

Connecting • Building
Expanding the Possibilities



A Year in Review

Dear Friends,

If you have ever tossed a stone into the water you could easily see the energy one small splash can make. Those ripples expand outward, vary in size, and, from a single source, bring motion to what was once still.



Lynne Bassett Perry, Sharon Closius, Alan Tyma

Together, we have the same impact on the Valley. A simple catalyst for action, which can be an idea, a vision, or a common goal, can create waves in our community. With a shared vision for the future, we diligently work towards that destination. Over time, the fruits of our labor, and with your support, spread, blossom, and grow into something beautiful that can be enjoyed by all.

The most celebratory news for the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) during 2018 was the renewal of the affiliation agreement with our partner in philanthropy, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF). This affiliation with TCF has been key to VCF's success. The most recent agreement between our two permanent community endowments, and the fourth of its kind, will govern the relationship for a total of 10 years. For more information about this special relationship, see page 4.

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A Year in Review

The VCF Board and staff additionally finalized our next five-year strategic plan. While we have come a long way in our short history, we are filled with excitement and determination as we look ahead through the year 2023 and beyond.

To date, more than 180 funds have been established at VCF with total assets over \$25 million! Thanks to your contributions and with your continued support, we are working with our community partners to ensure this region is a strong community today, tomorrow, and for many years to come.

After three years of service as Board Chair, Alan Tyma will now turn the gavel over to Lynne Bassett Perry. A philanthropist in every sense of the word, Lynne brings a breadth of experience and far-reaching involvement in the Valley's nonprofit community.

We at VCF look forward to making waves with you as we connect, build, and expand upon the possibilities for us all.

With sincere regards,

Alan Tyma

Board Chair

Sharon Closius

President & CEO



*"While it may seem small,
the ripple effects of small
things is extraordinary."*

CONTRIBUTIONS
\$3,541,682

GRANTS AWARDED
\$1,816,349

NEW FUNDS
11

A Renewed Affiliation Agreement



Sharon Closius and William W. Ginsberg

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) signed a new Affiliation Agreement with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) during 2018. The signing, which officially occurred on May 18th, marked the fourth such formal Agreement between the two permanent community endowments. Unlike previous

Agreements however, the latest will govern the relationship throughout the next 10 years with annual renewal opportunities.

"This latest Affiliation Agreement underscores the strength and bond of the relationship between our two organizations, and has been instrumental in making it possible for VCF to connect, build, and expand the possibilities for community philanthropy in the Valley," said Sharon Closius, VCF President & CEO.

"The creation of VCF 15 years ago was a very deliberate step by TCF and Valley community leaders to tap the powerful spirit in the Lower Naugatuck Valley in a new way that could build a permanent philanthropic resource," said William W. Ginsberg, TCF President & CEO.

As with previous Agreements, TCF will continue to provide back-office support to VCF and annually distribute the equivalent of 90 percent of the distributable amount of its Gates Fund to VCF. Historically this has amounted to more than \$1.1 million each year. VCF, in turn, reinvests these dollars into resources, initiatives, and a diversified grant program to benefit the Valley. The Gates Fund was established by Derby brothers, Frank and Ross Gates, more than half a century ago at TCF for the benefit of the Valley.

"From our perspective, VCF is a Valley success story that validates both our original reasons for creating VCF and our generous support for it since 2004," Mr. Ginsberg added. "We look forward to a continued partnership of close strategic and operational alignment that can build a stronger community for all."

The Great Give®

The Great Give® is an annual 36-hour online giving event created in 2010 by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) to increase philanthropy in its 20-town region, which has tremendous participation in the Valley.

More than \$1.75 million was raised in The Great Give® 2018, which included donations from individuals, prize money from corporations, as well as matching prize money from TCF and the Valley Community Foundation (VCF). For the sixth consecutive year, VCF has been the second largest sponsor of the event, incentivizing giving by matching funds and offering prizes to participating organizations.

Once again donors showed their generosity toward the Valley and beyond. Gifts made by Valley residents, Valley-based employees, and VCF donor advised fund holders totaled approximately

\$211,000. During The Great Give® 2018, 50 Valley organizations located in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, or Shelton received just under \$180,000 via 2,146 gifts. Overall during The Great Give® more than 15,000 gifts were made to support over 400 participating nonprofits that serve the Greater New Haven region. To learn more about The Great Give® visit www.thegreatgive.org.



Connecting:

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) partnered to organize a social event for area young professionals at Bad Sons Beer Company in Derby. Members of the Valley's Young Emerging Professionals group joined the Connecticut Young Professionals of Greater New Haven for a fun and engaging evening of networking with drinks, food, and information.

Nearly 100 attendees learned about The Great Give® 2018 as well as what volunteer opportunities exist with Valley nonprofits. Executive directors, board members, and volunteers from 25 organizations presented a series of live one-minute infomercials about their nonprofit and why they should be supported during The Great Give®. Bad Sons also supported The Great Give® through its Charity Tap Line during the month of April by contributing \$1 from every pint poured towards a prize in the 36-hour online giving event, which totaled nearly \$1,500.



Building:

In 2011, VCF Board Member, Frank Michaud, and his wife, Judy, established the Health Initiative for Men (HiM) Fund to support men's health activities and programs at Griffin Hospital. Every June, Frank personally delivers thousands of Father's Day cards to schools in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton, so students can bring them home to their fathers or guardians. The cards come with an important message to fathers in the Valley – take care of yourself. The cards also include a checklist for these men to bring with them the next time they visit the doctor.

Frank has made sizeable annual contributions since the fund was created at VCF. His commitment to building an existing fund continues to deepen its community impact and illustrates that this process is just as meaningful as establishing a new fund.



Expanding Possibilities:

VCF was contacted to assist the Derby High School track athletes attend a national championship meet that would be held out-of-state. While the Derby Running Club was conducting their own fundraising to make this happen, VCF staff reached out to two anonymous fund holders with a special appreciation for the City of Derby, who helped the team reach its fundraising goal.

After the donors contributed the balance needed, members of the Derby track team were able to make the trip and compete on a national stage. VCF was presented with a team photo signed in red ink by all the participating athletes. This is just one of many examples of how VCF helps to expand possibilities by connecting local, passionate philanthropists with funding opportunities throughout the Valley.



Valley Community Foundation Funds



The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) is here to help you make a difference in the community and support the causes you care about. Every grant VCF makes comes from a gift made by someone like you.

When you establish a charitable fund with us, you choose the name and purpose. Our commitment is to ensure your wishes are carried out. We offer various types of funds to reflect your specific philanthropic goals and ambitions.

In 2018, 11 funds joined VCF. Each was established for a different reason and will help address a unique cause. We are proud to share their stories with you in this annual report. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about establishing a fund. Together, we can find a solution that best fits your philanthropic plan and perpetuates your values.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

The easiest way to support the nonprofits and issues you personally care about in the Valley and beyond is through a Donor Advised Fund. Offering maximum flexibility, you recommend grants from the fund to any qualified public charity in the U.S. You can add to and recommend grants from your Fund at any time.

Alesevich Family Fund



The Alesevich Family Fund didn't begin with paperwork in the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) offices; it started years earlier with a family, a kitchen table, and love.

Family is very important to Chris and Sam Alesevich. Both their families owned neighborhood grocery stores: Charles Hron and Peter Alesevich were the proprietors of Hron's Market in Stratford and Shelton Arms Market in Bridgeport, respectively. Their moms, Harriet and Ann, were always ready to entertain and take care of others.

Through their parents' examples, Chris and Sam have carried on a tradition of providing for and welcoming family and friends. They are known for gatherings to celebrate holidays, special occasions, and those spontaneous get-togethers that make life grand. The table is always full of Chris' culinary creations with attention to individual tastes. Sam, who is known to enjoy Chris' cooking, reaches out to help family and friends with his ability to fix just about anything.

When Chris and Sam decided to formalize their years of giving to the community and explore the best way to establish their legacy, they sought information from Liz Kennard, their dear friend and founder of the Mary Fund at VCF. This led them to the Valley Community Foundation.

Spending their working lives as educators, Chris in primary grades teaching children to read and write and Sam teaching printing and graphic design to high school students, they know the impact of caring teachers and public education. "We have a special place in our hearts for both the young and old," Chris shared. "As educators, we not only want to support youth programs, but we also want to respect the elders of our community and the contributions they make."

Valley Community Foundation Funds

By sitting at the family table, their children, Christopher and Elizabeth, have grown to understand the importance of family and friends, the gift of education, and the responsibility to help others.

Chris and Sam hope that through the Alesevich Family Fund, “we are extending the reach of our family to other children and families who may not be as fortunate as we have been.” The values of education, compassion, and civic responsibility, which their fund aims to support, are synonymous with the conversations that occur at the Alesevich family table and will continue to take place for generations to come.

Carl and Patricia Miller Fund



For some, the best gift you can give is one that keeps on giving. That is why brothers Kurt and John Miller decided to establish the Carl and Patricia Miller Fund in honor of their parents.

“We thought it would be great to give them something that would last forever and have a real impact on the Valley,” Kurt explained. The fund was established in 2017, and was steadily built up every month until it became endowed at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF). What started out as a Mother’s and Father’s Day gift, now has the ability to give back to the community Carl and Patricia Miller love so dearly.

