



VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

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For the Valley.

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VALLEY COMMUNITY

FOUNDATION

## *Dear Valley Friends,*

We wish you comfort and peace as we — together — chart better days ahead. The first year of the pandemic called for resilience and the ability to adapt quickly. In contrast, 2021 taught us the power of perseverance. We have all endured prolonged feelings of fear, grief, and the uncertainty of the unknown. No matter the obstacles that may arise, we are ready to find our next normal.

We at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) have found great comfort during the tumult of the past two years in the unwavering strength of our beloved Valley, and the extraordinary and courageous people that live here.

While the needs of our residents have never been greater, there is no limit to the pride and determination of our tight-knit community that keeps us moving forward. We see it every day in the generosity of donors and through the tireless work of our community partners, childcare workers, educators, public safety officers and healthcare providers. Like a compass, their strength guides us.

In 2021, we saw a record number of gifts and grants, tangible evidence of the unstinting spirit of our Valley residents and



is a testament to their dedication to giving. Sometimes generosity instilled by others inspires. Just ask Amy Vatner. After the aspiring children’s author learned about Gerry Eckhardt’s VCF fund that supports her town library, she reached out to us. Grants were applied for, collaborations were made, and in the end, VCF was part of a team of nonprofits that helped get her book published. Today that book, *Hello Sometimes*, can be found in the hands of thousands of children. *For Good*, we inspire one another.

We have also watched seeds planted long ago flourish, as enduring legacies of permanent funds grow and help future generations in so many ways. That is why as part of their estate planning last year, Shelton residents Barry and Josephine Lifrieri established a fund to support causes they are passionate about. *For Ever*, we link generations together.

There are also deep roots of former residents who continue to support the Valley in honor of relatives and friends, and whose love of their

hometown has blossomed into scholarships and funds that support our Valley. For them, no matter where they live, the Valley will always be home. Peter Burns Jr. knows this. Although he now lives in California, he created a fund for his father, Peter Burns, Sr. who learned about it on Christmas Day. *For the Valley*, we stay the course.

In our Valley, we treasure the strength of those around us and honor our community’s enduring ability to care, lead and lift us all. We pledge to continue to do the same — as we have for more than 17 years — staying true to our course, and mission.

We work **For Good, For Ever, For the Valley**.

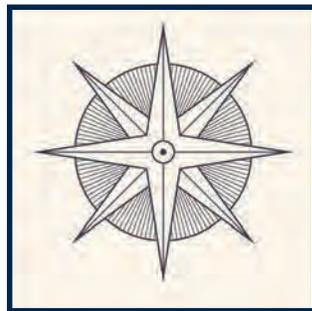
With sincere regards,

*Jack Walsh*  
Board Chair

*Sharon Closius*  
President & CEO



**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**\$3,740,512**

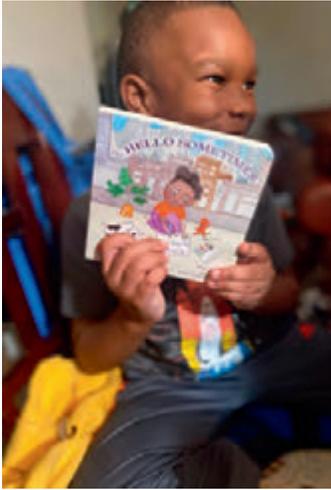


**GRANTS AWARDED**  
**\$1,973,432**



**NEW FUNDS**  
**16**

## FOR GOOD.



Sometimes in the world of philanthropy, the planets align. On that November day in 2019, when Amy Vatner took her children to the library, she never guessed how an event there and its connection to a Valley Community Foundation (VCF) fund, would change her life and help children learn to cope with a global crisis.

Amy, an attorney and at the time an aspiring children's book author, said the free concert was fantastic. It was sponsored by the Gerry Hellmann Eckhardt Fund for the Woodbridge Town Library.

"It was wonderful," Amy said. "That's how I learned about the Eckhardt fund and about VCF."

In February of 2020, she reached out to VCF to express her thanks for the concert and get some advice. She'd been writing for years but hadn't been published. She specifically wanted to get her books to families who may not be able to afford them. VCF staff discussed ideas, including connecting Amy with the Read to Grow (RTG) nonprofit. It seemed at long last, her dreams of getting published were going to happen. But then, in March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"I thought everything was going to be put on hold forever," Amy said. "But that didn't happen. Everyone rallied to help, it was incredible."

That October, amid the first wave of the pandemic, RTG received funds from VCF to publish the book. Then VCF reached out to a longtime fund holder and retired teacher, Liz Kennard. Liz, a former VCF board member, enthusiastically lent support for the project. She approved a grant from the Mary Fund, named for her mother and grandmothers. Also, funding came from generous donors who supported VCF's Valley COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts. The book went into print in the spring of 2021 and was unveiled to the public last July.

