



For Good  
**For Ever**  
*For the Valley*

*Proudly supporting the growth  
and vitality of our community!*

VALLEY COMMUNITY

FOUNDATION





*“Someone’s sitting  
in the shade today  
because someone  
planted a tree a  
long time ago,”*

*—Warren Buffet*

**T**rees are symbols of hope, strength and longevity. The Valley Community Foundation is determined to live up to those ideals. We are committed to making the Valley a better place to live and work, both now and in the future.

Community foundations are created by and for the community they serve. Supported by local donors and governed by civic-minded individuals, community foundations work for the greater good of their community. They are a powerful tool for collective betterment, collaborative partnerships and courageous leadership.

Our vision is to make the Valley a vibrant community with a stable economy, strong schools, a healthy population and empowered youth and seniors. Together, we will leave a visible mark on our community through times of drought and years of plenty, like the rings on a tree.

We invite you to plant your own seed of hope, strength and longevity with us here in the Valley.



# For Good. For Ever. For the Valley.

The level of community spirit and community giving among Valley residents is an inspiration to us all. If you are inspired to help others and to have a lasting impact in the Valley, the Valley Community Foundation is the perfect choice.

Throughout its history, the Valley and its residents prospered through agriculture, foreign maritime trade and manufacturing. Prominent Valley families have established legacies of giving that continue to benefit the Valley. Recently, the local economy has changed dramatically, making private citizens' philanthropic contributions to the Valley even more important.

Since 2004, the Valley Community Foundation has helped grow that legacy of giving. Local donors, just like you, have started charitable funds, which support donor passions and community needs.

Through these funds, the Valley Community Foundation distributes grants that help sustain a variety of local issues and local organizations today, tomorrow and forever.

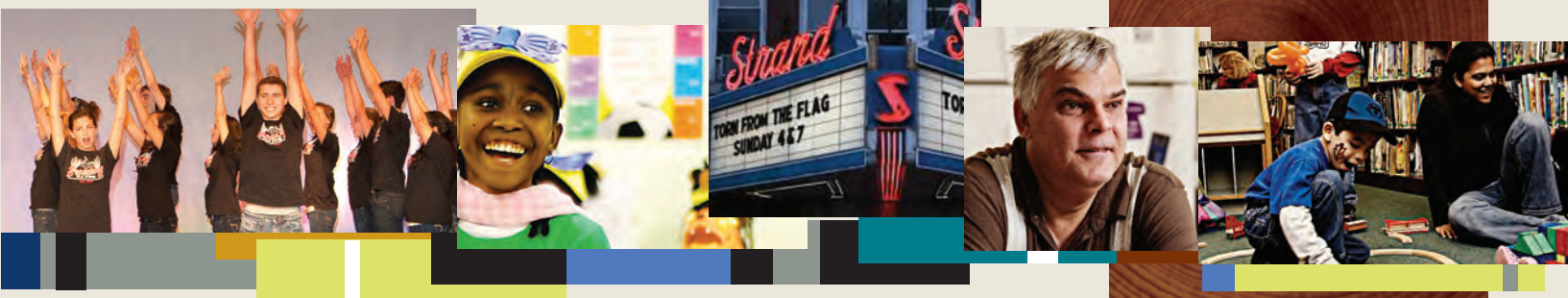
We look forward to helping you achieve your goal of supporting the causes and institutions that are important to you and your family.

The Valley Community Foundation staff and board can provide you with knowledgeable advice and personal attention to ensure that your gift maximizes your long-term impact on the community.

Sharon Closius,  
President & CEO  
Valley Community Foundation



Sharon Closius  
President & CEO



# Honoring Donor Intent

The creation of the Valley Community Foundation is the story of how the two Gates brothers continue to improve life in the Valley more than 60 years after their passing.

In 1938, the brothers created trusts in the family name benefitting The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven (TCF). Ross and Frank passed in 1952 and 1954, respectively, and their legacies became known as the Gates Fund.

