



Everyday Heroes

**Connecticut
Community
Foundation®**

Timeless Impact®

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills

OUR MISSION

To foster an equitable and inclusive community in Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills by inspiring generosity, supporting organizations, and cultivating effective leaders.

OUR VISION

An equitable, inclusive, just, and vibrant community in Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills in which all residents have what they need to thrive.

OUR VALUES

Our values guide our decision-making and actions, and reflect the culture to which we aspire. They are:

- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.**

We welcome, invite, and commit resources toward the participation and well-being of all in our community.

- **Integrity and Transparency.**

We hold ourselves to high standards of ethics, service, stewardship, and accountability to our donors, partners, and community.

- **Courage and Purpose.** We set ambitious goals, forge connections, and collaborate to address our community's needs.

- **Thoughtful Leadership.** We listen, learn, and evolve along with our community.



First grader painting the Children's Community School's "Together We Connect: Gratitude" mural.

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Inside Back Cover Staff and Board of Trustees

On the cover: 12-year-old helps to fill an order at the Brass City Harvest farmers market on the green in Waterbury. Brass City Harvest fosters nutrition, fresh food access, and regional economic development through food chain activities, entrepreneurialism, and agricultural careers.

Everyday heroes work toward greater equity in a challenging time.

Back in 2019, as we were charting a new strategic direction for Connecticut Community Foundation, we looked inward to determine how we should focus our resources and efforts to best serve our community and its residents consistently with our values. Through that process, we found our North Star in a vision of an equitable, inclusive, just, and vibrant community in which all residents have what they need to thrive. We committed to pursue that vision by focusing our efforts on inspiring generosity among donors; supporting organizations working to reduce disparities along lines of race and other identities; and cultivating effective, creative, and collaborative leaders working to make change.

As our strategic plan came together as words on a page, we never anticipated that 2020 would bring such an immediate test of our direction and our ability to turn those words into action.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the calls for justice and equity that followed shined a light on inequities in our local community and throughout the nation. While all of us experienced upheaval, communities of color, older adults, immigrants, families with low incomes, and other marginalized groups were hardest hit by the health, educational, and economic ramifications of the pandemic.

In responding to the community's needs over the past year, we have relied on our mission, our values, and our vision to guide us. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to partner with the United Way of Greater Waterbury to establish the COVID-19 Response Fund to meet the basic needs of the local residents most affected by the pandemic. We have committed considerable additional resources to help nonprofits emerge from the pandemic stronger and more resilient, and to support work that will make systems more responsive and effective as we face future challenges. And, beyond funding, we have deployed Foundation staff to work in partnership with nonprofits, municipalities, local leaders, and other funders to foster collaboration, coordinate resources, and capitalize on our combined strengths.

As 2020 unfolded in our community, it underscored the critical role nonprofit organizations play in meeting basic needs and filling gaps. It highlighted the need for creative and collaborative leaders who could move swiftly to shore up existing systems and create new ones to address rapidly evolving challenges. It inspired extraordinary generosity among donors who dug deeper to help their neighbors. And, in each of these arenas, it revealed everyday heroes in our midst.

The pages that follow include the stories of some of these heroes, who stepped up in 2020 with compassion, creativity, and conviction to meet unprecedented needs. We are proud to stand with them, humbled by their efforts, and inspired by their examples.

There is much work to do in 2021 and beyond if we are to one day see our vision of an equitable, inclusive, just, and vibrant community become a reality for all residents. Thank you to those who have supported this work. You are helping to reduce disparities, confront systemic racism, repair the damage wrought by the pandemic, and strengthen the nonprofit organizations on which we all rely for so much. With your continued support—and through the efforts of countless everyday heroes—we look forward to a healthier and more equitable future.



Kathy Taylor
Chair, Board of Trustees



Julie Loughran
President and CEO

COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

Join us to support
the most pressing
community needs
as a result of the
COVID-19 crisis.



Team, Inc. supports home-based family child care providers in Greater Waterbury in order to ensure they can remain open and viable in the long term.



Peter Baker of Litchfield Distillery delivers 1,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to Waterbury Police Activity League (PAL) to be distributed to community organizations providing essential services during the pandemic.

Social distancing. Quarantine. PPE. Distance learning. Mask mandates.

Not only our vocabulary but the very contours of our lives have changed dramatically since March 2020 when Connecticut was among the early COVID-19 hot spots.

