



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

We love the promise of spring. Sunshine, tulips, kelly green grass, new leaves on the trees, migrating birds... grant writing, new projects, scholarships, annual meetings, and the return of the snowbirds. Welcome home, everyone. We've got work to do!

This month we begin the planning process on the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) enabled by the \$10M NY State DRI grant. The State has appointed consultants and a Local Planning Committee (LPC). The first planning meetings will begin in May, which are always open to the public.

We encourage you to engage and understand the process, limitations, and opportunities that are before us. Everyone's inputs are important to achieve the best result from this investment. Please take a moment to read the update on the Town's website at www.townofticonderoga.org (scroll midway down).

It's an exciting time in Ticonderoga. Take a drive downtown to feel the difference. New buildings, new stores, new energy. Rest in peace, Jim Major. Your dreams are in good hands (see the article on page 2).

The Ti-Alliance Board of Directors

Nancy Archer	Lance Clark
Scott Hearburg	Pat Ida
Chris Mallon	Sandy Morhouse
Pam Nolan	Bobby Porter
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ADK Foundation Leads the Way in Childcare Funding

A year ago Ti-Alliance created the Ticonderoga Community Childcare Alliance, a team of all the right employers, school leadership, licensing agencies, and professionals from the community that could help create a plan for a public childcare center in Ticonderoga. We've now identified a location, had state inspections, assessed renovation needs, built the business plan, determined needs with 2 community surveys, and are ready to move our plan forward.

We're excited to announce that the Adirondack Foundation's Generous Acts Fund, in partnership with the Bill and Lisa Powers Family Fund, and the Birth to Three Fund is leading off our funding drive with a \$16,000 grant in support of the Childcare for Ticonderoga Initiative. In the coming months, we will be raising \$1.1 million for the childcare project. Approximately \$475,000 will be used for renovations and start-up costs to get the center open. Another \$625,000, equal to 1 year's operating expenses, will be used as an endowment fund to help support living wage salaries and employee benefits.

Rural childcare is a national, state, and regional priority and a critical infrastructure deficiency that inhibits the economic growth of Ticonderoga. But it is a complex funding challenge. Oddly, there is very little public funding available for our project (read more about funding challenges on our website). If we can raise this funding privately, we can get our childcare center open in 6 months or less. For more information about the childcare project, visit our website at www.ticonderoga-alliance.org/challenge-of-childcare.

Thanks again to The Adirondack Foundation for their leadership in funding this and other great work throughout the Adirondacks. For more information on their incredible work, visit www.adirondackfoundation.org.

Welcome our Summer Intern: Eman Qamar!

Please join us in welcoming Eman Qamar to our team! Eman is a 2022 Ticonderoga High School graduate and is studying nursing at Siena College. You may also know her as one of our 2022 Skilled Career Training Scholarship recipients. She will be working as our Ti-Alliance summer intern at our downtown Ti-Works office and gaining experience to utilize throughout her career. She is most excited to learn professional skills and work in a fun environment. We will share updates on our social media accounts all summer, so follow along and say hi to Eman if you're at the office!



News From our Ti-Alliance Scholars

It's been a great year for our Ti-Alliance Scholars. In March, Andrea Paige graduated from the Advanced Welding Institute (AWI) in Burlington where she excelled among her peers and was asked to continue not as a student, but as part of the faculty! Congratulations to Andrea on knocking it out of the park!



Left to right: Andrea Cooke, Jack Michalak, Michael O'Donnell, and Eman Qamar

This month Andrea Cooke, Jack Michalak, and Eman Qamar all successfully completed their freshman years at SUNY Adirondack, North Country Community College, and Siena College respectively, and are back home for the summer. Michael O'Donnell completed his sophomore year at SUNY Adirondack and has just a couple more credits to finish before he graduates with a degree in Art and Media.

We're so proud of these students and their accomplishments. The Scholarship Committee is currently evaluating the scholarship applicants for the 23/24 academic year. In the coming weeks, we will be announcing our next group of students that will be off to school in the fall.

Help us change lives and build a skilled community.

Each year we get more scholarship applications than the prior year. Our Career Training Program has been very effective in encouraging students to pursue their education in skilled fields. We want to remove the financial barriers for every student that applies, but that's not currently possible. Last year we established the George C. Singer Scholarship Endowment to help generate additional funds every year. The endowment is growing, but we need to build it up more. If you believe in these students the way we do, please consider donating to the Endowment Fund – it's a gift that keeps on giving year after year, student after student.

A Fantastic Day Exploring Local Career Opportunities

What happens when we all collaborate? The Ticonderoga Job Fair Day! This year the Alliance and the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) coordinated an entire day of job fairs to help students, adults, and employers all connect to fill job openings throughout the area. On April 27th, Ti-Alliance hosted our annual Student Job Fair at Ticonderoga High School in the morning. In the evening, TACC hosted a Community Job Fair at North Country Community College. Together, the events helped more than 22 employers fill summer and permanent jobs.



In the weeks leading up to the student job fair, students were provided with a booklet of more than 40 job openings that would be featured at the fair. Students attended the event with scheduled interviews and a sense of purpose. Employers noticed the increased confidence and engagement demonstrated by the students. Those who work in the skilled trades, in particular, noted how valuable it was to share their professions with the next generation of workers, especially those currently attending CV-TEC. We couldn't have asked for a better day of productive workforce development.

The Alliance would like to thank participating employers and the Ticonderoga High School Staff for everything they do to support our students and programs. Thank you to our partners at TrailNorth Federal Credit Union for providing personal finance resources and CFES Brilliant Pathways for supporting students during the event. Learn more about our workforce development programs on our website at www.ticonderoga-alliance.org/skilled-workforce.

Remembering a Visionary

James S. Major

(1946-2023)



It is with a very heavy heart that we share the passing of Jim Major, a founding member of Ti-Alliance, long-time board member, generous investor, champion of our downtown, and dreamer of a thriving community.

When we talk about "Sharing the Vision" at Ti-Alliance we're talking about sharing a vision that Jim helped to create. Decades before others, Jim saw the potential for a restored economy in the Ticonderoga area and pathways to get there. As a founding board member of Ti-Alliance, he helped create the Board, its mission, and its first projects and investments. Jim's projects included the Ti-Arts Gallery, the home of the Star Trek Original Series Set Tours, Libby's Bakery (now Ledge Hill Brewery), and Two Brothers Meat Market & Deli (now the home of the Ti Natural Food Co-op). He put his own life savings into projects and got his friends to do the same.

In 2017 Jim retired from our board, but he remained a close friend, mentor, cheerleader, and advisor to the team. He was always positive, kind, sensitive, funny, and brilliant.

Most of the people who live here will never know the enormous debt of gratitude that we owe to Jim Major. When it came to Ticonderoga, his enthusiasm, generosity, creativity, and selflessness were unparalleled. Ti-Alliance was privileged to know all of those things about Jim, and we are heartbroken that he will not be here to see the impact of the DRI and other changes that are now fulfilling his dreams for Ticonderoga.

We're so grateful to have called Jim our friend and colleague and send our deepest sympathies to his wife Marianne and their family on the loss of a most amazing man.

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