

Forward. Together. Forever...



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VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A Letter from the President and CEO, and Board Chair.

Dear Friends:

Forward. Together. Forever...

Like the time capsule and scrapbook theme of this Annual Report, these words resonate deeply with us at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF). As we navigate through challenges, celebrate successes, and build upon the momentum of our collective efforts, we are reminded of the strength and uniqueness of our community.

The nine new VCF funds established in 2023 symbolize not just financial investment, but a deep-rooted belief in the potential of our community. These funds represent the diverse passions and interests of our donors, each one contributing to the greater good of the Valley. With each new fund, we see the spirit of generosity thriving and making a tangible impact on the lives of those we serve.

Also, the completion of our new Five-Year Strategic Plan marks a significant milestone in our journey as a foundation. This plan, with its new Mission, Vision, and Values statements, serves as our guide, shaping our actions and decisions as we move forward. It reaffirms our unwavering commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive Valley for generations to come.

At the heart of our mission lies the paramount belief in the power of philanthropy and community. Central to that mission is the promotion of Valleyness™, an idea that seeks to reignite the pride and sense of community that has long defined our five-town region. We recognize the importance of preserving this rich heritage while also teaching the next generation about the value of belonging to such a vibrant and dynamic region. By encouraging this sense of pride and ownership in our community, we lay the foundation for a brighter future where every resident can thrive.

Also in 2023, VCF made a significant grant in partnership with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven through our Stepping Forward programs. This collaboration underscores our shared dedication to addressing inequities and the lingering effects of COVID-19. The three-year grant to the Valley Council for Health and Human Services allows it to expand its reach, enhance infrastructure, and establish new methods aimed at breaking down barriers and implementing solutions. For more than three decades, the Council, comprised of more than 40 area nonprofit organizations, has been instrumental in fostering partnerships and addressing gaps in our region's healthcare systems.

As we embark on the journey ahead, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and community members. This generosity from others fuels our efforts and inspires us daily. Together, we will continue to build upon the successes of the past year, creating a legacy that will endure for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued dedication to VCF. Through collective action and shared purpose, we believe that we can overcome any challenge. With your help, we will continue to move forward, together, forever.

Sincerely,

Sharon Closius, President and CEO
Nancy Valentine, Board Chair



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

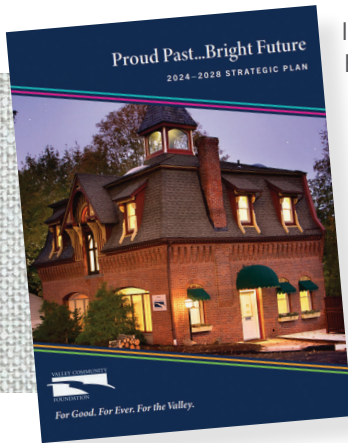
*For Good. For Ever.
For the Valley.*

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New Five-Year Strategic Plan Fortifies Community Spirit Through Valleyness™



In the heart of the Valley on Elizabeth Street in Derby, stands a small Victorian-era carriage house. The quaint two-story red-brick structure looks much like it did in the 1890s. But what once housed horse, buggies, and hay, today houses the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), the region's philanthropic epicenter for the last two decades.

Last year marked a pivotal moment at VCF when a new 2024-2028 Strategic Plan was meticulously honed after months of diligent work and dedication by its Board of Directors, Board Advisory Council and staff.

The overriding theme and byproduct of all that work was an idea, a concept — Valleyness™. It's a word coined by the Board as part of its efforts last year to flush out a five-year course of action for VCF.

Valleyness captures the spirit of camaraderie, compassion, and resilience ingrained in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. It embodies the values, traditions, and actions that define the region, a community that has deeply long cared for its neighbors and collaborates tirelessly to forge a better future. The Board decided Valleyness wasn't just a word, it's a guiding principle, a philosophy that personifies the soul of the community.

Within the new strategic plan, guided by that theme of Valleyness, VCF embarked on a journey to redefine its Mission, and create new Vision, and core Values, paving the way for new goals and a future brimming with promise. The new goals outlined in the plan are each essential in steering toward the collective vision of a vibrant, ever-inclusive Valley and a strong and sustainable VCF.

Along with the goal of nurturing a culture of giving and philanthropy, VCF aims to partner with families and nonprofit groups to fortify community building, increase local volunteerism, and promote community spirit.

"The strategic focus is not just grantmaking, we really want to help new residents and our younger generation understand how important and what a gem our five-town region is," said Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. "We don't want to take our valley, this region, or our community for granted. We need to preserve that uniqueness that makes our area so special."

For generations, the Valley has been known as a distinctive and independent, if not feisty, region of Connecticut. With its roughly 130,000-person population, the Valley has always taken care of its own in many ways, not just because of that independent community trait but also because of its proximity to Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury. The Valley, being in the center of those large cities, has always had to fight for its fair share from Hartford.

As one of the guardians of the community's wellbeing, VCF and other area nonprofit partners recognize their role as a catalyst for positive change.

"I think the older generation in the Valley totally understands Valleyness and the concept as we see it," said Nancy Valentine, VCF's Board Chair. "The younger generation may not see it as easily and there's a lot of reasons for that. But no matter the reasons, we want the new generation of Valley residents to know they live in a special place, and they should be proud of their hometowns, their roots, and our shared history."

VCF has long been committed to fostering an informed community, where knowledge is readily accessible, and decisions are informed by facts. For years it has produced Legacy Matters, a detailed and in-depth newsletter that routinely covers important regional issues like education, food insecurity, lack of housing, and other significant topics in the community.

In 2023, as part of the new plan to boost communication opportunities in the region, VCF sponsored and co-hosted two impactful Community Learning Sessions. The first was "Getting from Here to There: The Future of Transportation in the Naugatuck Valley." It was a collaborative effort with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and Plumb Memorial Library. The event delved into the pressing

"We're convinced by facilitating future events like these learning sessions, we will help provide a community platform for discussion to empower residents with knowledge and resources"

issues surrounding transportation and how it can shape the future of the Valley.

The second learning session was "Getting from Good to Great Health: Our Valley's Health and Wellness Now and Beyond." It was presented in partnership with Griffin Health Services and explored the intricacies of health and wellness in the Valley. From preventive medicine to access to healthcare services, the learning sessions shined a spotlight on the region's overall well-being and quality of life in the Valley.

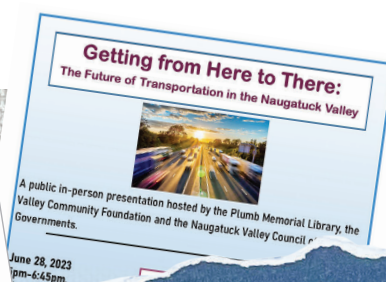
"We're convinced by facilitating future events like these learning sessions, we will help provide a community platform for discussion to empower residents with knowledge and resources," Closius said. "These sessions exemplify VCF's ongoing efforts to address community needs and drive positive change."

Ultimately the goal is to see a renaissance of Valleyness touching all aspects of the region, including its nonprofits, with it eventually being robustly woven into the fabric of every city and town.

"Together, there is the power to shape a future where every individual, every family, and every neighborhood can flourish," Closius said. "Looking ahead, optimism, determination, and an unwavering commitment to the values that define the Valley will pave the way for a brighter and better tomorrow."

Valleyness™

Valleyness™ is a word coined by the Valley Community Foundation 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 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.



Editor's note:
To download the Valley Community Foundation's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan go to: ValleyFoundation.Org

New Funds of the Valley Community Foundation

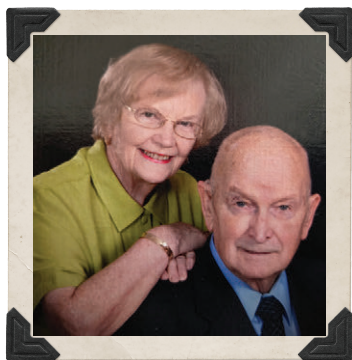


The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) is privileged to introduce the nine new funds established in 2023, and the amazing people, stories and organizations connected to them. The caring and loving donors who created these funds did so for a variety of reasons, and each one will contribute to improving our Valley and building community. For more than 20 years, donors have looked to VCF to boost local philanthropy, and use its expertise, knowledge of the community, and unwavering commitment to help the Valley prosper. That is exactly what these new funds do. The VCF Board of Directors and staff are deeply honored by the 2023 fundholders for entrusting their legacies, stories, and memories of their loved ones to VCF. We stand ready to ensure these funds create a lasting impact and a positive difference in the lives of those who call the Valley their home both now and for generations to come.



