

# MOVING FORWARD

*Investing in Our Future*



VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# A Letter from the President and CEO, and Board Chair.



Jack Walsh, 2022 Board Chair; Nancy Valentine, 2023 Board Chair; and Sharon Closius, President and CEO

## Dear Valley Friends,

We are pleased to present the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) 2022 Annual Report. This year's theme, "Moving Forward: Investing in Our Future" highlights the great work done in the past year to build a brighter future for everyone who lives and works in our beloved Valley.

We are particularly excited to share with you the stories of the nine new funds that were established last year. These funds represent a wide range of interests and priorities in our community, from scholarships for future high school graduates, to financial support for aspiring emergency medical personnel, and of course funds to support the region in general. We are grateful to the funders who have chosen to support these important causes and to partner with VCF in making a lasting impact in our community.

In addition to these new funds, we are proud to report that VCF had another successful year of grantmaking in 2022. More than \$2.4 million was distributed last year in grants to Valley organizations and causes. The VCF board and staff, along with our partners in philanthropy, The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven, worked tirelessly to review applications, conduct due diligence, and make thoughtful decisions about where to invest resources. We are confident that the grants awarded in 2022 will make a meaningful difference. One of the key tools we use to guide our grantmaking

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**Contributions**  
**\$3,221,082**



**Grants Awarded**  
**\$2,424,667**



**New Funds**  
**9**

is the Valley Community Index. Last year, we were thrilled to help share the new 2022 Index with the region. It was a particularly positive process because so many community organizations, volunteers and leaders collaborated to make it happen. We send special thanks to our community partners that made the Index possible – Griffin Health Services, The Naugatuck Valley Health District, and DataHaven.

We would like to make a special mention of the Community Listening Sessions that were held throughout the Index process. These sessions generated detailed feedback from Valley residents. We are so grateful for their insight and the perspectives that were shared. This feedback was invaluable, and it was used to complete the final report.

We believe the Index is an important tool for understanding the overall health and well-being of our region. We encourage the entire community to be part of the next process which is participating in upcoming

Community Learning Sessions that will delve deeper into the Index and provide a chance for Valley residents to be part of future solution-focused goals.

Finally, we would like to express our deep gratitude to all the donors, volunteers, and community partners who make our work possible. Without your support, we would not be able to make strides to improve our community. We are proud to work alongside you to build a brighter future for everyone who calls the Valley home.

Thank you, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Sharon Closius, President and CEO  
Jack Walsh, Board Chair



*Valley adults report higher levels of community cohesion than Connecticut overall and most Valley residents are satisfied with the community in which they live. Between 2018 and 2021, the share of adults reporting they were satisfied with the area in which they live increased by 6 percentage points.*  
– 2022 Valley Community Index.

# For Good. For Ever. For the Valley.

It's not just a tagline or motto, it's the Valley Community Foundation's guiding principle.

## For Good.

The five towns that make up the Valley -- Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton -- are distinctively different and unique as communities. Some are rural, some urban, and some a mix of both. But one common thread runs through all of them -- the Valley is home to proud residents who care about their towns, neighbors, and the future of the region.

Last year, the 2022 Valley Community Index was unveiled after many months of review and input by volunteers, town officials, and members of the nonprofit community. This report was not just another study created in a vacuum but was meticulously honed and crafted by community stakeholders that are now using the detailed information to make data-driven decisions and guide resources to the areas of greatest need in the community.

"This index is good in so many ways," said Jack Walsh, a member of the Valley Community Foundation's (VCF) Board of Directors and former Chair. "It's a crucial resource for our community, as it provides the latest data and trends that are critical to understanding the changing needs of our Valley. It's also a call to action for all of us to make our region better. It helps to guide resources and maybe more importantly it fosters teamwork between all the towns, and nonprofits, demonstrating that we're all in this together."

The Index was created in collaboration with Griffin Health Services (GHS), The Naugatuck Valley Health District (NVHD), DataHaven, and VCF. It contains in-depth data on how the Valley has changed in the last three years. It helps Griffin Hospital meet its federal reporting requirements and NVHD's requirements for national accreditation.

The Index helps the community understand that health and wellbeing extend to sources within and beyond one's control. The pandemic brought into focus how the social determinants of health, such as diet, smoking, and exercise, as well as access to transportation, employment, public safety and more, can have a lasting impact on quality of life. We have also come to know the serious equitable disparities within our communities that affect everyone.

"This Index is not a static document that will sit on a shelf and collect dust," said Valerie Knight-Di Gangi, VCF's Director of Programs. "It's the result of months of hard work by dedicated officials and volunteers from across the Valley and lays the foundation for future change that will keep our Valley strong and resilient." 



2022 Valley Community Index

## For Ever.

So many wonderful people in the Valley have dedicated their time and talent to making a positive impact in the community. A shining example of this are the number of funds -- more than 255 -- VCF currently manages. The individual funds are all intended to help the Valley thrive.

In 2022, VCF donors established nine new funds, including scholarship, donor advised, donor designated, and organization funds. These funds will provide vital support to students, community organizations, and initiatives and improve the lives of people in the Valley.



Kathleen Samela Food Pantry

Despite last year's rocky financial markets, VCF's funds are perpetual and will continue to grow over time. This means that they will always be here to support the Valley for generations to come.

"The generosity and dedication of our funders is truly inspiring," said Nancy Valentine, VCF's Board Chair. "They're committed to making a lasting positive impact in the Valley and create a better future for all."

In 2022, VCF distributed more than \$2.4 million in grants to community nonprofits, organizations, and programs mostly based in the Valley.




"People don't always see the impact these grants have but I can tell you they are substantial," Valentine said. "From food banks, and childhood development programs, to libraries, and animal shelters, VCF funders and donors touch almost every aspect of our Valley."

In 2022, The Kathleen Samela Food Pantry at Christ Episcopal Church in Ansonia received one of the six multi-year VCF grants. The pantry provides food to several thousand Valley residents each year.

"Without this money, we would not be able to continue to provide the life-changing services to our Valley's most vulnerable residents," said Meme Yocher, the food pantry's

coordinator. "Food insecurity is at an all-time high in the Valley and this grant is a real lifesaver."

Valentine, the former mayor of Ansonia from 1995 to 1999, is passionate about her volunteer work at VCF and other nonprofits in the region.

"In a Valley that is constantly changing, it's reassuring to know these funds will be here to help for years to come," Valentine said. "The work we do today will help create a brighter tomorrow and we're proud to be a part of the Valley forever!" 

## For the Valley.

As VCF's 2022 Annual Report was being compiled, it became evident that the new funds -- like all those that had come before -- had been established by caring and loving people who wanted to make a difference in their beloved Valley. Many of these funds were set up with the intent of leaving a legacy in honor of a loved one -- or support the community as a whole -- but doing so in a selfless way that benefits others.

Barbara Lombardi and Betsey Doane are two such Valley residents who decided to establish a fund last year. The Lombardi Twins Fund for the Valley will support causes and programs that need help, plain and simple, they said. Both are longtime volunteers and active in Valley organizations. But both wanted to make sure they could support their Valley when they're gone.

Last year, along with the new donors, VCF worked closely with dozens of extraordinary people at nonprofits in the Valley that have literally saved and changed lives. Nonprofits like TEAM, Inc., BHcare, Spooner House, and so many others, fill the "sometime life-threatening" cracks in our local safety-net system, providing food, fuel, healthcare support, and so much more.

"The people and families connected to our funds and area nonprofits are truly the heart and soul and essence of our Valley," said Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. "I hate to think what our Valley would be like without our nonprofits. They all do remarkable work, day in and day out, and always with limited resources."

Along with area nonprofits, many of our Valley schools benefit from funds established at VCF.

The Andy Brennan Memorial Fund was created by his parents, Jo Ann and Bill. Since 1979, the year Andy passed away, they made sure that his memory was kept alive through awards and scholarships at the Shelton schools Andy attended.

Last year, they decided to move the scholarship and awards permanently to VCF to honor their son. Students who receive

the scholarships will never get to meet Andy, but through Jo Ann and Bill's foresight and generosity, they will know the gifts he gave to others during his lifetime. Andy never let the obstacles in his life define him. He was kind, intelligent, and very courageous.


VCF funds are not just limited to scholarships or general community support. Last year the Advancing Heroes Fund was established in memory of Jeffrey Vrlík, a beloved nurse and local family man. Jeff died suddenly at age 54 and the fund created by his family in his memory will help support people who want to become EMTs, paramedics, or nurses.



The Vrlík Family

"Jeff's family saw the impact he had on so many lives and they wanted to continue his legacy," Closius said. "Their fund will provide opportunities for others to follow in his footsteps and make a difference in their communities."

Throughout last year, like every year, the people who came to VCF to establish new funds or scholarships all had different ideas and intentions. Like all the Valley's nonprofits, each fund VCF manages is unique and created with a purpose in mind to leave an equally unique legacy.

"All these funds represent the selfless nature of the residents of our Valley," Closius said. "The people and families who established these funds come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, but their investment in the future and love for the Valley is what unites them and unites us all." 

# New Funds of the Valley Community Foundation



The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) is privileged to introduce the nine new funds established in 2022, and the amazing people, stories and organizations connected to them. The caring and loving donors that created these funds did so for a variety of reasons and all are designed to improve our Valley.

For nearly 20 years, donors have looked to VCF to boost local philanthropy, and use its expertise, knowledge of the community, and unwavering

commitment to help the Valley prosper. That is exactly what these nine funds do.

