
2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Creating Safer Communities, Empowering Survivors.



Safe Harbors
of the Finger Lakes •

Advocate. Educate. Support.

2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

589



Hotline Calls

1784



Bed Nights at Shelter

1057



Presentations

Given
to

18009



Community Members

697



Orders of Protection

498



Group Sessions

2025 Client Interactions

2286

Total Clients

1281

Domestic Violence Clients

91

Sexual Assault Clients

158

Human Trafficking Clients

199

Child Physical Abuse Clients

350

Child Sexual Abuse Clients



Board of Directors



Christopher Harris
Board Chair

The team at Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes never ceases to inspire me with the solutions they find to challenges that arise when they're trying to help someone in crisis. I'm sure you can imagine the urgency and complexity of these challenges, but navigating them with the experienced support of an organization like Safe Harbors can make a significant difference. Over the years, I've seen the services offered by Safe Harbors grow, but there are always new challenges to address and new solutions to explore.

The following annual report provides details about the important work accomplished by Safe Harbors, and I'm once again grateful for the people make it possible. This year, Safe Harbors provided services to almost 2,300 people in Ontario, Seneca, and Yates Counties, including over 1,700 bed nights at the region's only emergency domestic violence shelter, which opened in 2023. From hotline support to victim advocacy, the

organization provides a wide range of critical services. Every interaction, whether assisting someone in need or delivering an education presentation provided to a classroom of students, reflects the dedication, compassion, and expertise of the Safe Harbors team.

None of this happens without the strong leadership of Marisa Przepiora and Rachel Gregory. They ensure that those of us on the Board of Directors have the information we need to understand the challenges facing the organization, celebrate its successes, and make informed decisions. They also communicate the impact of Safe Harbors' work and the resources required to sustain it. Through their leadership, they help bring our community one step closer to being safe, informed, empowered, and free from sexual and interpersonal violence and exploitation.

Speaking of resources, they are always scarce. Whether it's securing contributions to close funding gaps, or recruiting dedicated staff and volunteers, Safe Harbors depends on the support of our community. If you are interested in becoming involved, then more information can be found on Safe Harbors' website at www.shlfny.org.

The Board

Christopher Harris – Board Chair
Rebecca Rouland – Vice Chair
Kipp Goodman – Treasurer
Cathy Powers – Secretary
Katie Pullano
Lynda Rossi
Matthew Turetsky
Regis McDonald
Rhonda Sheffield



LEADERSHIP



Marisa Przepiora
Executive Director

Dear friends,

Every year, I sit down to write this letter knowing that the words on the page can only hint at what actually happens inside our walls and beyond them. The real story of Safe Harbors lives in the quiet courage of a parent who finally feels safe enough to sleep, in the voice of a child who laughs freely for the first time in months, in the steady determination of a survivor who walks through our doors and begins to imagine a different future.

2025 was a year that tested Safe Harbors and our community, with the elimination or reduction of several government grants at the same time that our clients are facing increased financial stress. But it also confirmed what we have always believed: when people are met with compassion, resources, and unwavering support, transformation is possible.

As you read through the pages that follow, you will find the numbers and milestones that defined our 2025. These numbers will tell you of the lives reached, the services expanded, and the new programs we launched to meet our community's evolving needs. I hope those details will speak for themselves. But what I hope moves you most is our client's story, whose journey through one of these new programs is a reminder of exactly why this work matters. Her courage stays with me, and I believe it will stay with you too.

None of what we do is easy. The need in our region continues to be profound, and the work is complex. But I am endlessly inspired by the resilience of the survivors we serve, and by the community that stands behind them. You are a vital part of that. Thank you for your continued support.



Rachel Gregory
Deputy Director

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." — Coretta Scott King

When reflecting on the theme of this year's annual report, the word **community** stands out to me. As I look through these pages, I am reminded of all the individuals and organizations that come together to make the work we do at Safe Harbors possible.

