

# CONNECTIONS



The quarterly newsletter of  
The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven  
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## Give a Person the Fish: Meeting Basic Needs

One in four New Haven residents lives at or below the federal poverty line. One in five experiences food insecurity. Under-funded basic needs organizations serve as an access point to connect struggling families with other resources. These topics emerged at The Foundation's recent discussion on basic needs, with panelists Joanne Goldblum (CEO of National Diaper Bank Network), Rev. Bonita Grubbs (executive director, Christian Community Action) and Steve Werlin (executive director, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen). The event was moderated by Jennifer Heath (president and CEO of United Way of Greater New Haven, the co-hosting organization). Private philanthropy has a vitally important role to play when public funding isn't enough. To find a basic needs organization serving our community, visit [giveGreater.org/basicneeds](http://giveGreater.org/basicneeds), or contact Liana Garcia Fresher at 203-974-1646 to discuss planned giving options.





Photo Kathleen Cei

## The Couple That Keeps on Giving

### Hermes Honor Parents Through Donor Advised Funds

When Paul and Kathy Hermes each experienced the loss of their mothers in recent years, it led them to want to do something to memorialize their parents' lives. Kathy was first to establish the Jane and Joe Drumgool Fund, named after her parents, in late 2018. Her father was a pharmacist and her mother a medical secretary. "I wanted to do something that reflects their life, but also helps the greater community," says Kathy. Paul later established the Patricia Hermes Fund in honor of his mother, a prolific children's book author, whose works tackled tough issues like death, war and incest. Together the couple established a third donor advised fund in their name to establish their own philanthropic legacy. "We want part of [our funds] to have a legacy here in the area and part of them to have a bigger footprint," says Paul. "We are hoping to learn where our gifts can best be applied."

### The Great Give® Returns for its 10th Year on May 1-2, 2019

Last year, our community came together to produce the greatest results ever for The Great Give® — more than \$1.7 million raised for 400+ nonprofits. Please help make this year's Great Give even better than the last! You can donate online at [thegreatgive.org](http://thegreatgive.org) from 8:00 a.m. on May 1 through 8:00 p.m. on May 2. But did you know you can help in other ways, too? Ask your employer if your company would consider being a sponsor of the event. Do you own a business? Consider creating a specially-named prize. More than \$200K is available in matching funds and prizes for 2019. Please spread the word on social media using the hashtag #TheGreatGive. Thank you!



## DataHaven Marks 25 Years of Public Service

### Continues with Community Index, 2020 Census Outreach

DataHaven was born of the idea that public data should be easily accessed and widely available. The Community Foundation was there at the start with seed funding to launch the organization. Twenty-five years later, more than 100 public and private organizations across Connecticut use DataHaven's research in key areas such as health, education, civic engagement and economic opportunity to improve programs and change lives for the better. In 2019, DataHaven will release its next Greater New Haven Community Index on the quality of life in Connecticut's diverse towns and neighborhoods. DataHaven is also providing guidance to the City of New Haven as it ramps up the effort for a complete count in the 2020 Census. DataHaven's Mark Abraham and Josephine Ankrah (pictured) shared some insights on the challenges of complete count efforts at the city's Census campaign kick-off event at the Hall of Records in January.

### More than a Meal, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen Provides Connections

Families and individuals struggling to afford healthy food can find more than a hot meal at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK). They can also receive health screenings, referrals to housing or employment programs and access to food assistance benefits. DESK has established partnerships with Yale New-Haven Health, Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, Columbus House, the Women & Families Center and others, to provide on-site assistance during meals to help connect people with health, housing, employment and other vital services. The Community Foundation has provided grant support to DESK since 1987.

# Partnership Enhances Charitable Goals

The Foundation works closely with an outstanding network of accountants, attorneys, investment advisors and insurance professionals. Our Professional Advisor partners count on the wealth of The Foundation's knowledge of the needs and priorities of the region, and the nonprofits serving our community. We are proud to work with these professionals in helping their clients make strategic philanthropic decisions.

