports services to all of the residents of the town of Mina and the contiguous communities that Community Connections serves.





Our eagle honor display has a place of prominence in the Community Center and is dedicated to Dennis Brumagin by the Community Connections at Findley Lake founding members. This display allows everyone to not only memorialize someone, but to also honor, thank or congratulate someone. Each plate represents a feather that can be engraved.



Feathers are a symbol of giving thanks and appreciation. You can recognize a loved one or someone special to you through a donation to Community Connections at Findley Lake. Community Connections remains grateful to the Findley Lake Community Foundation for their initial support of this important project.



Thanks to JoAnne Malecki, we instituted a new program called Compassion Cards. Each week JoAnne joins us in our office and writes cards to many different community residents. Sometimes, it is a card to let people know they are not alone, others are congratulatory, happy birthday, etc. Thank you Jo, for bringing us the idea and for being our awesome volunteer. This program has been very well received and appreciated.



Another very important component of our Kindness Program is Pet Therapy. Led by Scott Benza, he and his dog Willow bring great joy and comfort to many of our animal-loving clients. They are often accompanied by another volunteer, Penny Benza.

Scott and Willow are seen to the left with a client (who wishes to remain anonymous)

If you or someone you know, would like either of these services, please let Christy know by calling the office.



"Your card warmed my heart. I loved, loved, loved it. Thanks so much. It is a beautiful card and words. Thanks for all you do. Really warmed my heart." C.C.



Becky Svetz, R.N., is now in her seventh year of serving as our Community Health Advocate and providing services to all of our members in this region. Becky serves as an advocate at medical appointments to help navigate today's complicated medical system. She explains medical tests and helps to understand medications. Becky has access to expert pharmacy assistance for complicated issues and will provide in-home checks for safety and potential problems. In 2022, Becky made 18 trips with clients to physicians, made a total of 210 home visits, logged 4602 miles for these visits and provided over 900 various case management services.

Membership provides several additional important benefits such as:

Access to the Community Health Advocate (see above)

Access to Members Only events

Away From Home Services

Mail forwarding when you are out of town

OUR 2023 MEMBERS

VICKI & JAY ALTMAN
L.J. BAYLIS & M. GARONE
SCOTT & PENNY BENZA
DENNIS & LINDY BOOZEL
STEVEN BOOZEL
VICKI & BILL BORIA
AMY & BILL BRACKEN
CAROL & KENT BRIGHT
MELISSA & LEX BRUMAGIN
REBECCA BRUMAGIN
NANCY BURLINGAME
ART & BETSY CACCESE
ROBIN & CHESTER CAREY
MIKE & PAT CARPENTER
BARBARA & LEIGH CHAFFEE
STEVEN CHYLINSKI
BARBARA & DICK COOPER
JANNI & DENNIS COOPER
CINDY CROSS
MELISSA DAMICO
RACHEL P. DONELSON

LORRAINE & JOHN DOUGHERTY
BERNADINE ELCHYNSKI
CARMEN ELLSWORTH
MARILYN EVANS
BECKY & JOHN FAULKNER
KATHY & KEVIN FLATLEY
MARY FORD &
PAUL FELLINGER
GRETCHEN FOX
BARBARA FURHMEISTER
RICHARD FUHRMEISTER
JULIE & MIKE GANSKE
KRIS GLEASON
ANDY & LISA GOODELL
JOHN & JOAN GRAHAM
SANDY GREEN
LARRY & TERRI GROSS
MARK GULCZYNSKI
BARRY HAERTEL
JACK HAMILTON & SHERRI SCHENK
BARBARA HARRIS

HORST & EDITH HEBRANK
DONNA LEE & JIM HIGGINBOTHAM
CINDY & ROBERT HIMELEIN
JOAN HIMELEIN
JACQUE & JOHN HOLMBERG
BARB HOWARD
JUDY HUNT
CARL & JUDY JOHNSON
MINDY & ERIK JOHNSON
CLARICE KAPRAUN
TONY & GINNY KEIM
MEDIS KENT
SKIP & DON KLECKNER
DARA & ROBERT KNEIB
IRENE KUGLER &
CARMINE STORELLA
MICKEY LASPADA
SANDY LEWIS
DONNA BETH & DENNIS LUCE
KATHY LYNCH
CLARENCE MADISON



