

2006 ANNUAL REPORT
 ANSONIA
 DERBY
 OXFORD
 SEYMOUR
 SHELTON
 VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**PERMANENCE**

When you create an endowed charitable Fund, you benefit the community forever. Your gift helps to do good work today and in the future.

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

Help build a stronger community now, and for the future. We inform, inspire and engage people to take a leadership role in improving the quality of life in our region.

**LOCAL EXPERTISE**

When you create a charitable Fund, you have the opportunity to permanently benefit your neighbors, friends and community organizations. Our perspectives and knowledge about issues and needs facing the region can ensure that your gift will have the impact you intend.

**PERSONALIZED SERVICE**

The Valley Community Foundation offers personalized service for your individual interests, tax-planning requirements and family dynamics. We will help you create a giving plan which meets your needs.

Dear Friends,

At the 2006 Thanksgiving Reception of the Derby Historical Society, the Dr. John I. Howe Award was presented to William C. Bassett and John A. Frey. Both Bill Bassett and John Frey talked about their families' histories in this community and the contributions of multiple generations through the William C. Bassett Company and HMP Industries, formerly Hershey Metals.

The presentations were preceded with remarks by Jeremiah Vartelas, whose support of the Derby Historical Society comes from his desire to preserve the Valley's history and remembering the immigrant story of his Greek parents, John and Paraskeve Vartelas. A few weeks earlier, Jamie Cohen upon receiving the Gold Seal award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce said, "And while I am honored to enter this circle, I am most privileged to join because of a man about whom I can say, without fear of contradiction, that there was no more civic-minded Valley citizen than a man who received a Gold Seal 20 years ago tonight, my father, David Cohen. I thank my father for his lessons, and I honor his memory with this award."

The stories of the Bassett, Frey, Vartelas, and Cohen families provide a wonderful backdrop as we present the 2006 Annual Report of the Valley Community Foundation. It contains stories of Valley people who grow their legacy, not only through their own families, but in a larger "Valley family tree" through philanthropy. The Valley is rich with examples of men and women who have perpetuated their love of this region by building our libraries, providing homes for our poor, preserving our natural resources, educating our children, and caring for our older citizens.

We are proud of the progress of the Valley Community Foundation in its third year of operation. With 46 named Funds, close to \$6 million in assets, and a growing presence through community leadership and grants, we are encouraged by the trust that so many have placed in the Foundation to carry out their dreams for the Valley. As you review this report, we ask you to consider your family's story in this community and how you wish to leave your legacy. On behalf of the Foundation Board, we commit to grow philanthropy as a way to tell these stories and to make the Valley a better place to live and work for generations to come. We welcome your participation.

JAMES E. RYAN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

ANGELA G. POWERS
PRESIDENT

William Bassett Sr. was a very generous person and was trusted and respected by the people with whom he worked.

BASSETT FAMILY FUND ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2005

The Bassett family has a rich history in the Valley, especially in Derby. The family's beginnings trace back to John and Margery Bassett who immigrated to the United States from England in 1642. They landed in Boston as indentured servants, and after paying their debts, they moved to New Haven with their son Robert. Robert's son, Sgt. Robert Bassett bought part of the Hawley Purchase in Derby in 1716. One parcel at the foot of Great Hill on Silver Hill Road was known as the Bassett Farm and three more pieces were on Great Hill. The farm passed down the male side of the Bassett Family for generations, and was sold in 1926 when William Bassett Sr. and his five siblings moved off the farm.

Bill Bassett was very mechanical as a boy. When he was older, he was always putting some kind of car together from scavenged parts. His skills led him to start the W.E. Bassett Company in 1939 at the age of 25. The company started as a general machine shop and during the war it made munitions parts. After the war when steel was again available, the Bassett Company began to make rubber heel washers, bag clips, and various other metal parts.

In 1947 Bill Bassett designed the "TRIM" nail clipper and started making them in his factory on Francis Street in Derby. It was the first clipper made using modern manufacturing methods.

It took the market by storm and in 1952 a new plant was built on Roosevelt Drive in Derby. Bill continued to add products: nail files, tweezers, toenail clippers, and a multi-bladed knife. The Derby plant was expanded five times to accommodate the growth and, in 1978, a second factory was built in Shelton. That factory was expanded to double its size in 1987, and in 1988 the company office moved to Shelton.

Bill Bassett was a very generous person and was trusted and respected by the people with whom he worked. He was fair, hard working and understanding of the needs of others. He was involved with the Boy Scouts and gave generously to them, both his time and financial resources. Unfortunately, Bill became ill in 1955 and was never able to return to work full time. His older brother, Harry who was working for him as head of manufacturing, stepped in and ran the company very successfully as president until 1976 when he became Chairman of the Board.

Like his brother, Harry was also very generous and believed as Bill did, that it was the good Valley people that helped the company become a success. Harry was involved in many civic organizations, including the Valley Chamber, Griffin Hospital, Boy Scouts, and Junior Achievement. He established the very first Valley Foundation with the Valley Chamber of Commerce as fiduciary agent. Even though the initial Foundation did not work out as he would have liked, Harry felt that it was essential to find long-term ways to support the non-profits throughout the Valley.

Both Bill and Harry set a tone for the company of giving back to the community. That philosophy continues today. Now, more than 26 years later, Mr. Bassett's son and current Chairman of the Board of The W.E. Bassett Company, William C. Bassett, along with his wife Judy, and their children, Lynne, Betsy and Bill are carrying on the Bassett tradition of giving by starting the Bassett Family Fund at the Valley Community Foundation.

