

CONNECTIONS



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

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Nearly \$3 Million Awarded to Local Nonprofits

In late October, The Community Foundation awarded \$2,938,243 in responsive grants to nonprofits throughout Greater New Haven. The grants will support 43 local programs and organizations, including a timely grant to the Boys & Girls Club of New Haven (pictured) whose after-school program was at risk of closing down. “Our responsive grantmaking process addresses the immediate needs and future opportunities identified within our local nonprofit sector,” says Christina Ciociola, senior vice president of Grantmaking and Strategy at The Community Foundation. The responsive grant cycle is made possible with funds established by donors that provide broad flexible resources. Improvements to the 2020 responsive grantmaking process are in the works, as a response to nonprofit feedback. Learn more at cfgnh.org/grants.





Photo: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

Champion for the Cause

Social Activist Gutiérrez Speaks on the Power of Unity

Former U.S. Congressman Luis Vicente Gutiérrez headlined the Progreso Latino Fund’s (PLF) Forum on November 18, discussing the next steps for Latinos after the Trump presidency. Gutiérrez (pictured, in center), along with PLF Advisory Board co-chairs Tara Davila (left) and Yadira Ijeh (right) emphasized the need for Latinos to mobilize as a group in preparation for the 2020 election to ensure that issues of importance to Latinos are not ignored. “We need to build a roof that connects our walls, that ties us all together,” said Gutiérrez, urging the crowd to get involved with the political process by helping with voter registration efforts — especially in battleground states — and by electing those who genuinely want to serve. “Could you imagine if you all decided to make 100 phone calls to 100 different families?” he asked. “Do you know the power that would exist?” Learn more about PLF at progresolatinofund.org.

Fund to Mark 25 Years of Advancing Gender Equity

In 2020, the Community Fund for Women & Girls will celebrate a quarter century of women’s philanthropy. Launched in 1995, The Fund began with 92 founders pooling resources, pledging \$1,000 each to establish the region’s only endowment advancing women and girls. Over the last two decades, The Fund has awarded over \$1 million to organizations improving the quality of life for women and girls. As the fund has grown, so has its grantmaking capacity: In 2019, The Fund awarded \$130,000 to 12 nonprofit partner organizations, including a grant to the New Haven Pride Center, the first LGBTQ+ organization to receive a grant from The Fund. Learn more at fundforwomenandgirls.org.



Photo Courtesy of DataHaven

2019 Community Index Reports Released

New Data Spurs Conversations and Actionable Steps

The recently-published Greater New Haven Community Index 2019 and the 2019 Valley Community Index present a wealth of data about the population in our region, showing where people are thriving and where the greatest challenges lie, through an in-depth look at demographics and population, economic opportunity, health, wellbeing and civic engagement. The data is important to inform community conversations and strategies that promote and identify opportunities for positive change and for reducing inequities in Greater New Haven. The reports are published by DataHaven and were created in collaboration with community partners including The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, the Valley Community Foundation and an advisory committee of community leaders. Read the reports at cfgnh.org/GNHCommunityIndex2019 and valleyfoundation.org/CommunityIndex2019.

Greater New Haven Mobilizes for Census with Greater New Haven Counts 2020

With billions in federal funding to Connecticut at stake in the outcome of the 2020 U.S. census, The Foundation is working with local partners and the city of New Haven to make sure everyone is counted. For the first time, the U.S. census is going to ask the majority of households to answer the census online, which presents a challenge for families without Internet in their homes. The Foundation-led collaborative, known as Greater New Haven Counts 2020, will work to overcome this digital divide and focus its outreach in neighborhoods in the region that have historically been under-counted. Learn more at cfgnh.org/gnhcounts.



Photo Kathleen Cei

Complexity, Controversy and Opportunity

Growing Charitable Capital, Investment Strategy Explored

In 1995, a hypothetical donor makes a \$1 million gift to The Foundation. Over the succeeding 24 years, that initial donation would grow to an asset worth more than \$2 million while also generating more than \$2 million for charitable grantmaking. The engine behind the capital growth is The Foundation's asset allocation strategy, which has produced cumulative returns that consistently beat market benchmarks. The Foundation's asset allocation strategy was the subject of a recent donor briefing with featured speaker Michael Miller, chief investment officer of Colonial Consulting, LLC. A financial consultant to The Foundation for nearly 25 years, Miller says the primary goal of pursuing high long-term returns while protecting against market volatility is best achieved through a diversified portfolio and working with the best money managers. "We're not interested in mediocrity," Miller notes. "We pay attention to the people managing the funds."