OUR 2023 MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS



JOANNE & FRANK MALECKI	MARY REYDA	CRAIG & PHYLLIS TENBUCKEL
TERRY & SUSAN MALONEY	NANCY ROCHE	DAVID & LINDA TEWINKLE
GARY McENERY	SUE ROCHESTER	DENISE TEWINKLE
LYNN & DENNIS McGILL	JAMES & MARTHA RODEN	JO-ANN & ANDY TRAVIS
CHUCK & TRUDY MILLER	JAMES ROTHENBERGER	SHARON UTEGG
CRAIG MILLER	ELLEN & JOHN SHIFLER	WILBUR & JO VANEARDEN
JUDY MILLER	SANDY SHOUSE	JENNIFER & JOHN VOJTICEK
GLORIA & RON MOORE	BILL SIMPKINS & LORI WAGNER	JOYCE WALFORD
MARK MOORE	BETTY SKELLIE	BOB WARR
TRACY MORGAN	AUDREY & DOUG SLIKER	PAM & DICK WATROUS
JANET & BILL NICHOLSON	GINNY & MARTIN SMITH	SALLY & LARRY WATROUS
ARLENE NIEMIC	VICTORIA SMITH	SUE WEBER
KIM & DEAN NORCROSS	CELESTE & KIP SOBEL	DEBBIE WHITE
MARY & DAN NORCROSS	NANCY SONNEY	ANN LORRAINE & WM. WIGGERS
GENEVIEVE OCEPEK	DURWOOD & JANET SPILLANE	LOUISE & KENT WIGGERS
CHRIS & CYNTHIA OLIE	CHARLES & EDIE STANSBURY	DONNA & TERRY WINFIELD
DARLA & TERRY PHELPS	LYNN STOHR	PAMELA WRIGHT-SIM
BARBARA & DON PROCTOR	BRIAN & SARA SULLIVAN	WENDY WRIGHT
MARTY PROCTOR	ALEX & ALEXANDRA SUTO	
DIANE RAVEN	ANNETTE TANG	

Thank You to Our AMAZING Volunteers!

Our volunteers generously give their time to help shop, pick-up mail, run errands, transport to labs and doctors, help Community Connections with mailings and much more! Please take time to say thank you to them when you see them in town. If you have spare time and would like to help your neighbors as a Community Connections volunteer, please give us a call.

LIN BAYLIS	SYLVIA DANIELS	JUDY MILLER	STEPHEN SVETZ
SCOTT BENZA	MARLENE GARONE	MARK MOORE	TOM SVETZ
PENNY BENZA	BARBARA HOWARD	DAN NORCROSS	SHERRIE TANNER
WILLOW BENZA	JUDY HUNT	ELLEN SHIFLER	ANDY TRAVIS
KENT BRIGHT	ELAINE KOBIELSKI	JOHN SHIFLER	JO-ANN TRAVIS
CHRIS COOPER	JOANNE MALECKI	BECKY SVETZ	SUE WEBER
CINDY CROSS	BRENDA MANDIC	JUSTIN SVETZ	LOUISE WIGGERS
			TERRY WINFIELD



"You folks do diligent work." F.C.

VOLUNTEER NORC ADVISORY COUNCIL

One of the requirements for the Neighborhood NORC grant was to establish an Advisory Council to represent community leadership, businesses, residents and key partners to advise and ensure that the program is responsive to the broad range of needs present in the community. Council members are also asked to serve as ambassadors of the Neighborhood NORC program to disseminate information of interest to residents.

A special thanks to the Advisory Council members and staff below for their willingness to volunteer for this role:

CHRISTY BALL
L.J. BAYLIS
CHRIS CHERONIS
BARB COOPER
CHRIS COOPER
MARLENE GARONE
KRIS GLEASON
BARBARA HARRIS

DONNA LEE HIGGINBOTHAM
JIM HIGGINBOTHAM
BARB HOWARD
JUDY HUNT
JOANNE MALECKI
JUDY MILLER
MARY NORCROSS

DARLA PHELPS
MARTY PROCTOR
LYNN STOHR
BECKY SVETZ
ANDY TRAVIS
LOUISE WIGGERS
DONNA WINFIELD



Cheryl Svetz



As you probably know by now, our full-time Companion/Home Assistant Jonna D'Angelo, has moved on to another opportunity. We wish her well in her new role. Now help us welcome Cheryl Svetz and Jill Odell to our team. These two new employees are part-time companions with experience in caregiving. They are already filling the incredible need for this service in our community. We expect great things from them! Please help us welcome Jill and Cheryl to our CC@FL team.