“Our parents led by example and perpetuated their strong values of giving back, which we still carry with us,” Kurt said. “My brother and I were blessed to have had such a wonderful childhood. We want to share our resources with kids who wouldn’t otherwise have the same opportunities we did growing up. That’s why we will be making grant recommendations from this donor advised fund to help Valley kids participate in summer camps and a range of youth programs.”

“When we decided to move forward with creating a fund, we didn’t look anywhere but VCF for help,” John added. “VCF President and CEO Sharon Closius made it extremely easy to get our fund up and running. She answered our questions and accommodated our busy schedules. I especially appreciated the ability to be a part of this process long distance from Boston.”

Kurt and John’s parents were a little taken aback by the idea of them creating a fund in their name, but in a good way according to the brothers. “They became very excited once they understood why we did it, how it works, and what we would like to accomplish,” Kurt said. “We then discussed other ways to grow the fund, especially as it relates to estate planning.”

“Everyone should consider creating a legacy,” he added. “People often think it’s an intimidating process or that you need a substantial amount of money, but that’s not true. VCF made it simple for us to make small, consistent contributions to build our fund so that we can have a lasting impact on the community.”

John said, “We are grateful that our parents are able to work with us to make grant recommendations and begin to see the effects of this fund, knowing that it will continue to make the Valley a better place for generations to come.”

“They became very excited once they understood why we did it, how it works, and what we would like to accomplish.”

Valley Community Foundation Funds

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Anonymous	Mario Garofalo Family Fund	Anthony (Sonny) Savignano Memorial Fund
Kathleen and Mariano Adamo	Raymond Gildea Memorial Fund	Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Fund
Community Service Fund	David M. and Gail A. Grant Family Fund	Louis Schmecker, Jr. Memorial Fund
John and Paraskeve Vartelas 'AGAPE' Fund	Guarrera Family Fund	Mary A. Schmecker Turtle Shell Fund
Alesevich Family Fund*	Tyler, Brian and Zachary Haywood Fund	Seymour Public Schools Fund
Bassett Family Fund	Jones Family Farms Fund	Shelton CT Gaels Alumni Fund
Monty Blakeman Fund	Kaplan Family Fund	Shelton Education Endowment Fund
Champagne Family Fund	Paul and Gloria Konwerski Family Fund	Smythe Family Fund
Cohen-DeToro Charitable Fund	Edward and Laura Lane Family Fund	Sterling Opera House Endowment Fund
Cohen Community Advised Fund*	Robert C. Lang Fund	Sally and Dominick Thomas Fund
Jane C. and David B. Cohen Fund	John Lauretti Memorial Family Fund	John Tyma Fund
Nick Collicelli Legacy Fund	Mary Fund	Nancy Valentine Fund
Mary Lou Cicia Cook Memorial Fund	Carl and Patricia Miller Fund*	Valley Bar Association Memorial and Commemorative Fund
Salvatore and Linda Tiano	William C. and Elaine N. Nimons Family Fund	Valley Breast Health Care Fund
Coppola Family Fund	Joseph A. Pagliaro, Sr. Family Fund	Valley Pride Fund
Susan Coyle Family Fund	Palazzi Family Fund	Alphonso and Eulalia Vitello Family Fund
Thomas and Ruth Curran Family Fund	Pepe Family Fund	Warichar Family Fund
D'Addario Family Fund	Nina Poeta Scholarship Fund	Joe and Judy Zaprzalka Family Fund
Michael and Elizabeth Dalton Family Fund	President's Fund of the Valley Community Foundation	John and Laura Zaprzalka Family Fund
Derby - Puglianello Sister City Fund	Sophie and Robert W. Rapp Family Fund	Katarzyna and Ludwik Zaprzalka Fund
Walter and Bonnie Drozeck Fund	Samuel Rifkin Fund	
Frey-Hershey Foundation Fund	Leah Rondon Fund	
Marc Garofalo Cultural Experience Fund		

* New Fund in 2018

DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS

If you want to show your support for a specific organization or organizations during your lifetime or endow your giving to a favorite nonprofit in perpetuity, a Donor Designated Fund allows you to name one or more organizations to receive an annual gift from your Fund.

Derby-Shelton Civil War Monument Preservation Fund



The start of a new project is arguably more exciting than its maintenance, but without that care, the Community might well lose a treasure. The Derby-Shelton Civil War Monument Preservation Fund will ensure the future of a landmark that longtime Derby resident, Jamie Cohen, fondly remembers as part of his youth. As

with many things in the Valley, this Fund's creation comes with a rich history.

"I was a member of the Derby Cub and Boy Scouts growing up and our meetings were at the Methodist and Congregational Churches, across from the Derby Green. For 30 out of 52 weeks of the year, I would meet my friends at the monument or near one of the four cannons that flank it."

While Jamie would see the monument countless times throughout his life, he did not pay much attention to it until one day, a few years ago. While walking past the monument on his way to a Scouting event, something caught his eye. He noticed a hole where a pin should have been in place to secure a bronze plaque. "Vandals had tried to pry the plaque off the monument. It was then that I noticed the overall deterioration and decided something had to be done."

Jamie was determined that this Memorial to the local men killed in the Civil War would be honored. "I became personally involved in the restoration of the monument," he said. "We hired a specialist to do the work and received \$80,000 from donors to restore the monument to its original beauty. Now, we are taking steps to ensure it stays in good condition moving forward."

"I am honored to have been a part of creating this Designated Fund to provide ongoing annual maintenance to ensure the Monument is appropriately preserved and cared for," Jamie added. "I hope Derby's future youth and young adults will form their own special memories of meeting near the soldier who will continue to stand guard on the Green for generations to come."

Valley Community Foundation Funds

The First Taxing District and the Mulvoy-Tarlov-Aquino VFW Post 603 Cannon Preservation Fund



The Valley's roots are far reaching, and often extend beyond geographic and municipal boundaries. Such is the case with the First Taxing District of the City of Norwalk, who has created the First Taxing District and the Mulvoy-Tarlov-Aquino VFW Post 603 Cannon Preservation Fund at VCF.

The French 155 mm Model 1877 DeBange Cannon and pedestal located on the Historic Norwalk Green, was given to the City of Norwalk by France in 1921. In 1950, Post 603 negotiated with the City and eventually obtained ownership of the cannon, displaying it next to the VFW Building on North Avenue and High Street

from 1952-2009. When the building was sold in 2009, VFW Post 603 donated the Cannon to the First Taxing District of Norwalk, which had it restored and prepared for outdoor exhibition. "It is our understanding that this is the last of this model cannons in existence," said VFW Post 603 representative Peter Torrano. "To continue preserving this historic artillery piece that helped maintain freedom in Europe and throughout the world, Post 603 has donated \$20,000 for its perpetual care and maintenance."

As part of the restoration process, a long term plan was created for annual upkeep. Inspired by Jamie Cohen's work in restoring the Civil War Monument on the Derby Green, the District staff began exploring various financial options to ensure that the cannon could be maintained in perpetuity. After contacting VCF, the District found the fit it had been searching for.

"We wanted to make the most of the money we had available to ensure that the Cannon would always be maintained," said Dominick Di Gangi, General Manager for the First Taxing District. "After receiving the generous gift from Post 603, we were able to have the District match it dollar for dollar. Establishing a donor designated fund at VCF allowed us to create a financial distribution mechanism to help carry out the recommendations in the cannon's maintenance and preservation plan, both now and in the future."

First Taxing District Board of Commissioners Chairwoman, Marija Bryant, said, "We are so pleased to be able to work with VCF to ensure that this cannon will be well-kept, and continue to have an honored place on the Historic Norwalk Green. It is a solemn reminder of the tremendous sacrifice our veterans have made to keep our nation the home of the free and the brave."

"We are so pleased to be able to work with VCF to ensure that this cannon will be well-kept, and continue to have an honored place on the Historic Norwalk Green."

DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS

Edward J. and Marie M. Cecarelli Book Fund
Lillian Chrostowski Fund
Herbert Clark Fund
Cohen Family Book Fund
Edward J. Cotter, Jr. Memorial Fund
First Taxing District and the Mulvoy – Tarlov – Aquino VFW Post 603 Cannon Preservation Fund*
Derby Public Library - Harold B. Yudkin Historic Preservation Fund
Derby-Shelton Civil War Monument Preservation Fund*

Gerry Hellman Eckhardt Fund for the Woodbridge Library
Griffin Family Memorial Fund
Health Initiative for Men (HiM) Fund
Jones Family Farms Fund for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Maureen, Megan and Katey Ryan Fund
Torbi-Saldamarco Family Fund
Gary and Francesca (Riggio) Scarpa Fund for Center Stage Theatre
Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Fund for the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

Frank and Helene Skoronski Memorial Fund
Donald W. and Lillian C. Smith Family Fund
Peter J. Vartelas Invest in Youth Fund #2 for the Valley YMCA
Walsh Family Fund
Henry Shelton Wells and Edith Birdseye Wells Family Fund
Colonel Lloyd E. and Joan Platt Witmer Fund

* New Fund in 2018

Valley Community Foundation Funds

ORGANIZATION AND FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Nonprofit organizations can set up either a permanent Organization Endowment Fund, which is a component fund of the Foundation, or an Organization Fund, which is for investment only. Both funds provide a stable source of distributable revenue for the nonprofit. On occasion, there are charitable projects that are not attached to a specific nonprofit organization and VCF has been asked to serve as a "fiduciary" to accept the charitable donations and oversee the disbursements in order to fulfill the project.

