

# CONNECTIONS



The quarterly newsletter of  
The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

## OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

### Meeting the Moment

#### The Foundation's Response to the Pandemic, 2020-Present

Two years since the onset of the pandemic, The Community Foundation (TCF) begins this status update on pandemic-related activities with a grateful thank you to donors for their unwavering community support.

The Greater New Haven COVID-19 Community Fund, created in partnership with United Way, raised and distributed \$4.3 million for nonprofits between 2020-21. Donors rallied during the two Great Give events, adding an additional \$7.1 million for nonprofits. In '21, TCF launched a \$26 million, 3-year commitment called *Stepping Forward* to address the impacts of COVID-19 and advance racial equity. Under this work, TCF has held a series of listening and learning sessions; added nearly \$1.7 million to the '21 responsive grant program; removed barriers and improved access through streamlined grantmaking processes; added three new permanent funds; and in '22 will be deploying \$12 million in discretionary community investments, an increase of approximately \$3.8 million from pre-pandemic levels.



Walk of Faith Church, a grant recipient of the COVID-19 Community Fund, hosted multiple vaccine clinics.



Photo Courtesy of New Haven Promise

New Haven Promise alumni strengthen the city's economic foundation.

## New Haven Promise Supports City's Future

### Graduates Stay Local to Live, Work and Help New Haven Grow

Since it launched in 2010, New Haven Promise has seen more than 800 of its scholarship recipients earn college degrees, with nearly 300 going on to receive master's degrees. More than just developing young minds, New Haven Promise is also building an economic foundation for the city's future. Nearly 90 percent of Promise alumni are staying in the area to live and pursue their careers, according to President Patricia Melton. "It's exciting," says Melton. "A good percentage are making more than their family's household income and we have many earning twice their household income." In addition to providing up to full tuition to qualifying New Haven Public School graduates, Promise also connects its scholars to career opportunities through career and internship fairs and provides structured support for job searches. Promise was created through a partnership between The Foundation, Yale University and the City of New Haven, and remains one of The Foundation's largest funding commitments.

### Basic Needs Fund Awards Nearly \$410,000 in First Year, Launches Match Campaign

More than two dozen nonprofit organizations received money from the Basic Needs Fund in 2021. Requests for such essentials as food, clothing, hygiene items, personal protection equipment and financial support topped \$792,000 alone in the last grantmaking process of the year. Over 100 organizations were invited to apply; many were new grantees to The Foundation from outreach done for the COVID relief fund. To incentivize giving, the Fund's Advisory Committee has created a \$500,000 Match Campaign that will match gifts, dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per gift until the \$500,000 has been appropriated. Learn more at [cfgnh.org/BasicNeedsFund](https://cfgnh.org/BasicNeedsFund).



Photo Kathleen Cei

“Do not do for others what they can do for themselves,” was a key theme that emerged in the discussion.

## Building Power to Effect Social Change

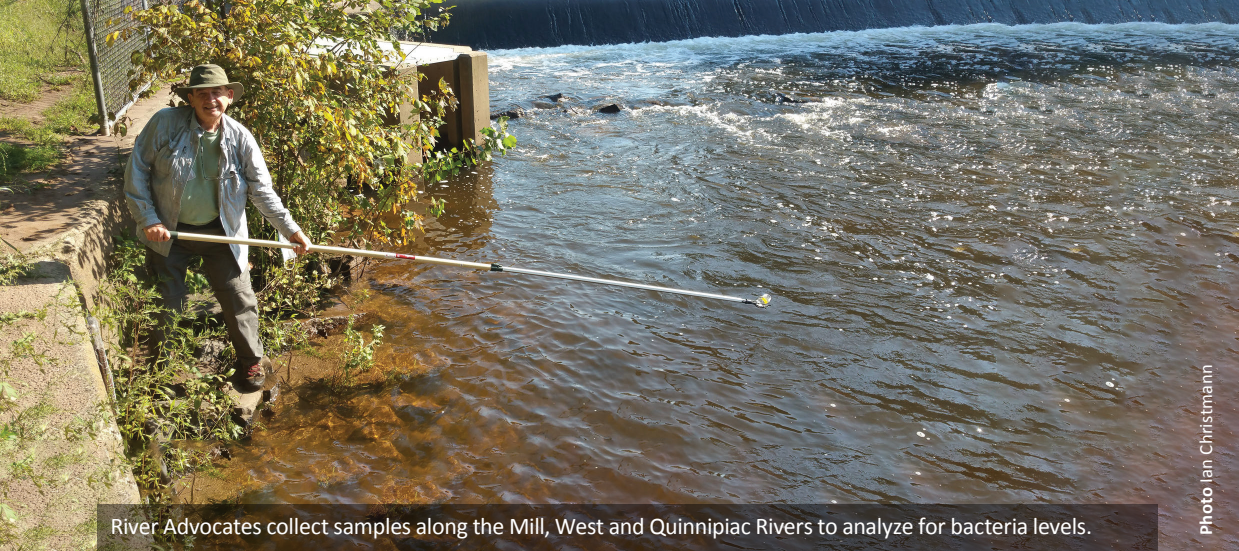
### Organizers Share Insights on Social Justice Philanthropy

