

Two Decades & Beyond

A Foundation for Generations



A Letter from the President and CEO, and Board Chair

Dear Friends:

As we reflect on 2024 and spotlight the growth of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) during the last 20 years, we do so with immense gratitude and admiration for the visionary men and women who had the prophetic foresight to create a community foundation dedicated to serving the Valley. Their belief in the power of local philanthropy and their commitment to ensuring a legacy for generations to come have allowed VCF to become the trusted steward of charitable giving in our region.

During the past two decades, VCF has grown from an ambitious idea into a dynamic and thriving foundation with nearly \$40 million in manageable assets and steward to more than 260 funds. Last year's milestone 20th Anniversary was an opportunity to celebrate the generosity, dedication, and resilience of our community and continue that successful model into VCF's next 20 years. However, 2024 was not without its challenges.

On August 18, 2024, our Valley was devastated by a catastrophic flood, one of the most destructive natural disasters reminiscent of the Great Flood of 1955. Lives were tragically lost, homes and businesses were destroyed, and the financial toll on our community has been estimated at more than \$300 million in damage. Yet, in the face of such heartbreak, our Valley's spirit of unity shone brighter than ever. Neighbors helped neighbors, first responders and volunteers

worked tirelessly, and charitable organizations stepped in to provide critical support. The outpouring of generosity and kindness is a tribute to the unwavering strength of our community.

Despite these challenges, 2024 was also a year of remarkable growth. We are proud to share that nine new funds were established at VCF in 2024, each a testament to the spirit of giving that defines our Valley. We extend our deepest gratitude to these fundholders whose generosity will have a lasting impact on the Valley.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to the ideals set forth by VCF's founders -- one of strengthening our community, building local philanthropy, and ensuring that charitable dollars remain in the Valley for the benefit of all. We thank each one of you -- our fundholders, donors, nonprofit partners, and friends -- for making this possible.

Sincerely,

Sharon Closius, President and CEO
Nancy Valentine, Board Chair



Sharon Closius, President and CEO and Nancy Valentine, Board Chair



2005



2006



2007



2008



2009

Contributions
\$2,748,877

Grants Awarded
\$2,142,038

New Funds
9



Index

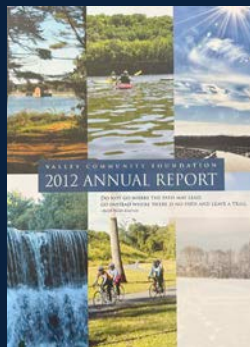
- 4-5 A Foundation for Generations
- 6-11 New Funds for 2024
- 12 How to Set Up a Fund
- 13-17 Valley Community Foundation Funds
- 18 The Gates Society
- 19-21 Donors in 2024
- 22-27 Community Investment/Grants
- 28-29 Stewardship of Charitable Assets
- 30 Great Give 2024/Valley Rises in Unity
- 31 Board, Committees, Council, Staff, and Volunteers



2010



2011



2012



2013



2014

A Foundation for Generations

When the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) was founded in 2004, its mission was clear: to serve as a permanent source of support for the Valley region, ensuring that local philanthropy stayed local. Spearheaded by the Valley's visionary leaders, VCF began as a bold experiment in community-driven philanthropy. Today, two-plus decades later, it stands as a testament to their foresight, having grown into one of the region's most trusted philanthropic institutions.

In its early years, VCF focused on establishing funds, building awareness around local philanthropy and encouraging endowments to support nonprofits throughout the Valley.

"We always believed that creating the Valley Community Foundation was the single most important thing we could have done for our community," said Mary Pepe, a founding member of the VCF's Board of Directors. "From its humble beginnings, over the past twenty years, VCF has flourished, both facilitating and maximizing the generosity of the Valley people in supporting hundreds of organizations and individuals, serving as a trusted resource in times of crisis, and exemplifying the Valley's unique hallmark of "connectedness" beyond what we ever could have imagined."

During the past 20 years, VCF has awarded more than \$25 million in grants to local nonprofits and causes and now is steward to more than 260 funds and scholarships, managing nearly \$40 million in charitable assets. Through special initiatives, programs, generous donors and fundholders, VCF has strengthened the Valley's nonprofits, making a tangible impact on countless lives.

Valley Community Foundation and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

Many of VCF's achievements over the past 20 years were made possible because of the support of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) and its leadership. In 2004, after years of discussion and input from the Valley Advisory Committee, Will Ginsberg, TCF's then-President and CEO, worked alongside those dedicated Valley leaders to bring VCF to life.

The idea of a Valley-based foundation had been debated for some time, as local leaders sought a way to instill confidence and trust with Valley donors that charitable dollars raised or endowed and intended for the Valley, would remain in the Valley. The challenge was balancing that goal with the long-standing partnership the region had with TCF, which for decades had been steward of Valley preference funds, like the Gates Fund. In fact, for many years the Gates Fund was TCF's largest fund.

The breakthrough came with an agreement that VCF would operate as an independent community foundation while maintaining a strong partnership with TCF, leveraging the New Haven-based foundation's support structure that allows VCF staff to focus on leadership, grant-making and development. Also, TCF's significant financial support to VCF, through those Valley preference funds, allows for VCF to have substantial grant-making impact in the region. This unique collaboration has proven to benefit all involved and continues to be instrumental, allowing VCF to grow from a bold idea into a pillar of philanthropy in the region.

Over the years, VCF and TCF have worked together supporting local

nonprofits, responding to crises, expanding charitable giving and more significantly, partnering on major and transformative projects. This partnership remains a model of how regional and local philanthropy can thrive. VCF and TCF share these critical resources, but both are independent nonprofits with separate boards of directors, and unique missions.

"Without the support of TCF and its respect for the Valley's leadership and vision, and their Valley preference funds, like the Gates Fund, VCF would not be where it is today," said Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. "This partnership in philanthropy is truly extraordinary and will continue to allow our Valley to grow and prosper in so many ways."

Transformative Investments in the Valley

One of VCF's most significant contributions to the Valley has been its commitment to strengthening the region's health and human services sector. In 2023, VCF announced a \$600,000 three-year grant to the Valley Council for Health and Human Services (the Council) with major support from TCF's Stepping Forward initiative. This transformative investment enabled the Council to expand its work, build infrastructure that will strengthen community partnerships and address systemic challenges in healthcare access and social services.

"There is no other entity in the state that has such significant collaborative reach than our Valley Council," Closius said. "This may well be a model for others to emulate."

VCF has also played a critical role in supporting local journalism, ensuring



2015



2016



2017



2018



2019

that the Valley continues to have access to reliable, community-focused news and information. In 2009, VCF and TCF, helped seed the creation of the Valley Independent Sentinel, an online nonprofit news outlet, with a \$500,000 two-year passthrough grant from the Knight Foundation. The Valley Indy -- as it's now affectionately called -- filled a critical void left after the closure of the popular 100-year-old Evening Sentinel newspaper in 1992.

Since its inception, VCF has continued to support the Valley Indy through its parent nonprofit, the Online Journalism Project, reinforcing the belief that strong local journalism is essential to an engaged and informed community. The Valley Indy has provided vital coverage of government affairs, local issues, and community stories, ensuring that Valley residents stay connected to the region's most pressing topics.

COVID-19 and the 2024 Flood

VCF's role in the community has been especially evident during times of crisis. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, VCF partnered with the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Valley Council for Health and Human Services, and the Valley United Way to create the Valley Community COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. This fund raised \$230,000 and provided flexible resources to local organizations serving those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

"We knew we had to act quickly to help our community," recalled former board member, Marianne Smythe. "VCF stepped up in a way that truly demonstrated its value."

The foundation's ability to mobilize resources was evident once again in 2024 when the Valley was devastated by a historic flood on August 18, 2024. The

disaster claimed lives, displaced families, destroyed homes and businesses, and left the community reeling. But as in past crises, the Valley came together. TEAM launched a special flood relief fund, raising more than \$1.2 million to support residents in need. VCF and its donor-advised fundholders contributed generously to the fund and encouraged others to give, demonstrating the power of collective philanthropy.

"The way this community rises up in times of crisis is nothing short of inspiring," said Closius. "It's proof of the strength and resilience of the Valley."

A Legacy of Data-Driven Change for Good

The Valley Community Index is a vital tool that has shaped decision-making and policy in the region for nearly a decade. However, its roots go back even further. The Index is part of a decades-long tradition of analyzing social and economic conditions in the Valley. Previous studies that laid the groundwork for the Index include the 1996 Healthy Valley Report, the 2001 Mt. Auburn Report, the Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center Community Health Profile, and the 2010 Valley Cares Report. In addition, Griffin Hospital's 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment and the Naugatuck Valley Health District's 2013-2015 Community Health Improvement Plan further highlighted the need for comprehensive, data-driven community planning.

In 2014, the Valley Council for Health and Human Services asked VCF to take over a critical data-capture project, as it was an all-volunteer organization at that time. In response, VCF convened an Advisory Committee and partnered with DataHaven and Griffin Health to create The Valley Now: A 2015 Snapshot, a report outlining key community well-being indicators. This effort laid the foundation for the full-length

Valley Community Index reports, published in 2016, 2019, and 2022, each offering a deeper analysis of economic, social, and health trends in the Valley. Now, with the next Valley Community Index set for release in June 2025, the project has come full circle, returning to the stewardship of the newly restructured Valley Council for Health and Human Services.