From community partners who help provide resources to our clients, to every individual who makes a donation, and every grantor who says "yes" to helping fulfill a need, each contribution plays a vital role in our mission. The numbers you see in this report represent more than statistics—they represent the many people in our community who know there is a place they can turn to for support, a safe place to call when they are in need.

You may not always see the direct impact of your generosity, but I am here to tell you that what you do and how you show up matters. Because of your support, our clients feel empowered, supported, and hopeful. Together, we are able to provide meaningful services and opportunities that help individuals and families move forward on their healing journeys.

Thank you for being part of this community and for helping make Safe Harbors a place of safety, healing, and hope.

MISSION & VISION



MISSION

To empower individuals, families and our communities to use the information, supports and services available to address their unique needs, achieve greater safety and reduce vulnerability.

VISION

For our communities to be safe, informed, empowered and free from sexual and interpersonal violence and exploitation.



PROGRAMS



Shelter

- Emergency shelter
- Basic needs support
- Transitional planning



Adult Advocacy

- Crisis intervention
- Safety planning
- Court accompaniment



Prevention

- Community education
- Outreach & awareness
- Risk reduction training



Housing & Resources

- Safe housing referrals
- Long-term case support
- Resource coordination



Youth Advocacy

- School-based programs
- Advocacy services
- Empowerment groups



Hotline

- 24/7 crisis support
- Confidential assistance
- Multilingual access

Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes offers a range of free services designed to support survivors, strengthen families, and help build safer communities across our three-county region. These programs work together to provide immediate support, long-term stability, and prevention education.

Advocacy

Advocates provide crisis support, safety planning, resource connections, and guidance for individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking.

Housing & Resources

We help individuals and families rebuild their lives through housing assistance, employment support, financial literacy, budgeting, and connections to community resources.

Shelter

Our confidential emergency safe dwelling provides safe housing and supportive services for individuals and families escaping violence.

Community Prevention

Professional and community presentations focused on recognizing, preventing and responding to interpersonal violence.

Youth Prevention

Programs in every school district in our three-county area, help children, and teens, recognize abuse, build healthy relationships, and prevent violence before it occurs. This includes specialized age-appropriate presentations and empowerment groups.

Youth Advocacy

Youth Advocates support children and teens who have experienced child abuse, dating violence, sexual assault/abuse or trafficking through, crisis intervention, education and skill building.

Child Advocacy Center

Child Advocacy Specialists work within the Child Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes to assist children and caregivers as they navigate abuse investigations, legal action, and the criminal justice system.

THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL GRANTS

William G. McGowan Charitable Fund

From Crisis to Stability: How One Grant Helps Survivors Build New Lives

When Safety Isn't Enough

Leaving an abusive relationship is often portrayed as a single courageous decision. It is usually the beginning of a long and difficult journey.

For many survivors of domestic violence, escaping abuse means facing a new set of challenges: homelessness, unemployment, lack of childcare, financial insecurity, and the overwhelming task of rebuilding an entire life from scratch. Without long-term support, many survivors find themselves trapped in a cycle of crisis and instability.

That is why Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes created the Supported Housing Program for Victims of Domestic Violence.

In 2025, a \$50,000 grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund allowed Safe Harbors to launch this intensive program, providing housing assistance, relocation support, financial education, employment guidance, and personalized case management to survivors seeking safety and independence.

The Impact at a Glance

\$50,000 Invested in our local community.

The McGowan grant funded a comprehensive housing stabilization program designed to help survivors transition from crisis to long-term self-sufficiency.

- 10 Survivors Rehoused
- Every participant in the program was successfully relocated into safe and sustainable housing.
- 90% Housing Stability Rate
- Nine out of ten participants demonstrated the ability to maintain their housing independently and confidently moving forward.
- 90% Increased Income
 - Nine of ten participants increased their income through employment, promotion, or more stable work opportunities.
- 100% Resource Knowledge Growth
 - All participants reported a greater understanding of available community resources and how to access them when needed.

