



CORNING FOUNDATION

Employee Vibrant Community Grants

2021 Employee Vibrant Community Grant Winners

The Employee Vibrant Community Grants began in 2018 as a celebration of Corning Incorporated Foundation's 65th anniversary. The program encourages employees to nominate eligible non-profit organizations for a \$1,000 grant. This allows the Foundation to invest in the non-profit organizations that mean the most to Corning employees.

Adaptive Sports & Adventures Program

Charlotte, NC

Nominated by Chad Slack, Corning Optical Communications, Concord, NC

Adaptive Sports & Adventures challenges youth and adults with physical disabilities to develop skills that will, in turn, enable an active and productive lifestyle without barriers or limits. Fundraisers help showcase the skills that inspire others who have injuries or illnesses. The 180-mile "Cycle to the Sea" event celebrates athletes on handcycles and tandem bikes. Riders build camaraderie while raising funds for new adaptive sports equipment. "When you're with trainers, volunteers, and fellow athletes, you're not alone," writes Chad Slack. "You'll meet people who inspire you, improve your self-confidence, and help you identify new opportunities." **This grant will be for general program support.**

All Saints Academy
Corning, NY

Nominated by Nicholas Ferratella, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

All Saints Academy has helped make the greater Elmira/Corning area vibrant for nearly 160 years. Nearly 80% of All Saints Academy graduates enroll in honors or advanced coursework in high school. “Academic success is just one facet of an All Saints Academy graduate,” writes Nicholas Ferratella. Students are recognized for their community service as well, and that spirit of giving is instilled at an early age. Each grade level leads a service project ranging from mitten drives to food-pantry donations. Enrollment is open to all faiths and the school provides need-based scholarships. **This grant will be for general program support.**

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
West Oneonta, NY

Nominated by Everson Kalman, Corning Life Sciences, Oneonta, NY

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. Besides funding research and educating the public about mental health and suicide prevention, the organization also advocates for public policies around prevention and supports survivors of suicide loss. The Oneonta chapter has a regular presence at citywide events and sponsors “Out of the Darkness” walks to raise awareness of its services. Bereavement support groups are also part of the local program. “The group’s mission is especially crucial given the myriad challenges individuals face as a result of COVID-19,” writes Everson Kalman. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Boys and Girls Club of Rochester
Rochester, NY

Nominated by Katherine Ballman, Corning Advanced Optics, Fairport, NY

The Boys and Girls Club of Rochester is one of the community’s main organizations supporting a vulnerable population. The after-school program allows youth to focus on their own development as they learn new skills and build relationships. To address the challenges of COVID-19, the club started a food program for more than 1,400 families. A new breakfast club ensured none of the members started the day hungry. Academic tutors and a new STEM program are also helping the youth enhance their school experience. “The club is a wonderful organization that works to guarantee every child has access to the wonderful opportunities available within Rochester, and that Rochester has the opportunity to engage with these wonderful kids,” writes Katherine Ballman. **This grant will support the club’s STEM program.**

Canine Companions for Independence

Irving, TX

Nominated by Michael O'Day, Corning Optical Communications, Keller, TX

Canine Companions for Independence has a special place in the hearts of Mike O'Day and his family. Mike's son Adam struggled early in life with social and physical differences. He was diagnosed with autism in 2006. He became eligible for a companion service dog and in 2013, a black lab named Tyler joined the family as Adam's new best friend and bridge to the world around him. "Since then, our entire family has benefitted from Tyler. Adam is now 19, attending community college, and living independently," Mike writes. "We are simply one of many hundreds of families who have been deeply blessed by this wonderful and generous organization." The Dallas-area CCI chapter also supports disabled veterans from all over the country, helping them regain independence through trained service dogs. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Canton Minor Hockey

Canton, NY

Nominated by Kevin Logan, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Canton Minor Hockey helps hundreds of families get involved with the winter sport at whatever level interests them most – from casual skating programs to competitive travel teams for both boys and girls. More than 30 adult volunteers help coach children between the ages of 3 and 19. The organization is investing many of its efforts into upgrades at the Canton ice rink, writes Kevin Logan. "It is in dire need of repairs and renovation to ensure Canton Minor Hockey has a facility to use for generations to come." **This grant will be for general program support.**

Cape Fear Literacy Council

Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Eugenia Burrell, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Trained volunteers at Cape Fear Literacy Council provide high-quality education to historically under-served adults – who can then go on to transform their lives and contribute to a stronger community. The organization offers one-on-one tutoring and small classes for adult literacy, English as a Second Language, and "Computers on Wheels" programs. "Annually, the organization touches the lives of about 500 adults with educational goals that are related to work, family, academics, community involvement, and personal fulfillment," writes Eugenia Burrell. "Instructors use a multi-sensory approach and make content relevant to students' real lives. This is why CFLC works!" **This grant will be for general program support.**

CASA of the Southern Tier, Inc.

