

CONNECTIONS

The quarterly newsletter of



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

The Stakes Have Never Been Higher

This Moment Demands Our Collective Action

As we step into this new era of federal leadership, we must confront an undeniable truth: The values of opportunity and equity that we have fought so hard to advance are under attack. At The Community Foundation, we refuse to stand by while hard-fought rights and social advancements are dismantled. We are committed to protecting our most vulnerable communities; strengthening our democracy through investment in civic engagement; using our platform to speak out against injustice; and building coalitions across sectors. And we are using our role as a convener to bring people together for collective and philanthropic action. We remain steadfast in our commitment to opportunity and equity, and we invite you to stand with us. Read more at cfgnh.org/thestakes.



Karen DuBois-Walton, The Community Foundation President and CEO.



Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS), which recently participated in Nonprofit Alliance Day at the state Capitol in Hartford, raised \$186K in donations from The Great Give.

The Great Give Raises Record-Breaking \$4.4 M

Community Responds During Challenging Time for Nonprofits

The Great Give 2025 raised \$4,400,510 for 574 nonprofit organizations serving Greater New Haven, surpassing \$4 million for the first time in the 16-year history of the annual 36-hour online giving event, and breaking last year's record of \$3.87 million. "We are thrilled by the extraordinary generosity in Greater New Haven. This is a moment that demands urgency, and our community responded with record-breaking support for local nonprofits," said The Community Foundation President and CEO Karen DuBois-Walton. "Local nonprofits are essential to the health and wellbeing of our community and this year's Great Give shows how highly their work is valued." Multiple sponsors contributed cash prizes and match donations totaling \$227,600. The Foundation provided a \$100,000 match pool and the Valley Community Foundation provided \$25,000 in matches and prizes to participating Valley-serving nonprofits.

New Gifts and Transfers in 2024 Top \$33 Million

In 2024, The Foundation received \$33.3 million in new gifts, transfers and grants, and its combined charitable assets totaled \$667 million on Dec. 31. Individuals and families established 35 new named funds and organizations established eight new organization funds. "We are forever grateful for the generous donors who are increasing charitable resources for our community," said Sr. Vice President of Development and Donor Services, Dotty Weston-Murphy. Grants and distributions totaled \$31.4 million to hundreds of nonprofits in Greater New Haven. Of the total, \$10 million came from discretionary funds supporting responsive grant programs, nonprofit workshops and other strategic priorities.



The Community Fund for Women & Girls kicked off its 30th anniversary with a festive gathering at Stappa Vineyard in April.

Photo: Angel Starr

30 Years of Advancing Women and Girls

Fund for Women & Girl Kicks Off Anniversary Year Campaign

In 1995, a trailblazing group of women and supporters came together to launch the Community Fund for Women & Girls, Greater New Haven's only endowment dedicated to promoting the social and economic advancement of women and girls. In the three decades since, the Fund has funded important research, hosted forums with visionary women leaders like Gloria Steinem and provided more than \$2 million in grant funding to local nonprofits serving women and girls. In April, the Fund kicked off its 30th anniversary campaign, "Many Voices, One Vision," with a special event for fund founders and longtime volunteers. "Our theme is a recognition of all the women who have contributed their time, energy and resources to The Fund in support of its North Star — creating a Greater New Haven where all women and girls thrive," said Fund Chair Christine Kim. A larger public celebration is planned for November 13, along with other events throughout the year. Learn more at manyvoicesonevision.org.

Childcare Is Economic Infrastructure

Financial independence isn't just about dollars and cents. It's about the freedom to make choices. Founded in New Haven in 1999, nonprofit All Our Kin received early grants from the Community Fund for Women & Girls which helped seed its model for equipping home-based childcare providers with training, mentorship and business tools to become licensed and build careers rooted in care. At the same time, for every new provider that is licensed, an estimated four to five low-income parents can return to work. Grants from the Fund to All Our Kin have helped the nonprofit grow, and the nonprofit is scaling up, bringing its model to other communities across the country.



Participants came from across the region to share perspectives and make new connections.

Photo: Dale Davidson


Residents Connect Around Economic Mobility

Conversations on Housing, Entrepreneurship, Social Supports

What does it take to move up the economic ladder? What's holding people back and what's helping people move forward? How can we do better as a society? What opportunities for change exist in Greater New Haven? The Community Foundation hosted a community-driven conversation diving into these pressing questions at The Lab at ConnCORP on February 25. The discussions used selections of the latest data and insights from the 2024 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey to guide table discussions around three critical factors shaping economic mobility — housing affordability, entrepreneurship and social supports. To help facilitate the exchange of diverse viewpoints and build new personal connections across different communities, participants were seated at tables with a mix of residents from beyond their own town or neighborhood. Housing affordability and safety emerged as central issues, as did the importance of small businesses in neighborhoods.

Data for Community Action

On Jan. 29, The Community Foundation (TCF) hosted DataHaven's Mark Abraham for a discussion with TCF President and CEO Karen DuBois-Walton about the 2024 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey. The survey includes responses from more than 7,000 live, in-depth interviews with randomly-selected adults in every Connecticut town. The largest local survey of its kind, the Wellbeing Survey provides self-reported data on happiness, health and how people feel about their neighborhoods. Now in its seventh release, the survey tracks trends on key issues such as community vitality, health equity and family economic security. TCF has funded the survey every year since it launched in 2012.