Vatner's read-aloud book *Hello Sometimes* is centered around a little boy learning to navigate the sometimes scary and trying times caused by the pandemic. The rhythmic text and colorful art offer readers a comforting perspective on dealing with change. Today more than 22,000 children have received a copy of Amy's book, all because a VCF donor sponsored a library event, another longtime funder supported the book project and an area nonprofit teamed with a writer to tell a story to help children.

VCF connected the dots, fostered collaboration and helped provide funding which launched a project that — For Good — will serve Valley families, and educate children for years to come.

## FOR EVER.



It's not clear when life-long Ansonia resident Raymond Mackowski first heard of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and its mission to better the region by fostering local philanthropy. But before he died, at age 90, he left a very generous gift in VCF's care to help his beloved Valley

long after he was gone. In the last four years, the Raymond Mackowski Fund has done just that.

In a community as diverse and caring as the Valley, deciding where, when, and how much to give can be daunting. There are hundreds of worthy organizations — new and old — doing extraordinary work for the region. That's why area nonprofits are such an integral part of the community. That's also why VCF will always be here to support, advise, and steward the wishes of donors striving to make the Valley a better place to live, work and raise a family.

In his will, Raymond directed his gift be used for "the most important opportunities and needs of the Valley" and that VCF could decide where the grants

would go. Today, grants from this unrestricted fund have made substantial contributions throughout the Valley. His original bequest has grown and helped many area nonprofits and causes, and it will help many more in the future.

Giving and leaving a legacy can also be very personal. Whether you wish to foster learning through scholarships or address broader community needs through an advised or unrestricted fund, a permanent gift can have a meaningful and a long-lasting impact on a region.

That's what Barry and Josephine Lifrieri aim to do with their new donor advised fund. But unlike Raymond's broader-based final wishes, the Barry and Josephine Lifrieri Fund will help causes special to them when they are gone. For the Shelton couple, arts organizations, animal shelters, and programs for senior citizens are their focus of interest.

As the Valley emerges from the life-changing events of the last two years, VCF is bolstered by the incredible foresight and generosity of our funders — like Raymond, Barry and Josephine — who will enrich our community well into the future.

They lift us all with their trust, optimism, and heartfelt love of our Valley. Their contributions will — For Ever — endure.

## FOR THE VALLEY.



The rolling hills and the rivers that cut through our Valley makes this area geographically distinctive, esthetically beautiful, and outright picturesque. The people that comprise this close-knit community are equally remarkable.

Residents are hardworking, proud, loyal, caring and — when it comes to giving — very generous. They are devoutly committed to their community, and for many the Valley is true north. Always there, always safe — always home.

Evidence of that devotion is easy to find at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) through the many funds and scholarships created by former residents long separated from home, but keen on staying connected. That's how it is for Robert Moseley.

Robert is retired and lives in Georgia now, but he said his 25 years in Shelton were special. So special that when his dad, Luke Moseley, died in 1992 he created a scholarship at Shelton High School to honor him. For 30 years, Robert funded the scholarship for students aspiring to be pilots or aviation mechanics. Now, thanks to him, that scholarship is here at VCF and will always be there to help Shelton students.

For many who have moved away, the events of the last few years have underscored the importance of keeping in touch with hometown roots. Although he hasn't lived here for a while, Peter Burns, Jr. loves the Valley. He was born and raised in Ansonia and now lives in California. He recently decided to honor his father by creating a new donor advised fund.

On Christmas Day, Peter Burns, Sr. opened an envelope from his son, and was amazed. It was a simple letter explaining the details of a fund named after him.

“For my dad who has given so much over the years to his family and Ansonia, I thought it would be the perfect gift, a great way to say thank you,” Peter, Jr. said. “I was so thrilled I could do this for him.”

School, work, marriage, or a simple zest for travel can take Valley residents to all parts of the country, indeed the world. Those — like Robert, Peter and so many others — who maintain a long-distance legacy of giving to the Valley are true examples of the generous spirit woven into our community. They show that no matter where you go, or where your journey ends, you can always be connected, and — For the Valley — always be part of home.























# How to Set Up a Fund

## Create a Fund at VCF and Impact the Valley Forever

STEP  
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?

STEP  
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.

STEP  
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.

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

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

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

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

# Valley Community Foundation Funds

## 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  
John and Paraskeve Vartelas 'AGAPE' Fund  
Alesevich Family Fund  
Bassett Family Fund  
Monty Blakeman Fund  
Peter F. Burns, Sr. Fund\*  
Champagne Family Fund  
Cohen Community Advised Fund  
Cohen-DeToro Charitable Fund  
Jane C. and David B. Cohen Fund  
Nick Collicelli Legacy Fund  
Frank and Ann Conroy Fund for the Joy of Music  
Mary Lou Cicia Cook Memorial Fund  
Salvatore and Linda Tiano Coppola Family Fund  
Thomas and Ruth Curran Family Fund  
D'Addario Family Fund  
Michael and Elizabeth Dalton Family Fund  
Derby - Puglianello 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  
Tyler, Brian and Zachary Haywood Fund  
Carol Ann Hyder Memorial Fund  
Jones Family Farms Fund  
Kaplan Family Fund  
Paul & Gloria Konwerski Family Fund  
Edward and Laura Lane Family Fund  
Robert C. Lang Fund  
Kate Marks Brilliant Female Fund\*  
John Lauretti Memorial Family Fund  
Barry and Josephine Lifrieri Fund\*  
Uncle Louie Fund\*

