

FIELDSTONE FOUNDATION



2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

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# HONORING DEDICATION

In the heart of Malone, NY, The Backpack Program stands as a beacon, illuminating a future where no child goes hungry. At its helm was Dick Lavigne, who for over 15 years, gave more than just his time, but a piece of his heart.

Retiring in June 2023, Dick's leadership and commitment to this cause have been the backbone of the Backpack Program. The dedication and selfless compassion of Dick cannot be celebrated without acknowledging the amazing team of volunteers who gathered weekly to package healthy meals for the thousands of children over the course of many years. This team, bound by a shared purpose, embody the true spirit of service—turning vision into action. Their impact is felt in every hopeful heart and every child's smile.

As we look back on Dick's remarkable journey, we are filled with gratitude. To Dick and every volunteer: thank you. Together, they've created more than just a program, they've crafted a legacy.

*Here's to a brighter, hunger-free tomorrow!*



## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

455

Children Served  
this Year

55,800

Meals  
Distributed



## TASTE OF MALONE

In 2023, Taste of Malone evolved in an exciting direction with the inception of the Ambassador Program. This initiative paved the way for an enriched connection between our community, our participating restaurants, and the essential mission we uphold.

*"The Taste of Malone is a testament to the power of a community coming together for a common cause."*

The Ambassadors championed our cause with dedication and finesse. Stationed onsite at our partner restaurants, they not only elevated the event's atmosphere but became the bridge connecting patrons to the values and objectives of Taste of Malone and the Backpack Program.

**\$45,000 Raised**

With genuine enthusiasm and informed insights, they facilitated conversations about our essential community program, ensuring that everyone who wanted to support the Backpack or Adopt-A-Child Program knew precisely how to make a meaningful impact.



## Thank you!

- Jacqueline Beach-Seguin
- Lori Burke
- Mary Jo Carter-Codling
- Katie Chodat
- Jenna Coronel
- Brady Dullea
- Emily Gokey
- Leah Hayes
- John Ianuzelli
- Edward Kirkpatrick
- Curt Lyon
- Christine Lenney
- Tampa Mallory
- Blake Pecore
- Sara Phelan
- Amy Rattee
- Heidi Visser
- Sonya Wells

## *A Tribute to Our* **AMBASSADOR TEAM**

**To our Ambassadors:** Your commitment enhanced the event and made it come alive. The success of Taste of Malone's evening can be attributed to many elements, but our Ambassador team truly brought the magic. Your dedication transformed a simple evening out into an engaging community event.

"The Taste of Malone is a testament to the power of a community coming together for a common cause," said Ms. Tagliarino. "The funds raised are essential to providing children in our community with the nutrition they need to learn, grow and thrive."

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank you for your support, dedication, and passion for making a difference. Cheers to the milestones we achieved together and to many more on the horizon!

"I remember a particularly touching moment when a first-grade boy rushed to give a hug to the person distributing the bags because he saw that peanut butter and jelly were included that week and his family could make his favorite sandwich."

- Backpack Program School Facilitator



## A TASTE OF COMPASSION

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In every bite savored and every plate shared during the Taste of Malone event, there lies an unmistakable testament to the generosity of our local restaurants. These establishments become the heartbeat of a movement aimed at ending childhood hunger in the North Country.

Each restaurant owner and their workforce exemplify the spirit of community, transforming an evening of dining into an act of profound generosity. It's a partnership based on the shared belief that every child deserves to be nourished and supported.

In profound gratitude, we honor and celebrate every restaurant that joined us in this journey. Together, we are crafting a narrative of hope and unity, where every child in the North Country is free from the clutches of hunger.

