



171 Cedar Arts Center

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Eric Elder, HR Talent Management

171 Cedar Arts Center is a dynamic, community multi-arts organization involving children and adults in excellent professional instruction, performances, exhibitions, and other arts experiences designed to develop life-long skills and appreciation of the arts. "171 employs dozens of part-time faculty and touches thousands of student, artists and guests within the community," writes Eric Elder. **This grant will be for general program support.**

All Saints Academy

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Ann Nordman, IT Service Delivery

All Saints Academy offers a Christ-centered education strengthened by Catholic traditions and dedicated to the development of the intellectual, physical, moral, and spiritual nature of the child. "Dedicated faculty and staff recognize that each student is a unique creation of God with gifts and talents which, when developed, will enable responsible, active participation as citizen of the world," writes Ann Nordman. **This grant will be for general program support.**

ARC Otsego

Oneonta, N.Y.

Nominated by Beth Rowland, Corning Life Sciences

ARC Otsego creates opportunities and provides support to assist people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in fulfilling their personal dreams and ambitions. The Main View Gallery and Studio provides ARC participants an opportunity to present their work as well as staff the gallery year-round. "The gallery is complimented by the The Center for Staff Expression that provides a creative outlet for 18-20 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities," writes Beth Rowland. The ARC also established the Otsego ReUse Center which focuses on the re-use of bulky materials as a standard component of construction jobs. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Boy Scouts of America – Five Rivers Council

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Mark Bennett, Information Technology

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Nearly 3,000 Corning-area youth are served by the Five Rivers Council of BSA each year. "Scouts focus on helping the community through volunteering at the food bank, cleaning up parks, playing games with the residents of nursing home, and so many other activities," writes Mark Bennett. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Bradford Preparatory School
Charlotte, N.C.**

Nominated by Andrew Logan, Corning Optical Communications

Bradford, established in 2014, is a college preparatory school committed to academic excellence, nurturing personal relationships, and inspiring a growing passion for creativity and learning. "Bradford graduates are prepared, bilingual, articulate, inquisitive and passionate young adults who are ready to make a positive impact on their community," writes Andrew Logan. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Caldwell County Schools
Hudson, N.C.**

Nominated by Todd James, Corning Optical Communications

The South Caldwell High School serves 1500 students from a rural community of families who mainly work in the manufacturing and service industries. "The book collection at the high school library has just over 15,500 books, which is an average of 10 books per student," writes Todd James. The collection is 73% non-fiction and 27% fiction. Bolstering the literary fiction collection would help balance this distribution and help students develop an appreciation for literature. **This grant would be directed toward new books for the students.**

**Campbell Savona School District
Campbell, N.Y.**

Nominated by Kevin Morris, Science & Technology

The Campbell Savona Central School District is devoted to establishing a community-centered environment that engages and empowers all students and all staff to become independent, flexible problem-solvers fully prepared to reach their highest potential. The Campbell Savona School High School Drama Program lets more than 1,500 local people experience the arts each year. "The program distributes a free ticket to every elementary school student in the district to expose them to live theater," writes Kevin Morris. **This grant will support the Campbell Savona High School drama program.**

**Cape Fear Literacy Council (CELC)
Wilmington, N.C.**

Nominated by Eugenia Burrell, Corning Optical Fiber

The Cape Fear Literacy Council provides individualized literacy services so that adults and their families in the Cape Fear region can meet their goals and develop their potential. "CELC makes our community vibrant by leveraging the talents of volunteers to truly make a difference for adults who need educational support," writes Eugenia Burrell. "The impact of adult learners' improved skills not only increases their own confidence and abilities but also ripples through their jobs, families, and the whole Cape Fear region." **This grant will be for general program support.**

CareFirst New York**Painted Post, N.Y.****Nominated by Pam Bliss, Science & Technology**

Serving families in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties, CareFirst New York affirms life through extraordinary compassionate support and care for the seriously ill and grieving. The programs help fulfill final wishes and support hospice care with advocacy aimed at patient dignity. "The CareFirst grief program helps surviving family members to value the memories of their loved ones and to deal with grief in a way that allows them to get back into a vibrant life in the community," writes Pam Bliss. **This grant will be for general program support.**

CASA of the Southern Tier**Corning, N.Y.****Nominated by Karen Gunther, Corporate Development**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children serves abused and neglected children in family court by recruiting and training community volunteers. The volunteers visit children in various settings and monitor court orders like therapies, visitation schedules, and parental commitments. "CASA of the Southern Tier has helped over 500 children in the three counties it serves with the support of over 130 volunteers," writes Karen Gunther. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Catholic Charities of Steuben County**Bath, N.Y.****Nominated by Johanna Gigliotti, Corporate Staffs**

