

CONNECTIONS

The quarterly newsletter of



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

Job Seekers Gain Skills While Getting Paid

Inclusive Growth in Manufacturing

An innovative manufacturing training center is paying job seekers to acquire valuable skills while gaining work experience. Manufacturing and Technical Community Hub (MATCH) recently opened in New Haven's Fair Haven neighborhood in a space renovated by a team that included participants in the New Haven Healthy Start (NHHS) fatherhood program. The fathers also comprise the first cohort for the program, which offers bilingual instruction in a range of disciplines including sheet metal fabrication, machining, wiring, inventory control, customer service and marketing. MATCH also connects trainees with financial literacy training and other wraparound services. "We are not just a learning hub, but a place where job seekers find support, guidance and mentorship," says Marcia LaFemina, MATCH board chair. The Foundation is supporting MATCH with a \$125,000 grant from its Mission Investments Company (TCF MIC) in partnership with the Amour Propre Fund and a \$50,000 grant from the Career Pathways initiative.



NHHS fatherhood coordinator Rodney Moore (left) and New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker with members of the fatherhood program who worked to transform a warehouse into a state-of-the-art training facility.



Photo: Judy Sirota Ritten

Foundation president & CEO Will Ginsberg at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

William W. Ginsberg to Retire in Late 2024

A Legacy of Growth, Innovation and Community Leadership

Will Ginsberg has announced that he will retire from The Community Foundation in November 2024 after more than 24 years in his position as president & CEO. “Will’s legacy is one of growth, innovation and community leadership,” says board chair Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS. “In recent years, Will’s Opportunity + Equity vision has transformed how we work and who we serve.” The Foundation’s board has formed a search committee and hired the executive search firm Koya Partners. Read the full press release at cfgnh.org/GinsbergtoRetire.

Additionally, Foundation chief operating officer Angela Powers will be leaving her position at the end of 2023 after 27 years of service. “Angela has been an indispensable leader,” says Ginsberg. “At different times over the course of her tenure, she has led our planning, operations, stewardship, development and communications work and she was also the founding CEO of the Valley Community Foundation. We will miss her greatly.”

Foundation Board Leads a Planful Transition

“The departures of Foundation chief operating officer Angela Powers at the end of this year and president & CEO Will Ginsberg late next year signal the start of a new era at The Foundation after more than two decades of remarkably strong and stable leadership,” says board chair Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS. “The board of directors is committed to listening to our community and to assuring a smooth and planful transition so that The Foundation is best positioned for continuing growth and service to the community in the future.” Learn more at cfgnh.org/transition23.



Mentoring in the Moment

Girls of Color Mentoring Network Plants Seeds, Opportunities

They experimented with electricity conductivity and learned about coding patterns. They made robots dance and walk backwards. More than 40 girls, middle and high school students from Greater New Haven, took part in the Girls of Color Mentoring Network's (GOCMN) collaborative STEM event held earlier this year, run by the CT Stem Academy. A program of The Foundation's Community Fund for Women & Girls, the GOCMN is a collective of eight local organizations finding new ways to bolster their work in serving girls of color. High school senior Jazmin Calvillo, who will be the first in her family to attend college, says the best part of the event was hearing from women who work in STEM fields talk about their careers, including GOCMN members Latisha Douglas and Lisa Crutchfield Diggs. "They were really inspiring," says Calvillo. "They showed me that as a woman, I can do anything." "Visibility is everything," says Randi McCray, consulting facilitator of GOCMN. "We plant seeds for more opportunities." Learn more at fundforwomenandgirls.org.

Haven's Harvest Feeds the Hungry While Reducing Food Waste

One way Lori Martin measures success is in pounds – 1.5 million pounds, to be exact. That's how much perishable food Haven's Harvest, where Martin is executive director, recovers and redistributes to address food insecurity in Greater New Haven. "There's a lot of wasted food that is still good, but with a timer on it," says Martin. "Our mission is about how to get it to people [in need] who can eat it." The innovative program received a \$40,000 grant from The Foundation in 2023 to support its work, including the coordination of nearly 400 volunteers for weekly food pick-ups and drop-offs. Learn more at cfgnh.org/HavensHarvest.



A gathering to celebrate The Vineyard Project was held in Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard this August.

Vineyard Project Promotes Black Excellence

Connects Through Identity, Experience

Launched in 2022, The Foundation's Vineyard Project For Black Futures In New Haven is inspired by the unique relationship generations of African American families in our community share with the historic island of Martha's Vineyard. The island "has long been a respite for Black families from limiting stereotypes and harmful narratives," says Leon Bailey Jr., The Foundation's senior vice president for human resources and organizational culture, who led the creation of The Vineyard Project. "We are building on that legacy to promote Black excellence and permanently change the narratives in our larger community." The Vineyard Project provides funding to support learning experiences that highlight New Haven families and groups working on narrative change, that elevate our collective understanding of our history. It recently funded the Constance Baker Motley exhibit at the Dixwell Q House, which attracted more than 500 visitors. Visit cfgnh.org/Vineyard to view highlights from this year and consider supporting The Vineyard Project.