"Our parents' journey taught us that true success lies not in personal achievement, but in the lives we touch and the communities we uplift, that's what our dad and mom were all about."

Harbinson Heritage Fund



late parents, Robert and Sarah.

The Harbinson siblings -- Tom, Norman, and Sharon -- all grew up in the Valley with old-fashioned family values. Commitment to working hard, self-reliance and giving back to the community were common themes in the Harbinson household and expected from all. They're the traits engrained in them by their



In 2023, Tom and his siblings created the Harbinson Heritage Fund, a Valley Community Foundation (VCF) donor advised fund that promotes community and philanthropy in the Valley.

Robert passed away in 2017, and Sarah in 2023. They were born and raised in Northern Ireland but met in Canada in the 1950s after both had emigrated to North America. After one blind date, the two were inseparable and would marry within the year.

Robert was a very skilled metalworker construction expert. That work propelled him to become a respected and much sought-after project leader in construction management. He left his mark on iconic projects throughout the region and country. In fact, he was a project manager that helped build Boston's first skyscraper complex, the Prudential Center.

Sarah's compassionate nature led her to nursing, where she dedicated herself to caring for others, leaving a lasting impact on Valley healthcare institutions like Griffin Hospital and numerous nursing homes in the area.

"Both mom and dad had a super-incredible work ethic," Tom said. "We thought that after dad passed and then mom, we should do something as a family to remember them and preserve those values they taught us for the next generation."



"As a kid, I remember my mom would work the overnight shift and dad the day shift," Tom said. "They would have a little time in the morning and at night together, but every day for years, they worked like that, so someone was always home with the kids."

In 1979, after working for years for construction and engineering companies, and earning a Mechanical Engineer's degree, Robert opened his own business -- Intra Development Associates, or IDA. Today, Tom and his brother, Norman, still run the business, now called IDA international, in Derby

The Harbinson family's commitment to public service is well known in the Valley too. Robert was involved in several

organizations, like Shelton's Conservation Commission. Along with Sarah's tireless dedication to nursing, the couple epitomized their unwavering devotion to their family and the Valley.

Today, Tom also carries on the Harbinson public service tradition as well, serving on several Shelton boards and commissions.

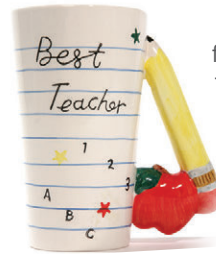
"Our parents' journey taught us that true success lies not in personal achievement, but in the lives we touch and the communities we uplift," Tom said. "That's what our dad and mom were all about."

"This fund serves as a testament to her love of children, and her commitment to education and the Derby community."

Rita Rae Keefe Memorial Fund



Rita Rae Keefe, a beloved teacher from Derby, left an enduring mark on her community through her lifelong dedication to nurturing young minds. Following her passing in 2022, her sister, Sue Ann Keefe, wanted to honor her sister and find a way to leave a legacy and symbol of hope for Derby's youth.



from birth through age 11, that's why Sue picked it to be the beneficiary of her sister's fund.

"We are truly grateful to be the beneficiary of this fund and honored to keep her legacy alive," Sherman said. "This fund will enable us to provide resources such as early literacy activities, collection development, ESL literacy workshops and author visits to name a few."

"One day, not long after Rita passed, I was driving by the Derby Public Library when the children at the Irving School were being dismissed for the day," Sue Ann said. "It was clear to me that an enduring gift, like this fund that supports these children, is something Rita would want."

Sue Ann reached out to the staff at the library and asked how she could create a fund to always support the library's youth programs. Susan Sherman, the Children's Program Librarian was thrilled and immediately connected Sue with the Valley Community Foundation.

The Rita Rae Keefe Memorial Fund, a donor designated fund, will support programs and activities at the library's Children's Room which is a vibrant hub of learning and imagination, where young minds can flourish. The Children's Room offers resources tailored to youngsters

Sue Ann said along with loving children and being an educator, her sister passionately supported women's issues, social justice, and equality throughout her life. She was an avid reader, making it a habit to read the entire Sunday *New York Times* every week. Alongside her late husband, Joe, Rita also loved exploring the world, enjoying numerous travel adventures.

"I wanted Rita's legacy, her passion for life, teaching and learning, to continue on and thrive," Sue Ann said. "This fund serves as a testament to her love of children, her commitment to education and the Derby community."

Throughout her career as an educator, at the Lincoln and Irving schools, Rita's passion for teaching touched the lives of countless students. When she retired in 2007, many of her students penned dozens of heartfelt notes, echoing sentiments of admiration, love, and gratitude. To her students, Mrs. Keefe was not just a teacher, but a superstar educator and mentor.

"For 37 years she shared her love of learning with hundreds of third and sixth grade students," Sue Ann said. "Now, her fund will do that again, but this time forever."

Bette Mae's Memorial Fund



Everyone who knew Elizabeth "Bette Mae" Luedecker knew she was like the Energizer Bunny -- she had such a zest for life, a love for family and friends, and a knack for collecting.

In 2023, at the age of 97, Bette Mae passed away. She showed her deep affection for the Valley by including a provision in her estate plan

that established a designated fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF). Bette Mae's Memorial Fund will provide ongoing support -- in perpetuity -- to her favorite Valley nonprofit organization, BHcare's My Sister's Place, a thrift store, and donation center located in Ansonia which directs all proceeds to help victims of domestic violence and their children.

"Mom always gave to and volunteered at many organizations during her lifetime," said Bette Mae's daughter, Beth Colette. "But My Sister's Place was special to her, she donated her time, clothing, furniture and so many things over the years. I think she really loved the camaraderie with all the other volunteers and meeting people coming in to shop and hunt for a treasure."

"They say that you die twice, once when you pass away, and then again, the last time someone says your name. This fund will ensure her memory lives on."

Throughout her life, Bette Mae was a woman of many passions. She played golf well into her nineties, was very crafty and enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and creating wedding samplers for her children and grandchildren. She was also a globetrotter, and her adventurous spirit took her far and wide, enjoying road trips, seeing all 50 states, and traveling to Ireland and France.

"My grandmother meant different things to different people, but she was always memorable," said her grandson, Justin Luedecker. "They say that you die twice, once when you pass away, and then again, the last time someone says your name. This fund will ensure her memory lives on."

"Miss Bette was a ray of sunshine here," said Nancy Cahoon, the manager of My Sister's Place. "Her dedication to our cause was inspiring and her warmth and generosity were felt by everyone who crossed her path. She was not just a volunteer; she was a pillar of strength for us and her boundless energy and enthusiasm inspired all of us."

"We hope our mom's fund will motivate others and remind us of the profound impact one person can have when they invest their heart, time, and resources into making the world a better place," said Bette Mae's daughter, Karen Pawlowski. "We miss her immensely, but this fund will make sure she's remembered and it's nice to know that when My Sister's Place needs painting or new carpeting that Mom is still able to help them through the fund."

Patrick R. McNamara Memorial Scholarship Fund



When remembering Patrick R. McNamara, his family use words like "inspirational... larger-than-life...fun-loving... devoted...witty and kind."

It's easy for them to recall wonderful memories of Patrick. He was an outgoing and gregarious person, the center

of a close-knit family who care deeply for each other, and the Valley where Patrick was born and raised. "Patrick was our older brother and really paved the way for us as we grew up," said Terry McNamara.



In 2008, after Patrick unexpectedly passed away, his family sought a meaningful way to honor him. Because of his love of sports and unwavering commitment to family and friends, they created a scholarship in his name at Ansonia High School. For years, the family funded the scholarship by hosting a golf tournament. The Patrick R. McNamara Scholarship Fund supported a graduating Ansonia High School athlete.

"We felt as a family that it was really the best way to remember Patrick, by helping a student athlete," said his sister, Eileen McNamara DiMarino.

When Patrick's mother, Eleanor, passed away in June of 2022 the family asked that donations go to Patrick's fund in lieu of flowers. Then, in 2023, the family decided to endow the scholarship permanently at the Valley Community Foundation guaranteeing it would be there for generations to come.



"The Valley has always been important to our family, and what better way to honor our dad," said Travis McNamara.

"Academics were also very important to our dad," added Wade McNamara. "He loved talking about books and pushed us to excel in the classroom as much as on the field or in the pool."

In 1976, Patrick graduated from Ansonia High and went on to be an All-American wide receiver at Trinity College. He passed his love of sports on to his sons, both were star athletes at Pomperaug High School. Travis went on to be an All-American swimmer at Princeton University and Wade a varsity wide receiver -- like his dad -- at Amherst College.