Building communities that care for all people is key to Catholic Charities' mission. It offers services that empower people to enrich their quality of life. A wide range of services address client issues from crisis, to support, to development of self-sufficiency. Anti-poverty programs provide food, housing support, mentoring, and more. "Serving a county that is bigger than the state of Rhode Island, its programs are focused on strengthening and enriching the quality of life for individuals, families and children," writes Johanna Gigliotti. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Centre State Community Theatre**Corning, N.Y.****Nominated by Joe Canale, Advanced Optics**

Center Stage is a community theater organization committed to providing high quality entertainment. Founded in 2009, Center Stage has performed 21 full-length plays, one musical, three variety shows, three Golden Age of Radio Shows, and more than a dozen improvisational comedy shows. It also puts on a free summer theater camp for kids at the Southeast Steuben County Library. "We are an inclusive group and we relish community involvement," writes Joe Canale. **The grant will support media promotions to increase awareness of Center Stage and defray cost for renting performance space.**

Chemung Valley Montessori School (CVMS)**Elmira, N.Y.****Nominated by Stephen Miller, Corporate Development**

Embracing the Montessori philosophy, Chemung Valley Montessori School nurtures each child's individual potential, passion for lifelong learning, and sense of world community. CVMS has educated more than 1,000 toddlers through eighth-grade children in the Corning area. A Celebration of Cultures last year drew more than 120 people to learn about customs and cultures from around the world. "CVMS students and alumni have an exceptional track record of academic success, with many going on to become high school class valedictorians and into Ivy League universities," writes Stephen Miller. **This grant will be for general operating expenses.**

Communities in Schools of Cape Fear**Wilmington, N.C.****Nominated by Jennifer Adams, Corning Optical Communications**

Communities in Schools of Cape Fear surrounds its students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. The programming supports student support specialists, after-school programs, and a youth center. "The goal is to keep kids in school so that they graduate and can be fully contributing members of our local society," said Jennifer Adams. More than 1,000 vulnerable students are served each year. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Community Storehouse of Keller**Fort Worth, T.X.****Nominated by Donald Davidson, Corning Optical Communications**

The Community Storehouse is dedicated to the education and well-being of low-income children in the Keller, Texas area. "Programs are created to give a lasting impact rather than sustaining generational poverty," writes Donald Davidson. In 2017, 14,000 services were provided to more than 5,000 children and their families. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning Christian Academy**Corning, N.Y.****Nominated by Vanessa Polzella, Science & Technology**

Corning Christian Academy focuses on helping students from preschool through 12th grade develop their potential in service to church, school, community, and government. Students are active volunteers at a wide range of events in the greater Corning community, including the Wineglass Marathon. "The education provided is top-notch," writes Vanessa Polzella. She adds: "The love that the school has for the community, its students, and the students' families is amazing." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning Comfort Care (Bampa's House)**Corning, N.Y.**

Nominated by Anastasia Castilone, Global Supply Management

As a terminal illness progresses, many patients hope to remain in their own homes, rather than to be in a hospital. But that's not always possible. Bampa's House will be a comfort-care facility to let people face their last days in a home-like environment, while still having round-the-clock access to pain management and other professional hospice services. The program, once launched, will be run almost entirely by local volunteers. Anastasia Castilone writes: "This is an alternative not currently available in our community." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning Community Food Pantry

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Cheri Crozier, Government Affairs

Distribution of food and food-related information to those who need it is the mission of the Corning Community Food Pantry. The organization served nearly 25,000 people in the region during 2017, making it the busiest food pantry in Steuben County. The Food Pantry recently expanded its service area into Western Chemung County. In addition to providing food, writes Cheri Crozier, "the food pantry strives to meet other basic needs such as clothing, recipes, essential-needs bags for women and girls, diapers, and baby food along with food stamps and referrals to other agencies." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning Meals on Wheels

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Melissa Colacino, Global Supply Management

Corning Meals on Wheels volunteers bring nutritious food – and a friendly visit – to nearly 150 senior citizens and other homebound people in the Corning area each weekday. The wholesome meals help the recipients maintain their health while they stay in their own homes. Many Corning employees devote their lunch breaks to making Meals on Wheels deliveries. "That brief personal contact can be uplifting to an otherwise isolated senior," writes Melissa Colacino. "Volunteers often assist clients with small tasks like changing a light bulb or mailing a letter...small gestures with big impact, helping seniors remain safely in their homes." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning-Painted Post Civic Music Association

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by David Maack, Corning Optical Communications

