Powerful Voices Strengthen Community

The Community Fund for Women Girls’ Annual Meeting and Convening on June 18th welcomed featured guest Tarana Burke (below right), the 2006 founder of the “me too.” Movement. The event was held in collaboration with the Yale Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the Yale Law School’s Levinson Auditorium, and brought together a diverse audience of community members and donors. During her onstage conversation with Foundation Board of Directors Vice Chair Dr. Khalilah Brown-Dean (below left), Burke spoke about her work to help survivors of sexual violence heal and thrive. She also called for using the collective power of the global #MeToo phenomenon to dismantle environments that allow sexual assault to happen. “Sexual violence touches every demographic,” Burke said. For more details on the event, visit cfgnh.org/PowerfulVoices.
Salute to Fellow Nonagenarians

Honored to Be in the Company of These Amazing 90(plus)-Year-Old Donors

Ruth Grannick and her brother Charles grew up in New Haven and attended Hooker School and Hillhouse High School. Both served in the military — Charles in the Army Transportation Corps and Ruth as a Navy “Wave.” After careers in fashion and retail, they shared a home until Charles’ death in 1995. They enjoyed a retirement full of travel and service to local organizations. Even though her New York days are past, Ruth’s fashion sense and style is strong. Her clothes and jewelry are exquisite and her apartment is beautifully decorated with art, antiques and ceramic turtles she and Charles collected when they lived in Turtle Bay, Branford. Celebrate The Foundation’s 90th anniversary through stories like Ruth’s. Visit cfgnh.org/90years where you can take our “From the Start” trivia challenge for a chance to designate $250 to your favorite nonprofits!

Ninety Years of Being There “From the Start”

We laugh. We sing. We dance. Our eyes are opened. Our minds are changed. Each year, the International Festival of Arts & Ideas delights audiences with outstanding entertainment and inspiring programs. The Festival celebrates its 23rd anniversary this year, and The Community Foundation has been there from the start. Founders Anne Calabresi, Roslyn Meyer and the late Jean Handley knew the festival needed to engage a diverse audience, celebrate and build community and advance economic development. Today’s supporters continue to believe in the festival’s ability to heighten our understanding, imagination and celebration of diversity.
Annual Meeting Puts Inclusive Growth on Our Agenda

A record turnout of more than 400 community members gathered at The Omni Hotel on April 19 for The Community Foundation’s 2018 Annual Meeting and Convening, “Inclusive Growth and Opportunity: Defining Our Path Forward.” Featured speaker Amy Liu of Brookings spoke with urgency about the need in Greater New Haven for a growing economy that produces lasting gains for all. Although the region has some positive indicators, such as a rising number of jobs in young firms, growth is slow and economic disparities continue to widen. Liu advocated building up local businesses and skills training as opposed to chasing out-of-state corporations with tax breaks. “Inclusive growth is not a program,” she noted. “It requires a cultural shift in our mindset. It is not just a moral imperative. It is an economic necessity.” For updates and more info, visit cfgnh.org/InclusiveGrowth.

The Great(est) Great Give*

Thanks to our community’s generosity, in 36 hours nearly 11,000 donors helped raise $1.7 million for 406 local nonprofits during The Great Give® 2018 — numbers far surpassing previous years. Prorated matching funds and prizes were provided by The Foundation and presenting sponsor the Valley Community Foundation, along with veteran sponsors Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Liberty Bank Foundation, plus new sponsors BAD SONS Beer Co., Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Key Bank Foundation and Newtown Savings Bank. See the full list of prize winners at thegreatgive.org.
Arts Strategy Gains Momentum

Five years ago, The Foundation adopted a three-pronged Arts Strategy to strengthen the local arts community. Since then, working groups have identified four specific activities to achieve that goal: creating a digital hub for consumer access to the arts; mounting a community-wide, planned-giving campaign; pursuing combined asks for significant investment; and exploring shared service models. The Arts Council of Greater New Haven secured funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to create a digital hub, and has already convened the area’s top technology professionals to contribute to its design. Read more about their progress, and the progress of other activities, at cfgnh.org/artsstrategy.