As a community, we mounted an extraordinary response marked by creativity, resilience, and resolve. Teachers were recast as IT pros, parents stepped up as in-home educators, frontline workers of all stripes became first responders, and we found new ways to work together while we were apart.

Connecticut Community Foundation's immediate response to the pandemic was to partner with United Way of Greater Waterbury to establish the COVID-19 Response Fund, which combined resources from our two institutions and gifts from hundreds of local donors to offer grants to nonprofit organizations working at the front lines to meet local residents' basic needs for food, shelter, health care, child care, mental health services and more.

While the fund reached all corners of our region with more than \$750,000 in grants to date, we were conscious when distributing these resources that the pandemic had both surfaced and exacerbated existing disparities and inequities, with people of color being more likely to contract and die of COVID-19, and more likely to serve as essential workers in places like grocery stores, nursing homes, and hospitals where their likelihood of exposure was greater. Older adults were also particularly vulnerable to the virus, and hard hit by the abrupt end to services that offered benefits ranging from meals to health to interpersonal connection. Immigrants, too, faced particular challenges in finding and accessing information and resources. And families of all kinds saw incomes evaporate as jobs were eliminated, leading them to struggle to cover basics like shelter and food. Nonprofit organizations responded to all these needs and more by adapting programs, forging partnerships, and finding creative ways to find and support those most in need. Some of their stories follow.

As we look toward recovery in 2021 and beyond, many unknowns remain. But it is clear that a return to a pre-pandemic normal will not be enough if we hope to rebuild a community that is more equitable and more prepared to meet whatever challenge may come next. As Connecticut Community Foundation continues to support pandemic-related efforts to meet basic needs, we are also looking forward. To that end, we have committed additional resources—from our endowment and from hundreds of donor gifts—to the COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Fund, which will target grants toward building the capacity and resilience of the nonprofit organizations that provide so much to our community, and toward enacting systemic change that will result in greater equity and justice throughout Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills.

Everyday Heroes Find New Ways to Connect Through Technology

With technology grants from Connecticut Community Foundation and considerable ingenuity, many nonprofits found new ways to serve the community despite needing to keep distance.



Wellmore Behavioral Health staff, from left, Jason Grubbs, Shalima Abdalle, CEO Gary Steck, and Deborah Ciarlo gather inside a tent used for group therapy sessions.

Telehealth provides a lifeline at Wellmore Behavioral Health

When the pandemic hit, Paul's life began to unravel. He had to close his business. He began to self-medicate with alcohol and was hospitalized repeatedly. "I knew something was seriously wrong," says Paul, who was ultimately diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Sometimes he couldn't sleep. Other times he couldn't get out of bed. He had virtually no income and felt hopeless. "I went from being on top of the world to flat broke," he says.

Wellmore Behavioral Health provides mental health and substance abuse support to residents of 43 towns in Greater Waterbury and northwest Connecticut. At the outset of the pandemic, Wellmore had to shut their physical doors, but couldn't turn their back on people like Paul. So they quickly devised a plan to connect with their clients via telehealth. To make it happen, they came to Connecticut Community Foundation, which offers grants earmarked to enable nonprofit organizations to purchase and deploy the technology they need to build their capacity and deliver on their missions.

"We literally went from full face-to-face only services to a period where the only option was



Charlaine St. Charles (center), team lead of Community-Based Programs at Family & Children's Aid, with staff therapists Myriah Sipperly (far left) and Gabrielle Simonetti (far right) inside the agency's Waterbury facility.

telehealth over the course of a few weeks for a staff of 260 and an active client base of approximately 5,000," said Gary Steck, CEO of Wellmore. "To move from the 'concept' of telehealth to full implementation across our entire workforce in such a short period of time was just short of miraculous." Within months, Wellmore had reached 2,768 clients and conducted 27,099 telehealth appointments.

As for Paul, when he became a Wellmore telehealth client, he began to find hope. "The people [at Wellmore] are like family," said Paul, "and they treat you with such compassion, dignity and respect. I've never really had an experience like this before. It may have even saved my life."

Technology keeps connections with Family & Children's Aid

A technology grant from the Foundation also helped Family & Children's Aid stay connected to the children and families who depend on it for mental health care, at a time when continuing support was critical.