World-class concerts in top-notch venues are available close to home for Corning-area residents – all at an affordable price -- thanks to Corning-Painted Post Civic Music. Volunteers arrange for six outstanding concerts per season, handling every aspect of production from booking talent through ticket sales and hospitality. Civic Music also provides local students with up-close exposure to professional musicians for a mesmerizing learning experience. "The Corning-Painted Post Civic Music Association adds significant vibrance to the Corning area by expanding the musical arts available to local citizens," writes David Maack. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning Painted Post Historical Society**Corning, N.Y.****Nominated by Greg Golder, Corning Display Technologies**

The Corning Painted Post Historical Society works to preserve and share the area's history through education program and exhibits, building preservation, archival collections, and experiential learning. The CPP Historical Society operates the Heritage Village of the Southern Finger Lakes (formerly Benjamin Patterson Inn). "Each year over 3000 school children visit Heritage Village to experience what life was like in the early 1800's. Docents explain the daily activities in each of the buildings and also conduct demonstrations," writes Greg Golder. **This grant will support the operation of Heritage Village.**

Corning-Painted Post Little League**Corning, N.Y.****Nominated by Louis Mattos, Science & Technology**

Lasting, positive, lifetime memories are part of the baseball experience for Corning-area youth as they develop citizenship, discipline, teamwork, and physical well-being through Corning-Painted Post Little League. A recent merger of the Corning and Painted Post Little League charters has brought 400 young players together for a strong, unified league. "Little League promotes a healthy balance of community-based activities through play," writes Louis Mattos. "By nurturing the human spirit, local Little League organizations are universally successful in cities and towns throughout the world." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning-Painted Post School District (Calvin U. Smith Elementary)**Corning, N.Y.****Nominated by Ellen Kosik Williams, Science & Technology**

The Calvin U. Smith Elementary PTA is augmenting the school's current upgrade programs by supporting an overall safe and vibrant learning environment. Public funding is focusing on updating the school's instructional space. The PTA's efforts will focus on the outdoor playground, bringing 1970s-era equipment into modern safety compliance and inclusion of students of all abilities. In supporting the playground improvements, "PTA contributions are critical to providing a broader range of enrichment experiences," writes Ellen Kosik Williams. **This grant will go toward Calvin U. Smith Elementary playground upgrades.**

Danville Independent School District (Edna L. Toliver Elementary School)**Danville, K.Y.****Nominated by Bhama Bhat, Corning Gorilla Glass**

The cheerful, easy-to-learn ukulele will be a valuable addition to the music program for youngsters at Edna Toliver Elementary School. Bhama Bhat, whose young son attends Toliver, writes that the school has a diverse population, both racially and economically. Parent volunteers are active in school programs and decision-making. The school's effort to bolster music education, Bhama writes, "will help support language and reasoning, memorization, and

pattern recognition. It will foster teamwork and self-confidence and ultimately lead to more successful individuals.” **This grant will go toward the purchase of classroom ukuleles for Toliver students.**

Desert Garden Montessori

Phoenix, A.Z.

Nominated by Elizabeth Peterson, Corning Optical Communications

Through Desert Garden Montessori School, entire families build a sense of and interdependence with their community and the world. In addition to academic and practical life training, the school focuses on special skills to prepare children to become peacemakers and entrepreneurs in their adulthood. The school serves children from infancy to kindergarten, through elementary ages, and into high school. Elizabeth Peterson writes, “Each child who moves on from the Desert Garden Montessori community becomes a spark in their own community to light the fires of the future.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

The Down Syndrome Information Network of the Twin Tiers

Horseheads, N.Y.

Nominated by Christine Heckle, Science & Technology

A fun and festive “Buddy Walk” in Elmira’s Eldridge Park has become an annual tradition for many Southern Tier families over the past 15 years. The event – the main celebration each year for the Down Syndrome Information Network of the Twin Tiers – promotes awareness, acceptance, and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and other disabilities. Helpful information and equipment giveaways are part of the day. “For some of our community, this represents one of the main cultural outlets to participate in a celebration of who we are,” writes Chris Heckle. “This event contributes to a vibrant community, especially for those of us employees who have kids and other family members with disabilities.” **This grant will go toward operating expenses for the Buddy Walk.**

East Palmyra Christian School

Palmyra, N.Y.

