

## YOUR GIFTS STRENGTHEN RURAL HEALTH CARE



## A permanent promise for the River: How endowment strengthens care for generations

**R**iver Hospital's future grew even stronger this year when a transformational \$2 million gift was placed into its permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation. For hospital leaders, the decision reflects a clear belief: long-term stability is essential to sustaining high-quality rural healthcare.

River Hospital established its endowment fund in 2014. In 2021, hospital leadership partnered with the Foundation on a campaign to help strengthen the endowment with the Foundation providing a \$150,000 matching commitment.

Chief Executive Officer **Kelley Tiernan** describes endowment as both a practical tool and a promise. "Rural healthcare is built on resilience, innovation, and the belief that every person deserves exceptional care close to home," she said. "Our endowment embodies that promise. It strengthens care today and ensures that, no matter what challenges come our way, River Hospital will be here with strength, readiness, and hope for generations to come."

That strength has already made a difference. Endowment support

//

**The Community Foundation brings deep expertise in stewarding charitable resources and has been a steadfast partner in helping us grow and protect our endowment. We see the Foundation as a true partner in securing the health and well-being of the River community, now and far into the future.**

— Kelley Tiernan, River Hospital Chief Executive Officer

recently funded an automatic chest compressor now in use during cardiac emergencies, a lifesaving investment many rural hospitals often struggle to make.

The endowment also reflects the vision of donors like Wayne

Strauss, whose leadership gift was intentionally directed to secure River Hospital's long-term future. His commitment inspired others to invest, helping grow a fund designed to serve the community in perpetuity.

Andy Impaglia, CFO, said the hospital's partnership with the Community Foundation brings confidence and stewardship to that vision.

For Executive Director of Development **Stephanie Weiss**, the endowment also reflects the belief of the community in the hospital.

"This endowment is being built one act of generosity at a time," she said. "Every gift is a vote of confidence in our mission and a promise that exceptional care will always be here on the River."

Hospital leaders see the endowment fund as essential to meeting the challenges of rural healthcare, providing stability, fueling innovation, and giving donors a meaningful way to create lasting impact.

"If your mission matters to your community," Ms. Tiernan said, "an endowment is one of the strongest commitments you can make to ensuring it endures."

**LEADERSHIP ON THE RIVER:** From left: **River Hospital** Chief Financial Officer **Andy Impaglia**; Chief Executive Officer **Kelley Tiernan**; and Executive Director of Development **Stephanie Weiss**.

A \$2 million gift the hospital received was directed to help build the organization's permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation earlier this year.

Kara Dry Photography / For Thoughtful Giving



### Endowment funds critical equipment

**River Hospital's** growing endowment plays a vital role in ensuring it can respond quickly to emerging needs and invest in **lifesaving patient technologies**.

The hospital recently relied on proceeds from its endowment for the first time to purchase an **automatic chest compressor**, a critical device that allows care teams to deliver uninterrupted, effective CPR during medical emergencies. This single investment demonstrates how the **endowment strengthens** the hospital's ability to **provide exceptional care today, while preserving resources** to protect the health of the community **well into the future**.

■ To help build the fund, make gifts to the **Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**, or access secure online giving at [nnycf.org](http://nnycf.org).