

Board of Directors

Khalilah L. Brown-Dean, *Chair*
Flemming L. Norcott Jr., *Vice Chair*

Maysa Akbar
Alicia Caraballo
Roxanne J. Coady

Kellyann Day
Joseph Gordon
Carlton Highsmith

Terry H. Jones
Marcella Nuñez-Smith
Gregory J. Pepe



April 5, 2019

Dear Friends:

At The Community Foundation, we strive every day to honor the legacies of those who have come before in ways that build a bright future for Greater New Haven. The pull of the past and the face of the future are always with us. In 2018, this seemed especially true.

To mark our ninetieth anniversary, we recommitted to the ideals that have built and sustained The Foundation: trust, connection, legacy and progress. These commitments will guide our work going forward as they have shaped our history.

Last year, The Foundation put forward a new vision of our community's future progress. To move forward in this time of deep division in our society, we collectively must create more substantial opportunities for a greater share of our residents. We convened our community around this vision of inclusive growth in diverse groups both large and small. We ignited a new dialogue between the social sector and the business sector and both responded with enthusiasm tempered only by Connecticut's current economic and social challenges. Most importantly, we listened.

Through our work, we see the human cost of Connecticut's slow growth. We see nonprofits reducing much-needed services in the face of devastating state budget cuts. We see talented young people leaving for opportunities elsewhere. We sense an uncharacteristic crisis of confidence among the people of our region and of our state.

Yet we also see a new future of opportunity emerging from these challenges. It is happening all around us: new civic activism and social energy, a new economic base taking shape from the work of local entrepreneurs, a new generation of leaders committed to building a community that is both more prosperous and more inclusive. The profiles

in this annual report highlight some of those among us who are leading the way.

These stories tell us that in our community we can create a different reality, a counterpoint to the national experience where too often growth exacerbates inequality rather than ameliorating it. The Foundation is committed to playing our role in creating a future of opportunity through growth that is more inclusive and driven by a commitment to equity. We are developing a new strategic plan in 2019 to guide our efforts in the coming years.

For The Foundation, this work honors and supports the contributions, labors, and dreams of the thousands of caring and committed people in our community with whom we are privileged to work. They inspire us and challenge us. They are people with vision and passion who work on the frontlines, as well as those who support from afar. Some are newcomers carving out new paths while others have roots in our community that run long and deep. They are people we know well, and those who make tremendous contributions away from the public spotlight. Like their predecessors who built The Foundation over the last ninety years, our donors, grantees, volunteers, community partners, collaborators and supporters are united in their commitment to helping Greater New Haven meet its present-day needs, while building its capacity for long-term success. Together, we are creating a future of opportunity.

As always, we invite you to join us in the work of community.

Khalilah L. Brown-Dean, Ph.D.
Chair

William W. Ginsberg
President and Chief Executive