The staff and Board of Directors are deeply honored by the 2022 funders for entrusting their legacies and stories of their loved ones to VCF. Everyone at VCF stands ready to ensure these funds create a lasting impact and a positive difference in the lives of those who call the Valley their home -- now and for generations to come.

## Advancing Heroes Fund

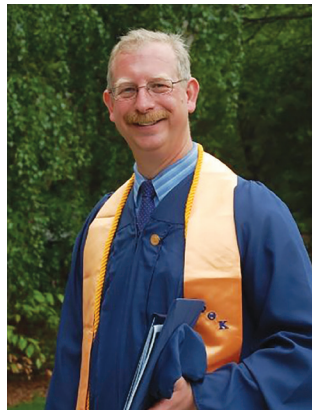
Jeffery John Vrlík loved many things. He loved and adored his wife, Kathie, and his three children, Kellen, Aidan and Kyla. He loved life and lived it to the fullest, traveling the world, becoming a skilled potter, and earning the respect of the medical community as a nurse.

The Advancing Heroes Fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) was established after Jeff died suddenly in 2022 at age 54. His passing devastated his family and friends.

The donor advised fund is dedicated to furthering the education of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) in the Valley community and support the educational growth of emergency medical personnel, including advanced training from EMT to paramedic, or even to pursue a degree in nursing.

Kathie said Jeff was passionate about taking care of others. He was a beloved nurse at Griffin Hospital's ICU and in the Emergency Department of the VA Hospital in West Haven. But for Jeff, nursing was a calling not just a career and answering that call was a financial challenge.

"Often, the care an EMT provides is the difference between life and death," Kathie said. "EMTs need to




*"It's our hope that we can encourage skilled EMTs to become paramedics and keep experienced professionals serving our community by providing a career path."*

know anatomy and physiology. They need to be able to perform field diagnosis and be able to evaluate an injury or illness and stabilize a patient and do their best to keep them alive."

The Advancing Heroes Fund is the first at VCF to include educational support for people seeking to become EMTs. Most towns have volunteer EMTs and those who are paid make little more than minimum wage making it nearly impossible for them to afford the costly training to become paramedics or nurses.

"Our most skilled and experienced EMTs leave the job, in too many cases, before they reach 5 years of service," Kathie said. "It's our hope that we can encourage skilled EMTs to become paramedics and keep experienced professionals serving our community by providing a career path."

Along with his world-class nursing skills, his friends and family say Jeff had an amazing bedside manner, with an extraordinary ability to lift the spirits of patients and colleagues.

"When Jeff became a nurse, his hands were blessed, and he spent every day from that moment extending that blessing to others," Kathie said. "He was bright, strong, multi-faceted, precious, and beautiful. We all miss his laugh, his smile, his hugs, his kindness, his patience, and his wisdom." 



## Andy Brennan Memorial Fund

Growing up in Shelton in the 1970s, Andy Brennan was like most kids. He loved school, played with his brothers, Eric and Matthew, and had a mom and dad that loved and supported him.

But by the time Andy was in the 6th grade, an untreatable spinal tumor left him paralyzed from the neck down. That didn't stop him, however, from continuing his education, living the best life he could and even learning how to draw and paint, using his mouth to hold a brush or pencil.

"He really loved school and had good friends too," said Jo Ann Brennan, Andy's mom. "He was a good student and liked to compete with his friend in getting good grades. He was very competitive that way."

Andy was 15-years old when he passed away. His parents, Jo Ann and Bill, and the entire family were heartbroken. But they immediately wanted to honor his memory and created awards and scholarships at the Shelton schools he attended during his life.

Since 1979, the year Andy passed away, Jo Ann and Bill have funded the awards and scholarships personally, diligently sending checks each year and making sure their son's memory was kept alive at his old schools.




*"We hope the message of his kindness, perseverance and ideals continue through others."*

Bill and his family have old roots in the Valley. His grandfather, John J. Brennan, founded Brennan Construction in 1897. Last year, they decided to move the awards and scholarships to the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and established the Andy Brennan Memorial Fund to ensure the gifts to deserving Shelton students continue forever into the future.

Andy's parents remember their son as very kind, considerate and keenly intelligent. They want the awards and scholarships to support students like him.

Each year, an award in Andy's name goes to a Perry Hill School 5th grader who is kind and considerate. At the Shelton Intermediate School, there's an award for a student who excels in Spanish, as Andy did. Lastly, the Shelton High School scholarship is for a student who embraces good citizenship and plans to go into the science, technology, engineering, or math fields.

Despite his physical challenges, Andy never gave up and Jo Ann and Bill hold that memory close to their hearts.

"He was such a wonderful and brave boy and he never complained," Jo Ann said. "We miss him terribly. We hope the message of his kindness, perseverance and ideals continue through others." 

## Eleanor Rae DeFelice Scholarship Fund

She may not have known it -- and certainly wouldn't have bragged about it -- but Eleanor Rae DeFelice was a trailblazer, breaking down barriers in a time when professional opportunities for women were limited.

"She was a brilliant woman who mastered mathematics, shorthand, stenography and received many local and state awards for her achievements," said Martin DeFelice, her son. "She lived a very full life, and her family is very thankful for the years we had with her."

Eleanor, born in 1919, graduated from business school in 1936 and started work as a bookkeeper at the F.H. Newton Company in Ansonia. It was there she honed the business skills that would serve her well throughout her life and career.



*"She would be so thrilled to know that her scholarship is already helping young people."*

In 1939, Eleanor worked with a manager who purchased the business renaming it the Cleary Millwork Company. She was a key player in the deal, a testament to her business acumen.

"I don't think she ever made a big deal about being a woman in the business world," Martin said. "She just did what she was good at, and success always followed."

Years later, the company was destroyed during the 1955 Flood. Eleanor helped relocate and reopen the company in Shelton. In 1977, it was sold again and moved to Rocky Hill. She was the top manager at Cleary Millwork and commuted to Rocky Hill daily until she retired. Her dedication to the business spanned more than 52 years.


Martin said it was a good thing the company moved to Rocky Hill because that's where she met his father, John

DeFelice. Eleanor and John were married for 15 years before he passed away.

"This incredible woman got married in her sixties and instantly she had a family with adult children and grandchildren," Martin said. "She was remarkable, so kind and calming."

Eleanor loved her large new family, and they loved her. She even legally adopted Martin and his siblings, Rosemary, Mary Jo, and John.

In 2022, Eleanor was working with the Valley Community Foundation to establish a fund to support students seeking business degrees. Unfortunately, she passed away before it was set up. Her children, however, continued her wish and established the Eleanor Rae DeFelice Scholarship Fund for graduating Ansonia High School students.

"She would be so thrilled to know that her scholarship is already helping young people," Martin said. "That was Eleanor, always thinking ahead and planning." 

*"There are many needs in the Valley, and we hope this fund will be there for those struggling," Betsey said. "We really want to help the underserved with food, and services in general."*

## Lombardi Twins Fund for the Valley



Like most teenage girls growing up in the Valley during the 1950s, Barbara Lombardi and Elizabeth "Betsey" Doane went to school, had tons of friends, learned to play the piano, and took ballet lessons.

The sisters, affectionately known as the Lombardi Twins, were quintessential Valley teenagers, doing all the things kids their age did, if not more. Their formative years of education were at the Oak Hill School in Hartford, finishing their senior year at Notre Dame High School in Bridgeport.

"We were certainly always busy at school," Barbara said. "We wrote articles for the school newspaper, we took ballet and even participated in a couple of minstrels. Then there were music lessons and we played classical pieces in school too."

Barbara and Betsey lost their eyesight shortly after being born, but that didn't stop them from achieving and living full and busy lives, both then and now.

"Our mom and dad were wonderful," Barbara said. "They exposed us to so much and they always told us there's no such word as can't. It wasn't allowed in our vocabulary."


The twins also said their parents taught them to be involved in the community and give back whenever they could.

In 2022, Barbara and Betsey established the Lombardi Twins Fund for the Valley, a donor advised fund, that supports organizations and causes dear to them.

"There are many needs in the Valley, and we hope this fund will be there for those struggling," Betsey said. "We really want to help the underserved with food, and services in general."

Barbara, who retired in 2017 after more than 39 years as a substance abuse and crisis counselor, is still very active in the Valley community and state. She serves on several boards, including the Naugatuck Valley Health District, President of the Derby Centennial Lions Club, and was appointed by Gov. Ned Lamont as a Commissioner to the State Independent Living Council.

Betsey is a semi-retired teacher of mathematics at Housatonic Community College and is President of the Derby-Shelton Rotary, a board member of the Valley Transit District, and an advisory board member of the University of New Haven's Tagliatela College of Engineering.

"Being blind has never diminished their drive to succeed and give back to their community," said Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. "These two wonderful women are extraordinary role models to so many in our Valley and state." 



## Anthony and Catherine LoPresti Family Fund

Anthony and Catherine LoPresti may have been born, raised, fallen in love, and got married in Boston, but Seymour and the Valley were always home.

It was 1958 and the young students -- he was in college, and she was a senior at Dorchester High -- met while working part time at a local A&P grocery store. Two years later they were wed.

In 1963, a teaching job for Anthony, brought the LoPresti family to Seymour and they've been here ever since. Anthony would work in the Seymour School District climbing the education ladder, while Catherine stayed home and raised their six boys -- Anthony, Edward, Michael, Joseph, Thomas, and Sean.