"Judy and I along with our children wanted to continue the legacy of giving that my father and uncle established here in the Valley. The proceeds from this Fund are to be used for community services in the five valley towns," said William C. Bassett. His daughter Lynne Bassett Perry agreed saying, "Working with our parents and the Valley Community Foundation, we hope to support many worthwhile Valley organizations now and in the future. Our hope is that this Fund will help make the Valley a better place to live and work for generations to come." ❖



The William C. Bassett Family

As mayor, Ed took an interest in every detail of the lives of citizens in the community.

EDWARD CECARELLI BOOK FUND ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2005

AS A LIFE LONG CITIZEN OF DERBY, CIVIC LEADER AND FORMER MAYOR, ED CECARELLI DISCOVERED AT A YOUNG AGE THE ADVENTURES OF BOOKS AND THE TREASURES THAT ABOUNDED AT THE DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY. ED SPENT MANY AN AFTERNOON THERE, STUDYING HIS LATIN, HISTORY OR ENGLISH HOMEWORK.

An avid reader, he would spend hours sitting at the window seat reading one of the classics. One of his favorite books was *Moby Dick*, read and re-read many times.

As mayor, Ed took an interest in every detail of the lives of citizens in the community. He cared deeply for his city and his old world approach to government was unique and heart warming. Ed's rich knowledge of the history of Derby was truly a testament of his love for the city. His devotion to his community and his passion for books inspired his family to establish the Edward J. Cecarelli Book Fund as a lasting tribute to him. Both Library patrons, Ed and his wife Marie, a former Library Board member active in the Library's renovation and 100th anniversary, shared a love for the library.

A very special family gift to Ed was a new *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary* along with its own bookstand. "The dictionary stood nearby his desk and was referenced many times not only by my father, but by our entire family," said son Joseph. "The dictionary served as an important tool to settle some of the disputes over the spelling or use of a word. It was not uncommon for my father to recall a word from Latin, and use the dictionary to uncover the word's derivation."

When asked to recall a special memory about their father, Joseph and his sisters MaryAnn and Melanie all agreed that it had to be how he instilled in them a sense of love, integrity, humility, and respect—and his passion for books. "My father's idea of a great vacation was to be locked in the library with an endless supply of coffee," said Melanie.

All three children can still recall many of their father's favorite quotes. Says MaryAnn, "Of all the quotations, his favorite by far is the following from William Shakespeare: 'This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.'" The quotation holds a special meaning to the Cecarelli Family. It brings to mind the legacy that Ed left behind to his children and grandchildren. A legacy that will continue to honor Ed through the Valley Community Foundation's designated endowment of supporting the purchase of books for the Derby Public Library, now and in years to come. ❖



Edward J. Cecarelli and his wife Marie Cecarelli

*“While football was among his priorities,
education was always first...”*

LOU AND DOLLY DEFILIPPO FUND ESTABLISHED AUGUST 2006

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE,
IF YOU ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH,
SOMEONE COMES INTO YOUR LIFE
WHO TRULY POINTS YOU ON A PATH
TOWARD SUCCESS—SOMEONE WHO GETS
YOU TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOUR
ABILITY TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.

For hundreds of young football players at Derby High School from 1968–1982, that special someone was Coach Lou DeFilippo. If you were one of those lucky to either play for Lou or to be associated with him in any way, you knew from the beginning he was the architect of great character and principle. “As players, the very first time we met Coach DeFilippo we knew it was going to be the start of something special,” said John Saccu, who played football for Derby High School from 1966–1969. “Lou called us ‘his boys’ that first day, and even as grown men he would still refer to us as ‘his boys’ when we would get together to reminisce about the good old days. Lou loved it when we would come to visit. You could see his eyes light up with anticipation, wanting to know how we were doing.”

In order to honor the legacy of legendary coach Lou DeFilippo and his lovely wife Dolly, a group called “Team DeFilippo” comprised of players, coaches, and friends of the DeFilippo family has established a scholarship in their name. The Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Scholarship Fund has become a component Fund of the Valley Community Foundation, providing two scholarships to a deserving male and female in the senior class at Derby High School each year.

When plans for the scholarship became known, former players from as far away as Florida offered their support. “The response has been truly amazing. This is long overdue,” said Frank Romano, a former player and the owner of Frankie’s Grill in Derby. “While football was among his priorities, education was always first,” said former assistant coach Charlie Di Censo. “It makes this scholarship that much more meaningful to us because we know it’s something he would’ve wanted us to do, and would’ve been proud of.”

“It didn’t take us long to realize that Lou had a partner in his plan, an assistant coach twenty-four hours-a-day, who believed in him and accepted us into her life as if we were her own sons. The respect people everywhere had for him and for Dolly is immense,” said Mr. Saccu. “We will always be Lou’s boys—and now his family has grown even larger through the creation of the Team DeFilippo Scholarship family. Both Lou and Dolly taught us, through example, that to live extraordinarily is more than just putting effort in when you have to, rather it is an entire way of life.” ❧



“His commitment, work-ethic, and sense of humor were evident at the time, as was the certainty of his future success.”