Housing Placement in as Little as 3 Weeks

While survivors in the Finger Lakes region often experience one to three years of homelessness following domestic violence, some participants in this program were safely rehoused in just three weeks.



William G. McGowan Charitable Fund

A Story of Transformation

One participant entered the program after fleeing an abusive relationship with her children. She needed everything at once: safe housing, employment, childcare, health insurance, and guidance on how to navigate an unfamiliar system. Within two weeks, Safe Harbors staff helped secure an apartment through landlord advocacy and rental assistance. The team worked alongside her to update her resume, prepare for interviews, and identify employment opportunities. Soon after, she accepted a new position. Staff also connected her with affordable healthcare coverage and reliable childcare so she could maintain employment and support her family.

But the program offered more than practical resources. Over several months, she worked closely with advocates to better understand the dynamics of abuse, establish healthy boundaries, develop budgeting skills, and build confidence in her ability to live independently. Together, they created a sustainable financial plan that included savings for future emergencies. By the time she completed the program, she was not merely surviving—she was thriving. She had begun counseling, felt empowered in her decision-making, and expressed confidence about the future for herself and her children.

Her story is powerful, but it is not unique. It represents the experience of many participants who gained the stability, knowledge, and support necessary to avoid returning to unsafe situations.

Why This Work Matters

Many survivors of domestic violence return to abusive situations not because they want to, but because they lack the resources to leave safely. Housing instability, unemployment, childcare challenges, and financial hardship often force impossible choices between safety and survival. The Supported Housing Program helps remove these barriers by strengthening key areas of self-sufficiency, including housing, employment, childcare, healthcare access, financial literacy, transportation, safety planning, and community support.

When survivors secure safe housing, the benefits extend beyond the individual. Children experience greater stability, communities use resources more effectively, employers retain workers, and demand on healthcare and social services decreases. This program proves that with the right support, survivors can rebuild their lives and achieve lasting independence. Thanks to the generosity of the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, survivors and their families have gained the stability, safety, and self-sufficiency they deserve. Every investment in supportive housing and survivor services helps ensure that no one is forced to return to an unsafe environment simply because they have nowhere else to go.

We are actively searching and applying for funding to continue and extend this program. Together, we can continue transforming moments of crisis into futures filled with safety, stability, and hope.

Success Measured by the Participants Themselves

Each participant was asked to fill out a weighted questionnaire before and again after completing the program. Based on a maximum score of 50 the results speak for themselves.

Average Self-Sufficiency Score:

Before Program:

13.3

After Completion:

41.7



**This shows an
improvement average
of 214%**

Community Collaboration

From Surviving to Thriving: How One Program is Helping Survivors Build New Futures

For many survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking, escaping danger is only the first step. The journey toward safety, stability, and independence can take years. At Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, we believe survivors deserve more than a chance to survive—they deserve the opportunity to thrive.

That's exactly what the Thrive Program provides. Funded by the Yates Thrive Fund at the Community Foundation of Elmira, Corning and the Finger Lakes, with funds administered by Living Well, the Thrive Program offers eligible survivors a unique opportunity to rebuild their lives through both financial support and personalized education.

What Makes Thrive Different?

Participants receive:

-  **\$500 Every Month** - For up to **5 years**
-  **Individualized Support** - Through collaboration between Safe Harbors and Living Well
-  **Life-Changing Education** - Including:
 - Financial literacy
 - Healthy relationships
 - Boundary setting
 - Understanding victimization
 - Long-term planning

This combination of financial stability and practical education helps survivors move beyond crisis and begin building lasting independence.

Real People. Real Change.

The impact of Thrive can be measured in more than dollars—it can be seen in the lives being transformed.

One Survivor Became a Homeowner

After years of uncertainty, one participant recently purchased a home for herself and her three children. For her family, homeownership

represents more than a financial achievement—it means safety, security, and a place where healing can continue.

One Survivor is Building Community

A Thrive participant is helping launch a Wellness House in Penn Yan that will provide healing-centered resources, including a community kitchen, clothing closet, and supportive services for others in need.