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

*"For Good, we inspire one another. We have also watched seeds planted long ago flourish, as enduring legacies of permanent funds grow and help future generations in so many ways."*

\* New Fund in 2021

# Valley Community Foundation Funds

## Donor Designated Funds

If you want to support a specific organization or organizations during your lifetime or give 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  
Edward J. & Marie M. Cecarelli Book Fund  
Herbert M. Clark Fund  
Cohen Family Book Fund  
Edward J. Cotter, Jr. Memorial Fund  
Angela Curas Fund\*  
D'Addario Family Fund for the Benefit of Griffin Hospital  
Derby Public Library - Harold B. Yudkin Historic Preservation Fund  
Derby-Shelton Civil War Monument Preservation Fund  
Gerry Hellmann Eckhardt Fund for the Woodbridge Town Library  
Harvey & 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

Jones Family Farms Fund for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
Maureen, Megan and Katey Ryan Fund  
Torbi-Saldamarco Family 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  
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\*  
Emil J. Varga Catholic School Fund  
Peter J. Vartelas Invest In Youth Fund #2 for the Valley YMCA  
Walsh Family Fund  
Henry Shelton Wells and Edith Birdseye Wells Family Fund  
Colonel Lloyd E. and Joan Platt Witmer Fund

*“While the needs of our residents have never been greater, there is no limit to the pride and determination of our tight-knit community that keeps us moving forward.”*

## 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  
Mary Vartelas Stamos Fund  
Angelina M. and Valentina V. Vitali Fund  
Selma L. and Harold B. Yudkin Fund

\* New Fund in 2021

# Valley Community Foundation Funds

## 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
- Ansonia Rotary Club Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Bruno Battaglino Memorial Fund
- Stella Behuniak Fund
- Winston J. Bish Memorial Scholarship\*
- John F. Blake, Jr. Memorial Prize
- 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
- Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Scholarship Fund
- Rosa Dell'Oso Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Derby High School Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Derby High School Non-Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Domorod-Youd Shelton High School Scholarship Fund
- Capt. Jerry Drugonis Memorial Scholarship\*
- 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
- Mayor Richard A. Grande Memorial Scholarship Fund\*
- Peter S. Goumas Presidential Scholarship Fund
- Traci L. Haines Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Amos Hawley Memorial Award
- Arthur Hayes Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Randall R. Holden Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Eugene 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
- Patricia M. Kondrath Scholarship Fund
- Margaret Ann Korafago Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund\*
- Julia Krizan Scholarship Fund for the Arts
- Russell & Joanne Kiley Kulawiz Fund
- Frank J. Lang Fund
- Jesse McCord Lewis Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Michael R. McMahon Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Carol Merlone Scholarship Fund
- Luke Moseley Aviation Scholarship Fund\*
- Bernice Nicolari Howard Gura Award Fund
- Louis L. Nicoletti, Sr. Business Scholarship Fund
- Anna and John O'Neil For Integrity Award Fund
- Anthony Pagliaro Scholarship Fund
- Lillian Pawlowski Fund
- Pam Petro Pawlowski Scholarship Fund
- Ann C. Petro 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 Education Fund
- Shelton High School Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Shelton High School Non-Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Gaeton and Elizabeth Simonetti Family Fund
- Frank and Helene Skoronski Memorial Fund

*For Ever, we link generations together.*

\* New Fund in 2021

# Valley Community Foundation Funds

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 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\*

## 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\*  
Birmingham Foundation Fund  
Derby Community Endowment Fund  
Derby Historical Society Organization Fund  
Derby Public Library Endowment Fund  
Housatonic Council, BSA Endowment Fund  
Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
Edmund D. Strang Campership,  
Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
Edmund & Caroline Strang Eagle Scout Scholarship  
Award, Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation Camp  
Maintenance, Housatonic Council, BSA Fund  
Massaro Community Farm Fund  
Massaro Farm Legacy Fund  
Oak Cliff Cemetery Association Fund  
Oxford Land Trust Fund  
Parent Child Resource Center Endowment Fund  
Planetree Fund  
Plumb Memorial Library Reserve Fund  
Plumb Memorial Tri-Centennial Endowment Fund  
Recreation Camp Endowment Fund

Ritchie Fund for Plumb Memorial Library  
Rowland R. Strong and Edith H. Strong Memorial  
Scholarship Organization Fund  
Seymour-Oxford Nursery and Child Care  
Association, Inc. (SONCCA) Fund  
Seymour-Oxford Rotary Club Fund  
Seymour Pink Endowment Fund  
Shelton Historical Society Endowment Fund  
Shelton Land Trust Reserve Fund  
St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley Fund  
TEAM, Inc., Richard J. Knoll Endowment 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  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 597 Fund  
Women in Networking 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 2021

# The Gates Society



The Gates Society is a close circle of supporters who share a special love and appreciation for this region and its people, by making a planned philanthropic commitment to the Valley through the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) or one of our funds.

