



**JOHN BEN SNOW**  
FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY**



**INVESTING IN PEOPLE**



**INVESTING IN THE FUTURE**

# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

## About John Ben Snow

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John Ben Snow was born and raised in Pulaski, New York, a small village north of Syracuse. He graduated from New York University in 1904 and soon thereafter entered F. W. Woolworth & Company. A man of vision, he was attracted to mass market sales and introduced innovative retailing techniques. He rose rapidly through the ranks from stock boy to corporate director, initially in New York, and finally in Great Britain, where he accumulated a small fortune through hard work, savings and wise investments. After retiring from Woolworth in 1939, Mr. Snow devoted the remainder of his life to building the Speidel chain of newspapers and publishing the *Western Horseman*. He was fond of animals, especially horses, enjoyed racing, fox hunting, polo and range riding. Throughout his life, John Ben Snow shared his wealth with relatives, friends, business associates and fellow Pulaskians. He gave generously and freely to those persons and causes he cherished. He preferred to “invest” in people, especially the young, by making available financial assistance. He also believed in improving the quality of life in Pulaski and its environs.

To further these and other philanthropic causes, he established The John Ben Snow Foundation in 1948. The Foundation continues to operate under the terms of its original charter. The charter, granted by the State of New York, authorizes the Foundation to grant funds for educational and humanitarian purposes to qualified organizations. The present membership of its Board, seven in number, includes persons of diverse occupational backgrounds and geographical areas. The Board meets once a year, usually in June, to approve new grants and review previously funded projects.



# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

## FUNDING POLICIES

The John Ben Snow Foundation is a private foundation that focuses funding for tax-exempt organizations primarily serving Central New York. The Board and Program Staff seek to collaboratively create proposals within specific program areas (prioritized below) while responding to the changing needs of targeted populations, especially to the needs of youth and people who are disadvantaged economically, emotionally, or physically.

**Primary Focus Area:** Dating back to the inception of the Foundation in 1948, the primary and overarching grant making priority has been and continues to be programs that focus on education.

- **Education:** This program area targets funds to organizations that provide educational opportunities or academic assistance to individuals who demonstrate an intellectual aptitude and a financial need. Examples include scholarships, fellowships, academic tutoring or counseling, literacy, and journalism.

**Secondary Focus Areas:** Secondly, the Foundation considers proposals within the areas of Arts and Culture, Community Initiatives, and Youth Programs. The Foundation's objective is to extend the primary educational focus by providing funding support within these additional program areas.

- **Arts and Culture:** This program offers grants that promote arts education and appreciation, particularly for young adults, via the development of educational curriculum and professional instruction including visiting artists and performance support for targeted populations.
- **Community Initiatives:** This program provides funding for programs or services that directly improve the quality of life within Central New York. Examples include support for libraries, food pantries and shelters, and neighborhood revitalization. Generally, the Foundation does not seek proposals for health care initiatives or animal welfare programs.
- **Youth Programs:** This program area offers grants that provide character education or enrichment opportunities via mentoring or

after-school programming. Generally, the Foundation does not solicit proposals for short-term summer camps.

**Tertiary Focus Areas:** As a third priority, the Foundation does consider proposals in the areas of Disabilities and Universal Access, Environmental, and Historic Preservation. As these are not core focus areas, funding is often limited. Priority will be given to proposals with an educational focus.

- **Disabilities and Universal Access:** This program offers grants to organizations in complying with ADA requirements within their facilities (e.g. elevator, handrails, automatic doors, and ramps) or offering services targeted for individuals with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities.
- **Environmental:** This program provides funds for organizations that strive to protect strategic parcels of land and bodies of water as well as programs that educate the general public on key environmental issues such as conservation and water management.
- **Historic Preservation:** This program provides funding for organizations that preserve historical artifacts (e.g. sites, structures, objects) and accounts (e.g. events), and educate the greater community on their significance. Examples include museums, historical societies and educational programming.

**Geographic Focus:** The Foundation focuses funding in Central New York defined as Onondaga County and its four surrounding counties of Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, and Oswego.

It is the Foundation's general policy to give preference to proposals seeking funds for new or enhanced programs (including capacity building), one-time grants focused on a specific capital need, and matching grants used to encourage the participation of other donors, and "last dollars" towards a capital campaign.

The Foundation will not accept proposals from individuals or for-profit organizations. Additionally, the Foundation does not encourage proposals from religious organizations or proposals for endowments, contingency funding, or debt reduction. There are no minimums or maximum grant amounts; however, most grants range from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

## GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The Foundation is pro-active in seeking grant proposals from qualifying 501(c)(3) organizations. Additionally, the Foundation accepts unsolicited proposals from qualifying organizations.

An initial letter of inquiry must be submitted via the Foundation's online grant management system by January 31st of the year in which a grant is requested. If the proposal meets the stated guidelines and priorities of the Foundation, grant application instructions will be sent to the applicant. If invited after the receipt of the letter of inquiry, all grant applications must be submitted via the Foundation's online grant management system by April 1st of the year in which a grant is requested.

The Foundation may require additional information and possibly an interview or site visit. Any discussions or indications of interest should not be construed as a commitment by the Foundation. All complete grant applications are carefully considered and evaluated by the Foundation. Applicants are notified in writing of the Foundation's decision by July 1st. All approved grant applicants are required to sign a Grant Acceptance Agreement prior to any funds being released by the Foundation.

## REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Because the Foundation assumes that the grantee has a moral and legal obligation to account for all funds received, each grantee is required to submit a grant report via the Foundation's online grant management system by March 1st of the year after the approval of the grant. All grant reports are reviewed by the Foundation. Any change in plans must be approved by the Foundation. If a grantee fails to submit a formal report, the Foundation reserves the right to request that the grant funds be returned. Additionally, further grants will not be considered until a final report is received.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jonathan L. Snow, President  
Angus M. Burton  
David H. Snow, Vice-President and Treasurer  
Marion Hancock Fish  
Emelie M. Williams, Secretary  
Valerie A. MacFie  
Keegan D. Snow

## PROGRAM STAFF

Elizabeth A. Snow, Grants Manager

# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year Ending: 31 December 2018

Total Assets:.....	\$ 7,388,224
Excise Taxes: .....	\$ 9,008
Investment Revenue: .....	\$ 418,231
Grants Paid: .....	\$ 302,000

## GRANTS APPROVED AT THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

### PRIMARY FOCUS AREAS:

#### EDUCATION

Auburn Public Theater - Auburn, NY .. \$ 5,000  
*Studio Performing Arts Program*

Building Men Program, Inc. -  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 7,500  
*Rite of Passage*

Downtown Syracuse YMCA -  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Power Scholars Academy*

Hillside Children's Foundation -  
Rochester, NY.....\$ 7,500  
*Work-Scholarship Connection*

Mercy Works - Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Synergy*

National Audubon Society, Inc. -  
Savannah, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps STEM Programs*

Onondaga Historical Association -  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 5,000  
*Agency and Home School Education Day*

Orenda Springs Experiential  
Learning Center - Marcellus, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Scholarship Fund*

PEACE, Inc. - Syracuse, NY .....\$ 7,500  
*Big Brothers Big Sisters School-Based Mentoring*

Pulaski Academy & Central School -  
Pulaski, NY .....\$ 800  
*Snow Incentive Awards*

Red House Arts Center -  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 4,000  
*Equipment Upgrades*

Syracuse University - Syracuse, NY ...\$ 10,000  
*Citizenship & Civic Engagement Scholars*

The Milton J. Rubenstein Museum  
of Science & Technology -  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 7,500  
*Science Learning Partnership*

Child Care Solutions, Inc. -  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 7,500  
*Caregivers to Talk, Read and Sing from Birth*

Oswego Bookmobile - Oswego, NY...\$ 2,500  
*Oswego Bookmobile 2019*

**\$ 99,800**

### SECONDARY FOCUS AREAS:

#### ARTS & CULTURE

Central New York Jazz Arts  
Foundation, Inc. - Syracuse, NY .....\$ 3,000  
*Urban Youth Scholarships*

Front Row Players - Manlius, NY .....\$ 4,500  
*Performance Location Improvement*

Merry-Go-Round Playhouse -  
Auburn, NY .....\$ 7,500  
*Cayuga Kids*

# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

Perform 4 Purpose - Auburn, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Giving the Gift of Music*

Salmon River Fine Arts Center -  
Pulaski, NY .....\$ 4,200  
*Art Education and Access 2019*

Society for New Music -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 2,500  
*Composers in the Syracuse City Schools,  
Young Composers Corner*

Syracuse City Ballet Inc -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*A Children's Nutcracker*

**\$ 31,700**

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

AIDS Community Resources -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Food Pantry/Nutrition Program Expansion Initiative*

Cafe Sankofa/ETL Coop -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Jumuiya Community Outreach*

Eastern Farm Workers Association -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 2,000  
*Expand Rural Outreach and Benefits*

F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, Inc. -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Equipment Upgrades*

Pulaski Community Ministries, Inc. -  
Pulaski, NY .....\$ 4,500  
*Food Pantry Flooring*

Rural & Migrant Ministry of  
Oswego County, Inc. - Richland, NY ..\$ 3,500  
*Window Replacement*

Syracuse Area Landmark Theatre -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 10,000  
*Sound System*

Westcott Community Center -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Food Pantry*

**\$40,000**

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

Child Advocacy Center of  
Oswego County - Fulton, NY .....\$ 7,500  
*Enhancing CAC in Pulaski*

CNY Arts Center, Inc - Fulton, NY ....\$ 7,500  
*Community Arts for Youth*

Fiver Children's Foundation -  
New York, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Camp Fiver*

Good Life Youth Foundation -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 10,000  
*Growing Capacity*

Purpose Farm, Inc. -  
Baldwinsville, NY .....\$ 7,500  
*Youth Mentoring Sessions*

Rescue Mission Alliance  
of Syracuse - Syracuse, NY .....\$ 10,000  
*Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter*

Syracuse Shakespeare Festival -  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 2,000  
*Kids Doing Shakespeare*

Young Life - DeWitt, NY .....\$ 10,000  
*Servant Leadership Academy*

**\$ 59,500**

## TERTIARY FOCUS AREAS:

### DISABILITIES AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS

David's Refuge - Manlius, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Single Parent Initiative*

KEYS - Sherrill, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Music Therapy Program Expansion*

**\$ 10,000**

# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

**OTHER**

Foundation Center – New York, NY ..\$ 3,000  
*Building Capacity in Central New York*

**\$ 3,000**

**GRAND TOTAL \$244,000**