

CONNECTIONS



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

Imagine.

Inform.

Invest.

Inspire.

Trust, Connection, Progress and Legacy

Reflections on 90 Years of Service

As part of The Foundation's 90th anniversary celebration this year, its board and former board members gathered on an October evening to reflect on how the institution has earned and maintained the community's confidence over this long period. Among the comments shared, four themes emerged:

Trust: The Foundation's exercise of independent judgment in doing what it believes to be best for the community; **Connection:** the depth of The Foundation's personal relationships and the breadth of its work serving the whole community in all its diversity; **Progress:** The Foundation's work being grounded in a compelling and positive vision of the community's future progress; and **Legacy:** the thousands of individuals and families who have created permanent legacies that are meaningful to them and that contribute to the overall progress of the community.



Salute to Fellow Nonagenarians



Honored to Be in the Company of These Amazing 90(plus)-Year-Old Donors

Dr. Robert G. LaCamera retired decades ago, but says people still approach him to say, “You helped me understand my child better.” Dr. LaCamera spent 40 years practicing “the care of the whole child” as a pediatrician, alongside Dr. Morris Wessel and Dr. Robert Anderson on Howard Avenue in New Haven. Their philosophy at the time was almost radical: that the physical health of the child was directly related to the stability and wellbeing of the family as a whole. “Being a better parent automatically helps to have better caring for the child,” he says. “It’s as simple as that.” The Responsible Parenting Fund honoring LaCamera is now a designated fund for Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic, which has a vision that mirrors LaCamera’s own. Celebrate The Foundation’s 90th anniversary through stories like Dr. LaCamera’s. Visit cfgnh.org/90years where you can take our “From the Start” trivia challenge for a chance to designate \$250 to your favorite nonprofits!

Ninety Years of Being There “From the Start”

Project Access-New Haven (PA-NH) began 10 years ago when a group of local doctors set out to address a problem impacting the Greater New Haven community — inadequate access to timely medical care for low-income patients with no (or inadequate) health insurance coverage. A grant from The Community Foundation helped transform their vision into action. PA-NH mobilizes a vast network of donated healthcare services with the support of a bilingual, compassionate team. Since opening in 2010, more than 2,500 underserved individuals have been navigated to over 19,000 medical appointments with a 97 percent “show-rate,” and over \$45 million in donated medical care has been directed to those in need.



\$2.6 Million for Greater New Haven

Creating Opportunity, Responding to Community Needs

The Community Foundation announced its 2018 responsive grant awards in late October, providing \$2,670,527 to nonprofit organizations working throughout Greater New Haven. The grants will support 51 local programs and institutions offering services to vulnerable residents and expanding opportunities for residents of all ages (such as Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, pictured). The awards were selected from a pool of 97 applications seeking a total of nearly \$8.2 million. “The nonprofits supported by The Foundation are leading the way in how our community is addressing many of its central challenges,” says Community Foundation President and CEO Will Ginsberg. The annual responsive grant cycle is funded by unrestricted and preference funds. In addition to its competitive grantmaking, The Foundation also makes grants throughout the year from designated and other funds. In 2018, The Foundation will make a total of approximately \$28 million in grants and distributions.

New Haven Institute Graduates Change Agents, Transforms Youth Justice

A police officer plans a policy change to divert more young people from the criminal justice system to juvenile review boards. A teacher plans to expand transitional vocational programs for at-risk students. These two are among the latest graduates of the Transforming Youth Justice Leadership Development Program at the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven. Launched in 2014 with support from The Foundation, the institute uses research and education to improve the way institutions treat young people. Professionals from the criminal, judicial, educational and social service sectors learn best practices around youth justice and strategies for pushing reform across organizations.



The Opioid Crisis in Connecticut

Local Health Experts Point to Causes and Solutions

The opioid crisis, which causes more accidental deaths than automobile crashes in the U.S., has struck Connecticut especially hard. The state ranks ninth in the country in overdose deaths, with the recent spike linked to highly potent synthetic opioids mixed with street heroin. A recent donor briefing at The Foundation brought a panel of local addiction specialists together to discuss the roots of the crisis and the local response (pictured, left to right): Dr. Douglas Olson, Vice President of Clinical Affairs at Fair Haven Community Health Care; Dr. E. Jennifer Edelman, Associate Professor at the Yale School of Medicine; and Tony Corniello, Vice President of Adult Services at BHcare. While there is no silver bullet, the experts agreed on what does not work: shame and stigma, especially around Medication-Assisted Treatment therapy. “It doesn’t matter what groups you look at,” noted Dr. Olson. “Everyone is affected.”

Support for Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Treatments

In 2018, The Foundation provided grants to several health organizations addressing the opioid crisis, including BHcare; Bridges – A Community Support System; Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation, Inc.; Connection, Inc.; Continuum of Care, Inc.; and Fair Haven Community Health Care. The Foundation is also home to several preference funds established to address addiction recovery. The Ashleigh Ann Rector Memorial Scholarship Fund provides scholarship funds to Hamden High School graduates pursuing a career in addiction counseling, and The Peter J. Meehan and Prudence F. Meehan Fund supports therapeutic treatment.



