

Community Currents

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

Long Wharf Theatre: Producing Great Art, Serving Community & Building Endowment

LWT endowment partnership is model for other organizations interested in long-term sustainability.

By the time the Board of Long Wharf Theatre (LWT) celebrated its 20th birthday in 1985, it had established a national reputation and was an important force in the regional theater movement. But the Theatre needed stronger financial footing. Leaders concluded an endowment was necessary to create predictable income each year and to prove that they were here for the long term. They also realized they needed the credibility and expertise of The Community Foundation to successfully appeal to its supporters for a permanent endowment, both through outright and deferred gifts. The result was the Campaign for the Future Fund which raised \$1.2 million and started a tradition for The Community Foundation of working with large and small organizations to build endowments.

Now at the 46th season, Long Wharf Theatre has five funds designated for it at The Community Foundation with a combined value close to \$10 million, including a new \$3 million fund established in 2010. And although plans for a downtown theater are [on hold](#), LWT continues to grow, producing an annual season of six plays on its two stages, offering new ventures like the Global Health and the Arts Initiative, and providing a comprehensive arts-education program.

The Community Foundation has 100 funds that have been established in partnership with nonprofit organizations to launch an endowed giving program. Of the grants awarded last year, The Foundation distributed \$6 million to designated organizations, such as Long Wharf Theatre, by gifts or bequests.



Through The Community Foundation, from 1985 to today, donors support Long Wharf as the Theatre continually balances the demands of the present with the vision of the future.

Endowments Are Right For More Than LWT

Is an Organization Endowment right for your organization?

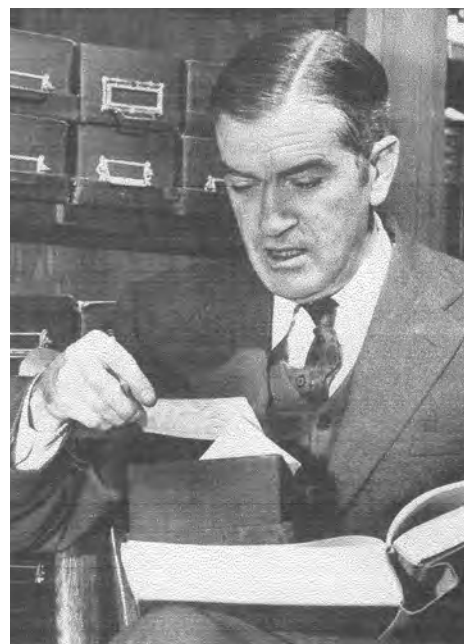


An organization endowment is great for organizations that:

- Are interested in creating permanent support for their organization
- Have a healthy operating budget with resources in reserve
- Have a broad base of gift support
- Are stable and have a plan for long-term sustainability
- Have donors that share the vision for the importance of endowment and want to support the organization in perpetuity.

For more information, contact Sharon Cappetta, Sr. Philanthropic Officer, at scappetta@cfgnh.org, 203-777-7071 or visit our [web site](#).

From Ds to As: Tutoring Program A Success With Help From Former Yale Librarian's Fund



Education is a hot topic these days. Most headlines condemn the failure of school systems around the country to adequately prepare and teach America's students.

Student achievement is actively being addressed in New Haven with its School Change initiative, including the New Haven Promise at The Community Foundation. But there are many crucial ingredients to creating and sustaining an environment conducive to learning, not the least of which is after-school mentoring and tutoring programs such as New Haven Reads. Such programs can literally alter the course of a child's life and New Haven Reads is proving it with help from a \$65,000 multi-year grant from The Community Foundation.

The grant, now in its final year, was made possible with unrestricted funds.

In what began as a kernel of an idea nearly a decade ago for making books more accessible to New Haven's youth to improve literacy rates, New Haven Reads is now a thriving Book Bank – buttressed by an army of supporters and volunteers who distribute free books and provide tutoring assistance to more than 450 local youth annually.

“If a child is in danger of being retained or not making adequate progress, a parent is notified and the child is often evaluated through the school system to determine possible causes. New Haven Reads staff will accompany parents to subsequent school meetings to provide both support for parent and advocacy for the child,” says founder and co-executive director Christine Alexander.