One of the most important aspects of their job is to help decrease loneliness. Did you know that social isolation has the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes/day?



Maybe we should invite him to join us. He looks CANNELONI.



Thank you to our staff, volunteers and Zoomers for all you do to help decrease social isolation!



Jill Odell

If you or someone you know may be in need of these services, please call Christy for more information at 716-769-2473



WELCOME TO THE TEAM (CONT.)/CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Another valuable addition to our team is Darla Phelps. Darla is an R.N. who will be assisting Becky Svetz in the role of Community Health Advocate.

Please welcome Darla as she steps into this role with Becky.



Darla Phelps, R.N.



CAUGHT ON CAMERA

You can spot Community Connections volunteers and members almost anywhere around town and on the road! Thank you to all the volunteers & members. We couldn't do this without you!



Our Community Health Advocate, Becky Svetz taking care of an injured goose. Her compassion for all creatures is why we are grateful to have her on our team!



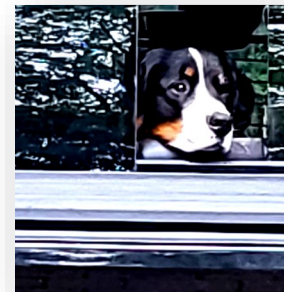
Our newest board member, Donna and husband Terry Winfield (above) also believe caregiving extends to the 4 leggeds. Terry and Dakota (above) built a Dog-Library for those friends walking by. There will also be a community water bowl!

(Below) Members (L to R) Becky & John Faulkner, Scott & Penny Benza were spotted dining out in an igloo at the Bayfront Grille, Erie PA. for a winter holiday dinner.



8 of our members were spotted enjoying an evening out at Peek 'n Peak's Bonfires and Brews.

(L to R) Becky Faulkner, Penny Benza, Scott Benza, Leigh Chaffee, Barb Chaffee, Marlene Garone, Donna Winfield, Terry Winfield



Volunteer, Willow Benza, was spotted out and about, anxiously awaiting an opportunity to be "sprung" from the truck.





FUND RAISERS



As you know, fund raising is an important aspect of many non-profit organizations.
We held several events that were fun and helped us support our mission!



A Valentine's Day fund raiser was held with the contributions and help of Alexander's

A wonderful dinner and great conversation among friends.

(L) Terry Winfield, Janet Marlette, Donna Winfield
(R) Brent Ball & Christy Ball



Winners of the Valentine's Day Basket Raffle, Mary Norcross (L) and Rebecca Brumagin (R)

Thank you to the following people for their donations to the gift basket

Corner Stone Restaurant
Donna Winfield
Dutch Village
Findley Lake Hardware
French Creek Tavern

JoAnne Malecki
Our Own Candle Co.
Twin Docks
Secret Cubby
Snappy Snippers

Scott and Penny Benza hosted a wonderfully successful Halloween party. All food, beverages and venue were donated. Decorations were provided by another amazing member of Community Connections, Becky Faulkner. Thank you all. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Donna Winfield (L) as Cleopatra
(1st prize winner for Best Costume)



Lori Wagner

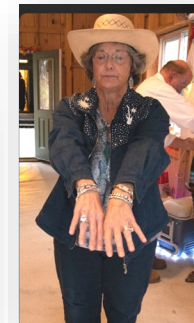


Bill Simpkins

Judy Miller

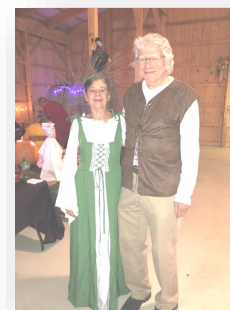


Mary Norcross,
Rhinstone Cowgirl



Above
(L) Tammy Laurito
(R) Jonna D'Angelo

Below
(R) Donna Winfield, Jo-Ann Travis,
Penny Benza (F) Judy Hunt



Jo-Ann & Andy Travis

Thank you to all for joining us
at the
Jack O' Lantern Jubilee





ZOOMERS!



Boomer by Birth... Zoomer by Choice!

