

# Community Currents

Keeping You Informed of How Donors Yesterday and Today Are Helping our Community

published by  
**The Community Foundation  
 for Greater New Haven**  
*Celebrating 80 years as the  
 community endowment*

70 Audubon Street, New Haven, CT 06510    www.cfgnh.org    (203) 777-2386

## Foundation responds to urgent needs

- Abandoned properties up by 30% in foreclosure crisis; youth violence surges over summer months
- Board approves \$300,000 from unrestricted funds including gift from New Haven real estate attorney, Russell Atwater, and his wife, Lucie

Taking action amidst soaring foreclosure rates and rises in youth violence, The Foundation awarded grants this July to the Real Options Overcoming Foreclosure (ROOF) Project at the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund and the City of New Haven's Street Outreach Worker Program.

The ROOF Project helps homeowners affected by job cut-backs, rising utility costs, and changing adjustable rate mortgages to avoid foreclosure.

"The numbers of foreclosures has grown continually since 2007 and will crest in 2008 and 2009. To keep the maximum number of homeowners in their homes, ROOF has to ramp up quickly. Thanks to the rapid

### Dealing with challenges is a community effort.

The Foundation is not alone in taking a leadership role to address these housing and safety issues. Other area funders include:

Bank of America  
 Casey Family Services  
 City of New Haven  
 CT Housing Finance Authority  
 Empower New Haven  
 First City Fund Corporation  
 NewAlliance Bank  
 NewAlliance Foundation  
 State of Connecticut  
 United Way of Greater  
 New Haven  
 Yale University

response of The Foundation we will have another counselor within the next six weeks who will work with an additional 75-100 homeowners. Funding also will allow us to quickly identify those in trouble and to track the effectiveness of ROOF strategies so we can modify them on an ongoing basis," says Carla Weil, executive director of the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund. The Street Outreach

Worker Program hires and trains youth workers through a local nonprofit, New Haven Family Alliance. The Workers serve as mentors, educators and advocates to high-risk teens and young adults. A dozen cultural, artistic and athletic activities are planned for the year as well as 50-75 mediation and conflict resolution sessions. Program partners are actively negotiating truces between rival groups to prevent future violence.

"The Street Outreach Worker Program gives law enforcement, city officials and community members a vehicle through which they can promote a culture that

supports young people, reduces violent behavior and encourages youth to engage in positive activities with positive role models," says Kica Matos, community services administrator for the City of New Haven.

These two time-sensitive grants were made from unrestricted funds, including a recent gift from Lucie Atwater, the widow of prominent attorney, Russell Atwater. Because Mr. Atwater's firm, Clark, Hall & Peck, was the leader in real estate law, The Foundation used the bequest for Project ROOF.



**Russell H. Atwater, 1909-1996**

Look for the next issue of Community Currents to learn more about the Atwater family and their contributions to our community.

**The economy and its impact—what do you think?** The Foundation is reaching out to understand how the economy is affecting the community. Log-on to [www.gnhcommunity.org](http://www.gnhcommunity.org) to share your perspective with others.

## Teacher's bequest helps Derby High School students pursue career in education

- Norma Botti's fund distributes 10 Scholarships in 10 Years, and Counting
- Students receive scholarship awards

In Ms. Botti's class you had to earn the grade.

The beloved teacher of romance languages taught at Derby High School for 4 decades. And many of her former students – who still live or work in the Lower Naugatuck Valley – will tell you that she wasn't shy about correcting you for mispronunciation.

Ms. Botti turned her passion for teaching into a wonderful legacy when she made a bequest that established a scholarship fund at The Foundation eleven years ago for Derby High School students.

The Botti Fund has helped 10 students realize their

dream of teaching since its inception. It awarded \$5,000 in '08 – the most ever to this year's recipient who will attend The University of Connecticut.

Like Norma Botti, you too can give educational opportunities to others. Contact Angel Fernandez-Chavero at (203) 777-7072 or [afernandez@cfgnh.org](mailto:afernandez@cfgnh.org) or Jamie Cohen at (203) 225-0880 at the Valley Community Foundation for more information on how to create a fund to support education.



## New collaborations grow resources for Women & Girls

- Unique partnerships with Junior League, United Illuminating and United Way of Greater New Haven expand reach of Community Fund for Women & Girls
- Record high of \$74,000 awarded at Annual Meeting—a jump of 12% in 1 year
- Ambitious goal set to grow endowment and increase grants

A collaboration between The Fund and the United Way of Greater New Haven added the Fund's name to the United Way's 2007-2008 pledge card. Two hundred twenty-five donors chose to direct a gift to The Fund—over half of whom were new contributors.