Anthony would eventually retire as an educator in 1993, ending his career as a well-known and liked principal of Seymour High School.

But in 2017, Catherine passed away shocking the close-knit family. That year, after she was gone, the LoPresti boys realized they wanted to do something to honor her memory, and their father as well. They turned to the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) to help them establish the Anthony and Catherine LoPresti Family Fund.

"Our mom loved spending time with her family, it was her number-one priority," Sean said. "She loved watching her children and then her grandchildren play sports. She was always there, cheering us on. She was a big fan of UConn basketball, the Red Sox, the Bruins, and the Patriots too."


Sean said losing his mom changed the LoPresti family



dynamic forever. "She was a devoted, strong, loving and generous wife, mother and grandmother," Sean said. "She was the matriarch and the glue that kept everything in order and held us together."

Along with being a dedicated educator, Anthony also served on many town boards and committees. In the fall of 2017, prior to losing his beloved Catherine, Anthony received the Kennedy-Pawlak Award for his years of public service to Seymour.

"Seymour was good to me and my family, and I wanted to give back a little bit," Anthony said. "I don't know if I gave enough but I was happy to stay in Seymour the rest of my life."

The Anthony and Catherine LoPresti Family Fund provides scholarships each year to a graduating male and female Seymour High School student-athlete. The graduates must have good grades, demonstrate strong leadership skills, be role models to their peers and have "never give up" attitudes. 

## Dr. Teresa Tottenham Sievers Scholarship Fund

"I always knew my Teresa would do something extraordinary in her life," says Mary Ann Groves, about her daughter, the late Dr. Teresa Tottenham Sievers. "Even as a young child, she seemed to know things beyond her years, so when Teresa spoke, we all listened."

Outrageously funny, vivacious, and spirited, Teresa defied the studious stereotype, but nonetheless graduated Ansonia High School's Valedictorian in 1986.

After receiving her Bachelor of Science from Fairfield University and graduating with honors from Ross University School of Medicine, Teresa became board certified in internal medicine. Unsatisfied with the status quo of treating disease with prescriptions, Teresa returned



to school earning her Master of Science in Metabolic Medicine. Craving still more knowledge, Teresa returned to school again adding certifications with the American Board of Integrative and Holistic Medicine, and later Functional, Anti-aging and Regenerative Medicine.


Armed with knowledge beyond western medicine and a healing toolkit that surpassed her colleagues, many of Dr. Sievers' patients were getting off their medications, but for those who weren't, Dr. Sievers wanted to know why.

Her timely discovery of cell biologist Dr. Bruce Lipton's research was revelatory: the onset of disease had less to do with genetics and everything to do with unresolved emotional distress. Dr. Lipton's research lit a fire of curiosity and determination within Dr. Sievers. Boldly, she adopted energy healing into her practice and spent time

talking to patients, asking what was going on in their lives or in their past that might be expressing as disease in their body. Teresa's patients adored her, and soon people started coming from all over to meet this one-of-a-kind doctor with a passion to facilitate their journey to emotional and physical wellness.

"Teresa was determined to reach the masses and shake up western medicine. More than anything, she wanted people to understand the powerful connection between their emotions and their health," says Teresa's sister Annie Tottenham Lisa. "This was a very provocative,

proclamation from a western trained physician, and it put Teresa in a class of her own."

After Teresa's untimely passing in 2015, her classmate and beloved friend Kathy Strom began a scholarship with great support from Teresa's classmates. With a desire to provide a lasting memory for her daughter, Mary Ann chose to establish the Dr. Teresa Tottenham Sievers Scholarship Fund at the Valley Community Foundation as a perpetual gift to honor the Valedictorian of Ansonia High School. 

## *"Teresa was determined to reach the masses and shake up western medicine."*

### **Ted Vartelas Family Fund**



Theodore "Ted" Vartelas was a man who touched the hearts of everyone he met. He was a sports legend in the Valley and the UConn athletic community. Above all, he was a devoted father, grandfather, and uncle, who loved his family more than anything.

Robyn Reilly, Ted's daughter, said she and her brother, Jonathan Vartelas, and sister, Pam Alessio, established the Ted Vartelas Family Fund at the Valley Community

Foundation (VCF) to continue his legacy of helping others.

"Our father was the youngest of 12 in a large Greek American family where everyone helped each other," Robyn said. "He raised us that way too, so this is a way we can pay it forward."

The donor advised fund will support Valley causes and programs that need help, Robyn, Jonathan, and Pam said.


Ted Vartelas' love for sports was evident from an early age. He was a star athlete at Ansonia High, playing basketball, baseball, and football, and was eventually

inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. In the 1950s, he continued to excel in basketball at Southern Connecticut State University and then at the University of Connecticut.

"Dad was a true Valley guy through and through," Jonathan said. "He loved this community and everything it stood for. He always said it was special and a great place to live and raise a family. He always wanted others to know that too."

His children say their dad was deeply proud of his Greek heritage and instilled that pride in them. He also taught them about hard work and led by example. Ted's business career is just as remarkable as his sports and community achievements. He was a top agent for the New York Life Insurance Company and worked there for more than 65 years. There's even a special conference room named after him at the company's Stratford headquarters.

Ted Vartelas passed away in 2020 at the age of 89. His children said because of the COVID-19 restrictions at the time, the family couldn't hold a proper funeral or memorial service for him. They said establishing this fund is a way they can properly say thank you and goodbye to their dad.

"He was a legend in the Valley, but to us, he was simply our father," Pam said. "We miss him and his wisdom every day, but we know he would be proud of the work we're doing to honor his memory." 

## *"Dad was a true Valley guy through and through. He loved this community and everything it stood for."*



## Thomas H. and Alyce S. Wells Family Fund



The Thomas H. and Alyce S. Wells Family Fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) supports four organizations close to the Seymour couple's hearts -- BHcare, the Great Hill Hose Company, the Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America, and the Recreation Camp, Inc.

All four Valley organizations will benefit from the fund now and in the future thanks to Tom and Alyce's generosity.

"We have supported these organizations for years and by setting up this fund it basically endows our annual giving guaranteeing that support will be there long after we are gone," Tom said. "These organizations have all played a significant role in making the Valley better and we wanted to ensure they can continue to serve the community."


The Wells family is one of the oldest in the Valley, stretching back several generations. Tom, a retired banker, is also very familiar with VCF. In 2017, he and his siblings established a VCF fund to honor their parents -- Henry Shelton Wells and Edith Birdseye Wells.

"We hope that our fund can help these organizations expand their reach and impact, and that it will inspire others in the community to give back in their own ways," Alyce said. "We have been fortunate to have the means to make this contribution and we hope that it will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who are served by these organizations."

Tom and Alyce established the new fund using a portion of an IRA's required minimum distribution, or RMD. Instead of Tom and Alyce taking the distribution as taxed income, the IRS allows the RMD to come directly to VCF and their donor designated fund untaxed.

"We can't do that with donor advised funds, that's why we chose the donor designated fund," Tom said. "Also, this kind of fund allows us to let go so VCF can make the annual grants for us."

BHcare provides behavioral health and domestic violence services in the Valley. The Great Hill Hose Company in Seymour is a volunteer fire department. The Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America provides youth development programs and camping, and the Recreation Camp in Derby offers outdoor activities such as swimming and boating for children and adults on the Housatonic River.

"We hope that our contribution and new fund will inspire others," Tom said. 

## Ansonia Rotary Club Fund

The Ansonia Rotary Club has always supported the community and helped students achieve their goals. Last year, when the decision to merge with the Seymour-Oxford Rotary Club was made, the members wanted to make sure scholarship donations raised over the years would continue to benefit Ansonia students.

The Ansonia Rotary Club Fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) was established to honor donor intent and foster education. In the summer of 2022, the Ansonia Rotary Club formally merged with the Seymour-Oxford Rotary, taking the new name -- The Ansonia-Seymour-Oxford Rotary Club.

"We wanted to ensure that the scholarship money donated to help Ansonia High School students would be there to benefit the community for generations to come," said Richard Knoll, the Rotary's treasurer. "By establishing this permanent fund at VCF we can guarantee that these scholarships will be available for Ansonia students in perpetuity."

The Ansonia Rotary Club Fund at the Valley Community Foundation will provide an annual scholarship to a graduating Ansonia High School student. If the school ever merges or closes, the scholarship will continue to go to a student residing in Ansonia.




The Ansonia Rotary had maintained a fund at VCF for years but wanted to permanently endow the scholarship and create a new Organization Fund with VCF.

"This assures there's a lasting legacy to benefit students in Ansonia for years to come," Knoll said. "We believe that education is the key to success, and we're committed to supporting students in our community. It's really a long-term investment in the future of our Valley."

The Rotary is a global organization dedicated to helping others and strives to make communities better. Members contribute their time, energy, and passion to carry out meaningful and sustainable projects that promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, help mothers and children, support education, grow local economies, and protect the environment.

This Ansonia Rotary Club Fund is just one example of the many ways donors and funders help make a difference in the Valley community.

"We're very proud to offer different types of funds so organizations and individuals can fulfill their philanthropic goals without needing to set up complicated trusts or separate entities," said Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. 

# How to Set Up a Fund with the Valley Community Foundation



## »» Define the Goal of Your Fund

Would you like your fund to be flexible so that it can address changing community needs and opportunities? Is there a specific charity or cause that you would like to support? Would you like to be involved in the grantmaking?