Massaro Farm Legacy Fund



The Massaro Family ran a dairy farm on 108 acres that originally spanned both Woodbridge and Ansonia for almost a century. Facing similar challenges as many small, family farms in Connecticut, the last surviving member of the family came to an agreement with the Town of Woodbridge in 1994 to preserve the remaining 57 acres under a conservation easement, protecting the acreage from commercial development. Minor agricultural efforts, such as haying, continued to take advantage of the rich soil, but the once active farm remained underutilized until 2008.

It was then that Woodbridge residents decided to breathe new life into the site and share the space with the community in a new and exciting way. These residents formed the nonprofit, Massaro Community Farm, basing it on a community-supported agricultural model with a diverse appeal to a broad audience. The purpose was to establish a vegetable farm that feeds people and nourishes the land. In addition to dozens of types of produce, flowers and honey, Massaro Community Farm has grown jobs and a new sense of community as the farm has gained popularity in Woodbridge and throughout the Greater New Haven and Valley communities.

The creation of the Massaro Farm Legacy Fund marks a new milestone in the farm's history. Caty Poole, Executive Director, explained, "As we approached the 10-year anniversary of the farm, we began to think of ourselves less as a startup and more as a permanent, ongoing resource for the community."

The choice to establish this organization endowed fund with the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) was simple. "A year earlier,

we established a cash reserve fund," Caty said. "Because we know how important it is to be able to weather ups and downs for a farm-based business. But the establishing of a permanent fund – thanks to Paul and Judy DeCoster - that donors can contribute to will ensure that Massaro Community Farm can serve generations to come. It made sense to us to partner with VCF, a local community organization with access to the investment expertise we were looking for."

She added, "Our board, staff, and volunteers are passionate about preserving the farm. We all share the goal of having a place where families can bring their children, and children's children, to learn and make memories. The farm anchors the community in a way that can't be replaced. We hope this Legacy Fund can help further Massaro's mission, making it possible generations to visit us now and for years to come."

Rowland R. Strong and Edith H. Strong Memorial Scholarship Organization Fund



A private foundation, the Rowland R. Strong and Edith H. Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. was created by a loving daughter, Miriam, in memory of her late parents. Miriam paid a final tribute to her parents through her estate upon her own passing in 2010 to ensure the educational future for Oxford students remains bright.

A chemist for Anaconda American Brass, and longtime Oxford resident, Miriam Strong's ties to the community were deep. She served for 30 years on the Oxford Inland Wetlands Commission and volunteered her time with a number of local committees and organizations.

Miriam's will detailed the establishment of a private foundation to be overseen by a committee consisting of the Oxford Public Schools superintendent, highest level school principal, and head counselor, along with two Oxford residents.

Valley Community Foundation Funds

Superintendent Ana Ortiz said the community relies on its two resident committee members to ensure that the process involves all Oxford students and not just those attending Oxford High School. "Miriam wanted to honor her parents and also recognized that not all families can afford the growing costs of higher education. For someone who really wants to attend a university but does not have the funds, this scholarship is perhaps the only way to make that dream come true."

Miriam's bequest was clear. The primary consideration in selecting recipients should be based on financial need and academic success. Given its immense responsibility as well as the detail involved in managing and administering this renewable scholarship program, the committee decided to involve the Valley Community Foundation (VCF).

"It has been a great opportunity to partner with VCF on the management and due diligence needed to administer a unique scholarship such as this," Ana said. "The staff follows up with students to make sure they remain academically eligible through the four-year renewable award."

"I knew VCF's reputation through their work on other scholarship funds and I knew Sharon well. Her support has been tremendous and, because she attends committee meetings and is very involved with the stewardship of this scholarship, she keeps us moving in the right direction as we develop policies and procedures," Ana added. "We awarded scholarships to two students in 2018 and our intent is to award two per year so eventually, each year eight students will receive support from this scholarship fund. As a result of Miriam Strong's generosity, we hope to demonstrate to our students that their education doesn't have to conclude with high school."

TEAM Legacy Fund



TEAM, Inc. is the Valley's largest nonprofit human services organization with a commitment to economically disadvantaged

and vulnerable at-risk individuals, children, and families in the Valley community and surrounding areas. To ensure its promise for the Valley's most needy will continue to be delivered in the future, TEAM's Board and staff are asking the community for their help. They have established a Legacy Fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) with the goal of building and diversifying their revenue sources for the long term.

David Morgan, TEAM's President/CEO, said, "I often remind myself and our 18-member Board of the important stewardship roles we each have within this organization. While our terms of service are temporary, Valley residents will continue to turn to TEAM, needing help and support well into the future."

TEAM's footprint in the community spans from Early Childhood to Elderly Services. People and families in difficult circumstances can turn to TEAM for immediate assistance and stability, as well as receive help to address their long-term needs on a path to self-sufficiency.

"With the uncertainties of government funding, we need to ensure that those experiencing the deepest need will still find help available at TEAM. We are the safety net for the region and must be ready to respond today and in the years to come," David said.

David recalled a metaphor he heard at a VCF planned giving workshop, which compared establishing a permanent fund at a community foundation to gardening. Rather than a single gift made outright, a fund can be created to support an organization in perpetuity much like turning annual flowers into perennials. "That resonated with me. We can ensure that TEAM will be there for people who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in difficult circumstances. VCF's powerful message made me realize that TEAM and other nonprofits can ensure that our missions transcend our times of service. By incorporating simple planned giving methods, what meaningfully and effectively happens today, has the potential to happen forever."

The VCF staff met with David and TEAM's Board to discuss planned giving and fund options. "The training and technical assistance was phenomenal. They gave so much time and attention to us that it came together rather effortlessly."

"We view VCF as a philanthropic leader in this area," David added. "Like VCF, we, too, are committed to preserving and building upon a diverse menu of resources to impact the community. We know that many people may be more comfortable with giving when they no longer need their assets. Through this Fund, we are able to provide an easy vehicle for those who want to remember TEAM in their estate plans."

"We view VCF as a philanthropic leader in this area."

Valley Community Foundation Funds

ORGANIZATION AND FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Anonymous
Birmingham Foundation Fund
Derby Community Endowment Fund
Derby Public Library Endowment Fund
Housatonic Council,
BSA Endowment Fund
Housatonic Council, BSA Fund
Edmund D. Strang Campership,
Housatonic Council, BSA Fund
Edmund & Caroline Strang
Eagle Scout Scholarship Award,
Housatonic Council, BSA Fund
Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation
Camp Maintenance,
Housatonic Council, BSA Fund
Massaro Community Farm Fund
Massaro Farm Legacy Fund*

Oak Cliff Cemetery Association Fund
Parent Child Resource Center
Endowment Fund
Planetree Fund
Plumb Memorial Reserve Fund
Plumb Memorial Tri-Centennial
Endowment Fund
Recreation Camp Endowment Fund
Ritchie Fund for Plumb
Memorial Library
Rowland R. Strong and
Edith H. Strong Memorial
Scholarship Organization Fund*
Seymour-Oxford Rotary Club Fund
Seymour Pink Endowment Fund
Seymour-Oxford Nursery and Child Care
Association, Inc. (SONCCA) Fund

Shelton Historical Society
Endowment Fund
TEAM, Inc., Richard J. Knoll
Endowment Fund
TEAM Legacy Fund*
TEAM Reserve Fund
Town of Seymour Endowment Fund
Troop 3 - Derby BSA Alumni and
Friends Fund
Valley United Way Fund
Valley YMCA Endowment Fund
Peter J. Vartelas Invest in Youth Fund
#1 for the Valley YMCA
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 597 Fund
Women in Networking Fund

* New Fund in 2018

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

You can help students pursue their educational dreams with a Scholarship Fund. Scholarship Funds are often created in memory of someone and can be used to support educational opportunities, a specific educational institution, or a course of study.

Ansonia Public Schools Scholarship Funds



In 2010, Dr. Carol Merlone, superintendent of Ansonia Schools, sought approval from the Ansonia Board of Education to move the scholarship funds, which were kept in passbook savings accounts at the time, to the Valley Community Foundation's (VCF's) comingled investment pool. "It was one thing when local banks were paying significant interest on passbook savings. But with current rates, we needed VCF's management and expertise to keep our funds from being depleted," said Carol.

The Ansonia Schools appreciated that VCF was a local nonprofit that specializes in this type of activity, which led them to invest their scholarships in 2010 in a concerted effort to simplify the scholarship management process. Having administered those funds for the past eight years, VCF earned the trust and confidence of the Schools' leaders who decided to endow the scholarship funds by making them permanent resources at the Foundation. The decision has been beneficial for all involved and allows both organizations to honor the intent of those who wanted to establish permanent scholarships.

Lisa R. Jones, school business administrator, explained, "The Foundation had been previously accepting donations for the funds on our behalf. Last year, Sharon Closius suggested we consider making our scholarship funds part of the VCF endowment rather than for investment purposes only." The change provides an opportunity to expand the longevity of funds that might otherwise have become depleted."

