



**JOHN BEN SNOW  
FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2024**



**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 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 through prioritized investment in the following grant programs (prioritized below).

**Primary Grant Program:** 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:** Primary and secondary education, literacy, and vocational training are essential ingredients to improving life outcomes.
  - **Program Goal:** To reduce barriers that limit equitable opportunities and expand equal access to quality education
  - **Program Strategy:** Supporting early childhood education, academic tutoring, literacy, college access, internships, scholarships, fellowships, and journalism focused on underrepresented populations and first generation students

**Secondary Grant Programs:** 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:** Engagement in the arts creates a stronger and more vibrant community and culture.
  - **Program Goal:** To foster arts education and appreciation.
  - **Program Strategy:** Through educational curriculum, instruction, and engagement of young adults via visiting artists or performances.
- **Community Initiatives:** A resilient social infrastructure is essential to a healthy local community.
  - **Program Goal:** To directly enhance the lives of Central New York residents by expanding services that bridge the poverty gap.
  - **Program Strategy:** Investing in community centers, safe and affordable housing, human services delivered by shelters and food pantries, and veterans services.

- **Youth Programs:** Encouraging young adults to dream and equipping them to succeed can change the trajectory of their lives.
  - **Program Goal:** To empower young adults in their personal development and to equip them in their professional aspirations.
  - **Program Strategy:** Developing sustained relationships that offer one-on-one mentoring, character education, skills training, and violence prevention.

**Tertiary Grant Programs:** The Foundation does consider proposals in the areas of Disabilities and Universal Access, Environment, 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:** A person with a physical, mental, or emotional disability should have equal access to opportunity within the community.
  - **Program Goal:** To support services for individuals with a disability as well as provide universal access to facilities for these individuals.
  - **Program Strategy:** Supporting programs for people with disabilities as well as required facility renovations to enable universal access.
- **Environment:** Stewardship of the local environment is a fundamental responsibility.
  - **Program Goal:** To support environmental education and conservation initiatives.
  - **Program Strategy:** Through educational instruction and materials (e.g., curriculum, brochures, signs) coupled with protection of strategic parcels of land and water.
- **Historic Preservation:** Preservation of our history is important in order to educate the broader population on past events to inform current events.
  - **Program Goal:** To preserve historical accounts and artifacts to benefit future generations.
  - **Program Strategy:** Through educational instruction and materials (e.g., curriculum, brochures, signs) coupled with protection of sites, structures, objects, and events.

# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

**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.

## 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 **December 1st** and **February 1st** 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 granted.

## 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 **June 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  
David H. Snow, Vice-President and Treasurer  
Keegan D. Snow, Secretary

Angus M. Burton  
Marion Hancock Fish  
Valerie A. MacFie  
Emelie M. Williams

## PROGRAM STAFF

Elizabeth A. Snow, Program Officer

# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year Ending: 31 December 2023

Total Assets:.....	\$ 8,675,317
Excise Taxes: .....	\$ 6,974
Investment Revenue: .....	\$ 413,397
Grants Paid: .....	\$ 311,250

## GRANTS APPROVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2024

### PRIMARY GRANT PROGRAM:

#### EDUCATION

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County –  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Early Childhood Education*

Cortland Communities That Care  
Coalition, Inc. – Cortland, NY .....\$ 9,900  
*Read and Play Community Hubs*

Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo  
at Burnet Park – Syracuse, NY .....\$ 6,000  
*Tadpole Academy Early Literacy Program*

North Side Learning Center of Syracuse –  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Supportive Pathways for New Americans*

**\$ 35,900**

### SECONDARY GRANT PROGRAMS:

#### ARTS & CULTURE

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

CNY Arts, Inc. – Syracuse, NY .....\$ 7,500  
*John Ben Snow Arts Leadership Fellow*

KEYS – Sherrill, NY .....\$ 5,300  
*Music Scholarship Program*

Syracuse Stage – Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Arts Education Through Backstory*

Women on the Front Line, Inc. –  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Successful Seams Mentoring*

**\$ 31,800**

#### COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

American Heart Association –  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 5,000  
*Creating a Healthier Community*

Chadwick Residence, Inc. –  
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Transitional Housing Program*

Clear Path for Veterans, Inc. –  
Chittenango, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Empowering Veterans and Military Families*

Erin’s Angels of CNY Inc –  
Phoenix, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Summer Meal Program*

Half-Shire Historical Society –  
Richland, NY .....\$ 5,000  
*Technology Refresh*

PEACE, Inc. – Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000  
*Tax Equity Program*

Rural & Migrant Ministry of  
Oswego County, Inc. – Richland, NY ..\$ 5,000  
*Storage Barn for Medical Equipment*

Syracuse Northeast Community Center, Inc. –  
Syracuse, NY .....\$ 8,300  
*Database Enhancement for Inclusion*

**\$ 58,300**

# THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

Auburn Public Theater – Auburn, NY . . . . .	\$ 5,000
<i>Youth Education Programs</i>	
Boys & Girls Clubs of Syracuse – Syracuse, NY . . . . .	\$ 8,000
<i>Safe Spaces for Children</i>	
La Casita Cultural Center - Syracuse University – Syracuse, NY . . .	\$ 10,000
<i>Mi Música Music Education</i>	
Restore CNY – Brewerton, NY . . . . .	\$ 10,000
<i>Youth Summer Program</i>	
The First Tee of Syracuse – Jamesville, NY . . . . .	\$ 7,500
<i>New Girls Golf Programs and Scholarships</i>	
The Haven at Skanda – Cazenovia, NY . . . . .	\$ 7,500
<i>Youth Program</i>	

**\$ 48,000**

## **TERTIARY GRANT PROGRAMS:**

### DISABILITIES AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS

David’s Refuge – East Syracuse, NY . . .	\$ 5,000
<i>Caregivers Mental Health and Wellness Support</i>	
National Alliance on Mental Illness- Syracuse – Syracuse, NY . . . . .	\$ 2,600
<i>Technology Refresh</i>	

**\$ 7,600**

## OTHER:

Brady Social Enterprises, Inc. – Syracuse, NY . . . . .	\$ 6,250
<i>Brady Market Kitchen Leadership</i>	
Center for Community Alternatives – Syracuse, NY . . . . .	\$ 10,000
<i>Youth Violence Prevention &amp; Peer Leadership</i>	
LAUNCH – Syracuse, NY . . . . .	\$ 4,100
<i>Summer Learning</i>	
Orenda Springs Experiential Learning Center – Marcellus, NY . . . . .	\$ 6,250
<i>Capital Improvement and Program Scholarships</i>	
Oswego Bookmobile – Oswego, NY ..	\$ 4,500
<i>Bookmobile Repairs</i>	
Perform 4 Purpose – Auburn, NY . . . . .	\$ 7,500
<i>Music Programs and Instruction for Youth</i>	
Red House Arts Center – Syracuse, NY . . . . .	\$ 7,500
<i>Arts-Based Learning Through Live Theater</i>	
Salmon River Fine Arts Center – Pulaski, NY . . . . .	\$ 7,500
<i>Community Art Classes</i>	
Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Inc. – Syracuse, NY . . . . .	\$ 10,000
<i>Access to Justice Fellowship Program</i>	
YWCA of Syracuse & Onondaga Co. Inc. – Syracuse, NY . . . . .	\$ 10,000
<i>Afterschool and Outreach Programs</i>	

**\$ 73,600**

**GRAND TOTAL \$255,200**