

Community Currents

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

Richard English Leaves Bequest of \$20 Million, an Unprecedented Gift

Man with Deep Local Ties Remembers New Haven Community, Strengthening the Future of 5 Local Organizations



Richard, on right, with parents Katharine Dana and Philip English.

This year, The Community Foundation received an unprecedented gift — our largest ever — through a bequest from the estate of Richard English. Per Mr. English's wish, the money establishes the Richard L. English Fund which will distribute grants in perpetuity to the following local organizations: New Haven Symphony Orchestra, the New Haven Museum, the Neighborhood Music School and the Connecticut Yankee Council Boy Scouts of America. A second bequest totaling \$50,000 was also made to establish the Richard L. English Fund for Birding Activities to support the New Haven Bird Club, of which he was the longest standing member. The English Funds will be a permanent source of steady revenue for the designated beneficiaries, year after year.

“The magnitude of Mr. English's generosity will be felt for generations to come, every time a grantee performs a community concert, teaches a child to play a musical instrument, inspires an appreciation for New Haven's rich history, or helps build a child's character through scouting activities,” said Rolan Joni Young, Chair of the Board of Directors of The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven.

Mr. English was part of a well-known New Haven family and the descendant of Connecticut Governor James English. His enthusiasm for conservation, community-involvement and music was shared by his grandparents and parents. His grandfather Henry, father Philip and mother Katharine English each have named funds at The Community Foundation.

Visit www.cfnh.org to hear from some of the nonprofits that will benefit from Richard's generosity and learn more about his family's contributions to the region.

\$2.7 Million Awarded in Competitive Grants

Nonprofits Funded for Operating Support & Program Services

Through its Responsive New Grants process, The Community Foundation awarded \$2.7 million in one-year and multi-year grants to 49 nonprofits serving the Greater New Haven region. These grants are part of an overall total of approximately \$20 million expected to be awarded by The Community Foundation in 2011.

“Many of the grants awarded this year address issues that affect low-income individuals, enhance student achievement and contribute to strengthening nonprofits,” said Will Ginsberg, President & CEO of The Community Foundation. “Several grants were also awarded to support policy solutions that address economic and other disparities affecting individuals and groups residing in our region.”

Visit www.cfnh.org for a complete list of Responsive New Grant recipients.



Paul Gillespie, Mary Wade Transportation Coordinator, assists Connie Steel from East Haven. The Mary Wade Home received a \$25,000 grant from multiple funds, including the Ophelia Fund and others, to support their Medical Transportation Program.

Foundation Gives It Forward at 83rd Annual Meeting

- Live *Community Currents* features Bob Ottenhoff, Guidestar CEO and leading voice on philanthropy
- *Learn and Share* site unveiled — informing local giving and responding to changes in philanthropy
- 250 guests urged to Give It Forward and support local nonprofits



L–R: Will Ginsberg, Paul Bass, founder of the Online Journalism Project and New Haven Independent, and Bob Ottenhoff, CEO of Guidestar, discuss the role of giveGreater.org in providing rich information about nonprofits to help donors make wise decisions.



Alan Tyma was recognized for seven years of service on the Board of Directors. During his tenure which ends December 31, 2011, he was Board Chair from 2008 – 2009, and served as the liaison between The Community Foundation and its affiliate the Valley Community Foundation.

The 83rd annual meeting on November 7, 2011 was a night to remember as 250 participated in a special I Give It Forward live edition of The Foundation's newsletter, *Community Currents*. Paul Bass, founder of the Online Journalism Project and New Haven Independent, served as the live editor. "Chief correspondent" Ginsberg delivered an update on Foundation activities and introduced a new way to support local nonprofits. Special guest Bob Ottenhoff, CEO of Guidestar, was interviewed about trends in philanthropy, his company's role in creating greater nonprofit transparency, and its DonorEdge product (the platform for giveGreater.org®). The evening closed with a spoken word performance by local poet Lytasha Blackwell, a rousing call-to-action to give it forward.

