

Community Currents

Celebrating the impact that donors yesterday and today are having on the future of our community

Donors Respond Early and Often to giveGreater.org 2010 Challenge



Driving more local giving, giveGreater.org launched in November and provides comprehensive information and data about the difference local nonprofits make in the Greater New Haven region.

On November 1, 2010, more than a thousand people flocked to giveGreater.org in the early morning hours to take part in the launch of the 2010 Challenge and help local nonprofits receive up to \$25,000 in grants from The Community Foundation. Within the first five minutes, \$15,000 in donations was raised. As the day progressed, so did the number of donors making gifts to various local nonprofits featured on the website. By lunchtime, 1,300 donations had reached a total of \$75,000. By the end of the day, over \$94,000 was raised through 1,545 gifts. The final amount of gifts will be determined after the Challenge ends on December 31st.

Early Bird Prizes were awarded to the nonprofits that were the first to reach the threshold of 50 donors giving \$50 or more in gifts. Donors provided feedback to The Community Foundation early-on about their experiences with using the new online giving resource.

“It was fantastic,” said one donor. “What a great day for New Haven nonprofits... I’m really happy to have played my small part, and I’m thrilled for ALL of the organizations who can use this as incentive to get more donations in the door,” said another.

To read the full article, click here.

Annual Meeting Features gG



L-R: Donors Louise Endel and Sheilah Rostow, “I have organizations that I’m passionate about,” says Sheilah. “I have causes that I’m passionate about. I have things that I really want to see happen in this community. giveGreater.org gives me an opportunity to have one place to go where I can sort some of that out.”

The Community Foundation’s annual meeting drew over 300 to the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale on November 3rd.

After a welcoming introduction by outgoing Board Chair, Bishop Theodore Brooks, Foundation President & CEO Will Ginsberg recalled the year’s highlights: the millions distributed in Responsive New Grants, capacity building training for dozens of local nonprofits, the signing of a new and stronger seven-year affiliation agreement with the Valley Community Foundation and another year of strong investment performance.

Visit www.cfgnh.org for videos about giveGreater.org from the donor and nonprofit perspective and photos from the event.

To read the full article, click here.

Foundation Partners with City and Yale on New Haven Promise

On November 9, 2010, The Community Foundation joined with the City of New Haven, New Haven Public Schools and Yale University to announce New Haven Promise (NHP).

NHP is part of The City of New Haven's nationally-recognized School Change initiative. The focus of NHP is on promoting college education as an aspiration for all New Haven Public School students; assisting graduating students from New Haven Public Schools to pursue further education after high school; and enhancing the growth, stability and economic development of the City of New Haven.

For its part, The Community Foundation will provide the funds needed to administer New Haven Promise.

"The Community Foundation's fundamental commitment to our donors past and present is to do what we think will build a brighter future for our community. By making this promise to the students in New Haven Public Schools, we are acting on our belief that investing in school change and investing in each student is the way in which we create a brighter future," said Will Ginsberg, President & CEO of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. "The Community Foundation has long believed that education is the base on which long-term social progress is built. For this reason, this promise to New Haven's students, both current and future, is also a moment of great promise for our city."

For more information about New Haven Promise, visit www.newhavenpromise.org.

To read the full article, [click here](#).



L-R: Superintendent Dr. Reginald Mayo, Yale University President Richard C. Levin, Governor-elect Dan Malloy, Mayor John DeStefano Jr. and President & CEO of The Community Foundation Will Ginsberg announce New Haven Promise to the community.

Women & Girls Turns Fifteen



The feeling was one of success and great optimism at the 15th Anniversary celebration of the Community Fund for Women & Girls.

Entering the Yale Art Gallery on a rainy evening, guests received a warm welcome from Linda Koch Lorimer, Vice President of Yale University and Secretary of Yale Corporation.

A long-time supporter of the fund, Lorimer spoke of the gifts of intelligence and optimism as being at the heart of the Community Fund for Women & Girls. And of a new "sister's connection" of caring and contributing to the local community.

Afterwards, guests were shown a new documentary created by the Fund entitled, *I'm A Philanthropist: How Women Are Changing America's Charitable Landscape*.

The film was designed to be shared, "with individuals, groups and organizations to advance our complementary missions and further promote the many contributions of women in our society," says Helene Robbins, Chair of the Community Fund for Women & Girls.

Also at the event, an announcement was made that the Fund will award its first ever multi-year grant totaling \$50,000 in collaboration with Women's Health Research at Yale next year.