Two Decades and Beyond

As VCF looks to the future, its mission remains as critical as ever. The Valley is a unique and resilient region and VCF will continue to champion the power of local philanthropy to strengthen its communities. With a growing endowment, a deep commitment to data-driven impact, and an unwavering dedication to nonprofit support, VCF is poised to make an even greater difference in the years ahead. "I think the next 20 years will be just as transformative as the first," said Nancy Valentine, VCF's Board Chair. "What we've built together is a strong foundation, one that will ensure the Valley thrives."

Lynne Bassett Perry, a former board member, envisions an even stronger community thanks to VCF. "VCF is about people investing in their own hometowns. That's what makes it so special," Perry said. "In the next two decades, I see more people coming together, more endowments being created, and a deeper commitment to ensuring that local needs are met with local resources."

With a special focus on long-term sustainability, Closius said building VCF's unrestricted and discretionary endowment will assure that the foundation's support is secure for our Valley.

"It's about ensuring that the Valley has a permanent, dedicated source of support for generations," Closius said. "I truly believe VCF's best is yet to come."



2020



2021



2022



2023

New Funds of the Valley Community Foundation



As we celebrate the Valley Community Foundation's (VCF) 20th Anniversary, we are honored to introduce the new funds established in 2024 and the inspiring individuals, families, and organizations behind them. For more than two decades, donors have turned to VCF to strengthen local philanthropy, relying on our deep-rooted knowledge of the Valley and steadfast commitment to ensuring its prosperity. These new funds continue that legacy, each created with care and purpose to uplift our community. The Board of Directors, Board Advisory Council and staff are profoundly grateful to the 2024 fundholders for entrusting their legacies and cherished memories to VCF. As we mark this milestone year, we remain dedicated to ensuring these funds create lasting impact -- building a stronger, more vibrant Valley for generations to come.

Rosalie and Richard Averill Scholarship Fund



Rosalie and Richard Averill have long considered establishing a charitable fund to support their beloved Valley community. Having attended several Valley Community Foundation (VCF) annual

meetings and receiving VCF's correspondences since 2012, they were familiar with VCF's role in strengthening local philanthropy. However, it was a Griffin Hospital Corporators event that solidified their decision to act.

"When Stone Academy closed suddenly in 2023, students had their education interrupted, leaving them with an uncertain future," Rosalie said. "We were very impressed that the Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers stepped in and provided a new home for former Stone Academy students and other interested students. That dedication to education and community service resonated deeply with us."

The couple were determined to make a difference, so they had decided to support the Valley and its next generation of healthcare professionals and establish the Rosalie and Richard Averill Scholarship Fund. This scholarship provides financial assistance to students attending the

Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers, with priority given to students from Valley towns, who might otherwise not be able to afford a healthcare education.

"The fund will help students starting a career in healthcare," Rosalie said. "With an aging population, the need for well-trained healthcare professionals is increasing. We wanted to support those willing to step up and serve the community."

Richard and Rosalie's decision to create a VCF fund was purposeful.

"We are both Valley born and raised and establishing the scholarship here ensures that local students have the opportunity to succeed," Richard said. "We wanted to create something that would provide ongoing, long-term support for future healthcare professionals."

Richard and Rosalie hope that the students who receive assistance from this scholarship will remain in the Valley, giving back to the community by providing essential healthcare services.

"Deep gratitude for those who helped us in our early years drives us to set an example for future generations," Rosalie said. "For anyone considering starting a fund, pick an objective for the fund that you feel passionate about. Do your research to understand how a fund can meet your personal goals and make an impact on someone's life."

"The fund will help students starting a career in healthcare."

Thomas and Diane Baklik Family Fund



Walk into The Yankee Clipper, and you'll know right away Tom Baklik is a gregarious, joyful and positive-energy person who is always working on behalf of some cause. His barbershop, now a fixture in Seymour, isn't just a

place for a haircut, it's a community hub where stories are told, laughter echoes, and friendships deepen. It's a place that embodies everything Tom loves about the Valley -- a strong sense of belonging, neighbors looking out for one another, and a deep pride in the community he's always called home.

In 2024, Tom and his wife, Diane, established the Thomas and Diane Baklik Family Fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) to support organizations that have touched their hearts throughout their lives, such as The Recreation Camp in Derby and the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley. Their donor-advised fund allows them flexibility, during their lifetimes, to support other causes as well.

"The Valley has given me so much, and this is a way to give back," Tom said. "These organizations have been part

of my life since I was a kid, and I want to make sure they continue to be there for future generations."

Tom, a lifelong Derby native who built his business and raised a family in this small city, never lost sight of the values that make this community special. Diane, who spent 35 years as a dedicated teacher at Derby High School, shares that same commitment to the Valley. Together, they've made giving back a way of life.

Tom's legendary barbershop at his home, The Yankee Clipper, was originally in Derby for 30 years before he moved it to Seymour 25 years ago to "retire."

"You don't just go to Tom's for a haircut, you go for the camaraderie, the conversation, and the stories," said Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. "Tom has created a space where the Valley comes together, and his generosity extends far beyond his shop."

That generosity is evident in the many ways Tom and Diane give back. They host multiple fundraisers each year to support local causes including their famous Yankee Clipper Annual Christmas Breakfast, where hundreds of people come to kick-off the holiday season and bring toys for TEAM's Toys 4 Kids program.

"Tom and Diane's fund will be their legacy to the Valley," Closius said. "It's a reflection of who they are, deeply rooted in the Valley, passionate about community, and always ready to help. Their impact and their fund will be felt for generations to come."

"The Valley has given me so much, and this is a way to give back."

John A. Bondos Scholarship Fund



John A. Bondos dedicated his life to education and his beloved hometown of Shelton. A proud WWII veteran and lifelong educator, John spent decades shaping young minds as a mathematics teacher and later as principal of Shelton High School and Lafayette School. When he retired in 1984, he chose to give back to the community by establishing a scholarship at Shelton High School to help

future graduates pursue their educational dreams.

For years, the John A. Bondos Scholarship was managed

at Shelton High School, supporting students in need and funded by annual donations. However, in 2014, as part of a broader effort to ensure the longevity of local scholarships, former Shelton High School Principal, Beth Smith, transferred the scholarship to the Valley Community Foundation's (VCF) Scholarship and Awards Fund. At that time, the Bondos fund had not yet reached VCF's \$10,000 endowment minimum, but John was committed to reach that goal with yearly donations. After he passed away in 2021, his daughter, and the Bondos family, remained committed to building the fund. They contributed regularly, determined to make John's vision of a lasting educational legacy a reality.

"Education was everything to my dad," said Leslie Bondos, his daughter. "He was always grateful that his own education had been covered by the military, knowing that his immigrant parents could never have afforded to send him or his eight siblings to college. He wanted

to ensure that future students would not miss out on opportunities due to financial hardship.”

Leslie’s dedication was met with a heartfelt and transformative moment in 2024 when her aunt, made a generous contribution to fully endow the fund. With this donation, the John A. Bondos Scholarship Fund became a permanent source of support in honor of her father.

“Knowing that my dad’s scholarship will live on in perpetuity means the world to me,” Leslie says. “Many scholarships, when managed solely by schools, risk being spent down or abandoned over time when family

members pass on and can no longer support them. By transferring the fund to VCF, we’ve ensured that it will continue to thrive and help deserving students for years to come.”

Leslie’s journey with her father’s fund serves as an important reminder that with careful stewardship, a family’s legacy of generosity can be preserved and strengthened. She encourages others to follow their passions when considering charitable giving. “Choose something you care deeply about,” Leslie said. “Giving back in a meaningful way creates an impact that lasts far beyond our lifetimes.”

“He wanted to ensure that future students would not miss out on opportunities due to financial hardship.”

Ralph, Thelma, and Paul Davis Fund



For John and Laura Zaprzalka, giving back to the Valley isn’t just something they do -- it’s who they are. Their dedication to the community has been woven into their family’s fabric for generations. With the establishment of the Ralph, Thelma, and Paul Davis Fund -- their fourth Donor Advised Fund at the

Valley Community Foundation (VCF) -- they continue a remarkable tradition of philanthropy that honors their family’s enduring commitment to the Valley.

This newest fund is deeply personal. It is named in honor of John’s grandparents, Ralph and Thelma Davis, as well as his uncle/godparent, Paul Davis, and cousin, Paul Davis, Jr., collectively the Davis Oil Company of Derby. The fund reflects the values of hard work, generosity, and service that have been hallmarks of the Davis family for decades. Through quiet, everyday acts of kindness, they made a lasting impact in the community by helping those in need. The Zaprzalkas are no strangers to giving through VCF. Their first fund, the John & Laura Zaprzalka Family Fund, was established in 2014 while John was serving on the

VCF Board of Directors, including a term as chairman. Just a year later, he and his siblings established the Joe & Judy Zaprzalka Family Fund in memory of their parents, ensuring that their family’s spirit of giving would live on. In 2016, John and Laura established the Katarzyna & Ludwik Zaprzalka Fund in honor of John’s grandparents, further cementing their commitment to the Valley.

“John and Laura’s generosity is a powerful reminder of the family heritage that makes the Valley such a special place and where every family has the opportunity to create such a legacy,” said Sharon Closius, VCF’s President and CEO. “They are setting an incredible example for others in the Valley who want to not only give back but also pay tribute to family members who impacted their lives and the lives of others in the Valley.”

With each fund, the Zaprzalkas are honoring their family members who had a big impact on their lives. Each fund will support organizations that they supported during their lifetimes. John, who served on the VCF Board from 2007 to 2016, is also a proud member of the Gates Society alongside Laura.

