

2024 Emeritus Society Legacy of Excellence Awards

The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers is proud to honor two exceptional individuals by inducting them into the esteemed ranks of the Emeritus Society Legacy of Excellence. This distinction is the highest honor the Foundation's Board of Directors can bestow upon former members. Emeriti are recognized for their long-term dedication and support, inspiring others and setting an aspirational standard for future board members through their service and engagement. It is awarded to those who have made substantial contributions to the Foundation's mission and who possess a deep understanding of its history and goals.

Marilyn Bok, the founder and first CEO of the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers, helped shape the organization from its earliest days. During her tenure as voluntary CEO, she served as CFTT Board Chair from 2003 through 2008, then remained as CEO until her retirement in 2012. Marilyn's vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment laid the foundation for the Foundation's growth and long-term success, ensuring that its mission would flourish for years to come.

Benjamin R. Olney has been a tireless champion of CFTT, serving on the Board from 2010 to 2017 and again from 2019 to 2024. Over his tenure, he held numerous key positions, including one year as Secretary, one year as Vice Chair, and four years as Chair. In addition, Benjamin dedicated his time to several CFTT committees, providing invaluable leadership and expertise. His efforts brought in new funds to support the Foundation's mission, always guided by a steadfast belief in its importance and impact.

The Board of the Community Foundation is deeply grateful for the insight, leadership, and generosity these remarkable individuals have shared. Their decades of service have left an enduring mark on the community, inspiring others through their example and consistently championing meaningful change. This honor celebrates not only their outstanding accomplishments but also the lasting legacy they continue to build, one through steadfast support, the other through ongoing guidance and leadership on the advisory board. Together, Marilyn and Benjamin embody a lifetime of giving back, leaving a legacy that will inspire all who follow in their footsteps.