We connect private philanthropy to the long-term public good of the Valley and offer several types of funds as referenced throughout this report. You can support an existing fund or establish a new fund with the use of cash, appreciated securities, IRA distributions, and more.

Our funds are managed through our partner in philanthropy, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, and their diversified investment portfolio. Over time, as the endowment grows, so do our funds and your ability to award grants.

## »» Name Your Fund

This is your legacy. You, of course, can be anonymous if you prefer. Whether it is a family fund or created in memory of a loved one, the fund will still be making grants many decades from now and beyond.

By investing your charitable gift with the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) you are increasing the long-term impact of your gift. All donations to VCF are tax-deductible. When you're ready, we will work with you to prepare the fund agreement that fits your philanthropic goals.

## »» Contact Us

Let's have a conversation about how we can tailor your charitable goals to fit your personal situation. Whether you establish a fund now or give later via a planned gift, we will ensure your legacy and interests will be honored today, tomorrow, and forever.

Make a positive impact in the Valley for generations to come by creating a permanent endowed fund. Call (203) 751-9162, visit us at 253-A Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT, or view our website at [www.valleyfoundation.org](http://www.valleyfoundation.org).



# Valley Community Foundation Funds

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) has been a catalyst for positive change in the region since its founding in 2004. During these years, VCF has helped Valley residents and donors establish more than 255 funds that have had a significant impact on the community. The Annual Report fund section lists all the remarkable funds that have helped to improve the lives of Valley individuals and organizations.

Countless numbers of deserving students have been aided by VCF managed scholarships, and funders have provided crucial support to a myriad of area nonprofits, enabling them to carry out their missions more effectively and serve more individuals in need.

Funds managed by VCF have also played a critical role in supporting programs and organizations during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In a time of great uncertainty and disruption, VCF funds provided critical assistance, helping to ensure that the Valley could weather the storm.



## Donor Advised Funds

The easiest way to support nonprofits and causes dear to you through a Donor Advised Fund. Offering maximum flexibility, you recommend grants from the fund to any qualified public charity. You can also add to your fund and recommend grants from it at any time.

Kathleen and Mariano Adamo  
Community Service Fund  
Advancing Heroes Fund\*  
John and Paraskeve Vartelas 'AGAPE' Fund  
Alesevich Family Fund  
Bassett Family Fund  
Monty Blakeman Fund  
Peter F. Burns, Sr. Fund  
Champagne Family Fund  
Cohen Community Advised Fund  
Cohen-DeToro Charitable Fund  
Jane C. and David B. Cohen Fund

Nick Collicelli Legacy Fund  
Frank and Ann Conroy Fund for the Joy of Music  
Mary Lou Cicia Cook Memorial Fund  
Salvatore and Linda Tiano Coppola Family Fund  
Thomas and Ruth Curran Family Fund  
D'Addario Family Fund  
Michael and Elizabeth Dalton Family Fund  
Derby Sister City Fund  
Walter and Bonnie Drozeck Fund  
Frey-Hershey Foundation Fund  
Marc J. Garofalo Cultural Experience Fund  
Mario Garofalo Family Fund  
Raymond and Gloria Gildea Memorial Fund  
David M. & Gail A. Grant Family Fund  
Guarrera Family Fund  
Carol Ann Hyder Memorial Fund  
Jones Family Farms Fund  
Kaplan Family Fund  
Paul & Gloria Konwerski Family Fund  
Edward and Laura Lane Family Fund  
Robert C. Lang Fund

John Lauretti Memorial Family Fund  
 Barry and Josephine Lifrieri Fund  
 Lombardi Twins Fund for The Valley\*  
 Kate Marks Brilliant Female Fund  
 Mary Fund  
 Carl and Patricia Miller Fund  
 William C. and Elaine N. Nimons Family Fund  
 Joseph A. Pagliaro Sr. Family Fund  
 Palazzi Family Fund  
 Pepe Family Fund  
 Nina Poeta Scholarship Fund  
 President's Fund of the Valley  
   Community Foundation  
 Sophie and Robert W. Rapp Family Fund  
 Samuel Rifkin Fund  
 Leah Rondon Fund  
 Anthony (Sonny) Savignano Memorial Fund  
 Dorothy E. & Kenneth E. Schaible  
   Donor Advised Fund  
 Mary A. Schmecker Turtle Shell Fund  
 Seymour Public Schools Fund  
 Shelton CT Gaels Alumni Fund  
 Marion Shortell and Joseph Meade Fund  
 Dr. Beth A. Smith Fund  
 Smythe Family Fund  
 Stengel Family Fund  
 Sterling Opera House Endowment Fund  
 Sally & Dominick Thomas Fund  
 John Tyma Fund  
 Uncle Joseph's Fund  
 Uncle Louie Fund  
 Nancy Valentine Fund  
 Valley Bar Association Memorial and  
 Commemorative Fund  
 Valley Breast Health Care Fund  
 Valley Pride Fund  
 Van Egghen Family Fund  
 Ted Vartelas Family Fund\*  
 Alphonso and Eulalia Vitello Family Fund  
 Warichar Family Fund  
 Katarzyna and Ludwik Zaprzalka Fund  
 Joe and Judy Zaprzalka Family Fund  
 John and Laura Zaprzalka Family Fund



## Donor Designated Funds

If you want to show your support for a specific organization or organizations during your lifetime or endow your giving to a favorite nonprofit in perpetuity, a Donor Designated Fund allows you to name one or more organizations to receive an annual gift from your fund.

1920 Society Fund  
 Birmingham Foundation Fund  
 Edward J. & Marie M. Cecarelli Book Fund  
 Herbert M. Clark Fund  
 Cohen Family Book Fund  
 Edward J. Cotter Jr. Memorial Fund  
 Angela Curas Fund  
 D'Addario Family Fund for the Benefit  
   of Griffin Hospital  
 Derby Public Library - Harold B. Yudkin  
   Historic Preservation Fund  
 Gerry Hellmann Eckhardt Fund for the  
   Woodbridge Town Library  
 Harvey and Gerry Eckhardt Fund for  
   the Seymour Oxford Food Bank  
 First Taxing District and the Mulvoy - Tarlov - Aquino  
   VFW Post 603 Cannon Preservation Fund  
 Neville Osmond Forsythe Senior Memorial Fund  
 Griffin Family Memorial Fund  
 Health Initiative for Men (HiM) Fund  
 Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
 Jones Family Farms Fund for the Connecticut  
   Agricultural Experiment Station  
 Planetree Fund  
 Maureen, Megan and Katey Ryan Fund  
 Gary and Francesca (Riggio) Scarpa Fund  
   for Center Stage Theatre  
 Dorothy E. & Kenneth E. Schaible Fund for the  
   Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley  
 Seymour-Oxford Rotary Club Fund  
 Shelton Excellence in Education Fund (SEEF)  
 Frank and Helene Skoronski Memorial Fund  
 Donald W. & Lillian C. Smith Family Fund  
 Sturgis A. and Madeleine Martin Sobin Family Fund  
 Peter Stamos Fund for the Ansonia Public Library  
 TEAM, Inc., Richard J. Knoll Endowment Fund  
 Torbi-Saldamarco Family Fund  
 Emil J. Varga Catholic School Fund  
 Peter J. Vartelas Invest In Youth Fund #2  
   for the Valley YMCA  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 597 Fund  
 Walsh Family Fund  
 Henry Shelton Wells and Edith Birdseye  
   Wells Family Fund  
 Thomas H. and Alyce S. Wells Family Fund\*  
 Colonel Lloyd E. and Joan Platt Witmer Fund  
 Women In Networking Fund

\* New Fund in 2022

## Organization Funds

Nonprofit organizations can set up either a permanent Organization Endowment Fund, or an investment-only Organization Fund. Both funds provide a stable source of distributable revenue for the nonprofit.

Anonymous  
 Agency on Aging Fund at VCF  
 Ansonia Rotary Club Fund\*  
 Derby Community Endowment Fund  
 Derby Historical Society Organization Fund  
 Derby Public Library Endowment Fund  
 Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
 Edmund D. Strang Campership, Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
 Edmund & Caroline Strang Eagle Scout Scholarship Award, Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
 Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation Camp Maintenance, Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
 Massaro Community Farm Fund  
 Massaro Farm Legacy Fund  
 Oak Cliff Cemetery Association Fund  
 Oxford Land Trust Fund  
 Parent Child Resource Center Endowment Fund  
 Plumb Memorial Library Reserve Fund  
 Plumb Memorial Tri-Centennial Endowment Fund  
 Recreation Camp Endowment Fund  
 Ritchie Fund for Plumb Memorial Library  
 Seymour Pink Endowment Fund  
 Seymour-Oxford Nursery and Child Care Association, Inc. (SONCCA) Fund  
 Shelton Historical Society Endowment Fund  
 Shelton Land Trust Reserve Fund  
 St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley Fund  
 Rowland R. Strong and Edith H. Strong Memorial Scholarship Organization Fund  
 TEAM Legacy Fund  
 TEAM Reserve Fund  
 Town of Seymour Endowment Fund  
 Troop 3 - Derby BSA Alumni & Friends Fund  
 Valley United Way Fund  
 Valley YMCA Endowment Fund  
 Peter J. Vartelas Invest In Youth Fund #1 for the Valley YMCA



## Preference Funds

Also known as a field of interest fund, a Preference Fund supports evolving needs and a variety of nonprofits by focusing on broad areas of interest. This fund can support education, childcare, environmental issues, healthcare, or a specific geographic area. The Valley Community Foundation makes grants to nonprofits that serve the donor's field of interest in perpetuity.