New Opportunities and Renewed Confidence

Another participant recently secured a healthier job after leaving a position that was negatively impacting her mental health. Alongside career success, she has made tremendous progress in developing healthy relationship skills and personal boundaries.

Programs like Thrive demonstrate what is possible when survivors have access to both resources and opportunity. Financial assistance alone can provide temporary relief. Education alone can provide valuable knowledge. Together, they create lasting change.

At Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, we see every day that survivors are resilient, capable, and determined. With the right support, they are not only rebuilding their lives—they are creating futures filled with confidence, safety, and hope.

Your support helps make those futures possible. Because everyone deserves the chance not just to survive, but to thrive.



Safe Harbors
of the Finger Lakes •
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THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL GRANTS

All The Pennies Count



ONYA
\$5000.00

Yoga Therapy



James P. Gordon Foundation
\$4129.40

*Kids Right to Personal Safety
presentations in Yates County*



Wyckoff Foundation
\$16,000

Summer Camp for at-risk youth



**Fund for Women of the
Southern Tier**
\$1500.00

*Emergency aid for victims in
Yates County*



Keuka Area Fund
\$1400

*Workbooks to help guide
victims through the healing
process*



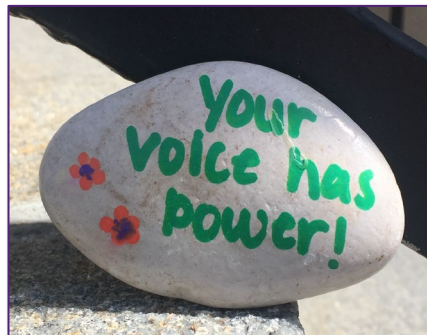
Dundee Area United Fund
\$2100.00

*Emergency aid for victims in
Yates County*



**United Way of Greater
Rochester & the Finger Lakes**
\$16,895

*Support for Ontario County
operations*



**United Way of Seneca
County**
\$7500

*Emergency aid for victims in
Seneca County*

Local grants play a vital role in helping Safe Harbors respond to the immediate and often unexpected needs of survivors. While major funding sources support core services, community foundations, local organizations, and regional grant makers provide the flexible resources that make emergency aid possible. These funds help survivors secure safe housing, purchase essential household items, access transportation, meet basic needs, participate in therapeutic programs, and overcome barriers that could otherwise prevent them from achieving safety and stability.

From emergency assistance in Ontario, Seneca, and Yates counties to youth programming, wellness initiatives, and specialized support services, local grants allow Safe Harbors to address urgent needs quickly and effectively. Every local investment strengthens our ability to provide hope, healing, and practical support when it matters most.

Financials

Client Emergency Aid: Meeting Urgent Needs When It Matters Most

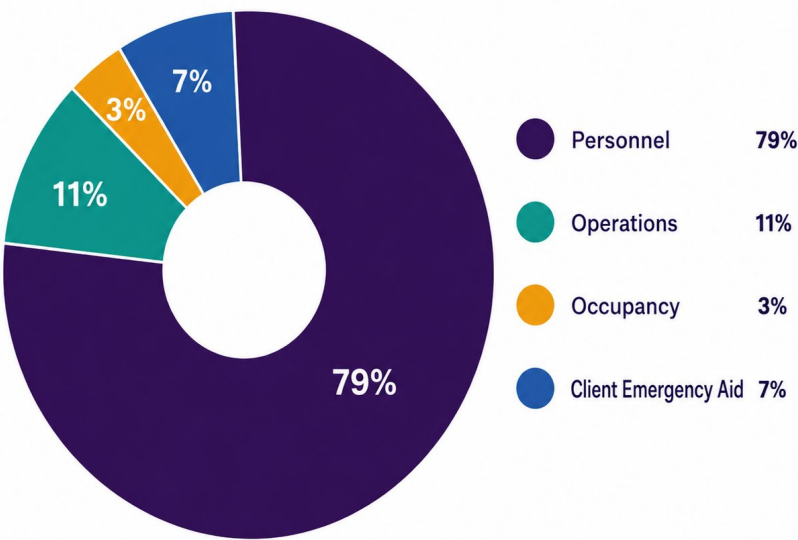
💜 \$223,269

Provided in Direct Emergency Assistance

48% of all aid supported housing stability and survivor safety.