When the organization had to close its offices at the outset of the pandemic, it saw a 90 percent drop in clients, just as families were struggling to manage forced isolation, disruptions in work, and distance learning—on top of their pre-existing challenges.

As Charlaine St. Charles, team lead of Community-Based Programs at Family & Children's

Aid explained, "During the initial lockdown, it was especially important to teach kids techniques and skills that helped them manage their own behaviors, identify their feelings, express their feelings in a healthy way." The grant Family & Children's Aid received—which supported the purchase of hardware and software to implement telehealth—helped make that possible by restoring connection with children and providing needed structure and support for parents navigating difficult terrain.



Gabrielle Simonetti, a therapist at Family & Children's Aid, taking part in an online therapy session.

Sustainable CT sparks collaboration and builds community on Zoom

Sustainable CT works with local residents and municipal governments at the town level to engage the community, promote the health and well-being of current and future residents, and build the local economy sustainably and equitably. This work depends on close collaboration and consistent connection as volunteers and municipal officials identify, plan, and implement changes from a menu of options, with the support of 15 Sustainable CT Fellows who work throughout the state.

COVID-19 restrictions grounded the fellows and brought the in-person meetings on which the work had relied to a screeching halt, just as municipalities needed the kind of ingenuity that local collaboration could bring to address town level needs that arose as a result of the pandemic.

The fix was simple, but powerful: Connecticut Community Foundation provided and funded four Zoom accounts to enable Sustainable CT to keep their work moving forward in an all-virtual environment, adapting and expanding as they went along. Sustainable CT was not the only nonprofit who benefited from receiving Zoom licenses from the Foundation. In fact, 49 Zoom licenses were provided to various nonprofits by the Foundation in 2020.

2020 Sustainable CT Fellows at an outing. Fellows relied on Zoom accounts funded by the Foundation throughout the year.

These organizations used the Zoom accounts to host 4,284 meetings with 31,023 participants, as well as 90 webinars with 1,736 attendees.

Lynn Stoddard, executive director of Sustainable CT, recalls, “We started having virtual coffee hours every Friday for ten weeks from March through the end of May. Then the coffee hours evolved, inviting everyone from mayors and economic directors to local residents to tell their stories and share sustainability resources with a broader audience.” This, in turn, led to broader discussions about what towns needed. Coffee hours became facilitated dialogues, with breakout

rooms where participants could talk about issues of common concern.

Through technology, the organization had connected people from across the state to share local challenges, solutions, and triumphs in ways that couldn’t have occurred so frequently or organically in the prior, offline setting. Sustainable CT had found its own sustainable innovation that will yield benefits in local towns and across the state.



Sustainable CT staff during their weekly Zoom meeting.



Everyday Heroes Deliver 400K Pieces of PPE for 109 Nonprofit Organizations



Boxes of personal protective equipment (PPE) sorted and waiting for pick up at the Marion Manufacturing warehouse in Cheshire during the two-day distribution.

As soon as the COVID-19 pandemic hit, nonprofit organizations shifted into high gear, adapting to meet the needs of the people they serve in a landscape

that had changed overnight. For some, that meant improvising ways to move work online and stay connected to those who depended on them. But for

many others it meant continuing to work in person, often with some of the population's most vulnerable to the virus. Doing this work safely meant securing large and consistent quantities of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face masks, face shields, and gloves.

In the early months of the pandemic, state stockpiles were insufficient and only met a fraction of the demand, and simply did not reach many organizations. Nonprofits had no choice but to turn to retail sources, where PPE was extremely costly, if it could be found at all. Many organizations were spending thousands of dollars on PPE and cleaning supplies at a time when revenues were dropping due to suspended income-generating services and canceled fundraisers.

Organizations quickly began turning to the COVID-19 Response Fund for help in meeting these unbudgeted costs. Spotting the trend, Connecticut Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Waterbury—who administered the Fund together—



A fork lift operator at Marion Manufacturing assisted throughout the distribution effort to move pallets of gloves, masks, and face shields.



“
Thanks to all who contributed
to the COVID-19 Response Fund,
nonprofits that received PPE
through this distribution were
able to continue their work while
keeping people safe.
”

Jessica Carlino, volunteer engagement coordinator, United Way of Greater Waterbury, Robin Tiede, volunteer, and Renee Young, community impact manager, United Way of Greater Waterbury, help with PPE distribution.

surveyed local nonprofits and found that 73 percent had staff members at high risk of contracting COVID-19, 81 percent served high-risk clients, and 81 percent indicated they were not receiving assistance from the State of Connecticut to source and buy the PPE they needed to keep their employees and clients safe from the virus.

