



JOHN BEN SNOW
FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2020



INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY



INVESTING IN PEOPLE



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

About John Ben Snow



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:** 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:** 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:** 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:** 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:** 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:** 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:** 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 between **November 1st** and **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 2019

Total Assets:	\$ 8,912,055
Excise Taxes:	\$ 6,617
Investment Revenue:	\$ 419,878
Grants Paid:	\$ 254,000

GRANTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA:

EDUCATION

Central New York Jazz Arts
Foundation, Inc. - Syracuse, NY \$ 4,000
Educational Pipeline System

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

Hopeprint, Inc. - Syracuse, NY \$ 10,000
weCREATE Educational Initiative

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

Partners in Learning, Inc. -
Syracuse, NY \$ 8,000
Diversity in Early Education & Care (DEEC) Expansion

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

Rise Above Poverty - Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
Fall 2020 Reading Clinics

The Milton J. Rubenstein Museum
of Science & Technology -
Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
Science Learning Partnership

The Reading League -
Syracuse, NY \$ 7,500
HQ and Online Academy

Volunteer Lawyers Project of
Onondaga County, Inc. -
Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
Law Student Support

\$ 65,300

SECONDARY FOCUS AREAS:

ARTS & CULTURE

Cayuga Museum of History and Art -
Auburn, NY \$ 5,000
STEAM Educational Materials Development

Merry-Go-Round Playhouse -
Auburn, NY \$ 7,500
COVID-19 Impact Support

Red House Arts Center -
Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
Access to Arts-Based Education

Schweinfurth Art Center -
Auburn, NY \$ 10,000
HVAC Project

Society for New Music -
Syracuse, NY \$ 2,500
Composers in Schools

Syracuse City Ballet Inc. -
Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
COVID-19 Impact Support

\$35,000

THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Human Services Leadership Council
of CNY - Syracuse, NY..... \$ 5,000
Build Social Media Capacity

Kristina's House of Hope -
Oswego, NY \$ 8,000
Home Furnishings

\$ 13,000

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Auburn Public Theater - Auburn, NY .. \$ 5,000
Youth Education Programs

Center for Community Alternatives -
Syracuse, NY \$ 10,000
Youth Violence Prevention Education Program

Hillside Children's Foundation -
Rochester, NY \$ 10,000
Hillside Work Scholarship Connection

Purpose Farm, Inc. -
Baldwinsville, NY \$ 5,000
Youth Mentoring Session

The First Tee of Syracuse -
Jamesville, NY \$ 7,500
Education Scholarships

\$ 37,500

TERTIARY FOCUS AREAS:

DISABILITIES AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Advocates, Incorporated -
Liverpool, NY \$ 7,500
Advocates Coffee and Eatery

Mozaic - Waterloo, NY \$ 3,000
Spot Light Studio Re-Opening

\$ 10,500

OTHER

Fellowship of Christian Athletes
(FCA) - Syracuse, NY..... \$ 800
Life Coaching

NY Funders Alliance - Syracuse, NY ... \$ 2,000
Philanthropy 101 Workshop for Grantmakers

\$ 2,800

COVID-19 SUPPORT:

ACR Health - Syracuse, NY..... \$ 5,000
Food Pantry Emergency Fund

Building Men Program, Inc. -
Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
Computers for SCSD Students

Catholic Charities of
Onondaga County - Syracuse, NY..... \$ 7,500
Project Joseph Contactless Disinfection System

CazCares, Inc. - Cazenovia, NY..... \$ 5,000
Increase in Cold Storage Capacity

Clear Path for Veterans, Inc. -
Chittenango, NY..... \$ 5,000
COVID-19 Community Task Force

Mercy Works - Syracuse, NY..... \$ 5,000
Relief Grocery Disbursement Southside

PEACE, Inc. - Syracuse, NY..... \$ 5,000
Food Stuffs, Toiletries, and Emergency Supplies

Refugee & Immigrant Self-Empowerment, Inc. -
Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
Laptops for Refugee Families

The Haven at Skanda -
Cazenovia, NY..... \$ 10,000
Emergency Childcare

The Salvation Army Syracuse
Citadel Corps - Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
Food Insecurity

Vera House, Inc. - Syracuse, NY..... \$ 7,500
Rethinking Prevention Education

Westcott Community Center -
Syracuse, NY \$ 11,168
Food Service Emergency and Disinfecting

\$ 76,168

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RESPONSIVE GRANTS:

Building Men Program Inc. -
Syracuse, NY \$ 5,000
Coordinator for Partnership with Boys and Girls Club

Clear Path for Veterans, Inc. -
Chittenango, NY..... \$ 5,000
Family Support Project

Orenda Springs Experiential
Learning Center - Marcellus, NY \$ 5,000
Facility Improvements

PEACE, Inc. - Syracuse, NY \$ 7,500
Big Brothers Big Sisters

\$ 22,500

GRAND TOTAL \$262,768