The Society is named in honor of Ross and Frank Gates, the brothers of a prominent Derby family. In 1938, the brothers created trusts in the family name at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) to support broad charitable purposes with consideration that the income benefit the residents of Derby and vicinity. Today, this fund continues to support the Valley with more than \$1.2 million annually.

Joining VCF's planned giving community is simple. Let us know you have named VCF or one of our funds in your estate plan or if you would like to discuss the many options for making a difference in the Valley either now or in the future.

## GATES SOCIETY MEMBERS

Anonymous	Mary Theresa Mahoney*
Dayne & Dawn Bachmann	Ned Miller
Twan & Karen Bentlage	Ray Oppel
Sharon Closius	David & Dale Ortoli
John Corrado	Fred Ortoli
Jamie Cohen	Lynne Ortoli*
Jane Cohen*	Joseph Pagliaro, Jr.
Angela Curas*	Dorothy Palazzi
Edmund J. Conklin*	Carol Pendagast
Pat DeCicco	Lynne Bassett Perry
Walter & Bonnie Drozeck	Beth Ann Smith
Helen Dubrava*	Donald W. Smith, Sr.*
Patricia Dziuba	Brad & Marianne Smythe
Gregg Goumas	Frederick Stanek
Robert & Sheri Grier	Karen Stanek*
William & Jo-Anna Holden	Robert & Eleonora
Michael Hyder	Van Egghe
Heidi Kaplan	Marc C. Vincent*
M. Elizabeth Kennard	Valentina Vitali*
Richard Knoll	Jack Walsh
Laura Lane	Donald E. Warichar
Robert C. Lang*	Joseph R. Warichar
Barry & Josephine Lifrieri	Lynn Wozniak
Raymond Mackowski*	John & Laura Zaprzalka

\* Deceased

## Designate and Donate Life Insurance



Most decide to buy life insurance when they have people dependent on them – a spouse, children, a partner, or family members. They want to provide for loved ones after they pass away.

Later in life, however, when you no longer need to provide for those you love, don't let your life insurance policy lapse without consulting your trusted financial advisor. You can sell a policy, or gift it to a favorite charity, or even change the beneficiary of the policy to your favorite nonprofits. Any of these methods can fulfill your philanthropic goals to support causes you care about now, and in the future.

Start your conversation with VCF about using a current life insurance policy to fulfill your charitable goals.

## 2021 Donors



Andrea Adam  
Vincent Adinolfi & Charlotte Parniawski  
Frank & Tracey Adkins  
Susan Agamy  
Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut, Inc.  
Robert Ahearn  
Clifford & Bonnie Albright  
Christine Alexiades  
Allied Printing Services, Inc.  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
America's Charities-  
Distribution Account  
Cynthia Anasson  
Alex Angst  
Elaine Apicella  
Robert & Catherine Araujo  
Richard & Rosalie Averill  
Ellen Baczek Amedeo  
Mark & Sharon Badowski  
Bank of America  
Charitable Gift Fund  
Mary Barnstein  
Barnum Engineered Systems, Inc.  
Shannon Beattie  
Kenneth & Beverly Bedini  
Peter Behuniak  
Melissa Bekech  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Antonius Bentlage & Karen Bentlage Charitable Lead Trust  
Berchem, Moses & Devlin  
Zafiria Bikakis  
Lee Bishop  
Paul & Maria Blackwell  
Raymond & Janet Blanchette  
Beverly Bomba  
John & Thelma Bondos  
Leslie Bondos  
Ronald Bonito  
Ray Bowers  
BPC Brothers, LLC

Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae, Inc.  
Jeanne Bucchino  
William & Rita Budahazy  
Jeff & Marcia Burkitt  
Peter Burns, Jr.  
Tammy Burrell  
Samantha Burroughs  
Jean Butcher  
Carmen Cafasso & Maureen Breen  
James & Frances Caldwell  
Robert & Nancy Carroll  
Cassanova, LLC  
Kristal Nichols Castellano  
Michael Castro  
Gail Catlin  
Center Stage Theatre, Inc.  
Charities Aid Foundation of America  
Kristen Ciccone  
City of Shelton  
Derby Chicks Class of 86  
Barbara Clifford  
Sharon Closius  
Jamie Cohen  
Randall & Beth Colette  
Ashley Conklin  
Edmund & Barbara Conklin  
Tim Conlon  
Michael Cook, III  
Sal Coppola  
Todd & Emily Corbett  
John Corrado  
Barbara Cox  
Shannon Crowley  
Estate of Angela Curas  
Carolyn Cutaneo  
D'Addario Automotive Group of Shelton  
Thomas & Johanna D'Addario  
Jim & Tracey Deandrade  
Anne Deangelis  
Cynthia Dearborn  
Dorothy DeBisschop