Giving it forward is a twist on the age old adage of *pay it forward*, explained Mr. Ginsberg. It was an idea favored by Benjamin Franklin who expressed in a letter in 1784 to his friend Benjamin Webb: "I do not pretend to give you such a sum; I only lend it to you. When you . . . meet with another honest man in similar distress, you must pay me by lending this sum to him . . ."

"Giving it forward is not a new idea in our community either," said Mr. Ginsberg. "For three generations, local people have imagined the future that they would wish to see for their community and have imagined how their resources might help realize that future."

Visit www.cfgnh.org for the whole story, including a video of Ms. Blackwell's live performance of her poem about giving it forward — specially crafted for the occasion.

Learn and Share Created to Inform and Inspire Local Giving

You want to make a difference. You want to have an impact.

But there are so many worthy causes that deserve your support. How do you decide?

The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and navigation menu. The 'Learn' tab is active. Below the header, there's a search bar and social media icons. The main content area features a 'LEARN AND SHARE' section with a sub-header and social icons. The text describes the foundation's commitment to supporting local nonprofits. Below this is a grid of eight categories: Support Arts & Culture, Meet Basic Needs, Promote Civic Vitality, Boost Economic Success, Provide Quality Education, Protect the Environment, Ensure Health & Wellness, and Nurture Children & Youth. To the right, there's a 'Featured Story' about local women promoting social and economic advancement, and a 'How to Use This Resource' section explaining the site's purpose.

The Community Foundation has created a *Learn and Share* section of its website — an evolving resource that outlines community issues in eight categories. Each area includes data, resources, research and articles as well as stories about the work local nonprofits are doing to address the needs in the area. *Learn and Share* interfaces with giveGreater.org so donors can make secure online donations directly to nonprofits they wish to support.

“*Learn and Share* and giveGreater.org give people who care about this community access to the same kinds of information available on the web about worthy causes and giving opportunities in every corner of the world,” says Foundation President and CEO Will Ginsberg. “In this sense, giveGreater.org and *Learn and Share* will be indispensable tools for local organizations who seek support from local donors in the internet age.” Visit www.cfgnh.org/learn today.

View the insert enclosed in this newsletter for an Issue Brief from the *Learn and Share* site.



Paul Bass (pictured left) shared a few examples of how people and institutions in the community are, in their own ways, Giving It Forward: Wallingford's Nancy Pfeiffer (right) created a charitable gift annuity that upon her death, will establish a permanent fund for the Sleeping Giant Park Association; New Haven's Higher One, ranked the 131st fastest growing company, is creating more jobs for our local community with the aid of employees like Leah Dudley (top left); Connecticut Center for Arts & Technology (ConnCAT) will provide industry-specific job training programs for the underemployed and the unemployed of the region with support from Board Chair, local businessman Carlton Highsmith (top right).



An announcement was made about a new way the community can give it forward to support local nonprofits: giveGreater cards. The cards were conceived as part of the I Give It Forward 2011 Fall campaign and were designed to be used as thank you, birthday or holiday presents and to be given to friends, family and others who can designate the value of the card to any nonprofit on giveGreater.org.

Strengthening Local Nonprofits Continues as Top Priority

- 100 staff leaders and volunteers learn endowment basics
- Attendees rave about value of workplace skills seminar



Helping to build the capacity of local nonprofit institutions, The Community Foundation sponsored two training sessions in response to feedback from nonprofits.

At Endowment 101 on October 21, 2011, a panel of endowment experts shared their perspectives on essential information about nonprofit endowment oversight and governance.

Melinda Agsten, Partner at Wiggin & Dana, discussed the legal matters surrounding organization endowments. Attorney Will Colwell, Partner at Parrett, Porto, Parese & Colwell of Hamden, reviewed issues that a Board should consider about endowment. Angela Powers, Senior Vice President at The Community Foundation, explored giving strategies and cultivation techniques. Antony Santore, CPA at Beers and Hamerman, discussed how to properly account for endowment donations and Michael Miller, CFA, founder and Managing Director of Colonial Consulting, discussed the basic investment strategies for organizations with endowments of any size. The full presentation is available at www.cfgnh.org.

