

CONNECTIONS

The quarterly newsletter of



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

State and Region Embrace Inclusive Growth

Drive for Equity in the Economy Accelerates

The Community Foundation (TCF) believes that our community and social challenges cannot be addressed effectively unless our economy is growing and creating opportunity for all residents. TCF has been working to promote inclusive growth since 2018. Today, institutions across the region are also embracing this vision for our community. Yale University and the City of New Haven have established the Center for Inclusive Growth. The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce has made inclusion a central focus. And the state of Connecticut recently validated TCF's work to support BIPOC and women entrepreneurs with a \$7.2M, five-year grant, which together with \$1.5M from the City of New Haven and \$50,000 from Liberty Bank is being used to build the New Haven Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (NHE3). To help job seekers access opportunity, TCF granted more than \$1M this summer to career pathways programs, building on its longstanding support of New Haven Promise and ConnCAT. Taken collectively, these and other efforts are working to create opportunity, promote inclusion and reduce inequities through inclusive growth.



(L-R) Jaida Stancil, owner of Eat Em Upp Clothing, Gateway Community College CEO William T. Brown and Conn. Gov. Ned Lamont at October's "Meet the Bankers" event, sponsored by TCF-MIC, which brought 200+ BIPOC entrepreneurs and business owners together with local banks and entrepreneurial support organizations.



Leaders in the Girls of Color Mentoring Network at a recent meeting. Front row, L-R: Yvonne Jones (D.E.S.T.I.N.E.D. 2 Succeed); Randi McCray (RM Consulting); Samantha Williams (CMWP); Shirley Ellis-West (Urban Community Alliance). Top row, L-R: Latisha Douglas (CMWP); Miriam James (NCBW); Paula Irvin (New Haven Alumnae Chapter - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.); and Adriana Rodriguez (SCOW).

Mentoring Network Gains Momentum

Strengthens Career Development for Young Women of Color

In 2021, The Foundation's Community Fund for Women & Girls reached out to leaders of mentoring organizations that serve girls of color, and together with nine of the organizations formed a collective. This year, members of the collective found that while there was a great deal of mentor support for girls in middle and high school, that really dropped off for women of color ages 18-25. The Girls of Color Mentoring Network is working to change that. Together, members discussed solutions, including: Providing basic supports, such as food and bus passes; creating development opportunities for older girls to mentor younger ones; partnering with dance and sports organizations to get more girls involved in mentorship; developing a parent orientation program; and offering workshops on mental health. "We make sure no one is overlooked," says Samantha Williams, founder of the Collaboration of Minority Women Professionals. "Girls and young women of color need mentors who look like them and who have walked the same paths."

Healthy Start Director Natasha Ray Named to National Advocacy Board

New Haven Healthy Start (NHHS) Director Natasha Ray was named to the board of directors of the National Healthy Start Association (NHSA), the member organization for the network of more than 100 Healthy Start programs across the county. The NHSA provides education and technical assistance to the programs, and advocates to sustain funding for improving birth outcomes and reducing racial and ethnic differences in rates of infant deaths and negative maternal health outcomes. Ray been the NHHS director since 2019, and has been on the staff since 2002, starting as a volunteer after participating in the program as a mother. Learn more at nhhealthystart.org.



Panelists emphasized that advancing cultural equity involves conscious decision-making every day.

Expanding the Conversation on Cultural Equity

Convening Calls for Diverse Representation, Relationships

The arts have the power to inspire and catalyze societal change. Cultural equity involves creating spaces for, and making investments in, people from historically marginalized communities. Those were among the key messages in a November Convening hosted online by The Community Foundation (TCF) and moderated by Adriane Jefferson, the City of New Haven's Director of Cultural Affairs. The City, as well as arts and other institutions in Greater New Haven, is working to ensure that civic spaces and public investments value the diverse communities and cultures in our region. Panelists Salwa Abdussabur (Black Haven); Rachel Alderman (Long Wharf Theatre); and Malakhi Eason, "Dr. Kreative" (International Festival of Arts & Ideas) emphasized that advancing cultural equity involves conscious decision-making every day, and that in order to build trust in diverse communities, leadership and staff of institutions need to be representative of those communities. Watch a recording of the conversation at cfgnh.org/CulturalEquity2022.