THE HONORABLE JOSEPH P. FLYNN & FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2005

In March 2005, the City of Ansonia’s Historical Commission approved the commissioning of a portrait to honor native son, Honorable Joseph P. Flynn, in recognition of his outstanding service to his community, bar, and bench. Judge Flynn has had a varied career in the legal profession and in public service. He was an attorney in practice with Joseph P. Buckley and the Honorable JoAnn Kiely Kulawicz and later with James E. Sheehy and Timothy P. Dillon.

Judge Flynn was born in Derby, son of the late Charles H. and Eileen Hennessy Flynn. He is a lifelong resident of Ansonia, where he resides with his wife, Marilyn Cronan Flynn and son Charles H. Flynn, II. He graduated from Assumption Grammar School in Ansonia and Notre Dame High School in West Haven. After earning degrees in Fairfield and Georgetown, he was admitted to practice before the Connecticut State and Federal Courts in 1965 and in 1966 before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. While a student at Georgetown, he was a staff member for United States Senator Thomas J. Dodd in Washington and Hartford. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and the U.S. Naval Reserve, Judge Advocate General’s Corps, to the rank of Lt. Commander, and was honorably discharged from both.

From 1967 until 1971, Judge Flynn served as Corporation Counsel for the Town of Seymour. As a staff attorney for the Connecticut Legislative Council of the Connecticut General Assembly, he authored legislation, which first regulated use of Connecticut’s coastal wetlands. As counsel to the Senate Minority Lease, he was trial and appellate counsel for the plaintiffs in *Caldwell v. Meskill*, 164 Conn. 300 (1973), which overturned a gubernatorial veto. Judge Flynn served as a State Senator from the 17th District from 1975–1979.

In July 1985, he was appointed by Governor William A. O’Neill as a Judge of the Superior Court. From 1999 to 2001, he served as Deputy Chief Court Administrator. Thereafter, in 2001 he was appointed a Judge of the Appellate court and was subsequently appointed Chief Judge of the Appellate Court in 2006. He is a member and past president of the Connecticut Judge’s Association, a member and past president of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Bar Association and a member of the Connecticut Bar Association.

While the Ansonia Historical Commission sponsored this project, the portrait was paid for through private funding through the Friends of the Ansonia Historical Commission. Friends, colleagues, and associates were asked to contribute to this cause, and excess contributions made would fund a small endowment for scholarship at his Ansonia alma mater, the Assumption School. The portrait was unveiled and hung on Thursday, October 6, 2005 in the city of Ansonia’s alderman’s chambers.

At the ceremony the Friends of the Ansonia Historical Commission announced that not only was funding sufficient to pay for the portrait and ceremony but also generated \$6,328.81 to endow a scholarship Fund. The Valley Community Foundation was chosen to administer the Fund which is known as the “Hon. Joseph P. Flynn and Family Scholarship Fund.” It is an endowed designated Fund to provide one or more awards of at least \$500.00 to an Ansonia resident who is a graduate of Assumption School.

Although unable to attend, Christopher Dodd, United States Senator from Connecticut, expressed his sentiments by letter stating that “Judge Flynn worked in my father’s U.S. Senate Office in Washington. His commitment, work-ethic, and sense of humor were evident at the time, as was the certainty of his future success.” Carol Starkey, a member of the Friends of the Ansonia Historical Commission, says, “I believe that this Fund will assist students, who, like Judge Flynn, are committed to the community and higher education.” ❖



Portrait of Honorable Joseph P. Flynn

*The Geissler family has always valued
the importance of education...*

GEISSLER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2005

THE GEISSLER FAMILY
HAS ALWAYS VALUED THE IMPORTANCE
OF EDUCATION—WIFE AND MOTHER
MARGARET GEISSLER TAUGHT BUSINESS,
ACCOUNTING, AND SHORTHAND, AND DESPITE
HAVING A LEARNING DISABILITY, HAROLD
AND MARGARET'S SON ROBERT OBTAINED
A DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING FROM THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRIDGEPORT.

In 1995 the family established a scholarship Fund at Shelton High School, where it was kept in a regular savings account through a local bank. It seemed like a perfectly natural thing for them to do—after all, the entire family graduated from SHS. Once the Valley Community Foundation was established however, Harold Geissler decided to transfer the funds into an endowment scholarship for graduating students of Shelton High School.

“Our dad was a chief auditor for the IRS,” said Jim Geissler. “After our mom died in 2000 we really wanted to do something more with the Fund. Our dad decided that moving it from the bank to the foundation was the best way to manage the money. He was actively involved in the selection process of the recipients up until his passing in August, and was delighted to receive a “thank-you” from our first scholarship winner.”

Originally established as a scholarship for accounting or business students, the family has decided to broaden the criteria to include a “senior student enrolled in an accredited college, who has shown progressive effort and is not receiving any other substantial award.” Recipients will be selected by the Administration and Guidance Departments of Shelton High School.

This year's scholarship recipient was Anthony DeMarco, a senior from Shelton High School. Anthony was a member of the Italian Club, his church youth group, and a volunteer for his church. He has received \$1,000 through this Fund, and is currently attending Southern Connecticut State University. ❧



Harold and Margaret Geissler

“I just wanted to do this to carry on what she had already been doing throughout her life.”

PATRICIA KONDRATH SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2005



PATRICIA KONDRATH THOUGHT EDUCATION WAS IMPORTANT, SO MUCH SO THAT SHE INSTILLED HER STRONG DESIRE FOR LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE DEEP WITHIN HER FAMILY. HER HUSBAND PAUL DECIDED TO HONOR HER MEMORY BY ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWED FUND TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS ATTENDING THE ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY, LAURALTON HALL, IN MILFORD, CONNECTICUT.