"He was devoted to his sons, taking them to daily practice sessions, and would never miss a game, school event or swim meet," said Nancy McNamara, Patrick's wife of 20 years. "He was incredibly proud of Travis and Wade."

Patrick was successful in the business world too. During his career, he was a banker and created his own company, MAC Mortgages with his brother, Tim, who fondly recalled working with Patrick. He was also an inaugural partner at Fiduciary Investment Advisors in Windsor.

"He had the gift of optimism in whatever he did and truly loved life," said his sister, Maura McNamara Powers. "I think he would want us to follow his example and live life to the fullest and have some laughs along the way."

"We felt as a family that it was really the best way to remember Patrick, by helping a student athlete."

Elliott Moscato Scholarship Fund



Elliott Moscato was a son, brother, nephew, cousin, and great friend to many. He was smart, funny, happy, patriotic, loved ethnic food, pizza, music and baseball. Elliott also had an incredible desire to care for and help others. Above all, he loved his family.

When Elliott passed away suddenly last year at the age of 22, he left an enormous void of love, respect, and admiration that many take a lifetime to amass. Despite his youth, his personal connections and positive impact resonated deeply with all who crossed his path.

"He was always such a sweet boy, truly an old soul," said Kathleen Kiley, Elliott's mom. "People instantly liked Ell because he was kind, caring, exceptional and always flashed his million-dollar smile. His love for those around him was pure and sincere."

Elliott was born and raised in Derby, attended the Eagle Hill School in Southport, and graduated from Emmett O'Brien Technical High School in Ansonia, where he discovered the Precision Machining trade. As a senior, he earned recognition, having received several scholarships, one most notably which exemplified Elliott's perseverance to excellence in his trade.



After graduating in 2019, Elliott continued to work as a machinist, a job that required high-precision skills and talent.

"Elliott enjoyed his high school years, it was there he flourished and learned that he had an innate talent as a machinist," said his aunt, Annette Frank. "He had an incredible work ethic and it was Ell's determination which led him to be successful at Emmett O'Brien, in his trade, and in his life."

Soon after he passed away, Elliott's family decided to do something special to honor his memory and established the Elliott Moscato Scholarship Fund at the Valley Community Foundation. His scholarship will be awarded to an Emmett O'Brien graduate who plans on pursuing a career in Precision Machining Technology.

The recipient of the scholarship will reflect Elliott's spirit and be of strong moral character, as well as being kind and generous. This person will also be loving and dedicated to family and friends, patriotic, and act as a positive role model for other students, Kathleen said.

Elliott had an unwavering commitment to help others whether it be family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers. It was a trait that served him well as a Boy Scout with Troop 3 in Derby. He earned the highest achievement, Eagle Scout, with the help and guidance of his older brother, mentor, best friend, and fellow Eagle Scout, Joshua.

"Elliott was a terrific young man who lived the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life," said his Troop Leader, Randy Ritter. "Elliott was enthusiastic, and always put the needs of others ahead of his own."

"The recipient will reflect Elliott's spirit: one who exhibits a strong moral character and is kind and generous."



"He really treasured education," Tom said of his grandfather. "I think he'd be so proud to know that his scholarship is still helping students and that it's now part of a community foundation."

Dr. Michael A. Parlato Scholarship Fund



In 1967, after a long and successful career as a physician in Derby, Dr. Michael A. Parlato established a trust in his name at a local bank to help graduating Derby High School students pursuing higher education in college or trade schools.

Now, thanks to his grandchildren,

Tom and Allie Bledsoe, the Dr. Michael A. Parlato Scholarship Fund has a new home at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), guaranteeing its impact forever. In 2023, the Parlato siblings approved the decision to convert the trust to a scholarship fund at VCF.

"He really treasured education," Tom said of his grandfather. "I think he'd be so proud to know that his scholarship is still helping students and that it's now part of a community foundation."

It was Amy Lynch, a Senior Vice President at Bank of America (BOA), that came up with the idea of converting Dr. Parlato's trust from BOA to VCF.

"This collaboration between VCF and Bank of America exemplifies the importance of partnerships between financial institutions and community foundations," said Sharon Closius, President and CEO of VCF. "Large and small financial institutions understand that a community foundation can do an extraordinary job in managing funds and assuring that the donor's intent is always going to be paramount and met."

Dr. Parlato's roots in Derby run deep. He was a role model and pioneer in both the medical field and in the Valley's Italian

American community. The Parlato family was the first Italian family to immigrate to Derby in 1872, and through hard work and determination carved out a place for themselves in the fabric of the then-booming industrial town. Dr. Parlato's parents, Antonio and Antonetta, made the sometimes-perilous sea voyage to the United States with very little in their pockets, just hope for a new beginning and better future for their young family. Their long journey from Vico Enquense, Italy, to Derby symbolized the resilience that defined the Italian-American experience in the late 19th and 20th centuries.



But Dr. Parlato's story is one of remarkable personal achievements as well. As a trailblazer in the Italian American community, he paved the way and opened doors for other Italian Americans. He was the first Italian American boy born in Derby, the first Italian American male to graduate from Derby High, and then in 1908 he became the first Italian American from Derby to graduate from Yale Medical School.

Throughout his successful medical career, Dr. Parlato not only served as a distinguished and beloved physician in the Valley, but also as an active participant in Derby's civic life. From his tenure at Griffin Hospital to his involvement in various organizations and clubs -- including Derby's board of finance, the Derby Elks, and several medical societies -- his impact in the community resonated beyond his medical practice.

Although Dr. Parlato passed away in 1980 at the age of 94, his memory and legacy endures through his scholarship and the lives he touched. With the scholarship under the stewardship of VCF, a new chapter is unfolding, Tom said.

"When you sit back and look at all he achieved, especially at that time, it's truly remarkable," Tom said. "He's still an inspiration to our family and we think this scholarship will help inspire others."





Beel Pesch Family Fund



Olivia Pesch and Ryan Beel are both residents of the Valley. The Beel Pesch Family Fund will be used by the couple to support causes and charities they care about, and some they have yet to discover.

"We really don't have anything specific in mind just yet," Olivia said. "But it's something we can have our family and friends contribute to over time."

Olivia used to work at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) when she was in graduate school. Her experience at VCF gave her firsthand knowledge of the impactful work the foundation does.

Olivia and Ryan envision their fund as a legacy that will continue to grow and benefit the community for years to come. They see it as a way to leave a lasting impact in the Valley.

"This is a perfect way to honor Dad's legacy and give back to the Valley he cherished and adored"

Drew Pickering Sr. Memorial Fund



Live like there's no tomorrow, celebrate big, make memories, cherish old traditions, and never forget to start new ones, laugh, and be happy -- that was Drew Pickering Sr. He was also a wisecracker right up until his last days. Big Drew, as his family fondly called him, embodied the spirit of the Valley. He grew up and lived in Shelton most of his

life and when he passed away in 2022, he left a life filled with love for family, friends, and a career in Connecticut manufacturing.

He had a big heart, visions, ideas, and love for his family and friends. But his love for his grandchildren knew no bounds. He became "Papa" to Casey, Sheamus, McKenzie, and Brooks and they were his pride and joy and changed his world.

His journey in manufacturing started after he graduated from Shelton High School in 1965 when he picked up his father's toolbox and worked his way through the State of Connecticut's Tool & Diemakers apprenticeship program. Drew started working at Vangor Engineering Corporation in Stratford. In 1968, after completing 8,000 hours of training and technical school, he became a third-generation certified Tool & Diemaker.

The dedication to his craft as a tool and die tradesman spanned decades, leaving an imprint not only in his intricate progressive die designs, products, and machinery he worked with but also in the hearts of colleagues and those he mentored along the way. In 1985, after working through the ranks at different manufacturing companies in the area, Drew expanded his vision for the trades and started his own company, Kingswood Technology, with a longtime friend and coworker, Michael Chernesky, and with the love and support of his wife, Candy Pickering.

"Dad passed down his extensive knowledge of the trade and I was able to complete my State of Connecticut Tool and Diemaker apprenticeship at Kingswood," said Drew Pickering Jr., Drew's son.

Thanks to his family, that legacy of love and skilled success will continue through the Drew Pickering Sr. Memorial Fund, established at the Valley Community Foundation by his devoted wife, and their children, Drew Jr., and Nicole Fitzgerald.

The fund aims to carry forward Big Drew's legacy and desire to keep manufacturing alive in the Valley. It will encourage and steer young people towards the Connecticut Apprenticeship Program for Manufacturing. This will continue throughout generations to come and keep his memory alive, his family said.

"This is a perfect way to honor Dad's legacy and give back to the Valley he cherished and adored," Nicole said.



"Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the theater as we know it today," said Carla Supersano Sullivan, the theater's Managing Director. "Their passion, dedication, and hard work have been instrumental in shaping the Center Stage Theatre into the vibrant theatrical entity and community it is."

Center Stage Theatre Building Community Fund



Center Stage Theatre is more than just performances and educational opportunities, it's a civic instrument that builds community and spreads the arts beyond geographic boundaries.

The theater in Shelton is a local cultural gem that has been entertaining and inspiring the community

since 2005. The history of this beloved theater traces its founding to Gary and Francesca Scarpa, a visionary couple whose dream ignited the spark that would become a beacon of the performing arts in the Valley.

In 2023, a new act of the theater's history began when Center Stage established the Center Stage Theatre Building Community Fund -- a donor designated fund -- to honor the theater's dedicated volunteers and promote its mission to high-quality theatrical productions, performing arts education and meaningful volunteer opportunities.

"Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the theater as we know it today," said Carla Supersano Sullivan, the theater's Managing Director. "Their passion, dedication, and hard work have been instrumental in shaping the Center Stage Theatre into the vibrant theatrical entity and community it is."

Sullivan said volunteers have always worked tirelessly for every production, ensuring that each show dazzles and

leaves a lasting impact. The fund is truly inspired by the indomitable spirit of devoted volunteers, she said, like John Corrado and Justin Zenchuk.

John Corrado, currently the theater's Board Chair, and Justin Zenchuk, the theater's Technical Director, began their journey with Center Stage as pre-teens through the theater's camp program and never left. Sullivan said over the years, they have gone above and beyond, especially during tough times, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, to keep the theater alive and flourishing.

"John and Justin are two of hundreds of volunteers that help us each year, both on stage and behind the scenes," Sullivan said. "This fund will be used to acknowledge and support volunteers and their contributions so that Center Stage will continue to shine."



Throughout the years, Center Stage has grown into a regional cultural hub, producing five full-scale productions annually, including its Youth CONNECTION summer musical that features a cast of high school and college students. Beyond the mainstage productions, the theater's commitment to education shines through a wide range of programs for students in grades K-12. From theater arts classes in acting, singing, and dancing to Junior Musicals and opportunities to volunteer backstage, they cultivate the next generation of Valley performers and artists.

"This fund is really about recognizing and thanking all the individuals, past, present and future, who have selflessly given their time and talent," Sullivan said. "We hope others will join us in acknowledging these wonderful volunteers and how the theater is building community one performance at a time."



How to Set Up a Fund with the Valley Community Foundation



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?

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.

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.

Valley Community Foundation Vision, Mission, and Values:

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

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

VALUES - To accomplish the stated vision and mission, VCF embraces the following 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 non-profit organizations

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



Valley Gave Generously For Great Give!


THE great Give
MAY 3-4, 2023
A 36-hour, online-giving event
to support local nonprofits

 The **COMMUNITY** Foundation
for Greater New Haven

 VALLEY COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Valley nonprofits raised more than \$404,000 during the 2023 Great Give, making the 36-hour online giving event one of its most successful.

In all, donors in 2023 gave more than \$3.4 million through The Great Give, supporting more than 516 nonprofits throughout the Valley and Greater New Haven Region. In the Valley, a record 55 area nonprofits participated, and more than 1,825 donations were made by people who live and/or work in the Valley.

Also, more than \$240,000 of the Valley total was donated by 19 Valley Community Foundation (VCF) Donor Advised fundholders.

"Once again Valley residents showed their true colors of generosity," said Sharon Closius, VCF's President and CEO. "Our Valley nonprofits do so much, and this year's Great Give outcome is just more evidence of how appreciative Valley residents are of their nonprofits and the work they do."

"Once again Valley residents showed their true colors of generosity"

Valley Community Foundation Funds



The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) has been a catalyst for positive change in the region since its founding in 2004. During these years, VCF has helped Valley residents and donors establish more than 260 funds that have had a significant positive impact on the community. This Annual Report fund section lists all the remarkable funds that have helped to improve the lives of Valley individuals and organizations.

Countless numbers of deserving students have been aided by VCF managed scholarships, and funders have provided crucial support to a myriad of area nonprofits, enabling them to carry out their missions more effectively and serve more individuals in need.

Funds managed by VCF have also played a critical role in supporting programs and organizations during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In a time of great uncertainty and disruption, VCF funds provided critical assistance, helping to ensure that the Valley could weather the storm.



Donor Designated Funds

If you want to show your support for a specific organization(s) 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
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
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

* New Fund in 2023



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
 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
 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
 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
 Center Stage Theatre Building Community 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

* New Fund in 2023



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
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
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
Bruno Battaglini Memorial Fund
Stella Behuniak Fund
Winston J. Bish Memorial Scholarship Fund
John F. Blake, Jr. Memorial Prize Fund
Andy Brennan Memorial Fund
Rachel and William Brogadir Scholarship Fund
Stanley and Irene Chlebowsky 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
Julia Krizan Scholarship Fund for the Arts
Russell & Joanne Kiley Kulawiz Fund

* New Fund in 2023



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

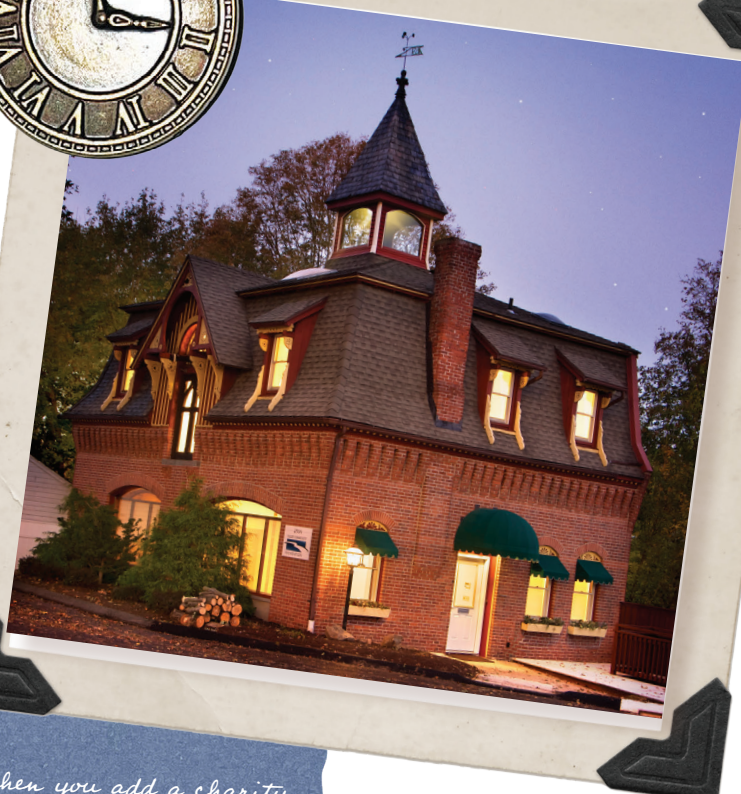
Raymond F. Mackowski Fund

Ortoli Family Fund

Dorothy E. & Kenneth E. Schaible Community Fund

Valley Community Fund

VCF Administrative and Reserve Fund



A legacy isn't only what you leave to the world. When you add a charity or charities in your estate plan, you create something powerful, a legacy that tells future generations what causes mattered to you.

Around the Valley



Donors of the Valley Community Foundation



*Together, we are like
colorful threads woven into
a beautiful tapestry.*

Anonymous (22)
Susan Agamy
Al & Patty Altieri
AmazonSmile Foundation
Ameriprise Financial
Jessica Anderson
Rob Annicelli
Ansonia Gridiron Club
Elaine Apicella
Judith Augusta
Richard & Rosalie Averill
Valerie Bacchicchi
Bad Sons Beer Co., LLC
Eloise Ballard Raymond
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Barnum Engineered Systems, Inc.
Richard Bartholomew & Felicia Monaco
William Bassett
William & Joann Bassford
Gerald & Kathleen Battles
Ryan Beel & Olivia Pesch
Peter Behuniak
Benevity Community Impact Fund
David & LuAnn Bennett
Antonius Bentlage & Karen Bentlage
Charitable Lead Trust
Amy Bike
Biomerics NLE
Hilary Black
Steven Blanchette
Dena Boccardi
Rose Bombero & Anastasia Ruelle
Leslie Bondos
Ronald Bonito
Angela Booth
Stephanie Bordeau
Geraldine Botte
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Caitlin Bradner
William & Jo Ann Brennan
Jeffrey & Shawna Browne
Richard & Deborah Bruciati
Francine Buckley
William & Rita Budahazy