Thinking there had to be a more efficient and cost-effective solution than funding dozens of individual grants for small quantities of PPE purchased at top dollar from online sellers and local retail stores, we went in search of a wholesale supplier. We were fortunate to connect with Grace Farms Foundation, based in New Canaan, Connecticut, which had already pivoted from its own mission and established a stable supply chain for quality PPE, which it was distributing to health care workers, first responders, and essential workers throughout the state to meet some of the gap between supply and demand in the early months of the pandemic.

With a grant of \$95,000 from the COVID-19 Response Fund, in partnership with Grace Farms, we were able to purchase more than 400,000 pieces of PPE. With an enormous shipment on the way from out of state, we were grateful to partner with Cheshire-based Marion Manufacturing, which not only opened its warehouse to us to receive the PPE, but also lent its logistics expertise, forklift drivers, staff volunteers, loading dock, and everything else we needed to stage a two-day distribution. 109 organizations benefited with an eight-week supply of gloves and a 12-week supply of masks, according to their individual needs. “It was our chance to give back to the community,” said Doug Johnson, president of Marion Manufacturing and a Connecticut Community Foundation trustee.

Thanks to all who had contributed to the COVID-19 Response Fund, nonprofits that received PPE through this distribution were able to continue their work while keeping people safe. As Kim Selvaggi, chief strategy officer of Community

Solutions, Inc., put it with regard to the teens her organization serves, “Our kids and clients mean the world to us, so being able to care for them in a safe and responsible way is everything.”



Ellen Carter, vice president of program and strategy at Connecticut Community Foundation, organizing boxes of PPE for nonprofits to pick up.

Everyday Heroes House Homeless People Safely to Prevent the Spread of the Virus

Spring 2020 delivered all of us to a new world where a cough could engender panic and a trip to the grocery store felt like a high-risk expedition. We learned to maintain social distance if we were well, and to quarantine and isolate if we were not, so that we might spare others from illness. We were encouraged to retreat and keep to ourselves—potentially as a matter of survival.

Imagine trying to do that if you were living in a homeless shelter or on the streets.

The onset of the pandemic posed a particularly grave threat to people experiencing homelessness. In addition to the social distancing guidelines, the homeless population has high levels of chronic illness and includes many older people—both risk factors for experiencing severe COVID-19.

With the virus spreading rapidly and homeless shelters throughout Connecticut facing dangerously high occupancy, Supportive Housing Works (SHW) stepped up to find solutions. SHW is focused on ending homelessness and creating housing opportunities for all, and pursues its work



Supportive Housing Works staff.

by providing support and coordination among many local partners who together form a single homelessness response system. In the Foundation's region, SHW coordinates the Northwest Coordinated Access Network, which covers Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills.

Shelters needed to be decompressed immediately to keep residents safe. Under a state arrangement, the most medically vulnerable shelter residents, as well as those who required isolation due to COVID-19 illness or exposure, were moved to a Waterbury hotel. But while the hotel program provided the physical space needed for people to follow public health guidelines, it didn't cover all the costs associated with keeping people safe.

SHW obtained two grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund to cover costs including extra staffing,

transportation, personal protective equipment, and food delivery that enabled people to stay in the hotel for meals. These expenses were critical to keeping people safe and healthy in the hotel context, but weren't covered by state or federal funds in the crucial early weeks of the pandemic when transmission rates in Connecticut were among the highest in the nation.

The experience of St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury—an SHW partner that operates a 108-bed shelter, the largest in Connecticut—illustrates the impact. “At the beginning of the pandemic, we were able to transition guests who were 60 years old or older as well as guests who were medically compromised to the hotel to reduce the chances of these guests contracting COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, we've also been placing people who

have been matched to housing or had a housing plan in place, into the hotel,” explained Megan Santiago, director of St. Vincent DePaul’s Homeless Resource Center and Shelter. “Being able to place these guests in the hotel gave us a chance to decompress the shelter to ensure the health and safety of staff and guests, but it also helped by opening up more bed space for others experiencing homelessness who were staying outside.”

COVID-19 Response Fund grants provided time-critical support for the work of SHW and its network partners. And for our neighbors experiencing homelessness early in the pandemic, they made what might have been a life-or-death difference.



