

# 2020-21 Highlights

## Donors, old and new, with gifts big and small, helped their neighbors and preserved our community

A total of \$22.4 million of gifts and transfers was made in 2020 including \$3.2 million in gifts made to the Greater New Haven COVID-19 Community Fund established with United Way of Greater New Haven. Eighteen percent of gifts to the COVID-19 Fund were from new donors. Several estate gifts established new permanent funds totaling \$5.7 million. In addition, grants from Foundation donor advised funds (DAFs) hit an all-time annual high of \$5.6 million, mirroring a national trend in response to COVID. DAFs made grants of \$535,578 to the COVID-19 Fund and grants of \$4.4 million directly to nonprofits. Also, 233 grants from DAFs of \$659,372 were made during The Great Give 2020.



## Conversation helped build understanding and connection in a remote world

Ten donor briefings kept people informed about the community's response to COVID and covered subjects such as food insecurity, racial and ethnic disparity in the COVID pandemic, community health centers' response to COVID, mental health and how young people have responded to the pandemic. Estate planning programs co-hosted by The Community Fund for Women and Girls and the Progreso Latino Fund (PLF) were held for women of color and Latino families. The programs featured presentations from legal and financial experts and personal testimonials from community volunteers.

## A record-shattering community giving event brought people together

Twenty-six thousand gifts totaling \$3.6 million were made via The Great Give 2020 to 398 nonprofits. Many donors reported making gifts to organizations they had never supported previously. Peer to peer fundraising through which volunteers raise money on behalf of an organization accounted for almost \$500,000 raised online. In 2021, The Great Give finished strong for a second year in a row, supporting a record number of local nonprofits (431) with nearly \$3.5 million.



## Information gathering and outreach informed Foundation response

During the summer of 2020, The Foundation participated in multiple studies and reports of COVID impact, heard from nonprofits through one-to-one conversation and group meetings and listened to those directly impacted to develop its plan to serve the community in light of the twin pandemics. The Foundation determined to keep funding flexible and easily accessible, develop more ways to get the voice of lived experience in decision-making and to be more deliberate to advance racial equity through a rising awareness, promoting dialogue and funding grassroots changemakers. Ultimately this study and reflection led Foundation leaders to develop Stepping Forward, a three-year, \$26 million commitment to address COVID impacts and advance racial equity.

### Flexible, fast grants helped resilient nonprofits meet increased demand

A total of \$36,691,125 was made in grants and distributions in 2020. Close to \$10 million in grants for COVID-related uses was made as the pandemic took hold in the Spring of 2020 including COVID-19 Fund grants, new responsive grants, accelerated and/or repurposed multiyear grants, The Great Give grants and donor advised grants. Grantmaking from the COVID-19 Fund was determined by a committee jointly appointed by The Foundation and United Way of Greater New Haven. Twenty percent of COVID-19 Fund grantees were small grass-roots organizations that had never before received a grant from The Foundation.



### Renewed investment in ConnCAT reflected success and future aspirations

The Foundation awarded a new four-year \$1 million grant to the Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology (ConnCAT). The Foundation has supported ConnCAT since it was just an idea, and, over its history since 2012, ConnCAT has emerged as a vitally important leader in the New Haven neighborhoods of Dixwell and Newhallville, providing inspiration and leadership in creating a new future for the people of these neighborhoods.



Photo credit: ConnCAT

### Pivoting to online sessions, capacity building programs bolstered established and emerging organizations

Seventy-five workshops with 2,234 attendees, along with follow-up coaching, provided practical learning and helped organizations and their staff members and volunteers cope with the effects of COVID. Later in the year, sessions included discussion and presentation about racial equity. At the request of the Urban Nonprofits Network, based in New Haven's Newhallville neighborhood, The Foundation launched a five-part capacity building series and consultation for nine Black-led organizations.



Photo credit: Progreso Latino Fund

### The Progreso Latino Fund shed light on COVID's impact on Latinos

The Progreso Latino Fund hosted a three-part Fall Forum series on the Economic Impact of COVID-19, the Status of Latinx in Public Education and Healthcare Access. Speakers included Maribel Rodriguez, New England Healthcare Employees Union; Gerald Garcia of New Haven Economic Development Administration; Miguel Cardona, Connecticut State Board of Education (now U.S. Secretary of Education); Yesenia Rivera, New Haven Board of Education; Maritza Bond, New Haven Department of Public Health; and Frances Padilla, Universal Healthcare Foundation.



