

# Stronger Together



# CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Connecticut Community Foundation was established over 90 years ago with a vision that by investing together in our local communities, we are a greater force for good.



# In 2015, we are stronger together.

Connecting donors to nonprofits that address the most pressing challenges and opportunities in our 21 towns throughout Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills.

Empowering nonprofits to innovate, rejuvenate, and invigorate our neighborhoods.

Investing wisely for a future of thriving communities.

# 2015 AT A GLANCE

# **GIFTS\***

854 gifts Totaling \$4.1 million Given by 673 donors

# **GRANTS\***

430 grants
Totaling \$2.3 million
Awarded to 258 organizations

# **SCHOLARSHIPS**

350+ scholarships awarded to students Totaling nearly \$800,000

# **GIVE LOCAL**

Nearly \$820,000 raised for 157 organizations

# \$91 Million in Net Assets

\*Includes gifts to and grants from nonprofit agency funds. Does not include Give Local contributions or distributions. For a breakdown of grants by issue area and gifts by type, please see page 10.

# **FUNDS**

20 new charitable funds established



# VOLUNTEER-RUN FARM PRODUCES 10,000 LBS OF FOOD TO FEED HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

For over 10 years, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Connecticut-Waterbury has offered quality learning experiences for older adults seeking social and intellectual engagement.

So when Nunzio DeFilippis, a passionate OLLI instructor, approached former OLLI Director Brian Chapman and said he wanted to feed the hungry in his home city, the Greening of Waterbury program was born.

Supported by Connecticut Community Foundation's Pathways for Older Adults, the Greening of Waterbury is a collaborative food-growing effort that now produces nearly 10,000 pounds of fresh food annually through a farm at Fulton Park in Waterbury.

"The nonprofit Brass City Harvest already has control of the land and provides seeds and soil while our OLLI team plants all of the seeds, cares for the plants, and delivers the produce to area soup kitchens," explained DeFilippis. "Every year, about 15-20 volunteers participate in the program – a significant time commitment since we work at least three days a week from March through October."

Pathways funding is critical to the program. "We need to use raised beds for all of our plantings. The Foundation's support has helped us secure organic fertilizer. And, moving forward, the grant will be used to install a new irrigation system which will conserve water, save time and effort, and increase productivity," added DeFilippis.

"Not only are the volunteers feeding the hungry, but they have a unique opportunity to engage socially with their peers, improve their physical health, and interact with younger generations through partnerships with undergraduate students and the Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury," said DeFilippis.

Said OLLI Interim Director Jonathan Draper, "OLLI and the UConn Waterbury campus could not be more proud of DeFilippis and all of the dedicated gardeners. Their commitment to improving their own lives and the lives of the community around them is truly an inspiration."



# 3,200 Donors, ONE GOAL: GIVING LOCAL

It's become an annual tradition: Give Local Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills has motivated community members, donors, and nonprofits to realize the power of giving together in making our region stronger. In just three years, the event has grown from a kernel of an idea to a much-anticipated annual outpouring of generosity.

During Give Local, Connecticut Community Foundation joins with area nonprofits and sponsors to ignite a 36-hour flurry of online giving that supports the critical work of local organizations. Donors' gifts are stretched with bonus funds provided by the Foundation, generous individuals, and local business sponsors including steadfast lead sponsor Ion Bank Foundation. Cash prizes are also awarded to nonprofits throughout the campaign. The energy, enthusiasm, and incentives for giving are transformative.

While the Give Local concept is basic, the results are nothing short of inspiring. In 2015, more than 3,200 donors unified and connected with the incredible work of 157 nonprofits throughout Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills. Altogether, Give Local raised nearly \$820,000 – a huge increase over the prior two Give Local events. This amount includes nearly 5,000 online donations totaling over \$660,000, as well as \$100,000 in bonus funds and \$50,000 in cash prizes.

Annie M. Scott, Board President of Brass City Charter School in Waterbury, captured the sentiments of thousands of people who have embraced Give Local to make our communities stronger. "What a great idea to bring to Waterbury and Litchfield Hills. Each Give Local has been more and more energizing for our little band of fundraisers. The prizes and healthy competition and new way to get our name out to the public just makes me say, 'Yes!"