Richard & Silvia Dechane, Sr.  
Anselmo & Kathryn Delia  
Lynn Dell  
Corinne Dellaera  
Marc Delmauro  
William & Merilou Dembek  
Dominick Di Gangi & Valerie Knight-Di Gangi  
Thomas DiLullo  
Dorothy Docknevich  
Todd & Jane Dowty  
Joseph Drago  
Walter & Bonnie Drozeck  
Arline Drugonis  
Richard & Diane Durrschmidt  
Janice Eccles  
George & Darlene Emerson, Jr.  
William & Patricia Ferris  
Susan Flanigan  
Maryann Francolini  
Cirone Friedberg  
Mary Galiette  
James Garman  
Michael Gavoli  
David Gaynor  
Pamela Gerolimatos  
Saundra Gesek  
David Giambra  
Joanne Gil  
Jodie Gil  
David & Cheryl Goggins  
Joseph Gordon  
Douglas Goumas  
Gregg Goumas  
Mark & Gwen Ann Goumas  
Jean Graziani  
Richard & Patricia Greene  
Greystone Realty, LLC  
Robert & Sheri Grier  
Griffin Hospital  
Howard & Judy Gura  
Frank Haines  
Teri Haines  
Raymond Hansen

## 2021 Donors



Laura Harris  
 Ralph & Lynne Harrison  
 Healing Arts and Physical  
 Therapy, LLC  
 Terry Heath & Paris Stamos Heath  
 Jacob Heerdt  
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 Orsella Hughes  
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 Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 Ion Bank Foundation  
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 Italian Pavilion  
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 Walter & Carol Jadach  
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 Terry Jones  
 Thomas & Michelle Kachmarck  
 Frederic Kaeser  
 Norman & Elvira Kaminski  
 Harriet Karkut  
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 Sarah Muoio  
 Ellen Murphy  
 Shawn & Nancy Murray  
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 Sylvia Naylor  
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 Ray Oppel  
 James & Patricia Oram  
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 Roque & Debora Orts  
 Patricia Owens  
 Jean & Joan Ovesny  
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 Anthony Palumbo  
 Elisa Palumbo  
 Gino Palumbo  
 Michele Palumbo  
 Patricia Palumbo  
 Judith Paniccia  
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## 2021 Donors



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Seymour Historical Society  
Seymour Pink, Inc.  
Seymour Police Department  
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Shelton Youth Football & Cheer Inc.  
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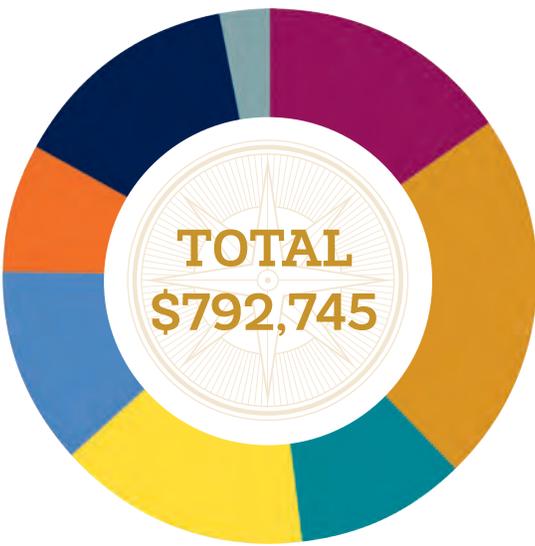
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Michael & Sue Wuerthele  
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John & Laura Zaprzalka  
Katherine Zollo

# Community Investment

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

Note: This data reflects grants made through the New Responsive, Needs and Opportunities, Multi-year, Community, and Sponsorship grant programs. It does not include \$135,000 in capacity building and 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.

- Children and Youth \$122,800
- Health \$177,035
- Economic Success \$82,500
- Basic Human Needs \$120,000
- Arts and Culture \$95,110
- Civic Vitality and Social Justice \$62,100
- Education \$110,700
- Environment \$22,500



## Responsive Grants

VCF's annual Responsive Grants program is open to requests for organizational support and projects that serve Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and/or Shelton. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, these grants were all awarded to address each nonprofit's general operating support needs.

**Adam Wysota Foundation** - To provide general operating support for grief education and peer support for children and their families in a home-like setting called Adam's House. **\$71,000**

**Derby Historical Society** - To provide general operating support for more programs, and to educate the public about local Valley history. **\$75,000**

**Griffin Hospital** - To provide general operating support to assist the physicians, staff and volunteers at Griffin Hospital who are dedicated to rendering care that encompasses the mind, body and spirit and emphasizes prevention and wellness. **\$90,000**

**Julia Day Nursery** - To provide general operating support for quality childcare in a safe, warm, nurturing, environment where, in partnership with families, children can grow and learn. **\$90,000**

**Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County** - To provide general operating support to help inspire and prepare young people with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a global economy. **\$100,000**

**Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps** - To provide general operating support for its Emergency Assistance program efforts. **\$90,000**