*Thank you!*

*20% Revenue Donation*

- Donovan's Steak & Ale
- Riverside Steak & Seafood
- The Pines Tab & Table
- Mo's Pub & Grill
- Bokie's Drive-In
- Giuseppe's Pizza
- Hosler's Family Restaurant
- The Grille Room at Malone Golf Club
- Something Different Pizza & Delis
- Smokehouse Pizzeria
- Malone Lodge of Elks

# DONOVAN'S STEAK & ALE

## *A Commitment to Community*

Since opening its doors in 2007, Donovan's Steak & Ale has not only carved out a reputation for fine dining but also for its unwavering commitment to the community. Nestled in the heart of Malone, Donovan's is more than a restaurant—it's a community hub. Owned by Donovan and Dana Reyome, the establishment is beloved for its creative cuisine, classic dining atmosphere as well as their family-friendly approach. Beyond the sense of community they so aptly create for their patrons, they demonstrate their commitment with heartfelt contributions to, and support for, local initiatives, notably the Backpack Program.

*“Donovan and I are all in for any cause that supports kids in our community, and the Backpack Program is completely aligned with that mindset.”*

From its early participation in Taste of Malone in 2010, Donovan's dedication to this cause has been unyielding. The event is a crucial lifeline for the Backpack Program, ensuring that children facing food insecurity are provided with meals during the weekends when school food programs aren't available.

“Our customers are always engaged and ask questions - and many donate,” shared Dana. This exemplifies the culture of care and generosity that permeates through Donovan's.

Donovan's stands as a testament to the profound impact of collective effort. Their message is clear and compelling: addressing child food insecurity is not just a charitable act but a community responsibility.

The heart of Donovan's pulses with a spirit of community, compassion, and purpose. Their ongoing support for the Backpack Program underscores a narrative where businesses and community unite, ensuring that every child in the North Country is nourished, cared for, and supported.

*We thank you Dana & Donovan,  
for all your support!*

*“Food insecurity for anyone in our community is heartbreaking, but for children? It's not only heartbreaking, it's unacceptable.”*

*~ Dana Reyome*



## BACKPACK PROGRAM

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A staggering 14 million children in the United States suffer from the clutches of food insecurity—a harrowing figure exacerbated by recent unprecedented events. The North Country is no stranger to this crisis. While the national child poverty rate doubled in the last year to a significant 12.4%, Franklin County and surrounding areas realized an even graver milestone reaching 27.1% — a reminder of the formidable challenge ahead.

As the emergency allotments to the SNAP program wound down in March, organizations committed to alleviating food insecurity bore witness to a surge in the number of families relying on food shelves and community programs, like the Backpack Program, to ensure their children had full bellies. The cessation of the enhanced child tax credits further deepened the wounds, pulling the rug from under families who were barely keeping their heads above turbulent waters.

In the midst of prevailing adversities that have cast a daunting shadow over our community, the Backpack Program has emerged as a ray of light, illuminating paths of possibility and promise. Hunger doesn't pause for weekends or school holidays, and neither does our unwavering commitment to ensuring no child goes hungry. Each year, we channel the collective efforts of our compassionate community to providing meals to children in our region experiencing food insecurity. This year the Backpack Program touched the lives of 455 local children across seven school districts, delivering 55,800 meals.

In the face of adversity, the Backpack Program stands resilient and resolute. Our mission transcends the mere act of providing meals—our goal is to instill hope, ensure academic success, and forge a future where childhood hunger is a memory. Every nutritious meal is a testament of our pledge to our community's children—a promise of brighter, nourished tomorrows.



# SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

Summer blooms, and so does hope! Imagine a summer where every child wakes up to a nourishing meal, ready to embrace the day's adventures. Our Summer Feeding Program is the heartbeat of a community where hunger takes a backseat, and the joyous laughter of well-nourished children fills the air.



## 15,000

Meals Served  
This Summer

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As the final school bell rings, marking the onset of summer, a pivotal transformation unfolds in the lives of many children. For some, the absence of regular, school-provided meals creates a void, turning a season of freedom and play into a time of want.

This is where our Summer Feeding Program elegantly fits into the narrative.