“Our attorney, Alan Tyma, suggested utilizing the Valley Community Foundation as a flexible way to simplify the process of the donations we receive.”

“My wife attended school at Lauralton, felt that she had received an excellent education, and always supported them,” said Mr. Kondrath. “She probably wouldn’t have liked all this attention—she liked to do things in a very low-key way,” he said. “I just wanted to do this to carry on what she had already been doing throughout her life.”

The Fund gives preference to students who are freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, and participate in sports including Trish’s favorites: tennis, swimming or softball and music programs. Candidate suggestions are made to the Board of the Foundation by the Administration and Guidance Departments of Lauralton Hall.

“My wife grew up in Derby and Shelton, we then married, and moved to Stratford,” said Mr. Kondrath. “Our 2 sons grew up here and went to colleges in New England. Matthew married Kelly in 2002 and lives in Florida with our 2 grandchildren, Amanda and Benjamin. Chris lives in Oregon with his 2 bassett hounds, Newman & Buford. This is our way of continuing her tradition of helping those in need, as well as remembering her connection to the Valley.” ❧

2006 ANNUAL REPORT
QUICK FACT #4

Nearly 98% of individuals with incomes of \$200,000 or assets more than \$1 million (High Net Worth, HNW) give and they are responsible for 2/3 of all giving according to the 2006 Bank of America study.

Patricia Kondrath and her granddaughter Amanda

*Our mother valued the highest standards of honesty,
hard work, and determination.*

ANN O'NEIL MEMORIAL FOR INTEGRITY FUND ESTABLISHED JULY 2003

ANN O'NEIL ALWAYS PLACED A HIGH VALUE ON INTEGRITY. SHE RAISED HER FIVE CHILDREN TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF HONESTY, HARD WORK, & DETERMINATION. MRS. O'NEIL HERSELF WAS ONE OF THIRTEEN CHILDREN, WHO LEFT SCHOOL IN NINTH GRADE TO HELP SUPPORT HER FAMILY.

A very bright and well read woman, Mrs. O'Neil always valued the importance of education and saw to it that her own children graduated high school and have each become lifelong learners. When Mrs. O'Neil passed away several years ago, her family chose to honor her memory by establishing the 'Ann O'Neil Memorial for Integrity' award. "We wanted to remember our mother in a very special way," said daughter Barbara Clifford. "We felt it was essential for us to recognize a student for his/her best efforts—not necessarily for being at the top of the class. We also wanted to acknowledge someone who was respected by his/her peers as well as faculty. These are the kinds of people our mother valued, and we wanted to focus on qualities that were important to her."

The Fund was originally housed at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, but has now been transferred to the Valley Community Foundation. "It just made sense to us to have the money closer to home," said Mrs. Clifford. "We contacted the Foundation once we knew the Valley Community Foundation had been formed, and they were extremely helpful in bringing this money back into the Valley to help us achieve our goals."

The Award is given to an Ansonia High School graduating senior who exhibits high integrity in his/her personal life, and is pursuing further education and/or training, or entering military service. The 2006 Ann O'Neil Memorial for Integrity award recipient is Brendon Dempsey from Ansonia High School. Brendon was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and a CAPT scholar. He is currently attending Quinnipiac University in Hamden. ❧



Ann O'Neil

*“We wanted to make sure that no matter what,
the best interests of the families we represent are met...”*

OAK CLIFF CEMETERY ASSOCIATION FUND ESTABLISHED MAY 2006



The Oak Cliff Cemetery Association oversees three properties, including the Elm Street Cemetery in Ansonia and the Olde Uptown Burying Ground in Derby, one of the earliest town cemeteries in the country. The sites all have major historic significance to the Valley. The Oak Cliff Cemetery was established when the Borough of Birmingham section of Derby was laid out around 1835 and came into general use around 1846. The Olde Uptown Burying Ground was set aside by the Town of Derby as a town cemetery shortly after Derby became a separate town in 1675. The Elm Street Cemetery surrounded the first Anglican Episcopal Church in Derby, which was founded in 1737.

Edward Wooster, the first permanent settler in Derby, and several members of the Wooster family are buried in the Olde Uptown Burying Ground. Their stories, as well as those of so many other founding families of Derby will be preserved and shared with future generations through the maintenance of these historic sites.

The Association's Board of Directors wanted to have a strong local partner to help them ensure the cemeteries are taken care of now and forever, and transferred their endowment of \$3 million to the Valley Community Foundation. "The Oak Cliff Cemetery Association has a tremendous responsibility to carefully oversee the funds from families of departed relatives buried in our cemeteries in order to provide perpetual care and upkeep of our buildings and grounds," said Association Director Merritt Clark.

"The Oak Cliff Cemetery Board felt that the Valley Community Foundation offered an ideal location for our invested funds because of their tremendous commitment to the Valley area, which is served by the Cemetery Association," continued Mr. Clark. "The VCF's association with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, with its long standing record of investment performance and administrative service provides us with a unique opportunity to have our funds managed locally by an organization we can truly depend on."

The Association's funds will be used for general maintenance and grounds keeping, as well as headstone repairs as needed at the three locations. "We wanted to make sure that no matter what, the best interests of the families we represent are met," said Mr. Clark. "The Valley Community Foundation provides us with the ability to carefully administer our funds, and to follow through with both our short and long term goals." ❧

“Community foundations are flexible vehicles for donors and their families to leave lasting legacies...”

