



COMMUNITY REPORT
SPRING, 2026



L to R: Give Local 2026 presenting sponsors Terrance Floyd, Wells Fargo Vice President and Senior Social Impact Specialist and David Rotatori, President and CEO of Ion Bank with Kathy Taylor, President and CEO of Connecticut Community Foundation

Give Local Breaks Records Again!

Almost \$3 million raised!

Our community stepped up to help us soar past our previous record, over \$2.948 million from more than 7,571 donors – that's up from \$2.51 million and 7,041 donors last year. Our community of support is strong, and we are grateful to the donors, nonprofits, sponsors, businesses and municipal leaders, Give Local ambassadors, and community supporters who made it happen. Whether you were a donor, provided a sponsorship, made an in-kind gift, spread the word on social media among your network, or planted a lawn sign – you were part of something amazingly beautiful on April 21 and 22.

A special thanks to Presenting Sponsors Ion Bank Foundation, which has supported Give Local every year since its inception 14 years ago, and to Wells Fargo, which also joined us as a presenting sponsor this year.

**\$2.95
million**
raised during
our 36-hour
Give Local
2026 campaign

355 nonprofits participated

7571 donors gave

\$329,148
in sponsorships
distributed to
community groups
via prizes and
bonus funds

\$22.77
million
raised
since 2013



Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills



"A heartfelt thank you for your wonderful Give Local event, which enriches quality of life for communities. Nonprofits are exceedingly fortunate that your organization continues to care about the important work they do, gifting us a platform and PR to enhance our wherewithal so we can meet our goals of helping people thrive in the myriad aspects of community life. Among the legion of CCF beneficiaries, the Southbury Affordable Housing Alliance (SAHA) is deeply appreciative of the hard work you do."

— Sharon Wirt, President,
SAHA & the SAHA Team

Save the Date for Give Local 2027

Give Local 2027 will be our 15th Year Anniversary and we intend to celebrate!

**Save the Date for
Give Local 2027 —
it's April 20 and 21!**



Give Local GearUp!

A Joyful Kickoff for Give Local!

Our Gear Up for Give Local Party set the tone and created so much momentum for Give Local 2026! It was an exciting evening filled with reminders of the joy, power and possibility of our community. Over 120 guests, including nonprofit leaders, sponsors, Foundation friends and staff, were inspired by the Kennedy High School Marching Eagles and Tri Valley Cheer and we left feeling energized and inspired to give, support and share!



"Your support during Give Local means so much to us at Brian Gibbons Homeless Outreach, but even more importantly, it means everything to the individuals we serve each day. Because of you, we're able to keep showing up for people who are navigating some of the hardest moments of their lives. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in this work and for standing with us."

— Joshua Royer, LCSW, Executive Director, Brian Gibbons Homeless Outreach

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please check our website to stay informed about future events: conncf.org/events

June 12 Waterbury Black Giving Circle Juneteenth Celebration

The Waterbury Black Giving Circle invites the community to celebrate another year of collective giving, honor grant awardees, and elevate young local voices. In addition to grant recipient awards, students honored at the Circle's Juneteenth Oratorical Contest will present original speeches about the continued importance of Juneteenth and Black History. Join us as we enjoy good company, local food and entertainment, as we celebrate Juneteenth!



June 17 Practice of Equity Cohort – info Session

The Practice of Equity cohort cultivates deep learning, peer connection, and brave conversations that lead to practice-based shifts on two levels: individual leadership and organizational change. At its core, this experience builds a community of practice grounded in courage, accountability, and action.

July 29 Scholarship Celebration

We'll honor this year's scholarship recipients and recognize the generous donors, scholarship fund holders, and dedicated volunteers who help make these opportunities possible. This inspiring gathering will celebrate student achievement, community generosity, and the lasting impact of investing in local students and their futures.

September 15 Annual Meeting

Join us at the 2026 Annual Meeting & September Social, along with members, volunteers, and community leaders to celebrate the power of collective action.

RECENT EVENTS

June 4 The Maternal Health Equity Blueprint: A Community Convening

Connecticut Community Foundation and Healthbridge Foundation of Greater Waterbury convened clinical partners, social service organizations, public health entities and community members to address the crisis of severe maternal morbidity for Black women in Connecticut.



June 9 Women's Giving Circle Voting Event

The Women's Giving Circle met to cast their votes to support local nonprofits that support women and girls throughout Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills. To learn more, visit conncf.org/wgc



Introducing Healthbridge Foundation of Greater Waterbury



Funding Gaps in Healthcare

Healthbridge Foundation of Greater Waterbury, a 501(c)3 non-profit and supporting organization of Connecticut Community Foundation, was established in 2019. Together, we share a common commitment to improving healthcare for everyone across Greater Waterbury. Healthbridge is committed to facilitating equitable access to health care services for Greater Waterbury and investing in the people who will care for our community tomorrow.

Healthbridge accomplishes this in three ways: (1) alleviating medical expenses for those who can't pay; (2) funding community programs that help people achieve their best health; and (3) providing scholarships for students pursuing health professions. It's a comprehensive approach to meeting local health needs, grounded in equity, inclusion, and real impact.

The Foundation provides services to 13 towns across the Greater Waterbury region, including: Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, Cheshire, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Plymouth, Prospect, Southbury, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott, Woodbury.

