Women and Philanthropy: Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Ninety years ago, Nettie J. Dayton became the founding mother of what was then the New Haven Women’s Leadership Center. Her legacy of broad charitable purposes solidified her position as the first person to make a gift to the community’s new permanent charitable endowment. Despite living most of her life without financial means, her bequest for broad charitable purposes solidified her position as the first person to make a gift to the community’s new permanent charitable endowment.


What Your Gifts to the Fund Make Possible


Learn more about The Care Economy: Women, Wealth and Work

The consequences of undervaluing care work and policy strategies for improving the lives of care workers were the focus of an in-depth panel discussion hosted by the Community Fund for Women & Girls at its Annual Meeting in June. The panel included Natalícia Tracy (Brazilian Worker Center), Elyse Shaw (Institute for Women’s Policy Research), and Women & Girls (All Our Kids).

“Women and girls are at the forefront of providing care for families and the economy. They need care,” Gohara says. “It affects the ability to build wealth over your lifetime,” says Shaw. “When I say wealth, I don’t mean the 1 percent wealth. I mean, if you have an emergency expense this month of $300 or $400, can you pay it? That is what I mean by wealth.”

Lack of benefits also accelerates the wealth gap. “Nine out of 10 high-wage workers have access to some sort of paid leave; only one in five low-wage workers do,” Shaw explains. The demand for care work is increasing, as it is vital to families and the economy. “Every childcare provider allows for four to five parents to enter and remain in the workforce,” says Sager. “Childcare is incredibly expensive and somehow we have set up a system that parents cannot afford and that does not permit childcare providers to meet a decent living.”

Recently, Connecticut has strengthened worker protections with the passage of legislation to increase the minimum wage and to guarantee paid family leave and paid sick leave. Panelists advocated for further changes, such as universal childcare for all children ages 0-5, and adding a caregiving credit to social security calculations for people who leave the workforce to care for a loved one without pay.

“We need to value care. It is vital for the fabric of our society,” Shaw says. “These are important jobs. This is an important role that people play.”
New Haven — The Community Fund for Women & Girls will award its first-ever grant to an LGBTQIA+ organization among the total of $130,000 in grants going to 12 nonprofit organizations to advance gender equity in the region.

The New Haven Pride Center is the first LGBTQIA+ organization to receive a grant from the fund, according to a release.

Newly appointed Chairwoman Karen Peart announced the grants at the recent annual meeting. The Community Fund for Women & Girls endowment promotes social and economic advancement of women and girls, the release noted.

“These grants are working on the front lines of gender equity and economic security and you will also find a deep commitment to inclusiveness,” Pearl said, in the release. “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.”

The moderated panel discussion during the meeting, “The Care Economy: Women, Wealth and Work,” included Jessica Sapio, on-founder and CEO of All Our Kin, Karen Trizar, executive director of Partners in Health, and Alina Smigly, study director at the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, according to the release. The discussion included details on how “women make up the bulk of the U.S. healthcare and care support workforce (nearly 88 percent), the personal and financial costs to women providing services in the care economy and the importance of advocacy to raise wages and improve working conditions.”

2019 grant recipients (in alphabetical order, as detailed by the release):

- **ASSIST Advocates for Social Security and Immigrant Services**: $12,000 to support literacy programming for refugee mothers with young children.
- **Bridges Healthcare**: $15,000 to support the expansion of prevention education and case management services with a particular focus on the West Haven community.
- **Chapel Haven**: $5,000 to support the Communicative Competency Women’s Group offering discussion-based, community integrated programming.
- **Collective Consciousness Theatre**: $7,000 to support a 12- to 16-week program for young women who attend a New Haven public school and elder women who reside at a New Haven senior residence/eldercare facility.
- **Community Bonds**: $15,000 to support the first formal organizing initiative against mass incarceration in Connecticut, led by women of color.
- **Connecticut Women’s Education & Legal Fund**: $20,000 to support the Bilingual Community Advocacy project and by women of color.
- **Connecticut Women’s Education & Legal Fund:** $20,000 to support a statewide network of women and girls-serving organizations, allies and advocates.
- **CREIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services)**: $12,000 to support literacy programming for refugee mothers with young children, who have no other options for learning English.
- **CT Women for the Arts**: $10,000 to support the continuation of the Business Development Program.
- **CT Women’s Education & Legal Fund**: $20,000 to support a statewide network of women and girls-serving organizations, allies and advocates.
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- **CT Women’s Education & Legal Fund**: $20,000 to support the Bilingual Community Advocacy project and by women of color.
- **IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services)**: $12,000 to support literacy programming for refugee mothers with young children.
- **Jewish Family Services of Greater New Haven**: $7,500 to support the expansion of prevention education and case management services with a particular focus on the West Haven community.
- **New Haven Free Public Library**: $9,500 to support the expansion of the Tech Titans: Girls Who Code Club, which serves girls who have no other options for learning English.
- **New Haven Pride Center**: $7,000 to support the formation of a program for young women who attend a New Haven public school and elder women who reside at a New Haven senior residence/eldercare facility.
- **New London Free Public Library**: $7,500 to support the expansion of prevention education and case management services with a particular focus on the West Haven community.
- **New Haven Pride Center**: $7,000 to support the formation of a program for young women who attend a New Haven public school and elder women who reside at a New Haven senior residence/eldercare facility.
- **Northern Wilton**: $10,000 to support the continuation of the Business Development Program.
- **Orange Community Foundation**: $7,500 to support the expansion of prevention education and case management services with a particular focus on the West Haven community.
- **Partners in Health**: $15,000 to support the expansion of prevention education and case management services with a particular focus on the West Haven community.
- **The Nonprofit Development Center**: $7,500 to support the expansion of prevention education and case management services with a particular focus on the West Haven community.
- **The New Haven Pride Center**:

Advisory Board Highlight: Karen Peart

This January, the Community Fund for Women & Girls welcomed Karen Peart as the chair of the Advisory Board. Peart, a director of external communications at Yale University, says she became involved with The Fund when she saw first-hand how women and girls benefit from The Fund's support.

“The programs can have life-changing and have lifelong effects on the lives of generations of women,” Peart says. “This is an organization where we get to see the effects of our work. It’s proven over and over again that society benefits when women and girls have the social and economic opportunities to help them succeed.”

Peart wants to advocate for women and girls in the region as she has done for her daughter. Her passion for advocacy comes from her experience as a mother.

“I’ve advocated for my daughter who has disabilities since she was born and it has paid dividends. Despite my daughter’s challenges, she completed high school with honors and is now going into her sophomore year of college. The work continues as she navigates the challenges of adulthood and learns to advocate for herself in a world that doesn’t always make it easy for young women of color,” she says.

“I consider it a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Fund,” Karen adds. “As a communications professional, I want to lend my skills to finding innovative ways to get the word out about the work that we do to more audiences and to educate new generations of women and girls about how philanthropy can change lives.”

Creating Your Legacy and Supporting Women & Girls

Donors can create individually-named funds that provide financial resources to women and girls’ programs in perpetuity. Such designated funds can be created now, or as part of an estate plan, to support the Fund for Women & Girls and are easily set up at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. If you are interested in establishing a named fund to support your charitable interests, contact Sharon Cappetta at 203-777-7071.