New Funds Established in 2018 Benefitting Ansonia Students

- Ansonia High School Endowed Fund
- Ansonia High School Non-endowed Fund
- Ansonia Public Schools Fund
- John F. Blake, Jr. Memorial Prize
- Ruth H. Feinberg Connors Principal's Award
- Amos Hawley Memorial Award
- Industrial Arts/Vocational Education
- Winifred Bennett Kerins Memorial Prize
- Russell & Joanne Kiley Kulawiz Fund
- John Quake Memorial
- V. Gerald Ryan #2

Valley Community Foundation Funds

Eileen Ehman, the District's grants manager/community liaison, said having the School's scholarship funds become endowed at VCF has helped to provide long term sustainability. Familiar with how VCF supports the community in a variety of ways, Eileen said the school system jumped at the opportunity to expand its relationship with VCF once the Board of Education gave its approval.

"We are able to keep honoring memories of loved ones who have passed," Eileen said. "These were people who supported Ansonia's education system during their lifetime and can now do so long into the future."

"We have a very congenial relationship with VCF," said Carol. "We are grateful that they provide us with a way for all of our scholarship donor legacies to live on for the Ansonia students who will benefit from this opportunity for many years to come."

Louis 'Neni' Gaetano, Sr. Derby High School Scholarship Fund



Glenn and his brother, Paul, Gaetano were both astonished and uplifted by the outpouring of their community after the loss of their father in 2011 and decided to do something that would make him proud. By establishing the Louis 'Neni' Gaetano, Sr. Derby High School Scholarship Fund, they are doing more than assisting with the cost of college education. Glenn and Paul feel they are also passing on the encouragement and support that they and their late brother, Louis, Jr., each received from their parents throughout their lives.

Glenn first became involved with VCF in 2006 when he and "Team DeFilippo" helped to establish the Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Scholarship Fund to honor the legacy of their former football coach and his wife. This experience and familiarity led Glenn and his brother to call on VCF's expertise once again.

"We didn't realize the number of people who were making contributions in our father's memory," Glenn said. "We were thinking of giving out a small scholarship each year but, then we

learned we could endow the scholarship fund at VCF. We now can honor our father and mother in a way that lasts forever."

Neni was a permanent fixture in the Valley community, walking his mail route each day for 30 years, and making friends as he distributed letters. He was a lifelong Derby resident who was also a talented Derby High School athlete. It was at Derby High School where he met Margaret "Peggy" Baumer, who would become his wife of 64 years.

"The VCF office on Elizabeth St. is actually on our Dad's old route. Since Derby is so small, it has always been easy to get to know people. We were fortunate to grow up in Derby and my parents loved the city," Glenn added.

Each year, scholarship recipients write the Gaetano Family letters of gratitude. "It's heartwarming to read these personal notes of thanks," Glenn said. "I like to write back and ask how things are going. On behalf of our father, I share our well wishes for success in school and in everything that they do. We are proud that, as a result of endowing this fund, it will be a permanent fixture at Derby High School, just as our dad was in this community throughout his entire life."

Ann C. Petro Scholarship Fund



There is a saying that a life well-lived is a life filled with love. Ann Petro's life was indeed well lived. Her family and friends, and her Valley home and gardens filled her with tremendous joy and pride. She brought passion to everything she did - as an educator, reading teacher, and eventual Principal of Sunnyside School in Shelton.

Ann's dedication to her students, parents, staff and colleagues was immediately evident to all who entered the building, and remained long after the last bus left at the end of the school year. That's why it's no surprise that her family created the Ann C. Petro Scholarship Fund to honor their mother's memory after her passing in 2018, and to recognize and reward the students of Sunnyside School.

Valley Community Foundation Funds

"In 2014 when her grandson, Christopher Pawlowski received awards at the Shelton High School senior awards ceremony, mom noted that there were awards for students of other elementary schools, but none for those who had attended Sunnyside" said daughter Pam Petro. "She was troubled by this. Due to everyone's generosity and support when she passed away, our family created this fund to ensure that former Sunnyside students would be recognized both now and in perpetuity."

"Our mom's entire life was spent in the Valley and she was a proud supporter of its traditions," said daughter Melanie Petro. "She, like all of her family, lived and worked here. We never missed the Shelton Derby Memorial Day parade, the Boys & Girls Club pancake breakfast, or the Shelton/Derby football game. It was all a part of our growing up in the Valley – and all the wonderful things she passed down to us."

The Petro Family chose to work with VCF because it "keeps the Valley spirit alive by inspiring others to care about our special community," said Melanie. "When she retired, mom could have moved to other, warmer places like Florida. She chose to stay in the Valley, because to her it wasn't about the place, it was the people." Pam agreed. "The Valley is unique and special. People here truly care about their neighbors, just like our mom always did. The diverse group of funds at VCF reflects that care and concern and we are so glad to add our mom's Scholarship Fund to that list."

Seymour Historical Society Scholarship Fund



One of the most valuable lessons in preserving the past is investing in the future. That is why the Seymour Historical Society wanted to share with young people its special appreciation for local history by establishing the Seymour Historical Society Scholarship Fund with the Valley Community Foundation (VCF).

The Historical Society has a long history of working with VCF, including the Foundation's grant support for educational and

historical programming. Carolyn Ivanoff, Seymour Historical Society Board member, said, "When we decided to establish a scholarship fund, VCF immediately came to mind. VCF manages the other scholarships for Seymour High School and we knew the fund would be invested to protect the principal so that it could exist in perpetuity."

"We're thrilled to be able to offer this scholarship to a successful student graduating from Seymour High School," Carolyn added. "This fund reinforces the Historical Society's ongoing commitment to education, our community, and our future. By endowing this fund at VCF, we will be able to support and encourage Seymour students who personify our mission to preserve and appreciate local history for years to come."

The Seymour Historical Society Scholarship Fund will award a scholarship each year to a graduating Seymour High School student going on to higher education in pursuit of a history or government-related degree. The recipient will be selected by the scholarship committee at the high school.

The Historical Society's Board unanimously supported the decision to establish the fund at VCF. "We had a very positive experience in this process," Carolyn said. "It was straightforward and we were able to easily work through the details of what we wanted to accomplish. It is our hope that scholarship award recipients will share what they learn with others to help keep knowledge of the past alive for future generations."

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Michael J. Adanti Memorial Community Fund
Joseph 'Jay' Amico Artistic Memorial Awards Fund
Ansonia High School Endowed Fund*
Ansonia High School Non-Endowed Fund*
Ansonia Public Schools Fund*
Ansonia Rotary Club Scholarship Endowment Fund
John F. Blake, Jr. Memorial Prize*
Bruno Battaglini Memorial Fund
Stella Behuniak Fund
Rachel and William Brogadir Scholarship Fund
Stanley and Irene Chlebowski Scholarship Fund
Stephen and Emily Chuckta Memorial Scholarship Fund
Class of 1940 Scholarship Fund
Eddy Conklin Scholarship Fund
Ruth H. Feinberg Connors Principal's Award*
Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Scholarship Fund
Derby High School Endowed Scholarship Fund
Derby High School Non-Endowed Scholarship Fund
Domorod-Youd Shelton High School Scholarship Fund
Agnes and Helen Dubrava Fund

Valley Community Foundation Funds

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Honorable Joseph P. Flynn and Family Scholarship Fund
Louis 'Neni' Gaetano, Sr. Derby High School
Scholarship Fund*
Amos Hawley Memorial Award*
Industrial Arts/Vocational Education*
Winifred Bennett Kerins Memorial Prize*
Russell & Joanne Kiley Kulawiz Fund*
Eugene Imperato Family Scholarship Fund
Francis Family Fund
Geissler Family Scholarship Fund
Brandon Giordano Football Scholarship Fund
Traci L. Haines Memorial Scholarship Fund
Arthur Hayes, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund
Randall R. Holden Memorial Scholarship Fund
Patricia M. Kondrath Scholarship Fund
Frank J. Lang Fund
Jesse McCord Lewis Memorial Scholarship Fund
Michael R. McMahon Scholarship Fund
Bernice Nicolari-Howard Gura Award Fund
Louis L. Nicoletti, Sr. Business Scholarship Fund
Ann O'Neil Memorial For Integrity Award
Anthony Pagliaro Scholarship Fund
Lillian Pawlowski Fund
Ann C. Petro Scholarship Fund*
Joseph E. Potter Memorial Fund
John Quake Memorial*
George and Beatrice Ryan Scholarship Fund
V. Gerald Ryan Scholarship Fund*
John Sabulis Memorial Scholarship Fund
Norman K. and Janet N. Santa Fund
Seymour Historical Society Scholarship Fund*
Shelton Education Endowment Fund
Shelton High School Education Fund
Shelton High School Endowed Scholarship Fund
Shelton High School Non-Endowed Scholarship Fund
Gaeton and Elizabeth Simonetti Family Fund
Charles P. Smith Jr., Scholarship Fund
Rowland R. Strong and Edith H. Strong
Memorial Renewable Scholarship Fund*
Howard Tassitano Fund
Julian A. Taylor Fund
John "Al" Tiano Fund
George Vartelas Ansonia High School Scholarship Fund
Peter Vartelas Ansonia High School Scholarship Fund
John J. Wabuda Memorial Scholarship Fund
Joseph and Pauline Warichar
Memorial Scholarship Fund
Alexander George Wilson, Sr. Scholarship Fund

** New Fund in 2018*

PREFERENCE FUNDS

Preference or Field of Interest Funds support evolving needs and a variety of nonprofits by focusing on a broad area of interest. This fund type supports interest areas such as education, childcare, environmental issues, healthcare, or specific geographic area(s). VCF makes grants to nonprofits that serve the donor's field of interest in perpetuity.