Provide support that gives activists the training and tools needed to build a broad-based movement. Let people in the community who are seeking change determine the causes and issues they take on. Be comfortable with challenges to existing power dynamics. Have patience. Connecticut veterans of social justice movements offered these and other insights during a March donor briefing on how philanthropy can effectively support community organizing. “You don’t win because you are right. You win because you are strong,” said panelist Lorenzo Jones, co-founder of the Katal Center for Equity, Health and Justice. Jones was joined by fellow panelists Kica Matos, Vice President of the Vera Institute of Justice, and Perrin Family Foundation President Laura McCarger. The event was moderated by Cesar Aleman, Director of the CT Urban Opportunity Collaborative. Learn more and watch the recording at [cfgnh.org/organizing](https://cfgnh.org/organizing).

### Neighborhood Music School Builds Community, Inspires Personal Growth

Neighborhood Music School (NMS) is a creative hub, where chance encounters turn into jam sessions and life-changing personal connections. While NMS delivered instruction online during the pandemic, school leaders reimaged the traditional model of arts education to place less emphasis on creating professional artists and more on the development of life skills and the joy of shared artistic expression. “It was actually a return to our roots,” says Executive Director Noah Bloom. “We refocused our goals to align with our original mission, dedicated to building community and inspiring personal growth.” NMS is a long-time grantee of The Foundation.





River Advocates collect samples along the Mill, West and Quinnipiac Rivers to analyze for bacteria levels.

Photo Ian Christmann

## Quinnipiac River Fund Reaches Milestone

### Recent Study Reveals Difference in Bacteria Levels After Rainfall

March marks the 30th anniversary of the first grants to be awarded by the Quinnipiac River Fund. The Fund was established in 1990 as part of a court settlement of litigation between the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Upjohn Company, concerning wastewater discharges from the Upjohn Company's plant in North Haven. At the time, Upjohn was ordered to pay \$1.2 million dollars over three years, which established the permanent fund at The Foundation. Since then, more than 300 grants have been awarded totaling over \$2.8 million. One recent grant was awarded to the River Advocates to research bacteria levels at 20 different sites. In October, State Rep. Mary Mushinsky, executive director of River Advocates, shared findings made possible by a grant from the Quinnipiac River Fund and the Greater New Haven Green Fund. Learn more about what can be done to reduce high bacteria loads on rainy days at [thequinnipiacriver.com](http://thequinnipiacriver.com).

### Grants Process at Valley Community Foundation Sees Big Growth in New Applicants

Over 50 percent of applicants through the Valley Community Foundation's (VCF) Community Grants Program this year had not previously applied. Most of the requests came from grassroots groups focused on feeding the hungry and supporting the most vulnerable populations. The VCF Community Grants Program annually awards between \$250 and \$2,500 to community groups and organizations serving the towns of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton to support civic and community engagement efforts. In other Valley news, VCF is a lead partner in the next Valley Community Index and has set its Annual Reception date for May 17. Learn more at [valleyfoundation.org](http://valleyfoundation.org).



Photo Courtesy of Elena Dixon

“Seeing the strong philanthropic pulse that runs throughout our community inspires me and helps me guide my clients in aligning their charitable resources with the causes they care most about.”

— Elena M. Dixon, ChFC®, CPFA, CAP®  
Linden Wealth Advisors, LLC

## Professional Advisors Council

The Professional Advisors Council consists of leaders in the allied advisory fields of estate planning, wealth advising, accounting, financial planning and insurance. These experts work closely with Foundation staff to identify opportunities for maximizing philanthropic impact and client satisfaction, which benefits our shared community. To learn more about charitable giving, contact Liana Garcia, Director of Gift Planning, at 203-974-1646.