Nominated by Joe Malach, Advanced Optics

Small class size, individual attention, and a commitment to civic responsibility are among the hallmarks of East Palmyra Christian School, a non-denomination alternative for students in rural Wayne County, N.Y. For more than 70 years, the parent-run school has developed an outstanding reputation for its strong music and arts program, as well as its sports and advanced classes. The belief that school is an extension of the home, writes Joe Malach, “creates a feeling family – whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through musical performances, or in any number of other joyous organized activities.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Finger Lakes Area Robotics Education (FLARE)

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Amos Mainville, Corning Environmental Technologies

The Finger Lakes Area Robotics Education, or FLARE, promotes the pursuit of science, technology, engineering, and math skills for children in the five-county region of the Finger

Lakes. The FIRST robotics program forms the foundation of FLARE's vision – but the program is about much more than robots. "We connect young students to leaders in industry via technical mentorships tours," writes Amos Mainville. By taking students to regional, state, and national competitions, "We are creating students who can compete with others but work together as well. We are creating leaders in STEM while developing social skills." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT)

Corning, N.Y.

James West, Science & Technology

As it works to conserve the lands and waters of the Finger Lakes Region, FLLT helps ensure scenic vistas, local foods, clear water, and wild places for everyone. Working in partnership with local communities and land owners, the organization has conserved more than 21,000 acres of forests, fields, wetlands, streams, and lakeshores. It owns or manages more than 30 nature preserves that are open to the public. "The Land Trust has opened Steege Hill, Plymouth Woods, and Kehoe nature preserves in the Southern Tier, free to the community," writes James West. **This grant will be for general program support.**

The First Tee of Corning

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Chris Sharkey, Corning Enterprises

The game of golf can teach more than physical fitness and strength – it can also provide lessons in integrity, respect, and perseverance. That's the aim of The First Tee, an international nonprofit organization with a thriving chapter in Corning, N.Y. Over the past 15 years, the chapter has introduced more than 100,000 area youth to golf through its Winter Golf Academy and other programs. "It provides a valuable outlet for after-school engagement, particularly for low income families," writes Chris Sharkey. "With values based on participation and inclusion, the First Tee of Corning has been a quiet but powerful force for area youth." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Foothills Performing Arts (FPA)

Lenoir, N.C.

Nominated by Jason McGhinnis, IT Service Delivery

Foothills Performing Arts combines theater, music and dance into performances. It also integrates teaching into the quality performances. "FPA is one the few opportunities for adults to participate in performing arts in Caldwell and Catawba counties," writes Jason McGhinnis. "FPA is dedicated to enriching other community outreach initiatives, including using performances to raising funds for local women's shelter and support a family dealing with tragedy." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Fund for Women of the Southern Tier

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Heven Bills, Safety & Health

The Fund for Women of the Southern Tier launched in 2009 with the purpose of helping women and girls achieve economic self-sufficiency and realize life goals. High-profile activities have focused on awarding of scholarships and other support for education and career advancement. A newer program, Barriers to Care, offers \$500 grants to women undergoing breast cancer treatment. The grants help absorb costs like transportation, child care, food, and prosthetics. "With 1 in 8 women being diagnosed with breast cancer, I think that it is an incredible charity," writes Heven Bills. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Hickory Choral Society

Hickory, N.C.

Nominated by Sharon Milligan, Finance

The Hickory Choral Society offers the joy of choral music to singers and audience members alike. Four concerts a year attract wide and diverse audiences from throughout the greater Hickory/Catawba County area. To make concerts available to all, the group does not charge for admission; instead, most revenue comes from memberships and corporate donations. The choral society has won acclaim through its special performances in top national and international venues. To help build the next generation of choral music lovers, the group sponsors a summer Children's Choral Music Camp, now in its fifth year. "The organization is truly a well-loved and contributing member of the greater Hickory community," writes Sharon Milligan. **This grant will go for general program support.**

Hickory Day School

Hickory, N.C.

Nominated by Jon Levinson, Corning Optical Communications

Knowledge and compassion are at the heart of learning experiences at Hickory Day School. The school strives to create globally aware, lifelong learners who are equipped to handle the challenges of the 21st century. Children from kindergarten through eighth grade represent "a vibrant mosaic of backgrounds," writes Jon Levinson. The school encourages them "to be inquirers, thinkers, communicators, and risk-takers." Students are also active in community service projects, including fundraising for a children's hospital and donating to a food bank. **This grant will go for general program support.**

A Hidden Gem

Durham, N.C.

Nominated by Lakeisha Howie, Corning Life Sciences

A Hidden Gem supports survivors of domestic violence as they chart new paths beyond the world of physical, mental, and emotional abuse. A Hidden Gem helps raise awareness and education around domestic violence in the Durham community. An annual gala showcases guest speakers and gives supporters valuable insights on the challenges women face. "Exposure to the violence that is happening behind closed doors is the first step in putting an end to domestic violence," writes Lakeisha Howie. **This grant will go for general program support.**

Horseheads Family Resource Center (HFRC)

Horseheads, N.Y.

