

CONNECTIONS

The quarterly newsletter of



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

Inclusive Growth Work Ramps Up

Investments Create Access

The Community Foundation has made significant strides in the work to build an economic system that benefits everyone, regardless of race or ethnicity, age, gender, level of education or place of birth. In July, it launched the New Haven Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (NHE3), which provides both grants and a resource network to underserved small business owners including women, Black, Brown and immigrant entrepreneurs. Using funding from the State of Connecticut and City of New Haven, NHE3 plans to make 750 grants averaging \$6,000 over the next 5 years. More than \$1.1 million in career pathways grants from The Foundation and the Community Fund for Women & Girls is supporting job-skills and other services focused on helping improve economic security. This fall, The Foundation will release a labor market analysis of middle skill jobs that require less than a college education in bioscience, healthcare and other growing economic sectors. Collectively, these and other investments aim to transform economic systems to be more inclusive.



The launch of NHE3 was celebrated in July. The NHE3 provides both grants and a network of resources for small business owners, opening entrepreneurial pathways to growth in under-connected communities.



Photo: Giancarlo Valentine

A young nonprofit and new grantee to The Foundation, Freedom Reads builds libraries in Connecticut prisons.

\$3.76 Million to Greater New Haven Nonprofits

136 Organizations Receive General Operating Support

In July, the Board of Directors approved general operating support grants to a large and diverse group of organizations that are creating opportunity, advancing equity and providing vital community services, including affordable housing, entrepreneurship, food, healthcare, the arts, and youth enrichment programs. The awards were made through The Foundation’s annual responsive grants program, its largest competitive grant program and part of \$27.6 million that The Foundation plans to spend on grantmaking, program and leadership activities in 2023. “The Foundation is proud of our shift to providing general operating support to Greater New Haven nonprofits, which have risen to meet the crisis of our time and continue to provide the services and programs essential to our community’s thriving,” said President and CEO Will Ginsberg. “This type of funding is what our great local nonprofits need most.” Read the full press release at cfgnh.org/ResponsiveGrants2023.

Learning Is Changing the Narrative

Since 2020, The Foundation has hosted more than 450 community members at seven sessions of The Groundwater Approach, a racial equity workshop that builds an understanding of systemic racism and disparities through data and historical analysis. The workshop is provided by the Racial Equity Institute, a national alliance of trainers and leaders devoted to creating racially equitable organizations and systems by illuminating the racial history of many of our social systems. During a follow-up conversation, a recent participant commented that the workshop “challenges the belief that one can lift oneself up by his/her bootstraps.” Register to attend the next session at cfgnh.org/groundwater.



Board member Keith Churchwell and chair Marcella Nunez-Smith in conversation at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Highlights Time of Progress

Opportunity and Equity the Path Forward for Our Community

In May, The Foundation's Annual Meeting at The Carousel at Lighthouse Point featured a conversation on opportunity and equity between Foundation board member Keith Churchwell, MD, and board chair Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS. In his opening remarks, President and CEO Will Ginsberg spoke about how the private, public and social sectors in our community are increasingly committed to addressing our opportunity and equity challenges in new ways. Churchwell and Nunez-Smith highlighted the ways New Haven's growing medical and biotech corridor is expanding opportunity, including Yale New Haven Hospital's investment in creating pathways to medical careers for local residents in order to meet employment needs. With The Great Give online fundraiser taking place on the following day, Jackie Downing, Sr. Director of Grantmaking and Nonprofit Support, inspired attendees to support 500+ nonprofits with the motto, "together we raise, together we rise." Learn more at cfgnh.org/AnnualMeeting2023.