### Twenty-five year milestone reached for The Community Fund for Women & Girls

The Community Fund for Women & Girls turned 25 in 2020 and, although its celebration was delayed by COVID, a special 25th anniversary newsletter featured its history. The permanent endowment, including the individually-named designated funds supporting its grantmaking activities, is valued at \$3.5 million. More than \$1.36 million has been awarded. Over 25 years, the Fund has hosted leading feminist thinkers and changemakers including Courtney Martin, Tarana Burke, Gloria Steinem, Rebecca Traister, and Teresa Younger.



Photo credit: Judy Sirota Rosenthal



Photo credit: Judy Sirota Rosenthal



Photo credit: Gale Zucker Photography

### New Haven Healthy Start helped with special pandemic challenges for expectant mothers and their families

New Haven Healthy Start (NHHS), The Foundation's federally-funded maternal and child health program, has seen a greater volume of requests for referrals to community resources, such as food pantries, diapers, employment opportunities and most importantly, accurate health information. NHHS presented a four-part series with Elm City Communities about managing through COVID, offered a Judicial Panel and Family Forum, and supplied families with necessities during the pandemic including diapers and personal protective equipment.

### Amidst COVID, inclusive growth remained a Foundation priority

Last year, in partnership with five other Connecticut community foundations, The Foundation funded CT Mirror for a series on inclusive growth and, in light of COVID, inclusive economic recovery. The topics covered included COVID recovery in Connecticut's cities, how infrastructure improvements can promote inclusive recovery and how efforts in Lawrence, MA can serve as a model of inclusive growth for cities in Connecticut. In addition, the new Equity and Inclusive Opportunity Award, supported by The Foundation, was established at the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce to recognize local businesses that exemplify practices of inclusion to create opportunities for underrepresented populations. At the chamber's annual meeting, the award was presented to co-recipients Marrakech Inc. and Jean Kristensen Associates LLC.

### The Foundation expanded its work to build a fully inclusive, equitable and diverse organization

The Foundation launched work with The Racial Equity Institute (REI) and its Groundwater Approach which highlights the systems that produce and sustain inequities. The Groundwater Approach of addressing racial equity by understanding and working to dismantle racist systems and structures is shaping The Foundation's future thinking and planning. In addition, Foundation gatherings advanced staff learning about diversity, equity and inclusion. Programs included talks by leaders of the Anti-Defamation League, Yale School of Medicine, The Workplace, Ireland's Great Hunger Museum, the Health Education Center and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and New Haven Pride Center.

**REI**  
racialequityinstitute, llc

**An entrepreneurial ecosystem grew to provide resources, funding, pathways and mentorship**

The Foundation’s mission investment subsidiary (TCF-MIC) began to assemble an innovative collaborative that is building an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem in New Haven (NHE3). The collaborative, supported by a volunteer NHE3 council, the New Haven Innovation Collaborative (NHIC), and local funding partners, is led by an inclusive, diverse, multicultural, multisector group of leaders, activists, and entrepreneurs who are using this work to provide opportunities to entrepreneurs of color and women.



**Mission investing put capital to work to promote equitable opportunity**

A partnership of The Foundation’s mission investment subsidiary (TCF-MIC), HEDCO, the Amour Propre Fund, and the City of New Haven funded a pool of \$1.5 million to offer low-interest and partially forgivable loans of up to \$25,000 to local minority-owned and women-owned small businesses in Greater New Haven. Thirty-four small business loans totaling \$839,000 have been approved. In total, TCF-MIC has approximately \$27.1 million in outstanding mission investments (see page 135), including investments in NXTHVN, an arts center in Dixwell that empowers emerging artists and curators of color through education and access; ConnCORP, which is redeveloping a blighted shopping plaza, also in Dixwell, into a residential, office and cultural center; and The Holberton School in Fair Haven, which provides training programs to make a well-paying career in software engineering accessible.



Photo credit: The Well for Women/Julie Robbins



**The Valley came together with compassion, creativity and conviction in light of COVID**

In response to COVID, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), Valley United Way (VUW), Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce (GVCC), and the Valley Health & Human Service Council (Council) came together to establish the Valley Community COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. The Fund rapidly deployed flexible resources to organizations throughout the Valley that serve the Valley region, especially to those who are disproportionately impacted by COVID and the economic consequences of the pandemic.

**Endowment investments surpassed benchmarks and comparable national community foundations**

Annualized total return for 2020 of The Foundation’s corporate portfolio was 17.5% against a market benchmark of 13.3% and absolute benchmark of 6.5% (see page 132). Twenty percent of the investment managers are classified as diverse (women and minority-owned), and 20.1% (\$106.5 million) of the assets are committed to and invested by these managers.