**Shelton Historical Society, Inc.** - To provide general operating support to help preserve elements of the community's history in order to create lasting and meaningful connections between Shelton's past, present and future. **\$50,000**



# Community Investment

## Needs and Opportunities

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

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

**cARTie** - To support mobile art museum programming for Valley students. **\$1,500**

**Center Stage Theatre** - To support renovations to the main theatre lobby, dressing rooms, and bathrooms. **\$10,000**

**Coco's Animal Rescue** - To support a spay/neuter and vetting program for felines in an effort to reduce the number of breeding cats in the Valley region. **\$7,500**

**Connecticut Hospice, Inc.** - To support the purchase of Macy Catheters to administer medications to Valley patients with the inability to swallow. **\$9,600**

**Connecticut Partnership for Children** - To support the Mobile Food Pantry and the Diaper Bank for Valley residents. **\$5,500**

**Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.** - To support IT infrastructure updates for the Community Training Center. **\$9,935**

**Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America** - To purchase materials and support repairs at Camp Strang. **\$5,000**

**Junior Achievement (JA) of Southwest New England, Inc.** - To support the JA High School Heroes Program at Quaker Farms Elementary School in Oxford. **\$5,000**

**Life Health and Wellness Center** - To support financial assistance for child care fees for families receiving Care4Kids support. **\$10,000**

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

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

**Saint Mary-Saint Michael School** - To support the creation of a Lego club. **\$700**

**Shelton Economic Development Corporation** - To support a summer intern. **\$5,000**

## Community Grants

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

**All-America Valley Basketball Club** - To support the club's participation in a 10 week competitive basketball tournament. **\$1,800**

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

**Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby** - To support an Eagle Scout project building a vegetable garden at St. Mary-St Michael's school. **\$1,950**

**Girl Scout Troop 60030** - To support improving the community gardens in Seymour. **\$1,750**

**Girl Scout Troop 60054** - To support a Gold Award Project refurbishing a War Memorial in Seymour. **\$2,000**

**Massaro Community Farms** - To support a series of garden workshops. **\$2,000**

# Community Investment

**Saint Thomas Church** - To support the St. Thomas' bereavement and caregivers programs and the Parish Nurse Ministries. **\$1,500**

**Seymour Historical Society** - To support Seymour Historical Society's virtual and online programs. **\$1,200**

**Southford Falls Quilters LLC** - To support the Southford Falls Quilters 2021-2022 programs. **\$2,100**

**Valley Parish Nurse Program** - To support the Valley Parish Nurse outreach & education programs at multiple churches. **\$2,500**

**Youth Conservation Corps.** - To support the Walk through History at Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary. **\$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.

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

### BHcare

- To sponsor "A Chance to Shine". **\$1,000**
- To sponsor "Strength for Survivors". **\$1,000**

**Boy Scout Troop 3** - To sponsor the annual goods and services auction and wine tasting. **\$500**

**Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley**  
- To sponsor the 19th Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Day 5K Road Race. **\$2,500**

### Celebrate Shelton

- To sponsor Downtown Sounds. **\$2,500**
- To sponsor the annual community tree lighting. **\$500**

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

### Derby Historical Society

- To sponsor the Cultural Speaker Series. **\$600**
- To sponsor the Virtual Valley Lecture Series. **\$600**

**Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce** - To sponsor the Annual Holiday Breakfast Club Awards Celebration. **\$500**

### Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County

- To sponsor a virtual interactive career fair. **\$1,000**
- To sponsor the 20th annual golf invitational. **\$500**

**Oxford High School Booster Club** - To sponsor a senior class fun lock-down event - **\$750**

**Seymour Historical Society** - To sponsor the 2021 Educational Speakers Series. **\$2,500**

**Seymour Pink** - To sponsor the 10th Annual Pounding the Pavement for Pink live and virtual 5K run/walk. **\$2,500**

**Seymour Public Schools** - To sponsor the distribution of a child identification kit. **\$1,000**

**St. Joseph High School** - To sponsor the Maroon & Gold Gala. **\$500**

**TEAM, Inc.** - To sponsor the annual Toys4Kids drive. **\$2,500**

**Valley Council for Health and Human Services** - To sponsor the annual meeting. **\$1,000**

**Valley United Way** - To sponsor the virtual annual community meeting. **\$2,500**

*For the Valley, we stay the course.*

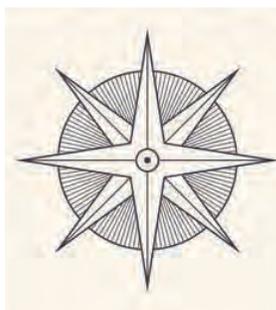
# Community Investment

## Donor Advised Grants

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

ALS Association, Connecticut Chapter  
American Farmland Trust  
American Red Cross, Connecticut Chapter  
American Red Cross, National Headquarters  
Ansonia Public Schools  
Ansonia Rescue Medical Services  
Area Congregations Together, Inc.  
Bethany Library Association  
BHcare  
Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby  
Boy Scouts of America Troop 34  
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley  
Capri Christian Church  
Center Stage Theatre, Inc.  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Common Ground High School  
Connecticut Burns Care Foundation  
Connecticut Farmland Trust  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
Connecticut Hospice, Inc.  
Derby Historical Society  
Derby Public Library  
Derby Running Club  
First Congregational Church of Chester  
The Foundation School  
Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center  
Girl Scouts of Connecticut Inc.  
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Green Village Initiative  
Griffin Hospital  
Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America  
Huntington Congregational Church  
Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services  
Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County  
Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut  
Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent  
Child Resource Center  
Massaro Community Farm, Inc.  
Mishkan Israel Day Camp