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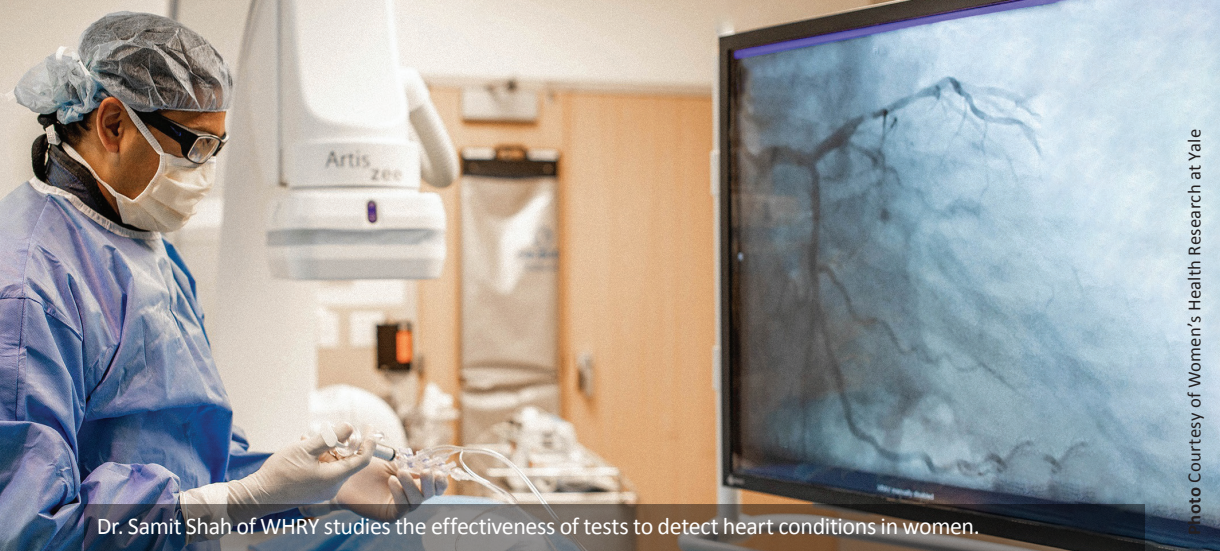
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Dr. Samit Shah of WHRY studies the effectiveness of tests to detect heart conditions in women.

Photo Courtesy of Women's Health Research at Yale

## Advancing Equity in Medicine

### Women's Health Needs Are Getting Addressed at WHRY

Women's Health Research at Yale (WHRY) is changing science to address the health needs of women. Recent work funded by The Community Foundation is developing heart disease treatment that accurately responds to the biology and experiences of women. When patients experience heart attack symptoms, doctors typically look for a blocked artery using a cardiac catheterization and an angiogram. While the standard procedure finds blocked arteries in almost all men undergoing heart attacks, it uncovers blockages in only half of women experiencing symptoms, since reduced blood flow to a woman's heart is often caused by a different condition not seen by those tests. WHRY is leading new research to address this issue, using cutting-edge validated tests to detect reduced blood flow in women. The study is part of WHRY's mission to remedy the health disparities experienced by women and uncover gender differences in health outcomes in order to improve healthcare for everyone. Learn more at [cfgnh.org/whry](https://cfgnh.org/whry).

### Flexibility Is Key for Post-Pandemic Workforce Systems, Trainings, Employers

The post-pandemic structuring of pipeline and pathways to careers must include a gender lens. That message was clear at December's "Women, Work and Equity" convening, co-presented by The Foundation and the Community Fund for Women & Girls. Panelists Marcia LaFemina of Penn Globe and Sarah Lewis and Adrienne Parkmond of The WorkPlace Inc. explored the region's labor shortage and how best to invest in women obtaining careers that pay living wages, as well as ways to rethink workplace policies to reduce barriers for women in manufacturing industries. Visit [fundforwomenandgirls.org](https://fundforwomenandgirls.org) to view the event recording and a list of resources shared.



Photos Yale School of Management and Yale New Haven Hospital

Left to right: Heather Tookes Alexopoulos, PhD, and Keith B. Churchwell, MD.

## Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

### Board of Directors Re-Elects Chair and Vice Chair

The Foundation welcomed two new members to its Board of Directors effective January 1: Heather Tookes Alexopoulos, PhD, Professor of Finance at Yale School of Management; and Keith B. Churchwell, MD, President of Yale New Haven Hospital. Each will serve a seven-year term. “The Community Foundation is very fortunate to have both Heather Tookes and Keith Churchwell joining our Board of Directors,” says Foundation President and CEO Will Ginsberg. “They will each bring tremendous expertise, deep commitment to our community and vast experience to the work of our Board. We are honored and grateful that they have each agreed to share those attributes with us over the next seven years.” In addition to the new appointments, the Board has re-elected Flemming “Nick” Norcott Jr. as chair and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith as vice chair for 2022.

### Donor Appreciation Event Features REACH Grant Recipient

The Community Foundation (TCF) hosted a virtual celebration to recognize and thank its donors for their generosity and commitment to our shared community. The December event opened with a video from Black Haven, the New Haven artist collective behind the Black Haven Film Fest and recipient of a TCF Racial Equity + Creative Healing through the Arts (REACH) grant. Board Chair Flemming Norcott Jr. provided an overview of the year’s response to the pandemic and work to advance racial equity. President & CEO Will Ginsberg and outgoing board members Khalilah L. Brown-Dean and Carlton Highsmith shared reflections on philanthropy in our community and hopes for TCF going forward.



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation *for* Greater New Haven

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