The ZOOMERS continue to be a vital part of Community Connections and Findley Lake. The ZOOMERS are a group of volunteers who define themselves as a baby boomer or someone older who is engaged in life. They make a difference in the world by living life to the fullest. Community Connections strongly believes that if we are social and active at every age, we can remain healthy and independent throughout our lives.

Stay tuned to your email and the posters around town for upcoming Zoomer events !

Zoomer Steering Committee

Scott & Penny Benza	Louise & Kent Wiggers
Barbara Harris	Mary & Dan Norcross
Kris Gleason	Ron & Gloria Moore

A historic tour of Lakeview Cemetery was followed by a dinner at Bob Evans and enjoyed by all.



Ron and Gloria Moore with tour guide (L)



(R) Ron Moore, Louise Wiggers, Jonna D'Angelo, Kris Gleason, (F) Gloria Moore, Donna Lee & Jim Higginbotham



ADA'S

We had a wonderful holiday dinner with friends at Ada's. Ada is kind enough to welcome us into her Amish farm home and single-handedly cooked a delicious family style dinner for over 20 people. Thank you Ada. See you in the fall.

(L) Kent Bright, Carol Bright, Barb Howard, Barb Harris (back) with Danny Norcross, Mary Norcross (R) Ron Moore, Gloria Moore

A fun Sunday afternoon was spent with good friends listening to the music of Ange & Shani at Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co. (Below)



L to R: Barb Chaffee, Jeanette Fiske, Kay Garrel, Lin Baylis



Even Willow wanted to Dance!



Zoomers Team Leaders Penny (L) Scott (R) Benza



Becky Faulkner & Jeanette Fiske tearing up the dance floor



LIVE and LEARN



This year we again brought more programs to you than ever before thanks to the dedication and hard work of Judy Miller, our Community Education and Wellness Advocate. We continue to receive and appreciate all new ideas. People came forward and volunteered their time as instructors/speakers. We thank each and every one who helped make this possible and encourage you to thank them if you see them out and about in Findley Lake.

Ever wonder where many of our ideas come from? Well, each year we hold an annual community focus group called *Food for Thoughts*. Give us your ideas and we will give you lunch. This year we had the chance to thank United Way and participate in their "United We Can" program
Join us in 2024!



After participating in a bird walk (led by Lin Baylis), participants took part in an art class called Bird Blobs, given by Kelly McDonald



L-R: Sharon Utegg, Betty Skellie, Sue Ayers, Tom Ayers, Jonna D'Angelo, Trudy Miller, Marlene Garone



Jeanette Almekinder (L) is seen with daughter, C.A., making Bird Blobs.

In July '22, Brenda Symans, Paralegal (below), gave a talk about Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy and Living Wills



Full Moon Kayak Rides

A new idea suggested by Ginny Keim, was a kayak ride while waiting for the full moon to rise. We are happy to report that everyone had fun and all returned to the dock safely.





Dr. Jerry Clarke (below), retired investigator for the FBI and lead investigator for the case of the Erie “Pizza Bomber,” gave a very interesting talk about the facts behind this complicated, intriguing & tragic case.



Rachel Tanner (R) gave a fun talk about saving our Monarch butterflies. We even took home very tiny “specks” to raise. They developed into beautiful butterflies and were released.



Making Truffles was the topic presented by Britt Horrocks (L)

Aspiring truffles makers:

(L to R) Sonya Champoe, Marlene Garone, JoAnne Malecki, Yvonne Baines



Barb Chaffee (L) spoke about “Unlocking the Mystery of the Generations” in August ’22. Sound like a “dry” topic? It wasn’t! It was a very informative discussion.

Just ask any of these folks (seen in pic at right) (L to R) Marlene Garone, Sharon Utegg, Betty Skellie, Kent Bright, Lindy Boozel (behind Kent) John Faulkner, Judy Hunt



Carol Markham, of Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, gave a talk about the benefits of planting native species in September ’22.

(L to R) Kent Bright, Kent Wiggers, Louise Wiggers, JoAnne Malecki, Betty Skellie, Barb Proctor



In October '22, Findley Lake Volunteer Fire Co. gave a practical and educational talk about fire safety. Thank you Findley Lake VFD!
Seated at tables (L to R) JoAnne Malecki, Paul Fellingner, Mary Ford, Penny Benza, Scott Benza (front row) (L to R) Gloria and Ron Moore, Sharon Utegg (back row)



Another successful and fun
Holiday Tea was held in December '22



Barb Cooper (R) once again, shared her art talents with us by showing everyone how to make a hanging calendar in 12/22.
Learning this craft seated L to R are Judy Hunt, Patty Piazza and Kris Gleason



Rachel Galbreath provided background flute music



Lin Baylis & Jo-Anne Travis provided background guitar accompaniment for our first "Not so Silent Night."
Hot Chocolate provided by Alexander's.