# DAN SHERR'S SAVVY BOOSTS AREA NONPROFITS

Connecticut Community
Foundation is proud of a corps of
volunteer professionals who dedicate their
time and talents as advisors to local nonprofits
through the Nonprofit Assistance Initiative (NAI), providing
services ranging from board development and strategic planning
to executive coaching.

Collectively, advisors have decades of for-profit and nonprofit leadership experience and possess a wealth of skills in assessment, training, financial management, planning, and more. A joint initiative of the Foundation and United Way of Greater Waterbury, these free consulting services are at the core of the Foundation's efforts to strengthen area nonprofits.

Drawing on his background in marketing and business development, long-time NAI advisor Dan Sherr has lent his

expertise to local nonprofits to produce meaningful change.

Sherr said, "I love this work because it embodies the essence of what the Foundation works to achieve – fostering creative partnerships to build rewarding lives and thriving communities. As a NAI advisor, I work with organizations to carefully craft a plan and implement changes. This makes the nonprofits more efficient and effective at delivering their services and brings me great satisfaction."

With the help of NAI advisors, nonprofits work through particular challenges, devise and implement solutions, and receive continued support. Sherr, who lives in Washington, estimates that he has worked with 35-40 nonprofits over the years.

He said, "There are a few that really stand out: transition and market planning for TheatreWorks in New Milford, marketing for Wellmore Behavioral Health in Waterbury, strategic planning for Flanders Nature Center in Woodbury, and market analysis for St. Vincent De Paul in Waterbury. The range of organizations and issues they face make the work personally rewarding. These are the organizations that assure communities that will thrive."



# What Naugatuck Youth Services Learned from 1,600 Teens

When Naugatuck Youth Services (NYS) became an independent nonprofit in 2014, it turned to the real experts — youth — to lay the groundwork. With the Naugatuck school system and the Search Institute, NYS surveyed 1,600 Naugatuck teens to determine their top concerns. Safety, self-esteem, and resisting substance use topped their lists.

NYS Executive Director Kristin Mabrouk recognized that meeting these needs required a deeper understanding of the diversity of Naugatuck residents and open, reflective leadership. She reached out to Connecticut Community Foundation for help.

"The Foundation's John Long and Roy Balkus worked with us to develop bylaws and a strategic plan, analyze our strengths and challenges, and offer direction on board roles," reflected Mabrouk. "Without their program, I'm not sure where we would be." The Foundation is underwriting consultant services for NYS through 2016.

NYS continues to evolve. Said Mabrouk, "We focus on youth leadership development, volunteerism, and promoting positive alternatives to alcohol and drug use and other risky behaviors. Our Juvenile Review Board has helped first-time offenders avoid court system involvement and our Girls on the Run program has helped build girls' self-esteem."

"The Foundation supported Naugatuck Youth Services, and they, in turn, organized support from young people, schools, and the police department," said John Long, Nonprofit Assistance Initiative Program Officer at the Foundation. "They've become a vibrant organization serving youth in innovative ways."

Mabrouk has also benefitted from the Foundation-supported Leadership Development Roundtable and peer group of new executive directors. Through these networks, a unique partnership between NYS and Hidden Acres Therapeutic Riding Center was born, where teens learn communication, trust building, self-awareness, and empathy.

What does the future hold? Mabrouk dreams big: a drug-free community, a mentor for every youth, a teen center run by and for teens. "Next steps will be up to the community," she said. "There are lots of good players advocating for youth in Naugatuck, and when we all play together, everyone wins."



# TEAMING UP FOR CLEANER WATER AND SUMMER CAMPS

In early 2015,
members of the
Connecticut Community
Foundation Trustee Fund – current
and former trustees who have pooled their
resources to create a fund together – met to decide how
they could leverage their dollars to maximize their community
impact. Reflecting on the Foundation's values and their own work
together, they created the Trustee Fund Award which recognizes organizations
and people in the community whose work embodies partnership and collaboration.

"We wanted to highlight efforts that set an example by putting aside competition, egos, and differing interests to do important things that any one group or person couldn't do effectively alone," explained Jack Baker, the Trustee Fund's founder.

In August, the Trustee Fund honored River Smart CT and Almost Home Summer Camp as the first two recipients of the Trustee Fund Award. Each program received \$2,500 for achieving results through collaboration and teamwork.

River Smart CT is led by Housatonic Valley Association, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, Kent Land Trust, Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, and the Farmington River Watershed Association. They work together and with other organizations to engage residents and business owners in land use practices that improve the health of local waterways.