📞	Phones & Communication	\$4,846
🧠	Therapy & Mental Health Services	\$14,695
🏠	Rental & Mortgage Assistance	\$106,280
🏨	Emergency Hotel Stays	\$20,667
⚖️	Legal Services	\$30,861
🚗	Transportation Assistance	\$10,865
🛒	Food & Household Needs	\$31,493
❤️	Other Essential Needs	\$4,562

Expenses



Nearly 4 out of every 5 dollars (79%) directly supports personnel, reflecting a strong investment in the people who provide services and support, while administrative and facility costs remain a relatively small portion of overall expenses.

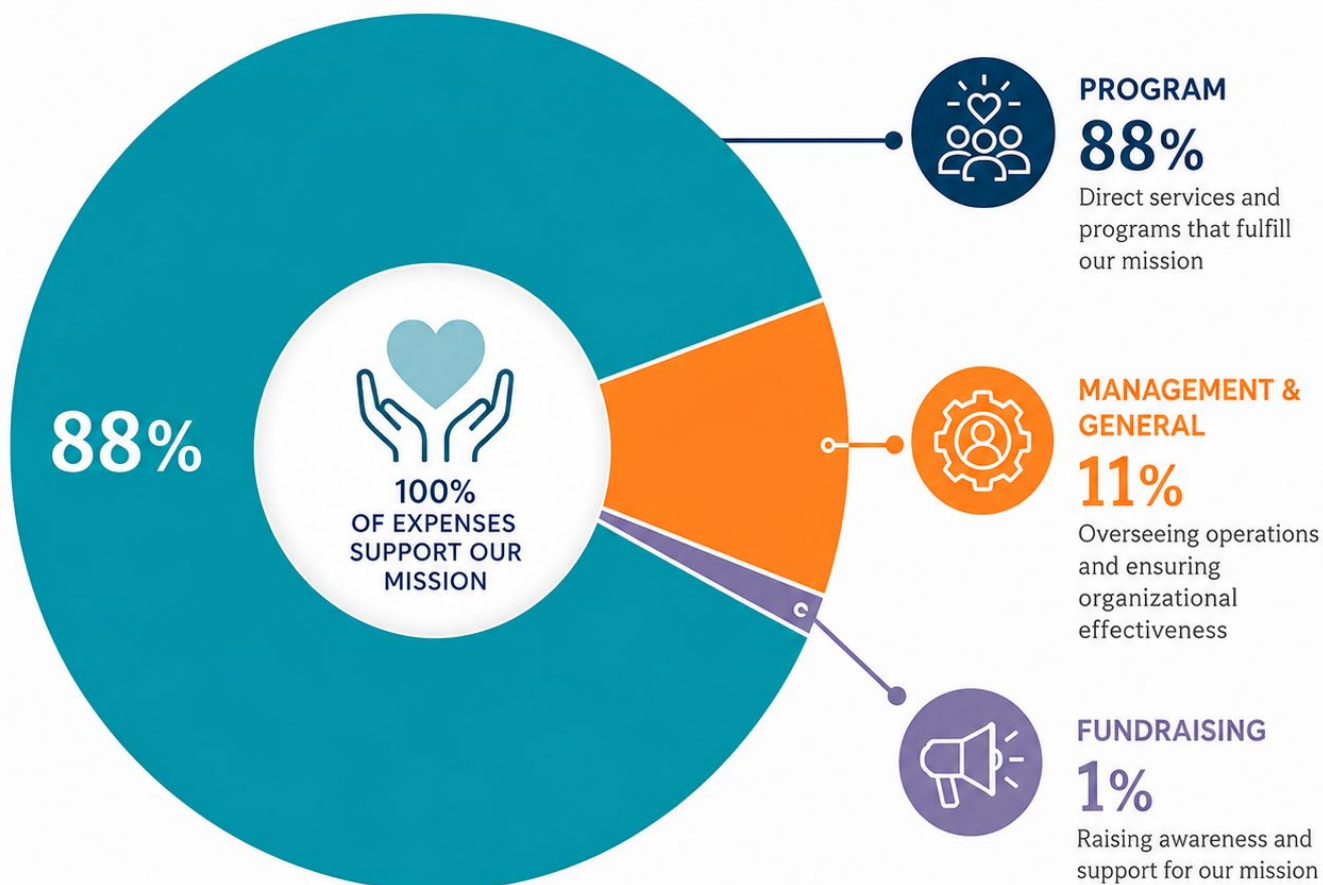
Emergency aid provides critical support for safety and stability.