Nominated by Kibeum Ryoo, Science & Technology

The Horseheads Family Resource Center provides a safe, respectful, nurturing, and fun environment where young children and families can come together. The result: Increased school readiness, improved parenting skills and stronger family relationships. Most of the services are free. “The programs encourage all parents to come and engage with their children and the teachers, also offering valuable time for all parents to bond,” writes Kibeum Ryoo. “We have become friends with many parents from different racial, cultural, educational, and financial backgrounds. I call HFRC the hub of learning, mingling, and meaning.” **This grant will go for general program support.**

Household Goods

Acton, M.A.

Nominated by Gregory Hoff, Corning Life Sciences

People in crisis – the recently homeless, disabled, or those fleeing domestic violence, for example – often have a difficult time securing affordable housing. Once they do, it may seem impossible to equip that home with basic furnishings and kitchen equipment. Household Goods has filled that need for more than 35,000 people in eastern and central Massachusetts since 1990. “I have donated and toured the Household Goods facility, and it is extremely well organized and well managed,” writes Greg Hoff. “They rely on a small army of volunteers.” **This grant will go for general program support.**

Inova Health System Foundation (Inova Children’s Hospital)

Falls Church, V.A.

Nominated by Darny Chau, Corning Life Sciences

Infants, children, and adolescents in need of health care find a high-tech, yet welcoming atmosphere at Inova Children’s Hospital. “Many Corning employees, their families, and friends have all been impacted by Inova Children’s Hospital,” writes Darny Chau, who speaks from personal experience. “The hospital offers the highest in patient care, especially for pediatric oncology.” Fun family events, meals, and temporary housing all add to the comfort the hospital provides Northern Virginia families as they focus on their child’s treatment and recovery. **This grant will go for general program support.**

InterVol

Rochester, N.Y.

Nominated by Gregory Arserio, Advanced Optics – Corning Fairport

More than 65,000 pounds of unused medical supplies are discarded each year in Western New York. Volunteers with InterVol inspect, sort, and redistribute those supplies, directing them to other non-profit organizations with operations around the world. As a result, it aids in disaster relief, supports medical mission trips to communities in need, and engages students in service-learning activities. “InterVol is able to make communities across the globe healthier and more vibrant. It also increases the vitality of the community through civic engagement, flourishing businesses, and unique education opportunities,” writes Gregory Arserio. **This grant will go for general program support.**

Jaffrey Civic Center

Jaffrey, N.H.

Nominated by Kent Sawyer, Corning Advanced Optics

Artistic, educational, and civic activities are all readily available to people in New Hampshire's Monadnock region at the Jaffrey Civic Center. The facility, with only one full-time employee, draws active support of volunteers for a wide variety of events year-round. Art exhibits, cultural celebrations, community meetings, performances, and informal get-togethers are all part of the lively activities at the Civic Center. "This organization contributes in a big way to the vibrancy of our community largely by acting as a cultural hub," writes Kent Sawyer. **This grant will go for general program support.**

Lincoln County Schools (North Lincoln High School Band Boosters Association Inc.)

Lincolnton, N.C.

Nominated by Robert Sanetick, Corning Optical Communications

The Band Boosters organize, facilitate, chaperone, and fund all band and color guard groups – collectively known as the Band of Knights -- at North Lincoln High School. With state and county funding completely eliminated from the band budget over recent years, donation and volunteer hours are essential to keeping the program going. The award-winning Band of Knights is a popular addition to local parades, games, and celebrations in the greater Charlotte area. "Students who participate in co-curricular activities like the Band of Knights have better attendance, higher levels of academic achievement and are more likely to pursue higher education," writes Robert Sanetick. **This grant will go for general program support.**

Lump to Laughter

Wrightsville Beach, N.C.

Nominated by Brad Shepard, Corning Optical Communications

Lump to Laughter takes a holistic approach to supporting those diagnosed with breast cancer. Inspiration, information, and financial assistance are among the personalized services this volunteer organization offers. Most of all, women have an immediate sense that they are not alone in their journey to recovery. "Women who contact the organization gain an immediate network of friends, caregivers, and survivors who are able to answer questions and provide emotional support," writes Brad Shepard. "What better defines a community than a group of diverse people willing to support each other in times of need?" **This grant will go for general program support.**

Mercer County Schools (King Middle School - KMS)

Harrodsburg, K.Y.

