



JOHN BEN SNOW
FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2026

A wide-angle photograph of a grand, multi-story red brick building with intricate architectural details like gables and arched windows. In the foreground, a large fountain with multiple water jets is spraying water upwards. An American flag is visible on a pole to the left of the building.

INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY

A close-up photograph of a diverse group of graduates. They are wearing black academic caps and gowns over white shirts. The focus is sharp on a young woman in the foreground, with others slightly blurred behind her. They are all smiling warmly at the camera.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

A photograph taken from a low angle looking up at a group of diverse children. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The children are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual clothing. The background is a bright, overexposed white.

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 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.
- **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.
- **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.

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. Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 with the majority of grants being around \$10,000. First-time grants to organizations typically 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.

THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

PROGRAM STAFF

Elizabeth A. Snow, Program Officer

THE JOHN BEN SNOW FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year Ending: 31 December 2025

Total Assets:.....	\$ 10,519,243
Excise Taxes:	\$ 12,781
Investment Revenue:	\$ 716,333
Grants Paid:	\$ 321,775

GRANTS APPROVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2026

PRIMARY GRANT PROGRAM:

EDUCATION

We believe that primary and secondary education, literacy, and vocational training are essential ingredients to improving life outcomes. Our goal is to reduce barriers that limit equitable opportunities and expand equal access to quality education. Our strategies include supporting early childhood education, academic tutoring, literacy, college access, internships, scholarships, fellowships, and journalism focused on underrepresented populations and first-generation students.

Academic Tutoring

Tillie's Touch – East Syracuse, NY\$ 15,000
Academic & Athletic Empowerment Initiative

Internships

Lime Hollow Nature Center –
Cortland, NY\$ 12,500
Teen Apprenticeship & After School Programs

Mercy Works – Syracuse, NY\$ 12,500
Synergy Leadership Development Internship

Syracuse University –
College of Education –
Syracuse, NY\$ 10,000
New Design Scholars Fostering Experiential Learning

Syracuse University –
College of A&S/Physics –
Syracuse, NY\$ 10,000
Summer High School Internship Program

Literacy

Fayetteville Free Library –
Fayetteville, NY\$ 10,000
Furnishing for Youth Wing

ProLiteracy – Syracuse, NY\$ 15,000
Support for Adult Literacy

United Way of CNY – Syracuse, NY ..\$ 10,000
STEAM Books for Students

Other

Jowonio School – Syracuse, NY\$ 10,000
Mental Health Supports

\$105,000

SECONDARY GRANT PROGRAMS:

ARTS & CULTURE:

We believe that engagement in the arts creates a stronger and more vibrant community and culture. Our goal is to foster arts education and appreciation. Our strategies include supporting educational curriculum, instruction, and engagement of youth via visiting artists or performances.

Arts Education

Auburn Public Theater –
Auburn, NY\$ 7,500
Youth Education Program

CNY Arts, Inc. – Syracuse, NY\$ 10,000
Arts Leadership Fellow

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KEYS – Sherrill, NY\$ 10,800
Music Scholarship Program

Perform 4 Purpose – Auburn, NY.....\$ 8,000
Youth Music Lessons and Performance

Stone Quarry Hill Art Park –
Cazenovia, NY\$ 10,500
Digital Resources that Connect Students to Artists

Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park –
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 500
Kids Doing Shakespeare Supplies

Syracuse Stage – Syracuse, NY.....\$ 12,500
Syracuse Stage Children's Tour

\$ 59,800

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES:

We believe that a resilient social infrastructure is essential to a healthy local community. **Our goal** is to directly enhance the lives of the residents within our core geographic regions by expanding services that bridge the poverty gap. **Our strategies** include investing in community centers, safe and affordable housing, human services delivered by shelters and food pantries, and veterans services.

Food Insecurity

Erin's Angels of CNY – Phoenix, NY...\$ 5,000
Summer Meals Program

Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems
Alliance – Syracuse, NY\$ 12,500
Community Rooted Leadership Pipeline

Housing

A Tiny Home for Good –
Syracuse, NY\$ 20,000
Maintenance Technician

Syracuse Habitat for Humanity, Inc. –
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 8,650
First Time Homebuyer Project

Human Services

FOCUS Greater Syracuse, Inc. –
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 2,700
Donor Management & Community Engagement

Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society –
Syracuse, NY\$ 12,200
Expansion of Free Legal Services

Helio Health, Inc. – Syracuse, NY.....\$ 4,800
Clothing Support

Madison County Rural
Health Council, Inc. – Cazenovia, NY..\$ 10,000
Teen Mental Health

Rural & Migrant Ministry of
Oswego County, Inc. – Richland, NY..\$ 4,500
Medical Support Equipment

Syracuse Community Connections –
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 5,200
Financial Consultant

Veteran Services

Clear Path for Veterans, Inc. –
Chittenango, NY.....\$ 12,500
Empowering Veterans and Military Families

\$ 98,050

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

We believe that encouraging young adults to dream and equipping them to succeed can change the trajectory of their lives. **Our goal** is to empower young adults in their personal development and to equip them in their professional aspirations. **Our strategies** focus on developing sustained relationships that offer one-on-one mentoring, character education, skills training, and violence prevention.

Skill Development

Housing and Homeless Coalition
of CNY – Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000
Youth Advisory Board Innovation

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Violence Prevention

Center for Community Alternatives –
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 25,000
Youth Violence Prevention & Peer Leadership

Center for Justice Innovation –
Syracuse, NY.....\$ 10,000
Restorative Justice Initiative

\$ 45,000

GRAND TOTAL \$307,850