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CORN HILL NAVIGATION ANNOUNCES AVANGRID FOUNDATION GRANT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  

Avangrid’s Leadership Support Extends 15-year Partnership  

Rochester, New York – Corn Hill Navigation (CHN), the nonprofit organization that operates the Sam Patch tour boat, today announced a $10,000 grant from Avangrid Foundation, in partnership with RG&E, to support the Environmental Education on the Erie Canal initiative.  

Dubbed “E3C,” and developed in cooperation with St. John Fisher College, Monroe BOCES, Delta Environmental, and Seneca Park Zoo, the leading-edge program is part of CHN’s larger educational outreach efforts, which last year provided more than 2,300 students from schools across the Rochester region with an on-the-water, experiential learning experience. Observations recorded by students while onboard the Sam Patch are uploaded to the Finger Lakes Institute database, over time helping to improve the region’s water quality.  

“Our founder’s simple belief was that Rochester’s waterways must be experienced to be appreciated. E3C’s long-term goal is to help cultivate current and future leaders, so they become better stewards of our environment,” said Bruce Van Hise, CHN’s executive director. “Corn Hill Navigation is so fortunate to have Avangrid Foundation and RG&E as longstanding partners, supporting our region’s students and contributing to the ongoing restoration of our waterways.”  

Since 2005, Avangrid Foundation and RG&E have made grants of more than $30,000 to support CHN’s environmental education programs, benefitting thousands of Rochester area students.
“Though they may pass by the canal and river every day, many in the Rochester community have never experienced our waterways first-hand, from the deck of a boat,” said Patti Donoghue, CHN’s board chair. “City school students, for example, often tell us their cruise aboard Sam Patch is the first time they’ve been on a boat. We believe the experience helps students better appreciate their natural surroundings, and perhaps for some develops a longer-term interest in science and the environment.”

The Avangrid Foundation is the principal philanthropic arm of AVANGRID, Inc., a leading sustainable energy company with operations in the Rochester region and 24 states. Since 2002, the Foundation and its predecessors have invested millions of dollars in grants, contributions, scholarships, and matching gift programs, with an emphasis on education and the building of sustainable, vital, healthy communities.

“The Avangrid Foundation is proud to partner with CHN to help illuminate the importance of the Erie Canal and Genesee River to the people of greater Rochester,” said Nicole Licata Grant, Director of the Avangrid Foundation. “The waterways are integral to Rochester’s identity and history, and to a sustainable future. We want to ensure that everyone has a chance to experience and fall in love with this precious resource.”

Founded in 1991 as the Corn Hill Waterfront & Navigation Foundation, CHN’s mission is to foster the improvement and sustainability of the Erie Canal and Genesee River for current and future generations through education, awareness, and enjoyment. Ridership aboard CHN’s vessel, the Sam Patch, has grown more than 40% over the last decade, in 2019 surpassing 15,000 passengers for the first time since reliable records are available, with passengers representing all 50 states and 57 foreign countries.

Teachers and schools interested in booking a 2020 educational cruise for their students can contact CHN’s executive director, Bruce Van Hise, at (585) 363-1477 or brucevanhise@gmail.com.