The Gates brothers left broad directions for how their donation was to be used—“to support broad charitable purposes with consideration that a portion of the income benefit residents of Derby and vicinity.”

In the early 2000s, after a decade of very good work by TCF's Valley Advisory Committee, visionary and generous Valley community leaders and TCF joined together to create the Valley Community Foundation, insuring the Valley would continue to benefit from the Gates' generous intention. The Valley Community Foundation came into existence in 2004 as an affiliate of TCF.

Today, the Gates brothers' gift lives on by benefitting the Valley and its residents through the Valley Community Foundation. The Valley Community Foundation pays the same honor, respect and consideration to all our donors.





# Honoring

Connecticut Radio Information System provides recordings of books, newspapers and magazines for the blind. An unrestricted Valley Community Foundation grant supports this vital service for the elderly and blind living in the Valley.

# Together, we can make an impact

Facing a tough economy, our towns' tax dollars are stretched and nonprofits' purses are pinched. Our seniors, students, workers and families all need our support now for a successful future. Here in the Valley we know that when times are tough, we can rely on committed community members.

Our problems are real, but so is the desire to help. We can treat our Valley's current challenges and prevent further hardship.

The issues we're facing are not obstacles, they are opportunities to invest in a stronger, healthier Valley.

There are countless ways for you to make a difference: You can address needs and opportunities as varied as hunger, health screenings, after-school programs and college scholarships.

Together, we can support the visionary projects and people of the Valley. We can lend a hand to those providing critical, creative programs addressing everything from basic needs to local culture.

*Together, we will build a better Valley.*

*“Prevention produces far better outcomes and costs less than treatment. But like hurricane-proof shorelines and earthquake-proof buildings, it requires up-front investments for returns over time. We tend to be bad at that. But we need to get better, because lives are at stake,”*

~Yale-Griffin Prevention  
Research Center Director,  
Dr. David Katz.





There's a lot of work to be done, but the Valley Community Foundation is determined to make strategic investments to lift up our region as well as meet our residents' short-term, immediate needs.


For example, to encourage the local economy we've made grants to support financial literacy and job training to those who need it now. We're also thinking long-term by funding the Shelton Economic Development Corporation's creation of a five-year plan to increase employment opportunities in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton and the entire Naugatuck Valley.

Similarly, we helped finance the Valley Council for Health and Human Services' project to study, report on and create a comprehensive health improvement plan for Valley residents. We're also investing in multiple local organizations and projects to promote healthy behaviors and provide health services now. Investing in prevention is always less expensive than waiting to address the consequences.

Our grants also support youth and seniors, address basic needs, preserve local history, protect the environment and celebrate the arts.

*Together, we can make the Valley a vibrant, healthy place to live, play and work. Where will **you** make an impact?*





An intergenerational team builds a powerful telescope  
from recycled materials at the Ansonia Nature Center.  
Our grants go to organizations with good ideas and  
great results.



Why give



# Why give through the Foundation

When you give through the Valley Community Foundation your gift—and your legacy—lasts forever.

## Local expertise

The Valley Community Foundation's staff and board members have experience and insight into the strengths, needs and history of the Valley. Our donors benefit from our staff and board's vision and deep local knowledge. Their expertise helps determine the areas of greatest need and where our grants can be most effective at a local level.

## Leaving a Legacy

Fulfilling your charitable wishes is central to our mission of connecting private philanthropy to the long-term public good of the Valley. We follow sound stewardship practices to ensure that your legacy and interests will be honored today, tomorrow and forever.

## Personalized attention

The Valley Community Foundation's professional staff will help you tailor your giving to fit your personal situation and your charitable goals. We can help you consider such factors as personal interest, tax-planning needs and family dynamics. We have the tools and resources to help you be as strategic, flexible and effective as possible, making your giving experience tremendously satisfying.

## Power of endowment

Your gift benefits from being part of a larger whole. The Valley Community Foundation's funds are managed as part of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven's diversified investment portfolio. These dollars are carefully invested for long-term growth.