Painted Post, NY

Nominated by Okoro Chukwudi, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

CASA of the Southern Tier serves as an advocate for at-risk youth in the community, with volunteers coming to the support of children who have been abused and neglected. CASA also engages community volunteers to serve these children with vital educational programs and community events with different cultural hosts. Over the past three decades, CASA has built a strong support network of trusted foundations and partner agencies. "CASA thrives with the collaboration circles established, allowing us to be involved and advocate for the children we serve," writes Okoro Chukwudi. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Centro Latino

Danville, KY

Nominated by Michael McChesney, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Immigrants and migrants from Central America and Mexico are contributing greatly to the cultural fabric of Central Kentucky. Centro Latino is dedicated to including the food, music, and history of these neighbors into broader community life. The organization has also created informational videos and flyers in Spanish to explain health protocols like mask-wearing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Bilingual volunteers help families access affordable healthcare, school programs, legal representation, and other public services. "These connections allow this diverse population to navigate the system and continue to be healthy and productive," writes Michael McChesney. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Communities in Schools of Cape Fear

Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Jennifer Adams, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Communities in Schools of Cape Fear helps ensure that all students get the support and encouragement they need not only to stay in school, but to succeed there as well. The aim is to give them a path out of poverty as they become fully contributing members of society. Summer programs in New Hanover County's Gregory School kept students engaged and active in learning while still safely observing COVID-19 protocols. After-school programs have helped children view birds of prey, take yoga classes, and even visit college campuses. "This program is integral to the vibrant Wilmington community, supporting kids who may get overlooked elsewhere or need a caring adult to look out for them," writes Jennifer Adams. **This grant will support programs at Gregory School.**

Corning Chinese School

Corning, NY

Nominated by Liying Zhang, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Corning Chinese School offers high-quality Mandarin Chinese learning opportunities to students in kindergarten through grade 6. The school also provides spoken Chinese classes to those who are interested in Chinese language and culture but do not have Chinese-speaking environments at home. Classes, activities, and games have shifted to virtual platforms in the time of COVID-19. Fundraising efforts help support local hospitals, senior communities, and food banks. Spring festivals feature traditional poems, dances, and more for the Corning community. “We demonstrate and cheer for great culture and diversity in the Corning Valley,” writes Liying Zhang. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning-Painted Post Historical Society

Corning, NY

Nominated by Gautam Meda, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning NY

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society runs the Heritage Village, including the Benjamin Patterson Inn, on Corning’s north side. The Heritage Village is a living museum, giving visitors a glimpse of blacksmithing, pottery, hearth cooking, spinning, and other traditional techniques from before the Industrial Revolution. Middle-school students get engaging tours “and the kids talk about it for days,” writes Gautam Meda. “Some of them return as they grow older, and they develop a deeper appreciation for the history of ordinary lives.” The museum is a complement to other museums in the Corning area “and brings many benefits to our community,” adds Gautam. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Corning-Painted Post School District

Painted Post, NY

Nominated by Ellen Kosik Williams, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Calvin U. Smith Elementary volunteers provide financial, logistical, and emotional support to teachers. Over the past year, they have helped school staff reach every student during virtual and hybrid schooling models made necessary by COVID-19 restrictions. “The school has never had teachers who needed more support than in this past year,” writes Ellen Kosik Williams. “Smith teachers are amazing, but the amount of change they have had to weather during the pandemic would stress even the strongest of our Cougars.” **This grant will be for Calvin U. Smith Elementary.**

**Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky
Lexington, KY**

Nominated by Vinay Patel, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

By bringing specialists to the area and providing support groups and celebrations for families of children diagnosed with Down Syndrome, the Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky provides many enriching experiences. Other services include job-training programs for teens and adults with Down Syndrome and encouraging acceptance of people with Down Syndrome among school-age children. The organization also fills the role of advocate for parents as they work with school systems devising individual educational programs for their children. “They help children excel to the best of their ability,” writes Vinay Patel. “Events are dedicated to providing a safe experience for the kiddos to help them play.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Economic Opportunity Program, Inc. of Chemung County
Elmira, NY**

Nominated by Claire Warren Ginnan, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

The Economic Opportunity Program provides educational, vocational, and holistic support for youth and adults as they become independent and productive members of society. This sustainable independence helps strengthen individual family units. “The staff is committed to what they do, and they do it with respect and kindness toward everyone that enters their doors,” writes Claire Warren Ginnan. “I am always impressed by their dedication and enjoy working with and learning from them.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Faith in Action Steuben County
Hornell, NY**

Nominated by Dhananjay Joshi, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Living independently into their later years is a great source of wellness and joy for senior citizens and their extended families, and Faith in Action has helped that happen for the past three decades. Volunteers offer a wide variety of free services for senior clients – they drop off groceries, socialize, read aloud, and perform light housework and chores. They also provide respite for caregivers of memory-loss and dementia patients. “It embodies the sense of giving back to our society and helping our seniors when they need it the most,” writes Dhananjay Joshi. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Family Service Society, Inc.

Corning, NY

Nominated by Cheri Crozier, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

The Youth Mentoring program of Family Service Society, Inc. matches at-risk youth with trained adult volunteers in fun events and planned learning activities once a week during the school year. Mentors help youth build self-confidence and respect for others as the students learn to listen and understand peoples' feelings. Kids who participate in mentoring programs with adults tend to do well in school, participate in community events, and have more meaningful, safe relationships with others. A planned summer celebration and holiday party will bring recognition to children for their accomplishments and appreciation for mentors. "The children, their families, and their mentors will enjoy a time of fellowship, friendship, and fun," writes Cheri Crozier. **This grant will support the Youth Mentoring program.**

Finger Lakes Falcons Travel Baseball Club

Horseheads, NY

Nominated by Kevin Lewis, Corning Optical Communications, Corning, NY

The Finger Lakes Falcons Travel Baseball Club provides opportunities for young baseball players to improve their athletic and leadership skills and develop into the best athletes they can be. Volunteers teach the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and community service. A yearly tournament in Horseheads helps raise funds for cancer research. "The expectations for a Falcon, both on and off the field, is to always strive to be your best and help your team and community," writes Kevin Lewis. More than 100 young athletes are currently part of the program. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Five Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America

Elmira, NY

Nominated by Chris Sharman, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

The Five Rivers Council oversees Scouts BSA programs that involve more than 2,600 scouts in the Corning-Elmira region. The organization offers adventure, leadership training, and many ways to volunteer and create a positive impact in local communities. Local scouts have traveled to Boston, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia for historic tours and camped in sites like Fort Niagara. "As a scout leader, I have seen scouting's positive impact first-hand," writes Chris Sharman. "Scouting is an ideal way to grow future leaders, have outdoor adventures, and give back to the community." **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina
Durham, NC**

Nominated by Michael Reid, Corning Life Sciences, Treyburn, NC

Food insecurity in the Durham area increased sharply with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina has made a world of difference by providing food for families who need it, along with educational programs on good nutrition. The Food Bank also operates gardens to increase food supply and to teach skills on growing edible crops. Corning Life Sciences employees volunteered to distribute food, a moving experience for all involved. “It is only when our community is free from worries on the next meal that we can truly become more vibrant and foster additional growth,” writes Michael Reid. “The Food Bank makes this possible.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Freedom School Partners
Charlotte, NC**

Nominated by Jennifer Caldwell, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Freedom School Partners promotes children’s long-term academic success by preventing summer learning loss. The program helps inspire a love of reading by presenting a culturally diverse curriculum with engaging literature and exposure to the broader community. The programs also give college students a chance to gain professional experience; they work as positive role models while they enter the academic or social services job pipeline. “They serve families who lack access to quality summer enrichment opportunities,” writes Jennifer Caldwell. “Ultimately, they carry a torch for children in the community who need a chance to succeed.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Friends of Camp Gorton, LTD
Corning, NY**