PREFERENCE FUNDS

Ancient Order of Hibernians, Derby Division Fund
Lawrence J. DeTullio, Jr. Fund
The Future Fund
Herb Rollinson Fund
Shelton Congregational Church Fund
Mary Vartelas Stamos Fund
Angelina M. and Valentina V. Vitali Fund
Selma L. and Harold B. Yudkin Fund



UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

You can help us support emerging issues and the most pressing needs in the Valley by creating an Unrestricted Fund. As the needs in our communities change over time, Unrestricted Funds allow VCF to address high priority issues.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Cohen Community Fund
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Ansonia Fund
Raymond F. Mackowski Fund
Dorothy E. & Kenneth E. Schaible Community Fund
Valley Community Fund
VCF Administrative and Reserve Fund

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Our mission is to make the Valley a better place to live and work, both now and in the future, by connecting private philanthropy to the long-term public good of the Valley.



Children & Youth.....	\$113,200
Education.....	\$73,957
Health.....	\$203,415
Basic Human Needs.....	\$82,700
Civic Vitality & Social Justice.....	\$59,102
Economic Success.....	\$66,250
Arts & Culture.....	\$63,150
Environment.....	\$20,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$681,774

Note: This data reflects grants made through the Responsive, Needs and Opportunities, and Community Grants processes, and includes previous multi-year grant support. It does not include \$82,500 in community initiative support. These grant programs would not be possible without the significant financial and staffing contributions provided by our partner in philanthropy, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

Includes Needs & Opportunities, New Responsive, Multi-year, and Community Grant Programs.
Excludes commitment to community initiatives.

Responsive Grant Program

VCF's annual Responsive Grants program is open to requests for organizational support and projects that serve Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and/or Shelton. These grants are awarded to address a nonprofit's operating, programmatic, or capacity building needs.

BHcare - To support a Medication Assisted Therapy program in Ansonia to address the opioid epidemic. **\$35,000**

Capital for Change - To support a program to provide technical assistance and loans to nonprofit organizations for working capital/cash flow, building purchase and/or renovations and energy efficiency improvements. **\$6,250**

Derby Historical Society - To provide general operating support to preserve, maintain, and celebrate the history of Derby. **\$30,000**

Griffin Hospital - To support a 12-week education/exercise program to improve the health of individuals diagnosed with diabetes and pre-diabetes. **\$30,000**

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County - To support the Life-Prep Initiative, which will provide financial education to K-12 students in Ansonia and Derby. **\$80,000**

Lincoln Senior Housing Inc. - To support the purchase and installation of an emergency generator for its senior living facility to ensure the safety and health of residents during power outages. **\$10,000**

Naugatuck Valley Health District - To support A Matter of Balance, a fall prevention program for older adults in the Valley. **\$24,000**

Rape Crisis Center of Milford, Inc. - To provide general operating support for educational programming to help end sexual assault, and for comprehensive and culturally competent sexual assault victim services. **\$30,000**

Valley Emergency Medical Services - To support the purchase of a Life Pak 15 Cardiac Monitor. **\$30,000**

Wesley Heights, Inc. - To support Mentally Engaging Through Technology, a new project that will provide multi-sensory stimulation through computer technology for elderly residents with early cognitive impairment, dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease. **\$20,000**

Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center - To support the Addressing Chronic Conditions in Elementary and Secondary Schools program, which will improve the identification, management, and tracking of students with chronic health conditions in the Ansonia, Derby, and Shelton public school districts. **\$30,000**

Community Investments

Needs and Opportunities Grants

Needs and Opportunities grants range from \$250 to \$10,000 and are designed to promptly address the needs of Valley nonprofits through a simplified application process.

Ansonia Dr. King Bust Committee - To support the creation and installation of a bronze-cast bust of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for the City of Ansonia. **\$3,000**

Ansonia Middle School PTO - To support a diversionary program that can serve as an alternative to suspension at Ansonia Middle School. **\$2,700**

Ansonia Public Schools - To provide financial support for students with special needs served by a Best Buddies Program at Ansonia Middle School. **\$3,300**

Callahan House Association - To support the purchase of a television and a 12-month Netflix subscription for the elderly residents of Callahan House. **\$1,000**

Center Stage Theatre, Inc. - To support a strategic planning process. **\$7,500**

Christ Episcopal Church - To support the Kathleen Samela Food Bank. **\$8,700**

College Access for All Kids, Inc. - To support urban youth access to colleges, universities and other higher education possibilities. **\$2,150**

Connecticut Radio Information System, Inc. - To support audio recordings of publications for children, youth and adults in the Valley who are blind or print challenged. **\$5,000**

Derby Neck Library - To support the purchase of three portable display units and two new shelving units for its media collection. **\$5,500**

Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. - To support the purchase of 24 security cameras with spotlights to provide criminal deterrence and video monitoring of the Echo Hose Ambulance Community Educational Center. **\$4,794**

Holy Trinity Catholic Academy - To sponsor an Educational Field Trip to Boston, MA. **\$400**

Jane Doe No More - To support Escape Alive Survival Skills classes in Seymour and Derby for women and girls. **\$2,200**

Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven - To support a strategic planning process. **\$3,000**

Mishkan Israel Day Camp - To support a summer day camp season for underprivileged children from the Valley. **\$1,400**

New Haven Symphony Orchestra - To support performances in Shelton which include Pops Concerts, Family Concerts, and the NHSO KidTix initiative. **\$5,000**

Oxford High School Booster Club - To support the Champion of Choices Program at Oxford High School. **\$1,500**

Oxford Main St. Project - To support landscape, architectural services, and signage for the Little River Nature Preserve. **\$6,200**

Recreation Camp - To purchase a new piece of playground equipment. **\$4,000**

Seymour Pink - To support the purchase of a new point of sale system for the Seymour Pink Gift Shop. **\$1,200**

Shelton Economic Development Corp. - To support the administration of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Naugatuck Valley Corridor/Economic Development District. **\$10,000**

St. Mary - St. Michael School - To support renovations of the Pre-Kindergarten classroom as well as the purchasing of classroom furniture and supplies. **\$5,648**

Valley Shakespeare Festival - To provide general operating support to educate, inspire and bring together the towns that make up the Valley with low-cost performances of the works of William Shakespeare and his contemporaries. **\$8,650**

Community Grants

This application process recognizes smaller, volunteer or neighborhood groups with grant awards of up to \$2,500.

Adam Wysota Foundation - To support the next phase of the Adam's House Memorial Garden and Walkway. **\$2,500**

Annual Thanksgiving Basket Committee - To support the purchase of perishable and non-perishable food items and supplies for distribution of Thanksgiving baskets to fifty families in need. **\$2,500**

Community Investments

City of Derby, Bureau of Youth Services - To support a program to help students recognize the consequences of poor decisions and provide opportunities to make amends. **\$2,000**

Derby Green Farmers Market - To support the innovative Power of Produce Club program that provides participating children with education and experience in purchasing and using healthy fruits and vegetables at the Derby Farmers' Market. **\$1,400**

Derby Historical Society - To provide transportation assistance to Valley schools to visit the General David Humphreys House. **\$2,500**

Town of Seymour - To support an extension of the Senior Fit & Strong exercise program by offering four free classes to help improve participants' quality of life. **\$1,590**

Shelton Farmers' Market - To support the continuation of the Valley Sprouts Club, to provide more local music at the market, to provide outreach to Valley schools, and to provide a wellness community with revolving education and/or health related services for Market visitors. **\$2,500**

Southford Falls Quilters LLC - To support programs which focus on new trends, tools, and techniques in the art of quilting. **\$2,500**

Youth 2 Youth Peer Advocates - To support the cost of sending as many high school students as possible to the Youth 2 Youth National conference in RI. **\$2,500**

Sponsorship Grants

Nonprofit organizations can apply for support from VCF for up to \$2,500 for special events, especially those events that inform the community about a particular cause.