Nominated by Shawn Markham, Corning Glass Technologies

Students from ages 11 through 14 are at a critical stage of their development – and King Middle School strives to capitalize on this time by teaching 21st-century skills like advanced math and language. This, in turn, helps make sure children will be "college- and career-ready" when they later graduate from high school. Field trips to local industries and various colleges help augment their studies. "This funding would provide KMS with the opportunity for additional instructional and electronic equipment to further their educational pursuits or fund an

additional field trip for cultural study,” writes Shawn Markham. **This grant will go for general program support.**

Mercer County Senior Citizens Center

Harrodsburg, K.Y.

Nominated by Amber Carey, Corning Gorilla Glass

Low-income elderly people in rural areas are particularly vulnerable to unnecessary or premature institutionalization. An array of services through the Mercer County Senior Citizens Center helps keep those seniors healthy and vibrant, increasing their likelihood of independence. Nutritious meals, fun exercise activities, socialization, and music are all part of the center’s positive atmosphere. “Many parents and grandparents of Corning employees are part of the Senior Citizens Center,” writes Amber Carey, a regular volunteer. “To have a co-worker come up to you and thank you for hanging out with their mom or dad tells me the senior center is doing a good thing for the community.” **This grant will go for general program support.**

Montgomery County Educational Foundation (MCEF)

Christiansburg, V.A.

Nominated by Kenneth Meyers, Corning Environmental Technologies

Through its annual grant awards to student groups, teachers, and PTAs, the Montgomery County Educational Foundation helps to ensure robust learning opportunities. The Foundation, an extension of the Montgomery County Public Schools, engages businesses and private citizens in support of a STEM program for all age levels. “The MCEF supports projects that go above and beyond the scope of the curriculum and allow students unique opportunities to explore education in-depth,” writes Kenneth Meyers, noting that the investment is aimed at the development of productive global citizens. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Moving Company Dance Center

Keene, N.H.

Nominated by Colette Green, Advanced Optics

The Moving Company Dance Center – known locally as MoCo Arts – offers cultural and personal inspiration for families in Keene, N.H. Classes serve toddlers, children, and teenagers with a full array of dance disciplines, including ballet, hip-hop, jazz, modern, tap, and musical theater. Many rural and at-risk children enjoy the classes through scholarships. MoCo Arts plans a new two-story center with studio, theater, and offices that more than double its current space. “Performances are an important part of the MoCo education,” writes Colette Green. “This really gives students a sense of self-confidence and an environment filled with encouragement.” **This grant will go toward the new building and student scholarship funds.**

New Hampshire Dance Institute

Keene, N.H.

Nominated by Deborah Roy, Advanced Optics

Children of all abilities and backgrounds experience the joy of dance through the New Hampshire Dance Institute. Children in kindergarten through eighth grade discover their potential by building their confidence and learning new ways to express themselves artistically. Dozens of regional schools participate in a wide variety of programs, giving children a chance to take part at whatever level works for them. “New Hampshire Dance Institute does so much for the children with dance,” writes Deborah Roy, whose young daughter has enjoyed the program. “They believe every child should dance and no one is turned away.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Northern Tioga Schools (Clark Wood Elementary School)
Elkland, P.A.**

Nominated by Jesse Kendall, Corning Environmental Technologies

Clark Wood Elementary School offers a safe haven not only for its students, but for entire families – and many programs are planned with that in mind. The popular Family Reading Nights, for example, let parents and children come together to share books each month, create projects, have a snack, and take a book home to read. A host of other activities “provide an outlet to keep students off the streets and positive behavior incentives are provided to encourage students to make good choices,” writes Jesse Kendall. “The staff often provides lunch money, winter coats, and a comforting hug when needed. The school is the hub of the Elkland community.” **This grant will be for general program support at Clark Wood Elementary.**

**New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation (Neonatal Family Advisory Council)
Wilmington, N.C.**

Nominated by Robert Trapp, Corning Optical Communications

Parents of premature babies often face a frightening scenario of complex medical interventions and emotional rollercoasters. Families who’ve been through the process can help ease their fears and provide support through a time of crisis. The Neonatal Family Advisory Council and New Hanover Regional Medical Center does just that with a trained team of parent volunteers. “They help parents to see beneath the tubes, electrodes, and equipment of the NICU to the precious baby at the center,” writes Robert Trapp. “They are energetic and enthusiastic and find ways to help these new parents prepare for a life with their baby.” **This grant will be for general program support of the Neonatal Family Advisory Council.**

**Northwest North Carolina Mountain Bike Alliance
Lenoir, N.C.**

Nominated by Phillip Fracaro Jr., Corning Optical Communications

The foothills and mountains of Northwest North Carolina are natural treasures. The Northwest North Carolina Mountain Bike Alliance promotes land access, trail preservation, and new trail development on federal, state, and local lands in this lush region. The group promotes physical fitness along with nature conservancy with regular mountain bike events for youth. It is leading the creation and restoration of mountain bike trails in Hickory City Park. “The Alliance sees the value in educating the youth about the sport as well as building a strong body, mind, and character,” writes Phillip Fracaro Jr. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Painted Post Food Pantry

Painted Post, N.Y.