Nominated by Kurt Groeger, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Hundreds of boys and girls ages 5 to 17 visit Camp Gorton each summer for a first-rate scouting program at a significantly more affordable cost than comparable youth camps. To incorporate more STEM activities into its programs, Camp Gorton has developed a specific STEM education facility and is working to extend broadband access across the camp. Additional hardware will make that possible, writes Kurt Groeger. “Friends of Camp Gorton, with its large crew of highly skilled volunteers, will be responsible for engineering and installation,” he adds. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Great American Brass Band Festival

Danville, KY

Nominated by Brian Angolia, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

The quaint town of Danville brings people together each year to enjoy a variety of joyful brass band genres. World-class musicians take the stage at the Great American Brass Band festival to preserve brass band music through performance and education. Additional festival events include a hot air balloon race, street party, parade, picnic, 5K run, and more. The greatest share of the festival budget comes from community sponsors. “The festival is a free, family-friendly event with attendees from all age brackets and socio-economic backgrounds,” writes Brian Angolia. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Greater Wilmington Chamber Foundation

Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Michelle Holbrook, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

The Greater Wilmington Chamber Foundation invests in programs to improve the health, safety, education, and welfare of the people of Wilmington. The Foundation’s Leadership Wilmington program has helped train scores of emerging leaders for positions of responsibility in the community. A Talent Pipeline Management program is focused on closing the area’s skills gap, connecting public and private sectors to ensure training for available and emerging positions. “The unique and engaging character of our coastal community continues to expand because of the depth of community leadership development opportunities and community involvement programs that unite us,” writes Michelle Holbrook. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Habitat for Humanity, Central Arizona

Phoenix, AZ

Nominated by Elvira Hernandez, Corning Optical Communications, Glendale, AZ

Habitat for Humanity, Central Arizona serves Maricopa County, where 17% of people live in poverty conditions and nearly 26,000 people are without homes. In 2020, this Habitat affiliate built 19 new homes and served 368 families. “Habitat for Humanity, Central Arizona not only gives back to local families but supports future generations as well as revitalizing communities for the better,” writes Elvira Hernandez. “Children thrive in their safe, healthy, stable homes. Neighborhood property values stabilize as vacant properties are acquired, renovated, and sold to qualified families.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Habitat for Humanity, Mercer County
Harrodsburg, KY**

Nominated by James Faulkner, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Habitat for Humanity, Mercer County shares the overall Habitat vision of a world where everyone has a place to live. Volunteers and homebuyers work side-by-side to build and renovate decent, affordable homes for those who need them. Volunteers provide support, work on committees, serve on the board, and help with fundraising and construction. “The result is a community that values everyone having an affordable place to live,” writes James Faulkner. “This makes a responsive, responsible, and active community. This makes a vibrant community!” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Harris Hill Soaring Corporation
Elmira, NY**

Nominated by Doug Harshbarger, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

For more than 80 years, the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation has hosted events that showcase the history and cultural impact of motorless flight on the world. The organization also focuses on affordable flight training. “By maintaining our airfield, our aircraft, our cadre of instructors, and our operations, we enable virtually anyone in the local community to achieve their goal of becoming a licensed pilot,” writes Doug Harshbarger. Soaring events, vintage sailplane demonstrations, youth programs, and other activities bring many visitors to the region each year. “We are honored to enable so many to deeply experience the history and impact our region has had on global aviation,” Doug writes. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Hickory Choral Society
Hickory, NC**

Nominated by Sharon Milligan, Staff Sector, Charlotte, NC

Hickory Choral Society provides live choral performances, often collaborating with area high school and college choirs, the Western Piedmont Symphony, and individual instrumentalists. Singers come from nine counties across North Carolina. Holiday concerts and outdoor pops concerts are popular cultural events drawing local residents to enjoy many genres of music. To promote music education, the society operates an endowment providing grants for public school choral music programs. It also sponsors a summer choral camp for children. “The organization is truly a well-loved and contributing member of the greater Hickory community,” writes Sharon Milligan. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Hickory Community Theatre