Adam Wysota Foundation - To sponsor the 3rd Annual Mistletoe & Margaritas - a holiday shopping night to support Adam's House. **\$500**

American Legion, John Collins Post 24 - To sponsor one boy and one girl from Derby to attend the Boys/Girls State Program. **\$700**

American Legion, Emil Senger Post 10 - To sponsor one boy and one girl from Seymour to attend the Boy's State/Girl's State Program. **\$700**

American Legion, Sutter-Terlizzi Post 16 - To sponsor one boy and one girl from Shelton to attend the Boys State and Girls State Program. **\$700**

Ansonia Rotary Club - To sponsor the Annual Community Services Awards presentation dinner. **\$400**

Area Congregations Together, Inc. - To sponsor the Spooner House Walk. **\$1,000**

BHcare - To sponsor the 30th annual Bowl-2-Benefit The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services. **\$1,000**

Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
- To sponsor The John "Red" Larsen Golf Classic. **\$500**
- To sponsor the 17th Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Day 5K Road Race. **\$2,500**

Celebrate Shelton
- To sponsor the Community Tree Lighting. **\$500**
- To sponsor the Downtown Sounds Summer Concert Series. **\$1,500**

Central Connecticut Coast Young Men's Christian Association, Inc. - To sponsor the Valley YMCA 10th Annual Sunset 5K & 2 Mile Fitness Walk. **\$2,500**

Connecticut Hurricanes Drum and Bugle Corps, Inc. - To sponsor a drum and bugle corps competition at Seymour High School. **\$500**

Cornell Scott Hill Health Corporation - To sponsor the 50th anniversary fundraising gala. **\$500**

Derby High School PTO - To sponsor a post prom event. **\$750**

Derby Historical Society
- To sponsor the Annual Silver Tea. **\$500**
- To sponsor the 28th Annual Fundraising Appeal. **\$850**

Derby Neck Library Association - To sponsor a mini golf event at the Derby Neck Library. **\$1,000**

Derby Public Schools - To sponsor a field day at Irving School. **\$1,000**

Family and Children's Aid - To sponsor the 2018 Kids Cup. **\$500**

Friends of the Ansonia Library - To sponsor the 3rd Annual Tea Social Fundraiser. **\$250**

Community Investments

Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center (FANCI)

- To sponsor the Earth Day celebration. **\$500**
- To sponsor Autumn Fest. **\$500**

Griffin Hospital - To sponsor the Annual Griffin Gala. **\$1,000**

Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America - To sponsor the 24th Annual Valley Good Scout Award Ceremony. **\$1,000**

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County - To sponsor the Merger and Aspirations event. **\$1,000**

Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut, Inc.

- To sponsor the High School Business Challenge at Sacred Heart University. **\$1,000**
- To sponsor the 18th Annual Golf Invitational. **\$500**

Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven - To sponsor the 17th Annual Scrabble Challenge. **\$500**

Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center - To sponsor Ride for Children at Quarry Walk. **\$1,000**

Massaro Community Farm - To sponsor a performance of Charlotte's Web by the Valley Shakespeare Festival. **\$1,000**

Master's Table Community Meals - To sponsor the 3rd annual fundraiser, "At the Hop". **\$500**

New Haven Symphony Orchestra - To sponsor The Toni Awards. **\$1,000**

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut, Inc. - To sponsor the 36th Annual Winter Conference. **\$1,000**

Polish American Foundation of Connecticut, Inc. - To sponsor the 6th Annual International Folk Dance Festival. **\$500**

Regional Data Cooperative (DataHaven) - To sponsor the 25th Anniversary Celebration and Statewide Data Release Event. **\$1,500**

Seymour Christmas Parade Association - To sponsor the 46th Annual Seymour Christmas Parade. **\$1,000**

Seymour High School - To sponsor the Seymour High School production of the Wizard of Oz. **\$250**

Seymour Historical Society - To sponsor the 2018 educational speaker series. **\$2,500**

Seymour Pink - To sponsor the 7th Annual Pounding the Pavement for Pink 5K run/walk. **\$2,500**

Seymour Public Schools - To sponsor the Dialed Action Sports BMX team to present an anti-bullying, anti-substance abuse prevention program. **\$2,000**

Shelton Exchange Club Foundation, Inc. - To sponsor the 6th Annual indoor mini golf tournament. **\$500**

Shelton High School PTSO - To sponsor a post prom event. **\$750**

Shelton Historical Society - To sponsor its 2018 educational programs and events. **\$1,000**

St. Joseph High School

- To sponsor a post prom event. **\$750**
- To sponsor the Maroon & Gold Gala. **\$500**

St. Mary's Church - To sponsor the Annual Summer Food Festival. **\$100**

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Shelton - To sponsor a holiday event to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, TEAM's Meals on Wheels Program and Adam's House of Shelton. **\$500**

TEAM, Inc.

- To sponsor Men Who Cook. **\$1,000**
- To sponsor the 2nd Intergenerational Fashion Show and Luncheon. **\$1,000**

The Banko's Music Foundation, Inc. - To sponsor the Rock the Summer for Music Education event. **\$1,000**

Treasured Time - To sponsor a Wine Tasting and Holiday Shopping Extravaganza. **\$250**

Troop 3 - Derby BSA Alumni & Friends Foundation, Inc. - To sponsor the 94th Annual Scout Gang Show. **\$500**

Valley Breast Health Care Fund - To sponsor the 18th Annual Women Making a Difference Event. **\$500**

Valley Council for Health and Human Services - To sponsor the 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting. **\$1,000**

Valley Early Childhood Task Force - To sponsor Read Across the Valley. **\$1,500**

Community Investments

Valley Shakespeare Festival - To sponsor the Spector Spectacular: "Romeo and Juliet: Choose Your Own Ending". **\$750**

Valley United Way - To sponsor the following events: Campaign Underwriter, Annual Fundraising Kickoff, Communitini, and Harvest House. **\$2,500**

Vetfuel Inc. - To sponsor the Community Couch/Social Justice event, bringing politically polarized groups that have common interests together, especially with regard to the Middle East, to hold a common discourse about resiliency. **\$1,000**

Recognition Grants

The VCF Board of Directors recognizes the contributions of outstanding individuals and organizations that have been acknowledged for their service to the Valley Community. These honorees receive a grant from the VCF Board to donate to a Valley nonprofit of their choice.

Charles L. Flynn Humanitarian Award – Valley United Way
Ruth Parkins - Grant to the Valley United Way

Gold Seal Awards – Valley Chamber of Commerce
Ernestine Luise (Platinum) - Grant to the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club

Joseph LoPresti (Gold) - Grant to the Foundation for Life, Inc.

Dr. Bruce Sofferman (Gold) - Grant to the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

Tom Wilson (Gold) - Grant to the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club

Valley United Way (Silver) - Grant to the Valley United Way to support the Garden Program



L to R: Representative Themis Klarides, Tom Wilson (Gold Seal), Ernestine Luise (Platinum Award), Dr. Bruce Sofferman (Gold Seal), Joseph LoPresti (Gold Seal), Sharon Gibson (Silver Medal/Community Gardens), Senator Kevin Kelly

Good Scout Award – Housatonic Boy Scout Council
Larry Janesky - Grant to the Seymour Oxford Food Bank

Dr. John Ireland Howe Award – Derby Historical Society
BHcare - Grant to the Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center

Raymond P. Lavietes Service to Youth Award
Martin Coughlin - Grant to Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

Jack Walsh - Grant to the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

Women Making a Difference – Valley Women's Health Initiative
Marie Ammar - Grant to Hope Lives, Inc.

Arlene Greco - Grant to Derby-Shelton Rotary Club

Eunice Lisk - Grant to Griffin Hospital Development Fund to support the Women's Heart Wellness Program

Jennifer Magri - Grant to Seymour Pink, Inc.

Silvia Paytas - Grant to TEAM, Inc.

In Recognition for their Service

Jamie Cohen - In recognition of his dedication and hard work restoring the Civil War Monument on the Historic Derby Green to its original glory. Grant to the City of Derby.

Diane Stroman - In recognition of her retirement from TEAM, Inc. Grant to TEAM, Inc. to support the Diane Stroman Warm Hearts Fund.

Valley Council for Health & Human Services - In honor of the Council's 25th Anniversary. Grant to the Valley Council for Health & Human Services.

Gary and Fran Scarpa - In honor of their retirement from Center Stage Theatre. Grant to the Gary and Francesca (Riggio) Scarpa Fund for Center Stage Theatre Fund at VCF.

Community Investments

Donor Advised Grants

Grants from Donor Advised Funds are approved by the VCF Board of Directors upon the request and with the participation of the Donor. Donor Advised Funds are one of the many ways fund holders can advise on an area they are passionate about while partnering with VCF to make an impact.

Alliance for Prevention & Wellness
American Red Cross, CT Chapter
Ansonia Public Schools
Ansonia Rescue Medical Services
Area Congregations Together, Inc.
BHcare
Birthright of the Valley
Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby
Boys & Girls Club of the
Lower Naugatuck Valley
Center Stage Theatre, Inc.
Charlotte's Web of Prayer
Christ Episcopal Church
Clark Memorial Library
Common Ground High School
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Connecticut Hospice, Inc.
Derby Historical Society
Derby Little League
Derby Neck Library
Derby Public Library
Derby Running Club
DonorsChoose.org
The Foundation School
Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center
Girl Scouts of Connecticut Inc.
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
Griffin Hospital
Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America
IRIS - Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services
Julian A Taylor Scholarship Fund Committee
Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County
Kids for Kids, Dancing for Life
Long Hill Burial Ground Ltd.
Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center
Middlebury Senior Center
Mishkan Israel Day Camp
National Right to Work Legal Defense and Education Foundation, Inc.
Naugatuck Valley Health District
New Haven Free Public Library Foundation
Rape Crisis Center of Milford, Inc.
Recreation Camp, Inc.
Ronald McDonald House of CT, Inc.
Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps

Donor Advised 61 Funds

\$9,242,447 – Total Assets
136 – Total Grants
\$390,049 – Grant Amount

Seymour High School
Seymour Oxford Rotary Club
Shelburne Farms
Shelton Economic Development Corporation
Shelton High School
Shelton High School Robotics Team
Shelton Historical Society, Inc.
St. Raphael Campus-YNHH
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Shelton, Inc.
Susanna Wesley School
TEAM, Inc.
University of New Haven
University of New Hampshire
Valley Emergency Medical Services
Valley Shakespeare Festival
Valley United Way
Valley YMCA
Wesley Heights, Inc.
Working Lands Alliance
Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center



Designated Grants and Organization Fund Transfers

Designated Funds are established by a donor(s) to benefit one or more specific nonprofit(s). In addition, VCF manages the endowment and reserve funds of several local nonprofit organizations.

