

CONNECTIONS



The quarterly newsletter of
The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

Karen DuBois-Walton Named President and CEO

Succeeds Will Ginsberg, Who Has Served Since 2000

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven has named Dr. Karen DuBois-Walton as its next president and chief executive officer. DuBois-Walton, who starts on November 4, succeeds Will Ginsberg, who is stepping down after 24 years on November 1. DuBois-Walton brings two decades of leadership experience. For the past 16 years, she has served as president of Elm City Communities/Housing Authority of the City of New Haven, and previously served as chief of staff and chief administrative officer for Mayor John DeStefano Jr. in New Haven. "I am thrilled to be taking on this leadership role and for the opportunity to work with the team and in this community with so many committed volunteers and donors to build a stronger, more connected and more equitable Greater New Haven region," says DuBois-Walton. "My vision for the future is one where we work together to create a more equitable and inclusive Greater New Haven."



Dr. Karen DuBois-Walton, The Community Foundation's next President & CEO.



Will Ginsberg: 24 years of growth, innovation and leadership as President & CEO of The Foundation.

Photos Foundation archives (left) and Judy Sirota Rosenthal (right)

Community Appreciation for Will Ginsberg

Leader Leaves Legacy of Strengthening Greater New Haven

The Greater New Haven community is showing its appreciation for Will Ginsberg and his more than two decades of leading The Community Foundation as President & CEO. When Ginsberg started in 2000, The Foundation awarded \$7.1 million in grants and the endowment stood at \$225 million. The Foundation's total assets are now \$748 million, which support more than \$30 million in annual grants and distributions to hundreds of local nonprofit organizations. Ginsberg's tenure is also highlighted by The Foundation's central role in starting New Haven Promise, the Valley Community Foundation, the New Haven Independent and The Great Give, as well as creating a strategic initiative to advance opportunity and equity. "The Foundation has taken on a true leadership role in Greater New Haven," says Marcella Nunez-Smith, chair of The Foundation's Board of Directors. "Will's many years at The Foundation have been a time of growth, innovation and leadership. This will be his legacy at The Foundation."

Staying Connected and Working Together

In his Annual Meeting address in June, Foundation President & CEO Will Ginsberg reflected on the theme of connectedness to nearly 300 community members gathered in Yale's O.C. Marsh Lecture Hall and watching online. He was then joined onstage by Board of Directors Vice Chair Fernando Muñiz for a conversation about the future direction of The Foundation. The meeting opened with a solo performance by flamenco guitarist Val Ramos, who later played with his quartet at the reception in Yale's newly renovated Peabody Museum. "The path to continued progress remains what it has always been," Ginsberg noted. "Finding bold new ways to stay connected and to work together."



Photo Courtesy of Neighborhood Music School

Neighborhood Music School was among the 142 local nonprofits awarded a responsive grant in July.

\$4.63M in Responsive Grants to Local Nonprofits

Demand High as Nonprofits Face Funding Challenges

The Community Foundation awarded \$4,626,285 in general operating support to a large and diverse group of nonprofit organizations serving Greater New Haven through its annual responsive grants program this July. Grants were given to 142 nonprofits, a record total for The Foundation. The applicant pool was among the largest in The Foundation's history. The increased demand is related to several factors including the end of COVID-19 era federal funds and rising costs associated with recent inflation. Changes in Medicaid eligibility and funding also affected healthcare organizations. "We had many difficult decisions to make," says Foundation President and CEO Will Ginsberg. "In response to the unprecedented demand for funding, The Foundation took a broad approach to fund as many nonprofits as possible." See full list of awards at cfgnh.org/2024grants.

The Great Give 2024 Donations Top \$3.8M for Greater New Haven Nonprofits

The Great Give annual online fundraising event in May raised \$3,843,475 for 550 nonprofit organizations serving Greater New Haven, both record numbers. Presented by The Community Foundation, the event is a community-wide celebration of nonprofits on social media and beyond. This year's Great Give featured \$242,000 in matching pools and random prize draws sponsored by businesses and organizations throughout the region along with The Community Foundation and the Valley Community Foundation. "This community showed once again how extraordinarily generous it is," said The Community Foundation President & CEO Will Ginsberg. "It's tremendous."



Photo Matthew Higbee

Robert Farrow Jr. and daughter Harmony (center), with (L-R) Foundation President & CEO Will Ginsberg, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Rep. Rosa DeLauro, New Haven Healthy Start Director Natasha Ray and New Haven Healthy Start Fatherhood Coordinator Rodney Moore.

\$5.5M Announced for New Haven Healthy Start

Funding Aims to Improve Infant and Maternal Health

As a new father, Robert Farrow Jr. knew that New Haven Healthy Start was in his corner, whether it was help getting diapers or navigating hospital bureaucracy during COVID restrictions. “It’s great to know that there are people who are going to support you when you are at your lowest,” Farrow said. “I was always able to pick up the phone to Healthy Start.” Farrow and his daughter, Harmony, were joined by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) for the announcement of \$5.5 million in federal funding for The Foundation’s New Haven Healthy Start program over the next five years. The funding will be used to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, as New Haven Healthy Start has done since first being launched by The Foundation in 1997. “We’re not going to rest until every child born in this city is able to grow up strong and healthy so they can reach their full potential,” said Rep. DeLauro. “Not just survive, but be able to thrive.”