Nominated by Craig Kersting, Science & Technology

Since 1975, the Paint Post Food Pantry has served people facing food insecurity in Painted Post, surrounding Steuben County communities, and Tioga County, Pa. Volunteers provide basic nutritious food and hygiene supplies to more than 1,000 visitors each month. Visitors also receive referrals to other agencies that can help them in time of need. “The pantry helps to improve the health, well-being, and self-esteem of individuals, providing many an opportunity to improve their situations,” writes Craig Kersting. This well-coordinated approach “demonstrates how an organization can thrive and the community benefit as a result.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Piedmont Down Syndrome Support Network

Pfafftown, N.C.

Nominated by Wayne Kennedy, Corning Optical Communications

The Piedmont Down Syndrome Support Network provides information, educational opportunities, and support for families with individuals with Down syndrome. An annual “Buddy Walk” serves as a fundraiser and outreach effort, bringing families with Down syndrome children together with volunteer teens and adults. The event “teaches all involved that children with Down syndrome just want to belong, too,” writes Wayne Kennedy. “In some instances, this is the first time these volunteers have interacted with someone with special needs.” Other educational and support events help families touched by Down syndrome in a variety of helpful and positive ways. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Planned Parenthood Southern Finger Lakes (PPSFL)

Corning, N.Y.

Nominated by Linda Jolly, Corporate Legal

Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes is a nonprofit family planning agency providing high-quality, affordable reproductive and sexual health care to thousands of people in Western New York. “For many patients, the PPSFL clinicians and nurses are the only healthcare providers these people see,” writes Linda Jolly. PPSFL is also working to put a new clinic in Corning to better serve the community. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Pregnancy Resource Center of the New River Valley

Blacksburg, V.A.

Nominated by Debra Seager, Corning Environmental Technologies

“Hope, help, and compassion” for women and men facing unplanned pregnancies is the mission of the Pregnancy Resource Center of the New River Valley. The agency provides counseling and medical information about all pregnancy options. Pregnancy testing, counseling, ultrasounds, adoption referrals, and education programs are all offered. “Oftentimes this can be a scary, life-changing event and the PRC meets that person in the middle of the fear with love and compassion,” writes Debra Seager. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Pregnancy Resource Center of the Valleys
Corning, N.Y.**

Nominated by Elisabeth Walker, Pharmaceutical Technologies

Pregnancy Resource Center of the Valleys supports women and families facing pregnancy decisions and parenting needs in a safe, non-judgmental, encouraging environment. “Pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, parenting classes, and basic supplies are provided free of charge, along with referrals to United Way agencies or other organizations,” writes Elisabeth Walker. PRC of the Valleys has centers in Mount Morris, Bath, and Corning. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Rafael Grigorian Ballet Theatre
Elmira, N.Y.**

Nominated by Alicia Mantey, Human Resources

Attending the annual production of the Nutcracker Suite is a holiday tradition for many Southern Tier families. The Rafael Grigorian Ballet Theatre has staged the popular ballet for more than 25 years, and each year brings a new opportunity for local dancers to be part of the holiday classic. “The experience that students gain in performing these roles helps them gain entrance to world-class ballet programs,” writes Alicia Mantey. Besides training young dancers for the Nutcracker and a wide variety of other ballet productions, the theatre company also brings inspirational cultural performances to audience members who might otherwise have little exposure to ballet. **This grant will go for general program support.**

**Reconnect Rochester
Rochester, N.Y.**

Nominated by James Pestke, Advanced Optics – Corning Fairport

In American culture, it may seem that a car is the only way to get around. Reconnect Rochester contends it doesn’t have to be that way. The advocacy group has undertaken a broad set of initiatives to advance a robust transportation network – one that includes everyone, regardless of physical or economic ability. Along the way, they’ve earned national acclaim for their leadership. By advocating for more investments in public transit and infrastructure for walking and bicycling, writes James Pestke, “Reconnect Rochester contributes to the vibrancy and collective health of the Rochester community.” **This grant will go for general program support.**

**Seven Generations of Stewards
Corning, N.Y.**

Nominated by Thomas Zajicek, Science & Technology

Seven Generations of Stewards is devoted to preserving Native American culture through memorable, hands-on activities. The 2018 Falling Leaves Festival is an interactive powwow, free and open to the entire community, that includes many styles of learning. Visitors will see Native American people in traditional regalia; take part in drums and flute music, along with singing; hear traditional storytellers; and handle traditional pottery and pelts. The interactive nature of the experience, writes Thomas Zajicek, “has a lasting impact on the learner.” **This grant will help fund the Falling Leaves Festival.**