The Great Give 2023 Raises \$3.5+ Million for Greater New Haven Nonprofits

The Great Give annual online fundraising event raised \$3,548,256 for 520 nonprofit organizations serving Greater New Haven. The giving event, hosted by The Community Foundation, is a community-wide celebration of nonprofits on social media and beyond, with many organizations hosting both virtual and live events for supporters throughout the event. The 36 hours of fundraising, with sponsored match prize pools and random prize draws, was held May 3-4, and donations were accepted through May 7. Altogether, more than 15,000 individual donors made more than 24,000 gifts this year. Learn more and see the full results at thegreatgive.org.



Photo Chiké Photography

Giving back has always been important to Maribel Martínez and Fernando Muñiz.

Fund Created to Support Latine Community

Muñiz Martínez Family Fund Latest in Lifetime of Giving Back

Giving back has always been important to Maribel Martínez and Fernando Muñiz. When Martínez was growing up, her parents invited neighbors into their home when they fell on hard times. “They gave whatever they had. That was something they really instilled in me,” Martínez says. Muñiz began volunteering in high school, following the example set by his parents, who helped others through their church. “I don’t think they would call it community service; it’s how they saw the world — you help other people,” he says. Muñiz and Martínez both chose careers in social service, and Muñiz now serves as vice chair on The Foundation’s board. With the Progreso Latino Fund (PLF) celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2023, the couple decided the time was right to establish a named fund. “We felt it was a great way to support Latino-led nonprofits that are doing extraordinary work in the community,” Muñiz says. Watch an inspiring video featuring Martínez and Muñiz and learn more about the PLF 20th anniversary match campaign at cfgnh.org/plf.

\$190,000 Awarded to Support Economic Security Programs for Women

The Community Fund for Women & Girls, the region’s only permanent charitable endowment dedicated solely to advancing women and girls, is helping women start businesses and advance careers with its 2023 Pathways to Economic Success for Women grant awards. Announced in June, the \$190K in grants awarded to 10 Greater New Haven nonprofit programs offers job-skills training, entrepreneur coaching and more. “It is vital that we continue to lift up the disparities experienced by women, particularly women of color, and invest in programs that work to ensure economic stability,” said Kara Straun, director of program and evaluation. Learn more at fundforwomenandgirls.org.



Photo: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

Yale class of 2024 students Jonathan Weiss (left) and Samantha Sims (right), with Henry “Sam” Chauncey, Jr.

Chauncey Fellowship Announces First Awards

Support Allows College Students to Follow Their Passions

Jonathan Weiss is a young composer who works in a variety of musical styles and is passionate about connecting with people with disabilities through music. Samantha Sims, a New Haven native and New Haven Promise scholar, is bringing together Black people of the African diaspora to share a traditional meal and discuss their roots in a new tradition called Liberation Table. Over the next year, the two Yale seniors will develop their ideas and projects with the support of the Chauncey Fellowship. Established by a generous bequest by the late Edder Bennett, the fellowship is in honor of Henry “Sam” Chauncey Jr., former secretary of Yale University, founder of New Haven’s Science Park, and past president of Gaylord Hospital. Its aim is to remove the financial pressures that stop young people from pursuing their dreams and help bring their artistic or community service visions to light. Learn more at cfgnh.org/Chauncey.

“Love In Action” Celebrated at Black Philanthropy Month Panel Discussion

What does “Black Love in Action” (this year’s national Black Philanthropy Month theme) look like? Four local Black leaders explored this question in a rich discussion this August hosted by The Foundation’s Dr. Leon Bailey Jr., presented in partnership with Fairfield County’s Community Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and The Prosperity Foundation. Bringing perspectives from diverse and extensive professional backgrounds in the nonprofit and private sectors, panelists explored the strengths of the Black community, the long history of Black philanthropy and how Black love shows up in their work and lives. Watch a recording of the event at cfgnh.org/bpm2023.



New Haven Healthy Start's Natasha Ray and Rodney Moore (center) with community partners at the launch.