Visit www.fundforwomenandgirls.org for more about the event and photos.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

New Affiliation Agreement with VCF to Take Effect January 1st



L-R: Board Chair Theodore Brooks Sr. and President & CEO Will Ginsberg of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven with President Jamie Cohen and Board Chair Liz Kennard of the Valley Community Foundation at the signing of the new affiliation agreement.

With a beautiful backdrop of crew teams gliding on the Housatonic River in the late afternoon sun, Valley Community Foundation Board Chair, Liz Kennard, drew some parallels to the sport of rowing and the signing of a new affiliation agreement on September 7th between The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and the Valley Community Foundation (VCF):

“Team members carried the precision shell — dubbed Legacy — above their heads to the dock... ready to share their individual talents — all sharing strength of purpose... proceeding with a measured cadence... that resulted in the new Affiliation Agreement executed today.”

Leaders of both organizations see the new agreement as recognition that the Valley Community Foundation has established itself, since its founding in 2004, as the institution individuals, families and organizations turn to to create permanent philanthropic endowment for the benefit of the Valley.

The two foundations will administer a joint grantmaking process for the Valley, in which VCF's judgments will be central to decision making. The annual appropriation of funds for 2011 is anticipated to be between \$1.1 and \$1.2 million, which is based on historic Valley grantmaking of The Community Foundation since 1993. The agreement also includes stronger links between the organizations at both the Board and operational levels.

[Click here to read the entire article and view event photos.](#)

Learn CPR and Save a Life



Cathi Kellett, MA, and Daun Barrett, RN, of the Valley Parish Nurse Program showcase the training materials used in the CPR Anytime Program.

In 2008, the Valley Parish Nurse Program applied for and was awarded a multi-year grant from the Board of Directors at The Community Foundation. Funding was provided to implement the Friends and Family CPR Anytime Program in Valley public schools. Beginning in 2011, grantmaking decisions for such Valley-specific programs will be made by the VCF's Board per the new affiliation agreement.

Grant applicants will be invited to information sessions early in the new year. These sessions will outline the new process for Valley grants. Over the last decade, in excess of \$10 million has been awarded to organizations and programs serving the Valley.

[Click here to learn more about the impact of the CPR Program, which has been credited with saving the life of a beloved grandfather.](#)

The Nathanael Robert Fund: A Reflection of His Spirit

Nathanael Robert loved life to the fullest of his abilities. Every day.

It could have been because he lived with a brain tumor that, despite five surgeries, ultimately claimed his young life. But people who knew and loved him, knew that that was just Nathanael's spirit.

"He really had two true loves," says his mother, Clare. "Jazz and poetry."

Nathanael was a gifted musician, who learned to play the piano at an early age and later took up the flute and saxophone.

Jim Fryer, Nathanael's teacher at Neighborhood Music School, recalls that "Nathanael not only loved music, he was endlessly fascinated by the ideas and concepts behind the music, and how structure and philosophy played out in the notes."

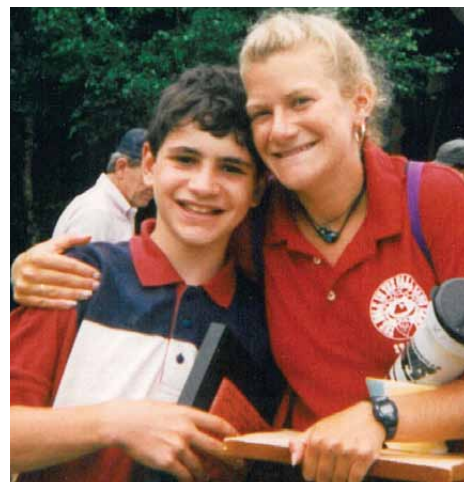
To honor Nathanael after he passed away, his parents chose to

create a donor advised fund at The Community Foundation, "because a donor advised fund is more flexible than a trust or family foundation."

Funding has supported the camps that Nathanael once attended, the Great Connecticut Traditional Jazz Festival and the jazz in worship services at the Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. James in New Haven, where he used to volunteer. A grant was also made to St. Martin dePorres Academy to support the Nathanael Robert Music Scholarship established by his parents at that school.

"Nathanael was a very easy person to get along with. He was a very sweet boy," says Clare. "I want Nathanael to be remembered through the funding of poetry and music. We want his spirit to be captured. To let the music continue."

To read the entire article, including some of Nathanael's favorite things in life, [click here](#).



Top to Bottom: Nathanael Robert with a Camp Counselor at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, Clare and Patrick Robert.