Ancient Order of Hibernians, Derby Division Fund  
 Cohen Community Fund  
 Susan Coyle Family Fund  
 Lawrence J. DeTullio, Jr. Fund  
 The Future Fund  
 Herb Rollinson Fund  
 Shelton Congregational Church Fund  
 Mary Vartelas Stamos Fund  
 Angelina M. and Valentina V. Vitali Fund  
 Selma L. and Harold B. Yudkin Fund

## Scholarship Funds

You can help students pursue their educational dreams with a Scholarship Fund. Scholarship funds are often created in honor of someone and can be used to support educational opportunities for students at specific schools.

Michael J. Adanti Scholarship Fund  
 Joseph 'Jay' Amico Artistic Memorial Awards Fund  
 Ansonia High School Endowed Fund  
 Ansonia High School Non-Endowed Fund  
 Ansonia Public Schools Fund  
 Bruno Battaglini Memorial Fund  
 Stella Behuniak Fund  
 Winston J. Bish Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 John F. Blake, Jr. Memorial Prize Fund  
 Andy Brennan Memorial Fund\*  
 Rachel and William Brogadir Scholarship Fund  
 Stanley and Irene Chlebowski Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Stephen & Emily Chuckta Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Class of 1940 Scholarship Fund  
 Eddy Conklin Scholarship Fund  
 Ruth H. Feinberg Connors Principal's Award  
 Eleanor Rae DeFelice Scholarship Fund\*  
 Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Scholarship Fund  
 Rosa Dell'Oso Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Derby High School Endowed Scholarship Fund  
 Derby High School Non-Endowed Scholarship Fund



Domorod-Youd Shelton High School Scholarship Fund  
 Capt. Jerry Drugonis Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Ellen DuBoff Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Agnes and Helen Dubrava Fund  
 Honorable Joseph P. Flynn and Family Scholarship Fund  
 Francis Family Fund  
 Louis 'Neni' Gaetano, Sr. DHS Scholarship Fund  
 Geissler Family Scholarship Fund  
 Brandon Giordano Football Scholarship Fund  
 Peter S. Goumas Presidential Scholarship Fund  
 Mayor Richard A. Grande Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Traci L. Haines Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Amos Hawley Memorial Award Fund  
 Arthur Hayes Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Randall R. Holden Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Industrial Arts/Vocational Education Fund  
 Joey's Way Fund  
 Wasil Katz Scholarship Fund  
 Coach Bobby Kelo Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Winifred Bennett Kerins Memorial Prize Fund  
 Patricia M. Kondrath Scholarship Fund  
 Julia Krizan Scholarship Fund for the Arts  
 Russell & Joanne Kiley Kulawiz Fund  
 Frank J. Lang Fund  
 Anthony and Catherine LoPresti Family Fund\*  
 Jesse McCord Lewis Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Michael R. McMahon Scholarship Fund  
 Dr. Carol Merlone Scholarship Fund  
 Luke Moseley Aviation Scholarship Fund  
 Bernice Nicolari-Howard Gura Award Fund  
 Louis L. Nicoletti, Sr. Business Scholarship Fund  
 Anna and John O'Neil Memorial For Integrity Award Fund  
 Anthony Pagliaro Scholarship Fund  
 Lillian Pawlowski Fund  
 Ann C. Petro Scholarship Fund  
 Pam Petro Pawlowski Scholarship Fund  
 Joseph E. Potter Memorial Fund  
 John Quake Memorial Fund  
 Michael J. Regan Scholarship Fund  
 George and Beatrice Ryan Scholarship Fund  
 V. Gerald Ryan Scholarship Fund

John Sabulis Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Norman K. and Janet N. Santa Fund  
 Seymour Historical Society Scholarship Fund  
 Shelton High School Endowed Scholarship Fund  
 Shelton High School Non-Endowed Scholarship Fund  
 Shelton High School Education Fund  
 Dr. Teresa Tottenham Sievers Scholarship Fund\*  
 Gaeton and Elizabeth Simonetti Family Fund  
 Frank and Helene Skoronski Memorial Fund  
 Charles P. Smith Jr., Scholarship Fund  
 Karen R. Stanek Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Rowland R. Strong and Edith H. Strong Memorial Renewable Scholarship Fund  
 Howard Tassitano Fund  
 Julian A. Taylor Scholarship Fund  
 Margaret Ann Kofarago Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 John 'AL' Tiano Scholarship Fund  
 George Vartelas Ansonia High School Scholarship Fund  
 Peter Vartelas Ansonia High School Scholarship Fund  
 John J. Wabuda Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Joseph and Pauline Warichar Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Alexander George Wilson, Sr. Scholarship Fund  
 Anne M. and Vincent J. Zak Memorial Scholarship Fund

## Unrestricted Funds

You can help support emerging issues and the most pressing needs in the Valley by creating an Unrestricted Fund. As the need in our community is ever-changing, unrestricted funds allow the Valley Community Foundation flexibility to prioritize and address high-priority issues.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Ansonia Fund  
 Raymond F. Mackowski Fund  
 Ortolli Family Fund  
 Dorothy E. & Kenneth E. Schaible Community Fund  
 Valley Community Fund  
 VCF Administrative and Reserve Fund



# The Gates Society



In the town of Seymour, Robert “Bob” Lang was a community icon. The respected teacher and softball enthusiast was as well-known and beloved as any native son could be.

His 36-year teaching career in Seymour touched the lives of countless students and his passion for promoting and coaching girls

and women’s softball led to many honors and accolades recognizing him as a pioneer of the sport.


When Bob passed away last year, he left the bulk of his estate to support sports programs in Seymour dear to him and his late brother, Frank. Frank, who passed away in 2011, also loved Seymour, and loved sports, especially running. The Frank J. Lang Fund supports scholarships in Seymour for students who participate in track, and the Robert C. Lang Fund supports softball programs in Seymour.

Bob’s passion for softball started in the 1950s, first as a fan of the women’s fast-pitch team, the Stratford Brakettes, then in the 1970s, as a volunteer for the George J. Hummel Little League (GJHLL) organization. He helped build the

GJHLL program and served as its commissioner right up until his passing. Bob was also head coach of his beloved Red Devils for more than 40 years.

The Lang brothers had no direct heirs, so when Frank passed away, he left his estate to Bob and when Bob passed last year, he left his estate to the funds. Bob truly trusted VCF and respected its mission and he made sure in his will he would contribute to his beloved Seymour after he was gone.

“To Bob and Frank, the Town of Seymour was essentially their family, their heirs,” said Sharon Closius, VCF President and CEO. “It’s a wonderful thing, the kids of Seymour who benefit from these funds are really their heirs.”

The Gates Society is a close circle of supporters who share a special love and appreciation for this region and its people, by making a planned philanthropic commitment to the Valley through VCF. It’s named in honor of Ross and Frank Gates, the brothers of a prominent Derby family, who in 1938, created trusts to benefit the Valley. 

***You can establish a testamentary fund agreement with VCF during your lifetime and fund it upon your death. The benefit is you will have met with the foundation staff and set up a solid plan to make sure all your charitable wishes are fulfilled, and you can specifically name the fund in your will or estate plan. This option permits you to change your philanthropic goals without needing to change your will.***

## GATES SOCIETY MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

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Twan & Karen Bentlage  
Leslie Bondos  
Sharon Closius  
John Corrado  
Jamie Cohen  
Jane Cohen\*  
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Laura Lane  
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Nicholas & Patricia  
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Robert & Eleonora  
Van Egghen  
Marc C. Vincent\*  
Valentina Vitali\*  
Jack Walsh  
Donald E. Warichar  
Joseph R. Warichar  
Lynn Wozniak  
John & Laura Zaprzalka

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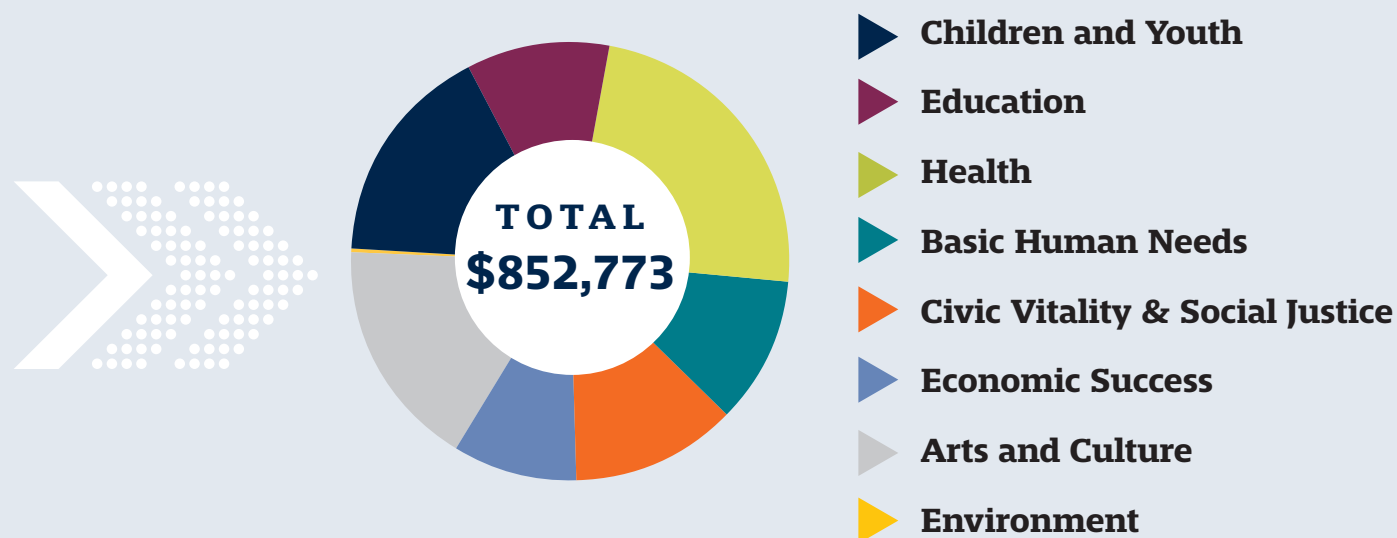
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 Frederick Stanek  
 Adrienne Stosuy  
 Kathleen Stosuy  
 Patricia Stosuy  
 Susan Stosuy  
 Diane Stroman  
 Sean & Carla Sullivan  
 Shaun & Lynda Supp  
 Dorothy Swiesz  
 Leon Sylvester  
 Valerie Szondy  
 Pat Tarasovic