Valley Community Foundation Donates \$20,000 to Flood Relief Fund

In response to the devastating floods that swept through the Naugatuck valley region in August, claiming two lives and causing widespread damage, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) contributed \$20,000 to the Valley Flood Relief Fund. Established by TEAM, Inc, the Fund provides immediate assistance to residents throughout the flooded region. “While the entire Valley community is grappling with the aftermath of this unprecedented storm, it’s heartening to see organizations like TEAM stepping up to lead the relief efforts,” said VCF President & CEO Sharon Closius, adding that many VCF fund holders have also donated to the Fund.



(L-R) Moderator Rev. Todd Foster, Cornerstone Christian Center; with panelists Rondraya Barron, Assistant Teacher, Friends Center for Children; Joanne Goldblum, CEO, National Diaper Bank Network; and Erik Clemons, President & CEO, ConnCAT and ConnCORP.

The Foundation of Hope

Basic Needs Support Fuels Broader Social Change

Greater New Haven has historically had sharp disparities between those living well and those going without. Food, clothing, shelter and health and hygiene supplies are some of the bare necessities for survival that our neighbors struggle to find. A panel discussion held at Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology (ConnCAT) in June explored how a functioning, healthy society begins with meeting everyone's basic material needs with dignity. Panelists also discussed how when people have their basic needs met, they are better able to complete their education and succeed in job-training and other assistance programs. The event, hosted by The Foundation's Basic Needs Fund Advisory Committee, included a tour of Benedict J. Fernandez's "Countdown to Eternity" photo exhibit documenting the last year of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, on display at ConnCAT, and was part of The Foundation's yearlong series of donor briefings on issues of importance in Greater New Haven and beyond.

Brown Advisory Selected as New External Investment Advisor

The Foundation has selected Brown Advisory, a premiere global strategic advisory and investment firm, as its new external investment advisor in July. The choice followed a nine-month search and due diligence process conducted by The Foundation's investment committee. Brown Advisory will be responsible for the full spectrum of investment services to The Foundation including strategic investment planning, asset allocation implementation, risk management and sub-advisor selection for The Foundation's Commingled Investment Fund. Brown Advisory succeeds Crewcial Partners (formerly Colonial Consulting).



Supporters of The Vineyard Project in New Haven gathered in Oak Bluffs in August, Black Philanthropy Month.

Black Philanthropy Celebrated in August

Events Inspire Giving, Social Change

The Community Foundation gathered donors and changemakers in person and online for two events during Black Philanthropy Month, the global celebration of African-descent giving in all its forms held annually in August. In partnership with Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and The Prosperity Foundation, it hosted a virtual conversation, "Celebrating Black Philanthropy in Connecticut: Intergenerational Approaches to Social Action." Panelists had an inspired conversation about approaches to advance Black futures through creative philanthropy, business investment, social action and racial equity advocacy. Also in August, The Foundation's Vineyard Project hosted a gathering of fund holders and supporters in the historic town of Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard. The day included the panel discussion, "Reconcile, Challenge, Envision" at the Strand Theatre.

Maximize Your Charitable Impact: We Can Help You With Year-end Giving

We have experience converting various assets into charitable donations and can help you discover organizations aligned with your interests. We look forward to working with you! Ways we can help: **Donor advised fund (DAF)** set-up: A DAF accepts a variety of assets and allows you to support charitable organizations on your own timing. **Stock transfers:** Planning to use securities for charitable gifts? You are encouraged to request gift transfers from your advisor well in advance of December 31. **Qualified Charitable Distributions:** Donors age 70 1/2 or older can make a charitable gift from a taxable IRA and potentially avoid moving into a higher tax bracket. Contact Dotty Weston-Murphy at 203-777-7081.



In July, TCFMIC hosted a meet-up at The Foundation with BIPOC tech entrepreneurs and ecosystem members.

Photo: Joseph Gennaro

Mission Investments Company Spurs Innovation

BIPOC Tech Companies Receive Funding, Business Support





The Community Foundation Mission Investments Company (TCFMIC) continues to accelerate its work to support local businesses, spur innovation and create inter-generational wealth among families and in neighborhoods that have historically lacked investment and opportunity. It has distributed more than \$2 million in grants to 350 local small businesses through a grant from the state Department of Economic and Community Development. In total, TCFMIC has raised \$13 million to support an equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem and is increasingly focused on helping innovative BIPOC-led tech companies. In July, it hosted a meet-up at The Foundation with nearly 30 entrepreneurs and ecosystem members who gathered to share their founding journeys, exchange ideas and perspectives and form new collaborations to help local tech ventures move closer to becoming funded, viable, high-growth companies.

\$115,000 Awarded to Economic Security Programs for Women

The Foundation's Community Fund for Women & Girls is helping women start businesses and advance in their careers with its 2024 Pathways to Economic Security for Women grant awards. A total of \$115,000 was awarded in July to 10 Greater New Haven nonprofit programs offering job-skills training, entrepreneur coaching, housing stability and innovative childcare. "These grants are essential because women face unique challenges that can undermine their financial stability," says Christine Kim, Fund chair. "The grants support programs addressing barriers, helping women achieve greater economic security and independence, which, in turn, benefits families and communities."



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

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OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

Join us Online for Racial Equity Training

As part of its ongoing work to advance racial equity, The Community Foundation is offering free community access to The Groundwater Approach, a racial equity workshop that builds an understanding of systemic racism through data and historical analysis. Learn more and join us for our next session at cfgnh.org/REI.

THE GROUNDWATER APPROACH:

building a practical understanding
of structural racism

WRITTEN BY SAVANDE LOWE AND DEEMIA HAYES-GREENE OF THE RACIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE

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