“This fund is a beautiful tribute to John’s grandparents, uncle, and cousin,” said Beth Colette, VCF’s Donor Services Manager. “The Davis family’s kindness and willingness to help others in need left a lasting mark on the Valley, and thanks to John and Laura, that spirit of generosity will continue for years to come.”

“Generosity is a powerful reminder of the family heritage that makes the Valley such a special place and where every family has the opportunity to create such a legacy.”

Paul and Sherry Konwerski Future Plumbers Scholarship Fund



In 2024, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) welcomed the establishment of the Paul and Sherry Konwerski-Future Plumbers Scholarship Fund. The heartfelt initiative was created by Paul and Sherry who

are dedicated to supporting graduates of Platt Technical High School in Milford. For the Konwerski family, this scholarship represents not only a commitment to their community but also a way to address a pressing need within the plumbing industry.

Paul -- owner of Paul the Plumber, Inc. -- has built a thriving plumbing and heating business serving New Haven and Fairfield Counties. Known for their professionalism and expertise, they have always emphasized the importance of reliable and skilled tradespeople.

"The plumbing industry is shrinking," Paul said. "Many licensed individuals are retiring, and this scholarship will help others enter the field, ensuring the trades' future." Sherry owns a financial consulting firm -- Bonus Business Services, Inc. -- and teaches business and financial skills to entrepreneurs.

The Konwerskis are no strangers to philanthropy or to VCF. They previously established a family fund to honor Paul's late parents, Paul and Gloria Konwerski, both lifelong educators.

"Supporting students entering the trades is so important for our community," said Sharon Closius, President and CEO of VCF. "Jobs in the trades provide a living wage for young people, teach them self-reliance, and equip them with business skills that offer lifetime job security. This fund will not only help individuals succeed but will also strengthen our local workforce and economy for years to come."

The Paul and Sherry Konwerski-Future Plumbers Scholarship Fund will provide the trade school's graduates -- Paul's alma mater -- with the financial resources needed to attain apprenticeships by being able to purchase essential plumbing tools and equipment, a critical step for starting a career and gaining the experience required to become licensed.

"We hope to see the number of licensed plumbers grow as younger people enter the industry and eventually become business owners themselves," Sherry said. "The Konwerski family has been part of the Valley for generations and we wanted to create something that would continue to help others long after we're gone." Through this scholarship fund, Paul and Sherry want to create a legacy that others can contribute to, ensuring future generations of skilled tradespeople while continuing to make a profound impact on the Valley community they cherish. The new fund, the couple says, can be built up by family, friends and supporters, and will go on to help students long after they are gone.

"The plumbing industry is shrinking, many licensed individuals are retiring, and this scholarship will help others enter the field, ensuring the trades' future."

Paul R. Lutson Charitable Fund



Paul R. Lutson dedicated his life to service -- both to his country and to his fellow veterans. As a proud U.S. Army veteran who served in Korea and Germany, Paul never stopped looking out for those who served. Whether through his work as a Service Officer at the American Legion Post #24 and City Hall in Derby, or his involvement with the

Catholic War Veterans, the VFW, and the Disabled Veterans of America, Paul made it his mission to help his fellow veterans.

It was this unwavering commitment and love of his community that led Paul to establish the Paul R. Lutson Charitable Fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) in December 2024. His vision was clear -- create a lasting resource that would continue to support charitable causes important to him.

Sadly, Paul passed away suddenly in March of 2025, just before the publication of this Annual Report. Although

he did not live to see his fund in action, his generosity, dedication and foresight will endure for generations. “He was patriotic and loyal and Paul was always the guy you could count on,” said his longtime friend, fellow Derby veterans service officer, Andy Cota. “If a vet needed help, Paul was the first to step up, no questions asked.” Cota recalls how Paul would spend hours helping fellow veterans navigate the complex benefits system -- local, state and federal -- making sure they received the support they had earned.

“He believed no veteran should be left behind,” Cota said. “Plus, he was relentless when it came to helping someone. If a vet needed something, anything, he found a way. A

program, a fund and grant, something, to make sure that vet got what they needed.”

“Paul wanted to make sure that his efforts to help others continued long after he was gone,” said Sharon Closius, VCF’s President and CEO. “He had such a big heart, and his fund is a perfect reflection of his generosity. Now, it will be there to help others, just like he always did.”

Through the Paul R. Lutson Charitable Fund, Paul’s legacy of service and kindness will live on, Closius said.

“His impact on the Valley’s veteran community is immeasurable, and his commitment to his fellow veterans and community will never be forgotten,” Closius said.

“Paul wanted to make sure that his efforts to help others continued long after he was gone.”

Christ Episcopal Church Ansonia Fund



Last year, the leadership of Christ Episcopal Church in Ansonia decided to secure the future of several cherished bequests by transferring them to the Valley Community Foundation (VCF). This move, guided by Nancy Valentine, Senior Warden of Christ Episcopal Church and Chair of VCF’s Board of Directors, was driven by a shared commitment to preserving the intentions of past donors amidst a period of transition for the church.

The bequests -- one from a devoted, long-time parishioner and another from her sister, who lived in Virginia but was inspired by her sibling’s glowing accounts of church life -- represent decades of faith and trust in Christ Episcopal Church. Over time, the church had managed these funds through CDs, a process that required meticulous tracking and reinvestment.

However, Valentine said the church members recognized the need for a more streamlined and impactful approach.

“Dealing with church funds by the vestry is tedious work done by community volunteers,” Valentine said. “Knowing we needed to be good stewards in the management of church finances, I recommended combining the many CDs into one fund with VCF, and that was met favorably in 2024.”

The newly established Christ Episcopal Church Ansonia Fund is an Investment Only Organization Fund, a specialized fund designed for charitable organizations. This type of fund allows assets to be collectively invested, ensuring financial growth while maintaining alignment with the organization’s mission. For the church, this step is especially significant as it navigates uncertainties, including declining membership, the future of its 176-year-old building, and the sustainability of its vital outreach programs like the Samela Food Pantry.

Valentine’s deep connection to both Christ Episcopal Church and VCF underscores the alignment of their missions. Her personal history with VCF -- from participating in its founding discussions more than 20 years ago to establishing her own fund in 2009 -- provided valuable insight into the benefits of a community foundation.

“Having been the recipients of bequests means Christ Church has the responsibility of prudent management of these funds,” Valentine said. “VCF provides us with detailed reporting on the performance of our investment, building trust with the congregation.”

Looking ahead, the Christ Episcopal Church Ansonia Fund stands as a testament to thoughtful stewardship and community commitment. By partnering with VCF, the church ensures that the legacy of its donors will continue to support its mission and the Valley community, regardless of what the future holds. This collaboration exemplifies the power of philanthropy to preserve history while building resilience for generations to come.

“VCF provides us with detailed reporting on the performance of our investment, building trust with the congregation.”

Valley Foundation Fund



In 2024, in a historic moment for the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), the Valley Foundation Fund, established in 1980, was transferred from The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) to VCF. This transfer represents the fulfillment of a long-anticipated vision set forth by committed Valley leaders and advocates more than four decades ago.

The Valley Foundation Fund was born from the foresight of the Valley Chamber of Commerce, which in the late 1970s formed a Foundation Feasibility Committee to explore the establishment of a dedicated foundation to serve the Valley's five towns: Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. The committee, led by William E. Hoblitzelle III, recognized the importance of securing local control over charitable funds while leveraging the established infrastructure of TCF. In 1979, Attorney Charles Kingsley said that a Valley-based foundation should one day be able to assume full control of its own fund.

On July 31, 1980, Henry (Harry) W. Bassett, a prominent Valley business leader and philanthropist, made the first contribution of \$2,000 to what was then called the Valley Fund. This fund, later renamed the Valley Foundation

Fund, was intended to serve the long-term philanthropic needs of the Valley. Bassett and his colleagues envisioned a future where the Valley would have its own community foundation, dedicated to addressing local needs. That vision became a reality 24 years later with the help of Valley philanthropists and leaders who worked hard with TCF to establish VCF in 2004.

"This is a full-circle moment," said Bill Purcell, President and CEO of the Valley Chamber of Commerce. "When the Chamber and Harry Bassett established the Valley Foundation Fund in 1980, the hope was that one day it would grow into something that could truly benefit the entire Valley."

For decades, the Valley Foundation Fund was managed by TCF to support charitable work in the Valley. In 2024, VCF staff met with then-TCF President and CEO, William Ginsberg, to discuss its future. Given the fund's strong Valley ties and VCF's upcoming 25th Anniversary endowment campaign, they determined it would be the perfect repository for the initiative. Ginsberg and the TCF Board wholeheartedly agreed. The fund, now a preference fund at VCF, will provide vital support for future VCF community and leadership building initiatives.

"People from the Valley have always been very benevolent minded," said Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. "Harry Bassett and the Valley Chamber had the foresight to lay the foundation for a community-based philanthropic vehicle, long before VCF existed."

"People from the Valley have always been very benevolent minded."



VALLEYNESS™:

Valleyness is a word coined by the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) Board of Directors to express the Valley's unique essence. It's a word that captures the neighborly, kind, caring spirit, and rich history engrained in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. Valleyness encompasses a set of values, characteristics, and actions that traditionally define the Valley community and its people. Valleyness is the embodiment of positive and good qualities, actions, and deeds, that create a strong and vibrant community that cares for its members and works together to build a better future.