Above: Family dining area at the Homeless Resource Center and Shelter at St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury, Inc. (an SHW partner shelter).

At left: After six years, Zina was overjoyed to move out of her car and into her safe, affordable apartment with the help of the Northwest Coordinated Access Network, which SHW coordinates for the region.



“
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”

Everyday Heroes

Turn an Emergency Food Program into an Opportunity for Change

Since 1983, Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP) has pursued social justice through campaigns initiated, organized, and led by low-income communities, working families, immigrants, and people of color. The group—which counts faith communities and labor organizations among its partners and allies—has a long history of initiatives centered on health care, affordable housing, environmental justice, and workers’ rights.

NVP is an advocacy organization that seeks to change systems and policy; it is not a social services provider. But when the pandemic lockdown began in March 2020, the hardships confronting NVP’s own coalition of changemakers—many of whom are domestic and low-wage workers, undocumented families, and people at risk of homelessness—were personal.

NVP’s constituents saw the low-wage jobs on which they depended evaporate. New employment was virtually impossible to find. And many, due to their immigration status, were ineligible for traditional unemployment benefits, supplemental



Kim McLaughlin, lead organizer and staff director of Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP), and Karime Pimentel, community organizer at NVP, pose in front of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Waterbury.

unemployment benefits provided by the federal government, and the federal stimulus payments that helped millions of laid off workers keep their heads above water.

To fill the widening gaps, NVP responded by providing food baskets, at first to just a handful of families. As the need spread, NVP secured first one and later a second grant from the COVID-19 Response Fund to provide weekly food baskets to 25-30 families. They worked with Waterbury Mutual Aid, which had mobilized scores of volunteers to deliver the food and other needed supplies, bringing NVP’s own bilingual volunteers into the Mutual Aid

effort. NVP also connected those it was assisting to other organizations that could meet various needs over the longer term.

Participants in the food assistance program experienced the same personal connection, care, and respect that characterizes NVP’s organizing work. One young woman with a small child teared up when her basket arrived with baby food and extra milk. Another individual, who was homeless and who had let a volunteer know that he wasn’t eating enough protein, found his next basket contained tuna, chicken, almonds and fresh fruit, and came with a cooler he could keep. “I have never been

treated so personally by a program before,” he told one volunteer. “I can feel the love!”

By July, NVP volunteers learned that many program participants had another looming concern: eviction. At that time, it appeared that Connecticut’s eviction moratorium could end soon. “We had enough cash on hand at the time to offer \$100 to each family’s landlord. That was it,” declared Kim McLaughlin, Lead Organizer at NVP. “We were worried that landlords would begin serving our families ‘Notices to Quit,’ the first step in a legal eviction process.” If that happened, tenants would have to pay not only back rent, but also the fees of the person who served the notice, legal fees for document preparation, and court fees.

NVP’s solution was as effective as it was creative. They visited each landlord—usually with the tenant—in order to forge a relationship. They offered \$100 or \$200 towards the tenant’s rent in exchange for the landlord’s commitment to contact NVP before initiating the eviction process. According to McLaughlin, “Most landlords were friendly, spoke with us about their own pandemic difficulties, expressed their desire to keep the participant as a tenant, and committed to contact us if they were thinking of serving a notice to quit. In only one case was the landlord difficult. NVP was able to assist the landlord’s tenant to find a new place to live.”

True to its organizing roots, NVP has created the opportunity for its food assistance program to lead to change that will last far longer than a food basket. Throughout summer and fall of 2020, NVP brought program participants together to build relationships and share their experiences. Finding common ground

as domestic workers and immigrants, the participants create the Comunidad de Trabajadores Domésticos Unidos (Community of United Domestic Workers), a new effort under NVP’s umbrella. NVP has helped members build leadership and advocacy skills they will use to push for passage of a domestic worker bill of rights for Connecticut.

Though NVP’s pivot to food relief may have seemed like a departure from its usual work, the organization was really doing what it does best: bringing people together around shared issues and finding opportunities to advocate for a brighter and more just future.

Volunteers build awareness of the services offered by Naugatuck Valley Project during the COVID-19 pandemic.