Christine Taylor  
 TEAM, Inc.  
 Roberta Tehan  
 Saber Guild Kessel Temple  
 Andrea Terrones  
 Edward Thorndike  
 Rev. Christopher M. Tiano  
 Lori Tilton  
 Tina Marie Photography  
 Tind-All Creative Marketing  
 Jeff Toler  
 Town of Seymour  
 Anita Tuozzola  
 Alan Tyma  
 United Way of Greater Waterbury  
 Michael & Susan Vacca  
 Annemarie Vaccaro  
 Donna Vaccaro  
 Nettina Valente  
 Valley United Way  
 Robert Van Egghen  
 Maria Vanderlaan  
 Allan Vartelas  
 James Vartelas  
 John Vartelas  
 Jonathan Vartelas  
 Michael & Annette Vasaturo  
 Kathrine Vass  
 Estate of Marc E. Vincent  
 John J. Vitello & Janice A. Howard  
 Carol Vrlik  
 Elizabeth Walsh  
 Jack Walsh  
 Donald Warichar  
 Lisa Webb  
 Bruce & Jean Webber  
 Linda Weinberger  
 Tom & Jodi Welch  
 Sandra Wellinghoff  
 Peter Werth  
 Dianna Weymer  
 Wildcat Kick Off Club, Inc.  
 William. Brennan Revocable Trust  
 Jackale Williams  
 Patricia Williams  
 Lynn Wozniak  
 Kris & Rosemary Wuestefeld  
 Dee Young  
 Jason Zamagni  
 Katherine Zollo

# Community Investment

Our mission is to make the Valley a better place to live and work, both now and in the future, by connecting private philanthropy to the long-term public good of the Valley.

This data reflects discretionary grants made through the Responsive (New and Multi-year), Needs and Opportunities, Sponsorship, and Community Grants programs. It does not include \$105,000 in community initiative support. These grant programs would not be possible without the significant financial and staffing contributions provided by our partner in philanthropy, the Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven.



Type of Funds	Number of Funds	Assets	Number of Grants	\$ of Grants
DONOR ADVISED	72	10,696,281	173	434,927
DESIGNATED & ORGANIZATION TRANSFERS	69	14,314,607	66	604,947
SCHOLARSHIPS	84	3,406,034	105	200,879
UNRESTRICTED & PREFERENCE	16	2,937,702	20	97,084



## Responsive Grants

The Valley Community Foundation's annual Responsive Grants program is open to requests for organizational support and projects that serve Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and/or Shelton. Due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, these grants were all awarded to address each nonprofit's general operating support needs. All grants, except those with an asterisk, represent multi-year support.

**Center Stage Theatre\*** - To provide general operating support for its summer youth program, adaptive technology for its hearing-impaired patrons, and to fund an outreach coordinator to assist in meeting its mission of building community one performance at a time. **\$35,000**

**Christ Episcopal Church** - To provide general operating support for the operations of the Kathleen Samela Food Bank. **\$96,000**

**Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Volunteer Ambulance Corps** - To provide general operating support to increase its number of on-duty ambulances. **\$105,000**

**Life Health and Wellness Center\*** - To provide general operating support to fund a part time head teacher, upgrades to its playground equipment, and enhancements to its website. **\$60,000**

**Shelton Economic Development Corporation** - To provide general operating support and help the Corporation continue to serve as a catalyst for growth both in Shelton and the Valley region. **\$45,000**

**Valley Council for Health and Human Services\*** - To provide general operating support for the Council to deepen its collaborative work by engaging with a consultant to strengthen planning efforts to effectively implement a collective impact model. **\$40,000**

**Valley Shakespeare Festival** - To provide general operating support to continue to offer the Free Shakespeare in the Park series, as well as an opportunity to expand its offerings into additional Valley venues. **\$60,000**

## Needs and Opportunities

Needs and Opportunities grants range from \$250 to \$10,000 and are designed to promptly address the needs of Valley nonprofits through a simplified application process.

**Best Buddies Connecticut** - To support the Virtual School Friendship and Social Inclusion Programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. **\$5,000**

**cARTie** - To support mobile art museum programming for Valley students. **\$10,000**

**Connecticut Institute for Social Entrepreneurship** - To provide support for immigrant and black-owned business entrepreneurs in the Valley. **\$3,073**

**Derby Historical Society** - To provide support for upgrades to its Derby campus. **\$9,000**

**Girl Scouts of Connecticut Inc.** - To support construction costs of a new accessible bathroom and changing rooms at Camp An-Se-Ox in Oxford. **\$10,000**

**Huntington Congregational Church** - To provide support for the Valley Refugee and Resettlement Project. **\$5,000**

**Master's Table Community Meals, Inc.** - To support consulting services to create a strategic and financial plan. **\$5,000**

**Mishkan Israel Day Camp** - To support a summer day camp season for underprivileged children from the Valley. **\$1,400**



**Naugatuck Valley Health District** - To provide radon kits and radon awareness to Valley residents in need. **\$3,000**

**New Haven Symphony Orchestra** - To provide support for the Valley Pops Concert Series. **\$10,000**

**Operation Fuel, Inc.** - To support emergency energy assistance to families living in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. **\$10,000**

**Read to Grow** - To bring its bookmobile to the Valley. **\$5,100**

**Sustainable CT** - To support a summer Fellow at the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for work in the Valley region. **\$2,000**

**The Christian Counseling Center** - To support consulting services to help implement agreed changes as part of the COVID-19 Recovery Process. **\$10,000**

**The Emergent Leaders HBCU/Civil Rights Tour Fundraising Committee** - To support a group of 15 emerging Ansonia High School student leaders tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and civil rights landmarks in AL and GA. **\$10,000**

**The Hometown Foundation** - To support the annual HungerLESS Holidays Program in the Valley. **\$5,300**

**Transportation Assistance for Low-Income Families** - To provide support for low-income individuals in need of transportation to retain their first job. **\$5,000**

**UR Community Cares** - To provide volunteer services to seniors and disabled adults in the Valley. **\$2,500**

**Valley Save Our Youth** - To provide general operating support and services for marginalized Valley youth. **\$10,000**

## Community Grants

This application process recognizes smaller, volunteer or neighborhood groups with grant awards of up to \$2,500.

**All-America Valley Basketball Club** - To support the club's participation in an 11-week competitive basketball tournament. **\$2,500**

**Annual Thanksgiving Basket Committee** - To support the purchase of perishable and non-perishable food items and supplies for distribution of Thanksgiving baskets to families in need. **\$2,500**

**Ansonia Rotary Club** - To support the merge of both Ansonia and Seymour-Oxford Rotary Clubs into one new, larger Rotary Club. **\$2,430**

**Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby** - To support leadership opportunities for Troop 3 participants to work with their brother organizations in England and Ireland. **\$2,500**

**cARTie** - To support an intern to assist in getting art to underserved Valley youth. **\$2,470**

**Derby High School Beekeepers** - To support a beekeeping club at Derby High School. **\$2,500**

**Irving School Food Pantry** - To support a food pantry for Irving School families. **\$2,500**

**The Richi-Dee's BBQ Table Project** - To support children ages 5-16 with opportunities to assist their community through baking and other activities. **\$1,200**

**Seymour Soccer Association** - To support an adaptive program where neurotypical children or children with other development needs, who can't participate in standard youth soccer have the opportunity to learn the sport of soccer. **\$2,500**





**Shelton Farmers Market** - To support the Shelton Farmers Market and Valley Sprouts programs. **\$2,400**

**Southford Falls Quilting Guild** - To support the “heart of quilting” which reuses, recycles, and repurposes fabric waste (scraps) for new uses, attract new membership, practice, and teach sustainability in quality, and hire a professional to run AV equipment for hybrid meetings. **\$2,500**

**Trinity Episcopal Church** - To support the upgrading of the Church’s kitchen to provide meals for Valley residents in need. **\$2,500**

**Valley Historical Research Committee** - To support the digital replication and restoration of the earliest known map of Derby (1852). **\$1,500**

## Sponsorship Grants

Nonprofit organizations can apply for support from VCF for up to \$2,500 for special events, especially those events that inform the community about a particular cause.

