



JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION

QUICK FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW:

John R. Oishei was a successful 20th Century industrialist and philanthropist. In 1916, a harrowing car accident inspired him to develop the automobile windshield wiper. Mr. Oishei was driving along Delaware Avenue in downtown Buffalo during a rainstorm when his automobile collided with a bicyclist. Although the cyclist was not seriously injured, Oishei vowed to never let that happen again. He sought out the best technology available at the time to create the first automobile wiper blades. In 1917, John R. Oishei founded Trico Products Corporation, which became one of the world's leading manufacturers of automotive windshield wiping equipment. Mr. Oishei established the Foundation (formerly known as the Julia R. and Estelle L. Foundation), in 1940. Thereafter, he funded it with annual contributions and with charitable remainder trusts.

He served as President of the Foundation from its founding until his death in 1968. Under his leadership, the Foundation concentrated its support on hospitals and schools in the Buffalo area with the balance being directed to cultural and social services needs.

Today, The John R. Oishei Foundation holds over \$260 million in assets and grants over \$15 million each year to support Western New York nonprofits.

MISSION:

The John R. Oishei Foundation enhances the economic vitality and quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region through grantmaking, leadership and network building.

ROLES:

Oishei now does more than just grantmaking. The Foundation also:

- Helps local nonprofits with capacity building, analyses, strategic and business planning and leadership training
- Convenes community members, fosters collaborations and promotes network building

STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Strengthen the P-12 Education Continuum
- Enhance Options for Self-Sufficiency
- Build Livable, Stable Neighborhoods
- Promote Health and Improve Systems of Care
- Expand the Role of Arts, Culture and Heritage in Regional Development

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