Ansonia Public Schools
Ansonia Rotary Club
Assumption Church
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
City of Derby
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Derby Neck Library
Derby Public Library
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
Griffin Hospital
Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America
Lower Naugatuck Valley
Parent Child Resource Center
Oak Cliff Cemetery Association
Oxford High School
Planetree, a Subsidiary of
Griffin Health Services, Inc.
Recreation Camp, Inc.
Seymour Oxford Rotary Club
Seymour Pink, Inc.
Town of Seymour
Shelton High School
Shelton Historical Society, Inc.

Donor Designated & Organization Fund Transfers 54 Funds

\$10,192,782 – Total Assets
49 – Total Grants
\$265,974 – Grant Amount

Community Investments

St. Mary's Church
Storm Engine Company Ambulance Corps, Inc.
TEAM, Inc.
Trinity Cemetery Association
Trinity Episcopal Church
Valley United Way
Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
Valley YMCA
Woodbridge Town Library

Sacred Heart University
Salve Regina University
Seymour High School
Shelton High School
Southern Connecticut State University
University of Bridgeport
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of New Haven
West Haven High School



Scholarships

Scholarship Funds provide awards and scholarships to students chosen through a selection process at individual high schools, elementary schools, or community organizations.

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall
Amity Regional High School
Ansonia High School
Assumption School
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
Bunnell High School
College of William and Mary
The Culinary Institute of America
Delaware Valley University
Derby High School
DeSales University
Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School
Fairfield University
Hamden High School
Holy Trinity Catholic Academy
Johnson and Wales University
Oxford High School

Unrestricted and Preference Funds

Unrestricted and Preference Funds allow the VCF Board of Directors to address a pressing need of an organization or community

Area Congregations Together, Inc.
BHcare
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
Callahan House Association
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford
Derby Historical Society
Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America
Lincoln Senior Housing, Inc.
Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven
Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps
TEAM, Inc.
Valley YMCA

Scholarships 63 Funds

\$2,335,391 – Total Assets
67 – Total Grants
\$128,547 – Grant Amount

Unrestricted & Preference Funds 12 Funds

\$2,785,588 – Total Assets
11 – Total Grants
\$108,565 – Grant Amount

The Gates Society

GATES SOCIETY MEMBERS

Sharon Closius
Jamie Cohen
Jane Cohen*
Edmund J. Conklin*
Patricia DeCicco
Walter and Bonnie Drozeck
Helen Dubrava*
Bob and Sheri Grier
William and Jo-Anna Holden
Heidi Kaplan
M. Elizabeth Kennard
Laura Lane
Robert Lang
Raymond F. Mackowski*
Mary Theresa Mahoney*
Raymond Oppel
Dorothy Palazzi
Lynne Bassett Perry
Beth Smith
Donald W. Smith, Sr.*
Brad and Marianne Smythe
Valentina Vitali*
Donald Warichar
Joseph Warichar
John and Laura Zaprzalka

**deceased*

The Gates Society is a close circle of friends who share a special love and appreciation for this region, and who have named the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) in their estate plans.

The Society is named in honor of Ross and Frank Gates, the brothers of a prominent Derby family. In 1938, the brothers created trusts in the family name at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) to support broad charitable purposes with consideration that the income benefit the residents of Derby and vicinity. Today, this fund continues to support the Valley with more than \$1.1 million annually.

Joining VCF's planned giving community is simple. Let us know you have named VCF or one of our funds in your estate plan so we can personally thank you during your lifetime.

Why the Smythes Joined the Gates Society



Brad and Marianne Smythe have called Shelton home for more than three decades and care deeply about their community. In the past few years they learned about the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and the role the organization plays in the region. Having previously served on VCF's Board Advisory Council and now, as a current member of its Board of Directors, Marianne has seen firsthand VCF's impact in collaborating with other nonprofits and those who are in most need.

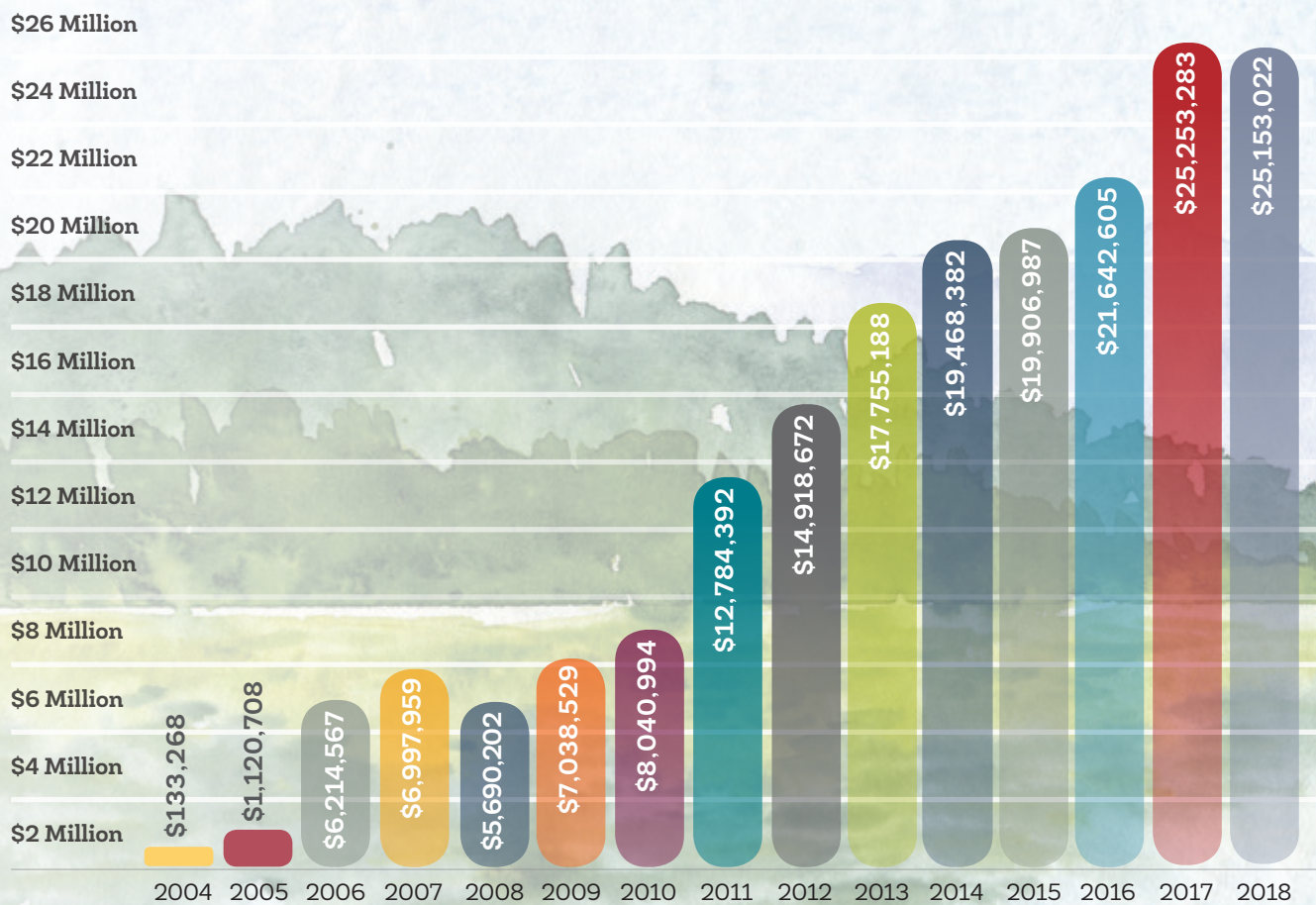
After establishing the Smythe Family Fund in 2017, Brad and Marianne decided that VCF's mission and work was important enough to name their fund as one of the beneficiaries of their retirement plans. The Smythes simply named their fund at VCF by updating their "Change of Beneficiary" form through their financial institution. It required less than five minutes of their time and is proof that an ordinary signature can create an extraordinary impact.

While their two daughters, Lindsay and Megan, will receive a majority of their IRAs, Brad and Marianne asked their daughters to carry on their philanthropic wishes far into the future. By including VCF in their estate plans, Brad and Marianne have joined the Gates Society – VCF's planned giving community.

"We are proud to be Gates Society members and know that our gift will help impact the community long after we are gone," Marianne said. "We encourage everyone to consider this option when reviewing their estate plans."

What is a Testamentary Fund?

A Testamentary Fund is created during your lifetime and contains your philanthropic plan. You may have multiple charitable interests that you would like to leave as a beneficiary in your estate. You name the fund at VCF in your estate plan and when we receive your assets we will carry out your wishes. Your plan can be modified at any time without incurring legal expenses.