How to set up a Fund

How to Set Up a Fund with the Valley Community Foundation

1

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?

2

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.

3

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.

Our Vision:

A vibrant inclusive Valley that is thriving, collaborative, generous, with a shared sense of community and opportunity.

Our Mission:

To inspire philanthropic growth, provide and foster leadership, engage donors, and strengthen the Valley community both now and for future generations.

Our Values:

ACCESSIBLE - User-friendly to individuals and entities with diverse interests

COMMITTED - to having a stake in solutions, partnerships and cultivating new leaders

EQUITABLE - always seeking full participation of diverse cultures and perspectives

RESPONSIVE - listening and addressing the current needs and interests of the community

STRATEGIC - anticipating future needs, opportunities and solutions

TRUSTED - by the community, donors, and nonprofit organizations

UNIFYING - by recognizing the Valley's cohesive regional identity.

Valley Community Foundation Funds

Since its founding in 2004, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) has been a driving force for philanthropy, helping local donors establish more than 260 funds that continue to make a lasting difference in the region. These funds have supported scholarships for countless students, strengthened area nonprofits, and provided essential resources to those in need.

This section of the Annual Report highlights the many impactful funds that have enriched the lives of Valley residents and organizations. Whether through education, community programs, or direct assistance, these funds

reflect the generosity and vision of those dedicated to making the Valley a better place.

VCF-managed funds have also been a lifeline in times of crisis, offering crucial aid during the COVID-19 pandemic and, more recently, in response to the devastating flood on August 18, 2024. In moments of uncertainty, these funds have provided critical support, reinforcing VCF's commitment to helping the Valley remain strong, resilient, and prepared for the future.





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
 Bette Mae's Memorial Fund
 Birmingham Foundation Fund
 Edward J. & Marie M. Cecarelli Book Fund
 Center Stage Theatre- Building Community 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
 Rita Rae Keefe Memorial Fund
 Robert C. Lang Fund
 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
 E. B. Walsh 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

Donor Advised Funds

The easiest way to support nonprofits and causes dear to you in the Valley and beyond is through a Donor Advised Fund. Offering maximum flexibility, you recommend grants from the fund to any qualified public charity in the country. 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
 Thomas & Diane Baklik Family Fund*
 Bassett Family Fund
 Beel Pesch 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
 Ralph, Thelma, & Paul Davis 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
 Harbinson Heritage Fund
 Carol Ann Hyder Memorial Fund
 Jones Family Farms Fund
 Kaplan Family Fund
 Paul & Gloria Konwerski Family Fund
 Edward and Laura Lane Family Fund
 John Lauretti Memorial Family Fund
 Barry and Josephine Lifrieri Fund
 Lombardi Twins Fund for The Valley
 Paul R. Lutson Charitable Fund*
 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
 Drew Pickering, Sr. Memorial 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

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
 Christ Episcopal Church, Ansonia 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



* New Fund in 2024





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. VCF makes grants to nonprofits that serve the donor's field of interest in perpetuity.

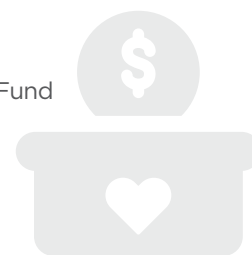
Ancient Order of Hibernians, Derby Division Fund
 Cohen Community Fund
 Susan Coyle Family Fund
 Lawrence J. DeTullio, Jr. Fund
 The Future Fund
 Herb Rollinson Fund
 Shelton Congregational Church Fund
 Valley Foundation Fund*
 Mary Vartelas Stamos Fund
 Angelina M. and Valentina V. Vitali Fund
 Selma 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
 Rosalie & Richard Averill Scholarship Fund*
 Bruno Battaglini Memorial Fund
 Stella Behuniak Fund
 Winston J. Bish Memorial Scholarship Fund
 John F. Blake, Jr. Memorial Prize Fund
 John A. Bondos Scholarship 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 Non-Endowed Scholarship Fund
 Derby High School 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
 Imperato Family 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
 Paul & Sherry Konwerski- Future Plumbers 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
 Patrick R. McNamara Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Dr. Carol Merlone Scholarship Fund
 Elliott Moscato 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
 Dr. Michael A. Parlato 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 us 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 VCF the flexibility to prioritize and address high-priority issues.

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



* New Fund in 2024



The Gates Society

For nearly two decades, the Gates Society has stood as a heartfelt cornerstone of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), ensuring that the kindness and generosity of its members continue to touch lives for generations. Through planned gifts and endowments, the Gates Society carries forward the charitable vision of those who have gone before, leaving an enduring legacy for future generations. Named in honor of Ross and Frank Gates, two brothers whose philanthropic efforts helped shape the Valley community, the society honors individuals who, like the Gates brothers, have made provisions in their estate plans to support the Valley long after they are gone.

Joseph and Donald Warichar are shining examples of this legacy of giving. Like the Gates brothers, Joe and Don dedicated themselves to their families and careers early in life, and later, in retirement, they sought to give back to the Valley -- a community that had provided them with stability and a sense of belonging.

Raised in Derby, Joe and Don were instilled with the values of hard work and community by their parents, Joseph and Pauline Warichar. "During our lifetime, we have witnessed the economic changes in the Valley, particularly in Derby, and we wanted to contribute in our own way," Don said.

In 2006, to honor their parents, the brothers established the Joseph and Pauline Warichar Memorial Scholarship Fund at VCF. Their parents had always emphasized the importance of education, and this fund has since provided four-year scholarships to Derby High School students pursuing careers in nursing, pharmacology, or agriculture. In 2012, they expanded their

philanthropic efforts by creating the Warichar Family Fund, a donor-advised fund that allowed them to support a variety of causes close to their hearts, such as Valley food banks, critical equipment for first responders, animal welfare, and community leadership.

Although Joe and Don had already made a commitment to the Valley through their funds, they recognized that their estate gift could have an even greater, lasting impact, extending their contribution to the Valley well beyond their lifetimes. By naming VCF as a beneficiary, their plan became straightforward, designating their fund as the beneficiary of their life insurance, retirement assets, and bank accounts.

"Our family is very small, and we consider the Valley like a beloved family member," Don said. "We know we can't take anything with us when we leave this world so wanted to give back in a way that would have the greatest impact."

In 2024, Joe passed away at the age of 89. Now, Don is honoring the plans they created together, through estate planning ensuring that their legacy continues to support the community they loved so dearly. The Warichar brothers' deep commitment to the Valley, combined with their thoughtful, enduring approach to philanthropy, reflects the true spirit of the Gates Society.

"Philanthropy isn't just about giving -- it's about the love of humanity and community," said Beth Colette, VCF's Manager of Donor Services. "Joe and Don's gifts to the Valley through VCF will stand as a lasting testament to their profound affection for the community and their prevailing belief in its potential."



Joseph Warichar



Donald Warichar



2024

The Gates Society Members

Anonymous (6)
Dayne & Dawn Bachmann
Twan & Karen Bentlage
Leslie Bondos
Sharon Closius
Jamie Cohen
Jane Cohen*
Edmund J. Conklin*
John Corrado
Angela Curas*
Patricia DeCicco
Walter & Bonnie Drozeck
Helen Dubrava*
Patricia Dziuba
Gregg Goumas
Robert & Sheri Grier
William & Jo-Anna Holden
Michael Hyder*
Heidi Kaplan
Deborah Kelo
M. Elizabeth Kennard
Richard Knoll
Laura Lane
Robert C. Lang*
Barry & Josephine Lifrieri
Bette Mae Luedecker*
Raymond Mackowski*
Mary Theresa Mahoney*
Ned Miller

Raymond Oppel
David & Dale Ortoli
Fred Ortoli
Lynn Ortoli*
Joseph Pagliaro, Jr.
Dorothy Palazzi
Carol Pendagast
Lynne Bassett Perry
David & Joan Rifkin
Beth Ann Smith
Donald W. Smith, Sr.*
Brad & Marianne Smythe
Fred Stanek
Karen Stanek*
Nicholas & Patricia Tarasovic
Alan Tyma
Robert & Eleonora Van Egghe
Marc C. Vincent*
Valentina Vitali*
Kathie Vriik
Jack Walsh
Donald E. Warichar
Joseph R. Warichar*
Lynn Wozniak
John & Laura Zaprzalka

*Deceased





Anonymous (8)
 Advancing Heroes Fund, Inc.
 Susan Agamy
 Robert Ahearn
 Kimberlee Allison
 Stephen Anderson
 Bruce & Lee Angeloszek
 Kim Aston
 Rosalie & Richard Averill
 Erik Baker
 Thomas & Diane Baklik
 Eloise Ballard Raymond
 Bill & Pat Banfe
 Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
 Ronald Barber
 Barnum Engineered Systems, Inc.
 Scott Barton
 David & Blanche Beck
 Ryan Beel & Olivia Pesch
 Horace & Edith Behrle
 Jeanne Belchak
 Benevity Community Impact Fund
 Mark & Shelly Bennett
 Antonius Bentlage & Karen Bentlage
 Charitable Lead Trust
 Patricia Birch
 Heather Blacha
 Hilary Black
 Michael Black
 Ken Blanchard
 Raymond & Janet Blanchette
 Paul Blanco
 Robert Bock & Mary Gengo-Bock
 Leslie Bondos
 Ronald Bonito
 Will Bothwell
 Barbara Bottiglieri
 Mary Brandon-Yourwith
 William & Jo Ann Brennan
 Francine Buckley
 Jay Budahazy