Greater New Haven Gets Out the Vote

Nonpartisan Collaborative Registers 1,000 New Voters

Volunteers hosted candidate forums, knocked on doors, discussed important issues with residents and registered about 1,000 new voters in time for November’s mid-term elections. GNH VOTE 2018, a Community Foundation-led nonpartisan collaborative of more than 20 nonprofits and religious groups in Greater New Haven, specifically worked to increase voter participation among populations that historically have had low voter turnouts. During canvassing drives, volunteers empowered voters by discussing key issues and connecting them with information about affordable housing, education, immigration, health care and criminal justice. They also distributed voter guides and pledge cards, and helped people register to vote and identify their polling places. The Community Foundation provided funding and staff leadership for the group effort.

Positive Strides Made in Gender-Specific Programming

Last year, the Community Fund for Women & Girls awarded nine grants totaling \$80,950. After reviewing 2017 grant reports, it was apparent that those grants influenced and improved the development of gender-specific programming across the region. Programs serving girls addressed mental health, self-esteem and wellbeing, leadership development, hands-on job training, exposure to STEM fields and skill-building. Programs serving women focused on providing legal services and guidance to Latina women, financial literacy and coaching, leadership development, supportive health coaching and therapeutic services to those coping with substance abuse issues. Learn more at FundForWomenandGirls.org.



Photo Courtesy of Valley Community Foundation

Valley Gives Back™ Kicks into High Gear

Offers Simple Tools to Make Planned Giving Easy

Driving through the Valley, it's hard to miss the 11 billboards calling on passersby to think about their community and give back in smart ways. The series began appearing this fall throughout the region's five towns and is part of a much larger Valley Gives Back™ initiative. Beneficiary designations are at the heart of the messaging created by the Valley Community Foundation: how easy and cost-effective it is to make a planned gift by naming a nonprofit as a partial beneficiary of an IRA, insurance plan or bank account. Other placements include ads in *Connecticut Magazine*, *Connecticut Post*, *Shelton Herald*, *Voices*, *Republican-American* and at Stop & Shop gas stations; radio spots on WPLR; digital and audio ads on the *Valley Independent Sentinel*; and direct mail to nearly 14,000 Valley residents. All communication leads back to valleygivesback.org for tools to make planned giving easy to understand. Messages are also spreading on social media using the hashtag #ValleyGivesBack.

You Can Directly Help Puerto Rico's Hurricane Survivors

The Progreso Latino Fund (PLF) recently held a visionary conversation about Puerto Rico's future in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Guests Dr. Nelson Colón (President & CEO, Puerto Rico Community Foundation) and Hon. Julia M. Nazario Fuentes (Mayor, Loíza, Puerto Rico) discussed recovery efforts on the island, including a major fundraising campaign to equip 100 hospitals with electricity-producing microgrids. To support this effort, PLF issued the 2018 Naranjito Matching Gift Challenge. Through December 31, PLF will match up to \$15,000 in gifts to the Fund that are designated for the purchase of reliable solar energy for a health care clinic in Naranjito, Puerto Rico. Learn more at ProgresoLatinoFund.org.



An Easier Way for You to Be a Philanthropist

Keep Them Smiling for Years to Come

As the year comes to an end, you've probably written multiple checks or swiped your credit card many times to support your favorite causes. Maybe it's time to create a donor advised fund at The Community Foundation to carry out your charitable giving. Donor advised funds offer a simpler way to support the organizations that are near and dear to your heart — without swiping your card or writing those checks one at a time. They enable you to manage your charitable giving all in one spot and offer flexible investment options. You'll also gain unique access to The Foundation's 90 years of community knowledge via informative donor briefings. Typically, a donor advised fund requires a minimum commitment of \$10,000, but it can also be started with a smaller contribution and built up over time. Being around for 90 years, we understand perpetuity and will firmly honor your charitable intentions not only today, but forever. For more info, please call Sharon Cappetta at 203-777-7071.

New Philanthropic Tool Available for Donor Advisors

Donor Advisors who wish to be part of The Foundation's Mission Related Investment work can choose to invest in The Foundation's Nonprofit Loan Pool (NLP), which is being established over the next few months. The NLP is funded by private foundations, individual donors and The Community Foundation for the purpose of making low-interest, short-term loans available to nonprofits that need capital or a line of credit. After the loan term is over (typically five to seven years), donor advisors may receive a return on their investment, which can be used to reinvest in the NLP or put back into their donor advised fund. For more information about this opportunity, please call Dotty Weston-Murphy at 203-777-7081.



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Can we have just **3 minutes** of your time?



Please Tell Us What You Think

Inside this issue you'll find a survey. Your answers will help us serve you better — and make you eligible to win a \$250 give**Greater**.org card to designate to the nonprofit of your choice! A digital version is also available online at cfghn.org/survey2018.

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