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Patricia Burns
Peter Burns
Tammy Burrell
Patricia Caldwell
Campoli Family
Julian Campoli
Carolyn Carloni
Robert & Nancy Carroll
Rosemary Casine & Anita Savarese
Gail Catlin
Melanie Cecarelli
Center Stage Theatre Inc.
Chaotic 3 Workshop, LLC
Charged Ansonia
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Nadiene Chiaro
Gary & Diana Cirillo
City of Ansonia
The Clay Date
Mary Ann Clements
Barbara Clifford
Sharon Closius
Briana Cole
Randall & Beth Colette
Edmund & Barbara Conklin
Patricia Connolly
Michael & Kathleen Conroy
Theresa Conroy
Hope, Aaron, Lydia, Molly Cooper
Mary Cooper
John Coppola
Aneudy Corchado
Mary Rose Corkindale
John & Carol Costello
Charles & Judith Daignault
Dick & Mary Ann Dalling
Cristina DaSilva
Sara Davis
Michael DeBaggis
Paul & Judy DeCoster
Martin DeFelice
JoAnna DeJesus-Vicenty
Lynn Dell

Corinne Dellaera-Bish
Joseph & Ann Marie DePetto
Frank & Kimberly DeStefano
Catherine DeTullio
Susan Devol
Faith DiFronzo
Dominick DiGangi & Valerie
Knight-DiGangi
Thomas DiLullo
Geraldine Diorio
Adam & Joyce Dobek
Donna Doherty
Emmett & Shannon Donovan
Kevin & Polly Donovan
Jacqueline Downing
Peter & Carole Doyle
Dr. Michael Parlato Trust
Stephanie Dragan
Mary Jane Drauss
Kari Driskell
Estate of Elizabeth Luedecker
Jason Edwards
Kurt England
Paula Eppinger
Robert & Amy Evans
Gilda Everett
Lorraine Faiella
Thomas Farr
Edward Faulkner
Lena Felix
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Fidelity Giving Marketplace
Edward & Jenniegrace Finch
Rosina Flynn
Lynn Forcier
Marilyn Forsythe
Annette Frank
Federica & Andrea Fregonese
Glenn Gaetano
Pat Gajdosik
Donna Ganchou
Barbara Garofalo
Vincent Garofalo
Derek & Christina Gazda

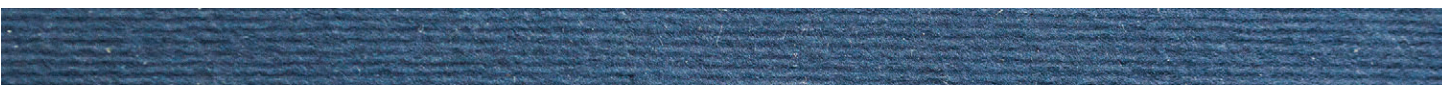
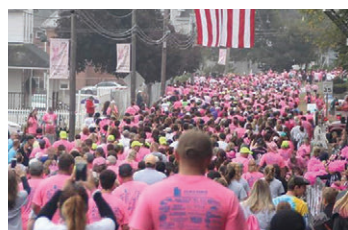




James & Nancy Geissler
GE Foundation
Lynn Giordano
Veronica Gonzalez
Douglas Goumas
Gregg Goumas
Mark & Gwen Goumas
Jennifer Grandpre
Richard & Patricia Greene
Chris Grizzle
Cheryl Groesbeck
Trevor Gulash
Frank Haines
Teri Haines
Matthew Halko
Brandon Hardwick
Ralph & Lynne Harrison
Jacob Heerdt
Kurt & Carmel Heim
Helena Hernandez
Holliston Cub Scouts Pack 2
Lorraine & Bernard Horn, Jr.
Tashawn & Nicole Howell
Alison Hubley
Estate of Michael M. Hyder
IDA Properties Inc.
Ingalls & Snyder, LLC
Edward Jaekle
Ryan Jakob
Frances Jesulaitis
Elwin Jimmo
Terry & Jean Jones
Jones Family Farms, LLC
Lois Jones
John Jurkowski
JV Precision Machine Co.
Michelle & Thomas Kachmarck
Beverly Kamaitis
Harriet Karkut
Sue Keefe
Jennifer Kever
Nora Keller
Deborah Kelo
M. Elizabeth Kennard
David Kennedy
James Kenney
Sandra Kiley
Mrs. Kiley's 1st Grade Classroom
Ed & Aleta Kisluk
Kimberly Caro Spray Trust
Diane King

John & Diane Klibansky
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Paul Kondrath
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Peter Konwerski
Carol Korte
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Cathleen Lynch
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Robert & Jennifer Magri
Rosemarie Main
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Libera Maldonado Posca
Kathleen Malerba
Brian Mallon
Andrew & Colleen Mancini
Kim Marchitto
Kenneth Marcucio
Gail Marino
Arthur Martin
Ursula Martino
Massaro Community Farm, Inc.
Michelle McCarthy
Michael & Monica McMahon
Felicia McPhail
Lisa McPhie
Amanda Mele
Joana Melendez
Paul & Francie Mengold
Gary & Carol Merlone
Emilio Mesiti
Chris Mester

MaryAnn Meyer
Joseph Michaels, IV
Priscille Michaud
John & Valerie Milkowski
Anne Miller Lynch
Adriana Miller
Miller-Ward Funeral Home, LLC
Albert Misiewicz & Nicole Cignoli
Donna Mizak
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Grace Monahan
Corinne Montepara
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Robert & Sheila Moseley
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Karen Narwold
Mark & Pamela Neuendorf
Steven Ng
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Peck Place Sunshine
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Michael & Susannah Petro



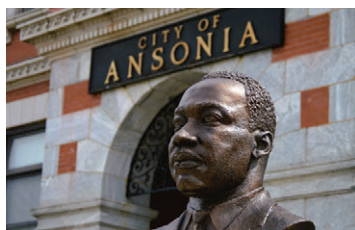


Judith Petz
Candace Pickering
Patty Picoli
Dave Pinciario
Wendy Poeta-Tisi
John Porcu
Laurel Post
Catherine Potter
Angela Powers
Mark Healey Powers &
Maura McNamara
Tracy Prajer
Maria Prota
Lorraine Pucci
Melissa Pucci
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Jennifer Sardo
Maura Satkowski
Marian Schmitz
Bret & Carla Schneider
Schwab Charitable Fund

Harold & Ann Marie Searles
Mark & Leanne Searles
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Seymour High School
Seymour High School Goal Club
Ashokkumar Shah
Shelton Ct Gaels Alumni Association
Shelton High School
Patrick Sheridan
Louise Shuffitt
David Silvia
Thomas Simonetti
Nicole Simpson
Larry Slifkin
Donald & Lisa Smith, Jr.
Brad & Marianne Smythe
Sturgis Sobin
Linda Sobolewski
Thomas & Julia Soda
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Southport School
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Seth Squires
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Paul Stamos
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Frederick Stanek
Lisa Stoeffel
Michele Streeto
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Penelope Tambis
Patricia Tarasovic
Ronald Tarini, Sr.
Christine Taylor
TEAM, Inc.
Pat Telesco
Saber Guild Kessel Temple
Fredy Teyssedou
Alyse Thomas
Janet Thomas
Jess Thompson
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Tind-All Creative Marketing
Cynthia Tonucci
Town Fair Tire Foundation, Inc.
Town of Oxford
Laurn Tuttle
Patricia Tuttle

Kara Tyszk
United Way of Greater Waterbury
Nancy Valentine
Vincenzo & Christine Valentino
Lina Valenzuela
Valley United Way
Allan Vartelas
Jonathan Vartelas
Paul Vartelas
Verrilli Family
Laurel Vicidomino
Margaret Vicidomino
Dom & Ann Marie Violano
Laura Viscount
Carl Vitale
John Vitello & Janice Howard
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Amy Warren
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Tom & Jodi Welch
Sandra Wellinghoff
Heather Williams
Willinger, Willinger & Bucci
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Allan Wong
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Michael Yarish
Cary Yeh & Lynn O'Neil
Yeh & O'Neil Revocable Trust
Sarah V. Yineman
Jennifer Zinzi
Katherine Zollo
Joseph & Cynthia Zuraw

*Your generous gift will
help bring positive change
to the Valley community
for generations to come.*

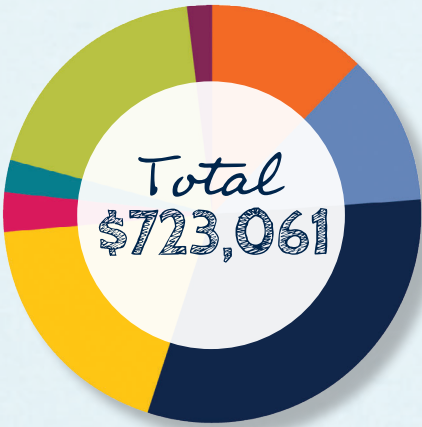


Community Investment

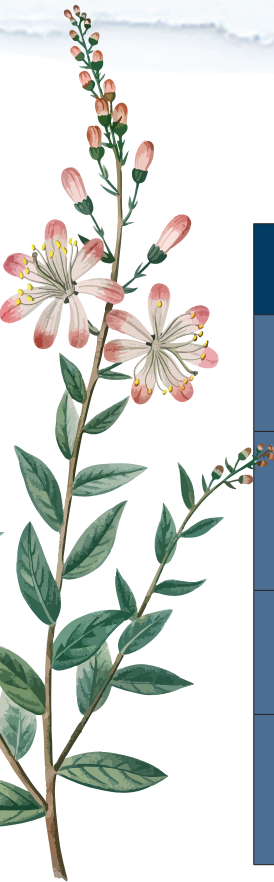


The Valley Community Foundation’s mission is to inspire philanthropic growth, provide and foster leadership, engage donors, and strengthen the Valley community both now and for future generations.

