Donations will be added to the endowment to enhance our ability to meet the increasing need for funds in the human service community. Gifts will improve the League’s capacity to make allocations to a wide range of well-qualified and deserving recipients who might not have other funding sources readily available. Your donation to the League may qualify as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes.

Our portfolio is currently managed by Tompkins Financial Advisors and is diversified to include mutual funds, stocks and bonds.

For information about making a gift in support of the Social Service League or about submitting an application, contact:

Social Service League
c/o Tamara Beardsley
Human Services Coalition
171 East MLK Jr./State Street #133
Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone: 607-273-8686  Fax: 607-273-3002
tbeardsley@hsctc.org
www.hsctc.org/socialserviceleague
The mission of the Social Service League is to support Tompkins County nonprofit human service organizations in their work to address the most significant community needs.

Grant Guidelines

- Grants are awarded annually in the fall.
- Grant requests may not exceed $3,000. (the average grant is around $1,000)
- Grants will be awarded for programs or projects that do not require ongoing support from the League. Grants may be awarded for one-time events and for initiatives that an agency’s current funding cannot support.
- Grants are not awarded to support capital fund drives, deficits, individuals, or regular operating expenses.

The Social Service League was founded in 1904 by members of the Williams, Wyckoff, Rothschild and Livermore families to provide support to local families and to respond to the needs of the growing immigrant population. The League later opened and operated a settlement house in Ithaca’s Northside neighborhood from 1925 –1931. A second Northside settlement house opened in 1926 and operated into the 1960s. A full roster of programs for children and adults was offered: nursery school, Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs, classes, and athletic and social events. Another settlement house, West Side House, near the inlet, opened in 1918 and provided social, educational and recreational facilities for the neighborhood until 1967. Proceeds from the sale of the houses formed the endowment for the current Social Service League. Interest on the endowment is used for annual grants to local service agencies for projects consistent with the goals of the original League.


Grant History

Since 1980, when the Human Services Coalition began providing support to the League, more than 310 grants totaling over $572,000 have been made to more than 100 local programs. $1.9 million was requested during this same period. In 2018-2019, 10 grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- Advocacy Center of Tompkins County
- Foodnet Meals on Wheels
- Gadabout Transportation Services
- Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties
- OAR of Tompkins County
- Racker
- St. John’s Episcopal Church
- Tompkins Learning Partners
- Ultimate Reentry Opportunity Initiative
- Youth Farm Project