

## **History of SCSF:**

In 1991, a group of community leaders and several school officials met to discuss their concerns about rising costs for higher education and vocational training creating financial difficulties for district families. The group considered creating an organization to help raise scholarship funds to support the desire of our young people to pursue their dreams. The group was made aware of other initiatives within school districts in the region that were affiliated with the national “*Dollars for Scholars*” program, established by the Citizens’ Scholarship Foundation of America, Inc. Following a thorough investigation of CSFA, it was decided to create an affiliate of the “*Dollars for Scholars*” program.

The Southern Cayuga Scholarship Foundation, which was formally organized in April 1992, consisted of its first Board of Trustees; Judith Warren (president), George Peter (vice president), Linda Avery (secretary), Stephen Zabriskie (treasurer), Marian Brown, Gary Finch, Robert Nolan, Gary Bradley, Ed Fessenden, Maria Fragnoli-Ryan (then SCCS high school principal), and Ed DiMiceli (then SCCS school superintendent). The Foundation solicited sufficient funds in order to make its first two \$500 awards that spring.

In 2009, the Southern Cayuga Scholarship Foundation approved the creation of the *George Peter Service Award* in loving memory of George Peter, one of the founding members of the Scholarship Foundation and a tireless volunteer who was notable for his extraordinary commitment to serving his community. The *George Peter Service Award* may be awarded to an SCCS student who has an outstanding record of demonstrated service to their school, church, or community. The award does not convey any additional cash award, but is a prestigious recognition of the student’s service to the district.

Since 1992, 169 scholarship awards have been made to deserving SCCS seniors and continuing SCCS graduates in college, totaling more than \$134,000 in support for district residents.