DOROTHY E. AND KENNETH E. SCHAIBLE FUND ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2005

KEN AND DOTTY SCHAIBLE KNOW FIRST HAND THE VALUE OF A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. AFTER SERVING FOR MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GREATER NEW HAVEN, KEN WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS AND IS NOW ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

“I’ve developed a deep appreciation for the dramatic effect a community foundation can have on the communities it serves,” said Mr. Schaible. “Community foundations are flexible vehicles for donors and their families to leave lasting legacies to their communities for current needs and opportunities and for those unforeseen in the future.”

“These foundations provide increased funding opportunities for working non-profits and scholarship programs, helping donors identify needs and dedicate Funds to support their own philanthropic interests. The Valley has a rich tradition of philanthropy—the Frank and Ross Gates Fund at The Community Foundation, the Katherine Matthies Foundation, and the legacy of Katherine Osborne Kellogg. The Valley is fortunate to have access to these resources. Creating a Fund at the Valley Community Foundation is all about building on that tradition and growing that pie—to help ensure the future of the valley for generations to come.”

Ken and Dotty have established three Funds. The Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Community Fund was created as a flexible Fund that will address the most important needs and opportunities now and in the future. Through the Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Donor Advised Fund, Ken and Dotty will make recommendations to the Foundation Board about grants to a variety of worthy organizations. The Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Fund for the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Community was established as a part of the Foundation’s Endowment Challenge Program. Grants from the Fund will be made to the Boys & Girls Club, an organization that the Schaibles hold dear.

“When you establish a Fund, you’re not giving to the foundation, but giving through it, back to the community,” said Mr. Schaible. “There are so many choices for giving—there is something for everyone. Your name doesn’t have to be “Rockefeller” or “Ford”—everyone can participate in making the Valley an even stronger and better place to live. It’s all about creating a lasting legacy that will truly make a difference throughout the coming years.” ❧



Grandchildren of Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible

“Our mother was always positive and encouraging. She truly found the good in everyone...”

MARY VARTELAS STAMOS FUND ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 2006

Mary Vartelas Stamos was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, whose entire life reflected a concern and love for her family, friends, faith, and community.

The daughter of Greek immigrants, John & Paraskeve Vartelas, she and her 8 brothers and sisters were born and raised in Ansonia, where Mary lived for more than 50 years of her life. “Mary was always helping others,” said husband Peter Stamos. “Throughout her life she instilled in me, our children, and grandchildren the importance of charity and offering assistance to those who need it most. She was the first person to welcome new families into our church, inviting them for coffee at our home. If someone became ill, she consoled them by writing get well notes.

Mary was also known for her exquisite penmanship. All of the family would tap into her style and penmanship whenever there were any invitations to any family events. She never wrote a simple get well card or Christmas card—each contained personal messages that really ended up being mini letters.”

“Our mother was always positive and encouraging. She truly found the good in everyone,” said daughter Paris Stamos Heath. “She was always giving to others—she had a tremendous faith in people, and she truly loved helping them as much as she possibly could. She set an amazing example for us all to follow in our own lives.”

“Mary faithfully observed every important holiday and custom at our house,” said Mr. Stamos. “It wasn’t unusual to have more than 30–40 people there for every special occasion, right up until the time of her death. She was a very unique and wonderful woman—the true matriarch of the extended Vartelas–Stamos family.”

Mary Vartelas Stamos served as the bridge between the immigrant experience and her own assimilation into every day life. “My YiaYia was my best friend,” said Mary’s granddaughter Alexis Stamos. “She’d tell me stories about our family and offered great advice to me when I needed it the most. She was friendly to everyone, and always saw the good in them. She was truly the heart of our family who wrote the most beautiful letters after editing them first through several rough drafts. To this day, I learned how to write and re-write from watching her all those years. She truly is our angel, and is so special to all of us.”

“The Mary Vartelas Stamos Fund is an endowed Fund that we established to perpetuate our mother’s legacy of charity, concern for, and kindness towards others,” said son Greg Stamos, a Director of the Valley Community Foundation. “We wanted to keep her memory alive by funding projects that served her beloved birthplace of Ansonia, the Valley YMCA, the Birmingham Group, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley. It’s our way of continuing the great work she had done all throughout her life.”

“We established a scholarship in Mary’s name at our church,” said Peter Stamos. “But we received so much wonderful support from Mary’s friends from the Valley we felt that it was very fitting to remember her by starting this Fund with the Valley Community Foundation. It truly is the best way we have to honor her and her lifetime of giving to others.” ❖



Mary Vartelas Stamos and her husband Peter Stamos

“What better way to celebrate her birthday than to make this dream become a reality for her?”

TORBI FAMILY FUND ESTABLISHED JUNE 2006

DOROTHY SALDAMARCO
ALWAYS WANTED TO PAY SPECIAL
TRIBUTE TO HER FATHER, LORENZO
TORBI, AN ORPHAN RAISED BY FOSTER
PARENTS, AND WHO IMMIGRATED FROM
ITALY TO DERBY, CT AT THE AGE OF 17.

Mrs. Saldamarco's husband Frank knew about his wife's wish to insure the family name and legacy, and as a birthday present for his wife, surprised her with the gift of establishing the Torbi Family Fund. The Torbis' are life-long neighbors of the Pepe family, and knew about the Valley Community Foundation from Board Director Mary Pepe. "The Foundation was the perfect place for us to establish this Fund, which now preserves her family's name since she is the last of the family line," said Mr. Saldamarco. "What better way to celebrate her birthday than to make this dream become a reality for her?"

