

CONNECTIONS

The quarterly newsletter of



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

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Opportunity for All

Grant Aids Effort to Grow Talented Workforce

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) has awarded a \$1.3 million, five-year grant to New Haven Promise (NHP), the nationally-recognized scholarship program that rests on three pillars: college access, college success and career and civic launch in New Haven. TCF co-founded NHP and has supported it since 2011. This continued funding has been awarded due to NHP's alignment with TCF's priority of creating opportunity for local residents through inclusive growth. Much more impactful than scholarships alone, NHP is helping to build a talented, diverse workforce through its efforts of creating a college-going culture, fostering student career development and cultivating partnerships with local universities and private sector businesses and institutions. The grant will enable NHP to increase its organizational capacity and sustainability.



Members of the New Haven Promise Council help guide efforts to create a diverse, talented, market-relevant, job-ready workforce and inclusive growth economy.



L-R: Magistrates Ferguson, Nieves and Green, with moderator Rodney Moore, NHHS Men's Services Manager.

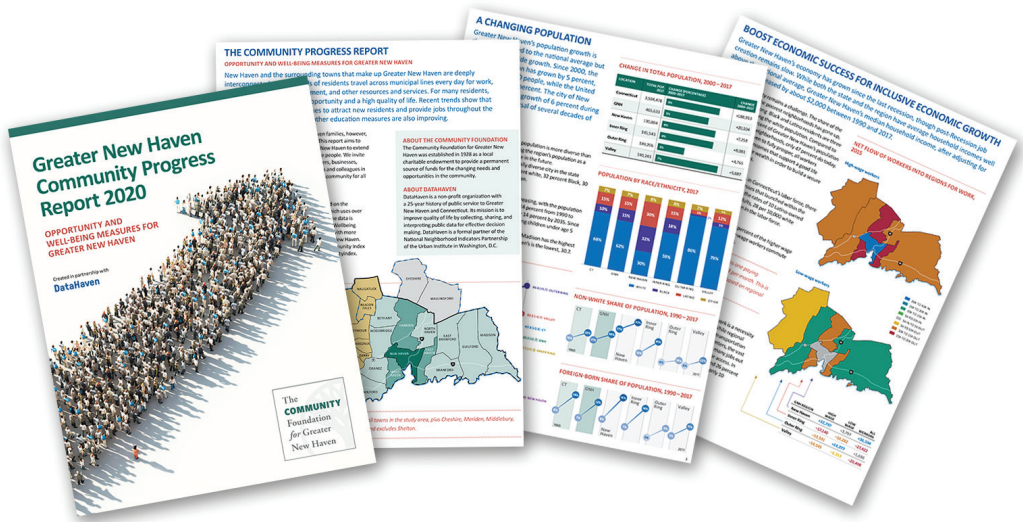
Guidance for Court-Involved Fathers

Judicial Panel Hosted by New Haven Healthy Start

In decades past, the Family Support Magistrate Court had a reputation of treating men in violation of court orders harshly, frequently sentencing them to prison for not paying child support. Times have changed, according to a judicial panel recently hosted by New Haven Healthy Start (NHHS). Held as part of NHHS's work to help fathers overcome barriers to having healthy relationships with their children, the panel — consisting of Chief Magistrate Michael L. Ferguson, with Magistrates Gladys I. Nieves and Donald R. Green — encouraged court-involved families to seek resources and advocate for themselves. “The best advice I can give is to speak up,” said Ferguson. “If you see that things are not going your way, talk to the judge.” Fatherhood work has long been a focus of NHHS, a federally-funded Community Foundation program that has been improving maternal, infant and child health since 1997.

Connecting Clients to Work, Achieve Independence

With treatment and a wide range of support, people with mental illness can maintain their independence and lead productive lives. Fellowship Place offers this broad support to more than 150 people who visit the campus daily for meals, case management and other activities such as community gardening. Clients receive job skills and employment assistance through its career development office. Fellowship Place celebrates its 60th anniversary this year having served the community since 1960. A recent multi-year grant from The Community Foundation helped the organization sustain its operations during a time when its state funding was cut.



Community Progress Report Released

Opportunity and Wellbeing Report Shows Progress, Gaps

Recent trends revealed in the newly-published *Greater New Haven Community Progress Report 2020* show that the city of New Haven is attracting new residents and providing jobs throughout the region. Graduation rates and other education measures are improving. The report also shows, however, that the ladder to opportunity is out of reach for a significant share of families. The aim of the report is to spur and inform work throughout Greater New Haven to extend this ladder and expand opportunity to more people. The 12-page report is based on the 2019 *Greater New Haven Community Index*, which uses over 100 sources of national, state and local data along with results of the DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey. That survey included live, in-depth interviews with more than 5,000 randomly selected adults in Greater New Haven. Read the *Greater New Haven Community Progress Report 2020* at cfgnh.org/GNHCommunityProgressReport2020.

Growing, Protecting the Community's Endowment Through Investment Management

The Foundation's commingled investment fund ended 2019 with an 18.0% return (excluding private assets' audited valuations) versus 17.1% for its market benchmark. Over longer periods, performance of the commingled fund has beaten the benchmark by between 1% and 2% per year. Managing an endowment with a global perspective requires meaningful asset diversification, world-class managers and decisions based on long-term models. The "bullish" investment climate of 2019 was fueled by a clearer sense of the global political climate, which contributed to the overall investment results. Learn more at cfgnh.org/Investments.



