

Senior Foundation awards dollars to assist community

Rick Stilson On 9/22/12 • in the category News



Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation President Ralph Kelsey and Treasurer Paul Cavataio, on the left, present a check for \$11,000 to Tioga Opportunities, represented by Department of Aging Director Jill Murray and Board President Todd Trencansky.

The Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation (TCSCF) played Santa Clause in September this week, giving out more than \$43,000 to groups and organization in Tioga County that offer services to senior citizens. Established in 1982 and growing out of the former Owego Home for Aged Women, the Tioga County Senior Citizen's Foundation has been quietly acting as a clearinghouse for monies dedicated to assisting seniors in Tioga County ever since.



Tioga County Rural Ministries received \$6,000 from the Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation. From the left are Alycia Wells, Cathy Kiel, and Sister Mary O'Brien of Rural Ministries.

Among the monies distributed Sept. 19 were \$6,000 to the Community Care Network of Nichols; \$4,500 to the Northern Tioga Neighbors Helping Neighbors Network; \$2,500 to Tioga County Open

Door Mission; and \$6,000 to Tioga County Rural Ministry. Three donations to Tioga Opportunities were also given, with \$11,000 for the Department of Aging Meals on Wheels program, Personal Emergency Response Program, as well as entertainment, newsletter and social activities programs. Tioga Opportunity's Food Pantries received \$8,000, and Tioga Opportunity's Group Work Camps got another \$5,000 for their work helping seniors.

TCSCF President Ralph Kelsey said that the foundation's board receives many grant applications and reviews them. "It's really an effort of many people," Kelsey said of the foundation's philanthropic efforts. TCSCF Secretary Carolyn Wright has been a volunteer for the past 12 years helping the foundation, and said she is not unique. "Everyone is a long-serving volunteer," Wright said, adding that the board meets three times a year to give out money to those working to benefit seniors in Tioga County.

Kelsey said it was a real privilege to be able to assist those in need through the TCSCF. "There is a whole segment of the community that finds itself in difficult circumstances sometimes," Kelsey said of seniors in Tioga, adding that by providing much-needed funds to groups like Tioga County Rural Ministry dollars are multiplied and compounded through folks working on various projects to aid senior citizens.

While pleased to be able to hand out tens of thousands of dollars to aid the senior community, Kelsey also fretted about replenishing TCSCF's funds, especially after making large donations during the past year to help seniors recovering from last year's flood. Donations to the Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation are accepted in any form or fashion according to Treasurer Paul Cavataio, who added that donations to the foundation are used exclusively in Tioga County.

Donations to the Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation can be made out to same and mailed to P.O. Box 117, Owego, New York, 13827.