Almost Home Summer Camp began in 2015 when Erica Cooper brought together 17 individuals and organizations to create a summer program that involved 74 children in Waterbury's WOW (Walnut-Orange-Walsh) neighborhood.

"Many kids in this neighborhood had nothing to do over the summer, had families struggling to provide for them, and were two years behind academically," Cooper explained. "They needed a place to go where they could learn, enjoy healthy meals, and have fun. We just got together and made it happen."

The Trustee Fund will make awards annually, and 2016 plans include awards to encourage and recognize collaborations that make our community stronger.



# WESTERN CONNECTICUT LEADERSHIP TAPS LOCAL TALENT FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY

2015 marked the graduation of the second class of Connecticut Community Foundation's Western Connecticut Leadership (WCL) program, in which community-minded residents of our region immersed themselves in learning what makes our towns tick – from economic development to the environment to human services to the arts. In intensive one-day sessions over eight weeks, 70 leaders from the nonprofit and public sectors spoke with WCL participants and offered insights into community needs while encouraging them to apply their experience and energy to create solutions.

Just two years into the program, WCL graduates have already forged connections and taken initiative to benefit the region.

2014 WCL participants Barry Ginsburg and Sal Sorce have considerable investment experience though their successful careers. As a result of meeting through WCL, they combined their talents to form the Northwest Connecticut Opportunity Fund, which aims to increase employment and bolster economic development in our region.

"Sal and I learned we shared similar interests and a desire to help area companies improve their operations – which in turn strengthens our local economy," Ginsburg recalled.

Sorce elaborated, "Barry and I agreed to work with well-established area businesses that would benefit from an infusion of capital and additional management expertise."

As the Foundation looks to welcome a third WCL class, Paula Rolleston, a 2015 graduate, summed up WCL's vision for engaging energetic people who care about our community – a vision participants like Sorce and Ginsburg are already making a reality.

"The WCL Program provided an enlightening education about the inner workings of both Connecticut and its northwest corner, where I had recently moved full time," Rolleston explained. "It helped me define my role and responsibility within the community and showed areas where I can start becoming more meaningfully engaged."

For more information, visit www.WCTLeadership.org.

[Pictured left to right: Barry Ginsburg, Sal Sorce, Paula Rolleston]







# A DONOR'S VISION ON STAGE FOR ALL TO SEE

From the moment
Connecticut Community
Foundation scholarship recipient
Jack Saleeby performed the lead singing role
in his kindergarten Christmas pageant, he knew he
wanted to be on stage. Even at age five, he said, "I loved the
feeling that I got when I was performing on stage and creating
something meaningful with others."

Throughout his childhood, Saleeby participated in theatrical summer camp programs and performed in countless local productions, including a Thomaston Opera House production of *Ragtime* that solidified his decision to pursue a performing arts career.

Saleeby also cites the theatrical training he received at Waterbury Arts Magnet School, recalling that, "My instructors taught me to become a true artist. They stressed how who I am impacts the role I am playing and what I can bring to a production."

When it was time for college, he received important support from the N. Patricia Yarborough Fund, a scholarship fund administered by Connecticut Community Foundation. The late Dr. Yarborough, a former Foundation trustee and president of Post University, created the fund to support students like Saleeby who are entering music, art, dance, or theater careers.

Saleeby has put his scholarship support to good use and has excelled as a theatre arts major at Hofstra University. In addition to performing in many university productions, he has been active in student affairs and has served as president of Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society.

Saleeby is grateful for his scholarship. "I wouldn't be able to do this without the support of the Foundation and the generosity Dr. Yarborough showed so many years ago in creating her fund. For me, college is more than an education or a degree. It's a priceless experience that really shapes the person that I am becoming."



