

# CONNECTIONS

The quarterly newsletter of



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

## OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

### Embracing Transformation

#### Stakes Are High for Continued Progress

At the midpoint of The Community Foundation's 2020-2024 strategic plan and its *Stepping Forward* three-year, \$26 million commitment to address the impact of COVID-19 and advance racial equity, Foundation leaders are reflecting on lessons learned and asking community members to share their perceptions and hopes for our community's future. Through roundtables, surveys and conversations, people acknowledge that the pandemic and call for racial justice have brought greater empathy and connectedness, but recognize real change takes time. At the Annual Meeting, the first in-person since 2019, President & CEO Will Ginsberg called on guests to "recognize the transformation that is beginning to take shape around and among us; to embrace it and to build on it for the future." Ginsberg also called on attendees to "invite in a new generation of changemakers with different experiences and different perspectives." Read a recap of the event and watch the recording at [cfgnh.org/AnnualMeeting2022](https://cfgnh.org/AnnualMeeting2022).



At the 2022 Annual Meeting in May, Board Chair Flemming "Nick" Norcott Jr. welcomed attendees and introduced the question: "Is our community meeting the moment?"



Photo Angel Starr

Local philanthropists at The Vineyard Project For Black Futures In New Haven launch in July at ConnCORP.

## The Vineyard Project Launches

### Raising Resources, Changing the Narrative for Black Futures

Martha's Vineyard has long been a community hub for African American families affirming Black history, legacy building and wealth creation. The Vineyard Project For Black Futures In New Haven aims to emulate that role by recognizing and amplifying the vibrant Black history and culture of our local community. This summer, the project launched with a series of events and a direct mail campaign to encourage donors to join the Vineyard Project's Founders Circle of the Black Futures Fund. The Black Futures Fund was created in 2020 to advance racial equity in Greater New Haven and to tackle the structures that contribute to racial disparities in the Greater New Haven community. To date, the project has already attracted more than 50 new donors to the Black Futures Fund. Learn more about The Vineyard Project at [cfgnh.org/vineyardproject](https://cfgnh.org/vineyardproject) and the Black Futures Fund at [cfgnh.org/blackfuturesfund](https://cfgnh.org/blackfuturesfund).

### Connecticut's Black Philanthropy Celebrated at August Panel Discussion

Anybody can be a philanthropist and there is no one way to do it. This message was delivered at a virtual conversation held in recognition of August as Black Philanthropy month and presented in partnership with Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and The Prosperity Foundation. The panelists included Carl Hardrick (Brother Carl Institute); Paula Irvin (New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority); JoAnn Price (Fairview Capital Partners); and Daniel Trust (Daniel Trust Foundation). Babz Rawls-Ivy (Inner-City News; LoveBabz LoveTALK; founder of The Freed Woman Fund) moderated. Learn more at [cfgnh.org/bpm2022](https://cfgnh.org/bpm2022).





Photo: Courtesy of Discovering Amistad

Discovering Amistad was among the 63 nonprofits awarded a responsive grant in July 2022.

## Doing More and Doing Work Differently

### Discretionary Grants Support Transformation, Stability

In July, The Foundation awarded \$3,097,307 in one-year and multi-year grants for general operating support to 63 Greater New Haven nonprofits. In addition to these new grants, \$2,083,500 is being distributed to 73 organizations this year through multi-year grants previously awarded. The increased funding was made possible by *Stepping Forward*, The Foundation's three-year, \$26 million commitment to address the impact of COVID-19 and advance racial equity. *Stepping Forward* is funded by an unprecedented extraction from Foundation endowments and from donor contributions. In addition to increasing grant resources, The Foundation modified its application process by streamlining forms and eliminating traditional prerequisites. As a result, 20 percent of the grants went to organizations that applied for the first time. Read the full press release at [cfgnh.org/ResponsiveGrants2022](https://cfgnh.org/ResponsiveGrants2022).

### West Hills Community Brings Back the "Shack"

Sitting abandoned for nearly two decades, the community center fondly known as the "Shack" is once again a haven for young people and families in New Haven's West Hills neighborhood. The reopening is the result of neighbors of all ages coming together to fundraise, renovate and staff the center, creating the nonprofit 333 Valley Street Center, An Intergenerational Organization. "Our goal is to bring community together where the old understands the youth and the youth understands and respects the old," says West Hills Alder Honda Smith. "It is a beautiful success." The Community Foundation provided the project's first grant, \$30,000 made available from *Stepping Forward*.



James D. English (far right) and his family have a long history of philanthropy and civic engagement in New Haven.

## Historic Gift Caps Remarkable Family Legacy

### Largest Gift to The Foundation Supports Four Local Nonprofits

In June, The Community Foundation was pleased to announce the receipt of approximately \$35 million from the estate of New Haven native James (Jim) Dana English. The bequest is the largest outright gift ever received by The Foundation and establishes the James D. English Fund, a permanent endowment that will provide annual support to four local nonprofits with which the English family was deeply involved for generations: Clifford Beers Community Care Center (10%), Neighborhood Music School (10%), New Haven Museum (40%) and New Haven Symphony Orchestra (40%). “The James D. English gift is one of the most extraordinary acts of philanthropy in our community’s history,” said Foundation President & CEO Will Ginsberg. “Mr. English’s choice of The Foundation and these four organizations as the beneficiaries of this generosity reflects his confidence in how each of us can make life better for the residents of Greater New Haven far into the future.” Learn more at [cfgnh.org/EnglishBequest](http://cfgnh.org/EnglishBequest).

