Love of Family
Always in Bloom at Community Farm
When you hear the word “foundation” images of mega-billion-dollar organizations come to mind – Michael J. Fox Foundation, Susan G. Komen Foundation, and more. But did you know that Rockland County has its very own Foundation?

The Rockland Community Foundation (RCF), which was established about 15 years ago, is one of more than 950 independent Community Foundations that each has one goal – to improve their communities through philanthropy.

RCF, the tagline for which is “Strengthen the Power of Giving,” currently stewards more than 100 charitable funds that ultimately benefit nonprofits and community-based initiatives ensuring the charitable needs of today and tomorrow in Rockland are met. This ties in with another part of the Foundation’s mission: to develop and increase Rockland’s overall capacity to raise private, corporate, and public funding.

The foundation was created as a smarter way for individuals, families, and businesses to engage in charitable giving. Rather than giving once to a charity, monies are placed into charitable funds that are responsibly invested and can be added to by the fund creators and others. Many fundholders will raise money for their funds through social media, email, etc. This way, the fund continues to benefit its specific cause for many generations. In addition to donor-advised funds, the Rockland Community Foundation’s component funds consist of scholarships, project funds, memorial funds, and agency Funds and serve as an incubator for start-up non-profits.

Last year alone, RCF granted more than $500,000 to local area non-profits through both its component funds and general granting. For example, the Foundation granted monies to Rockland County Teachers (through the Verizon innovative Teaching Grant) and more than 14 food pantries (in partnership with Inserra/Shoprite Supermarkets) through their annual Food Pantry Grant now in its 15th year. During the early stages of the COVID pandemic, RCF also granted 13 $1,000 grants to county nonprofit organizations.

The Rockland Community Foundation continues to be the only public fund-based nonprofit in Rockland County that supports a broad range of charitable organizations and causes in our community. Community foundations continue to make up one of the fastest-growing sectors of philanthropy in the United States today. Want to learn more? Visit RCF’s website at www.rocklandgives.org or email Julie Sadowski at julie@rocklandgives.org.

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