This data reflects discretionary grants made through the Responsive (New and Multi-year), Needs and Opportunities, Sponsorship, and Community Grants programs. It does not include \$326,716 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.



- Children and Youth
- Education
- Health
- Basic Human Needs
- Civic Vitality & Social Justice
- Economic Success
- Arts and Culture
- Environment



Type of Funds	Number of Funds	Assets	Number of Grants	\$ of Grants
DONOR ADVISED	73	11,360,887	197	527,576
DESIGNATED & ORGANIZATION TRANSFERS	73	17,050,992	66	383,042
SCHOLARSHIPS	87	3,792,977	104	203,975
UNRESTRICTED & PREFERENCE	16	3,024,415	31	435,891



Responsive Grants

The Valley Community Foundation'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 continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, these grants were all awarded to address each nonprofit's general operating support needs. All grants, except those with an asterisk, represent multi-year support.

Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley – To provide general operating support for safe, fun, affordable, educational, recreational programming, and constructive care for Valley youth. **\$35,000**

cARTie – To provide general operating support for its mobile art museum, building upon best practices in early learning and community programming and incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, and belong concepts through thoughtful activities for families and multiple generations. **\$15,000**

Center Stage Theatre – To provide general operating for its performing arts programs and the continuation of access to arts opportunities for multiple generations of Greater Valley residents. **\$25,000**

Central Connecticut Coast/Valley YMCA – To provide general operating support to assist the Valley YMCA with strengthening families and communities through youth development, healthy living, volunteerism, and the provision of food and housing. **\$20,000**

Holy Trinity Catholic Academy – To provide support for the replacement of gymnasium windows. **\$15,000**

Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America – To provide general operating support to Valley youth through teamwork, leadership, and character building. **\$30,000**

Life Health and Wellness Center – To provide general operating support to assist Life Health Wellness deliver child-care, community outreach, and elder services to those most in need in Greater Ansonia. **\$30,000**

Massaro Community Farm – To provide general operating support to Massaro Farm to help Valley residents access affordable, locally produced, organically grown food and environmental educational programming. **\$10,000**

Rape Crisis Center of Milford – To provide general operating support to the Center to maintain and respond to increased demand for programming to assist victims of sexual assault in the Valley region. **\$6,000**

Shelton Historical Society – To provide general operating support to help the Historical Society present history from multiple perspectives. **\$23,000**

St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley – To provide general operating support to help to ensure infrastructure sustainability and client outreach. **\$32,000**

Storm Engine Company Ambulance* – To provide general operating support to purchase new “Jaws of Life” lifesaving equipment. **\$60,000**

Traveler on a Mission – To provide general operating support to help Valley residents access hygiene supplies, incontinence products, and youth educational programs focusing on health and wellness. **\$10,000**

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.

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

Haven's Harvest – To provide general operating support to conduct food recovery work in the Valley. **\$9,000**

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

Naugatuck Valley Health District – To provide support for evidence based health programs within the Valley to ensure prevention and self-management of chronic conditions. **\$6,300**

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**

Read to Grow – To bring its bookmobile to the Valley. **\$5,100**

Seymour Historical Society – To support replacing its existing furnace at the Katharine Matthies House in Seymour. **\$5,000**



Seymour Public Schools – To support the construction of a recording studio for the music department at Seymour High School. **\$8,111**

Sustainable CT – To support a summer Fellow at the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for work in the Valley region. **\$2,125**

The Hometown Foundation – To support the annual HungerLESS Holidays Program in the Valley. **\$6,600**

The Town of Seymour – To support its Seymour Fit/ Seymour Strong recreation program for senior citizens. **\$4,000**

United Way of Western CT – To support stipends for diverse and underrepresented communities to serve on the Governor's Workforce Council's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access sub-committees. **\$500**

Webster Hose Hook and Ladder #3 – To support the purchase of an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED). **\$1,725**

Community Grants

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

Afrique Prospere Education – To support French-speaking immigrants who have recently settled in the Valley. **\$500**

All-America Valley Basketball Club – To support the club's participation in an 11-week competitive basketball tournament. **\$2,500**

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

Boy Scout Troup 27 Ansonia – To support the purchase of tents for program participants. **\$2,500**

Boy Scout Troup 51 Ansonia – To support troupe recruitment and retention. **\$2,500**

Boy Scout Troup 3 Derby – To support Troup 3's spring through fall planting and harvesting seasons. **\$2,500**

Cub Scout Pack 51 Ansonia – To support recruitment and retention of pack members. **\$2,500**

Haven's Harvest – To support the recovery of food in the Valley and redirect it to Valley families in need. **\$2,500**

Oxford High School Make a Difference Club – To support an intergenerational crocheting effort for high school students and senior citizens, and a victory memorial garden club project. **\$2,500**

Shelton Historical Society – To support the rehabilitation of the teaching garden at the Shelton History Center. **\$2,000**

Southford Falls Quilting Guild – To support the legacy of quilting in the Valley. **\$2,500**

Valley Refugee Resettlement Project – To support the Valley Refugee Resettlement Project. **\$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**

All In for Oxford – To sponsor its Juneteenth Celebration. **\$500**

American Legion, Emil Senger Post 10 – To sponsor two students to participate in its annual Boys' State Program. **\$700**

Best Buddies – To sponsor a family friendly event at Dunkin Donuts Park. **\$500**

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

Boy Scout Troop 3 – To sponsor the 97th Annual Scout Gang Show. **\$500**

Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

– To sponsor the 20th Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Day 5K Road Race. **\$2,500**

– To sponsor its Service to Youth Event. **\$1,000**

Celebrate Shelton – To sponsor its 2023 Calendar of Events. **\$2,500**

Central Connecticut Coast YMCA – To sponsor its event highlighting youth and adult volunteers of the year. **\$500**



Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers – To sponsor its annual conference. **\$450**

Connecticut Women's Consortium – To sponsor Valley participants' attendance at its second biennial Trauma and Recovery Conference. **\$800**

Covering My Sisters, Inc. – To sponsor its breast cancer awareness program and paint party celebration of survivors. **\$500**

CT Hurricanes Drum and Bugle Corps – To sponsor its annual drum and bugle competition. **\$500**

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

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

Griffin Hospital

- To sponsor its annual gala. **\$1,000**
- To sponsor its 15th annual walk/run. **\$1,000**

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County
–To sponsor the 21st annual golf invitational. **\$500**

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

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

Oxford High School Booster Club
– To sponsor a senior class lockdown for fun event. **\$600**
– To sponsor Take a Stand Day. **\$600**

Oxford Historical Society – To sponsor a book talk on the peaceful trading relations between the Dutch and the Native Americans in the area prior to English settlement. **\$300**

Seymour Historical Society – To sponsor the 2022-2023 Educational Speakers Series. **\$1,250**

Seymour Pink – To sponsor the 11th Annual Pounding the Pavement for Pink live and virtual 5K run/walk. **\$2,500**

Shelton Exchange Club – To sponsor its Golf Tournament. **\$250**

Shelton High School PTSO – To sponsor a post prom event. **\$750**

Shelton Historical Society – To sponsor its 2023 Valley Antique Car Show and Harvest Festival. **\$1,000**

St. Joseph's School – To sponsor its Maroon and Gold Gala. **\$750**

TEAM, Inc.