On December 1 and 2, The Community Foundation sponsored an Employee Enrichment Training program for new, entry level and direct service staff of nonprofits. The aim was to help folks become better employees and increase their opportunities for advancement. *Strive New Haven*, a local nonprofit and Foundation grantee that prepares, trains, places and supports Greater New Haven residents in securing employment was enlisted to conduct the training sessions.

If you have ideas for future trainings, please contact Jackie Downing at jdowning@cfgnh.org or 203-777-7092.

Visit www.cfgnh.org for the entire story.

Valley Leader Appointed to Foundation Board of Directors



James E. Ryan will succeed Alan J. Tyma on The Community Foundation's Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2012. Mr. Ryan is President and CEO of the Shelton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) and has served in that capacity since 1984. Prior to that he served as Executive Director of the Ansonia Redevelopment Agency from 1977 to 1984. The SEDC is a not-for-profit local development corporation that provides economic and community development services to the City of Shelton, specifically related to downtown revitalization, brownfields redevelopment, and infrastructure programs. Mr. Ryan has served as Chair of the Valley Board Advisory Committee and Valley Community Foundation Board Chair from 2004 – 2008.

Visit www.cfgnh.org for more information about Mr. Ryan.



**The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven**

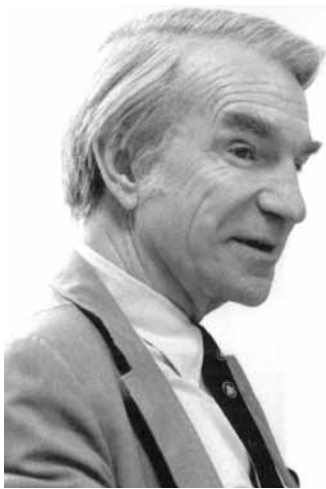
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First Staff Director of Foundation Dies at 90; Leaves Legacy of Vision and Creativity



For nearly twenty years, Norman Harrower directed the activities and shaped the future of The Community Foundation. Assuming the role of Executive Secretary in 1967, he was the first full-time professional staff member in the institution's 40-year history. At the time, The Community Foundation held \$21.3 million in assets and had \$747,800 available to grant. By the time of Norm's retirement in 1985, assets and grants had almost tripled.

Under Norm's leadership, The Community Foundation made a commitment to sustain an Arts Council to raise the visibility of local arts organizations. An assessment of community

needs regarding the arts was initiated by The Community Foundation and a permanent Arts Fund was established in 1980 with a Challenge to community arts groups. For every dollar raised toward the endowment, The Community Foundation gave participating arts groups between \$1.50 and \$2.00 for a new artistic or organizational project. As a result of the Challenge, which continued through 1997, the Arts Fund has grown to its current value of approximately \$5.1 million and distributed more than \$3.1 million in grants.

Former Board Chair Cheever Tyler once wrote, "quality is a word which suits [Norman], although dignity, compassion, fairness and kindness would do as well . . . caring is the best, since he has always done his job for the sake of those who benefit from The Foundation's work and who most enjoy the wonderful privilege of its presence among us."

Visit www.cfgnh.org for the rest of the story.

8 Eight ways you can Give It Forward

to support your local community

1. **Get a giveGreater card** by December 31st, and give someone the gift of designating the value of the card to his or her favorite nonprofit on giveGreater.org
2. **Make a gift to a nonprofit** at giveGreater.org
3. **Create a permanent endowed fund** at The Foundation to benefit your favorite nonprofits and causes forever
4. **Make a gift** to The Foundation and receive income through a **charitable gift annuity**
5. **Make a gift of appreciated stock** to The Community Foundation and avoid capital gains
6. **Include a charitable gift** in your estate plans
7. **Volunteer your time and serve** on local nonprofit boards
8. **Learn more about nonprofits** at www.cfgnh.org/learn, then get involved

Promote Positive Youth Development

Parents and other caring adults want what's best for their own children and other young people in their communities. But what research has found over the past 25 years is that involving youth in those discussions and decisions that affect them directly is the best way to help them grow into happy, productive adults.