Recipient Bryanna Moore calls the Pergament scholarship “a guiding point and great motivator.”

Students Supported by Hillhouse Alum

Scholarship Propels Local Youth Toward Promising Futures

In 2017, New Haven native Bryanna Moore (pictured) received life-changing news. She learned she was to become one of a handful of students from the graduating class of Hillhouse High School to receive a Eugene Pergament Scholarship. Today, Moore is a junior at Yale College studying political science with a concentration in American politics. The Eugene Pergament Scholarship was created by and named for a 1951 Hillhouse High School graduate who credits his ninth grade biology teacher with inspiring his interest in science — an interest that gave rise to a successful career in reproductive genetics. Between 2010 and 2019, more than 70 Hillhouse students received a Pergament scholarship thanks to Dr. Pergament’s gift of \$1 million. Dr. Pergament decided to create the scholarship to acknowledge his gratitude for the teachers who fostered in him an inclination to learn, to study and to be the best that he could be.

Renovations Improve Living Standards, Increase Chances for Adoption

The Animal Haven in North Haven recently opened its new cat wing with grant support from the Lillian and Henry A. Konopacke Fund at The Community Foundation. The wing is part of a larger renovation that brings the shelter up to best practice standards for housing, socialization, training and enrichment of its animals. Improving the psychological and physical comfort of animals is key to increasing chances for adoption. The Lillian and Henry A. Konopacke Fund was created in 2013 at The Foundation by bequest of New Haven native Henry Konopacke, who worked as a machinist at the Winchester Repeating Arms Factory.



Photo Courtesy of Diane Daskal Ruben

“For clients who wish to make charitable planning part of the larger estate planning process, I have found The Foundation to be an invaluable resource. The breadth of their community involvement actually helps clients think through their giving priorities.”

— Atty. Diane Daskal Ruben,
Winnick Ruben Hoffnung Peabody & Mendel

Professional Advisors Council

The Professional Advisors Council consists of leaders in the allied advisory fields of estate planning, wealth advising, accounting, financial planning and insurance. These experts work closely with Foundation staff to identify opportunities for maximizing philanthropic impact and client satisfaction, which benefits our shared community. To learn more about charitable giving, contact Liana Garcia at 203-974-1646.



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Photo (Present Day) Ian Christmann

Though much has changed since the 1890s (left), the Grand Avenue bridge retains its iconic charm (right).

A Portal to the Past

Historic Photos Reflect Community's Waterfront Heritage

The Quinnipiac River, which flows through New Haven, was once home to a thriving oyster industry. Its legacy remains in the historic charm and character of the Fair Haven community, thanks to the preservation efforts of residents, nonprofit organizations and city and state agencies. The homes, buildings, streets, sidewalks, bridges and, most prominently, the river itself, convey the community's rich heritage. This history is explored in a photographic series on the website of The Quinnipiac River Fund (thequinnipiacriver.com). The series pairs historic with present-day photos and features the iconic Grand Avenue Bridge (originally built in 1896 and restored in the 1980s), which is closing for a two-year restoration project. The Quinnipiac River Fund is a fund at The Community Foundation with a mission of improving the health of the Quinnipiac River and its surrounding watersheds.

Nonprofit Management Resource Center Has Something for Everyone

Did you know The Foundation's website lists valuable resources for those who work or volunteer at Greater New Haven nonprofits? Executive directors, board members and staff are encouraged to explore the section to discover trainings, sample policies, locate a consultant and more. You can also find a list of nonprofits seeking volunteer board members, searchable by organization name or by area of interest (Arts & Culture; Basic Needs; Civic Vitality & Social Justice; Economic Success; Education; Environment & Animals; Health & Wellness; and Youth). Learn more at cfghn.org/NonprofitResources.



Photo Clíke Photography

Fernando Muñiz at the Progreso Latino Fund's 15th anniversary gala in 2018.

New Year, New Leadership

Foundation Board Welcomes Fernando Muñiz

Fernando Muñiz (pictured), CEO of Community Solutions, Inc. (a Connecticut-based nonprofit agency with operations in 11 states and Canada), was appointed to The Community Foundation Board of Directors to succeed Alicia Caraballo. Muñiz began his seven-year term on January 1, 2020. “Fernando is an outstanding community leader, public servant and nonprofit executive,” says Board Chair Dr. Khalilah Brown-Dean.

“He brings to the Board a wealth of knowledge and experience in capacity building and community development as we chart a new path toward inclusive growth. We are excited to serve with and learn from Fernando.”

Muñiz spent over a decade working at the Department of Children and Families, building a career in child welfare, juvenile justice and public administration. Muñiz is also a current member and former chair of The Foundation’s Progreso Latino Fund Advisory Committee.

Valley Community Foundation Welcomes New Members, New Chairs

In January, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) was pleased to welcome Diane Stroman and Nancy Valentine to the Board of Directors upon the completion of former Board Chair Lynne Bassett Perry’s seven-year term. The longtime Ansonia residents have served in numerous leadership roles, making significant contributions to the region. In November, the Board also welcomed Shelton native Aleta Miner, known for her contributions to the city’s economic growth in her role as assistant to the President of the Shelton Economic Development Corporation since 1994. In addition, Donald Smith Jr. was elected to Chair the VCF Board, and Jack Walsh was elected to Vice Chair.



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation *for* Greater New Haven

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The **COMMUNITY** Foundation
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