National Park Foundation  
National Right to Work Legal Defense  
and Education Foundation, Inc  
Our Daily Bread Food Pantry  
Paugasset Hook and Ladder Co #4  
Read to Grow  
Recreation Camp Inc.  
Ronald McDonald House of CT.  
Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps  
Save the Sound  
Seymour High School  
Seymour Oxford Rotary Club  
Shelburne Farms  
Shelton High School  
Shelton Historical Society  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
St. Matthew's House  
St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley  
Susanna Wesley School  
TEAM, Inc.  
Troop 3 - Derby BSA Alumni &  
Friends Foundation, Inc.  
University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.  
University of Nebraska Foundation  
University of New Haven  
University of New Hampshire  
The Valley Independent Sentinel  
Valley Save Our Youth  
Valley United Way  
Valley YMCA  
Visiting Nurse Association of  
South Central Connecticut  
Yale New Haven Hospital Saint Raphael Campus



Donor Advised

**69 Funds**

\$12,174,295 - Total Assets

139 - Total Grants

\$472,908 - Grant Amount

# Community Investment

## Designated Grants and Organizational Fund Transfers

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

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

Town of Seymour  
Trinity Cemetery Association  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Valley United Way  
Valley YMCA  
Woodbridge Town Library



**Designated Grants  
& Organizational  
Fund Transfers**

**68 Funds**

\$16,407,479 – Total Assets  
61 – Total Grants  
\$313,230 – Grant Amount

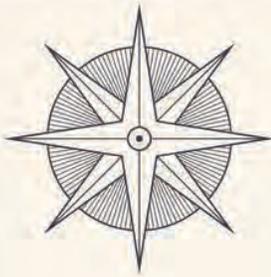
## Scholarships

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  
American International College  
Amity Regional High School  
Ansonia High School  
Assumption School  
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley  
Bunnell High School  
Central Connecticut State University  
The Culinary Institute of America  
Derby High School  
Derby Public Schools  
Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School  
Hamden High School  
Julian A. Taylor Scholarship Fund Committee  
Oxford High School  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Sacred Heart University

# Community Investment

Seymour High School  
 Shelton High School  
 Southern Connecticut State University  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Delaware  
 University of New Haven  
 University of Vermont  
 West Haven High School



**Scholarships**  
**80 Funds**  
 \$3,409,321 - Total Assets  
 95 - Total Grants  
 \$214,327 - Grant Amount

*“There are also deep roots of former residents who continue to support the Valley in honor of relatives and friends, and whose love of their hometown has blossomed into scholarships and funds that support our Valley.”*

## Unrestricted and Preference Funds

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

- Area Congregations Together, Inc.
- Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford
- Center Stage Theatre, Inc.
- Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Connecticut Hospice, Inc.
- Connecticut Partnership for Children, Inc.
- Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center
- Griffin Hospital
- Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Julia Day Nursery of Ansonia, Inc
- Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, Inc.
- Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County
- Life Health and Wellness Center, Inc.
- Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven
- Online Journalism Project Inc.
- Operation Fuel, Inc.
- Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps
- Seymour Historical Society
- Shelton Economic Development Corporation
- Shelton Historical Society
- St. Mary-St. Michael School
- TEAM, Inc.
- Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer



**Unrestricted & Preference**  
**15 Funds**  
 \$3,357,532 - Total Assets  
 26 - Total Grants  
 \$148,364 - Grant Amounts

# Stewardship of Charitable Assets

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) have been affiliated for the past 18 years, and the assets entrusted to VCF since 2004 have been invested and managed by TCF. Access to TCF's commingled investment management program affords VCF funds the benefits of a diverse, long-term and global endowment model by providing direct access to more than 47 world-class institutional investment managers specializing in more than seven distinct and globally differentiated asset classes.

In 2021, VCF posted a return of 9.0%, net of the expense of managing the Commingled Fund, trailing its benchmark for the one-year ended.

In a year of somewhat concentrated and narrow equity advancement, the uncertainty regarding the Omicron variant, the surging inflation, and the geopolitical turmoil made for a very volatile ending to 2021. The annualized net return of the Commingled Fund for the trailing 3, 5, 7, and 10 years has consistently outperformed the market benchmarks and generated more than VCF's effective spending rate in each period.

It is due to the design of the spending policy and calculations over a trailing five-year average that distributions can be managed in a predictable way that both keep pace with inflation and provide for financial resources into the community.



