



Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance

A non-profit 501(c)3 Local Development Corporation whose mission is to restore economic prosperity in the Ticonderoga region by serving as a catalyst for innovative ideas and resources, and for public-private partnerships and investment opportunities.

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From the Board

Every year, we are humbled by the generosity and support of our Ti-Alliance community. But this fall, you outdid yourselves. We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who donated during our year-end fundraising season. Because of you Ti-Alliance is in an excellent financial position for 2023 and ready to focus on new housing, entrepreneurial support, downtown revitalization, and the childcare initiative.

On January 23, we learned that Ticonderoga will be the next recipient of New York State's \$10M Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant. This is the result of 9 months of hard work on the part of a great DRI Committee and our entire community to create a compelling application. Congratulations to everyone for this great achievement. Exciting times to come (See DRI article).

We have big projects on tap for 2023. There are more ways than ever to get involved in our work as Ti-Alliance continues to grow and expand its impact. We encourage you to contact us any time at donna@ticonderoga-alliance.org to talk about how you could bring your skill set to this important work.

The Ti-Alliance Board of Directors

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New York Secretary of State, Robert Rodriguez, announces Ticonderoga will receive the North Country region's DRI grant this year.

Town of Ticonderoga Awarded \$10M NYS DRI Grant!

On January 23, 2023, a crowd gathered in the Community Center to hear New York Secretary of State, Robert Rodriguez, announce that the Town of Ticonderoga will be the 6th round recipient of the North Country region's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant (DRI). The \$10 million grant will be transformative for the community.

Now is the time to get informed and stay engaged. Please read the [New York State press release](#).

The Ticonderoga DRI website will be the primary source of information throughout the long process ahead of us; bookmark the website (www.ticonderogadri.com/) for easy access. Thank you again to our incredible community for participating in the DRI process. We hope you enjoy celebrating this amazing news and participating in the coming months!

Revitalizing a Downtown Landmark

You may know it as the Newbury's Building or the Hacker Building. We're calling it the 108 Montcalm Project. In November, we announced that Ti-Alliance had acquired this abandoned eyesore on Montcalm Street. Since then, we have been working to secure the space and build a plan for the restoration of the building. It's a \$2.5M project requiring an 18,000 sq. ft. roof, asbestos abatement, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, interior walls, and insulation. It's a big project. We recently applied for a New York State RestoreNY grant. If we get the grant, it will help finance a good portion of the renovations, but we need to raise other private funds to complete the work.



We expect this building to become the home of a new tourist attraction: Star Trek the Next Generation Set Tours. It will attract more than 15,000 visitors to Ticonderoga and pump over \$1.5M in revenue into our economy annually. That's huge for a North Country business. Imagine the visual transformation in downtown when we replace the boarded-up storefront with a new facade. Imagine how the year-round traffic will impact the rest of the downtown businesses. Imagine all the new retail and restaurant businesses that the residents and visitors will enjoy! It's a game changer for Downtown Ticonderoga.

If you are interested in donating to this pivotal project, give us a call. To follow the progress, sign up for our email list and follow along on social media!



David Bechard, graduated from linemen school this summer and is now working for Hour Electric. Way to go, David!

Educating a Skilled Workforce

This past August, with a very generous donation from George Singer, Ti-Alliance established the George C. Singer Scholarship Endowment Fund. This endowment will provide resources to support Skilled Career Training Scholarships for local students so that they can pursue their career choices, and so that we can build a skilled workforce for our community.

Many students in our community have aspirations in these skilled fields (construction, medical, culinary, etc.) but lack the financial resources to continue their education after high school. George and other generous donors have put us on the path of generating multiple scholarships each year through the endowment, but we need to build the fund. Our goal is to build our principal to \$250,000 in 2023.

These scholarships change lives. Brett Moore, Ti High Class of 2019, graduated from SUNY Wanakena Forest Ranger School in 2021. David Bechard, a 2020 scholarship recipient, graduated from the North East Linemen Institute in 2022 and is working for Hour Electric as a lineman. Brandon Provoncha, a 2021 scholarship recipient, graduated from Modern Welding and works as a wind turbine welder for FieldCore, a GE Company. As a recent graduate of a welding academy, he was able to mentor Andrea Paige, Class of 2022, through her program at Advanced Welding Institute. Andrea will graduate in March and will be visiting Ti High to talk with other students about her passion for welding and experience at trade school. It's amazing to see how much these scholars have grown in a short time and to see them "paying it forward."

Making a contribution to the endowment fund makes these trade careers accessible to our local students. Donate to the George C. Singer Scholarship Endowment fund on our website at www.ticonderoga-alliance.org/get-involved, and select "George C. Singer Scholarship Endowment Fund" from the drop-down menu.

Connecting Students with Career Paths

The Career Exploration Program continues to provide students with engaging ways to explore all of the exciting careers available to them in our community. It includes ongoing Students in the Field trips, and we've recently added new in-classroom experiences called Professionals in the Classroom to the program.

This fall International Paper's forestry team hosted Rick Merrill's Technology class for a Students in the Field trip to a timber harvest site. The forestry team talked with students about how they select harvest areas, specific trees, and logging partners. They even practiced some forester field skills. Students left inspired and interested in forestry as an exciting career option in our community. The Alliance would like to thank International Paper's forestry team, including Jay Horetzke and Laurel Peterson (pictured), for sharing their career stories and hosting a fantastic Students in the Field trip.



This month, Garrett Lee, owner of New Leaf Solar, a local solar installer, brought solar energy to multiple classrooms at Ticonderoga High School. First, he attended Jay Wells' Economics class to talk about the solar industry and the economics of residential installations in our region. Then, he addressed Jay's Entrepreneurship class to give them insight into entrepreneurship and its challenges. Finally, he brought an "off-grid" portable solar system into Rick Merrill's Technology class to show them how he built the panel and how he uses it to run power tools in the field.

There are so many exciting careers in our community for students to explore. If you are a teacher or professional interested in participating in our Career Exploration program, contact our Program Coordinator, Melinda Fuller, at fuller.melinda@gmail.com.

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