Foundation Celebrates Exceptional Year at Annual Meeting

The Community Foundation’s vision of creating a community of connection that promotes inclusion, eliminates inequity and creates opportunity for the next generation was the theme of our Annual Meeting in December. Hundreds of guests gathered at the Yale School of Management and heard from Yale’s Sterling Professor of International Law, Harold Koh, who shared his personal and professional story of how New Haven welcomed his immigrant family. Guests watched a video highlighting 2015 activities, and were introduced to gG cards, another way to support our local nonprofits.

Haven for Who?

“... it’s 1934, the midst of the biggest depressing depression, millions of people not working, anti-immigrant fever lurking behind each look and that greasy immigrant cook is my Greek grandfather, and his Slovak father-in-law who died in prison, who I thought was someone else’s problem, isn’t. He’s the immigrant dad of my grandma who married that Greek cook and carried their four kids and is about to pop number five: my dad, which is why I ain’t mad. New Haven’s glad to welcome immigrants equal, legal and illegal, ‘cause if it weren’t for the welcome mat laid out that year, if it weren’t for that grease, that baby, that tear, that sweat dripping down that wet immigrant back, I would not be here.”

Excerpted from Aaron Jafferis’ spoken word performance at The Foundation’s Annual Meeting.

aaronjafferis.com/poetry/haven

For expanded information about this issue, visit cfnh.org/2016WinterNewsletter
Anthropology, Architecture and Giving Back

Ohly Fund Reflects Donors’ Passions

As an anthropologist, Dr. Sara Huntington Ohly has studied how people cope with the often difficult experience of living in a very different culture. As an architect and artist, her husband Nicholas portrayed everyday life as he experienced it, at home in New Haven, in other countries and with other cultures. A donor advised fund at The Community Foundation, established with a bequest from Nicholas, allows Sara to continue to support the organizations in Greater New Haven that he loved as well as those that she continues to support.

Did You Know?

Congress voted to allow taxpayers age 70½ or older to transfer up to $100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to charity. Although you do not receive a charitable deduction for the gift, the transfer does not generate taxable income which is beneficial if you do not itemize deductions. It also qualifies toward the required minimum distribution in a given year. Gifts can be added to an existing fund or start a new fund at The Foundation except donor advised funds.
Did You Know?

Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Foundation Launch Charitable Giving Initiative

Grant Honors the Memory of Refugee’s 1939 Journey

The late Irmgard Wessel’s children recounted that “as the Nazi terror spread through Europe, the members of a Disciples of Christ Church in Eureka, Ill, decided to go beyond reading newspaper headlines and prayer. A delegation from the church offered Irma and her parents a new home in Eureka. We grew up hearing stories from our grandmother and our mother about the end of their peaceful, pleasant life in Germany and the beginning of a new and prosperous life in the U.S.” The Wessel Fund recognizes organizations making life better for people in New Haven with its Unsung Heroes Award. The 2015 award was made to IRIS for helping a new generation of refugees as others did for Irmgard Wessel 75 years ago.
Yes, Old Places Matter!

Historic Preservation Adds to Identity, Stimulates Economy

From the National Historic Landmark Grove Street Cemetery to the clapboard homes of Revolutionary War-era families and centuries-old town greens, Greater New Haven is filled with historically significant buildings, sites and places, many of which have received support from The Foundation. While a historic designation can help protect a place from demolition, positive incentives are also needed for preservation. Preservation policy has therefore created tax incentive and grant programs that make restoration financially attractive to developers and homeowners. In recent years, these incentives have not only brought new life to beautiful buildings, they have also helped revitalize walkable neighborhoods and downtowns while attracting private investment and creating jobs.

New Center in the Hill Offers Access to Resources

Christian Community Action (CCA), an ecumenical social service organization expanded its services last April with help from a $40,000 Foundation grant for the development of the ARISE (Accessing Resources for Independence Skillbuilding and Employment) Center. ARISE provides social work services, a child and family specialist and employment services to area residents in need. A multi-year $105,000 general operating support grant was also awarded to CCA to support an array of services including a food pantry, emergency shelter and transitional housing program. CCA has been supported by The Foundation since 1974.
Integrating its 165 students and members into the community is extremely important to Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center, a Foundation grantee. The private, nonprofit educational program has been working for more than 20 years with individuals with neurological disabilities, including autism, mild cerebral palsy or spina bifida, seizure disorders and learning or processing difficulties. Vista recently opened Creations, a retail store in downtown Madison that offers the handcrafted work, including candles, jewelry, pottery and children’s toys, from more than 60 artisans.