The Junior League of Greater New Haven (JLGNH) and the United Illuminating Company (UI) also partnered with The Community Fund for Women & Girls. JLGNH granted \$3,000 to Student Parenting and Family Services at Wilbur Cross High School, a program keeping teen parents in school. UI augmented a Women & Girls' Fund grant of \$4,000 to the Hospital of St. Raphael's HOPE program with an additional \$10,000.

Another collaboration enabled

two business students from Career High School to add a youthful perspective to the grants review.

The Community Fund for Women and Girls focuses on healthy women and families, gender equity, leadership and political participation and economic security. A goal has been set to double The Fund's endowment by 2010, The Fund's 15th anniversary, including a special initiative of Advisory Committee "alumnae" who are asking donors to include The Fund in their wills.

To make a gift online and to see a complete list of The Fund's grantees, please visit [www.fundforwomenandgirls.org](http://www.fundforwomenandgirls.org).



Top: Doe Haywood (L) and Lynelle Abel (R) of the Saint Raphael Foundation's HOPE program pose with Nancy Cassella, a Women & Girls' Fund volunteer. HOPE is an employment, training and mentoring program at The Hospital of Saint Raphael.

Bottom: (L-R) Nicole Pollard, Dana Schaffer, Kristin Parenteau of the Junior League of Greater New Haven. The League worked with The Community Fund for Women & Girls to fund a local high school program that keeps teen parents in school.

# Professional advisors are your partners in philanthropy ... and *ours* too

Below is an initial list of advisors who work with you and us to make charitable giving effective and rewarding. We thank our partners for supporting this community now and forever.

Advisors: please help us make sure we know about your work in order to expand this list.

Contact Dotty Weston-Murphy at (203) 777-7081 or [dmurphy@cfgnh.org](mailto:dmurphy@cfgnh.org).

Deborah Abildsoe..... Asset & Retirement Investment Associates LLC  
 Stephen August ..... Smith Barney  
 Greg R. Barringer Esq. .... Reid and Riege PC  
 Yvonne Bass..... Morgan Stanley  
 Patty Beauregard Esq. .... Wiggin & Dana  
 Andrew Boone ..... UBS Financial Services Inc.  
 Marcia A. Cavanaugh.....  
 Mary S. Chromik Esq. .... Chromik Law  
 Karen Clute Esq. .... Wiggin & Dana  
 Christine L. Curtiss Esq. .... Cohen & Thomas  
 Elwood B. Davis ..... Northeast Financial Consultants Inc.  
 Timothy Dillon Esq. .... Sheehy & Dillon  
 Victoria DiSesa Esq. .... DiSesa & DiSesa  
 Colin M. Gershon Esq. .... Colin M. Gershon Attorney at Law  
 Christopher Getman..... Soundview Capital Management  
 Marshal D. Gibson Esq. .... Law Offices of Marshal D. Gibson PC  
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 Michael J. Gulish ..... LPL Financial  
 Elizabeth R. Hartmayer..... Merrill Lynch Investment Managers  
 Birgitta W. Johnson.....  
 Charles C. Kingsley Esq. .... Wiggin & Dana  
 Sherman H. Krevolin Esq. .... Krevolin & Donato  
 David Ladd..... Ladd Capital Management  
 Frederick P. Leaf Esq. .... Fred P. Leaf Law Offices  
 Barbara B. Lindsay Esq. .... Barbara B. Lindsay LLC  
 Ingi-Mai Loorand Esq..... Reid and Riege PC  
 Sheldon A. Messinger Esq. .... Law Offices of Sheldon Messinger  
 John M. Monahan Esq. .... Murtha Cullina LLP  
 Granville R. Morris Esq. .... O'Brien, Shafner, Stuart, Kelly & Morris PC  
 Gregory J. Pepe Esq. .... Neubert, Pepe & Moneith  
 Edward H. Pikaart Jr. CPA, CMA..... Pikaart Visconti & Associates  
 Kathy Priest Esq. .... Kathy Priest, Attorney at Law  
 Helene Robbins CTFA..... Wachovia Bank  
 Sheilah B. Rostow..... Bank of America  
 Michael D. Saffer Esq. .... The Pellegrino Law Firm PC

Anthony Santore CPA..... Beers, Hamerman & Co. PC  
 David R. Schaefer Esq. .... Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman LLP  
 Irving S. Schloss Esq. .... Murtha Cullina LLP

“When meeting with clients, I always ask them if they have any charities they would like to benefit. If they have several organizations or are uncertain, I recommend they talk to their local community foundation, who can suggest charities that might reflect their interests.”