**Tender Grace Miniature Horse Therapy
Addison, N.Y.**

Nominated by Jodi Smith, Corning Gorilla Glass

Tender Grace Miniature Horse Therapy uses miniature horses to provide equine-assisted therapy to people in Steuben and Chemung counties. The program addresses the physical, cognitive, and emotional needs of all ages. The goal is to have positive interactions with the miniature horses that lead to feelings of joy and unconditional love. "I have seen first-hand the smiles and the tears that this brings out in residents at a local nursing home" writes Jodi Smith. "It gets many of the residents talking about the memories they have of either living on a farm or having animals of their own." **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM)
Wilmington, N.C.**

Nominated by Stephanie Morris, Corning Optical Communications

The Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, known as WARM, raises funds and completes urgent repairs and accessibility upgrades for low-income homeowners. Volunteers build wheelchair ramps, install grab bars, repair floors and air conditioners, and perform a host of other tasks aimed at homeowner health and safety. After WARM's services, homeowners report a dramatic reduction in falls, chronic illnesses, colds, and medical expenses. "Volunteers contribute more than 20,000 hours every year, keeping WARM's costs low and helping stretch donor dollars," writes Stephanie Morris. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Wells Reserve at Laudholm
Wells, Maine**

Nominated by William Hildebrand, Corning Life Sciences

The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve – and its non-profit partner, Laudholm Trust – are devoted to preserving the estuaries and other features at the heart of Maine's rich coastal environment. The Wells Reserve connects people to science through more than 150 annual environmental education programs. Climate change training workshops for municipal leaders and land conservators; affordable camps and festivals for families; and enriching outdoor science programs for teachers and students are all found at the Wells Reserve. William Hildebrand writes: "The Wells Reserve has been a beloved local institution for more than 30 years." **This grant will go for general program support.**

**Western Piedmont Symphony
Hickory, N.C.**

Nominated by Adam Neilly, Corning Life Sciences

Western Piedmont Symphony enriches its community's classical music experience. It nourishes new audiences through school concerts and family outreach programs. Popular outdoor concerts are a summer tradition, with thousands of people attending the lively experience. The symphony also spurs millions of dollars in local economic activity each year. Adam Neilly writes: "There is no doubt that Catawba County is a thriving and vibrant arts community, thanks to plentiful cultural opportunities, many of which are created by the Western Piedmont Symphony." **This grant will go for general program support.**

Wilmington Christian School

Wilmington, N.C.

Nominated by Daniel Halvorson, Corning Optical Communications

Wilmington Christian School is dedicated to the development of productive, intelligent young people. From kindergarten through 12th grade, the curriculum is built on a firm academic, social, and spiritual foundation. The school also emphasizes community service with events like a Thanksgiving food drive, Relay for Life, Coats for Coatless, and Special Olympics. Parent seminars and options for counseling help promote a family-focused school community.

“Getting students and parents excited about education, active in community service, and providing key family support programs are the hallmarks that make Wilmington Christian Academy a great school,” writes Daniel Halvorson. **This grant will go for general program support.**

YMCA of Catawba County

Hickory, N.C.

Nominated by Stephen Horan, Corning Optical Communications

With 24% of the Hickory-area population under the age of 18, the youth programs at the YMCA of Catawba County have a direct influence on the future of the community. Programs like Leaders Club and Black Achievers challenge teens to grow, draw upon positive role models, and develop a commitment to their greater community. Financial assistance for day camps, summer camps, and other programs help ensure that the YMCA’s services are open to all. “The YMCA of Catawba Valley continues to make a difference in the future of Hickory because of all the services it offers for the youth and teens of our area,” writes Stephen Horan. **This grant will go for general program support.**

YWCA Pink Boutique

Elmira, N.Y.

Nominated by Lori Ann Congdon, Corning Environmental Technologies

Women who have undergone breast surgery or treatment for breast cancer find a warm and inviting environment for supplies at the YWCA Pink Boutique. The non-profit shop offers personal fittings for mastectomy bras with a certified fitter. Breast prostheses, chemo hats and scarves, swimwear, and intimate apparel are provided in a supportive atmosphere. The boutique also provides breast health education for the community and a financial relief fund for patients. “There is no other place like this within 100 miles,” writes Lori Ann Congdon. “Many tears are shed in the fitting room after a client feels she looks ‘whole’ again.” **This grant will go for general program support.**