

CONNECTIONS



The quarterly newsletter of
The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven
NOW MORE THAN EVER

Imagine.

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Inspire.

Opportunity for All

Convening Advances Ideas and Action for Inclusive Economy

Community members gathered on Sept. 25 for an inspired day of learning and collaborating on ideas for disrupting racial and economic inequality and creating more opportunity for Greater New Haven residents. The Convening, entitled “Creating a Future of Opportunity,” opened with a performance piece, imagining a future of meaningful work and hope for those who have been socially and economically marginalized. Local, regional and national experts led discussions on increasing access to entrepreneurship for those without connections to capital; building pathways to careers in growth sectors of the economy; and increasing opportunities in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty. Tawanna Black (pictured), founder and CEO of the Center for Economic Inclusion, challenged attendees not to be complacent, and offered measurements for holding leaders accountable. The event concluded with a panel discussion on how to advance equity and inclusion in Greater New Haven. Learn more about the Convening and The Foundation’s commitment to creating a future of opportunity at cfgnh.org/FutureofOpportunity.





Photo Kathleen Cei

Celebrate and Share What Makes You Strong

The John D. Allen and Keith E. Hyatte Fund for LGBTQ+ Interests

The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots this June inspired John Allen (left), founder of the New Haven Pride Center, and Keith Hyatte, retired director of paint at Long Wharf Theatre, to start thinking about their legacy. The couple, who cares deeply about LGBTQ+ interests, the arts, animal rights and veganism, established a fund and included a bequest in their wills so that the support of these interests will be advanced for generations to come. “While it is thrilling to experience the tremendous progress being made legally and culturally in the LGBTQ+ community over the past few decades, for all the advancements made, there are also powerful influences trying to dismantle them,” notes Allen. “We hope to inspire others to make sure that LGBTQ+ issues are vibrantly supported by the community.” The couple agrees it is important to “celebrate and share what makes you strong, but above all, be kind. It costs nothing and is what is most remembered.” To learn more, visit cfgnh.org/allenhyattefund.

Champion for Social Justice and Workers’ Rights to Speak at PLF Forum

Join the Progreso Latino Fund (PLF) on November 18 for its 18th annual forum, featuring former U.S. Congressman Luis Vicente Gutiérrez. The 12-term U.S. Representative from Illinois has championed many issues, including immigration reform, LGBTQ+ rights and workers’ rights, among others. The forum follows two PLF-hosted events earlier this year: in June, PLF held a panel discussion on the intersection of the LGBTQ+ and Latinx communities, and in September, PLF tackled the topic of colorism through a courageous conversation about the Black Latinx community. To learn more, visit progresolatinofund.org.



Community Greenspace Turns 25

Beautifying Neighborhoods and Engaging Residents

For years, the corner of Hazel Street and Shelton Avenue was an infamous blighted vacant lot known as “the mudhole.” Now, it is an inviting public space, landscaped by neighbors working with Urban Resource Initiative (URI) at the Yale School of Forestry. The transformation, and the 25-year birthday of the Community Greenspace program, was celebrated this summer by program partners, residents and city officials (pictured). “We visualize this as a place where young people can sit down and do homework or read a book,” says Newhallville Alder Delphine Clyburn. “If we make our home a good place that we can enjoy with our families, that is a blessing to us.” The Community Foundation started the Community Greenspace program in 1994 and turned it over to URI more than a decade later. The Foundation has granted over \$1 million to community greenspaces and URI has completed more than 300 urban greenspace restoration projects throughout New Haven.

Quinnipiac River Fund Grant to Study Microplastics

Microplastics from synthetic fibers, cosmetic products and other sources are considered an emerging contamination threat to coastal ecosystems. Despite bans at the state and national levels, little is known about the effectiveness of the legislation. A recent Quinnipiac River Fund grant supports the research of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Professor Vince Breslin and his research team at SCSU’s Werth Center for Coastal and Marine Studies. Breslin will conduct a one-year study of variations in the quantity and composition of microplastic particles from two local wastewater treatment facilities — potentially leading to solutions for removing microplastics from waterways.



Photo: Matt Higbee

High Quality Childcare for Teenage Parents

Successful Outcomes for Parents and Children

Yale Law students doing outreach at homeless shelters in the early 1990s were routinely meeting teenage mothers who had dropped out of high school to take care of their babies. The future lawyers approached New Haven Public Schools with a proposal — to offer early childcare at high school. Enlisting the support of early childhood education experts, the group formed the nonprofit Student Parenting and Family Services. Since inception, the nonprofit has provided high-quality care for hundreds of infants and toddlers while supporting parents with access to health services and academic counseling. The Community Foundation has long supported the program, which has achieved results that speak for themselves: Ninety-nine percent of the participants graduate from high school, 97% do not have another baby while in high school, and many go on to college or career training.