**Adam Wysota Foundation** - To sponsor the annual Dancing with the Stars benefit. **\$1,000**

**American Legion, Emil Senger Post 10** - To sponsor a student to participate in its annual Boys’ State Program. **\$350**

**American Legion, Sutter-Terlizzi Post 16** - To sponsor the Fallen Heroes Memorial. **\$2,500**

**BHcare** - To sponsor its annual Rise and Shine event. **\$2,000**

**BOSOMii** - To sponsor its third annual Shine event. **\$500**

**Boy Scout Troop 3** - To sponsor the 96th Annual Scout Gang Show. **\$500**

**Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley** - To sponsor the 20th Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Day 5K Road Race. **\$2,500**

**Celebrate Shelton** - To sponsor its 2022 Calendar of Events. **\$2,500**

**Connecticut Women’s Consortium** - To sponsor Valley participants’ attendance at its second biennial Trauma and Recovery Conference. **\$950**

**Derby High School** - To sponsor Hispanic Heritage Month. **\$2,000**

**Derby High School PTO** - To sponsor a post prom event. **\$750**

**Derby Shelton Rotary** - To sponsor Flags for Heroes. **\$500**

**Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Ambulance Corps** - To sponsor its Slice of Shelton event. **\$1,000**

**Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center (FANCI)** - To sponsor its annual Earth Day event. **\$1,000**

**Griffin Hospital** - To sponsor its annual gala. **\$1,000**

**Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County**  
- To sponsor a virtual interactive career fair. **\$1,000**  
- To sponsor the 21st annual golf invitational. **\$500**

**New Haven Symphony** - To sponsor its annual gala. **\$1,000**

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut** - To sponsor its 40th winter conference. **\$500**

**Oxford High School Booster Club**  
- To sponsor a senior class lockdown for fun event. **\$750**  
- To sponsor Take a Stand Day. **\$600**

**Seymour Historical Society** - To sponsor the 2022-2023 Educational Speakers Series. **\$1,250**





**Seymour Pink** - To sponsor the 11th Annual Pounding the Pavement for Pink live and virtual 5K run/walk. **\$2,500**

**Shelton Historical Society** - To sponsor its 2022 Valley Antique Car Show and Harvest Festival. **\$1,500**

**TEAM, Inc.**

- To sponsor its 57th Annual Meeting. **\$1,000**
- To sponsor the annual Toys4Kids drive. **\$1,000**
- To sponsor Men Who Cook. **\$500**

**Valley Parish Nurses** - To sponsor its annual Family Safety Fair. **\$1,250**

## Unrestricted and Preference Funds

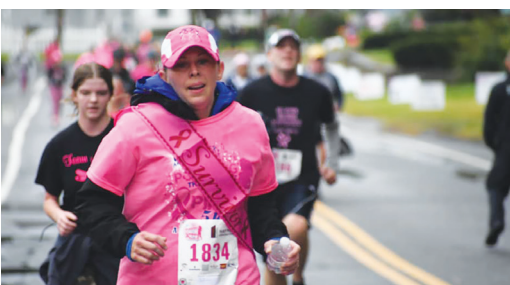
Unrestricted and Preference Funds allow the VCF Board of Directors to address a pressing need of an organization or community.

Adam Wysota Foundation  
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley  
cARTie  
Central Connecticut Coast YMCA  
Derby Historical Society  
Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.  
Griffin Hospital  
Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America  
Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County  
Master's Table Community Meals Inc.  
Online Journalism Project, Inc.  
Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps  
Seymour Pink, Inc.  
TEAM, Inc.

## Scholarships

Scholarship Funds provide awards and scholarships to students chosen through a selection process at individual high schools, elementary schools, or community organizations.

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall  
American International College  
Amity Regional High School  
Ansonia High School  
Assumption School  
Bassick High School  
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley  
Bunnell High School  
Culinary Institute of America  
Derby High School  
Derby Public Schools  
Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School  
Hamden High School  
Johnson and Wales University  
Oxford High School  
Oxford Middle School  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Sacred Heart University  
Seymour High School  
Shelton High School  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Trumbull High School  
University of Connecticut  
University of New Haven  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Vermont  
West Haven High School  
Western Connecticut State University



## Designated Grants and Organizational Fund Transfers

Designated Funds are established by a donor(s) to benefit one or more specific nonprofit(s). In addition, VCF manages the endowment and reserve funds of several local nonprofit organizations.

Ansonia High School  
 Ansonia Public Library  
 Ansonia Public Schools  
 Assumption Church  
 Assumption School  
 Boy Scouts of America, Troop 43  
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley  
 Center Stage Theatre, Inc.  
 Central Connecticut Coast YMCA  
 Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
 Derby Neck Library  
 Derby Public Library  
 Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School  
 Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Griffin Hospital  
 Griffin Hospital Development Fund  
 Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America  
 Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center  
 Massaro Community Farm, Inc.  
 Oak Cliff Cemetery Association  
 Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish  
 Oxford High School  
 Planetree, a Subsidiary of Griffin Health Services, Inc.  
 Plumb Memorial Library  
 Recreation Camp, Inc.  
 Rotary Club of Ansonia, Seymour, and Oxford, CT  
 Rowland R. Strong & Edith H. Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Seymour Oxford Food Bank  
 Seymour Pink, Inc.  
 Shelton High School  
 Shelton Historical Society  
 Shelton Public Schools  
 Storm Engine Company Ambulance Corps, Inc.  
 TEAM, Inc.

The Culinary Institute of America  
 The Kennedy Collective  
 Town of Seymour  
 Treasurer, City of Derby  
 Trinity Cemetery Association  
 Trinity Episcopal Church  
 Valley Community Foundation, Inc.  
 Valley United Way  
 Valley YMCA  
 Woodbridge Town Library

## Donor Advised Grants

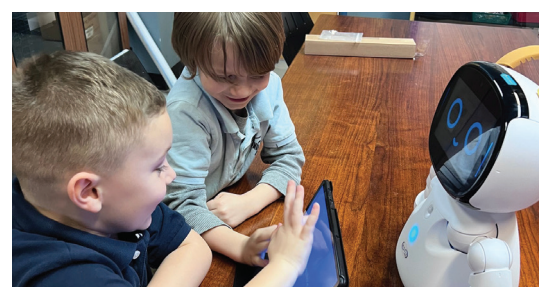
Grants from Donor Advised Funds are approved by the VCF Board of Directors upon the request and with the participation of the Donor. Donor Advised Funds are one of the many ways fund holders can advise on an area they are passionate about while partnering with VCF to make an impact.

A More Balanced World  
 Adam Wysota Foundation  
 ALS Association, Connecticut Chapter  
 American Farmland Trust  
 American Legion, Sutter-Terlizzi Post 16  
 American Red Cross, Connecticut Chapter  
 Ansonia High School  
 Ansonia Public Schools  
 Ansonia Rescue Medical Services  
 Area Congregations Together, Inc.  
 Beth-El Center, Inc.  
 Bethany Library Association  
 BHcare  
 Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby  
 Boy Scouts of America, Troop 34  
 Boys & Girls Club of Milford  
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley  
 Bridgeport Animal Rescue Crew of Connecticut  
 Capri Christian Church  
 Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation  
 Center Stage Theatre, Inc.  
 Central Connecticut Coast YMCA



Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
 Clifford Beers Community Care Center  
 CoCo's Animal Rescue Efforts of Seymour  
 Common Cause  
 Common Ground High School  
 Community Hope Center  
 Connecticut Burns Care Foundation  
 Connecticut Farmland Trust  
 Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
 Connecticut Hospice, Inc.  
 Connecticut Veterans Legal Center  
 Cub Scout Pack 3  
 Derby Historical Society  
 Derby Public Library  
 Derby Running Club  
 Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Volunteer  
 Ambulance Corps, Inc.  
 Elena's Light  
 The Emergent Leaders HBCU/  
 Civil Rights Tour Fundraising Com  
 The Foundation School  
 Frances Perkins Center  
 Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center  
 Girl Scouts of Connecticut Inc.  
 Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Green Village Initiative  
 Griffin Hospital  
 Griffin Hospital Development Fund  
 Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America  
 Huntington Congregational Church  
 Huntington United Methodist Church  
 Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services  
 Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County  
 Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut  
 Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center  
 Massaro Community Farm, Inc.  
 Master's Table Community Meals, Inc.  
 Mishkan Israel Day Camp

National Right to Work Legal Defense  
 and Education Foundation, Inc.  
 Northeast Organic Farming Association of  
 Connecticut, Inc.  
 Our Daily Bread Food Pantry  
 Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
 Read to Grow  
 Recreation Camp, Inc.  
 Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut  
 Yale New Haven Hospital-Saint Raphael Campus  
 Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps  
 Save the Sound  
 Seymour High School  
 Seymour Pink, Inc.  
 Shelburne Farms  
 Shelton Economic Development Corporation  
 Shelton High School  
 Shelton Historical Society  
 St. Mary St. Michael School  
 St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley  
 Storm Engine Company Ambulance Corps, Inc.  
 Susanna Wesley School  
 St. Vincent's Medical Center - Swim Across the Sound  
 TEAM, Inc.  
 Traveler on a Mission  
 Troop 3 - Derby BSA Alumni & Friends Foundation, Inc.  
 University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.  
 University of Nebraska Foundation  
 University of New Haven  
 University of New Hampshire  
 The Valley Independent Sentinel  
 Valley United Way  
 Valley YMCA  
 West Haven Veteran's Museum and Learning Center






# Stewardship of Charitable Assets

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) have been affiliated for the past 18 years, and the assets entrusted to VCF since 2004 have been invested and managed by TCF. Access to TCF's comingled investment management program affords VCF funds the benefits of a globally diverse, long-term endowment model by providing direct access to more than 48 world-class institutional investment managers specializing in more than seven distinct and differentiated asset classes and strategies.