William & Rita Budahazy
 Rory Burke
 Jeff & Marcia Burkitt
 Patricia Burns
 Peter Burns
 Tammy Burrell
 Samantha Burroughs
 Michelle Calkins
 Nicholas Cannata
 Anita Cardona
 Kimberly Caro
 Robert & Nancy Carroll
 Dana Casey
 Cassetti for State Rep
 Karen A. Cassetti
 Melanie Cecarelli & Michael Smith
 Chaotic 3 Workshop, LLC
 Charities Aid Foundation of America
 Jara Chen
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Doreen Chudoba
 Alan & Mary Lou Clapes
 Barbara Clifford
 Sharon Closius
 Matthew Cohen
 Frank Colandro
 Randall & Beth Colette
 Edmund & Barbara Conklin
 Edward Conroy
 Theresa Conroy
 John Coppola
 Whitey Costello
 Michael & Susan Cox
 Eric Darmofal
 Elizabeth Deane
 Albert Decant
 Martin DeFelice
 Lynn Dell
 Corinne Dellaera-Bish
 Derby Public Schools
 Brian & Louise Desmond

John & Elizabeth DiBiaso
 Carmen Dicenso
 Dominick Di Gangi &
 Valerie Knight-Di Gangi
 Divining Your Life
 Peter & Carole Doyle
 Annmarie Drugonis
 Eagle Hose #6
 Jason Edwards
 Patti Ellis
 Joyce Emmett
 Evisions
 Fairview Tree Farm
 Edward Faulkner
 Martin Ferraro
 James & Cindy Filipowich
 Mike Fitzgerald
 Mike & Nicole Fitzgerald
 Donna Forte
 Kirk & Marian Frederickson
 Friends of the Southington
 Public Library
 Melanie & Malcolm Galen
 Michael Gallo
 Dennis Garofalo
 James & Nancy Geissler
 Sandra Gesek &
 Elizabeth Sponheimer
 Christopher Giannone
 Daniel Giannone
 John Giannone
 Mathew Giannone
 Nick Giannone
 William & Kel Ginsberg
 Francis & Dona Ginty
 Lynn Giordano
 Gregg Goumas
 Mark & Gwen Goumas
 Linda Gryniuk
 James & Bert Guarrera
 Howard & Judy Gura

DONORS





Frank Haines
Teri Haines
Sandra Haley
Matthew Halko
Logan Hallett
Harbor Oak Team
Sara Harper
Ralph & Lynne Harrison
Keith & Rebecca Hedegus
Jacob Heerd
Kurt & Carmel Heim
Neil Heslin
Judy Higson
Arthur & Lovisa Hill
Chuck Hite
Katrina Holden
Robert Hyder
Stanley & Phyllis Jachimowski
Edward Jaekle
Carmelo & Mary Jimenez
Jones Family Farms, LLC
Edward Jones
Terry & Jean Jones

Julia Day Nursery of Ansonia, Inc
John Jurkowski
Thomas & Michelle Kachmarck
Lorraine Kapinos
Harriet Karkut
Sue Keefe
Deborah Kelo
Kelsel Temple
Richard & Barbara Kemp
M. Elizabeth Kennard
David Kennedy
Kathleen Kiley
Sandra Kiley
Ed & Aleta Kisluk
Sheryl Konnik
Richard Kollet
Paul Kondrath
John & Janet Konicki
Paul & Sherry Konwerski
Peter Konwerski & Leah Rosen
Sheila Kozerowitz
Krafty Pineapple Creations, LLC
Edward & Laura Lane
James Lane
Jill Lanese
Estate of Robert Lang
Joan Lawlor & Karen Bilodeau
John & Eileen Lawlor
Catherine Lesko-Boneski
Debra Lieberman
Michele Linane
Robert & Karen Lisi
Anthony LoPresti
Sean LoPresti
Joan Lozier
Pegs Lucarelli
Robert Lungarini
Paul Lutson
Cathleen Lynch
Jean Lynch
William & Judi Lynch
Thomas & Susan Macisco

Walter Mack
MaryEllen MacKinnon
Jennifer Magri
Kathleen Malerba
Dannel Malloy
Arthur Martin
Laura Martin
Susan Martin
Erik Martire
Gerald Matusovich
Barbara Mayers
Dave Mazzulli
Mary McAndrews
Christopher McCabe
Girard & Suzanne McDonald
Peggy McGough
Karen McGovern
Erin McKnight
Thomas & Maryann McMahon
Felicia McPhail
Rachel Meier
Denise Miles
Mark & Carol Miller
Ned Miller
Albert Misiewicz & Nicole Cignoli
Carol Mobilio
Grace Monahan
Franco & Silvana Monaco
Pat Moran
Robert & Sheila Moseley
Cheryl Nally
Janice Napoletano
Steven Ng
Elizabeth Nicoletti
Amy O'Brien
Pamela J. O'Brien
Brian O'Connell
Tricia O'Malley
Ryan Oppel
Patricia Oram
Chikezie Orchingwa
Fred Ortolini





Jennifer Ottalagana
 Dr. Michael Parlato Trust
 John Pawlowski
 Jon & Kristin Pedersen
 Lucas Peixoto
 Joe & Valerie Pellegrini
 Nancy Pereiras
 Linda Perini
 Craig & Lynne Perry
 Michael & Susannah Petro
 Candace Pickering
 Patty Picoli
 Carmen & Margaret Pitney
 George Plaumann
 Wendy Poeta-Tisi
 Joe Potenza
 Catherine Primavera
 Paul Primavera
 Lorraine Pucci
 Joseph Purdy
 Robert Puterski
 Quincy High School Football
 John & Margaret Rafferty
 Aaron Rak
 Robert Rapp, Jr.
 Barbara Regan
 Jeanne & Robert Reichelt
 Linda Reznik
 Melissa Rice-Jarrel
 David Rivera
 Steven Roseboro
 Ed & Jean Rostowsky
 Rotary Club of Ansonia,
 Seymour, and Oxford, CT
 David Ryan
 Saber Guild
 John Sabulis
 Jay Saccone
 Peter & Karen Saccu
 Peter Saccu
 Joann Sardo
 Marian Schmitz

Schwab Charitable Fund
 Elizabeth Schwebel
 Alice Seccombe
 Bob Seccombe
 Charles & Renee Seccombe
 Patricia Allen Selsky
 Seymour Democratic
 Town Committee
 Seymour Fathers Club
 Seymour High School
 Seymour High School Goal Club
 Shelton Ct Gaels Alumni Association
 Cindy Simell-Devoe
 Thomas Simonetti
 Kate Slomkowski
 Martha Smart
 Donald & Lisa Smith
 Brad & Marianne Smythe
 Christie Sobin
 Sturgis Sobin
 Mary Sorcinelli
 Peter & Cheryl Sosnovich, Jr.
 St. Barbara Greek Orthodox
 Paul Stamos
 Frederick Stanek
 Shaun Supp
 Douglas Sutherland
 Leon & Barbara Sylvester
 Christine Syriac
 Richard Szanto
 Penelope Tambis
 Patricia Tarasovic
 Lani Marc Tarozzi
 TEAM, Inc.
 Teddy Bear Treehouse
 Learning Center
 Debra Testa
 Janet Thomas
 Rev. Christopher Tiano
 Fred & Beverly Tidmarsh
 Deidre Tindall
 Jeffrey Tottenham

United Way of Greater Waterbury
 Carole Urban
 John Uysal
 Valley United Way
 Allan Vartelas
 John Vitello & Janice Howard
 Kathie Vrlík
 Wallingford Public Library
 Elizabeth Walsh
 Jack Walsh
 Donald Warichar
 Jean Webber
 Tom & Jodi Welch
 Sandra Wellinghoff
 Deborah Wells
 Nathaniel Wells
 Patricia Wells
 Rodney Wells
 Royal Wells
 Thomas Wells
 Ken & Jody Wilson-Hajducky
 Stephen Winkel
 Lynne Wozniak
 Cary Yeh & Lynn O'Neil
 Thomas Zaldumbide
 John & Laura Zaprzalka
 Gary & Marybeth Zaremski
 Katherine Zollo
 Robert Zuraw
 Sandra Pepe Zuraw

DONORS

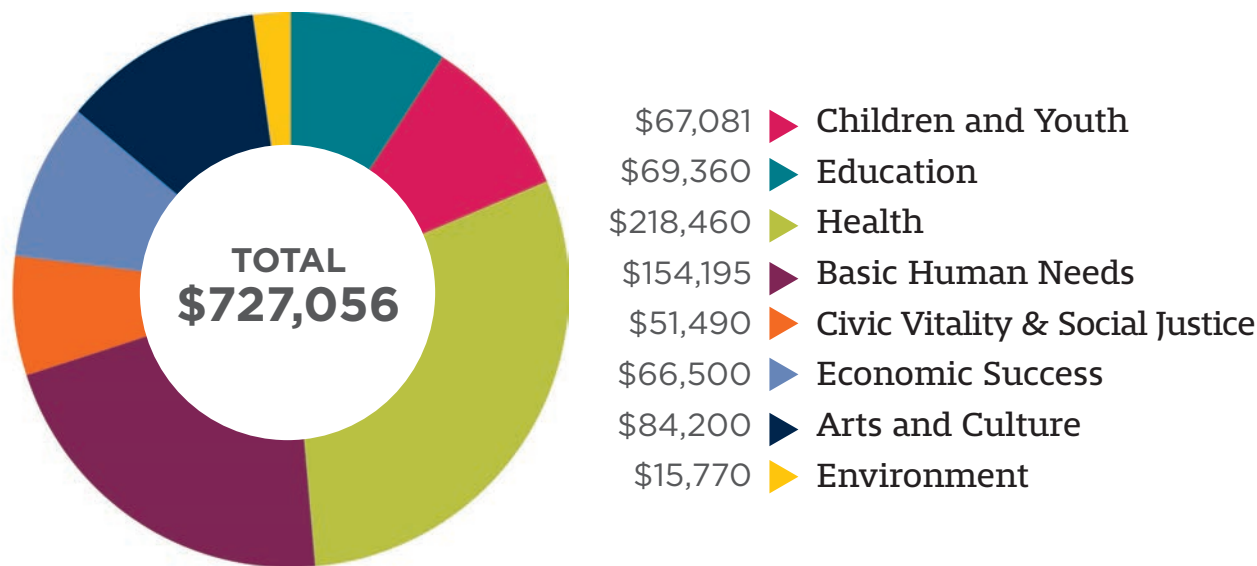


MOVING FORWARD
 Investing in Our Future



Community Investment

The Valley Community Foundation’s mission is to inspire philanthropic growth, provide and foster leadership, engage donors, and strengthen the Valley community both now and for future generations.