Connecticut Bail Fund Fights for Justice

Justice is supposed to be blind. But criminal defendants who are too poor to post bail often spend months in jail waiting for a trial. Many accept plea deals, even when they are innocent. The Connecticut Bail Fund is a place where they can turn for help. Founded in 2016 with support from The Community Foundation, the Fund posts bail for defendants who otherwise cannot pay, allowing them to fight their criminal charges from a position of freedom and return to their families and jobs. It also operates a weekly participatory defense meeting — a learning network where people fighting cases develop action plans for court. With the ultimate goal of reforming the system, the organization is also advocating for the abolition of cash bail.



Photo Judy Sirota Rosenthal

“My wife Anne and I shared the inspiration and purpose for all of our funds. Although they are specific, and some are, perhaps, somewhat unusual in their objectives, we trust The Foundation to take the care needed to honor all of our objectives.”

— Jean Mauro (left), pictured with his late wife, Anne

Nettie Dayton Circle: A Lasting Legacy

The Nettie J. Dayton Circle members below have included The Foundation in their wills or made other planned giving arrangements through retirement plans, personal trusts and life income gifts that will benefit our community in perpetuity. To join this list of visionaries, contact Liana Garcia at 203-777-2386.

Anonymous (37)
Douglas & Amy Allen
John D. Allen & Keith E. Hyatte
Elaine R. Anderson
David Anthony
Lisa F. Arpaia, Esq.
Louis G. Audette II
Dr. Leon Bailey, Jr.
Henry E.* & Nancy H. Bartels
Myrna F. Baskin
Ronald Bell
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Glenn & Dotty Weston-Murphy
Vivien K. White
Mary Elizabeth Wiedersheim
Kimberly P. Williams
Pug & Dee Winokur
George Zdruc

* deceased



Photo Courtesy of Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls

Fund for Women & Girls Advances Gender Equity

Promotes Women's Social and Economic Advancement

The Community Fund for Women & Girls recently announced grants totaling \$130,000 to 12 nonprofit partner organizations working to advance gender equity in the region. Among the grantees is the New Haven Pride Center, which is the first organization serving the LGBTQ+ community to receive a grant from The Fund. The Fund also continues to support the Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls (pictured). “These grantees are working on the front lines of gender equity and economic security, and you will also find a deep commitment to inclusiveness,” says Advisory Board Chair Karen Peart. “All of the grant awards are related in some way to economic security and inclusive growth, and all of them are made possible by women’s philanthropy — the generous sharing of time, talent and treasure.” To learn more, visit fundforwomenandgirls.org.

Connecticut: A Model for Criminal Justice Reform Efforts

In July, The Community Foundation co-hosted a Funders Briefing to review the Connecticut Criminal Justice Reform Field Scan produced by the Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice. The focus was on two key findings: the need to expand capacity for community organizing on criminal justice reform issues; and the need for the criminal justice reform field to align with other areas such as housing, employment, healthcare, education and immigration. The results suggest Connecticut is a model for reform others can follow, but there is room for improvement in reducing racial disparities in incarceration rates and the probation parole system. To read more, visit cfgnh.org/CTFieldScan.



Photo Courtesy of Massaro Farm

Growing Food and Community

Treasured Farm Supported in Multiple Ways

Massaro Community Farm is a place where community members in Greater New Haven not only find a wide variety of locally-grown produce — they also find a community anchor where they can create their own chapters in the farm’s long history. Across 57 lush acres on the Ansonia-Woodbridge town line, the farm offers educational programs and gives thousands of pounds of produce to hunger relief efforts each year. In 2017, the Massaro Community Farm Fund was established as an organization fund with The Foundation’s partner in philanthropy, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF). A year later, the farm’s board created the Massaro Farm Legacy Fund, an endowed fund at VCF, and a third fund, named the Get Outdoors and Enjoy Nature Fund, was created at The Community Foundation by farm board member Louisa Cunningham. To learn more, visit valleyfoundation.org and cfgnh.org.

Day of Fun and Information Goes Global

Twenty-five nonprofit organizations were on hand at the New Haven Healthy Start Family Fun and Fitness Day in August to provide lots of health information and resources to New Haven families. In addition to food and lively music, there were school backpack give-a-ways, raffles, Zumba sessions, a potato sack race and a bounce house. Families experienced a fire safety simulation from the Chief of the New Haven Fire Department. A group of physicians from Haiti visiting Yale New Haven Health’s YNH Hospital joined the activities of the day, expressing gratitude for the model and life-saving information they could take back to their community. Visit nhhealthystart.org to learn more.



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