Positive youth development (PYD) is a comprehensive framework outlining the supports young people need in order to be successful. PYD emphasizes the importance of focusing on youths' strengths instead of their risk factors to ensure that all youth grow up to become contributing adults.¹

States and policymakers are beginning to use this framework to develop policies and programs that will ensure that all youth are ready for college, work and life. The holistic approach focuses on engaging families, schools and communities in activities that support education, leadership development and a sense of accountability and ownership in the community among adolescents.³

An example of a successful community-based PYD program is one that was implemented through Big Brothers/Big Sisters and evaluated by Tierney, Grossman and Resch (1995). The study⁴ showed that participation in the program, which focused on establishing a mentoring relationship with prosocial adults, had a powerful impact on the prevention of problem behaviors. Among participants, drug use decreased by 45%, the frequency of skipping a class or a full day of school decreased by 37% and 52%, respectively, and the number of times a child lied to his or her parents declined by 37%.

Rachel Heerema, Executive Director of the Citywide Youth Coalition, which helps develop and connect the work of dozens of youth-serving organizations in New Haven, Hamden, East Haven and West Haven says "some in the field have started referring to their constituency as *youth at promise* rather than *youth at risk*. And, while lower-income areas may experience a more severe lack of programming resources, research shows that the term *youth at risk* applies to young people across the geographic and socioeconomic spectra, from the very affluent to the disadvantaged. One of the goals of area nonprofits is to communicate the PYD philosophy in every community.

Heerema says research shows that even if poverty is a constant, youngsters do better if there are caring adults and supportive institutions in their lives. But looking at the internal characteristics of kids, there are *three keys to resiliency*: initiative, attachment, i.e., growing healthy relationships, and self-control. She says funding often flows into *silos* of pregnancy prevention, drug and alcohol abuse prevention and violence prevention, "but if you do a meta-analysis across all these domains about what works, it's the PYD framework. Rather than focus on preventing bad things, positive youth development prepares kids to navigate difficulties."

Co-founded with the Citywide Youth Coalition in 1994, The Consultation Center's Youth Development Training & Resource Center (YDTRC) works to ensure that a PYD framework is utilized to increase the effectiveness of youth organizations. YDTRC works with local, regional and state funders and networks to secure resources for youth-serving programs. Because of YDTRC, frontline workers and supervisors better understand the youth development framework and current research on best practices for community youth engagement. Staff access new resources to bolster program effectiveness and involve more youth in program planning and development. Staff interaction with young people is more respectful of youth voices, perspectives and abilities. Young people are encouraged to take responsibility and try out new leadership roles.



The National Research Council identified the following characteristics for programs that support and promote the positive development of youth:

- Physical and psychological safety
- Appropriate structure
- Supportive relationships
- Opportunities to belong
- Positive social norms
- Support for efficacy and mattering
- Opportunities for skill-building
- Integration of family, school and community efforts²

Rachel Heerema describes the PYD framework as including three components: services to address deficits, such as tutoring or summer meals; supports, like parents, teachers, coaches and clergy; and opportunities, like summer camp and talented and gifted programs, "where kids can develop their skills, strengths and character."

"The YDTRC training provides youth workers with the knowledge, skills and motivation to work with youth in a way that empowers them. All Solar Youth full time staff go through YDTRC's trainings, because no one does it better than them," says Joanne Sciulli, Solar Youth's Executive Director.

"[Without philanthropy], a lot of these nonprofits wouldn't even exist," says Pam Mautte, Director of VSAAC.