Corner Store Survives Pandemic and Builds Community With Foundation Support

Michael and Kenia Massey opened The Black Corner out of a passion for giving neighborhood kids a safe place to go. When the pandemic struck, the store almost didn't make it. After receiving funding through the New Haven Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (NHE3) and other sources, the Masseys were able to keep their doors open. "Representation is necessary," says Michael Massey. "Kids need someone to look up to." The Foundation's NHE3 work supports hundreds of primarily Black, Brown and women-owned local small businesses, and has attracted almost \$11 million in new city, state, federal and private funds since 2022. Learn more at cfgnh.org/TheBlackCorner.



Photo Courtesy of Mary Lowery

A lifetime donor, Mary Lowery included the Community Fund for Women & Girls as a beneficiary of her estate.

Generosity, Forethought Key to Strategic Giving

Estate Gifts Meet Future Challenges in Perpetuity

In 1928, the first fund at The Community Foundation was established by the bequest of Nettie J. Dayton. Over the years, The Foundation has grown from the gifts by thoughtful people who made a provision in their will or trust, or made The Foundation a beneficiary of retirement plan assets, life insurance policies or bank accounts. Among these donors is Mary Lowery, a retired teacher who left a bequest for the Community Fund for Women & Girls and to the fund she created during her lifetime for the New Haven Scholarship Fund. “I was lucky to be born and I’ve been lucky with my career and a family inheritance. I feel my fortune requires I give back,” Lowery said.

For help in making your plans, contact Liana Garcia, director of gift planning, at 203-974-1646 to request a complimentary guide to giving. Learn more at cfgnh.giftplans.org.

Valley Gives Back® Spurs Community-wide Giving in the Valley

Created in 2018 at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), the Valley Gives Back® local initiative is geared up for year-end giving and is promoting the importance of giving back to benefit the Valley community both now and in the future. The tools offered on the website valleygivesback.plannedgiving.org tell visitors how to make a commitment to charities now without jeopardizing their nest egg. Innovative ways to give include giving your required minimum distribution from retirement assets, as Alyce and Tom Wells recently did to support their treasured Valley institutions. Read their story in the latest VCF newsletter at valleyfoundation.org.



Photo iStock

A study funded by the Quinnipiac River Fund will help create technology that flushes salt from catch basins.

Excessive Road Salting Brings Harms

Quinnipiac River Fund Supports Study of Salt Levels

During the winter months, enormous quantities of salt are used to melt the ice and snow on our roads and sidewalks. All of it eventually finds its way to streams, lakes and groundwater, and lingers in the environment in the summer months and beyond, according to a study funded by The Foundation's Quinnipiac River Fund. The study, led by Yale professor of environmental chemistry Gaboury Benoit, is measuring salt in storm water catch basins along roadsides and at points on the Quinnipiac River. The resulting information is helping in the creation of new technology that flushes salt from catch basins along with education campaigns to limit overuse. "When people are spreading salt by hand, they are often applying 100 times more than is useful or recommended," says Benoit. The project was one of nine supported by the Fund in 2023. The Quinnipiac River Fund's 2024 grant application process is open through January 22. Learn more at thequinnipiacriver.com/grants.

Environmental Justice and Climate Change Focus of Panel Discussion

Climate change affects everyone, and under-resourced communities often bear the brunt of the worst impacts. In Connecticut, innovators are working on solutions with both local and global implications. On November 1, a virtual panel discussion with local experts Ryan Dings of ClimateHaven, Sharon Lewis of Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice and Mark Mitchell MD, MPH, focused on the public health risks posed by climate change and the work being done to build a cleaner future. One key takeaway: justice will not occur until those who are not impacted are as vocal and involved as those who are. Watch a recording of the event at cfgnh.org/ClimateChange.



Metropolitan Business Academy grad Gwyneth Perez-Perez, a 2023 PLF Founding Funders Scholarship recipient.

Progreso Latino Fund Leads, Informs, Celebrates

20th Anniversary Programs Strengthen Our Community





Over the course of its 20th anniversary year in 2023, the Progreso Latino Fund elevated Latine philanthropy to new heights and advanced its mission of empowering the Greater New Haven Latine community through education and grantmaking. Twenty new Latine named funds were created as part of the 20th anniversary, each a permanent charitable resource dedicated to supporting the Latine community. In addition, the anniversary match challenge raised more than \$40,000 for the Fund. For 2023, the annual Fund forum was a three-part webinar series that focused on Latine mental health through the lifespan from youth, to adults to older adults. The Fund also made \$57,500 in grants and scholarship awards, including grants to Gateway Community College, Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center and Spanish Community of Wallingford, to support mental health services for the Latine community. Learn more at cfgnh.org/plf.

Nonprofit Leaders, Volunteers and Staff Learn and Connect at Foundation Programs

More than 1,000 representatives from nearly 300 nonprofit organizations attended at least one of the 56 capacity building programs hosted by The Foundation in 2023. This programming, offered both online and in person, was delivered to staff, board members and volunteers. Highlights include the monthly Board Chair and Executive Director Roundtables; a series on the nuances of fundraising; a grant writing series and a new program, Artificial Intelligence for Beginners. In response to a top need identified by nonprofits — attracting board members — several workshops on board roles and responsibilities were also offered. Learn more at cfgnh.org/Strengthening-Nonprofits.



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

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OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

Double Your Impact

The Basic Needs Fund

Did you know that 40 percent of children under the age of five in New Haven live at or below the federal poverty level? Help ensure grant resources are available for basic material needs in Greater New Haven – now and in the future. Gifts to the Basic Needs Fund at The Community Foundation are now being doubled through the generosity of donors. Learn more at cfghn.org/BasicNeedsFund.



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