Shows Benefits of a Multicultural Society

Reinforcing its immigration integration strategy, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven awarded a $20,000 grant to Portrait of America for a local installation of the “WE ARE: A Nation of Immigrants” project. The project promotes conversation around refugees, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and immigrants through photographer Joe Standart’s striking, large-sized portraits of young and old immigrants in public areas where community gathers. The installation invites viewers to reflect on the humanity of 60 immigrants within Greater New Haven at this critical time, when some residents experience the daily possibility of deportation. Portraits will remain on the New Haven Green through August 15. Look for additional portraits at New Haven City Hall, on the Pirelli building on Long Wharf, at the New Haven Free Public Library and on The Foundation building’s facade on Audubon Street, too.

Art Project Elevates Immigrant Conversation
Fourteen Years of Growing Valley Philanthropy

Renewed Affiliation Agreement Shows Strong Partnership

A focal point of the Valley Community Foundation’s (VCF) Annual Reception in May was the newly-signed 10-year affiliation agreement between The Community Foundation and VCF. The agreement is the third one between the two permanent charitable endowments since VCF was established in 2004. The event also provided a forum to publicly recognize the contributions of three VCF board members whose seven-year terms ended in 2017, and to highlight the programs of two grant recipients. Guests were introduced to representatives of the seven new funds established in 2017, and learned that VCF took in $2 million in gifts and awarded $1.7 million in grants that same year. Over its 14-year history, VCF has reached $25 million in total assets and more than 180 funds — a Valley community success story that validates both the original reasons for creating it and The Community Foundation’s ongoing support for it.

Local Nonprofits Step Up to Help Displaced Puerto Ricans

In the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria, Connecticut welcomed thousands of Puerto Ricans who lost everything. For many of these fellow American citizens, the crisis is far from over. Junta for Progressive Action has stepped into the breach to coordinate housing, health and job assistance for storm victims. This New Haven agency dedicated to serving the Latino community is working with Fair Haven Community Health Care, a network of local nonprofit partners and the City of New Haven to deliver essential services to individuals and families in need. For more info and a list of local organizations providing services, visit cfgnh.org/AftertheDisasters.
Relaunched Schooner Has Wind in its Sails

Youth and Environmental Programs Grow After Merger

Two years after becoming a signature program of the New Haven Land Trust, Schooner Camp is planning to double in size in 2018. The growth represents a remarkable turnaround for the popular sailing and coastal exploration program. Financial difficulties nearly shuttered Schooner before a merger with New Haven Land Trust injected new life into the day camp that has introduced generations of city kids to the open water. “In many cases in New Haven we forget we live on the water, and so many residents have never set foot in Long Island Sound,” says New Haven Land Trust Executive Director Justin Elicker. “Schooner summer camp opens the door to explore the wealth of environmental opportunities that exists here.” The merger helped the camp build up its curricula and offer scholarships for 240 campers. It also enabled the New Haven Land Trust to expand environmental programming at its nature preserve during the school year.

Nonprofits Explore Mergers and Alliances in Workshop Series

In this challenging funding climate, The Foundation is offering assistance to organizations exploring a match with compatible organizations for consolidating or sharing resources. A workshop series being offered this year is helping local nonprofit leaders assess the strengths and vulnerabilities of their organizations, and identify potential merger or partnership opportunities. Sea Change Capital Partners and The Community Foundation are making funds available to organizations moving forward to explore or implement partnerships.
Engaging and Informing Voters During the Election — and Beyond

GNH Vote-2018 is a nonpartisan voter engagement effort that will register and inform historically disenfranchised community members this coming election cycle. The Community Foundation is training and providing small grants to nonprofit partners that will meet with constituents and canvas neighborhoods to share information about registration and how to become an empowered and informed voter. After a candidate forum (July 25), key activities will take place on National Voter Registration Day (Sept. 25); Connecticut’s Primary Election Day (Aug. 14); and the General Election Day (Nov. 6).

MacArthur Fellow and “Dreamer” Shares Personal Journey

Cristina Jiménez shared her inspiring story at a recent Donor Briefing at The Foundation. A MacArthur Fellow and member of Time magazine’s “Time 100” list of the world’s most influential people of 2018, Jiménez began her social justice organizing work in college. In 2010 she was part of the campaign that helped secure the protection of nearly one million young undocumented immigrants from deportation. The pathway for these “Dreamers” to stay was paved through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. She is now the leader of the 400,000-member immigrant rights organization United We Dream. “In this very difficult time, we can create change and we can fight back,” Jiménez says. Our ongoing Donor Briefing series invites guest experts to discuss urgent issues affecting our community locally and nationally and to inform us about what can be done.

A Message of Courage and Hope

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Published by The COMMUNITY Foundation for Greater New Haven
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