Offering nutritious breakfast and lunch to eligible children at no cost and meeting children where they are—at easily accessible community locations across our region.

*“The children are so grateful - they enjoyed the new menu and even got to try food they never had before, like hummus!”*

This program becomes a silent guardian, ensuring that the vibrancy, energy, and potential of our community's youngest members aren't eclipsed by the shadows of need and pangs of hunger.

It is our hope that our efforts foster a future where every child, unhindered by hunger, can bask in the endless possibilities that summer epitomizes.

# *2nd Annual* **FIELDSTONE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**\$55,000 Raised**



*A day of community and purpose!*



*2nd Annual*

# FIELDSTONE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The resounding harmonies of unity and celebration still echo throughout the Fieldstone community following the success of this year's Fieldstone Music Festival. With over 500 attendees coming together for a day filled with soul-stirring music, exquisite arts, and unforgettable memories, we achieved a communal spirit that went far beyond our expectations.

The performances by our line-up of exceptional talent, including Ursa and the Major Key and Los Blancos, engaged the crowd, culminating in the show-stopping act by The Strictly Hip—a tribute band that carries on the musical legacy of The Tragically Hip with impeccable finesse. Each song, a symphony of nostalgia, had the crowd dancing and singing, uniting voices and souls all for a common purpose.

Our Fieldstone Farmers and Artisans Market was a hub of culture, talent, and creativity, with booths adorned with incredible arts, crafts, and culinary delights that celebrated the richness of our community.

The children's area was buzzing with excitement, laughter, and joy. Pipsqueak the Clown entertained children and provided face-painting

while our volunteers engaged children in games, activities, and crafts throughout the day. Bokie's Drive In joined us serving up scoops of ice cream and smiles including a custom, festival-inspired flavor 'Be Hip and Dip.'

At the heart of this energizing atmosphere was a mission – a mission to give back. We are profoundly delighted to announce that we raised \$55,000 to combat food, housing, and financial insecurity in our beloved community. Every note sung and every hand clapped contributed to this cause, proving that a united community can indeed script remarkable stories of change.

*“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our corporate sponsors, our community, and the tireless volunteers – together, we are a melody of hope, resilience, and unwavering support.”*

*~ Amanda Tagliarino*



## OUR VOLUNTEERS

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every volunteer who poured their passion, energy, and talent into making the Fieldstone Music Festival a resounding success. Your dedication and support transformed our vision into a vibrant reality. Every task you undertook contributed to creating an atmosphere where joy, generosity, and fellowship blossomed.

You are the unsung heroes of our festival, and we are profoundly thankful for your selfless contributions. Together, we turned melodies into moments, and moments into a movement of enduring community spirit.

- Krista Bartlett
- Melanie Bigness
- Lori Burke
- Murri Chase
- Sherry Dewey
- Michael Dhaliwal
- Kyle DuTullio
- Jennifer Dishaw
- Chris Dumas
- Dottie Dumas
- Lucinda Fish
- Bernie Hadlock
- Erin Hosler
- Rose Hosler
- Liberty Hosler
- John Ianuzelli
- Kati Jock
- Tiffany King
- Edward Kirkpatrick
- Kelly Langdon
- Paul Langdon
- Christine Lenney
- Lyam Leonard
- Levi Leonard
- Curt Lyon
- Beth Mahoney
- Lily McCaffrey
- Leo McCargar
- Ben McCargar
- Erika McDonald
- Matt McElwain
- Amber Meza
- Oscar Meza
- Blake Pecore
- Sara Phelan
- Amy Rattee
- Michael Rattee
- Joe Riccio
- Jennifer Rowledge DiTullio
- Charley Tagliarino
- Jamie Tavernier
- Heidi Visser
- Sonya Wells

# *A Tribute to Our* **VOLUNTEER TEAM**



## *Here's What One Team Looks Like to Me*

*"I witnessed the culmination of all our cultural beliefs in action and being represented by all the volunteers at the Fieldstone Festival ... everyone was willing to do whatever it took to make the day a success.*