- To sponsor its 58th Annual Meeting. **\$500**
- To sponsor the annual Toys4Kids drive. **\$1,000**
- To sponsor Men Who Cook. **\$1,000**

Traveler on a Mission – To sponsor its 4th anniversary event. **\$500**

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

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
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
Center Stage Theatre Inc.
Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
Christ Episcopal Church
Derby Historical Society
Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.
Griffin Hospital
Julia Day Nursery of Ansonia, Inc.
Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County
Life Health and Wellness Center, Inc.
Massaro Community Farm, Inc.
Mishkan Israel Day Camp
Naugatuck Valley Health District
Rape Crisis Center of Milford, Inc.
Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps
Seymour Historical Society
Seymour Pink, Inc.
Seymour Public Schools
Shelton Economic Development Corporation
Shelton Historical Society, Inc.
St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley
Storm Engine Company Ambulance Corps, Inc.
Traveler on a Mission
Valley Shakespeare Festival





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, Luralton Hall
 American International College
 Amity Regional High School
 Ansonia High School
 Assumption School
 Bassick High School
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
 Bunnell High School
 Culinary Institute of America
 Derby High School
 Derby Public Schools
 DeSales University
 Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School
 Hamden High School
 Housatonic Community College
 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 Hartford
 University of New Haven
 University of Rhode Island
 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
 Assumption School
 BHcare
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
 Center Stage Theatre Inc.
 Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
 Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
 The Culinary Institute of America
 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
 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
 Seymour Pink, Inc.
 Shelton High School
 Shelton Historical Society, Inc.
 Shelton Public Schools
 Storm Engine Company Ambulance Corps, Inc.
 TEAM, Inc.
 Treasurer, City of Derby
 Trinity Cemetery Association
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Valley United Way
 Valley YMCA
 Woodbridge Town Library





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.

A More Balanced World
 Afrique Prospere Education
 ALS Association, Connecticut Chapter
 American Farmland Trust
 American Red Cross,
 Connecticut Chapter
 Ansonia High School
 Ansonia Rescue Medical Services
 Area Congregations Together, Inc.
 Bethany Library Association
 Beth-El Center Inc.
 Better Days Rescue Fund
 BHcare
 Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby
 Boy Scouts of America Troop 34
 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower
 Naugatuck Valley
 The Center for Family Justice
 Center Stage Theatre Inc.
 The Children's Heart Foundation
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic
 CoCo's Animal Rescue
 Efforts of Seymour
 Common Ground High School
 Connecticut Burns Care Foundation
 Connecticut Farmland Trust
 Connecticut FoodShare
 Connecticut Forest & Park Association
 Connecticut Hospice, Inc.
 Cub Scout Pack 3
 Derby Historical Society
 Derby Running Club
 Fairfield University
 The Farms Country Club Foundation
 The Foundation School
 Frances Perkins Center
 Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center

Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Inc.
 Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Green Village Initiative
 Griffin Hospital
 Griffin Hospital Development Fund
 Hartford Elks Lodge #19
 Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts
 of America
 Huntington United Methodist Church
 International Festival of Arts & Ideas
 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
 Moravian Academy
 National Multiple Sclerosis
 Society, CT-RI Chapter
 National Right to Work Legal Defense
 and Education Foundation, Inc.
 New Haven Promise
 Northeast Organic Farming
 Association of Connecticut, Inc.
 Oxford Public Library
 Planned Parenthood of Southern
 New England
 Plumb Memorial Library
 Read to Grow
 Recreation Camp, Inc.
 Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut

Rotary Club of Ansonia, Seymour,
 and Oxford, CT
 Yale New Haven Hospital
 Saint Raphael Campus
 Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps
 Save the Sound
 Seymour High School
 Seymour Pink, Inc.
 Shelburne Farms
 Shelton Economic Development
 Corporation
 Shelton High School
 Shelton Historical Society, Inc.
 St. Mary St. Michael School
 St. Joseph's Church
 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
 St. Michael Church
 St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley
 Storm Engine Company
 Ambulance Corps, Inc.
 Susanna Wesley School
 TEAM, Inc.
 Traveler on a Mission
 Tunnel to Towers Foundation
 University of Connecticut
 Foundation, Inc.
 University of Nebraska Foundation
 University of New Haven
 University of New Hampshire
 Valley Council for Health
 and Human Services
 The Valley Independent Sentinel
 Valley United Way
 Valley YMCA
 Wounded Warriors Project

Recognition Grants

Each year, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) Board of Directors recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that were acknowledged for their service to the community. In 2023, these local honorees received a grant from VCF to donate to a Valley nonprofit of their choice.

Charles L. Flynn Humanitarian Award - Valley United Way

- Jamie Cohen - Grant to Boy Scout Troop 3, Derby
 - James Gildea - Grant to Derby Historical Society

Raymond P. Lavietes Service to Youth Award

- Nicholas & Ernestine Luise - Grant to the Boys and Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley

Champion of Youth Award - Bassett Family Fund - Grant to the Boys and Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley

Alumni Hall of Fame Award - Sharon Oates - Grant to the Boys and Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley

Stewardship of Charitable Assets

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) have been affiliated for the past 19 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 49 world-class institutional investment managers specializing in distinct and differentiated asset classes and strategies.

After a weak 2022 for both equity and bond markets, 2023 saw a rebound as equity markets rallied to all-time highs. Slowing inflation and a strong labor market paved the way for the Federal Reserve to signal that monetary easing was becoming more probable in the near future, fueling further market gains in the latter half of the year.

The rally was fairly narrow by historical standards, large cap equities and the technology sector were the strongest, buoyed by high expectations around Artificial Intelligence and computer chipmakers. Utilities and energy sectors lagged significantly over the year as overall inflation abated and energy prices fell.

In 2023, VCF's total return was up 12.7% vs. the benchmark's 13.7%. While the TCF's Commingled Fund underperformed, the portfolio fared well in an equity environment that was largely led by the so called "Magnificent Seven." TCF's global equity managers rallied 21.6% and our hedge strategies increased 13.2%. Private real assets fared less well, as commercial real estate and energy holdings saw lower prices. The allocation to private equity struggled too as capital remained harder to obtain than in the past. The Commingled Fund remained well-positioned and diversified in a variety of asset classes, strategies, and geographies.

As displayed in the chart, the annualized net return of the Commingled Fund has lagged in recent periods but has meaningfully exceeded the market benchmark over longer periods. The Commingled Fund also benchmarks its performance against the Endowment and Foundation peer group, which has placed the Commingled Fund in the top fifth of this national study in each of the last 10 years ended December 2023.

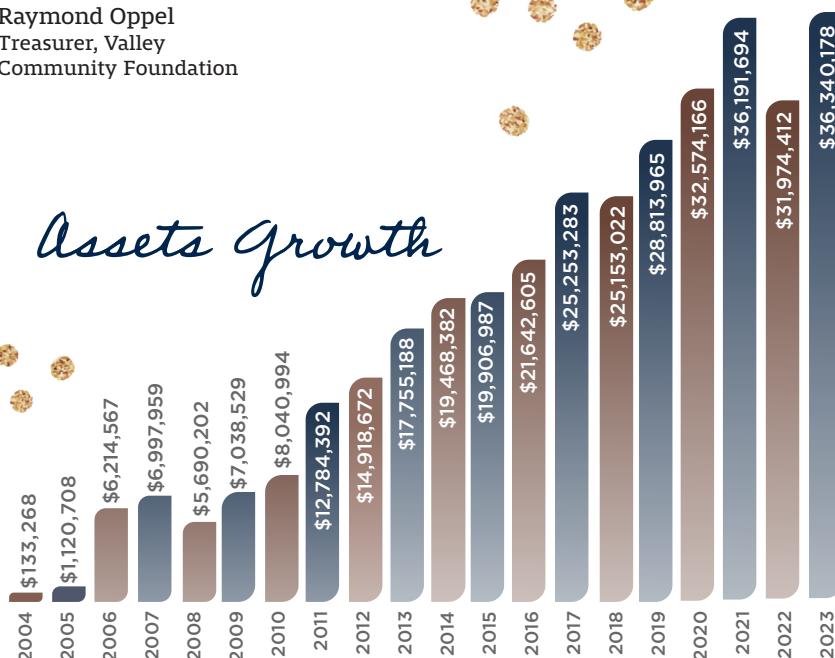


Raymond Oppel
Treasurer, Valley
Community Foundation

Editor's note:

Everyone at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) sends their heartfelt thanks to Ray Oppel who in December of 2023 completed his seven-year term on the Board of Directors. We also welcome aboard Tammy Burrell as VCF's new Treasurer.