—Sara R. Stadler  
 Partner, Murtha Cullina LLP



Fred D. Sette Esq. .... Sette & Bonadies PC  
 Fay Sheppard CFM..... Merrill Lynch Global Private Client Group  
 Mary A. Shropshire CTFA ..... Wachovia Bank  
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 Carolyn Staub..... Planning Partners  
 Thomas M. Sutnik Esq. .... Law Offices of Thomas Sutnik  
 Dominick Thomas Esq. .... Cohen & Thomas  
 Alan J. Tyma Esq. .... Ryan & Tyma  
 John J. Zaprzalka CPA ..... Apicella, Testa & Company PC  
 Ann H. Zucker Esq. .... Carmody & Torrance



“Our family has two funds at The Community Foundation, and we at Soundview Capital Management Corporation recommend it to clients because the performance has been consistently good and we know the funds will continue to support worthwhile institutions in the community forever.”

—Christopher Getman  
 President, Soundview Capital Management Corporation

## Flexibility and permanence of Foundation fund appeals to many, like Guilford's Jean Kelley

Say the words architecture or historical preservation to Jean Kelley and you're likely to see a smile tiptoe across her face.

The Guilford resident and Foundation donor was trained in the subjects – receiving her master's degree in Historic Preservation at the Columbia School of Architecture in 1989. Indeed, Jean has been dedicated to the preservation of Greater New Haven's past by serving on a variety of local boards and committees as well as serving on the Historic Preservation Council of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

But Jean will also tell you that her focus these days is on the future of her community. Particularly on its youth.

"I want to make sure they have great opportunities and resources to become productive citizens," explains Kelley, who was at one time the president of the Board of Leila Day Nursery Inc., Connecticut's oldest continuing child care center.

Kelley has made a gift from her donor advised fund to Leila Day among many other organizations. She chose to endow the fund 10 years ago as a permanent way to give back to the community and because of its flexibility – enabling her to stay involved with the Fund during her life.



Jean Kelley

"I like the concept of being able to make choices," she says. "The ability to change your mind to see what's most compelling at the time."

And she's not alone.

Donor advisors made grant recommendations of approximately \$3.1 million last year through 170 donor advised funds at The Foundation.

If you're like Jean and many others who want to take an active role in their charitable giving, contact Dotty Weston-Murphy at (203) 777-7081 or email [dmurphy@cfgnh.org](mailto:dmurphy@cfgnh.org) for details on how to set-up a Foundation fund.

### Who to contact

Friends of The Foundation told us they wanted clearer contact information. So, here's a list of contacts who can get you the information you need. A full staff member directly is available on our Web site's homepage at [www.cfgnh.org](http://www.cfgnh.org).

#### For donor service and giving

Jolyn Walker, phone: (203) 777-7067  
email: [jwalker@cfgnh.org](mailto:jwalker@cfgnh.org)

#### For grantmaking and community outreach

Stephanie Sutherland, phone: (203) 777-7077  
email: [ssutherland@cfgnh.org](mailto:ssutherland@cfgnh.org)

#### For financial matters

Marcie Monaco, phone: (203) 777-7065  
email: [mmonaco@cfgnh.org](mailto:mmonaco@cfgnh.org)

#### For the Office of the President

Leigh Higgins, phone: (203) 777-7092  
email: [lhiggins@cfgnh.org](mailto:lhiggins@cfgnh.org)

#### For the Valley Community Foundation

Jamie Cohen, phone: (203) 225-0880  
email: [jcohen@valleyfoundation.org](mailto:jcohen@valleyfoundation.org)

#### Not sure? Call The Foundation

phone: (203) 777-2386  
email: [contactus@cfgnh.org](mailto:contactus@cfgnh.org)

## Community Currents

### The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

William W. Ginsberg, *president and CEO*

**Board of Directors:** Alan J. Tyma, *chair*; Mary Jane Burt, *vice chair*; Bruce D. Alexander; Theodore L. Brooks Sr.; James E. Cohen; Annie Garcia Kaplan; David I. Newton; Barbara L. Pearce; James E. Perillo; David R. Schaefer; Rolan Joni Young.

The mission of The Community Foundation is to create positive and sustainable change in Greater New Haven by increasing the amount of and enhancing the impact of community philanthropy.



### The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

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