Over time, as the endowment grows, so do your funds and your ability to award grants to worthy nonprofits and programs. By investing your charitable gift with the Valley Community Foundation, you are increasing the long-term impact of your gift.





# How to give: Your options

**In just a few short steps, you can help your community for generations to come by creating a permanent endowed fund.**

**Step 1:** Tell us how you would like your fund to be used. Would you like your gift to be flexible so that it can address any community problem or opportunity? Or, is there a specific charity or cause that you would like to support? Would you like to be involved in the grantmaking?

**Step 2:** Tell us how you would like to name the fund. This will be your legacy: One hundred years from now, your fund will still be making gifts. Or, you may set up the fund anonymously if you prefer.

**Step 3:** Give at least \$10,000 to start your fund.

The Community Foundation offers several types of funds. You may contribute, at any amount, to an already existing fund or open your own. All donations to the Valley Community Foundation are tax-deductible.

If you'd like to:	YOU COULD:
Allow your gift to be flexible in its giving to address current and unforeseen future needs	<b>Establish or donate to an Unrestricted Fund</b> Unrestricted funds are the most responsive to a community's changing needs. Unrestricted funds address all areas of the community: basic needs, youth, economic development, arts and culture and more. Unrestricted funds are flexible and allow the Valley Community Foundation staff and board to address the critical needs of the Valley at any given time.
Support or address a specific interest, through several nonprofit organizations over time	<b>Establish or donate to a Preference Fund</b> Gifts to a preference fund address an area of your interest, whether it's health, hunger, homelessness or any other topic you care about. The Valley Community Foundation and its board will decide where grants from your fund will have the greatest effect on the community within your stated area of interest.
Support specific organizations	<b>Establish or donate to a Designated Fund</b> Designated funds allow you to support one or more specific nonprofit organization in perpetuity with an annual grant from your fund.
Be actively involved in choosing the projects and nonprofits to support	<b>Establish or donate to a Donor Advised Fund</b> Donor advised funds allow you to participate in your giving. By creating a donor advised fund, you are actively involved in recommending grants from your fund. You may name advisors and successive advisors to serve in your place.
Support students through their education	<b>Establish or contribute to a Scholarship Fund</b> Scholarship funds invest in the community's future by supporting students in their education. Scholarships will be awarded based on the criteria you set.





The next step is to decide how to finance your fund.

To Give Now:	YOU COULD:
<b>Make an outright, immediate gift</b>	Use many types of assets, including cash, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate or other appreciated property.
<b>Transfer assets from a private foundation</b>	Establish a fund with the Valley Community Foundation in the name of your private foundation. By arranging to transfer all or part of the assets, you also transfer the burden of taxes, paperwork and other responsibilities to the Valley Community Foundation. Our staff and board can help match your fund with the most appropriate nonprofits to meet your charitable goals.

To Give Later:	YOU COULD:
<b>Make a gift and earn income during your lifetime</b>	<p>Make a significant gift while still achieving your financial goals. These types of gifts typically offer significant tax advantages.</p> <p><b>A Charitable Gift Annuity</b> is a contract between you and the Foundation. Your gift provides you or a loved one with a fixed annual income for life. After your death, the assets pass to the Foundation for the philanthropic purposes you have outlined.</p> <p><b>A Charitable Remainder Trust</b> can accept a variety of assets, such as real estate or appreciated securities. The trust provides you and/or other named beneficiaries with income for your lifetime or for up to 20 years. After your death, the trust goes to the Foundation as a gift for the philanthropic purposes you have outlined.</p>
<b>Give by will, trust or retirement assets</b>	Set up a bequest: Some people specify a certain dollar amount, or a percentage of an entire estate. You may choose to name the Valley Community Foundation as the beneficiary of your IRA. Others put family first and give whatever is left after all other gifts are distributed. Some leave an asset, like a painting, real estate or stock.





If you do add a charitable gift  
to your will, we would like to  
invite you to join the Gates Society

**By joining our family of funds, donors  
become part of something special.**

If you have made a charitable provision in your estate plans that includes the Valley Community Foundation, please notify us.