Financials

Supporting Our Mission

Investing in People to Support the Community

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



More impact. Stronger community. Together. ❤️

Because of your support, every dollar spent becomes a lifeline—providing safe shelter, emergency assistance, advocacy, prevention education, and the resources survivors need to rebuild their lives. By investing the majority of agency funds directly into people and programs, Safe Harbors transforms community support into safety, stability, and hope for thousands of individuals and families each year.

Your Support Changes Lives

When crisis and uncertainty strike, the need for our services grows. Unfortunately, those same periods often bring reductions in funding, placing critical programs at risk just when they are needed most. Throughout our history, community members, local businesses, and generous donors have stepped forward to ensure that survivors continue to receive the support they need—at no cost to them.

Today, we invite you to be part of that legacy. Your gift provides more than funding—it provides safety, hope, and a path forward. Donations help make possible:

- Emergency shelter for individuals and families escaping violence
- 24-hour hotline support and crisis intervention
- Counseling, advocacy, and support groups
- Legal and court assistance
- Housing and relocation support

Prevention and education programs that help stop violence before it begins. Every dollar makes a difference. Whether you give once, become a recurring donor, or encourage your business to support our

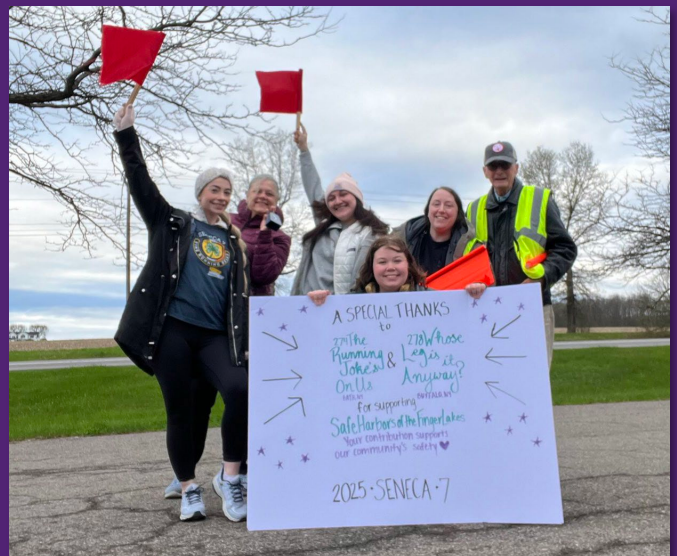
mission, your contribution helps ensure that no survivor faces violence alone.

Together, we can build safer communities, empower survivors, and create a future free from interpersonal violence.

Make Your Impact Today

Your support helps keep our services free, accessible, and available to everyone who needs them. Join us in providing safety, healing, and hope.

Donate today and help change a life tomorrow.



