



January 2009 Newsletter By Michael Avella

2008 was a very productive year for the Community of Windham Foundation. We started the year with an organizational meeting that resulted in the expansion of our Board of Directors and initiated our agenda for the coming year. Our Board consists of community minded unpaid volunteers who are enthusiastically dedicated to making the Town of Windham and surrounding communities a better place to live and visit.

Our first major fundraising effort of the year was a Breakfast held at the VFW Post on Main Street in Windham. The purpose of this event was to raise money for the VFW Post's Building Fund. All the profits from this event were turned over to the Post and will be used to restore and improve the condition of the existing structure. We successfully raised \$2000 for their project and received many compliments from the numerous attendees and members of the Post. In June we awarded a scholarship to WAJ senior Rachel Messina who is attending St. John Fischer College.

Every August during the Civil War Encampment Concert we recognize and honor local citizens for their unselfish dedication and service to the Windham community. This year we presented Community Recognition Awards to six well deserving individuals. The recipients were John Wiktorko, Superintendent of WAJ Schools, for his management skills in overseeing the multi- million dollar renovation and construction project and the implementation of programs leading to significant student performance on all levels. John Goettsche was recognized for his duty to his country as a War Veteran and continued service to the Windham Community for all of his dedicated volunteer efforts in local organizations. Tyrell Sherman, Alyssa Benjamin and Jason Lonecke, three young first responders, were honored for their heroic effort in saving the life of a local citizen at a devastating house fire. Our last honoree was Susan Kowalski who initiated the Mountaintop Adopt-A-Soldier Program which sends packages to our brave troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is a relentless advocate for all of the men and women serving in the armed forces of this great country.

In November we had the privilege of hosting the Greene County Honor a Veteran Program. Coming to the Mountaintop for their presentation was a first for the Green County Honor a Veteran Committee as the ceremony is usually held in Catskill. They awarded all World War II Veterans in Greene County with a proclamation that was accepted by VFW Post 1545 on behalf of all World War II Veterans. The proclamation

is permanently displayed at the Post for all citizens to view. All of this was done to coincide with our World War II Victory Day Celebration and Swing Canteen which was held in the evening. The authentic USO Show was well attended and enjoyed by all. These events were initiated for the sole purpose of honoring all of our veterans and to focus on the importance of restoring the building that houses VFW Post 1545, Route 23, Windham.

The year ended with another successful Christmas Wreath Contest and annual Christmas Show, "Clara's Dream" which was presented by the Schoharie Creek Players. We also contracted TechNet Computer Services, a local computer professional, to update and maintain our web-site. We hope you will take the time and effort to view our many activities and informative items displayed on this site.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our generous donors and individuals who attend our functions and support us throughout the year without your enthusiastic support we would not be able to exist. I just wanted to take this opportunity to high light some of our past year's accomplishments and can assure you that we will continue to be an active force in the Mountaintop community. We not only ask you for your monetary and moral support, but welcome any constructive suggestions that can make us more successful in implementing our mission of arts, recreation, and historic preservation.

Michael G. Avella
Chairman