



A proud 90-year history of trust, connection, progress and legacy

In honor of its 90th anniversary, The Foundation celebrated its contributions in helping to start organizations that have transformed our community. Fourteen stories were compiled for a publication titled *From the Start*. They included stories about the founding of an organization serving people with the then newly-identified disease AIDS, a group of visionary women who believed that an annual arts festival could make New Haven the next Spoleto, and a philanthropist who found a way to recognize outstanding individual effort to nourish the partnership between Yale and New Haven. The Foundation’s 90th anniversary was also the occasion of several in-depth stories about its history and role in the community that appeared in the New Haven Register and the Daily Nutmeg, and on WTNH. Fellow nonagenarians were also honored by The Foundation in its newsletter *Connections*.



Economic progress and social equity must grow hand in hand

The 2018 Annual Meeting and Convening “Inclusive Growth and Opportunity: Defining Our Path Forward” was the best-attended annual meeting in The Foundation’s history. More than 400 community members turned out to hear Amy Liu of Brookings speak to our community’s need for a growing economy that produces lasting gains for those who have been left behind. Throughout the year, subsequent conversations were marked by a spirited sharing of diverse perspectives about how we can create more opportunity for more local residents in Greater New Haven. A new dialog is starting to take shape in our community, and The Foundation is committed to continuing it.



Nonprofits rally the community in The Great(est) Give®

In 36 hours last May, the community raised more than \$1.7 million for Greater New Haven’s nonprofits during The Great Give® 2018. Nearly 11,000 donors gave to 406 nonprofits, and the event far eclipsed all previous giving events by every measure: donors, gifts, nonprofits supported and money raised. With \$240,000 in matching funds and 63 prizes at stake, nonprofits rallied donors through events held across the region and both long-time nonprofit participants and newcomers came out on top. As in prior years, many prizewinners were smaller organizations.



Community greets ‘me too.’ founder with rousing affirmation

The Community Fund for Women & Girls 2018 Annual Meeting welcomed guest Tarana Burke, founder of the ‘me too.’ movement. The event, held in collaboration with the Yale Office of Diversity and Inclusion and with partners from the New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Theta Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, brought together a diverse audience of community members and donors. During her onstage conversation at Yale Law School with Dr. Khalilah Brown-Dean, then vice chair of The Foundation’s Board, Burke spoke about the work she does to help survivors of sexual violence heal and thrive. The Fund is dedicated to improving the quality of life for women and girls in our region, through information, education, advocacy, and — most importantly — by encouraging women’s philanthropy.



Turning fifteen, PLF moves to adulthood

The Progreso Latino Fund (PLF) marked its quinceañera with a spectacular gala in September during Hispanic Heritage Month. More than 175 individuals and sponsoring organizations gathered at Southern Connecticut State University to celebrate PLF’s work as a builder of Latino leadership and convener of people in the region around important issues. PLF Advisory Committee Chair Fernando Muñiz announced the creation of a new, annual scholarship for Latino students established in honor of PLF founders and charter members.



\$34 million in grants transform individuals and create access

In 2018, \$2,670,527 in responsive grants was given to 51 programs and organizations. These grantees competed among a pool of 97 applicants. Programs that received grants include health services to vulnerable residents, public libraries, homeless shelters, and efforts to expand economic opportunities for residents of all ages. Grantees are also helping more local people access the skills and opportunities they need to secure a foothold in this changing economy. In addition to grants, The Foundation offered a robust capacity building series including one that helped nonprofits assess their strengths and vulnerabilities and identify potential merger or partnership opportunities. Altogether, Foundation grants, leadership strategies, grants management and organization fund distributions totaled more than \$34 million.



“To. Through. And Back.” strategy paying off for New Haven

Since New Haven Promise’s launch in 2010, The Foundation has invested more than \$3 million. With a grant of \$425,000, The Foundation continued its leadership-level support for New Haven Promise in 2018. New Haven Promise is nearing \$4 million in scholarship disbursements annually, which are provided by Yale University. It has seen its qualifier roster grow from 140 in 2011 to more than 350 in each of the last two years. Promise scholars are benefiting from local summer internships and returning home after college to start their careers, thereby building the talent and diversity of New Haven’s future workforce.

A new element of Promise in 2018 helps struggling high school students who have gone off track academically. The goal is to reconnect 50 students per year to their education, earning college course credits on the path to a high school diploma.



Hopes are high for new computer coding program

Through its mission related investment program (MRI), The Foundation is one of several funders of Holberton, a new software coding school at District, the just-opened collaborative working space for start-ups in Fair Haven. Other funders include the Elm City Innovation Collaborative and CTNext. The project is Holberton’s first East Coast location and is part of a statewide effort to create a labor market that fuels economic growth. Holberton’s innovative admissions and tuition models are designed to increase the diversity of applicants, resulting in a more diverse workforce.



Philanthropic leadership in the Valley reaches new milestone

The Foundation signed a new 10-year affiliation agreement with the Valley Community Foundation (VCF). The agreement is the fourth between the two permanent charitable endowments since VCF was established in 2004. VCF now has \$25 million in total assets and more than 180 funds — a Valley community success story that validates both the original reasons for creating it and The Community Foundation’s ongoing support for it. Among VCF’s achievements in 2018 was the Valley Gives Back initiative, which encourages Valley residents to make a planned gift for their community.