This data reflects grants made through the Responsive (New and Multi-year), Needs and Opportunities, Sponsorship, and Community Grants programs. It does not include \$88,090 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	76	12,082,730	218	520,512
DESIGNATED & ORGANIZATION TRANSFERS	75	19,232,564	53	386,744
SCHOLARSHIPS	90	4,145,407	111	209,465
UNRESTRICTED & PREFERENCE	15	3,197,205	40	188,681



Responsive Grants



The Valley Community Foundation's (VCF) Responsive Grants program supports organizations and programs that serve Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and/or Shelton. Organizations marked with a single asterisk (*) represent one-time grants. Grants marked with a double asterisk (**) represent organizations that received a continuation grant from 2023. All other organizations listed are receiving multi-year grants.

Adam's House - To provide general operating support for its bereavement program. **\$10,000**

Area Congregations Together, Inc. - To provide general operating support for its housing program. **\$25,000**

BHcare - To provide general operating support for behavioral health and to help victims of domestic violence. **\$20,000**

Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley - To provide general operating support for youth education and recreation programs. **\$25,000**

cARTie - To provide general operating support for its mobile art museum, and programs for families and people of all ages. **\$9,750****

Center Stage Theatre - To provide general operating support for its performing arts programs. **\$20,000**

Cornell Scott-Hill Health Corporation - To provide general operating support for the health and wellbeing of underserved Valley residents. **\$10,000**

Hope Counseling and Behavioral Center - To provide general operating support for service and programs for people with mental health needs. **\$10,000***

Housatonic Council, BSA - To provide general operating support for Valley youth leadership, and character-building programs. **\$19,500****

Julia Day Nursery of Ansonia, Inc. - To provide general operating support for early education and healthy practices programs and services. **\$20,000**

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County - To provide general operating support for education-to-workforce programs. **\$25,000**

Life Health and Wellness Center - To provide general operating support for child-care, community outreach, and elder services. **\$19,500****

Massaro Community Farm - To provide general operating support for initiatives that help Valley residents access educational programs and affordable, healthy and locally grown food. **\$6,500****

Online Journalism Project - To provide general operating support for online local coverage. **\$25,000**

Rape Crisis Center of Milford - To provide general operating support for programs that help victims of sexual assault in the Valley. **\$3,900****

St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley - To provide general support for infrastructure, sustainability and client outreach. **\$20,800****

Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps - To provide general operating support to assist in meeting client basic needs. **\$20,000**

Shelton Historical Society - To provide general operating support to help the Society present and promote history from multiple perspectives. **\$14,950****

TEAM, Inc. - To support the installation of a new elevator at its main Derby office. **\$50,000**

Traveler on a Mission - To provide general operating support to help Valley residents with access to hygiene supplies, incontinence products, and youth education programs. **\$6,500****

Valley Emergency Medical Services - To purchase new heart-monitoring equipment. **\$30,000**

Valley YMCA - To provide general operating support for programs in the Valley that strengthen families, youth development, healthy living, volunteerism, and access to food and affordable housing. **\$13,000****

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.

Agency on Aging of South Central CT - To provide monthly, home delivered groceries and annual gift cards to low-income older adults and people with disabilities living in the Valley. **\$10,000**

Best Buddies Connecticut - To support the Virtual School Friendship and Leadership Development Programs in Valley Schools. **\$10,000**

Derby Historical Plaque Project - To provide 3 nonprofits in Derby that own historical buildings with support to purchase and install plaques identifying the historical significance of the structures that house their organizations. **\$3,150**

Derby Historical Society - To support for the printing of a recently produced book entitled "350 Years of Derby History". **\$500**

Haven's Harvest - To provide general operating support to conduct food recovery work in the Valley. **\$10,000**

Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America - To purchase a new and more easily handled tractor mower to maintain its Camp Strang property. **\$1,971**

Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven - To provide general operating support to serve 125 Valley adults, **\$10,000**

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

Moving with Hope - To provide general operating support to expand its 6,000 square foot headquarters in Shelton. **\$10,000**

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**

Oxford Main St. Project - To enhance the entrance to the Little River Nature Preserve in Oxford. **\$5,000**

Partnership to End Human Trafficking - To provide emergency care to self identified or referred victims of human trafficking in the City of Shelton. **\$6,000**

Read to Grow - To bring its bookmobile to the Valley. **\$2,500**

Seymour Ambulance Association

- To purchase new and more efficient training equipment for its volunteer EMS staff. **\$6,000**
- To purchase a new radio system to replace one which was destroyed during the August 2024 Valley Flooding event. **\$6,000**

Shelton High School Gaelhawks Robotics Team - To help continue its mission of spreading STEM awareness. **\$6,360**

Sustainable CT - To support a summer Fellow at the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for work in the Valley region. **\$2,270**

Traveler on a Mission - To support moving expenses and minor renovations to its new space in Ansonia. **\$1,895**

Valley Independent Sentinel - To support the hiring of an experienced freelance reporter. **\$2,500**

Community Grants



This application process recognizes smaller, volunteer or neighborhood groups with grant awards from \$250 to \$2,500.

All in For Oxford - To support a series of facilitated conversations for neighbors to voice needs and concerns. **\$1,400**

All in for Seymour - To support three community conversations to discuss the challenges families are encountering. **\$1,540**

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. **\$2,000**

Belle Sol Inc - To support social emotional programming at the Ansonia Boys and Girls Club specifically focusing on self-care, anxiety, and self confidence topics for girls. **\$2,000**

Boy Scout Troop 51 - To support the building of a trailer to use at events and camping. **\$1,500**

Cub Scout Pack 51 - To support a Pinewood Derby race for current and perspective members of scouting. **\$2,200**

Friends of the Derby Public Library - To support the maintenance and augmentation of the Derby Public Library Community Garden. **\$1,500**

Little Free Pantry on Skokorat - To support a free food pantry that is accessible 24/7 365 days a year. **\$2,500**

Master's Table Community Meals, Inc. - To support the distribution of 130 gift cards for the 2024 holiday season. **\$2,500**

Oxford Neighbor to Neighbor Pantry - To support a free food pantry that is accessible 24/7 365 days a year. **\$2,500**

Ruth's House - To support Ruth's house with essential security and computer equipment. **\$2,100**

Seymour Food 2 Kids - To support a food assistance program for students in the Seymour community. **\$2,500**

Shelton CT Farmers Market - To support the Valley Sprouts Program. **\$2,000**

Southford Falls Quilting Guild - To support the continuation of the legacy of quilting program in the Valley. **\$1,000**

St. Thomas the Apostle Church - To support its grief counseling program. **\$1,260**

The Table - To support free meals for those with food insecurity and isolation. **\$1,500**

Traveling Toys, Inc. - To support expanding the existing toy lending library at the Ansonia Public Library. **\$2,500**



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.