Asset Growth

Stewardship of Charitable Assets



Stewardship of Charitable Assets

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) have been affiliated for the past 15 years, and the assets entrusted to VCF since 2004 have been invested and managed by TCF. Access to TCF's commingled investment management program affords VCF funds the benefits of a diverse, long-term and global endowment model by providing exposure to over 40 world-class sub-advisors across 10 asset classes.

VCF posted a return of (4.9%), net of the expense of managing the Commingled Fund against the market benchmark of (5.5%) for the year ended December 31, 2018. Even during these times of financial volatility, the annualized net return of the Commingled Fund for the trailing 3, 5, 7, and 10 years consistently outperformed benchmarks, which are all greater than VCF's effective spending rate. It is due to the design of the spending policy and calculations over a trailing five-year average that distributions can be managed in a predictable way.

Mission Related Investments

Thanks to VCF's relationship with TCF, a new facet of community engagement and impact is now on the horizon through Mission Related Investments (MRIs), which represent an exciting new opportunity for Valley businesses and nonprofits.

Philanthropic dollars can often bridge the gap between the community's need for capital for important and emerging projects and what the private market will provide. MRIs pave the way for other investors by evaluating both the community impact and the potential financial returns, and by conducting due diligence on opportunities that the private market might not otherwise consider due to size, scale or perceived risk. MRI investing is a logical extension of work TCF has been doing for many years with donors, nonprofits, and local entrepreneurs and enterprises.

MRIs seek to support organizations and projects in ways that align with and further our mission, including those that provide the opportunity to collaborate with donors and to bring individuals, businesses, and organizations together to improve the community. TCF has set aside \$750,000 for Valley-specific MRIs. For more information on MRIs and opportunities in the Valley, call the office at (203) 751-9162.



Raymond Oppel
Treasurer, Valley Community Foundation

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Annualized, expressed as a %, and net of investment expenses.

	TRAILING 1 Year	TRAILING 3 Year	TRAILING 5 Year	TRAILING 7 Year	TRAILING 10 Year
Actual Results	(4.9)	5.7	5.8	8.7	9.6
Market Benchmark¹	(5.5)	4.9	3.8	6.5	7.8
Value Added	0.6	0.8	2.0	2.2	1.5

1. The market benchmark is equal to the rate of return produced by specific market indices representing the asset classes contained in the asset allocation model, with such market indices weighted in accordance with that model.

Past performance is no indication of future results.

Financial Position

	2018	2017
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$780,787	\$357,996
Investments at market value - component funds	15,431,714	18,077,028
Investments at market value - organization funds	7,516,370	6,702,681
Total investments	23,728,871	25,137,705
Contributions receivable	1,355,000	22,729
Other assets	7,103	22,755
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	62,048	70,094
Total assets	\$25,153,022	\$25,253,283
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$81,229	\$59,687
Organization funds	7,516,370	6,702,681
Grants payable	222,145	194,250
Total liabilities	7,819,744	6,956,618
Net assets without restrictions	17,333,278	18,296,665
Total liabilities and net assets	\$25,153,022	\$25,253,283



Statement of Activities

	2018	2017
Revenue, Gains and Other Support		
Contributions	3,541,682	2,011,272
Less: contributions to organization funds	(1,674,629)	(120,051)
Net contributions	1,867,053	1,891,221
Investment gain, net	(580,649)	2,568,381
Investment income	126,700	146,110
Total revenue, gains and other support	1,286,404	4,459,602
Expense		
Grants approved, net	1,802,865	1,438,813
Less: grants from organization funds	(177,818)	(175,132)
Total grant and program expense	1,625,047	1,263,681
Grants for program management and direct charitable activities	374,847	317,848
Net grant and program expense	1,999,894	1,581,529
Development, donor services and fund stewardship	156,186	132,437
Financial, endowment, and investment management	93,712	79,462
Total administration expense	249,898	211,898
Total expense	2,249,792	1,793,427
Increase in net assets	(963,388)	2,666,175
Net assets - Beginning of year	18,296,665	15,630,490
Net assets - End of year	\$17,333,278	\$18,296,665



2018 Councils, Committees and Volunteers

2019 VCF Board and Staff

Standing Left to Right – Thomas Sutnik, Terry Jones, Sharon Closius, John Ready, Jennifer Magri, Beth Colette, Francis Michaud, Jr.

Seated Left to Right – Jack Walsh, Ray Oppel, Lynne Bassett Perry, Marianne Smythe, Donald Smith, Jr.

Not Pictured – Andrew Alden, James Hodge, Jr., Valerie Knight-Di Gangi, Robert Lesko, Fred Ortoli, Angela Powers, Alan Tyma



Board of Directors

Alan Tyma, *Chair*
Lynne Bassett Perry,
Vice Chair
Ray Oppel, *Treasurer*
Don Smith, Jr., *Secretary*
James Hodge
Robert Lesko
Jennifer Magri
Francis Michaud, Jr.
Fred Ortoli
Angela Powers
Jimmy Ryan
Marianne Smythe
Jack Walsh

Board Advisory Council

Bill Bassett
William H. Bassett
Gail Catlin
Jamie Cohen
Edmund Conklin
Susan Coyle
Maryanne DeTullio
Nancy Dickgiesser
Tim Dillon

Rick Dunne
Peter Francini
Dave Grant
M. Elizabeth Kennard
Fred King
Ernestine Luise
Michael Marcinek
Susan Mauriello
Ned Miller
Bill Miller, Jr.
Aleta Miner
William Nimons
Dan Onofrio
Ellen Pagliaro
Joseph Pagliaro, Jr.
Mary Pepe
Kathy Riddle
David Rifkin
Ed Santa
Kenneth Schaible
Ed Sheehy
Janice Sheehy
Gregory Stamos
Fred Stanek
Karen Stanek
Diane Stroman
Thomas Sutnik

Leon Sylvester
Pat Tarasovic
Nancy Valentine
Robert Van Egghen
Jack Walsh
Thomas Welch
John Zaprzalka

Development Committee

Jennifer Magri, *Co-chair*
Marianne Smythe, *Co-chair*
Robert Lesko
Francis Michaud, Jr.
Alan Tyma

Program Committee

Lynne Bassett Perry, *Chair*
Robert Lesko
Ray Oppel
Fred Ortoli
Angela Powers
Jimmy Ryan
Donald Smith, Jr.
Alan Tyma
Jack Walsh

Community Grants Members

M. Elizabeth Kennard, *Chair*
Janice Bonaparte-Morris
Beth Carson
Jen Champagne
Martha Dulla
Aleta Miner
Dan Onofrio
Ray Oppel
Fred Ortoli
Angelika Stamos
Jack Walsh

Responsive Grants Community Reviewers

Leon Bailey
Marilyn Cormack
John Corrado
Marc Garofalo
Richard Knoll
Dan Onofrio
Karen Spargo
James Tickey
Jack Walsh

Finance Committee

Ray Oppel, *Chair*
Francis Michaud, Jr.
Jimmy Ryan
Alan Tyma

Governance Committee

Don Smith, Jr., *Chair*
James Hodge
Jennifer Magri
Jimmy Ryan
Alan Tyma

VCF thanks outgoing Board member:



Jimmy Ryan:
Completed two terms
on VCF Board and served
as TCF's Board Chair

Partners in Philanthropy

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) partners with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) to carry-out its mission in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton. This relationship provides VCF with access to the strength of TCF, which was established in 1928 and is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the United States and remains the largest grantmaker to nonprofits serving a twenty-town region in the heart of central Connecticut. VCF shares a CFO and uses TCF's investment expertise, programming and development knowledge. This strong relationship provides VCF with an immediate support structure that allows it Board of Directors to focus on leadership and development.

VCF wishes to thank The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven staff and all the volunteers for their time, contributions and expertise.

Establishing a Fund at VCF

Our mission is to connect private philanthropy to the long-term public good of the Valley. Fulfilling your charitable wishes is central to our mission.

We will help you tailor your giving to fit your charitable goals and your personal situation. You may choose to give now or give later. Either way, we will ensure that your legacy and interests will be honored today, tomorrow, and forever. Our staff and board have deep local knowledge that helps determine the areas of greatest need and where our grants can be most effective.

Your gift benefits from being part of a larger whole. Our funds are managed as part of The Community Foundation *for* Greater New

Haven's (TCF) diversified investment portfolio. Over time, as the endowment grows, so do our funds and your ability to award grants. By investing your charitable gift with us, you are increasing the long-term impact of your gift.

The Valley Community Foundation offers several types of funds as referenced throughout this report. You can support an existing fund or establish a new fund with the use of cash, appreciated securities, IRA distributions and much more. You can help your community for generations to come by creating a permanent endowed fund.

Step One

Tell us how you would like your fund to be used. Would you like your gift to be flexible so that it can address any community problem or opportunity? Or, is there a specific charity or cause that you would like to support? Would you like to be involved in the grantmaking?

Step Two

Tell us what you would like to name your fund. This will be your legacy: One hundred years from now, your fund will still be making grants. Or, you may set up the fund anonymously if you prefer.

Step Three

Contact the office by calling (203) 751-9162 or visit us at 253-A Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT, and we will prepare the fund agreement that fits your philanthropic goals. All donations to the Valley Community Foundation are tax-deductible.



253-A Elizabeth Street | Derby, CT 06418 | (203) 751-9162

www.valleyfoundation.org