
Working together to build a stronger community – now and forever.

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

Community Currents

Key Challenges, Opportunities Influence Grants

Over $2.5 Million Awarded to Area Nonprofits

In late October, The Community Foundation awarded a total of $2,522,265 to 48 nonprofits addressing the full range of regional issues, including helping students save for college, augmenting mental health services, constructing a new food distribution center, assisting domestic violence survivors and more. One grant recipient, Liberty Community Services, received support for a joint strategic planning process with EMERGE CT to provide affordable housing for formerly incarcerated individuals also involved in a transitional employment program. BHcare, Healthy Eyes Alliance and Rape Crisis Center of Milford received joint grants from The Community Foundation and the Valley Community Foundation.

For a complete list of grant recipients, visit cfgnh.org/2015ResponsiveGrants

Flexible Funds are Fundamental to Addressing Current Community Needs

Grants awarded through the responsive grants process are made possible by The Community Foundation’s broad purpose charitable funds. These funds, known as unrestricted or preference, are created by donors to ensure that resources are available to address the community’s most pressing and current needs as they change over time.

The competitive responsive grants process is only one element of The Community Foundation’s yearly competitive and non-competitive grantmaking, which is estimated to total $23.9 million in 2015.
Twenty Years of Gifts & Grants to Advance Women and Girls

Investing with a Gender Lens

In 1996, the Community Fund for Women & Girls awarded $750 each to four nonprofits. Fast forward to 2015 and the Fund awarded over $200,000 to eight nonprofits, including its first six-figure Signature Grant to All Our Kin to support family child care providers through its Business Entrepreneur program. The Fund has now become the leading vehicle for women's philanthropy in the region. Nearly 600 supporters of the Fund celebrated its 20th anniversary on October 30th at a luncheon featuring Gloria Steinem and Teresa Younger.


A movement called Women Moving Millions caught the eye of Fund supporter Jana Shea, who announced her pledge of $1 Million to the Fund this year. Her pledge was part of the Fund’s MakingWaves Leadership Giving Program. When asked why, Jana replied: “I want there to be a day where there’s a level playing field for women in the workplace and in everything in life — politics, education, everything!”

Learn more about what it means to invest with a gender lens at cfgnh.org/genderlensinvesting

Watch a video of Jana and make your own pledge at fundforwomenandgirls.org
Clare Coe Casher: A Public Servant’s Life Memorialized

Family Creates Fund to Honor Casher’s Legacy

Clare Coe Casher, former New Haven Housing Authority Chair and Foundation Board member, was devoted to public service and committed to improving the quality of life for the residents of New Haven, particularly its children. That legacy will live on through the memorial fund established by her husband Sherwin and her children at The Community Foundation. “Clare Casher’s thoughtprints are indelibly etched into the fabric of our city,” says Sherwin. “And I am proud.”

Survey Results are In

This summer, we invited readers of our Community Currents to weigh in on their experience of the newsletter. 73% of respondents told us they read every issue or most issues. 48% of respondents said they were ‘very interested’ in getting information about ‘community issues and opportunities,’ followed by ‘stories about nonprofits’ at 40%. ‘Stories’ and ‘Ease of Reading’ were cited by over 50% of respondents as being ‘Very Good.’ The highest percentage of respondents fall in the 55-64 age group followed by 65 to 74. Seventy percent of the respondents were female.

Thank You Readers.

For more information visit cfnh.org/casherfund
Professional Advisors Underpin Community Foundation’s Work

Many attorneys, bankers, accountants and financial planners have found The Community Foundation to be the ideal vehicle through which their clients can achieve their philanthropic objectives. We are proud to partner with the professionals listed to build effective philanthropy in Greater New Haven.
Mentoring: Practices that Work

About 20,000 children and youth ages 5-17 live in New Haven. A 2012 assessment of mentoring programs in New Haven by the state program, the Governor’s Prevention Partnership, estimated that 25% of these youth would benefit from an additional caring adult in their lives, but only 12% were in a formal mentoring program. A good mentor can help a young person navigate challenges, develop a talent and gain confidence, but a lack of sustained funding, the need to recruit more male mentors and the need for more mentors that match the demographic profile of New Haven youth have presented barriers.

Thank You
The Prosperity Foundation

The Prosperity Foundation (TPF) continues its progress toward becoming Connecticut’s permanent endowed vehicle for addressing the needs of Connecticut-based African Americans and bringing the community together around common interests. In October, TPF received its 501(c)3 status shortly after hosting an event for African-American community leaders and others in New Haven. TPF is hosting additional events in the coming weeks, with monthly meetings in Stamford and Hartford.

The Nonprofit Sector: Resilient, but Fragile

Shifts Recommended in Planning, Governance and Investment to Ensure Sustainable Sector

At a September forum in New Haven put on by The Community Foundation, Third Sector New England presented the findings from its report, *Leadership New England, Essential Shifts for a Thriving Nonprofit Sector*, to 100 directors, Board members, and staff representing a wide range of local nonprofit organizations. A lack of planning for a new generation of leadership is one of the biggest issues facing the local nonprofit sector. Hez Norton, co-author of the report, said that executive directors don’t discuss succession planning because they are afraid of giving their Boards the false impression they want to leave. Likewise, Boards don’t raise the issue out of a fear of upsetting their directors.

For more information and to view the report, visit cfgnh.org/leadershipforecast

Looking to help grow The Prosperity Foundation? Visit tpfct.org for more information.
Engaging Fathers

New Haven Healthy Start, long known for its work helping expectant mothers have healthy babies, is now into its second decade of engaging fathers as an essential part of its mission to reduce infant mortality and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes. A designated fund was created in 2005 to support fatherhood engagement and healthy families. Known as the Healthy Start/Male Involvement Endowment, the fund was created by Larry Conaway, Michael Jefferson, Amos Smith and many individual donors and community residents. It distributes grants to support New Haven Healthy Start, New Haven Family Alliance and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

To make a gift to the Fund, visit cfgnh.org/HSMIfund; read the issue brief at cfgnh.org/engagingfathers

National Experts: Behavior Drives Health Outcomes

On October 22nd, The Community Foundation’s New Haven Healthy Start program, together with the City of New Haven, hosted a Health Equity Summit at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. David Satcher, the 16th U.S. Surgeon General, spoke eloquently of his lifelong leadership efforts to get America to address the pernicious racial and ethnic health disparities that exist in our nation. Dr. Camara Jones, American Public Health Association President-Elect, identified the complex system of racism in the U.S. as a highly destructive determinant of health inequities. Jones said making health equity a reality requires valuing all individuals and populations equally, while recognizing and rectifying historical injustices.

Watch video highlights of the event at cfgnh.org/healthequitysummit

Racism Contributes to Health Disparities

To make a gift to the Fund, visit cfgnh.org/HSMIfund; read the issue brief at cfgnh.org/engagingfathers

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