American Legion, Emil Senger Post 10

- To sponsor one boy and one girl to participate in its annual Boys' State and Girls' State Programs. **\$800**

American Legion, John Collins Post

- To sponsor a patriotic essay writing contest for Derby. **\$500**
- To sponsor one girl for its annual Girls' State Program. **\$400**

Best Buddies - To sponsor the annual friendship walk. **\$500**

BHcare - To sponsor its annual Rise and Shine event. **\$1,000**

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

Boy Scout Troop 3

- To sponsor its 110th anniversary celebration. **\$500**
- To sponsor its annual gang show. **\$500**

Celebrate Shelton - To sponsor its 2024 Calendar of Events. **\$2,500**

Covering My Sisters, Inc. -

To sponsor its breast cancer awareness program and paint party celebrations of survivors. **\$1,000**

CT Foundation for Dental Outreach

- To sponsor a free dental clinic. **\$1,000**

CT Hurricanes Drum and Bugle Corps

- To sponsor a Veteran's Appreciation Concert. **\$750**

CT Voices for Children - To sponsor its First for Kids Event. **\$1,000**

DataHaven - To sponsor its 35th anniversary celebration. **\$500**

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

Derby Historical Society - To sponsor a Derby History Bus Tour. **\$1,000**

Derby Shelton Rotary - To sponsor Flags for Heroes. **\$2,500**

Echo Hose Hook and Ladder

Ambulance Corps - To sponsor its 75th anniversary. **\$1,000**

Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center (FANci)

- To sponsor its annual Earth Day and Fall Harvest Celebrations. **\$1,500**

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

Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America

- To sponsor its golf tournament. **\$250**

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County

- To sponsor its career pathways program at Shelton High School. **\$1,000**
- To sponsor its high school heroes program. **\$750**

Literacy Volunteers - To sponsor its annual Scrabble Challenge. **\$500**

Massaro Community Farm - To sponsor Dinner on the Farm. **\$500**

Master's Table - To sponsor its holiday craft fair. **\$500**

NAACP, Valley Chapter

- To sponsor transportation for Ansonia High School Students to view a debate between Yale and Howard Universities. **\$900**
- To sponsor its annual gospel breakfast. **\$1,000**

New Haven Symphony - To sponsor its annual gala. **\$600**

Oxford High School Booster Club

- To sponsor a senior class lockdown for fun event. **\$750**
- To sponsor Take a Stand Day. **\$600**
- To sponsor "Ryan's Story". **\$1,000**

Ruth's House - To sponsor its third annual golf tournament. **\$250**

Seymour Ambulance Association

- To sponsor a mass casualty bus rollover drill. **\$1,000**

Seymour Historical Society - To sponsor the 2023-2024 Educational Speakers Series. **\$2,500**

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

Shelton Exchange Club - To sponsor its annual mini-golf tournament. **\$250**

Shelton Historical Society - To sponsor its 2024 Valley Antique Car Show and Harvest Festival. **\$1,000**

St. Joseph's School - To sponsor its Maroon and Gold Gala. **\$500**

TEAM Inc.

- To sponsor its 59th Annual Meeting. **\$500**
- To sponsor Men Who Cook. **\$1,000**

Traveler on a Mission - To sponsor its Christmas in July and anniversary events. **\$1,000**

Valley Juneteenth Committee - To sponsor its Juneteenth celebration. **\$500**

Valley United Way - To sponsor its community meeting. **\$2,500**



Recognition Grants



Each year, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) Board of Directors recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations for their service to the community. In the spirit of Valleyness and VCF's ongoing dedication to encouraging volunteerism and leadership, these honorees received a VCF Recognition Grant to donate to any Valley nonprofit of their choice. The honorees below are listed with the nonprofits they supported with their grant. These grants were made possible thanks to the shared appreciation of leadership and volunteerism of the Bassett family.

Raymond P. Laviertes Service to Youth Award - Boys and Girls Club

Calvin Price - The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

Charles L. Flynn Humanitarian Award - Valley United Way

Patrick Carey - The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

Jim Guarrera - The Valley United Way

Terry Jones - The Valley United Way

Housatonic Council Valley Leadership Awards

Anthony Delucia - Eagle Hose, Ansonia

Jeffrey Luff - Oxford Main St. Project

Carl J. Miller - Housatonic Council, BSA

Eugene A. Skowronski - Housatonic Council, BSA

In Recognition of Service: Troop 3's 110th Anniversary Honorees

James E. Cohen - BSA, Troop 3

Christine Jalowiec - BSA, Troop 3

Ray Oppel - Housatonic Council, BSA

Gary Parker - BSA, Troop 3

Fr. Chris Tiano - Housatonic Council, BSA

Anne Stankye - Housatonic Council, BSA

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
 Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Regional Data Cooperative, dba DataHaven
 Derby Historical Society
 Echo Hose Hook and Ladder
 Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.
 Griffin Hospital
 Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America
 Julia Day Nursery of Ansonia, Inc
 Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County
 Master's Table Community Meals Inc.
 Online Journalism Project Inc.
 Oxford High School Booster Club, Inc.
 Oxford Main Street Project
 Seymour Ambulance Association
 Seymour Pink, Inc.
 Shelton Economic Development Corporation
 Storm Engine Company Ambulance Corps, Inc.
 TEAM, Inc.
 Valley Shakespeare Festival
 Valley United Way

** Grants made by Donor Unrestricted and Preference Funds.*

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, Lauralton Hall
 Amity Regional High School
 Ansonia High School
 Assumption School

Bassick High School
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
 Bunnell High School
 Central Connecticut State University
 Derby High School
 Derby Public Schools
 DeSales University
 East Haven High School
 Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School
 Gateway Community College
 Hamden High School
 Oxford High School
 Perry Hill School
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Sacred Heart University
 Seymour High School
 Shelton High School
 Shelton Intermediate School
 Southern Connecticut State University
 Trumbull High School
 University of Connecticut
 University of New Haven
 University of Rhode Island
 University of South Florida
 Vermont State University
 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.

Animal Haven, Inc.
 Ansonia High School
 Ansonia Public Library
 Ansonia Public Schools
 Assumption Church
 BHcare
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
 Center Stage Theatre Inc.
 Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
 Chatfield-LoPresti PTA
 Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
 The Culinary Institute of America



Derby High School
 Derby Neck Library
 Derby Public Library
 Emmett O'Brien Regional
 Technical School
 Great Hill Hose Company
 Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Griffin Hospital
 Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts
 of America
 The Kennedy Collective
 Lower Naugatuck Valley
 Parent Child Resource Center
 Massaro Community Farm, Inc.
 Oak Cliff Cemetery Association
 Oak Hill School
 Old Cemetery Association
 of Huntington
 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
 Salvation Army, Eastern Territorial
 Headquarters
 Seymour Oxford Food Bank
 Shelton High School
 Shelton Historical Society, Inc.
 Shelton Public Schools
 Storm Engine Company
 Ambulance Corps, Inc.
 Rowland R. Strong & Edith H.
 Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund
 TEAM, Inc.
 Treasurer, City of Derby
 Trinity Cemetery Association
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Valley United Way
 Valley YMCA
 Woodbridge Town Library

A More Balanced World
 Afrique Prospere Education
 ALS Association, CT Chapter
 American Farmland Trust
 American Red Cross, CT Chapter
 Ansonia Public Schools
 Ansonia Rescue Medical Services
 Area Congregations Together, Inc.
 Assumption School
 Bethany Library Association
 Beth-El Center Inc.
 Better Days Rescue Fund
 BHcare
 Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower
 Naugatuck Valley
 Bridgeport Animal Rescue Crew of CT
 Capri Christian Church
 Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation
 The Center for Family Justice
 Center Stage Theatre Inc.
 The Children's Heart Foundation
 Christ Episcopal Church
 CitySeed, Inc.
 Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic
 CoCo's Animal Rescue Efforts
 of Seymour
 Common Ground High School
 Connecticut Agricultural
 Experiment Station
 Connecticut Burns Care Foundation
 Connecticut Farmland Trust
 Connecticut Foodshare
 Connecticut Forest & Park Association
 Connecticut Hospice, Inc.
 Derby High School PTO
 Derby Historical Society
 Derby Little League
 Derby Public Schools
 Derby Running Club
 Echo Hose Ambulance Training Center
 Echo Hose Hook and Ladder
 Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.
 Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation
 Alumni Association
 Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School
 The Farms Country Club Foundation
 The Foundation School
 Frances Perkins Center
 Friends of Derby Public Library
 Friends of the Ansonia Nature
 Girl Scouts of CT, Inc.
 Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Griffin Hospital
 Griffin Hospital Development Fund
 The Guilford Foundation
 Hope Counseling and Behavioral
 Health Center
 Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America
 International Festival of Arts & Ideas
 IRIS - Integrated Refugee &
 Immigrant Services

Junior Achievement of Greater
 Fairfield County
 Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven
 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.
 New Haven Promise
 Oxford High School Booster Club, Inc.
 Perfect Imperfections
 Planned Parenthood of Southern
 New England
 President's Fund of the Valley
 Community Foundation
 Read to Grow
 Recreation Camp Inc.
 Ronald McDonald House of
 Connecticut and Western Massachusetts
 Rotary Club of Ansonia, Seymour,
 and Oxford, CT
 Yale New Haven Hospital
 Saint Raphael Campus
 Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps
 Save the Sound
 Seymour Ambulance Association
 Seymour Community Center
 Seymour High School
 Seymour Oxford Food Bank
 Seymour Public Schools
 Shelburne Farms
 Shelton Economic Development
 Corporation
 Shelton High School
 Shelton Historical Society, Inc.
 Shelton Land Conservation Trust
 St. Mary St. Michael School
 St. Rita School
 St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley
 Storm Engine Company
 Ambulance Corps, Inc.
 Susanna Wesley School
 TEAM, Inc.
 Traveler on a Mission
 Troop 3 - Derby BSA Alumni
 & Friends Foundation, Inc.
 Tunnel to Towers Foundation
 University of Connecticut
 Foundation, Inc.
 University of Nebraska Foundation
 University of New Haven
 University of New Hampshire
 Valley Community Fund
 Valley Emergency Medical Services
 The Valley Independent Sentinel
 Valley United Way
 Valley YMCA

Donor Advised Grants



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

Stewardship of Charitable Assets

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) have been affiliated for the past 20 years, and the assets entrusted to VCF since 2004 have been invested and managed by TCF. Access to TCF’s commingled investment management program affords VCF funds the benefits of a globally diverse, long-term endowment model by providing direct access to more than 45 world-class institutional investment managers specializing in distinct and differentiated asset classes and strategies.