### Progreso Latino Fund Founding Funders Scholarship Recipient: Arianna Adorno

Ever since she was young, Arianna Adorno has wanted to be a lawyer. She is a step closer to her dream now that she is the recipient of a Progreso Latino Fund (PLF) Founding Funders Scholarship. The Wilbur Cross High School graduate plans to attend the University of Connecticut, where she intends to take courses in preparation for law school. “My family inspired me most,” says Adorno. “A lot of people in my family didn’t get to go to college or even graduate from high school. I wanted to be one of the first to go.” The PLF scholarship is awarded annually to promising Latino high school graduates in New Haven. Learn more at [progresolatinofund.org](http://progresolatinofund.org).



James Barber, pictured with his wife Doris, has inspired generations of young athletes.

Photo Courtesy of the Barber Family

## Legendary Coach Honored with Fund For Youth

### Former Athletes of Coach James Barber Give Back

Throughout his life, James Barber has inspired the best in people. After graduating from Southern Connecticut State University as a record-setting track star, he went on to found New Haven Age Group Track and Field, where he coached and mentored thousands of children. At Southern, he was the head coach of the women's track and field team, where he coached many champions and All-Americans. After 50 years of service, including a term on The Community Foundation board, Barber is being honored by his track and field alumni who established the Claudia and James Barber Legacy Fund for New Haven Youth — a fund named in honor of Barber and his mother, Claudia. “He has loved and supported and encouraged generations of kids and young people.” said Leandrea Brantle, one of Barber’s former athletes. “We are giving back, to honor him by helping the kids of New Haven.” Learn more about this fund and its inspiration at [cfgnh.org/BarberFund](https://cfgnh.org/BarberFund).

### Boys and Girls Clubs Merge

The Boys and Girls Club of New Haven and Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club of Wallingford and North Haven merged on July 1, creating a stronger and more sustainable model to serve the region's youth: The Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Haven. The merger is the culmination of work over several years. A grant from The Community Foundation helped the New Haven club keep its doors open, and Community Foundation staff worked with the club during the grant period to help it plan for the future. Learn more about resources available for nonprofits, from grants, workshops and consultant support to investment services and more at [cfgnh.org/Strengthening-Nonprofits](https://cfgnh.org/Strengthening-Nonprofits).





Guide Dog Foundation instructor and yellow Labrador retriever practice stopping at curbs.

Photo Courtesy of Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind

## Guide Dogs Make Ordinary Moments Extraordinary

### Grants Made Possible by Two Longstanding Foundation Funds

Crossing the street independently becomes a moment of liberation. Traveling alone becomes a welcome adventure. Embracing new experiences becomes an everyday occurrence. These examples cited by Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind illustrate how the power of a bond between a guide dog and a person who is visually impaired can make ordinary, everyday moments extraordinary. A recent Foundation grant to the organization will support these powerful partnerships. In late 2021 and early 2022, The Foundation awarded multi-year funding to several nonprofits serving the visually impaired in Greater New Haven, including Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind. The grants were made possible thanks to two funds established decades ago by donors who stated a preference for aiding the visually impaired: The Jennie C. Bronson Fund and the Albert Zunder Fund. Learn more at [cfgnh.org/gdf](https://cfgnh.org/gdf).

### Reception Celebrates the Work to Make the Valley a Place Where Everyone Thrives

On May 17, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) welcomed 120 community members to its first in-person annual reception in three years at Race Brook Country Club. Guests received the 2021 Annual Report, entitled “Staying the Course,” and learned about the 16 funds established last year. “Despite what our region has gone through these last few years, it was wonderful to see the joy on everyone’s face when we gathered,” said Sharon Closius, VCF’s President and CEO. “Sixteen new funds, a record, is a true testament to the generous spirit of giving that’s the heart and soul of our Valley.” Learn more at [valleyfoundation.org](https://valleyfoundation.org).



## Local Artists Bring Joy, Healing Through the Arts

### The Foundation Grants \$426,000 in Arts Funding

Cultural festivals, community healing gardens, theater and youth poetry are among 13 projects that received grant funding from the Racial Equity and Creative Healing (REACH) through the Arts program in September. The grants were awarded by a community-based advisory committee organized by the Arts Council of Greater New Haven. The Community Foundation funded the grant program. The REACH program was created and funded through *Stepping Forward*. It has awarded two rounds of grants supporting community and neighborhood art projects that create cultural experiences centered on racial justice, collective healing and youth development. “The committee members were excited that there were so many new, diverse projects, and that all the projects are doing really important work in the community,” said Arts Council Development Director Megan Manton. “Art is an avenue for healing.” Learn more at [cfgnh.org/reach2022](https://cfgnh.org/reach2022).

### Nearly \$200,000 Awarded to Support Economic Security for Women

The Community Fund for Women & Girls, the region’s only permanent charitable endowment dedicated solely to advancing women and girls, announced its 2022 Pathways to Economic Success for Women grant recipients in June. The rapid response grants address economic security with investments in workforce training, employment and entrepreneurship, and include the support of wraparound services such as childcare, transportation and stipends. “This is a time of extraordinary challenges,” said Karen Peart, Chair. “The Fund is pleased to provide funding for these much-needed programs that offer pathways to making change.” Learn more at [fundforwomenandgirls.org](https://fundforwomenandgirls.org).



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

70 Audubon Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

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## Planning to give in 2022?

We're ready to assist.

Now is also a good time to review your estate plans.  
**Hats off to those who have done so,**  
and are members of the Nettie J. Dayton Circle:  
forward-thinking individuals who have chosen  
to leave a legacy by including The Community  
Foundation in their estate plans.  
Learn more at [cfghn.org/giving](http://cfghn.org/giving).

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