Assets Growth



Investment Performance

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

Periods ended 31 December 2023	Trailing 1 Year	Trailing 3 Years	Trailing 5 Years	Trailing 7 Years	Trailing 10 Years
Actual Results (net of expenses)	12.7	2.1	7.9	7.5	6.9
Market Benchmark ¹	13.7	3.4	8.0	7.0	5.9
Value Added (annually)	(1.0)	(1.3)	(0.1)	0.5	1.0

¹The 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.

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.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$962,012	\$760,890
Investments at market value – component funds	21,615,209	19,580,020
Investments at market value – organization funds	12,826,137	10,815,008
Total Investments	\$35,403,358	\$31,155,918
Contributions receivable	750,000	789,923
Other assets/operating lease	166,927	-
Furniture and equipment, net	19,893	28,571
Total Assets	\$36,340,178	\$31,974,412
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	49,701	\$84,888
Organization funds	12,826,137	10,815,008
Grants payable	247,555	74,355
Operating lease liability	166,927	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		
Net Assets Without Restriction	23,049,858	21,000,161
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$36,340,178	\$31,974,412

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Contributions	\$3,387,146	\$3,221,082
Less: transfers to organization funds	(1,088,400)	(602,195)
Net contributions	2,298,746	2,618,887
Investment gain (loss), net	2,408,365	(2,612,112)
Total revenue, gains, and other support	\$4,707,111	\$6,775
EXPENSE		
Grants and distributions approved, net	\$2,085,437	\$2,424,668
Less: grants from organization funds	(263,580)	(496,864)
Net grant expense	1,821,857	1,927,804
Grants for program management and direct charitable activities	543,114	492,895
Net grant and program expense	2,364,971	2,420,699
Development, donor services and fund stewardship	167,111	151,660
Financial management, leadership, and operations	125,332	265,403
Total administration expense	292,443	265,405
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$2,657,414	\$2,686,102
Increase (decrease) in net assets	2,049,697	(2,679,327)
Net assets – Beginning of year	21,000,161	23,679,488
Net assets – End of year	\$23,049,858	\$21,000,161

Fiscal 2023 in Review

The Gates Society

A key component, if not the heart and soul of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), is the permanent endowment funds managed by VCF that will always support the needs of the Valley. Some prefer to plan their gifts to the Valley after they no longer need the assets. These are the members of our Gates Society.

Among these generous members is Ned Miller, a retired insurance executive and well-known businessman within the Valley. In 2023, Miller's journey into local philanthropy took a significant step when he decided to establish a Testamentary Fund which is a future plan to create a permanent VCF fund to support causes and nonprofits he cares about.

"For me, creating a testamentary fund was about leaving a lasting impact on the community I hold dear," Miller said. "It's a way to ensure that my charitable wishes are fulfilled long after I'm gone, and that my love for this region endures."

Miller's sentiment reflects the core of testamentary funds at VCF -- a visionary and worry-free approach to philanthropy.

"VCF understood my philanthropic goals and worked with me to create a plan that truly reflected my values," he said. "The flexibility to modify my plan as needed without the hassle of legal complications was invaluable."

The Gates Society's mission is clear and its impact profound. Along with leaving an endowment to the Valley through VCF, Gates Society members honor the legacy of the two brothers the society is named for: Ross and Frank Gates. Their benevolent spirit continues to shape the fabric of our community through their visionary trusts established in 1938. The Gates brothers laid the foundation for the creation of VCF and inspired many in the tradition of giving that endures to this day.

At VCF, a Testamentary Fund can be created during your lifetime and contains your philanthropic plan. You may have multiple charitable interests that you would like to leave as a charitable beneficiary in your estate. You name the fund at VCF in your estate plan and when we receive your assets, we will carry out your wishes. During your lifetime, your plan can be modified at any time without the expense of an attorney.

By establishing a testamentary fund at VCF, individuals can ensure that their legacy of giving transcends time, leaving an indelible mark on the Valley and its people for generations to come.

Ned Miller



"The flexibility to modify my plan as needed without the hassle of legal complications was invaluable."



2023

The Gates Society Members

Anonymous (4)	Raymond Mackowski*
Dayne & Dawn Bachmann	Mary Theresa Mahoney*
Twan & Karen Bentlage	Ned Miller
Leslie Bondos	Ray Oppel
Sharon Closius	David & Dale Ortoli
Jamie Cohen	Lynn Ortoli*
John Corrado	Joseph Pagliario, Jr.
Jane Cohen*	Dorothy Palazzi
Angela Curas*	Carol Pendagast
Edmund J. Conklin*	Lynne Bassett Perry
Patricia DeCicco	Beth Ann Smith
Walter & Bonnie Drozeck	Donald W. Smith, Sr.*
Helen Dubrava*	Brad & Marianne Smythe
Patricia Dziuba	Frederick Stanek
Ed Fogarty	Karen Stanek*
Gregg Goumas	Nicholas & Patricia
Robert & Sheri Grier	Tarasovic
William & Jo-Anna Holden	Robert & Eleonora
Michael Hyder*	Van Egghe
Heidi Kaplan	Marc C. Vincent*
Deborah Kelo	Valentina Vitali*
M. Elizabeth Kennard	Kathie Vrlik
Richard Knoll	Jack Walsh
Laura Lane	Donald E. Warichar
Robert C. Lang*	Joseph R. Warichar
Barry & Josephine Lifrieri	Lynn Wozniak
Bette Mae Luedecker*	John & Laura Zaprzalka

*Deceased



2023 Staff, Councils, Committees, and Volunteers

Staff

Sharon Closius
Beth Colette
Wendy Gamba
Valerie Knight-Di Gangi
David Rivera
Victoria Vilaysane

Board of Directors

Nancy Valentine,
Chairwoman
Aleta Miner,
Vice Chair
Ray Oppel,
Treasurer
Patricia Tarasovic,
Secretary
Tammy Burrell
Mark Goumas
Christopher Grizzle
Terry Jones
Fred Ortoli
Ned Miller
Angela Powers
Marianne Smythe
Greg Stamos
Jack Walsh

Board Advisory Council

Tom Baklik
Joyce Barclay
William H. Bassett
William C. Bassett
Bing Carbone

Gail Catlin
James Cohen
David Condon
Edmund Conklin
Carolyn Cutaneo
Marianne DeTullio
Nancy Dickgiesser
Timothy Dillon
Rick Dunne
Thomas Egan
Karen Fisher
Marc Garofalo
Larow Garrett
David M. Grant
Liz Kennard
Frederick King Jr.
Robert Lesko
Ernestine Luise
Jennifer Magri
Michael Marcinek
Susan Mauriello
Bevon McLean
Bill Miller, Jr.
Ned Miller
Leslie Navarrete
Judy Larkin Nicolari
William Nimons
Dan Onofrio
Ellen Pagliaro
Joseph Pagliaro Jr.
Al Paolozzi
Silvia Paytas
Mary Pepe
Lynne Bassett Perry

Kathleen Riddle
David Rifkin
Henry Rondon
James Ryan
Kenneth Schaible
Ed Sheehy
Janice Sheehy
Tom Simonetti
Donald Smith
Angelika Stamos
Fred Stanek
Diane Stroman
Thomas Sutnik
Leon J. Sylvester
Alan J. Tyma
Robert Van Egghen
Thomas Welch
John J. Zaprzalka

Development Committee

Marianne Smythe,
Co-chair
Patricia Tarasovic,
Co-chair
Aleta Miner
Nancy Valentine
Carolyn Cutaneo

Program Committee

Fred Ortoli, *Chair*
Tammy Burrell
Mark Goumas
Ray Oppel
Angela Powers

Greg Stamos
Jack Walsh

Community Grants Committee

Liz Kennard, *Chair*
Janice Bonaparte
Tammy Burrell
Beth Carson
Gail Catlin
Jen Champagne
Martha Dulla
Terri Goldson
Mark Goumas
Lovell Hunter
Cheryl McCollum
Ray Oppel
Fred Ortoli
Angelika Stamos

Finance Committee

Tammy Burrell, *Chair*
Ray Oppel
Marianne Smythe
Jack Walsh

Governance Committee

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

VCF thanks the following outgoing Board Members



Ray Oppel



Fred Ortoli



Angela Powers



Marianne Smythe

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 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 TCF staff and all the volunteers for their time, contributions, and expertise.

VALLEY COMMUNITY



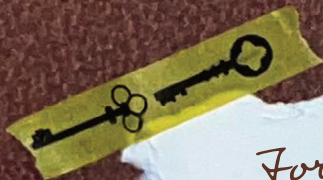
FOUNDATION

www.valleyfoundation.org

253-A ELIZABETH STREET

DERBY, CT 06418

PHONE: (203) 751-9162



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