Nettie J. Dayton Circle Members Gather for October Reception

The pumpkins and fall colors at Bishop's Orchard's Little Red Barn in Guilford provided a beautiful backdrop for the Nettie J. Dayton Circle reception, the first in-person gathering in 2+ years. Bishop's owner Keith Bishop greeted Circle members and The Community Foundation (TCF) President & CEO Will Ginsberg shared highlights of the work TCF has been doing since 2020 to respond to COVID-19 and to advance racial equity. The Nettie J. Dayton Circle is comprised of partners and supporters who have chosen to leave a legacy by including TCF in their estate plans. Learn more about this group of visionaries, and how to join them, at cfgnh.org/PlannedGiving.



Hillhouse High grad Gillian Ofori-Ntiamoah, now a chemistry major senior at SCSU, conducts research.

Photo Todd Ryder

Pathways to Higher Paying Careers

Residents Connected to Growth Industries with \$1M+ in Grants

A network of local nonprofit programs connecting residents to jobs in growing economic sectors such as healthcare, bioscience and manufacturing is being supported with more than \$1 million in grants from The Community Foundation (TCF) and its component fund, the Community Fund for Women & Girls (CFWG). The funding is part of TCF's strategic commitment to inclusive economic growth and is going to programs that provide skills training, childcare, transportation support, career navigation and other wraparound support services. Among TCF grantees are New Haven Promise, piloting a partnership with the Yale School of Medicine to prepare underrepresented professionals for healthcare careers; New Haven Works, helping residents access jobs in STEM fields; and SCSU's BioPath program, connecting students with professionals of color in bioscience. CFWG grants include support for the Collaboration of Minority Women Professionals program for entrepreneurs; Havenly's fellowship program for recent immigrants; and more.

Small Grants Gain Big Impact With *Stepping Forward*

The Community Foundation's (TCF) Small Grants Program has always been a key source of funding for small-sized nonprofits serving Greater New Haven, especially those applying for the first time. With the 2021 launch of *Stepping Forward*, TCF's three-year, \$26 million commitment to address the impact of COVID-19 and advance racial equity, more than \$1.2 million in funding was added to the program in 2021-22 (as compared to the prior two years). Grant maximums were doubled from \$7,500 to \$15,000 and the application process was simplified. These changes brought in many organizations who were new to TCF. Learn more at cfgnh.org/Stengthening-Nonprofits.



Dr. Zofia Baumann shows off the healthy oysters of Morris Creek, a Quinnipiac River tributary

What Makes Oysters Happy?

Quinnipiac River Fund Supports Local Reef Research

With more tributary rivers per linear coastline mile than any other region in the country, Connecticut offers an ideal environment for oysters to flourish. While industrialization and over-harvesting caused a precipitous decline in the 20th century, the bivalves are making a comeback. University of Connecticut researcher Dr. Zofia Baumann, using a grant from the Quinnipiac River Fund, is studying the oyster-rich shores of Morris Creek to gain a better understanding of what makes them thrive. “By studying where we know oysters are happy, we can help restoration efforts and hopefully continue to see a resurgence in the population of oysters and other marine life,” Dr. Baumann says. She is engaging volunteers to help measure and track the oyster sizes, reef density and water quality. Her work is also building public awareness of the local ecology. The Quinnipiac River Fund annually grants more than \$100,000 to projects working to improve the health of the watershed. Project applications for 2023 are due January 20.

2022 Cohort Selected for Two-Year Leadership and Career Development Program

The Community Foundation (TCF) recently announced the second cohort in the Nonprofit Management Program for Emerging Leaders of Color. In coordination with the University of Connecticut, the career development program was conceived in 2021 as part of TCF’s *Stepping Forward* commitment to address the impact of COVID-19 and advance racial equity. “Energized by the first cohort, we learned how to make the program even stronger,” says Jackie Downing, TCF’s Senior Director of Grantmaking and Nonprofit Support. “Our intention is to create a pipeline for new, more diverse leadership in Greater New Haven’s nonprofit community.” Learn more at cfghn.org/cohort22.