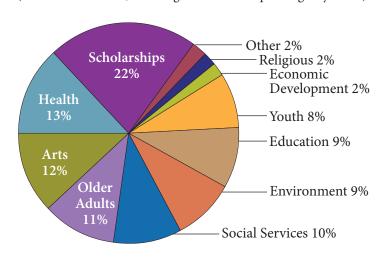
# **FINANCIALS**

	2015	2014
Assets:		
Investments	\$92,939,252	\$95,216,873
Receivables	60,000	-
Other Assets	1,145,209	1,124,406
Total Assets:	\$94,144,461	\$96,341,279
Liabilities and Net Assets:		
Accounts Payable	\$53,296	\$44,998
Grants Payable	58,177	4,312
Other Liabilities	2,800,385	2,277,729
Net Assets	91,232,603	94,014,240
Total Liabilities and Net Assets:	\$94,144,461	\$96,341,279
Revenue:		
Gifts	\$4,456,765	\$4,593,671
Investment Return	(1,860,991)	4,272,323
Other Revenue	18,098	10,969
Total Revenue:	\$2,613,872	\$8,876,963
Grants and Expenses:		
Grants and Scholarships	\$3,644,245	\$3,564,350
Program Support	1,081,911	1,081,322
Supporting Services	669,353	561,631
Total Grants and Expenses:	\$5,395,509	\$5,207,303
Net Assets:		
Beginning of Year	\$94,014,240	\$90,344,580
End of Year	\$91,232,603	\$94,014,240

For a complete copy of the Foundation's 2015 audited financial statement and tax return (IRS Form 990) visit our website at www.conncf.org/financials, or contact Barbara Ryer, Director of Finance and Administration, at 203.753.1315 x 115.

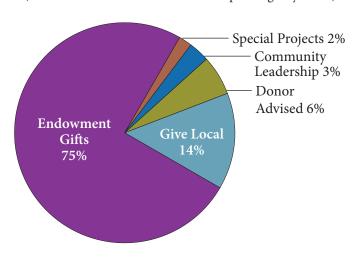
# 2015 Grants and Scholarships by Program Area - \$3.6 million

(includes Give Local, but not grants from nonprofit agency funds)



# 2015 Gifts - \$4.5 million

(does not include contributions to nonprofit agency funds)



# **New Funds**

# **Anonymous Endowment Fund for Youth**

Endowed fund to promote positive development for children and youth in Waterbury.

# **Bedard Family Fund**

Advised fund established by Daniel and Janine Bedard.

# Yolanda and Lester Brooks Family Fund

Unrestricted endowment fund, to be funded by bequest.

# **Carl Gavin Curtis Fund for the Environment**

Endowed fund to benefit the environment, to be funded by bequest.

# **Brian Gibbons Homeless Outreach Fund**

Advised fund established to support work with people who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness in Greater Waterbury.

# Harris Family Scholarship Fund

Scholarship fund established by the New Milford Farmland and Forest Preservation Committee to benefit students who live in New Milford and intend to pursue a degree in an agriculture-related field.

# **Hubbard-Hall Employee Scholarship Fund**

Scholarship fund to benefit children or stepchildren of employees of Hubbard-Hall, Inc.

# **Douglas and Megan Johnson Fund**

Advised fund established by Douglas and Megan Johnson.

# Ruth Ann Leever Music Scholarship Fund

Scholarship fund to benefit students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in music or music education.

# **Ingrid J. Martland Fund**

Endowed fund to benefit Christ Episcopal Church in Roxbury.

# Ingrid J. Martland Fund for Woodbury Public Library

Endowed fund to provide Woodbury Public Library resources to purchase books for distribution to kindergarteners in Region 14 and to support early literacy programs.

# **Anne Melgers Fund**

Endowed fund established through a bequest to benefit specified organizations.

## **Staver Fund**

Endowed fund to be funded by bequest for the benefit of specified organizations.

# Daniel M. Stowell Fund for Cancer Research

Designated fund to support cancer research, to be funded by bequest.

# Washington Garden Club Fund

Advised fund to benefit the Washington Garden Club.

# Waterbury Opportunities Industrialization Center

Advised fund to support the charitable activities of Waterbury Opportunities Industrialization Center.

# Waterbury Youth Services Advised Fund

Advised fund to support the charitable activities of Waterbury Youth Service System.

# Waterbury Youth Services Capital Fund

Advised fund to provide resources for the maintenance and improvement of Waterbury Youth Service System facilities.

# Friends of the Woodbury Public Library Fund

Advised fund to benefit the Woodbury Public Library.

## **Eddie Wilson Scholarship Fund**

Scholarship fund to benefit Pomperaug High School students planning careers in special education or physical or occupational therapy.