Lifelong Derby residents, Mr. and Mrs. Saldamarco chose to use the Fund to support general charitable needs in the Valley, with a preference for Derby. "Our son has been a volunteer with the Storm Engine Ambulance Corp for nearly 30 years," she said. "We are members of St. Mary's Church and everybody in our family graduated from Derby High School. We wanted to acknowledge the importance of these organizations to us and also wanted the Fund to be flexible to support many worthwhile organizations in the Valley to help them continue their great work."

Perhaps the note announcing the Fund says it best: "Happy Birthday Dorothy Torbi Saldamarco. In honor of your birthday, a Fund in the Torbi family name has been established at the Valley Community Foundation. This Fund will not only commemorate your family, but continue to enrich the Valley communities for generations to come." ❖



2006 ANNUAL REPORT
QUICK FACT #5

By the year 2055 some \$41 trillion will change hands as Americans pass their accumulated assets from one generation to the next, predicts the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy.

Alda, Evelyn and Dorothy Torbi-Saldamarco

The Fund serves as a means for memorializing, commemorating or honoring...

VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION FUND ESTABLISHED APRIL 2004



THE VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION, A VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PRACTICING ATTORNEYS, HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR OVER 75 YEARS, WITH MANY MEMBERS SPANNING TWO AND IN SOME CASES THREE GENERATIONS.

The Androski Family, for example, has been represented by father John; children: Jack, Ed and Mary; with granddaughter Caroline continuing a three-generation tradition. Two-generation members presently practicing together include John and Tom Welch, Dominick and Greg Thomas, Tom and Kevin Condon, and the Skuret Family: Daniel D. and sons Daniel III and Patrick.

Further, a number of current Bar Association members have had the privilege of working with their late fathers, including: John Bennett and his father William, Jamie Cohen and his father David, Laura Donahue and her father Edward, and Jeffrey Tuccio and his father Bill.

These families and members (as well as John Sponheimer, whose grandfather was John J. O'Connell) have continued a tradition of service to their respective clients, and, through their ties together as attorneys, have supported many various charitable endeavors in the Valley throughout the years.

However, it was the untimely 2005 death of Ansonia lawyer and Bar Association member Bill Tuccio, which served as the impetus for the creation of the Valley Bar Association Memorial and Commemorative Fund through the Valley Community Foundation.

The Fund serves as a means for memorializing, commemorating or honoring members of the Valley Bar Association, other members of the legal profession, and such other persons and/or events as may be determined by any donor to the Fund. An Advisory Committee, appointed by the VBA, serves as the Advisors of the Fund.

The Fund will be used for scholarships to Valley High School students, or other charitable purposes as determined by the Advisory Committee.

It has been supplemented by the generous gift of a challenge grant by Selma Yudkin in memory of her husband, Harold B. Yudkin, who passed away in 2004, after being an attorney and Bar Association member from 1937. Additional monies have been given to commemorate deceased family members, and to honor significant events in the lives of other Association members. ❖

William P. Tuccio and his son Jeffrey W. Tuccio

The saxophone-playing high school student, who became a Veteran of Foreign War...

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR POST 597 FUND ESTABLISHED JULY 2006

From 1937–1941 a young student stood tall with saxophone in hand next to his fellow Derby High School band members in a brand new uniform provided by an unknown Valley benefactor. He never forgot the pride he felt when he put the uniform on for the first time, or when wearing it during performances at football games or in Memorial Day parades. A few years later that same young man was off to honorably serve his country during World War II, and the saxophone was stored away for safe keeping.

Now, more than 60 years later, Veteran of Foreign Wars Senior Vice-Commander of Ansonia Post 597, Peter Pagliaro of Derby, has joined with brother-in-law John Boland of Ansonia, former Ansonia School Board Chair and Adjutant of Post 597, and its 100 members to establish a designated Fund for the Ansonia High School Band to be administered by the Valley Community Foundation. The saxophone-playing high school student, who became a Veteran of Foreign War wanted to “keep a little bit of music playing in the Valley.”

“Most of our members either live in or are from Ansonia originally,” said Mr. Pagliaro. “The Fund was created with proceeds from the sale earlier this year of a home owned by Post 597. The decision to support the Ansonia High School Band was unanimous. Our members kept asking each other ‘What has happened to music in the Valley towns? What can we do to bring it back?’ This was one way we could offer on-going support to a worthwhile cause.”

“We are truly grateful to VFW Post 597 for its generosity,” said Maria Tangredi, Director of Ansonia High School’s Music department. According to Tangredi, approximately 25 students are enrolled annually in the band program. The band represents the school and the community at events such as the Memorial Day parade, the holiday tree lighting ceremony at Ansonia Town Hall, all home and away football games as well as middle school events. These Funds will help us keep playing for years to come.”

“No one ever thinks about the band—they’re not like athletic programs where people are always giving money. They are truly a forgotten group as far as donations are concerned,” said Mr. Pagliaro. “I’ll always remember how great it was for someone to give money so we could get new uniforms when I was in the band. Grants from our Fund will be used to defray the costs of uniforms, maintain equipment, and rent instruments.”