Advancing the Health of Mothers and Babies

New Haven Healthy Start Helps Launch Lactation Room

Breastfeeding mothers need safe and clean places to nurse their infants or pump when they are outside the home. Yet there are only 60 worksites in all of Connecticut deemed breastfeeding-friendly. The New Haven Breast/Chestfeeding Task Force, part of the statewide Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition, is working to increase this number and educate employers on the need to provide time, spaces and policies to accommodate lactating mothers. Natasha Ray, director of New Haven Health Start and co-chair of the Task Force, celebrated a success in this effort with the launch of a new lactation space at New Haven's Union Station this August, which will provide a private, safe environment for parents to breast/chestfeed or pump. "When mothers return to work, it is important that they have a space where they can pump, the time to do it, and a policy that supports them," says Ray. "It's a small step employers can take to support the health of mothers and babies." Learn more at cfgnh.org/lactationroom.

First Valley Index Learning Session Focuses on the Future of Transportation

Local and state officials, as well as dozens of Valley community members attended a discussion on the future of transportation in the Naugatuck Valley presented by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and hosted by the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) this June. "We are pleased by the well-attended event," says Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. "These sessions are part of our effort to seek public input on the 2022 Valley Community Index." VCF is planning its second learning session in October on healthcare. Learn more about the sessions, download the Index, and watch a recording of the transportation forum at valleyfoundation.org.



Photo Leigh Busby

Camille Godfrey perfects a pitch at University of New Haven's Youth Entrepreneurs program in July.

Youth Entrepreneurs Make Pitches, Connections

Summer Program Motivates Teens to Explore and Learn





While many teens were relaxing over summer vacation, a group of New Haven area high school students pitched their business and social venture ideas to a crowd assembled in a college lecture hall. It was the culmination of a business and innovation class at The University of New Haven and part of the Youth Entrepreneurs summer enrichment program recently funded by The Foundation. Students worked with a professor to develop ideas ranging from a real estate company to a mental health service. They learned how to prepare financial statements, study competitors and develop marketing plans. “It was phenomenal,” said Dr. Laquita Joyner-McGraw, founder of program. “These are the skills that they will need moving forward.” After the course, students were paired with mentors in their field of interest to apply what they learned and gain hands-on experience. Learn more at cfgnh.org/youthentrepreneurs.

Established by Friends, Scholarship Fund Honors Memory of Beloved Teacher

Caroline Rosenstone inspired generations of students at the Educational Center for the Arts where she founded the creative writing program and served as its director. Beloved for her effusiveness and enthusiasm, Rosenstone filled her classroom with gasps of her signature adjective, “Fabulous!” as students read essays aloud. She modeled a generous, creative spirit and unlocked the power of the written word in invaluable ways. Upon her passing in June, friends of Rosenstone established the Caroline Rosenstone Memorial Scholarship Fund in her honor to provide scholarships and/or book awards to students pursuing study in creative writing and/or theater. Learn more at cfgnh.org/Rosenstone.



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

70 Audubon Street
New Haven, CT 06510
cfghn.org @    

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW HAVEN, CT
PERMIT NO. 7

OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY



Planning to give in 2023?

We're ready to assist.

The time is now! When giving through The Community Foundation, you increase the power of your support to the causes you care about most, now and forever. Our development staff is available to personally assist you with your year-end charitable giving through December 31. Learn more at cfghn.org/giving.

Board of Directors

Marcella Nunez-Smith
Chair

Fernando J. Muñiz
Vice Chair

Enola G. Aird
Maysa Akbar

Keith B. Churchwell
Vlad Coric

Joseph W. Gordon
Terry H. Jones

Gregory J. Pepe
Valarie Shultz Wilson

Heather Tookes Alexopoulos

William W. Ginsberg
President & CEO

Copyrighting: K. Cel, M. Higbee, A. Powers Design: Group C Inc. Printing: GHP Media
Printed on uncoated paper with post-consumer recycled content using vegetable-based inks to be
more environmentally friendly. Read more at cfghn.org/2023No2
Did you receive more than one copy of *Connections*? Kindly pass one on to a friend!