Mary Norcross shared her personal tea set collection with us



Hayes & Carol seen with a few of their medals



19 programs have already been held in 2023, many of which will be highlighted in our next newsletter. These are 2 that have started our year off with fun and enthusiasm.

We were very excited to have figure skaters Hayes and Carol Jenkins speak to us about their incredible lives and their Olympic experiences. Hayes won the 1956 & 1960 Olympic gold medals and Carol won the 1956 Silver and 1960 gold medals.

Becky Faulkner decorated our Communi-Tea Room with her personal antique holiday display seen at left.



Ginny Keim is seen below with husband, Tony, demonstrating how to "tie"-dye easter eggs using ties.





GAME DAYS



If you stop by the Communi-Tea Room every other Friday, you will find a group of people enjoying Bingo and the chance to win prizes donated by local businesses.

Each Tuesday you will see game-players enjoying Mahjongg. Stop by if you would like to learn this game or are experienced enough to teach others. The room is open for all to enjoy. If you have other ideas for games, let us know. We will arrange an opportunity for you to play.



Dianna Bliss, our latest
Bingo Basket winner!



We thank the following people for their kind prize donations

Alexander's on the Lake	Sandy Lewis
LJ Baylis & Marlene Garone	JoAnne Malecki
Zachary Ball	Our Own Candle Company
Rebecca Brumagin	Gail Scadden
Nancy Burlingame	Nancy Sonney, Secret Cubby
Community Connections	Jane Tenpas
Barb Cooper	Linda & Dave Tewinkle
Christine Craffey	Twin Docks
Cindy Cross, Snappy Snippers	Jen Vojticek
Mary Giles	Sue Weber



(Rear L to R) Marlene Garone,
Cheryl Grey, Sandy Lewis
(Front L to R) Chris Cooper,
Nancy White, Barb Chaffee

Did you know that the word Mahjongg (Ma Sheng) means "sparrow" in southern Chinese dialects? This refers to the bird-like clacking sound the tiles make during reshuffling.

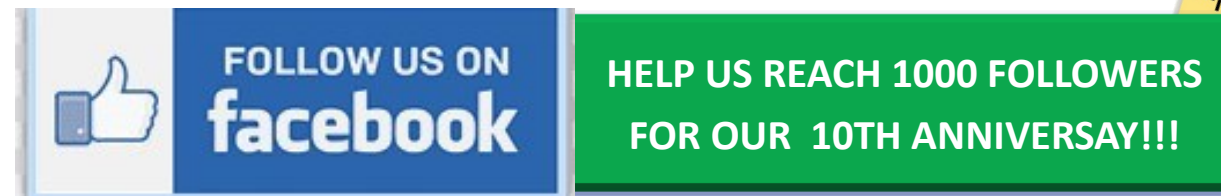


"Thank you for the card you sent to help me celebrate my 99th birthday! Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated." N.N.



Community Connections Staff would like to say a special **THANK YOU** to Dave Prenatt, reporter for Jamestown Post. Dave has worked with us since the beginning to "get the word out" about our organization. We sincerely appreciate your time and writing talent. Thank you Dave!

Have you connected with us online?

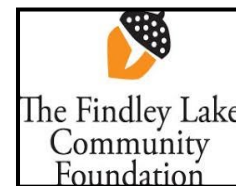
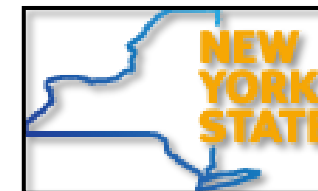


Please visit our website at
www.connectionsatfindleylake.org

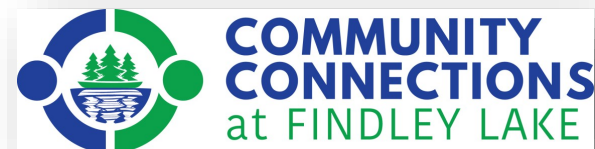
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We are grateful to everyone who helps
 to make this organization successful!



Brought to you by



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