“
Most landlords were friendly, spoke with us about their own pandemic difficulties, expressed their desire to keep the participant as a tenant, and committed to contact us if they were thinking of serving a notice to quit.
”

Everyday Heroes Know a Gift Today Can Last for Generations

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

Winston Churchill may have said it first, but Ron Garfunkel has adopted these words as his personal philosophy. Ron has always been a giver. Early in his career, he gave what he could to the organizations whose work spoke to him. As his success in business grew, he gave more and more, and the list of organizations he was able to support expanded. “I’m very fortunate at this point in my life to have the resources to give back in a way that provides impact long into the future.”

When his father died, Ron recognized that as much as one might give during their lifetime, there are often far more assets held in people’s estates when they pass on—assets that can be used not only to give more, but to give for years to come.

Ron talked to his mother about using her individual retirement account (IRA) assets for charitable giving. She agreed, and when she, too, passed away he established a donor-advised fund, which enabled him to give more than ever to the



Connecticut Community Foundation donors and legacy society members Ron Garfunkel and his wife Sande Breakstone in their home in Washington, Connecticut.

many organizations with which he has long-standing relationships and close connections.

Ron appreciates giving through his donor-advised fund during his lifetime because it gives him flexibility to make grants to any nonprofits he chooses anywhere in the United States, including several in and around his Washington, Connecticut home and others in New York City where he spent his career. But he also chose to establish his fund at Connecticut Community Foundation because he values the Foundation’s knowledge of community needs and help in introducing him to organizations that he doesn’t

yet know but that are doing important and effective work that would benefit from his support.

That’s why when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Ron looked to the Foundation. He was particularly interested in providing resources to organizations that were providing for basic needs of food, shelter, child care, and health care. The COVID-19 Response Fund—launched jointly by Connecticut Community Foundation and the United Way of Greater Waterbury—was a natural fit, as it was pooling funds from many sources and making grants rapidly on a rolling basis to support precisely

the sort of work Ron had in mind throughout the Foundation's 21-town region. As Ron says, "The reason I give to the community foundation is that they vet these organizations. They are up to date with the finances and the management of these groups... That's the purpose of the Foundation. They know the community better than anybody."

Ron made a substantial grant from his donor-advised fund to the COVID-19 Response Fund early in the pandemic, and then a second as he saw community need remaining high. Last fall, as the Foundation laid plans to support the community as it ultimately came out of the pandemic, Ron dug still deeper—this time not only relying on his donor-

advised fund but also making a rollover gift from his own IRA—to become one of a small handful of lead donors whose gifts established the COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Fund at the Foundation.

That fund—which has grown with infusions from the Foundation's assets and the gifts of many other donors who followed Ron's example—will continue to support basic needs where they persist, while also helping local nonprofits to build their capacity and emerge stronger from the pandemic. It is also investing in efforts to improve local systems for delivering services so the community is better positioned to support local residents effectively and equitably.

Not content with all he has done already, Ron and his wife Sande Breakstone plan to give still more after their lifetimes through a permanent fund that will be funded through estate assets. That fund will be unrestricted, meaning Ron and Sande trust the Foundation to deploy the fund's resources wherever they are most needed in the community for generations to come.

If Churchill was right and we make a life by what we give, Ron Garfunkel has made some life indeed—and we are all benefiting from it.

(Below) Ron Garfunkel, who has a donor-advised fund at the Foundation and will establish an unrestricted fund through a gift from his estate, shares his glass paperweight collection.





Grants from Connecticut Community Foundation supported all of these organizations and programs. See inside back cover for descriptions.

In 2020

THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND
DISTRIBUTED **OVER \$750,000**
TO MEET CRITICAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

CONNECTICUT
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
RECEIVED
\$19,338,558*
IN CHARITABLE GIFTS
TO BE USED TODAY
AND LONG INTO
THE FUTURE

* Excludes nonprofit agency funds;
includes Give Local

GIVE LOCAL RAISED
\$1.8 MILLION
FOR **250**
PARTICIPATING
NONPROFITS
FROM **6,487**
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

THE FOUNDATION
DISTRIBUTED
\$4.8 MILLION
IN GRANTS
TO MORE THAN
470 DIFFERENT
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

THE FOUNDATION WELCOMED
74 FIRST TIME DONORS
TO FOUNDATION INITIATIVES
AND 21 NEW FUNDS

COLLEGE WAS MORE AFFORDABLE FOR
NEARLY **400 STUDENTS** THANKS TO
SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING
NEARLY \$1,100,000
AWARDED BY THE FOUNDATION
FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

New Funds

Thank you to the individuals, families and agencies listed below who established new funds at Connecticut Community Foundation in 2020.

