

CONNECTIONS



The quarterly newsletter of
The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven
NOW MORE THAN EVER

Imagine.

Inform.

Invest.

Inspire.

Building a Future of Opportunity

At the Annual Meeting on April 24, Community Foundation leadership shared a vision for Greater New Haven as a place with the resources, talent and resolve to challenge and change structural inequities and create access to opportunity for everyone. Board chair Khalilah Brown-Dean (pictured) challenged philanthropy to address systemic inequalities. “We are committed to developing strategies built upon the shared values of transparency, accountability and equity,” said Brown-Dean, underlining The Foundation’s commitment to listening to the voices of communities that are too often underrepresented and underserved. Foundation president & CEO Will Ginsberg urged the community to unify behind a shared vision of a regional economy that is both growing and inclusive, noting that it has “the talent, the assets, the amenities and the commitment to show the way to a different future, a future of opportunity for the many, not just for the few.”





Education and Skills for a 21st Century Economy

Panel Offers Different Voices About Path to Opportunity

Companies will choose to locate in Connecticut based on the skills of its workforce. Curriculums in K-12 schools have not kept pace with technological advances. Students need an education that will empower them to adapt to a rapidly-evolving economy. These and other points were discussed during a recent donor briefing with panelists Patricia Melton, president of New Haven Promise, David Salinas, founder & CEO of District New Haven and Wendy Waithe Simmons, former director of education and equity at Connecticut Voices for Children (pictured left to right). The briefing was part of The Foundation's continuing work to engage local leaders in discussions about the need to build an economy that is both growing and inclusive. "Simply put, this community needs to create more opportunity for more of its residents," said Foundation president & CEO Will Ginsberg.

Foundation Listens and Learns at Conference on Accessible Entrepreneurship

Creating an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem is a pillar of The Foundation's efforts to promote a future of opportunity for Greater New Haven. In June, The Foundation brought a team of local leaders to Pittsburgh for the "Advancing Inclusive Entrepreneurship" national conference hosted by Forward Cities, a learning network of 40 cities including New Haven. Representatives from The Foundation's staff and board were joined by Quinnipiac University School of Business professor Fred McKinney, Collab co-founder Caroline Smith, New Haven businesswoman and community leader Kim Harris and Shelton businessman Dominick Cerritelli.



Photo: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

New Haven Free Public Library Wins Award

New Space Offers Tech Tools for 21st Century Learning

The New Haven Free Public Library received the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums, awarded to just 10 institutions in the country. The recognition comes after a multi-year effort by the library to engage the community in a process of transforming its space and programs for the 21st century. The effort produced Ives Squared, a new space with computer-aided modeling tools and a "tinker lab" (pictured). Consultants are also available to anyone with an idea for starting a business, leading a civic project or an invention. "People come in here with ideas they have had for a long time," says Ives Squared manager Gina Bingham. "We help get them to the next level." Ives Squared grew out of a multi-year effort, starting with a 2014 strategic plan funded in part by The Foundation, and culminating in the community-centric 2018 Strategic Framework, "Growing Together. One City. One Future."



Save the Date: September 25 Set for Convening

The Community Foundation is hosting an all-day convening on Sept. 25 about Greater New Haven's future as a place of opportunity. Among other prominent speakers, the event will feature Tawanna Black (pictured), a nationally-recognized thought leader and the founder and chief executive officer of the Center for Economic inclusion. For more information, visit cfgnh.org/convening2019.



Photo: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

\$1.8 Million Raised for Local Nonprofits

Great Give 2019 Giving Totals Reach New Heights

The tenth annual Great Give continued its tradition of inspiring generosity for Greater New Haven nonprofits. Nearly 12,000 individual donors from Greater New Haven and beyond participated in the 36-hour online giving event held May 1-2. The \$1.8 million raised for more than 390 nonprofits surpassed the event's previous record set last year. "Our Great Give event is all about people in this community supporting the things they value most," says Foundation president & CEO Will Ginsberg. "Great organizations doing great work." Nonprofits also took advantage of the event to raise their visibility and gain new donors. The tennis and education program New HYTES used the event as an opportunity for leadership development. "It gave our kids and volunteers a vehicle online to connect with their friends, parents, grandparents and teachers," says Mavi Sanchez-Skakle, executive director at New HYTES. "They went out and told their stories."

Building, Connecting and Expanding Possibilities at VCF Annual Reception

There was a packed house at the Race Brook Country Club on May 14 for the 15th Annual Reception of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF). Celebrated that evening were the 11 new funds and the \$1.8 million in grants made in 2018. Several of the new funds were started by families honoring a multi-generational commitment to the Valley community. Also cited was VCF's work with others on the issue of equity and economic disparity in the Valley, especially children living in poverty. For a copy of VCF's 2018 Annual Report, visit valleyfoundation.org/AnnualReport2018.