The saxophone still resides safely in the closet of his Derby home. But thanks to Peter Pagliaro, as well as John Bolund, and the Ansonia Veterans of Post 597, shiny new instruments and uniforms will be a staple for the Ansonia High School Band. ❧



Peter Pagliaro



No matter what the weather, Mr. Warichar was there, knocking on the door...

JOSEPH AND PAULINE WARICHAR MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED MARCH 2006

MORE THAN 70 YEARS AGO, JOSEPH WARICHAR BUILT HIS FAMILY HOME ON SENTINEL HILL IN DERBY, CONNECTICUT, AN AREA FILLED WITH LARGE FARMS AND FIELDS. HE HAD A CUSTOM MADE TRUCK, COMPLETE WITH SLANTED BINS AND COMPARTMENT DOORS, AND WOULD TRAVEL HIS DAILY ROUTES BRINGING FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES, AND OTHER GOODS TO HIS CUSTOMERS.

No matter the weather, Mr. Warichar was there, knocking on the door, carrying the order into the kitchen, and then was back in the truck for the next delivery. As the years passed, he included frozen foods on his list by adding a refrigerator to the back of the truck. At the end of the day, he'd simply charge the refrigerator through the night, so it would be cold and ready for the next day.

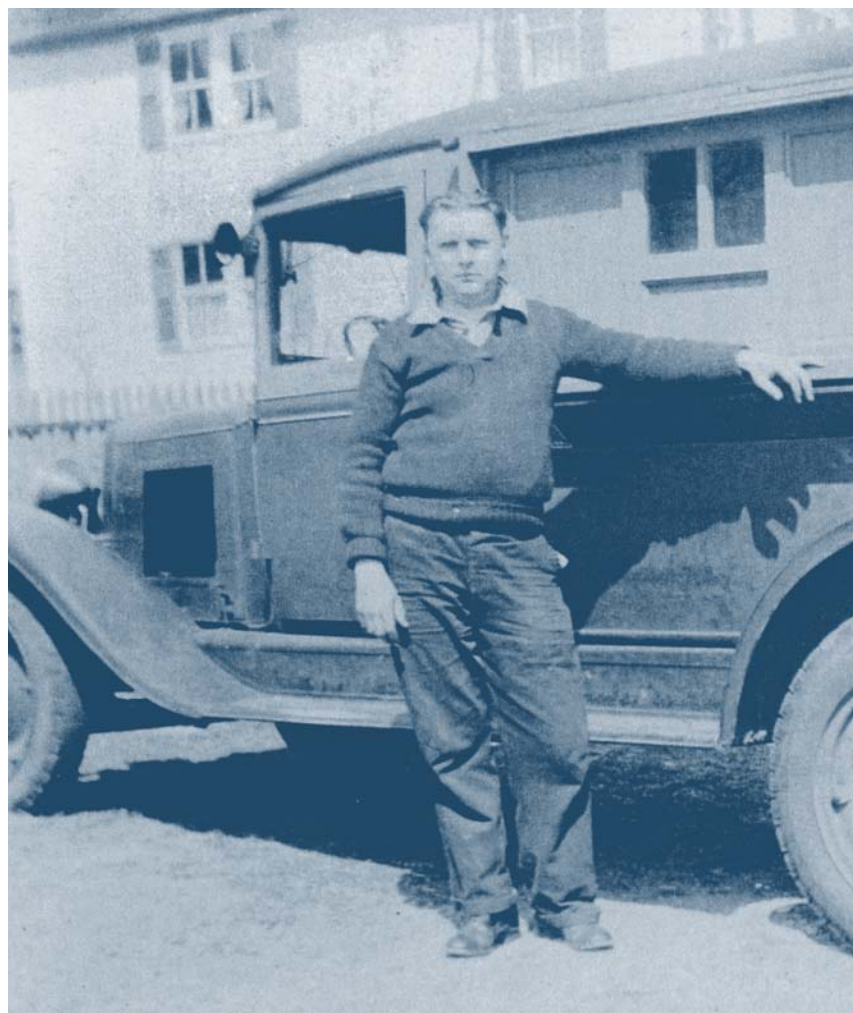
Joseph Warichar died in 1952 at the age of 49, leaving his wife Pauline, and four children ages 3 to 17 with no father, and no family income. "My brother Joseph, who joins me as a donor for this Fund, was a freshman at UConn studying to be a pharmacist at the time of my father's death," said Donald Warichar, co-donor of the Joseph and Pauline Warichar Memorial Fund. "He had to leave school and work to support the family. He never became a pharmacist, but instead spent 43 years as a tool maker in Bridgeport until his retirement. Our parents always wanted all of us to go on to college, and this Fund is in part a tribute to them and how much they valued higher education."

"Back in the early 90's, we promised our mother that we'd start a scholarship Fund," said Joseph Warichar Jr. "We always intended to do something like this, and now we have the time and opportunity to work with the Valley Community Foundation to make this happen." His brother agreed.

"We grew up in Derby, went to school there, lived there, and feel we owe something to the community. This will start the process. A part of our estates will also be used to grow the Fund as well."

The endowed Fund will provide annual scholarships to a graduating student of Derby High School, to pursue his/her education at an accredited College or University, and who is planning to study in the fields of nursing, pharmacology, or agriculture. With the help of their attorney, the brothers have also included provisions in their wills to add to the Fund. Upon the addition of these gifts from their estates, annual grants from the Fund will be used to establish additional scholarships and provide grants to other charitable organizations.