Your generosity is an investment in the future of residents of Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills.

Samuel and Mary Fritzka Memorial Scholarship Fund Established by bequest to support the Foundation's regional scholarship program

The Humiston Charitable Fund Designated fund established by Bruce and Nancy Humiston to benefit several Connecticut nonprofit organizations, with a focus on basic needs support, to be funded by bequest

Elsie Mannweiler Fund Field of interest fund to support basic and/or medical needs, established by bequest

Elsie Mannweiler Fund for Connecticut Junior Republic Designated fund to support Connecticut Junior Republic's work benefiting at-risk youth and youth with special needs, established by bequest

Mark G. Mannweiler Memorial Scholarship Fund for Region 14 Established by the Regional School District 14, through a bequest from Elsie Mannweiler, to provide two scholarships annually to Nonnewaug High School (Woodbury) graduating students who excel in math and science

Children's Community School (Waterbury) Agency advised fund to support the school's mission and activities

Harold Leever Designated Fund for Local Action Established by bequest to support the Foundation's Grassroots Grants program

David and Vivian Michaels Fund Designated fund for the benefit of several organizations including nonprofits focused on animal welfare, armed service members, and first responders and their families, and for the benefit of the Foundation's field of interest grantmaking in health with an emphasis on behavioral and mental health services, to be funded by bequest

Isabelle V. Curtiss Fund for Music Education Designated fund for Waterbury Symphony Orchestra to encourage young people to learn and play music that will be of value to and appreciated by audiences of the Symphony

Chase Collegiate School Foundation Scholarship Fund To support K-12 education for local students

The Carol Spier and Richard Cullen Fund Field of interest fund for the environment, focused on land trusts, established by bequest

The Samuel K. Beamon Scholarship Fund Scholarship established in memory of Sam Beamon for greater Waterbury students pursuing careers in law enforcement, a trade, or photography

Elim Park Resident Association Scholarship Fund Scholarship established for employees of Elim Park (Cheshire) and their children

Uniroyal Salary Retirees Scholarship Fund Scholarship established for students pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees and residing in ten of the towns the Foundation serves

Larry Behr Designated Fund Nonpermanent designated fund benefiting several nonprofit organizations that support the arts and children's health, and benefiting the Foundation's COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Fund

Cedric Ellis Fund Scholarship fund for students of African descent residing in Waterbury

William Cohen, MD Scholarship Funds A nonpermanent scholarship fund and a permanent scholarship fund to be funded by bequest, both for African-American students graduating from Waterbury public schools

Theodore "TD" Dratch Conservation Fund Donor-advised fund established by Barbara Dratch to honor her late husband

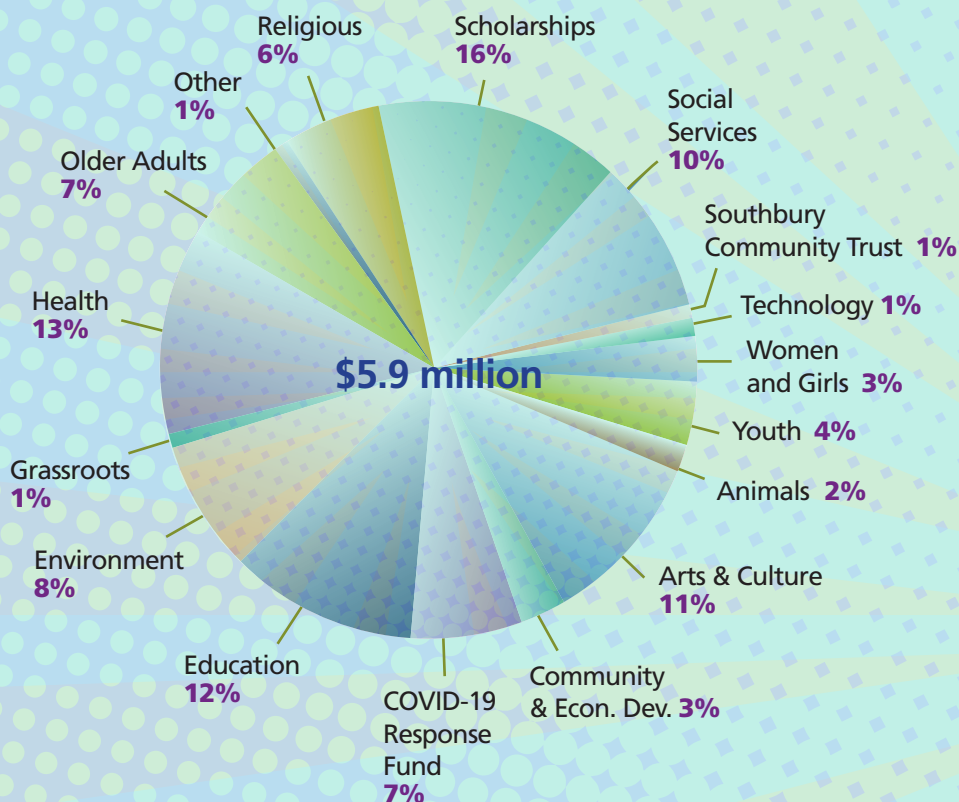
The RAG Charitable Fund Unrestricted fund, to be funded by bequest, established by Ron Garfunkel and Sande Breakstone