Foundation Donors Celebrated at Annual Lunch

Community Foundation Board Chair Dr. Khalilah Brown-Dean and President & CEO Will Ginsberg thanked and celebrated donors' generosity and community commitment over lunch last month at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Greater New Haven, beautifully restored after a 2016 fire. The venue was particularly fitting for the message about the importance of a diverse community united through shared values, a shared past and a sense of common destiny. The Foundation is proud to have provided support this year for safety and security enhancements at the JCC. Thanks to all Foundation donors for being a part of this wonderful and generous community!



Access to Healthy Food and Start-ups Expands

Nonprofit Merger Cultivates Community Connections

Opportunities for starting food-based businesses are expanding thanks to a pending merger between the New Haven Land Trust (NHLT) and New Haven Farms (NHF). As a combined organization, it will also help more families garden in their neighborhoods, learn how to cook healthy meals, and address food insecurity on a greater scale. The merger is supported in part with a grant from The Community Foundation, which has been a long-time supporter of both organizations. “We are thrilled to see our two organizations formally merge as our educational, agricultural, health and environmental work is very much aligned and complementary,” Board Chairs Tyra Pendergrass (NHLT) and James Farnam (NHF) said in a joint statement. “Our shared vision and demonstrated work of cultivating community connections and supporting neighborhood vitality will undoubtedly deepen and expand as a merged entity.”

Help Grow Resources for Our Local Community

Every year, The Community Foundation receives hundreds of applications for grants to support nonprofit organizations’ general operations or specific projects. The applications reflect the great variety of needs in the community, both new and long-standing, and the innovative responses by the nonprofit sector. Grants are made possible by donors who have established funds with broad or unrestricted preferences; such funds at The Foundation will be there in perpetuity to meet our community’s changing needs and opportunities. Help grow grantmaking resources for our community by starting your own fund. Learn more at cfgnh.org/startmyfund.



Photo: Allan Appel / New Haven Independent

'r kids Breaks Ground on Expansion

Capacity to Work with Vulnerable Children Doubles

In 1996, Randi Rubin and Sergio Rodriguez gathered with three dozen concerned residents, service professionals and parents who wanted to reform the foster care system with a more humane approach to working with all involved — families whose children were removed; foster parents; and most of all, the children. Starting with a \$3,500 grant from The Community Foundation, the group launched what would become 'r kids, a state-licensed agency that helps foster children achieve permanency in loving homes, and has a reunification rate of more than 80 percent. The success of 'r kids led it to receive state bonding to expand its building on Dixwell Avenue, where a groundbreaking ceremony (pictured) was celebrated in late September. The expansion will allow 'r kids Family Center to double its capacity to work with vulnerable children.

Fund to Endow 'r kids Honors Mother's Welcoming Spirit

Children adored Evelyn ("Aunt Evie") Rubin. Aunt Evie always had the best dolls and toys from the store where she worked. She related to children and met them where they were. When her daughters were in college, their friends always had a place to stay at the Rubin home. "My mother always seemed to become other people's mom," remembers Randi Rubin Rodriguez. "She had a way of being with young people that was warm and welcoming." Evie's spirit inspired Rubin Rodriguez to improve the lives of children in the foster system by founding 'r kids, and to establish Evie's Fund at The Foundation in honor of her mother as a long-term endowment for the organization.



Photo: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

Opportunity, Inclusive Growth and MRI

President and CEO on The Foundation’s Strategic Priority

Foundation President and CEO Will Ginsberg explained in November’s New Haven Biz magazine and at The Foundation’s donor appreciation lunch how The Foundation’s traditional role is evolving through its new five-year strategic plan. With the plan comes a strategic priority: to help create more opportunity for more local residents, with a particular focus on those who have been, for too long, not fully included in the economic mainstream. Several actionable steps are enumerated for success: Bring various sectors together to create shared goals around inclusive growth; bring voices of those in under-invested neighborhoods into the discussion; expand education and training pathways into jobs and careers in growth sectors of the local economy; strengthen the entrepreneurial sector; and expand mission-related investing (MRI) for minority-owned and women-owned businesses. Read Will’s words at cfgnh.org/2019strategicpriority.

Network of Foundations Focusing on Social Mobility and Youth Opportunity

Nationally, community foundations are coming together to work on social issues, and we are seeking to increase youth opportunity and accelerate progress in that area. Community Foundation Opportunity Network (CFON) is led by a Governing Council on which sits Foundation President and CEO Will Ginsberg, and The Foundation’s SVP for Grantmaking and Strategy Christina Ciociola serves on its Leadership Team. CFON uses the framework developed by the U.S. Partnership for Mobility from Poverty as a way to organize the focus of its work, and aligns with The Foundation’s work to create a future of opportunity for Greater New Haven residents.



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