On June 4, Healthbridge and Connecticut Community Foundation co-organized an event entitled The Maternal Health Equity Blueprint: A Community Convening. Connecticut Health Foundation's report, *Maternal Health Equity: A Blueprint for Connecticut*, set forth a bold goal to reduce severe maternal morbidity among Black women in Greater Waterbury by 50% over the next three years. With clinical partners, social service organizations, public health entities and community members gathered, convening these key stakeholders was one step towards achieving that goal.

Healthbridge Foundation of Greater Waterbury Trustees:

Althea Marshall Brooks
Ellen Carter
Toni Hirst
Elnor Morrell

Amanda Pratte
Theresa Rangel
Marcia Tejeda-Smith, MD
Danytza Ward



In the Community



Attendees of the Banking on Community Event co-sponsored by the City of Waterbury and Connecticut Community Foundation.



Banking on Community Event Connects Local Lenders and Nonprofits

As our local non-profit community navigates an environment where resources are stretched and needs are growing, on May 12, the City of Waterbury and Connecticut Community Foundation joined together to invite nonprofit leaders to connect with local financial institutions to learn about grants, loans, lines of credit, CRA-aligned partnerships and other tools that can support program growth and long-term nonprofit sustainability. Twenty-nine nonprofits connected with twelve national and local banks and credit unions, creating a path to potential new funding, new

institutional relationships, and practical insights for financial management. We are grateful to the City of Waterbury for their collaboration and support of our nonprofit community, and to the financial institutions who brought information, insight and inspiration!

Getting to Work with Foodshare

We are very grateful for the group of staff, trustees, and donors who joined us at Connecticut Foodshare on April 1. Together—in less than two hours, in one room—we bagged 12,000 pounds of food for our neighbors, children and families across Connecticut. This one visit translated into 10,000 meals for families in Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills. We are so appreciative of Foodshare's leadership, and for open hearts and busy hands! Keep an eye out for upcoming newsletters and invitations for additional opportunities to visit local nonprofits.



Photos: L to R: Foundation staff members Mark Berardi, Josh Carey and Board Member Janie McDermott organize fresh food for distribution to local families.



Advocacy Updates

End Poverty Now update

The 2026 Legislative Session has concluded but not before securing one of the initiatives of our End Child Poverty Now campaign. On March 19, President and CEO Kathy Taylor joined community foundations from across the state to advocate for passage of four strategies proven to lower child poverty. And before the gavel fell on this legislative session, we secured two important wins. The passage of our state budget included a commitment of at least \$300 million to be invested in the Early Childhood Education Endowment, and universal free breakfast for all students statewide.

When we come together to End Child Poverty, real gains can be made! Our work continues as long as 13.4% of all Connecticut children are living below the poverty line.

CT Establishes Nonprofit Advisory Board

This month, the CT House of Representatives passed S.B. 87, An Act Establishing a Nonprofit Advisory Board, etc., following passage in the State Senate. The bill requires the Governor to create a Nonprofit Advisory Board made up of nonprofits and state agencies, and creates a nonprofit liaison position at the Office of Policy Management (OPM) (funded in the budget) to coordinate. The bill requires the Board to focus on streamlining state processes, opportunities for collaboration between state agencies and nonprofits, and recommending solutions for ensuring the financial viability of nonprofits, among other things. The bill also protects volunteers who drive for nonprofits from their car insurance increasing or being cancelled.

This is a great step forward for nonprofit representation before the state legislature.

Exploring Courage and Resilience with The Women's Giving Circle

When women join together, incredible things can happen. At the Women's Giving Circle gathering on May 5, attendees reflected on the novel "The Women" by Kristin Hannah, exploring themes of courage, resilience and the often deeply important but unseen contributions of women. Guest speakers Kristen Anell Iseppi from Southbury Arts and Culture Alliance and Aria Gilbert, a student at CT State Community College – Naugatuck Valley shared stories that reminded us of the impact of collective action right here in our region. The Women's Giving Circle is open to anyone who cares about improving the lives of women and girls across Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills. There is still time to join and cast your vote for organizations that will be awarded grants in June. To become a member, visit: connctf.org/event/womens-giving-circle-members-only-grantmaking-vote-2026/



Photos by Zakiyah Gathers and Cloe Poisson

Congratulations to our Level Up Leadership participants on completing the second cohort of resident leaders! Level Up is a four-month coaching series supporting Black and Brown leaders in our region. Through individual coaching and group sessions, participants gained clarity on their goals and developed key leadership skills. In June, the group will meet with the first Level Up cohort group to expand networks and grow the Level Up Community.



Legacy Giving Knows No Season

It's always the perfect season to make an essential gift that sustains and nurtures the community you love for years to come. We hope you'll take some time to think about the lasting impact you want to leave on the causes closest to your heart: children, education, our environment, food insecurity, homelessness, housing and veterans — in all the ways you care, we can help. Your planned gift, whether through a bequest in your will, a charitable trust, designated gift, or a beneficiary designation, is one of the most powerful ways you can extend your generosity far into the future.

If you'd like to learn more about how to create a lasting gift in your estate plans, we would be honored to guide you through the process. For more information, contact Cindy Merrick at 475.313.0018 or cmerrick@connctf.org



Save the Date! 2026 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 15
Heritage Hotel, Southbury



"The opportunity to leave a legacy, from my perspective, happens during your lifetime, not just at your death. The important thing for me is how lucky I have been to be in a place where I might be able to leave a positive legacy for people in the future, including my own children. If we can have women and girls in this community have more opportunity because of things we started, that's what I care about."

*— Ann Merriam Feinberg,
legacy donor*



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