We want to thank you during your lifetime, personally and in print, on behalf of all those whom you will ultimately help. (We will only thank you publicly with your permission, of course.)

The Gates Society provides a way to thank and honor individuals during their lifetimes for gifts that will come through their estates to the Valley Community Foundation. Gates Society members inspire others to make a difference in their community.

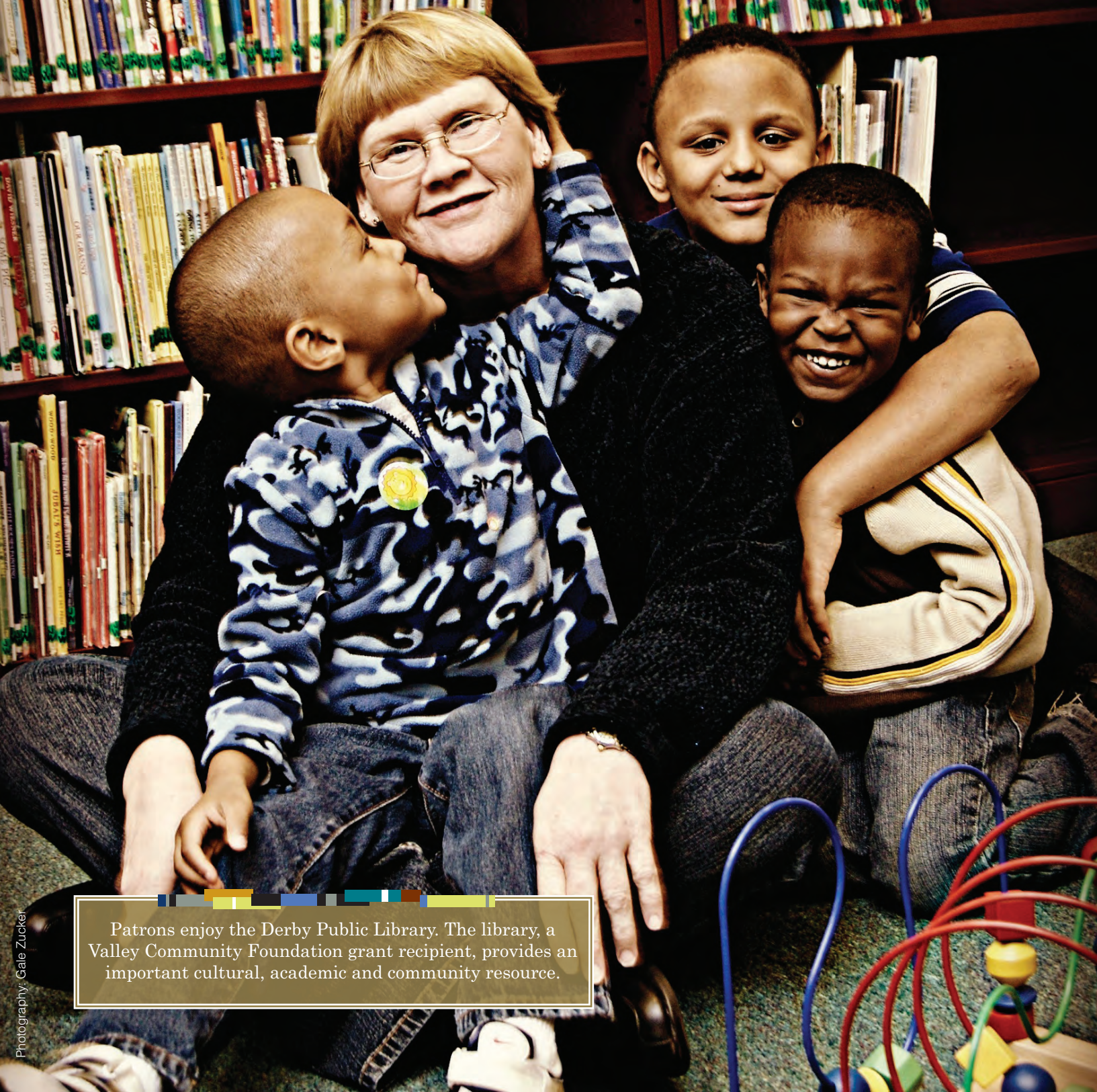
The Gates Society is a group of deeply caring people who have invested in a brighter philanthropic future for our region.