# HER LIFELONG LOVE OF READING WILL BENEFIT KINDERGARTENERS

When Ingrid Martland was just four years old, a neighbor offered to take her to visit the public library down the block. That invitation changed everything. Soon, little Ingrid's daily trips to the library yielded such a large volume of books that her father built her a wooden wagon – painted green, with fruit decorations – so she could borrow as many books as she could read. And read she did: eventually, Ingrid exhausted the children's section of the library and started in on the rest of the library's collection, with her wagon in tow.

Ingrid eventually settled in Woodbury with her husband, Ted, raised her own children, and spent a career teaching kindergarten and first grade at Woodbury's Mitchell Elementary School. Through it all, Ingrid has never forgotten the thrill of that first library trip or the worlds that it opened up through reading.

Ingrid and Ted – a former superintendent of Woodbury schools – wanted to make a gift to the community that would echo and honor the gesture of Ingrid's long-ago neighbor. So they created and endowed the Ingrid Martland Fund for Woodbury Library, which will provide gifts of books to every kindergartener in Region 14 (Woodbury and Bethlehem), every year, forever.

"Through books, you can see things you never saw before. Once a small child is given a book, it will make them want more," says Ingrid, who hopes her gift will help children find a love of reading.

As Ted explains, "By working with the Connecticut Community Foundation, we sleep well at night knowing that the fund will live on long after we're gone, doing exactly what we want it to do. Every child will know that a complete stranger wanted them to have their very own book."

Children, however, will need to find their own wagons – Ingrid is keeping hers.



# CHRIS BROOKS CREATES A LEGACY FOR A VITAL WATERBURY

As a young accountant in the 1970s,
I could see that Waterbury, my hometown, was experiencing seismic changes and that philanthropy would be critical to its future. That insight led me to the Connecticut Community Foundation (then the Waterbury Foundation), where I served as trustee for eleven years, encouraging people to establish charitable funds to help meet community needs.

Today, I'm seeing a troubling trend. As people in my generation move out of Connecticut for family or year-round sun, their capital is going with them – often permanently.

When it came to crafting my estate plan, I wanted to be sure that – after taking care of family – my resources stay in the community. That's why I'm working with the Foundation to plan for gifts I want to make during my lifetime and after I'm gone. In addition to the donor advised fund I've had for years, I've established the Yolanda and Lester Brooks Family Fund in honor of my parents. It's an endowed fund with no restrictions that the Foundation will manage for the benefit of the community, forever.

The Foundation offers the wide array of tools to help me create my family's legacy. I've settled on three:

First, I established a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). With a CGA, I enjoy a charitable income tax deduction right away, and will receive income during my lifetime. After my death, the remaining money will be added to my family fund.

Second, through my will, I will fund a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT), which will provide income to my daughters. After their deaths, remaining assets will go to the fund.

Finally, I have named my family fund as a beneficiary of my Individual Retirement Account.

With the Foundation's help, I have a plan that will contribute forever to the Greater Waterbury region that has nurtured and sustained my family for generations.





# YOU GET TO CHOOSE THE LEGACY THAT YOU LEAVE

We all want to be remembered for making a difference. And while we can't live forever, creating something that will benefit others forever is possible.

Since our founding in 1923, many individuals have planned to benefit generations of area residents by including the Connecticut Community Foundation in their estate plans. From the local arts scene to housing to healthcare, their impact is everywhere in our region.

We honor these extraordinary individuals here as members of the 1923 Society. Their gifts will multiply as the years unfold and serve the changing needs of our community in profound ways.

Learn more about estate giving options through the Foundation. Contact Julie Loughran, Director of Development and Communications, at 203.753.1315 x 116 or jloughran@conncf.org.

Anonymous (7) Doris Abramson **Joel Abramson Eleanor Akers** Elizabeth Andersen\* Nina Andersen\* Helen Angevine\* Marian Baeder\* Fred Baker **Charles Barlow** Lillian Berland\* Max Berland\* Martha Bernstein Bertha Brod\* Robert Brod\* **Christopher Brooks** 

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Antonio Paulo Pinto

\* deceased

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We celebrate our extraordinary donors.

You warm our hearts, inspire us to act, and remind us of the power of giving in creating a brighter future for our region.

We are deeply grateful.

# Gifts of \$1,000,000 +

Estate of Ruth Ann Leever\* Estate of Anne Melgers\*

# Gifts of \$250,000+

Estate of Nancy Camp\*
Ted and Ingrid Martland

# Gifts of \$100,000+

The Leever Foundation Waterbury Youth Service System, Inc.