2024 was a big year macroeconomically and geopolitically. Many central banks started their easing cycles after almost two years of hiking interest rates to levels not seen since before the Great Financial Crisis. Nearly two-thirds of the world’s population participated in elections; the outcomes are expected to impact the global economy significantly. The fourth quarter

demonstrated continued strong U.S. equity performance, with the S&P 500 Index ending the year on another high note, up 25%. Following an S&P 500 Index return of 26.3% in 2023, this period highlights a streak of dominance for U.S. large-cap equities — the S&P 500 Index has not had consecutive annual returns exceeding 20% since 1995-1999. The robust economic data and additional Fed rate cuts further propelled U.S. equities to post another strong year of returns. Conversely, non-U.S. equities struggled as investors grappled with the potential tariff implications and a strengthening U.S. dollar.

The Commingled Fund’s goal is to be positioned for the best possible prospects for success across a wide range of potential economic scenarios. In 2024, VCF’s total return was up 10.8% vs. the benchmark’s 12.1%. For the year ended, the portfolio performed above the benchmark in global equities (+1.6), absolute return



Tammy Burrell
VCF Treasurer

(+1.2%), and fixed income (+0.1%); however, the private asset investments continued their drag on the overall results of the Commingled Fund versus its market benchmark. While the private assets allocation has not kept pace during periods of robust public market results, especially during times when private exit opportunities are unfavorable, our continued attention on long-term investment goals has historically translated into brief periods of underperformance while remaining focused on producing long-term value-added results as displayed in the chart below.

Investment Performance

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

Periods ended 31 December 2024	Trailing 1 Year	Trailing 5 Years	Trailing 10 Years	Since Inception ³
The Commingled Fund	10.8	6.7	6.9	8.3
Policy Benchmark ¹	12.1	7.1	6.6	7.2
Passive Benchmark ²	12.4	7.1	7.0	6.9

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’s target allocation.

² 70% allocation to MSCI AC World Index and 30% allocation to Bloomberg US Aggregate Index.
³ Inception date is January 1, 1994, or 30 years.
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.

Assets Growth



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$700,327	\$962,012
Investments at market value – component funds	24,330,470	21,615,209
Investments at market value – organization funds	14,420,144	12,826,137
Total Investments	\$39,450,941	\$35,403,358
Contributions receivable	7,686	750,000
Other assets/Operating Lease	150,910	166,927
Furniture and equipment, net	14,143	19,893
Total Assets	\$39,623,680	\$36,340,178
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	59,637	49,701
Organization funds	14,420,144	12,826,137
Grants payable	216,000	247,555
Operating Lease Liability	152,410	166,927
Total Liabilities	\$14,848,191	\$13,290,320
Net assets without restriction	24,775,489	23,049,858
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$39,623,680	\$36,340,178

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES	2024	2023
REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Contributions	2,748,877	\$3,387,146
Less: transfers to organization funds	(704,705)	(1,088,400)
Net contributions	2,044,172	2,298,746
Investment gain (loss), net	2,390,551	2,408,365
Total revenue, gains, and other support	\$4,434,723	\$4,707,111
EXPENSES		
Grants and distributions approved, net	\$2,142,038	\$2,085,437
Less: grants from organization funds	(266,662)	(263,580)
Net grant expense	1,875,376	1,821,857
Grants for program management and direct charitable activities	541,917	543,114
Net grant and program expense	2,417,293	2,364,971
Development, donor services and fund stewardship	166,744	167,111
Financial management, leadership, and operations	125,055	125,332
Total administration expense	291,799	292,443
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$2,709,092	\$2,657,414
Increase (decrease) in net assets	1,725,631	2,049,697
Net assets – Beginning of year	23,049,858	21,000,161
Net assets – End of year	\$24,775,489	\$23,049,858

Fiscal 2024 In Review

The Great Give 2024 was great once again in the Valley

Valley nonprofits raised more than \$507,000 during the 2024 Great Give, making the 36-hour online giving event one of its most successful.

In all, donors gave more than \$3.8 million supporting 550 nonprofits -- a record number of participants -- throughout the Valley and Greater New Haven region. Of that total, just over \$431,000 was donated to nonprofit organizations in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton.

By the end of the fundraising event, 58 Valley-based organizations had participated, and 1,440 individual donations were made by people who live and/or work

in the Valley. Also, more than \$234,000 of the Valley total was donated by 25 Valley Community Foundation Donor Advised fundholders.

The 36-hour online-giving event was started in 2010 by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to promote local philanthropy and support area nonprofits. In the last 14 years, The Great Give has raised more than \$28.6 million for nonprofits throughout the region.



True Valleyness: A Community United After 2024 Flood

The August 18, 2024, flood will forever be etched in the Valley's history -- not just for the devastation it left behind but for the extraordinary response that followed. Torrential rains swept through Oxford, Seymour, and surrounding towns, destroying homes, displacing families, and tragically claiming two lives. Roads were impassable, businesses suffered massive losses, and entire neighborhoods were left unrecognizable. But from this tragedy emerged something remarkable: the indomitable spirit of the Valley.

As floodwaters rose, first responders braved treacherous conditions to rescue those trapped in their homes. "The firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical teams risked everything to protect us," said Patricia Tarasovic, an Oxford resident and VCF Board member. "We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude." Tarasovic, who witnessed the devastation firsthand, noted how the response mirrored that of the Great Flood of 1955. "Just like then, neighbors stepped up for one another without hesitation. The generosity and determination were breathtaking."

Long before the waters fully receded, the Valley was in motion. Churches opened as shelters, businesses donated food and supplies, and volunteers organized donation drives. In one inspiring example, a group of Oxford teens held a car wash that raised thousands for flood victims.



"Valleyness isn't just a word, it's a way of life," Tarasovic said. "It means that when times are tough, we're tougher together."

TEAM, Inc. spearheaded fundraising efforts that raised more than \$1.2 million, ensuring families could repair homes and replace essential belongings. "This effort would not have been possible without the remarkable collaboration between local nonprofits, businesses, and individuals," said Sharon Closius, VCF President and CEO. Recovery continues, and progress is visible. Homes are being rebuilt, businesses are reopening, and infrastructure improvements are underway to mitigate future disasters.

"The outpouring of support was staggering," said Jack Walsh, VCF Board member. "We've proven once again that the Valley is special."

The August 18th flood was a stark reminder of nature's power, but it also reinforced the strength of the Valley's people. Their unity, compassion, and resilience remain an inspiration.



2024 Staff, Councils, Committees, and Volunteers

Staff:

Sharon Closius
Beth Colette
Valerie Knight-Di Gangi*
Marcie Monaco
David Rivera
Victoria Vilaysane

Board of Directors:

Nancy Valentine, *Chair*
Aleta Miner, *Vice Chair*
Tammy Burrell, *Treasurer*
William Ginsberg
Karen DuBois-Walton
Mark Goumas
Christopher Grizzle
Terry Jones
Bevon McLean
Ned Miller
Greg Stamos
Patricia Tarasovic,
Secretary
Jack Walsh

Development:

Patricia Tarasovic, *Chair*
Carolyn Cutaneo
Mark Goumas
Bevon McLean
Ned Miller
Nancy Valentine

Finance:

Tammy Burrell
Chair, Treasurer
Aleta Miner
Marcie Monaco
Nancy Valentine
Jack Walsh

Governance:

Christopher Grizzle, *Chair*
Tammy Burrell
Mark Goumas
Greg Stamos
Patricia Tarasovic
Nancy Valentine
Donald Smith

Program:

Mark Goumas, *Co-Chair*
Jack Walsh, *Co-Chair*
Tammy Burrell
Marcie Monaco
Ray Oppel
Greg Stamos
Nancy Valentine

Community

Grants:

Liz Kennard, *Chair*
Janice Bonaparte
Tammy Burrell
Beth Carson
Gail Catlin
Jen Champagne
Martha Dulla
Terri Goldson
Mark Goumas
Christopher Grizzle
Joan Kayser
Cheryl McCollum

Ray Oppel
Fred Ortoli
Angelika Stamos-Cody
Jack Walsh



Valerie
Knight-Di Gangi

* In January of 2025, Valerie Knight-Di Gangi, left VCF after more than 20 years of dedicated service. Everyone at VCF extends their heartfelt thanks to Val for her years of thoughtful, skilled and diligent work for the foundation and for our Valley.

VCF thanks the following outgoing Board Members



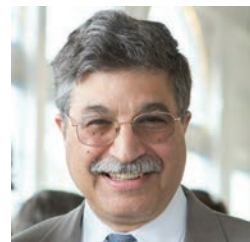
Greg Stamos



Jack Walsh

Thank you, Will.

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) extends its deepest gratitude to William W. Ginsberg for his unwavering support and leadership throughout his more than 24 years as President and CEO of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, and as a member of VCF's Board of Directors. Will was instrumental in helping establish VCF in 2004, recognizing the importance of a dedicated community foundation to serve the Valley. His steadfast advocacy and commitment to our mission have strengthened VCF's ability to support local philanthropy and build a legacy for generations to come. We celebrate his contributions and express our heartfelt appreciation for his dedication to VCF and the Valley.



William W. Ginsberg

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 20-town region in the heart of central Connecticut. VCF shares staff using TCF's investment expertise, programming, and development knowledge. This strong relationship provides VCF with an immediate support structure that allows VCF's Board of Directors to focus on leadership and development. Everyone at VCF sends their heartfelt thanks to the TCF staff for their time, contributions, and expertise.



ValleyFoundation.org
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