**Raymond Oppel**  
Treasurer, Valley  
Community Foundation



## INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

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

Periods ended 31 December 2021 (expressed in percentages)	Trailing 1 Year	Trailing 3 Years	Trailing 5 Years	Trailing 7 Years	Trailing 10 Years
<b>Actual Results</b> (net of expenses)	9.0	14.4	11.1	8.9	10.4
<b>Market Benchmark</b> <sup>1</sup>	12.3	14.4	10.3	8.0	8.8
<b>Value vs. Benchmark</b>	(3.3)	0.0	0.8	0.9	1.6

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

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

## Fiscal 2021 in Review

FINANCIAL POSITION		
	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,037,433	\$685,226
Investments at market value - component funds	22,681,961	21,635,285
Investments at market value - organization funds	12,363,051	10,130,759
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>36,082,445</b>	<b>32,451,270</b>
Contributions receivable	72,000	72,000
Other assets	-	4,200
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	37,249	46,696
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$36,191,694</b>	<b>\$32,574,166</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$64,214	\$16,814
Organization funds	12,363,051	10,130,759
Grants payable	84,841	43,869
Total liabilities	12,512,206	10,191,442
Net assets without restrictions	23,679,488	22,382,724
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$36,191,694</b>	<b>\$32,574,166</b>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
	2021	2020
<b>Revenue, Gains and Other Support</b>		
Total contributions	3,740,512	1,986,133
Less: contributions to organization funds	(1,771,873)	(198,408)
Net contributions	1,968,639	1,787,725
Investment gain, net	1,762,330	3,125,846
Investment income		
<b>Total revenue, gains and other support</b>	<b>3,730,969</b>	<b>4,913,571</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Grants approved, net	1,973,432	1,963,333
Less: grants from organization funds	(208,043)	(331,082)
Net grant and program expense	1,765,389	1,632,251
Grants for program management and direct charitable activities	401,285	395,996
Total grant and program expenses	2,166,674	2,028,247
Development, donor services and fund stewardship	167,208	164,998
Financial, endowment, investment, and mission investment management	100,323	98,999
Total administration expense	267,531	263,997
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>2,434,205</b>	<b>2,292,244</b>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	1,296,764	2,621,327
Net assets - Beginning of year	22,382,764	19,761,396
<b>Net assets - End of year</b>	<b>23,679,488</b>	<b>22,382,723</b>

# Valley Community COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund and The Great Give

Created in 2020 in response to the pandemic, the Valley Community COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund is a partnership between the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, Valley Community Foundation, Valley Council for Health and Human Services and the Valley United Way.

The fund provides flexible resources to organizations throughout the Valley that serve the region, especially to those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and its harsh economic consequences. It is designed to complement government efforts and expand local capacity to address all aspects of the crisis.

Since its inception, the fund has supported more than \$230,000 in response and recovery efforts. In 2021, it assisted Valley veterans, emergency services personnel, residents



needing fuel assistance, displaced hospitality workers, and general vaccination support, distributing \$33,900 in total grants. Thanks to all our generous donors who continue to contribute to this fund.



The Great Give is a very popular annual 36-hour online giving event. It was created in 2010 by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to boost philanthropy in its 20-town region. Each year, Valley nonprofits enthusiastically participate and thousands of its residents support it. Last year was no different.

The Great Give 2021 raised more than \$3.35 million for 431 Greater New Haven nonprofits. A total of \$414,977 was raised with the help of Valley residents, employees, and Valley Community Foundation donor advised fund holders that benefited 41 nonprofit organizations in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton.

Although the burdens for nonprofits have increased in the last few years, The Great Give continues to be an incredible fundraising event bringing resources and awareness to our Valley nonprofits. The successful campaign was just another sign of the Greater New Haven community's commitment and generosity to the region.

A total of 2,116 gifts were made by 1,265 donors who live or work in the Valley. Thank you so much for stepping up and making a tremendous impact on the community and those who serve it.

# 2021 Staff, Councils, Committees and Volunteers

## Staff

Sharon Closius  
Beth Colette  
Wendy Gamba  
Valerie Knight-Di Gangi  
John Ready\*  
Victoria Vilaysane

## Board of Directors

Jack Walsh, Chair  
Jennifer Magri,  
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*\*John Ready left VCF in the summer of 2021. We wish him all the best, and thank him for his years of dedication and skillful work in communications and donor relations.*

## VCF thanks the following outgoing Board Member Don Smith, Jr.



## 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 grantmaker to nonprofits serving a twenty-town region in the heart of central Connecticut. VCF shares a CFO and uses TCF's investment expertise, programming and development knowledge. This strong relationship provides VCF with an immediate support structure that allows its Board of Directors to focus on leadership and development.

VCF wishes to thank The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven staff and all the volunteers for their time, contributions and expertise.

*“In our Valley, we treasure  
the strength of those around  
us and honor our community’s  
enduring ability to care,  
lead and lift us all.”*



VALLEY COMMUNITY



FOUNDATION

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

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