History Lives at Fort Nathan Hale

Volunteers Maintain Unique City Park

By the late 1960s, the historic Revolutionary War site of Great Britain's invasion of New Haven had become an overgrown blight. A group of concerned volunteers decided to do something about it. They came together to form Fort Hale Restoration Projects, Inc. After a fundraising campaign, they brought the fort back to life as a city park in time for the 1976 bicentennial. The park has been a destination for visitors and school groups ever since. "When you have a living history day and see people cooking, and see kids playing in ways that they did in colonial time, it makes history interesting," says Marge Ottenbreit, a longtime volunteer at the park. "If you can get [kids] excited about history, it might change their direction. You may be talking to a future history teacher." Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects is funded by the Henry S. Johnson Fund, a designated fund at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

Stetson Library: A New Home at the Q House

Planning and fundraising are underway to support the construction of a new Willis K. Stetson Branch of the New Haven Free Public Library. The branch will anchor the future Dixwell Community Q House and serve as a new center for learning and collaborating. The library will be 60 percent larger than the existing space, and offer state-of-the-art technology, innovative hands-on experiences, computer and digital skills programs and an expanded book collection. In 2018, The Foundation awarded a \$110,000 grant to the New Haven Free Public Library for "Stetson Library: The Next Chapter," a community-wide campaign to support the project. For more information, visit www.nextstetson.org.



Photo: Dawn Santiago

The Care Economy: Women, Wealth and Work

Supporting Policy Change, Valuing Care Work High Priorities

Millions of women work long hours as personal care assistants, home health aides and pre-school teachers and in other roles that primarily involve caring for the needs of the elderly, infirm and children. For far too many of these women, particularly for women of color, earnings are so low that they and their families live in poverty. Women also provide a majority of the unpaid work caring for sick or impaired loved-ones and family members. The toll of this work on women and strategies for creating better opportunities were among the topics discussed at the Community Fund for Women & Girls' Annual Meeting on June 20, with panelists (pictured left to right) Natalícia Tracy (Brazilian Worker Center), Elyse Shaw (Institute for Women's Policy Research) and Jessica Sager (All Our Kin). To learn more about care entrepreneurs, the role of caregiving in the gender wealth gap and public policy efforts to advance caregivers, visit fundforwomenandgirls.org.

Lights, Camera, Action: Celebrating Latino Leaders Series Expands Format

Since 2015, the Progreso Latino Fund's (PLF) Celebrating Latino Leaders series has highlighted inspirational leaders across our region. Through more than 30 up-close and personal interviews, rousing stories of triumph and tragedy have been shared in written format. With these stories, the Fund seeks to expand the definition of leadership to promote the leadership and advancement of Latinos. Four years later, PLF is bringing the stories to life through video. The new video series premiered with a conversation with Sergio Rodriguez, education consultant and co-founder of 'r Kids Family Center, to discuss mentorship, service and legacy. To find the interviews, visit ProgresoLatinoFund.org.



Photo Courtesy of Andrew DeMayo

Great Uncle and Grandfather Inspire New Fund

Philanthropic Tradition Continues Into Next Generation

When Andrew DeMayo's "Uncle Bill" left him \$10,000 after his passing, DeMayo (pictured) paid it forward by establishing the Anthony and William DeMayo Fund in memory of his great uncle and grandfather. "I chose to create a preference fund because grandpa was very involved in the local area, including East Haven's Hagan Memorial Library," says DeMayo. Anthony, a judge, and William, a personnel director, were both contributors to the library's expansion, and their philanthropy also extended to the area of law. "My love of reading, which Grandpa shared, has influenced me to have the fund support local libraries and literacy programs," he says. Though DeMayo lives in Australia, he chose to set up his fund through The Foundation because he felt it was able to find the best use for the funds. "I wanted to focus on the New Haven area, as that is where my grandfather and great uncle lived."

Collaborative Receives \$100,000 Grant Award to Serve Immigrants

The Immigrant Strategic Funders Collaborative of Connecticut has received \$100,000 from the Fund for New Citizens in the New York Community Trust to continue its work to support immigrants in our state. The collaborative of funders and immigration organizations was convened by The Foundation in 2015 as part of its strategy to build a welcoming community for immigrants. Since its creation, it has raised nearly \$500,000 from national funders. The grant will be used to implement a rapid response system for immigrants facing deportation that includes a 24-hour hotline, bail bonds and access to legal representation. The Collaborative also supports advocacy work in Connecticut.



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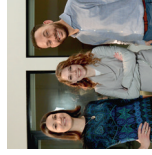
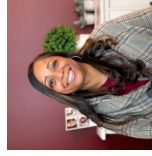
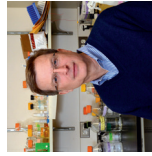
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Help Us Create a Future of Opportunity

“Our community of Greater New Haven can be a counterpoint to both the national experience and the Connecticut experience. Our community has the talent, the assets, the amenities and the commitment to show the way to a different future, a future of opportunity for the many, not just for the few.”

— Will Ginsberg, The Community Foundation president & CEO



We want to hear from you. Please give us your input as The Foundation considers its strategic course. Take a brief survey at cfgnh.org/StakeholderSurvey. Your feedback is important for our community’s success.

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