*Everyone brought their best self to give back to the community that gives us all so much every day. I remember looking around at everyone, my co-workers, my colleagues, and thinking to myself how fortunate I am to know all these people."*

*- Observation From A Volunteer*





## FIELDSTONE FUND

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With the proceeds from our inaugural Fieldstone Music Festival, we were able to launch the Fieldstone Fund. The fund was established with the primary aim of providing financial support to families within our local school districts. It has been a ray of light for those grappling with financial hardship amidst unforeseen challenges. In instances where no other funding sources are accessible, the Fieldstone Fund stepped in as a lifeline. The Fieldstone Fund is a testament to the power of collective compassion and action.

One story, among many, underscores the profound impact of the Fieldstone Fund.

Struggling to keep their home warm for their young children after having faced an unexpected family accident, these funds provided a safety net for one local family - offering not just financial support but a glimmer of hope in the midst of dark and trying days. Every family has a story, and every story is a reminder of the impact we can have on the life of another through our combined efforts.

Each story of hardship and relief reaffirms the significance of the Fieldstone Fund. It's not just a monetary contribution; it's a symbol of our commitment to ensure that no family is left to face their struggles alone.



### School Districts

Malone, Chateaugay, Brushton-Moira, St. Regis Falls, Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake.



### Eligible Applicants

Families with children enrolled in one of these school districts experiencing an unmet financial hardship.

