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CONTACT:

Name: Barbara Eckstrom, Fundraising Chair

Phone: (607) 533-8782

Email: barbecks@lightlink.com

Cascadilla Boat Club Launches Community Outreach Campaign

Ithaca, NY - *The Cascadilla Boat Club (CBC)* has been in existence for over 25 years, providing the Tompkins County community with the unique opportunity to participate in the sport of rowing on Cayuga Lake. This month, the CBC is launching a unified community outreach campaign to replace their fleet of antiquated boats, upgrade their 100+ year-old rowing facilities, and expand their services to more Tompkins County families.

The CBC's Scholastic Rowing Program is the high school crew program for all of Tompkins County. Because crew is one of the only sports that does not receive funding from local high schools, the cost of equipment, coaching, and competition requires a significant fee from each student to participate. "For many students in Tompkins County, this sport is out of reach...but with our community's support we can change that," said Joe Lalley, President of the CBC Booster Club.

The Scholastic Program is open to all 8th through 12th graders in Tompkins County. No experience is necessary to row at the novice level. Currently there are more than 100 rowers participating in this program. The commitment to such a rigorous sport requires team dedication, leadership, and cooperation. The CBC has attracted an experienced collegiate-trained and talented coach and director of operations, Sean Tobin. With his guidance and mentorship, the CBC crew team hopes to become a perennial power at the state and national levels.

Colleges are also taking notice of high school rowers and are offering program acceptance and scholarships to crew participants. Caryn Davies, CBC alumna and World Championship rower is now competing on the US Olympic Rowing Team...what other dreams can our community make happen.

The CBC has established the *Cascadilla Boat Club Fund* at the Community Foundation of Tompkins County as part of a multi-faceted effort to build a permanent endowment to support this program in perpetuity. "This is a rare opportunity to associate the name of your local business with a tremendous program operating right in Tompkins County," said Anne Chernish, Corporate Sponsorship Chair. "It is our hope that funding from our business community (and other interested supporters) will enable us to reach many of our program goals by Spring 2004."

For more information on how you can support high school crew in Tompkins County, please call Anne Chernish at: (607) 564-7691 and visit our website at:

www.cascadillaboatclub.org.

Press Release prepared by Susan Page for the Community Foundation of Tompkins County.

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