# Gifts of \$75,000+

Jim and Cathy Smith Friends of the Woodbury Library

# Gifts of \$50,000+

Estate of Linda Nelson\* Joyce Schwartz

# Gifts of \$25,000+

Jack and Pam Baker
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# Gifts of \$10,000+

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Gifts of \$1,000+

Commerce

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- Elaine Lau

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# Gifts of \$100+

Carl and Carol Albert Anonymous Priti Bagai Hilary and Dutch Barhydt



I give through the Foundation because I want to endow a fund that will provide resources to our needy neighbors not only today but in perpetuity.

- Chuck Boulier

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\*deceased

# Carmen DeCorso's 90th birthday Sheila M. Madeux

Anne Delo

Rosemary Giuliano

Pat Emons' birthday

Annie M. Scott

**Ann Merriam Feinberg** Michael Feinberg

**Petey Fekete** 

Michael and Donna Palumbo

Alexa Fermeglia

Alexander and Kathleen Fermeglia

**Andrew Hamel Family** Lois Fix

Erica Lafferty Smegielski

MaryAnn Cyr-Suarez

**Sandy Larkin** Hilary and Dutch Barhydt

Elaine R. Lau Richard E. Lau

**Ava Faye Lewis**Danielle Cantrella

Ruth Littman's 104th birthday Stephen Rubenstein and June Gaston



I give through the Foundation's Environment Fund because I have seen the exciting results of grants made to many local organizations.

- Janet Taylor

# **Honorary Gifts**

# Robert Bernstein's birthday

Emily Littman Eisen

## **Ron Bouchard**

Kimberly Bouchard-Shapiro and Philip Shapiro

# **Kay Campbell**

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander J. Campbell II

### **Julia Chester**

MaryAnn Cyr-Suarez

# **Connecticut Community Foundation Staff**

Michael Feinberg and Ann Merriam Feinberg

# Catherine Livermore

Robert Livermore

Robert Livermore's birthday Anonymous

# Wayne and Betty McCormack's 50th anniversary

Alan and Naomi Mohr Wayne and Betty McCormack

# Robert McWilliam, MD

Keith, Darcy, and Kaitlyn Boatright Catherine Frantzis James and Linda McWilliam

# Bob McWilliam and Wesley Rouse, Pine Meadow Gardens

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Michael and Donna Palumbo

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I give through the Foundation because I experience the joy that results from giving close to home and making a difference to those who are part of my everyday life. - Joyce Schwartz

> Bill and Ann Phagan Wendy Pollinger Zeb Portanova Page Powell

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# Ann Merriam Feinberg colleague, volunteer, friend in her own words



It is hard for me to believe that I have actually retired from the Foundation. My nearly 20 years there, as a committee member, trustee and 10-year staff member, have truly helped make my life rewarding! And now - full circle - I am back as a committee member!

I have had the opportunity to work with so many incredible nonprofits and the communities they serve ... but it all comes down to the people! You are what made my life at the Foundation so fulfilling - thank you! I look forward to keeping in touch!

# To Our Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our work, guiding our grantmaking, fundraising, and financial decision-making.

Your gifts of time and talents have made our community shine brighter.

Your insightful counsel and fresh ideas have made us better.

And you have shown that thoughtful, committed citizens truly can change the world.

Thank you.

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# **STAFF**



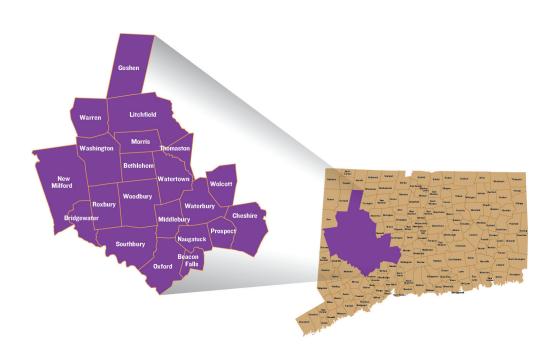
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Not pictured: Carol Buckheit, Ellen Carter





Established in 1923, Connecticut Community Foundation fosters creative partnerships that build rewarding lives and thriving communities in 21 towns in Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills. The Foundation provides leadership in addressing the region's critical issues, strengthens local nonprofit organizations through grants and technical assistance programs, and works with individuals, families and corporations to administer charitable funds.