Hickory, NC

Nominated by Adam Neilly, Corning Life Sciences, Greater Boston, MA

The Hickory Community Theatre offers community-oriented programming that promotes the values of inclusion, respect, collaboration, and discovery. Nine plays, musicals, and one children's show are staged each season. At least one production a year is augmented with programs connected to current events and social issues. HCT draws thousands of visitors to downtown Hickory, bringing foot traffic to dozens of small local businesses. "We offer not only excellent entertainment but also a creative and community service outlet for hundreds of local volunteers," writes Adam Neilly. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Hope Recuperative Care

Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Elisabeth Dunn, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Homeless people who are hospitalized face a wrenching situation when they are medically able to be discharged. Hope Recuperative Care offers a supportive, home-like environment where they can rest and recuperate. During their stay, case managers help them begin a path toward stability with housing solutions, ongoing medical care, and transportation. "Without Hope Recuperative Care, homeless individuals are released to the street with severe medical needs and often end up back in the emergency room," writes Elisabeth Dunn. Over the past two years, the organization has cared for more than 80 guests for an average stay of 32 days, saving about 2,400 hospital bed days. Many have secured housing and income, helping them break out of the cycle of homelessness. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Horseheads Central School District

Horseheads, NY

Nominated by Kristine Dale, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

The Horseheads Central School District's Unified Sports program provides authentic, competitive athletic opportunities for students with disabilities. The Youth Activation committee motivates youth leaders without disabilities to advocate for inclusion and respect for all people. The programs worked together for Kristine Dale's family. "My son (who has disabilities) participated on a team for the first time, experiencing the friendships built through being on a team," writes Kristine. "His younger brother (who does not have disabilities) was able to participate as a partner, learning compassion and patience. They build each other up and ensure everyone is having the time of their lives." Additional funding will allow the district to expand the programs and allow more participation. **This grant will support the Unified Raiders program.**

Household Goods

Acton, MA

Nominated by Gregory Hoff, Corning Life Sciences, Greater Boston, MA

Household Goods helps people who are recently homeless with furnishings to function comfortably and efficiently in their new surroundings. With referrals from social service agencies, clients may walk through the facility selecting new and donated items like mattresses, linens, couches, small appliances, wall decorations, and more. “When they are done, all the items are loaded into a truck with everything they need to start their new life,” writes Gregory Hoff. Many are veterans, survivors of domestic violence, immigrants, victims of disaster, or coping with illness or disability. Staff members are known for treating clients with the utmost respect. “It’s not just about giving people donated home goods,” Gregory adds. “It’s also about giving people respect and dignity.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Isaiah House Treatment Center

Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by Shawn Markham, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Isaiah House is a faith-based addiction treatment center that focuses on helping people achieve a lifetime of recovery. The long-term program addresses the spiritual, physical, mental, financial, legal, and education aspects of people’s lives. Isaiah House is based in Willisburg, KY and in 2019 opened a women’s facility, the Lisa Walker House, in Harrodsburg. “Addiction knows no socioeconomic status, career, nor age,” writes Shawn Markham. “In this time of COVID-19, the crisis has increased due to additional stress on families. And when mothers are addicted, the children also suffer. Recovery programs are critical for people to re-engage with society and regain control of their lives.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

John W. Jones Museum

Elmira, NY

Nominated by Millicent Ruffin, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

The John W. Jones Museum is an internationally recognized educational center preserving a stop on the Underground Railroad. John W. Jones, a former slave, would welcome all as they made their way to the Canadian border and freedom. Nearly 800 enslaved people safely passed through his home. The home, purchased by Jones in 1854, has been preserved true to the period, including a garden with the same crops Jones shared with people who passed through. “This preserved history allows local children to attend a world-class cultural outlet in their own community,” writes Millicent Ruffin. “Children are engaged and educated about important local history related to slavery in the United States.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Mental Health America of Central Carolinas
Charlotte, NC**

Nominated by Emily Reynolds, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

The services from Mental Health America of Central Carolinas are wide-ranging and have become especially important in the Charlotte community during the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic. People can find support for anxiety, depression, and other common issues through the “Coffee and Conversations” program. In so doing, writes Emily Reynolds, “they can discover a community who not only understands their battle, but gives them an open platform to share their story.” Volunteer-supported programs like Compeer and ParentVOICE help participants who are experiencing many mental health issues exacerbated by this extraordinary time. “There is no vaccine for any mental health disorder,” Emily writes. “But with the help of MHA’s talented leaders, educational programs, and community, the stigma is ending.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