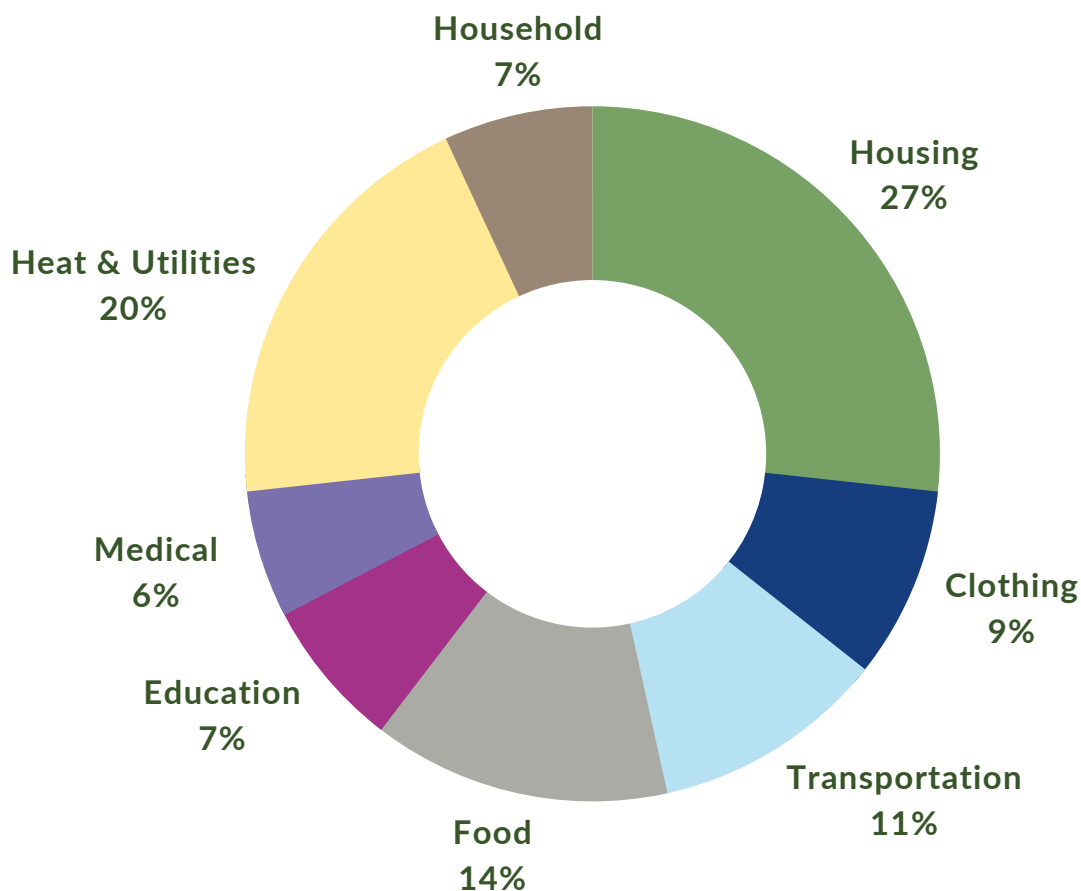
# FIELDSTONE FUND

Amidst challenging times, the Fieldstone Fund is our response to the financial hardships unfolding within our local communities. Through collective efforts and commitment, we've transformed these funds into lifelines for many, redefining the essence of community support. Each allocation isn't just financial assistance—it's a message of unity and support, echoing the strength and compassion of our community.

A breakdown of the disbursement of funding is below.

## BY THE NUMBERS

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*Through our dedication to building good, together - we are changing lives. One small gesture of kindness at a time.*

# *With Gratitude*

At the heart of our charitable efforts to support our local community members grappling with food, housing, and financial insecurity, our supporters shine brightly. With deep gratitude, we acknowledge these remarkable individuals who have risen to the challenge. None of this would be possible without you.

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*Thank you!*

**\$10,000+**

Kinney Drugs Foundation

**\$2,000+**

Hoffmann Eells Group CPAs  
Tenth Crow Creative

**\$5,000+**

3d Development Group  
Celia Construction  
Foundation of Jewish Philanthropy  
NBT Bank  
Sid G Spear Insurance Company  
The Bonadio Group  
United Way of Adirondack Region

**\$1,500+**

Explore Adirondack Frontier  
Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy  
Harter Secrest & Emery LLP  
Stewart's Shops

**\$2,500+**

TruNorthern Federal Credit Union  
Adirondack Energy  
Adirondack for Kids  
Barclay Damon LLP  
Barton & Loguidice  
Excellus BCBS  
Perry Systems  
Nixon Peabody LLP  
UVM Health Network - Alice Hyde

**\$1,000+**

Flemings Fine Furniture  
Law Office of Nathan Race  
Philadelphia Insurance Companies

**Individual Donors:  
\$8,410**



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## \$500+

Adirondack 1892  
Arnold Lumber  
Beardsley Architects + Engineers  
Growtrends Marketing Agency  
H&R Block  
International Border Company - IBC  
JW Electrical, Plumbing & Heating  
Lifetime Benefit Solutions  
Northern Adirondack Board of Realtors  
RTI International

## \$250+


Ellis Automotive  
Budget Blinds of Plattsburgh  
Bernardot Pediatrics  
Bub's Enterprise  
Chateaugay Student Council  
Industrial Press  
Seacomm Federal Credit Union  
Spaulding Pool & Spa  
Westelcom  
Commonwealth Financial Group

## \$200+

King-Clark Insurance  
Whitbeck Associates

## \$50 - 100+

Amvets  
Edward Duquette & Son  
Furniture Weekend  
JCEO  
Joe's Glass  
Law Office of Nathan Race  
Malone Rotary  
Superior Glass



*Alone we can do so  
little, together we  
can do so much.*

*-Helen Keller*

*We thank you for your support.*

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## 2024 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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As we reflect on the remarkable strides made in 2023, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our generous sponsors who have been instrumental in advancing our mission to combat food, housing, and financial insecurity.

Our collective efforts have illuminated hope in the lives of many. As we begin to plan our work next year, we are excited to present our 2024 sponsorship opportunities, designed to amplify our impact and foster a community where everyone is nourished, sheltered, and empowered to flourish.