"The role of philanthropists is not just for ongoing support, but also to help support the gathering of data and provide the seed money that helps get these [PYD] programs up and running."

Understanding that this issue cuts across all income levels, we spoke with Laurie Rudefer, the former Coalition Coordinator for Madison Alcohol and Drug Education.

“All the communities in our area should be creating a language and a message [for PYD] across borders,” says Rudefer. “You have the ability when your child is born to make a huge difference in his or her life by beginning to talk from birth. We need to do the same thing with Positive Youth Development.”

“Parents ask, ‘Will my kid be able to stand up against stress, stand up for the right thing, let me know when he or she is struggling?’” Rudefer says. “The science says when kids feel supported, when they have more developmental assets, they’re significantly less likely to do risky things.”

The Search Institute has identified 40 Developmental Assets, a term that represents positive factors in the lives of young people and their families, communities and schools. These are the very things that PYD programs provide. Research shows that these Assets have an important affect on both academic success and healthy outcomes.^{5,6}

The more assets, such as leadership, good health, valuing diversity and succeeding in school, that students have, the less likely it is that they will get involved in risky behaviors such as alcohol, tobacco and drug use, violence and early sexual activity.

Adolescence is a particularly important time to reach out to youth. It is a time when young people begin to experiment with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and, because of new freedoms associated with their age, begin to participate in behaviors that can have a lasting impact on their futures.

Connecticut high school students completing the Youth Risk Behavior Survey⁷ reported that:

- 44% had used alcohol in the last month
- 24% percent had engaged in binge drinking
- 22% had used marijuana
- 41% had engaged in sex
- 28% had been involved in a fight in the last month

A survey by the Valley Substance Abuse Action Council (VSAAC)⁸ revealed that 45% of Valley students surveyed had been bullied at least once. The study also reported that 62% of 11th graders surveyed had used alcohol and 36% had used marijuana. With this type of information in hand, many local nonprofits are working to provide opportunities for positive growth and empowerment to balance the social pressures that can lead to poor decision making. By facilitating social growth, decision making skills, safe and responsible behavior, and positive relationships, these nonprofits are building Greater New Haven’s future — and philanthropic support is an essential component to ensuring positive outcomes.

With alcohol, drugs, bullying and youth crime often dominating the media headlines, it can be challenging to find encouraging news about our area’s youth. However, the hard work and dedication of many area nonprofits tell a different story — one of hope, opportunity and growth.

What The Community Foundation is Doing

The Community Foundation has long been committed to supporting positive youth development programs for the region’s youth. We’ve been there in the beginning to help launch nonprofits like LEAP, Citywide Youth Coalition, Farnam Neighborhood House and many others.

Liz Gambardella began a youth leadership program 20 years ago at Farnam Neighborhood House in Fair Haven, with grant money from The Community Foundation. “We were the lead agency and brought all the neighborhood groups together,” she says, stressing the value of collaboration in adopting a youth-driven focus. “Years ago we did programming for people but that was a new process that the youth would have a say in what they were doing. We started in middle school, making connections during the critical times of their development; high school is too late.”

What You Can Do

To assist in the work promoting positive youth development, learn about the nonprofits that are working in this area, consider donating to one of them through giveGreater.org, volunteer, or create a permanent fund designated to supporting young people. *Already have a fund at The Community Foundation? Recommend a grant by logging on to DonorCentral. You can create change with just a click of the keyboard.*

1-3 <http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=16375>

4 Tierney, J.P., J. Grossman, and N. Resch (1995). *Making a Difference: An Impact Study of Big Brothers Big Sisters*. Philadelphia: Public/Private Ventures.

5 *Search Institute Insights & Evidence* · October 2003 · Vol. 1, No. 1

6 *Search Institute Insights & Evidence* · March 2004 · Vol. 2, No. 1

7 2009 CT YRBS <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3132&q=38810>

8 <http://www.vsaac.com/publications.html>