**MSFit Foundation
Winston-Salem, NC**

Nominated by Felicia Murrill, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

MSFit is a free fitness and wellness program for people living with multiple sclerosis, the most common neurological disease of young adults in the United States. MSFit offers more than 100 participants access to health and wellness activities that may significantly postpone some of the disablement that can come from the disease. Programs are designed to enhance quality of life for participants and their families. “Additionally, the community thrives through the relationships and experiences gained from the student therapists, the YWCA staff, and families,” writes Felicia Murrill. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**Mount Pleasant Elementary School District
San Jose, CA**

Nominated by Jennifer Dinis, Corning Research & Development Center, Central California

More than half the students in the Mount Pleasant Elementary School District start their education at a disadvantage due to poverty. August Boeger Middle School strives to bridge this gap, especially during this unprecedented pandemic. Each student has received a new laptop computer for distance-learning needs, along with WiFi air cards to ensure access. Food distribution, online school dances, and virtual school rallies have all been part of the creative way the school has addressed the needs of its students and their families. “Additional funds will help engage more children and families in new after-school clubs and activities,” writes Jennifer Dinis. Such programs “help give each child the same education as all other children,” she adds. **This grant will support August Boeger Middle School.**

Oneonta Community Health Center
Oneonta, NY

Nominated by Erika Barnhart, Corning Life Sciences, Oneonta, NY

The volunteer staff at the Oneonta Community Health Center provides quality health care, including dental services, to those who need it. They help patients navigate through Medicaid and other insurance assistance programs, all at no cost to the patient. “The Health Center promotes equality in the community by leveling the playing field for those who might defer seeing a doctor due to the cost,” writes Erika Barnhart. “They also add to Oneonta’s vibrancy by providing rewarding and engaging volunteer opportunities for the community’s healthcare professionals.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Pathway of Hope
Durham, NC

Nominated by Lakeisha Howie, Corning Life Sciences, Treyburn, NC

Pathway of Hope provides a healing and safe environment for women and children impacted by homelessness, domestic violence, and sexual assault. A 24-hour hotline and quarterly food and personal care drives help build community relationships and foster hope for a more stable life. Pathway of Hope is striving to establish a new home “for those who had forgotten – or never knew – what home looks like,” writes Lakeisha Howie. “It will be a place of refuge, a safe place, a home where life skills will be taught and trauma will be overcome.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Port City Track Club
Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Roderick Bell, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Port City Track Club helps young athletes develop self-discipline, dedication, and confidence, fostering in them a lifetime appreciation of track and physical fitness. The team, run by volunteers, welcomes participants ages 6 and up, regardless of ability. Last year, the team bus that transported athletes to and from track meets was destroyed by fire. “The club is working hard to raise money to secure another bus,” writes Roderick Bell. **This grant will be for general program support.**

RAIN, Inc.
Charlotte, NC

Nominated by Elizabeth Bruscia, Corning Optical Communications, Hickory, NC

Nearly 7,000 people in the Charlotte area live with HIV/AIDS and RAIN, Inc. helps support their health and end stigma with access to many resources. Early intervention services, testing, and help with navigating disability benefits are all among the ways RAIN helps adult and youth clients. RAIN also enrolls participants in HIV-related research at regional universities, resulting in statistics that help create more proactive HIV prevention and care. “Although new cases of HIV are on a decline in Charlotte, access to preventative care is urgent for the community,” writes Elizabeth Bruscia. “RAIN is a driving force that hopes to end HIV in our communities.”

This grant will be for general program support.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
Rochester, NY

Nominated by Carol Rouhana, Corning Advanced Optics, Fairport, NY

Through its Youth Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra provides enriching musical and educational experiences to talented young musicians as they study and perform symphonic masterworks. The program also offers need-based scholarships and collaboration with local music professionals. By bringing together music students from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, writes Carol Rouhana, “the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra motivates them to achieve excellence in performance and a lifelong love of music as music professionals, dedicated amateurs, and friends of music.”

This grant will be for general program support.

St. Leo School
Versailles, KY

Nominated by Stephen Howard, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

St. Leo School offers prekindergarten through 8th-grade education with a focus on faith, community, and academic excellence. More than 200 students are enrolled. Students are immersed in multicultural experiences and are encouraged to give back to others in tangible ways. As part of a service program last fall, students collected items for families living in a “tent city” near the U.S./Mexico border as they awaited citizenship processing. Stephen Howard writes, “This school provides an environment for families to grow spiritually, academically, socially, athletically, and feel a sense of community involvement.”