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Photo Courtesy of Susan B. Nobleman

“I have found The Community Foundation to be an important and viable option for clients who have a passion for providing for others as part of their estate plan. The fact that clients do not have to be wealthy to set up a fund allows more clients to carry out their wishes. Both my clients and I have found that everyone associated with The Foundation has been knowledgeable, professional and dedicated to assisting the client in achieving his or her goals.”

— Susan B. Nobleman  
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For information on how we can assist you and your clients, contact Dotty Weston-Murphy at 203-777-7081 or Sharon Cappetta at 203-777-7071.



Photo Judy Sirota Rosenthal



Photo Judy Sirota Rosenthal



Photo Kathleen Cei

## New Year Brings New Leadership

### TCF and VCF Boards Welcome New Chairs and Members

The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven board of directors voted Khalilah L. Brown-Dean (left) to serve as its new chair and Flemming “Nick” Norcott Jr. (center) as vice chair effective January 1. Brown-Dean is an associate professor of political science at Quinnipiac University and an expert on the political dynamics surrounding the American criminal justice system. Norcott is a retired state judge who served on the Connecticut Supreme Court for 22 years. New to The Foundation board in 2019 is Terry H. Jones (right), who has run his family’s seven-generation Jones Family Farms in Shelton for 50 years. Jones succeeds Jimmy Ryan of Ansonia on The Foundation’s board and has also joined the board of The Foundation’s affiliate, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), along with Thomas M. Sutnik. VCF also has new leadership this year, with Lynne Bassett Perry succeeding Alan Tyma as chair and Donald W. Smith assuming the position of vice chair.

### Fifteen Years of Addressing Local Valley Needs and Opportunities

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) marks 15 years of service in 2019 to the Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton communities. Since 2004, VCF has grown to \$25 million in assets and more than 180 funds that contribute to a vibrant Valley community. Sharon Closius, VCF President & CEO, attributes VCF’s success to its engaged Board members, staff, fund holders, donors, local leadership and philanthropic partnership with The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven. In honor of its 15-year milestone, VCF invites supporters to share their favorite memories and stories of VCF’s impact in the region online using the hashtag #15YearsOfVCF.



# Inclusive Growth for Greater New Haven

## Creating Opportunity for All

While the state hovers near the bottom of national economic growth indicators, the city of New Haven and the region are well-positioned to be a future growth center for Connecticut. However, growth alone is not enough. As seen in regions around the country that are booming, the top earners are reaping most of the gains and too many are behind. Greater New Haven can be different if we make a community-wide commitment to inclusive growth. Increasing access to skills, training and employment is only part of the equation. The region must also address the structural racism and gender bias that have closed the doors of opportunity to too many for too long. The Foundation is committed to working in partnership with local residents and institutions so that the larger community embraces a vision of Greater New Haven as a place of opportunity for all. Sign up to join the conversation at [cfgnh.org/CountMeIn](https://cfgnh.org/CountMeIn).

## Foundation Outperforms Benchmark in Down Market

Last year saw declines in investment markets worldwide. The Foundation Corporation's net return for 2018 was (4.9%). While we outperformed our benchmark by 0.6%, it was still our first negative return since 2011. While December was difficult, the markets snapped back in January with the Corporation up 5.1% versus its benchmark of 4.9%. Through the work of our investment and finance committees, we anticipate the returns to be marginally less going forward. Therefore, for 2019 we reduced the spending rate on the Corporation's endowment from 5.75% to 5.625% to maintain the long-term value and purchasing power for our community. Read more at [cfgnh.org/InvestmentCommentary2018](https://cfgnh.org/InvestmentCommentary2018).



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## She's Taking on Homelessness

### What Do You Want to Be Remembered For?

Meet Shelly Saczynski. She's a caring individual, like you, who has a deep commitment to her community of Greater New Haven. Shelly has done something extraordinary: She has put The Community Foundation in her will. Her fund will support local nonprofits that match people who are homeless with life-changing resources. The Foundation's Nettie J. Dayton Circle honors those who have performed this simple act of generosity. **Will you join them?**

For more information, please visit [cfgnh.org/nettiescircle](https://cfgnh.org/nettiescircle) or contact Liana Garcia Fresher at 203-974-1646.



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