Responsible reporting informs and supports civic engagement

Nonprofit journalism (NPJ) produces an invaluable service to the public at a time when misinformation is rampant and trust of the media is low. In Greater New Haven and Connecticut, we are fortunate to have several NPJs that deliver first-rate investigative and civic reporting. In 2018, The Foundation made a \$20,000 grant to Connecticut Health Investigative Team (C-HIT) which fills a major void in health care reporting, generating content from award-winning local journalists for 16 newspaper, radio, and TV media partners that reach more than 1.2 million people. In addition, a collaboration of six Connecticut community foundations, including The Foundation, awarded \$100,000 to the Connecticut Mirror, which produced two series: the exploration of the long-term impact of Connecticut’s fiscal crisis on the nonprofit sector; and the impact of wealth disparities in Connecticut. The Foundation also continued its long standing, leadership-level support for the New Haven Independent and its radio station, WNHH.



Bold display creates a welcoming community

The art installation, “WE ARE—A Nation of Immigrants,” which transformed the New Haven Green and buildings throughout the city into a public celebration of the rich diversity and contributions of immigrants, was supported by a grant from The Foundation. The exhibit was created by photographer Joe Standart, who is behind the long-running Portrait of America project in cities around the country. Standart’s style of extreme close-ups of the faces of his subjects invites viewers to reflect on the humanity of our community’s immigrants. Among the locations for the exhibit was The Foundation’s own building at 70 Audubon Street.



Sharing perspectives builds a strong community

The Foundation’s donor briefing series invites guest experts to discuss important issues affecting our community. In 2018 Ellen Shemitz, executive director of Connecticut Voices for Children, presented an analysis of the Connecticut economy and the status of our state budget. United We Dream Executive Director and Co-Founder Cristina Jiménez shared her personal experience as an undocumented immigrant in “The Journey from ‘Dreamer’ to MacArthur Fellow.” And, Marcella Nuñez-Smith, MD, MHS, associate professor at the Yale School of Medicine and Foundation Board member, moderated a panel of local clinicians about the opioid crisis in Connecticut. In addition to these in-person events, info briefs, email, and website posts about other important issues were shared with the community.



Aspiring homeowners get a boost

The Greater New Haven Branch of the NAACP (GNHNAACP) and The Community Foundation strengthened a seven-year-old, no-interest loan program for urban homebuyers known as “Home Ownership Matters.” The new partnership, run in cooperation with Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven, sustains the inroads made by the previous GNHNAACP initiative, which made homeownership possible for more than 65 families through the end of 2017. This program improves opportunities for urban homebuyers with a \$10,000, five-year, interest-free, forgivable loan to assist in the purchase of their homes. Since 2018, \$630,000 has been provided to 63 first-time homebuyers with an additional 25 applicants currently awaiting approval.



Puerto Ricans are our neighbors, here and there

In the aftermath of the terrible damage caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, Connecticut and New Haven welcomed thousands of Puerto Ricans. Junta for Progressive Action worked with Fair Haven Community Health Care, a network of local nonprofit partners, and the City of New Haven to deliver essential services to newly-arrived individuals and families in need. In addition, the Progreso Latino Fund (PLF) hosted a forum with Dr. Nelson Colón, president and CEO of the Puerto Rico Community Foundation, and Hon. Julia Nazario Fuentes, mayor of Loíza, Puerto Rico, who discussed restoration efforts. To support this effort, PLF issued the 2018 Naranjito Matching Gift Challenge for the purchase of reliable solar energy for a health clinic in Naranjito, Puerto Rico.



Grassroots effort spurs new registered voters

GNH VOTE 2018, a Foundation-led nonpartisan collaborative of more than 20 nonprofits and religious groups, worked throughout 2018 to increase voter participation among groups with historically low voter turnouts. During canvassing drives, volunteers discussed key issues and connected people with bilingual information about affordable housing, education, immigration, health care, and criminal justice. They also distributed voter guides and pledge cards, and helped people register to vote and identify their polling places. The effort registered more than 1,000 new voters for the November federal and state elections.



Generous donors support and advance community priorities

Thirty-six new funds were created in 2018, including at our partner Valley Community Foundation. The majority were donor advised funds; some were created by donors using new strategies in light of the 2017 federal tax law changes. A \$2 million bequest was received from the estate of Edward B. Bennett to create the Chauncey Fellowship. The fund, named in honor of Henry (Sam) Chauncey, will help college students pursue artistic or service goals after graduation. Donors continued to give through The Foundation’s *Now More Than Ever Fund* as a way to demonstrate support for Foundation leadership activities and programming that unifies the community. The Foundation’s 90th anniversary theme was threaded throughout activities, including events such as the Nettie J. Dayton Circle reception at Yale Divinity School, honoring members of our legacy society, and the annual donor luncheon on the stage at the historic Shubert Theatre.



Families bolstered through premier health program

New Haven Healthy Start (NHHS) continued to implement a care coordination model of service, connecting 1,100 pregnant women and their babies to prenatal care in New Haven. NHHS focuses on not only women and infants, but includes fathers as well. NHHS has created a comprehensive model that helps to eliminate disparities and improve birth and health outcomes. In 2018, more focus was placed on maternal mortality, particularly black maternal mortality, as the country was responding to this as a national issue. In 2019, The Foundation received a new, five-year, \$5.4 million grant from the federal government in support of New Haven Healthy Start for the 2019-2024 period.



Resident leaders bring people together for the common good

The Foundation’s Neighborhood Leadership Program continued its work to identify, support, and raise up outstanding local leaders in New Haven, East Haven, Hamden, and West Haven. Participants received training over an eight month period, sometimes resulting in a grant for a project of their choice. Among the 2018 leaders was Graziela Reis, originally from Brazil, who organized a conference on the unique needs of new immigrants to the United States. Other leaders included John Shively, who created Civic Lab for young professionals in New Haven to advocate for a more diverse and inclusive New Haven; and Austin Bryniarski, who used his grant for the Yale Food Systems Symposium where local volunteers from NH Farms, New Haven Land Trust, and Unidad Latina en Accion made presentations.