DONATE TODAY

Supporters

Thank You

Every day, Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes provides safety, support, and hope to individuals and families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking. None of this work would be possible without the generosity of our donors. Whether you made a financial contribution, sponsored a program, attended an event, provided in-kind support, or helped spread awareness of our mission, your commitment has made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Because of your support, survivors found safe shelter, families received critical resources, children learned about healthy relationships, and community members gained access to advocacy, education, and healing services. Your generosity helps ensure that every person who reaches out to Safe Harbors can access support at no cost, regardless of their circumstances.

On behalf of our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and the thousands of individuals whose lives you have touched, thank you for standing with survivors and helping us build safer, stronger communities.

Together, we are creating hope, healing, and a future free from violence.

Legacy Donors

Brent Maynard
Patricia Debuck
Hansen Land Holdings
Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies
Catherine & Mark Foerster
Hobart & William Smith
Town of Waterloo
Red Newt Racing - Seneca 7
Presbyterian Church in Geneva

It's a Wonderful Run
ITT Gould Employees
Meg & Glenn Reed
Finger Lakes Farms, LLC
United Way of Northern Yates County
Yatesville United Methodist Church/The
Giving Team
Canandaigua City School

Supporters

Visionaries

Arthur Tauck
First Congressional Church of Rushville
Geneva High School Rotary Club
Hobart & William Smith College - Dept of Dance & Movement
Hobart & William Smith College - Jr/Sr Choreographers
Land of Legends Raceway
Lawrence Schroeder
Rhonda & John Sheffield
Yatesville United Methodist Church/The Giving Team

Partners

Amy Kane
Barrett Marine
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Rube
Geneva High School Interact Club
Kate Schmidl
Knights of Columbus Auxiliary
Lyons National Bank - Seneca
Marvin & Joy Pallischeck
Raymond & Sandra Grifa
Regis McDonald
Virginia Albertalli

Supporters

Blackbaud Giving Fund	Jeff Hillebrandt	Peter Bohne
Bonnie Smithers	Karen Frost-Arnold	Philip Bohne
Catholic Daughters of America- Court No 1173 - Penn Yan	Kim & Bruce Reisch	Robert & Caroline Eagley
Constellation Brands	Kowalski Legal PLLC	Rochester Regional Health
Daniel & Elizabeth Biery	Lyons National Bank	Rochester Vince Lombardi Lodge
Daniel Germain	Manchester Shortsville Lions Club	Ronald Spike
Darryl Miller	Marshall Robertson	Ruth Cahn
Dennis & Mary Ann Bender	Mary Brady	Sarah Gladis
Elizabeth Young	Michael & Frances Ferrara	St. John's Episcopal Church
Evelyn Watkins	Michael Gow	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Gary & Sharon Merrill	NYS Five Points Employee Benefit Fund	Thomas Meleca
Geneva Theater Guild	Onda & Fred Bennett	W. Gray Service Repair
Ionia United Methodist Church	Ovid Thrift Shop	William & Claudia Welbourne
Iversen Construction	Paul Grzesik	

Friends

Alan & Beverly Smith	James & Tammy O'Brien	Miles Rugg
Alexander Humulock III	James Krueger	Orlando Greco Jr
Alice & Francis DiDona	Jesse Lipson	Patricia Fiore
Alison Johnson	Joan Everdyke	Peter & Pamela Soscia
Annie Printup	John & Sandra Banach	Richard & Carol Waite
Arthur Equinozzi	Kathleen Guth	Ronald & Gail Bolster
Charlotte Gillespie	Kelly Walker	Samuel Watts
Dale Reed	Leonard Geller	Summit
Donna Nielsen	Leonard Partelow	Susan & Peter DeStefano
Elenor Stearns	Lynne Shoemaker & Richard Moyle	Vito & Joyce Sinicropi
Francis Davoli	Margaret Gan	
George & Catherine Foster	Masasa Moyo	
Gerald Kernahan	Melis Kural	

Contact us

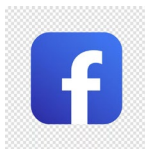
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On the Web: www.shflny.org

Find us on our Social Media:



**If you or anyone you know is in need of our services, please reach out to our 24/7 hotline:
1.800.247.7273**