A Process of Community Input, Professional Analysis and Board Decisions

The responsive grants awarded by The Foundation each October are the culmination of our largest and best-known grantmaking process. In the first phase of the process, each written application is reviewed and scored by three reviewers, which may be Foundation staff or volunteer members of the community. Based on these scores and staff’s recommendations, The Foundation Board decides in May which applications to deny and which to move forward for further analysis. In the second stage, applications are reviewed professionally and staff develops detailed recommendations for the Board, which makes its final decisions over two deliberation meetings in October. In 2016, approximately $1.3 million is available through this process.
Foundation Board Welcomes Two New Members

Business Leader and Retired CT Supreme Court Justice to Serve

Roxanne J. Coady and Justice Flemming L. (Nick) Norcott Jr. were appointed to the Board of Directors January 1st, taking the seats of Howard K. Hill and Shelly Saczynski, respectively, whose terms expired at the end of 2015. Ms. Coady is founder and President of R.J. Julia Booksellers in Madison and founder of the nonprofit, Read to Grow. Justice Norcott retired last year after serving 22 years on the Connecticut Supreme Court. “Roxanne has long been a great community leader — as a businesswoman, a nonprofit leader and a passionate advocate for education, literacy and reading. Nick Norcott is an unparalleled leader as one of the outstanding jurists of his generation. We are thrilled that they are joining our Board,” said Foundation President and CEO, Will Ginsberg.

Mark Your Calendars for The Great Give® 2016

The Great Give® is Greater New Haven’s community-wide online giving event that promotes giving to nonprofits serving the region. In just 36 hours, the event raised nearly $1.3 Million last year for participating nonprofits. This year’s goal is $1.5 Million. The event is supported by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, its partner the Valley Community Foundation and other community sponsors, such as Alexion Pharmaceuticals. New to this year’s sponsorship list is Liberty Bank. Want to be a Great Give prize sponsor? Please contact Sharon Cappetta at 203-777-7071 or scappetta@cfgnh.org.
Compassionately Serving the Hungry

The Community Dining Room (CDR) is creating new ways to reach out and welcome individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Each week CDR serves over 1,000 meals to residents from East Haven, Foxon, Branford, North Branford, Guilford, North Guilford and Madison. On Tuesday evenings families are often treated to culturally-themed dinners, such as Indonesian or Greek cuisine nights. Saturday morning breakfast fortifies many local children before they head off for weekend sporting practices and games. CDR recently received a grant from The Foundation’s Caroline Silverthau Fund, which has supported the food and shelter needs of area residents since 1942.

Building Relationships Yield Inspired Projects

In 1991, The Foundation began using an asset-based, grassroots approach to building community developed by John McKnight, an urban planner from Chicago. Since then, scores of New Haven residents have gone through the Neighborhood Program with the goal of improving their community. Past funding has focused on supporting projects, while more recently programming has started focusing on identifying and augmenting leadership skills. Recently funded projects include helping parents and children reenter school successfully after disciplinary action, and improving services provided to women in crisis, mostly residents of area shelters.
2015 Giving in CT $4.66 B

Lifetime Gifts and Bequests from Individuals Account for 78% of Total

In December, The Connecticut Council for Philanthropy released “Giving in Connecticut 2015” which reports total giving in the state increased 0.7 percent in 2013 (latest year for complete data), on a year-over-year basis. Gifts from individuals excluding bequests fell 3.3 percent to $3.3 Billion and bequests jumped 77.3 percent to $352 Million. Giving by community foundations has steadily increased from $59 Million in 2009 to $86.9 Million in 2013. Connecticut ranks in the middle of the states (#22) in the amount of average annual contributions, with Connecticut at $5,401 and the United States at $5,342.

For more information, visit ctphilanthropy.org

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