[Visit www.cfgnh.org to read the entire article.](http://www.cfgnh.org)

...for broad charitable purposes...

The Donald & Charlotte Wing Fund

In the early 70s, a fund was established through the bequest of Donald Wing at The Community Foundation. He was confident that the assets he entrusted to them would be used to best meet the needs of this community, in perpetuity. From an initial gift of just under \$15,000, and with additional funds added from his wife Charlotte's bequest in the late 90s, the Wing Fund is now valued at close to \$95,000 and has been used to support organizations such as New Haven Reads (see story left).



“My parents always had a strong belief in education,” says daughter Cathya Wing Stephenson, who lives in Washington DC. “They had a lifelong commitment to social justice and to the arts. They regularly attended Symphony concerts and plays.”

Charlotte Wing

Donald Wing was the Acquisitions Librarian at Yale's Sterling Library and is best known as the compiler of the three-volume bibliographic Short-Title Catalogue (STC) of books printed in 1641-1700. He started working on the STC in 1934, the first volume of which was published in 1945.

[Visit www.cfgnh.org to read more about the Wings.](http://www.cfgnh.org)

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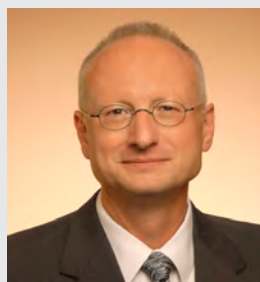
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Advisors: Please help us make sure we know about your work in order to expand this list. Contact Dotty Weston-Murphy at 203-777-7081 or dmurphy@cfgnh.org.



“For clients with particularly close ties to Greater New Haven, whether as lifelong residents or local innovators and entrepreneurs, and a desire to give back, The Community Foundation can be the ideal vehicle through which to achieve their philanthropic objectives. We as practitioners when working with clients in developing their estate, tax or retirement plans are fortunate to have the benefit of this time-tested resource.”

Attorney Victoria M. DiSesa, *Sole Practitioner, DiSesa & DiSesa*



“Many of my clients are charitably inclined, but some can have difficulties in identifying particular organizations they would like to benefit, or particular funds or projects in which they would like to participate. This is exactly where the experience and expertise of The Community Foundation has proven so valuable to me and my clients over the years. From providing guidance about local charitable organizations to assisting in the creation of designated funds, the Foundation is always here.”

Greg R. Barringer, Esq., *Attorney, Reid and Riege, PC*



**The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven**

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\$500,000 To Local Nonprofits Through giveGreater.org 2010 Challenge



Squash Haven (pictured above) won the Top Prize of \$20,000 through the giveGreater.org 2010 Challenge. The small nonprofit provides New Haven students training in competitive squash, academic support and enrichment and assistance with high school placement.

Because of you, and gifts made by thousands of other donors, over half-a-million dollars was distributed to local nonprofits that heal the sick, foster the arts, educate youth and so much more.

The **giveGreater.org 2010 Challenge** demonstrated that the more people in our community know about local organizations, issues and challenges, the more they will have the confidence to give locally. You can learn more about our goal to drive more local giving by [reading an op-ed](#) in the January 11, 2011 edition of the New Haven Register submitted by our President and CEO.

To meet the Challenge, local nonprofits with profiles on

giveGreater.org had to get at least 50 donors to give at least \$50 each between November 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Grant prizes were awarded based on reaching the minimum Challenge requirements; nine organizations received top prizes in denominations of \$20,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 for getting the highest number of gifts.

Grants were awarded from a pool of \$200,000 set aside by The Community Foundation as a giving incentive. Winners ranged in asset size, services provided, geographical location, number of staff and other characteristics.

A complete list of the 46 Challenge [prize winners](#) is available online.

In 2011, giveGreater.org will become an even more powerful tool. The number of local nonprofits on the site will more than double and we will again challenge the community to learn more and give more.

[giveGreater.org](#) will provide you with all you need to know for your local giving.

Stay connected to giveGreater.org this year. Become a fan on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

Interested in making a long-lasting gift to benefit a favorite nonprofit forever? Ask us about [endowment giving](#)... our specialty.