Although equity markets finished the year with a strong rally with the S&P 500 up 7.6% in the 4th quarter, the 2022 markets still suffered one of their worst outcomes in decades. Despite that strong 4th quarter, the S&P finished the year down 18.1% — the worst outcome in 14 years.

Driving much of the market vacillations throughout the 2022 was the higher interest rate environment, as the market tried to price inflation and position for a wide range of economic uncertainties. The Federal Reserve remains steadfast in the need for higher rates to fight inflation, which has peaked in the near-term and retreated significantly from its recent highs, and the market has already begun to price in rate cuts later in 2023. Geopolitical pressures remain high especially as it pertains to Russia, although recently China has begun to distance themselves more vocally.

In 2022, VCF's total return was down 12.6%. The generic traditional 60/40 asset allocation model was down 16.0%, its worst performance in nearly a century and only surpassed on two occasions, both of which occurred in the 1930s. While 2022 was a very tumultuous year, the Corporation's Commingled Fund remained well-positioned and diversified in a variety of asset classes, strategies, and geographies.

As displayed in the chart, the annualized net return of the Commingled Fund even during these more difficult periods exceed the market benchmark over all time periods ended December, 2022. The Commingled Fund also benchmarks its performance against the Endowment and Foundation peer group, which has resulted in the performance being in the top half of this national study in each of the last 10 years ended December, 2022. 

**Raymond Oppel**  
Treasurer, Valley  
Community Foundation



## Assets Growth



## Investment Performance

Annualized, expressed as a %, and net of investment expenses.

Periods ended 31 December 2022	Trailing 1 Year	Trailing 3 Years	Trailing 5 Years	Trailing 7 Years	Trailing 10 Years
Actual Results (net of expenses)	(12.6)	3.7	4.4	6.3	7.4
Market Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	(13.2)	3.4	4.1	5.9	6.0
Value Added (annually)	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.4

1. The market benchmark is equal to the rate of return produced by specific market indices representing the asset classes contained in the asset allocation model, with such market indices weighted in accordance with that model.

Past performance is no indication of future results. The Commingled Fund is managed by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Inc., which is a Connecticut Registered Investment Adviser.

# Fiscal 2022 in Review

Financial Position	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$760,890	\$1,037,433
Investments at market value – component funds	19,580,020	22,681,961
Investments at market value – organization funds	10,815,008	12,363,051
Total Investments	<b>31,151,918</b>	<b>36,082,445</b>
Contributions receivable	789,923	72,000
Other assets	-	-
Furniture and equipment, net	28,571	37,249
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$31,974,412</b>	<b>\$36,191,694</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$84,888	\$64,214
Organization funds	10,815,008	12,363,051
Grants payable	74,355	84,941
Total liabilities	10,974,251	12,512,206
<b>Net Assets Without Restriction</b>	21,000,161	23,679,488
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$31,974,412</b>	<b>\$36,191,694</b>

Statement of Activities	2022	2021
<b>Revenue, Gains and Other Support</b>		
Contributions	\$3,221,082	\$3,740,512
Less: contributions to organization funds	(602,195)	(1,771,873)
Net contributions	2,618,887	1,968,639
Investment gain (loss), net	(2,612,112)	1,762,330
Total revenue, gains and other support	<b>\$6,775</b>	<b>\$3,730,969</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Grants and distributions approved, net	\$2,424,667	\$1,973,432
Less: grants from organization funds	(496,864)	(208,043)
Net grant expense	1,927,803	1,765,389
Grants for program management and direct charitable activities	492,894	401,285
Net grant and program expense	2,420,697	2,166,674
Development, donor services and fund stewardship	151,660	167,208
Financial management, leadership, and operations	113,745	100,323
Total administration expense	265,405	267,531
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$2,686,102</b>	<b>\$2,434,205</b>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(2,679,327)	1,296,764
Net assets – Beginning of year	23,679,488	22,382,764
<b>Net assets – End of year</b>	<b>\$21,000,161</b>	<b>\$23,679,488</b>

# The Great Give



The 2022 Great Give lived up to its name again last year, raising more than \$3.4 million for a record number 510 nonprofits in the Valley and Greater New Haven area. Forty-seven Valley-based nonprofits were part of this success, raising nearly \$433,000 for organizations in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton.

The 36-hour live online giving event was started in 2010 by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) to promote local philanthropy and support area nonprofits. In the last 13 years, The Great Give has helped raise more than \$21 million for nonprofits throughout the region.

In 2022, Valley residents, employees, and Valley Community Foundation (VCF) donor-advised fundholders gave more than \$360,000 to support more than 250 organizations throughout the region. A total of 2,010 gifts were made by 1,153 donors who live or work in the Valley.

“Valley donors give generously, even outside the Valley,” said Jackie Downing, TCF’s Senior Director of Grantmaking and Nonprofit Support. “It’s always a thrill to see how Valley residents, and people connected to the Valley, love showing their support for the region during The Great Give.”

The 2022 Great Give also featured more sponsors than ever, contributing a total of \$268,500 in cash prizes and matching donations to different service sectors and organizations in different regions. VCF donated \$20,000 in matching gifts made by Valley donors and \$5,000 in special prizes. TCF provided a \$100,000 pool for a pro-rated match for every donation received.

“The robust campaign was evidence of the Valley’s commitment and generosity to the region,” said Sharon Closius, VCF’s President and CEO. “We can’t thank Great Give supporters enough. They truly make a positive impact on the community.”



*“The robust campaign was evidence of the Valley’s commitment and generosity to the region.”*



# 2022 Staff, Councils, Committees, and Volunteers

## Staff

Sharon Closius  
Beth Colette  
Wendy Gamba  
Valerie Knight-Di Gangi  
David Rivera  
Victoria Vilaysane

## Board of Directors

Jack Walsh, *Chair*  
Jennifer Magri, *Vice Chair*  
Ray Oppel, *Treasurer*  
Aleta Miner, *Secretary*  
Tammy Burrell  
Christopher Grizzle  
Terry Jones  
Fred Ortoli  
Angela Powers  
Marianne Smythe  
Greg Stamos  
Diane Stroman  
Pat Tarasovic  
Nancy Valentine

## Board Advisory Council

Bill Bassett  
William H. Bassett  
Bing Carbone  
Gail Catlin  
Jamie Cohen  
David Condon  
Edmund Conklin

Carolyn Cutaneo  
Maryanne DeTullio  
Nancy Dickgiesser  
Tim Dillon  
Rick Dunne  
Marc Garofalo  
Larrow Garrett  
David Grant  
Liz Kennard  
Fred King  
Robert Lesko  
Ernestine Luise  
Michael Marcinek  
Susan Mauriello  
Bill Miller, Jr.  
Ned Miller  
William Nimons  
Dan Onofrio  
Ellen Pagliaro  
Joseph Pagliaro, Jr.  
Al Paolozzi  
Mary Pepe  
Lynne Bassett Perry  
Kathy Riddle  
David Rifkin  
Henry Rondon  
James Ryan  
Kenneth Schaible  
Ed Sheehy  
Janice Sheehy  
Donald Smith, Jr.  
Angelika Stamos  
Fred Stanek

Leon Sylvester  
Alan Tyma  
Robert Van Egghen  
Thomas Welch  
John Zaprzalka

## Development Committee

Marianne Smythe, *Co-chair*  
Patricia Tarasovic, *Co-chair*  
Carolyn Cutaneo  
Jennifer Magri  
Nancy Valentine  
Jack Walsh

## Program Committee

Fred Ortoli, *Chair*  
Tammy Burrell  
Ray Oppel  
Angela Powers  
Greg Stamos  
Jack Walsh

## Community Grants Committee

Liz Kennard, *Chair*  
Janice Bonaparte  
Tammy Burrell  
Beth Carson  
Martha Dulla-Andrade  
Terri Goldson  
Christopher Grizzle

Lovell Hunter  
Cheryl McCollum  
Ray Oppel  
Fred Ortoli  
Angelika Stamos  
Pat Tarasovic  
Jack Walsh

## Finance Committee

Ray Oppel, *Chair*  
Tammy Burrell  
Marianne Smythe  
Jack Walsh

## Governance Committee

Jennifer Magri, *Chair*  
Christopher Grizzle  
Aleta Miner  
Diane Stroman  
Jack Walsh

## Mission Related Investment Committee

Jack Walsh, *Chair*  
Aleta Miner  
Ray Oppel  
Diane Stroman  
Alan Tyma

## VCF thanks the following out going Board Members




Jennifer Magri



Diane Stroman

## Partners in Philanthropy

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) partners with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) to carry out its mission in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. This relationship provides VCF with access to the strength of TCF, which was established in 1928 and is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the United States and remains the largest grant-maker to nonprofits serving a twenty-town region in the heart of central Connecticut. VCF shares a CFO and uses TCF's investment expertise, programming, and development knowledge. This strong relationship provides VCF with an immediate support structure that allows its Board of Directors to focus on leadership and development. VCF wishes to thank The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven staff and all the volunteers for their time, contributions, and expertise. 



*“All these funds represent the selfless nature of the residents of our Valley. The people and families who established these funds come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, but their investment in the future and love for the Valley is what unites them and unites us all.”*

VALLEY COMMUNITY



FOUNDATION

**[www.valleyfoundation.org](http://www.valleyfoundation.org)**

253-A ELIZABETH STREET

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For Good. For Ever. For the Valley.