

A Legacy of Promoting the Advancement of Women

Donors Continuing Their Commitment

Mary Arnstein was a pioneer in women's participation on public and private boards and a tireless advocate for women's advancement. Mary was a Founding Member of the Community Fund for Women & Girls who encouraged 91 others to join her in supporting its first fundraising campaign. After generous lifetime support, Mary and her children added an estate gift to the Mary Arnstein Fund which supports the work of the Community Fund for Women & Girls.



Mary Arnstein

Lisa Arpaia established the Clara Stella Tropeano Arpaia Memorial Fund in memory of her mother. In addition to helping her three children obtain graduate degrees, Clara went to school while working full-time and obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Her daughter Lisa, an attorney, created the Arpaia Fund to support the work of the Community Fund for Women & Girls and has also included a bequest to the Fund in her estate plan.



Lisa Arpaia

Jane Curran, a chemist whose research team developed the first antihistamine, was also a wife, mother and extraordinary community leader. During Jane's lifetime, she and her husband Bill supported numerous organizations in the New Haven community. Jane was a Founding Member of the Community Fund for Women & Girls and left the first bequest to the Fund upon her death in 2004.



Jane Curran

Nancy Hoskins was a lawyer, Yale administrator, wife and mother. An associate fellow of Trumbull College, Nancy was a docent at the Yale Art Gallery and supported numerous nonprofit organizations. She began giving to the Community Fund for Women & Girls during the Millennial Campaign and served on the Grants Committee. Nancy's daughter and executrix, Anne Emmet, fulfilled her mother's wishes by creating a named fund through Nancy's estate.



Nancy Hoskins

Birgitta Johnson was a native of Sweden who came to America in the 1950's when she started her banking career. She was one of the first women in Connecticut to be named a Vice President. Both during her career and in retirement, Birgitta served on nonprofit boards and mentored many women. Birgitta was a founding member of the Community Fund for Women & Girls and left a bequest to the Fund and other nonprofits dear to her through a gift of her retirement assets.



Birgitta Johnson



A component fund of

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

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Catherine (Kay) Petraiuolo and her husband, Edward, confirmed a life-long commitment to their community when they set up a charitable trust in 1998. As an Advisory Board member and regular donor to the Community Fund for Women & Girls, Kay has included the Fund in her estate plan as a remainder beneficiary to create a designated fund for Women & Girls.



Kay Petraiuolo

Pamela Rendeiro, a professor of law and political science at Southern Connecticut State University, was the anonymous donor who started the Community Fund for Women & Girls in 1995. Pamela later became a visible, proud contributor to its growth and served on the Grants Committee. She credited her parents with the spirit of giving, and she and her husband supported many local, national and international programs. Pamela's vision, generosity and quiet leadership of the Fund continued after her life with a gift from her estate.



Pamela Rendeiro

Shelly Saczynski is Director of Economic and Community Development at UIL Holdings Corporation. Shelly also served on the Board of The Community Foundation from 2009-2015, but her first and enduring relationship was as a donor and volunteer for the Community Fund for Women & Girls. Shelly served as Chair of the Advisory Board as well as Foundation Board Liaison to the Fund. Shelly has included the Fund in her estate plans.



Shelly Saczynski

Jane Shaw, a retired teacher and development professional, has been a valuable member of the Advisory Board and currently serves on the Grants Committee of the Community Fund for Women & Girls. Jane has also been a steady and generous donor to the Fund and established the Jane Steidley Shaw Fund dedicated to its support. Jane has also included a bequest for the Fund in her plans.



Jane Shaw

The Community Fund for Women & Girls is Greater New Haven's only endowment promoting the social and economic advancement of women and girls. The Fund advances women's influence and gender equity through education, information and convenings, and makes grants to programs and services for women and girls.

WaveMaking Women Powerful Philanthropy