## 2024 BACKPACK PROGRAM

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- **Taste of Malone Corporate Sponsor**
  - Our Corporate Sponsors ensure sustainability of this essential program and allow us to extend the program to all children in need in our region.
  - Opportunities are available at the **\$2,500** or **\$5,000** level and include premier event promotional placement in a variety of materials, inclusion in press releases, website, social media posts, and event advertising.
- **Taste of Malone Booklet Advertisement**
  - Help us raise funds to directly support the Backpack Program while showcasing your support of this essential community program. Program booklets are placed throughout all participating restaurants for the event.
  - Opportunities available: **\$250, \$500, \$750, \$1,000.**
- **Adopt-A-Child**
  - For just **\$125**, you can give a child the gift of knowing their meals have been sponsored for the school year and they won't go hungry on weekends.
- **Monthly Donation**
  - A monthly donation in the amount of your choosing helps support this important cause over the course of a year, allowing you to support our work while adhering to your budget.

# 2024 FIELDSTONE FESTIVAL

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When we sing and dance together - we build community. Support our annual fundraising event that brings our community together for a day of entertainment and culture, all for a purpose. Help us fulfill our commitment to meeting urgent community's needs - in particular, addressing food, housing and financial insecurity experienced within our region.

## *Corporate Sponsorship*



**Supporter**  
\$2,500

### **Benefits Include:**

- Signage on venue event fencing.
- Name/Logo on website, social media, emails & press releases.
- 2 VIP passes to Festival.
- Fieldstone Foundation/Festival Apparel.



**Advocate**  
\$10,000

### **Benefits Include:**

- Signage placement on stage and large sign with premium placement on event fencing.
- Name/Logo on website, social media, emails & press releases.
- Live acknowledgement during event.
- 4 VIP passes to Festival.
- Fieldstone Foundation/Festival Apparel.
- Lodging.



**Partner**  
\$5,000

### **Benefits Include:**

- Medium signage on venue event fencing.
- Name/Logo on website, social media, emails & press releases.
- Live acknowledgement during event.
- 2 VIP passes to Festival.
- Fieldstone Foundation/Festival Apparel.
- Lodging.



**Collaborator**  
\$20,000

### **Benefits Include:**

- Premium signage placement on stage and large sign with prominent placement on event fencing.
- Prominent display in all promotional materials.
- Dedicated Press Release.
- Live acknowledgement during event.
- 8 VIP passes to Festival.
- Fieldstone Foundation/Festival Apparel.
- Lodging.

# FIELDSTONE FOUNDATION

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*A Gift of Any Amount is Gratefully Accepted*

At the heart of the Fieldstone Foundation is an unyielding commitment to kindle hope, dignity, and empowerment among the most vulnerable in our society. Every initiative, every effort, and every project we undertake is rooted in a philosophy of compassionate outreach.

Our Grants Committee, a collective of Citizen Advocates and esteemed community stakeholders, plays a pivotal role in ensuring that every dollar donated makes a tangible, lasting impact. This dedicated team meticulously evaluates gift-giving opportunities and identifies initiatives where contributions can be most meaningful. Together, we're not just distributing aid; we're strategically investing in a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Yet, we acknowledge that there are pressing needs that surface unexpectedly - urgent financial hardships that threaten to impede the progress of those we are committed to uplifting. By donating directly to the Fieldstone Foundation, you provide us with the flexibility to respond promptly to these unforeseen challenges. Each contribution becomes a bridge over these gaps, ensuring continuity in our shared journey of transformation.

In entrusting us with your generous donation, know that it is stewarded with the utmost care, diligence, and integrity, always channelled where it's needed most. Together, in this spirit of shared humanity and collective effort, we will continue to weave a tapestry of hope, resilience, and empowerment for every member of our community.

***Your contribution is not just a donation; it's a pledge to a brighter, more equitable tomorrow for us all.***