Direct cash assistance programs are being tested across the country as potential models for creating economic mobility.

Direct Cash Assistance Supports Changemakers

Pilot Program Empowers Individuals, Communities

States across the country are increasingly looking at direct cash assistance programs as a means for increasing economic mobility. In Connecticut, The Community Foundation is invested in a pilot called The Changemaker Fund, which is providing cash assistance to 120 community leaders in Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven. The extra income is designed to help participants gain enough financial freedom to devote more time and energy to community building and advocacy. The program was launched through the Connecticut Urban Opportunity Collaborative (CUOC), a partnership of The Foundation's with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Fairfield County's Community Foundation. Over the next three years, direct cash assistance in Connecticut is expected to total more than \$13 million, with private philanthropy providing all the funding.

The Corporation Posts Gains in the First Quarter of 2025

The Foundation's Corporate Commingled Fund posted a net return of 0.1% in the first quarter of 2025, which was 1.1% ahead of its Policy Benchmark and driven by strong performance from the equity and absolute return allocations. The portfolio was proactively rebalanced due to strong public equity market performance over the prior two years. The current investment environment requires a balanced approach, liquidity and adaptability to navigate ongoing volatility. The Foundation's investment team employs a disciplined process, allocating capital to high quality managers and maintaining a long-term perspective to stay well positioned for different economic environments.



Giving back has been a central tenet of the Bishop family, owners of Bishop's Orchards

Family With Deep Roots in Guilford Gives Back

Establishes Bishop's Orchards Family Fund

Six generations of Bishops have run Bishop's Orchards, which is woven into the fabric of the Guilford community and beyond. The farm has been part of the town since 1871, when Walter Goodrich Bishop sold his vegetables, fruits and ice to families along the shoreline. Giving back has been a central tenet of the Bishop family. "The people of Guilford and the larger community have supported our family's farm for more than 150 years," says Keith Bishop, Walter's great-great grandson. "We feel it's very important to support the people of our communities and the nonprofits that do so much work here. My parents were very involved and now our children are. It's a continuous loop." Keith and his wife, Debbie, established the Bishop's Orchard Family Fund at The Community Foundation to provide perpetual funding to organizations that they have long supported, including the SARAH Foundation of Guilford, which serves hundreds of individuals with intellectual and other challenges.

Foundations Mourn Passing of Alan Tyma

Both The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) and the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) mourn the passing of Alan J. Tyma, a founding member of VCF. A lifelong community leader in the Valley, Tyma was instrumental in advocating for the creation of VCF while serving on TCF's Board of Directors. Tyma was a proud Derby native who spent his career championing causes that lifted up the Valley region, while serving on numerous local nonprofit boards. He co-founded the law firm Ryan & Tyma in Shelton, providing counsel to many local nonprofits and serving as Corporation Counsel for Derby and Assistant Corporation Counsel for Shelton.



Left to right: Andrew Eder, Andrew S. Knott.

Photos Judy Sirota Rosenthal, Matt Higbee

Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Board Elects Muñiz as Chair, Shultz Wilson as Vice Chair

The Foundation welcomed two new members to its board of directors effective January 1. Andrew Eder, Chairman of Eder Bros. Inc., the former president of the Jewish Community Center, and a longtime volunteer on many local boards was appointed by the Board of Directors. Andrew S. Knott, attorney with Knott & Santoro and an active member of several civic, nonprofit and professional organizations was appointed by the New Haven County Bar Association. “Andrew Eder and Andrew Knott are local community leaders who have a passion for Greater New Haven and will bring unique perspectives to our Board. We look forward to their contributions,” said Karen DuBois-Walton, The Foundation’s president and CEO. Eder and Knott succeeded Marcella Nunez-Smith and Gregory J. Pepe, whose terms ended in December 2024. In addition, the board elected Fernando Muñiz to serve as chair and Valarie Shultz Wilson to serve as vice chair for 2025.

Ideas, Hopes for Our Region Shared at Community Conversations Sessions

Throughout the first half of 2025, The Community Foundation has hosted listening sessions across Greater New Haven with President and CEO Karen DuBois-Walton to gain insights and contributions from community members about the region’s challenges, opportunities and the role for philanthropy. Held both virtually and in person at locations in New Haven, West Haven, Hamden and Guilford, the facilitated sessions have each focused on a specific theme — arts and culture, education and workforce, health and affordability. At the conclusion of the series, The Foundation will compile the input and share the results with the community.



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

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Photo Kathleen Cei

Advisors are important partners

The Foundation works with trusted professional advisor partners: estate planning, wealth advising, accounting, financial planning and insurance experts who advise clients about charitable giving. Working closely with our staff, advisors provide clients with individualized giving plans to meet their unique charitable goals while maximizing tax advantages. We help our advisor partners stay up to date with tax policy as it relates to planning and charitable giving, and provide opportunities to network at events throughout Greater New Haven. To learn more about charitable giving, contact Sharon Cappetta, CAP, © director of development, at 203-777-7071.

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