Dr. William E. and Gloria B. Evans Scholarship Fund Scholarship fund to benefit students graduating from Waterbury public schools who plan to attend the University of Connecticut, a historically Black college or university, or a college in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system

Community Investments

Connecticut Community Foundation serves donors and nonprofits through sound financial management that aims to build the charitable resources available to the community.

2020 Grants and Scholarships by Program Area



Figures include competitive grants, grants designated by donors through charitable funds they have established, and gifts through Give Local.

2020

Assets

Investments	\$143,303,287
Other Assets	5,812,500
Total Assets	\$149,115,787

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$ 160,892
Liabilities Under Split-interest Agreements	165,246
Funds Held as Agency Endowments	6,687,194
Net Assets	142,102,455
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$149,115,787

Revenue

Contributions	\$ 19,338,558
Investment Return	14,678,807
Other Revenue	151,953
Total Revenues	\$ 34,169,318

Grants and Expenses

Grants and Scholarships	\$ 5,885,703
Program Support	1,103,660
Supporting Services	852,080
Total Grants and Expenses	\$ 7,841,443

Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$115,774,580
End of Year	\$142,102,455

For a complete copy of our 2020 audited report and tax return (IRS Form 990) visit our website at www.conncf.org or contact the Finance department at 203.753.1315 ext. 115.

Thank you!

We are deeply grateful to the following donors who entrusted us with their gifts in 2020 to help build a better Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills.

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Amber McDonald, educator and office administrator at Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust, introducing chickens to students. Flanders used equipment purchased with a grant from the Foundation to provide a science curriculum to every second grader in Waterbury during distance learning.

Gifts of \$501 to \$1,000

Joel Abramson
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Arbor Services of CT, Inc.
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Caroline Levy
Heideman Licht Family
Litchfield Performing Arts
Robert Livermore
Marion Manzo



“The Greening of Waterbury” is a collaborative food-growing effort that produces nearly 10,000 pounds of fresh food annually for food-insecure residents. It’s part of the Osher-Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the UConn Waterbury branch.

Alison Masopust
Brigid Merriman
Diane Millas
Dana Moreira
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Anthony Guerrero, a case worker helping out at the St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury Homeless Resource Center and Shelter.

The following members of the **1923 Legacy Society** have included Connecticut Community Foundation in their estate plans. Their gifts will create a better future for local residents for generations to come.

Anonymous (11)
Doris Abramson*
Joel Abramson
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Nina Andersen*
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Through her estate, Valerie Friedman will establish one fund to sustain the environment in Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills, and another, unrestricted fund that will allow the Foundation to direct resources to address pressing needs in the community.

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Ede Reynolds, shown here with Darrell Dublin. Ede and her husband Dan Gaeta have established a fund at the Foundation and will add to it through their estate plan to benefit the local community for generations to come.

Established in 1923, Connecticut Community Foundation was created by and for the people of Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills. Serving a 21-town region, the Foundation provides leadership in addressing the community's critical issues, strengthens local nonprofit organizations through grants and technical assistance programs, and works with individuals, families and corporations to steward charitable and scholarship funds.

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Connecticut Community Foundation staff during their weekly Zoom.

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Who We Serve

As the community foundation for the 21-town Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills region, we focus our resources and grantmaking in these towns.