By contributing to the Valley Community Foundation, you—just like the Gates brothers—will be contributing to the long-term good of the people of the Valley today, tomorrow and forever.





# future



Patrons enjoy the Derby Public Library. The library, a Valley Community Foundation grant recipient, provides an important cultural, academic and community resource.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is a community foundation?**

A community foundation allows local donors to create individual funds or to pool their money to create a local endowment to benefit their region for the long-term. Using the endowment, foundations make grants to support local nonprofits and programs and to fulfill their donors' charitable wishes.

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## **Who creates funds at the Valley Community Foundation?**

People who want to make a difference in their community. Most are set up by individuals and families with a connection to the Valley. Like you, they want to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, create opportunities for children, celebrate the arts and support new ideas and programs.

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## **If I create a fund at the Valley Community Foundation, may I support charities and projects outside of the Valley?**

Yes, if you set up a donor advised or designated fund you will have the opportunity to make grants anywhere in the United States.

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## **What is the relationship between the Valley Community Foundation and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven?**

The Valley Community Foundation is affiliated with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF). TCF provides us with more than \$1 million annually to support staff and grantmaking. We also benefit from TCF's financial and investment expertise, programming and development knowledge. This relationship provides the Valley Community Foundation with a support structure that frees our Board of Directors to focus on leadership and development.

## **Why give through the Valley Community Foundation?**

Our local expertise and sound fiscal management ensure your philanthropy will have a major long-term impact. When you give through the Foundation, you only need to write one check to receive an immediate tax deduction and make grants for years to come. Our knowledge about the community's changing needs will help you better serve the organizations and interest areas you care about.

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## **How does the Valley Community Foundation invest its funds?**

Our funds are managed by TCF's well respected Investment Committee and are overseen by our Chief Financial Officer. The investment strategy seeks to provide a predictable and increasing amount of community support while maintaining the endowment's purchasing power over time. To achieve these goals, TCF uses a total return approach to endowment management, and has implemented disciplined and integrated spending and investment policies.

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## **How does a nonprofit receive help from the Valley Community Foundation?**

The Valley Community Foundation welcomes grant requests from area nonprofits through several competitive processes. The Valley Community Foundation also manages the endowments of several Valley nonprofits. In addition, technical assistance is offered through workshops and other offerings, including the online knowledge and giving resource, [giveGreater.org](http://giveGreater.org).

# Here's what our fund holders say:



*"We wanted to help those who are in need in our community, and felt that we could really make a difference by establishing this fund at Valley Community Foundation,"*

Tom D'Addario, D'Addario Community Fund.

*"As farmers, we live by the philosophy that money is like cow manure—it must be spread around to do the most good. For us, that means working with the Valley Community Foundation to create a multi-generational funding mechanism to focus on the wide range of groups, organizations and causes that we are most passionate about,"*

Terry Jones, Jones Family Farms Fund.

*"I think that if my parents had lived, they would have been thrilled to see that I did something to honor their name,"*

Dorothy Palazzi, Palazzi Family Fund.

*"If he saw there was a need, he'd try to find a way to solve it, and we are confident that the Valley Community Foundation will permanently continue that legacy for the Valley,"*

David Rifkin, founding board member speaking about the Sam Rifkin Memorial Fund, established in his father's memory.

*"He was a wonderful and giving man who valued his family, friends and clients alike. I know he'd be pleased to be helping his treasured Derby and so many other worthwhile causes that he had supported all through his life,"*

Selma Yudkin speaking about the fund established in her husband's memory, the Selma L. and Harold B. Yudkin Fund.





CONTACT US  
253-A Elizabeth Street  
Derby, Connecticut 06418  
Phone: 203-751-9162



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