Possible Tax Law Changes on Horizon?

Are you uncertain about making decisions about charitable giving because of possible tax law changes? The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven may help your peace of mind.

For example, a donor advised fund offers time for thoughtful giving. It allows you to make a single gift for a tax deduction this year and then take your time choosing the charities you want to support with grants from your fund.

And some things stay as they are.

Charitable contributions (including additions to your Fund at The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven) prior to 12/31/10 are income tax deductible for people who itemize their tax returns. Giving appreciated stock (held for more than a year) is especially advantageous, as your deduction is based on the value of the stock on the date of the gift and you pay no capital gain tax.

To learn more about how we can help you achieve your goals through charitable planning, please visit the Giving section on our website or contact Angela Powers, by email at apowers@cfgnh.org or by phone at 203-777-7068.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Former Board Chair Honored

The Community Foundation congratulates Harold Donegan who recently received a lifetime achievement award from the New Haven County Bar Association. The award honors those who have tirelessly and unselfishly made a valuable contribution to the practice of law as well as the community at large.

Born in New Haven, Harold attended Notre Dame High School and graduated from Yale University and Harvard Law School. After school, he served in the U.S. Navy before starting a private law practice in New Haven and raising a family.

Harold was appointed to the Board by the Association and served for seven years between 1997 and 2003. In 2004, he and his wife Karen established a fund for the benefit of programs in the Greater New Haven region designed to help people with mental illness.

Click here to read more about the fund's impact.



A Farewell to Foundation Leaders and a Welcome to Newcomers

Board Chair Theodore Brooks Sr. and Vice-Chair David Schaefer are both concluding their terms at year-end.

“Ted brought a rare wisdom and understanding about how the multiple threads that define this community all have to be woven together if we are to progress. David was a leading voice for focusing on education as the driving force for social change and for bringing discussions back to the core question of how to build and how to wisely use the community’s charitable endowment,” says Will Ginsberg. “Both have been invaluable assets to the advancing the mission of The Community Foundation and will be deeply missed.”

Kica Matos has been appointed by The Community Foundation’s Board to replace Ted; William Colwell has been appointed to replace David by the New Haven County Bar Association.

Kica is Program Executive and Head of the U.S. Reconciliation & Human Rights Program at the Atlantic Philanthropies. She earned her BA from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, her MA from the New School and her JD from Cornell Law School.

Will is a native of Hamden who earned his JD from New England School of Law. As Principal at Parrett, Porto, Parese & Colwell PC, Will focuses primarily in the probate arena.



Top to Bottom: Ted Brooks, David Schaefer, Kica Matos and Will Colwell.

For more information about Board appointments, read The Community Foundation’s Resolution & Declaration of Trust at www.cfgnh.org.

To read the full article, click here.



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for Greater New Haven**

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Broad Range of Programs Receives Over \$5 Million

Through its responsive new grants process, The Community Foundation this year awarded \$5,046,825 million in one-year and multi-year grants to seventy-nine nonprofits serving the Greater New Haven region. There was an increase in health and basic-needs grant requests this year, as well as arts and culture, the environment and community development. Funding was made possible through the generosity of three generations of donors to The Community Foundation who created The Foundation's endowed funds.

As in years past, grant recipients ranged in size, program diversity and geographic reach; seventeen out of the seventy-nine grantees had no prior funding history through the Responsive New Grants process.

“Nearly half of all grants were awarded for general operating support to help nonprofits in their leadership, management and sustainability efforts,” said Will Ginsberg, President & CEO. “These grants are critical to ensuring the organizational effectiveness of some of our local nonprofits who are trying to balance budgets against a backdrop of diminished resources and rising demands in services.”



One of the new programs to receive funding was the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, which received a \$60,000 multi-year grant to provide legal assistance to local veterans, with a focus on female service women experiencing homelessness or mental illness.

“There were many more meritorious proposals than The Community Foundation was able to support,” said Dr. Penny Canny, Senior Vice President for Grantmaking & Strategy. “We continue to encourage general operating support and look for organizations that exhibit leadership at all levels, embrace self-learning through evaluation and knowledge building and are committed to instituting the highest level of effective practices to achieve their goals.”

Among the programs to receive operating support from The Community Foundation were programs that help prepare students for college, offer homebuyer education and financial assistance, provide housing for the elderly and daycare services for families in need, educate the public about environmental concerns, offer arts and cultural opportunities and provide food and shelter.

[Click here to read the entire article with a complete list of Responsive New Grant recipients.](#)