Photo Courtesy of Eloise Middleton

Thanks to Jean Sutherland, more young people growing up in New Haven will be able to follow a dream.

Lessons Live On From Award-Winning Teacher

Jean Sutherland Fund Helps Young People Follow Their Dream

When Susan Small and Cathy Edinger think back on growing up in New Haven, the talk turns to their late older sister, Jean Sutherland. When their parents died at a young age, “Jean was our rock,” Small says. There was no car, so Sutherland walked from their house on Elm Street to Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) to take education courses. There was always dinner on the table and love in the house. It was SCSU “that set Jean’s dream in motion — to become a teacher,” says Eloise Middleton, Jean’s great friend of 50 years, “where she would influence so many lives. Teaching in New Haven was at the center of Jean’s heart.” Her students, across decades, speak of the extraordinary impact she had on their lives. Sutherland ensured that impact would live on when she established the Jean Sutherland Fund at The Community Foundation to provide scholarships to SCSU for young people in New Haven, enabling future generations “to follow a dream like she did,” Edinger says. Learn more at cfgnh.org/JeanSutherland.

Sisters Perpetuate Their Love for the Valley

Barbara Lombardi and Elizabeth “Betsey” Doane, affectionately known throughout the Valley as the Lombardi Twins, created a donor advised fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) in 2022. “The Valley has always been good to us, and we hope the fund will help agencies and organizations making a difference,” Barbara says. No strangers to giving back to their community, the Lombardi Twins have impressive professional and volunteer credentials. “These two wonderful women are extraordinary role models to so many in our Valley and state,” says VCF President & CEO Sharon Closius. “We’re thrilled they have asked VCF to be the steward of their fund.” Learn more at valleyfoundation.org.



Photo: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

Beulah Land Development Corp. CEO Darrell Brooks at the future site of 69 “deeply-affordable” apartments.

Creating Stability in the Dixwell Neighborhood

Nonprofit Beulah Land Development Builds Affordable Housing

Amid a building boom of market rate housing in New Haven and rising concerns about gentrification, Beulah Land Development Corporation is creating a portfolio of affordable housing options in the historically Black Dixwell neighborhood. The nonprofit developer, a recipient of a \$135,000 grant from The Community Foundation in July, is constructing 69 “deeply affordable” apartments on Joe Grate Corner that will be rented to people with low incomes. Beulah also owns a building for low-income seniors and constructs and rehabs single and multifamily homes for families to purchase with assistance so they can build equity. “They will pay less for their mortgage than they would in rent,” says Beulah CEO Darrell Brooks. “This block was a hub. It was anchored by homeowners and that gave the neighborhood stability, which we are bringing back.” Beulah hires local minority contractors and businesses for all phases of the construction and managing the properties, including landscaping, housekeeping and more.

Forum Focuses on Challenges in Mental Health Care Access in Latino/a/x Communities

For many with mental health needs, accessing professional help can be a challenge due to financial or other barriers. When the services are in a different language, the barriers can be insurmountable. During a recent online forum hosted by The Community Foundation’s Progreso Latino Fund (PLF), local experts highlighted the shortage of Spanish-speaking providers as well as other challenges in addressing the mental health needs of the Latino community. Panelists also expressed the need for cultural competency among healthcare workers; outreach by providers to build community trust; and education to reduce stigma. Learn more about PLF at progresolatinofund.org.



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

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Triple Your Impact

The Basic Needs Fund

Help ensure grant resources are available for basic material needs in Greater New Haven – now and in the future. Gifts (up to \$25K per gift) to the Basic Needs Fund at The Community Foundation are now being tripled through the generosity of donors.

Learn more at cfgnh.org/BasicNeedsFund.



Photo Courtesy of Connecticut FoodShare

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