PHILANTHROPY

Foundations distributed $126.7M in 2015

With total assets exceeding $342.44 million at year-end 2015, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo kept the top rank on the Business First Top Foundations List.

The organization is among 38 foundations on the List, which appears on Pages S0-S1 of the All About Nonprofits publication.

Combined, the foundations ended the year with assets valued at $1.88 billion. The list includes private, community and corporate foundations that have offices based in the region and paid out at least $200,000 during the calendar year.

The Community Foundation was among six foundations with total assets exceeding $100 million last year. The others are John R. Oishei Foundation, $268 million; Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, $165.3 million; Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, $141.1 million; Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, $112.6 million; and the Cullen Foundation, $109.5 million.

In all, the 38 foundations on this year’s list paid out $126.7 million in grants and gifts. And 19 of them distributed more than $1 million apiece.

The Oishei Foundation regained its spot as the region’s most generous funder, paying out more than $21.6 million in grants. The M&T Charitable Foundation closely followed with $20.1 million in grants.

Just two other foundations based in Western New York awarded more than $10 million: the Community Foundation, $13.2 million; and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, nearly $12 million.

The Oishei Foundation also was notable for its largesse, paying out two seven-figure grants — $2 million to Kaleida Health’s John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital of Buffalo and $1 million to the Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Only two others made a grant over $1 million. The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies distributed $2.18 million to the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and the M&T Charitable Foundation paid $1.1 million to Westminster Community Charter School.

Note: The Business First Top Foundations list includes only organizations with headquarters in the eight-county region. That explains the exclusion of some bank and corporate foundations that operate here, as well as the omission of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, the Detroit foundation named for the late owner of the Buffalo Bills, which awarded more than $30 million in the region last year.

— Tracey Drury

JIM COURTNEY

A dozen years after leading the creation of Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Inc., Angelo Fatta became board chairman in December 2015. He and his wife, Carol, are creators of the Fatta Foundation Inc.

For more information on individual grants awarded and contact