This grant will be for general program support.

Southeast Steuben County Library
Corning, NY

Nominated by Jamie Curtis, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted the Southeast Steuben County Library to increase its online programming for both children and adults over Facebook and YouTube, giving the community a way to access books and learning material in a safe environment. Curbside pickup of checkout materials became a common practice, letting patrons get traditional materials like books and DVDs despite pandemic-related restrictions. “The library also has free Internet access available from the parking lot if patrons do not feel comfortable entering the facility,” writes Jamie Curtis. **This grant will be for general program support.**

Southern Tier Pregnancy Resource Center
Elmira, NY

Nominated by Fummi Atilola, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

The Southern Tier Pregnancy Resource Center provides free pregnancy, sexual health, and parenting services to the Corning-Elmira community. Onsite ultrasounds, mentoring and education for mothers and fathers, car seats and strollers, counseling, and other services are all part of their program. The group has a visible presence at Elmira High School and Elmira College, providing information on sexual health and healthy relationships. “The STPRC understands that supporting families only through the pregnancy stages is simply not enough,” writes Fummi Atilola. “This is why they offer services that help families with parenting and provide free resources for children, too.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Tarheel Trailblazers
Mooreville, NC

Nominated by Amber Weeks, Staff Sector, Charlotte, NC

Over the past year, outdoor activities like mountain biking and hiking have been among the few options people had for getting exercise in a safe environment. The Tarheel Trailblazers help support the health and mental wellness of the community by maintaining hundreds of miles of trails in the Charlotte Metro area. “The group offers safe areas for families to be outside with their children, especially during the pandemic,” writes Amber Weeks. “Our family has extensively used the trails that they maintain. I want to ensure they can continue their services and education around biking in our community.” **This grant will be for general program support.**

Twin Tiers Baby Bank
Painted Post, NY

Nominated by Scott Grant, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Diapers, wipes, and other baby necessities are desperately needed by many families in tough financial circumstances. Since food pantries typically don't distribute these materials, volunteers formed the Twin Tiers Baby Bank in 2016. The organization gives away tens of thousands of diapers each year, often easing the situation for families faced with the choice of buying either food or baby supplies. "To keep it going, community help is crucial," writes Scott Grant. "We like to say: 'Little changes can make big changes in people's lives.'" **This grant will be for general program support.**

Vigilant Hope Inc.
Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Crystal Stamey, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Vigilant Hope helps educate Wilmington-area residents about poverty and practical ways to help. Volunteers get experience serving others and can apply what they've learned to their own churches or communities. Crystal Stamey has helped serve meals through Vigilant Hope. "There is no judgment, only love for everyone that is there," she writes. "They help people who might be struggling get a hot meal, a shower, and warm clothes. They give people a place to learn, accept, and love one another." **This grant will be for general program support.**

YWCA of the Central Carolinas
Charlotte, NC

Nominated by Tamika Crawl-Bey, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

The Youth Learning Centers at the YWCA of the Central Carolinas support literacy-based programs for hundreds of children. The YWCA also offers transitional housing programs for people facing homelessness. And a Racial Justice and Advocacy program educates the community around systems of oppression. All these services help build economic mobility for people born into poverty, putting them on a path toward a better future. "YWCA of the Central Carolinas is committed to improving economic mobility, and therefore vibrancy in our community," writes Tamika Crawl-Bey. **This grant will be for general program support.**

**YWCA of Lower Cape Fear
Wilmington, NC**

Nominated by Ashley Lomboy, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

The YWCA of Lower Cape Fear has a wide range of programs serving women and their families through many phases of life. Whether recovering from breast cancer, overcoming obstacles to complete school, or providing full-time care for grandchildren, women turn to the YWCA to build resiliency and self-sufficiency. The “Talk on Race” series has engaged the community in conversation to move toward a more equitable and just society. “The YWCA of Lower Cape Fear is a beacon of light within the community,” writes Ashley Lomboy. “Its talks on race spark long-overdue conversations necessary to heal the deep wounds of our cultural divides.” **This grant will be for general program support.**