"Our mother sacrificed tremendously for all of us to get where we are today," said Donald Warichar. This Fund allows us to honor both of our parents for building a tradition of reading and learning in our family. We love to encourage others to learn, and this Fund will allow us to do just that." ❧



*He loved his family, his friends and co-workers,
and his chosen profession of law...*

HAROLD B. YUDKIN FUND ESTABLISHED APRIL 2006



Harold Yudkin was a truly unique and energetic man who was actively involved throughout his entire life in his beloved community of Derby. He loved his family, his friends and co-workers, and his chosen profession of law which he successfully practiced with distinction for more than 60 years. Harold chose capable and determined associates, including the late Appellate Court Justice JoAnne Kiley Kulawiz, and Superior Court Judge Barbara Coppeto, who along with his brother George, became his partner in the firm known as Yudkin, Yudkin, and Coppeto. Though his law practice kept him in the spotlight for a number of years, Harold was also an active real estate developer. When returning veterans came home from World War II, Harold's foresight and ingenuity transformed hundreds of acres of land (forever known as the Yudkin development) into affordable housing for them, and helped to make him a wealthy man. A portion of this wealth is now entrusted into several Funds at the Valley Community Foundation.

"Harold was a proud and loyal member of his community," said his wife Selma Yudkin. "He was generous with both his time and his money, giving to both local and national charities. We were also fortunate to travel extensively throughout the world. No matter where we went, Harold always said that he was glad to be home because there was no place in the world quite like Derby." Mr. Yudkin was an avid historian, and spent many hours as a young man reading and researching local and national history in the Derby Public Library which was just a few steps away from his Seymour Avenue boyhood home.

Upon Harold's passing in 2004, Selma established the Harold B. Yudkin Fund at the Valley Community Foundation, to ensure that his tradition of generosity and dedication to his community would continue for years to come, and made a significant contribution to the Derby Public Library to support the Library's new Historic Preservation Fund. The Library's Board of Directors has since changed the name to the Harold B. Yudkin Historic Preservation Fund indicating they wanted to "honor Harold's love of history and the people of Derby. Many historic treasures will now be displayed for all to enjoy as a result of this generous donation."

Additional gifts have been made to another VCF Fund established by the Valley Bar Association, of which Harold was a member for over 50 years, and to the Harold B. Yudkin Fund at the Valley Community Foundation. "There was no one else like Harold," said Mrs. Yudkin. "He was a wonderful and giving man who valued his family, friends, and clients alike. I know he'd be pleased to be helping his treasured Derby and so many other worthwhile causes that he had supported all through his life." ❧

Harold B. Yudkin



MICHAEL J. ADANTI COMMUNITY FUND

ESTABLISHED OCTOBER 2005

When his grandson J.J.'s kindergarten teacher needed male volunteers, Poppy—Michael Adanti—was there. Tie flipped back over his shoulder, an apron tied about his waist, the retired Southern Connecticut State University president was ready to go shoulder to shoulder with his little charges on whatever was the craft du jour.

“He always gave his time, and his heart and soul to everything he did,” says Linda, his wife of 40 years who, along with their daughter Kristen, established the Michael J. Adanti Memorial Community Fund to honor the man she’d known since childhood. “He was very much involved in the community and we wanted to keep his work going.”

Judging by the flood of correspondence Linda received following Michael’s tragic death in July 2005, his work was considerable. There were the boards on which he served, including Griffin Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital and the New Haven Symphony; the many organizations to which he donated quietly that acknowledged to her his kindness; and the friends, family and youth he aided either monetarily or by helping them make connections to move forward in their lives.

“He never said ‘no,’” says Linda of the man who loved the Valley—where he began his successful career in education as a teacher at his alma mater, Ansonia High, and who served as that city’s mayor from 1973–1977. “If anyone called him for a favor or needed something, he always figured out a way to help them. I know he’d be happy to support the Valley Community Foundation in its cause to help the Valley.”

The Fund has been set up to make grants for general charitable purposes because “Michael’s whole life was about giving kids and others a break; a helping hand,” says Linda. ❧



COHEN FAMILY BOOK FUND

ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2004

What do you get a happily married couple for their 40th wedding anniversary when they say they want nothing? That was the position the family of Meyer and Jennie Cohen of Derby found themselves in back in 1951. Deciding to do something that would honor their parents and last into perpetuity, their daughter-in-law, Jane Cohen, set up the Cohen Family Book Fund, an endowment to support the Derby Public Library. It began with three \$40 donations to represent the 40 years of marriage. And every anniversary thereafter, the three Cohen children and their spouses donated to the Fund an amount equivalent to their parents’ anniversary year.

Over the years, many gifts in honor of births, anniversaries or individuals have been made to the book Fund by family and friends. Today there is more than \$30,000 in the Fund that is now managed by the Valley Community Foundation (VCF).

“My grandfather was a self-made, self-taught man who read a lot and appreciated the Library. He thought education was the most important thing in the world,” says VCF board member Jamie Cohen, speaking of his grandfather, who arrived in the United States from Vilnius, Lithuania at age 12 in 1898, with no formal education. “The Derby Public Library has been very important to our family over the years,” adds Jamie.

Meyer and Jennie Cohen’s late son, David, a local lawyer and judge whose office was located above his own father’s dress shop at 221 Main Street, was an avid reader and Library patron, and his wife, Jane, served as a member of the Library’s board of directors for 25 years. Jamie, himself a lawyer, who serves as vice president of the Library board, recalls visiting the Library two to three times a week in his youth. The Cohen family also underwrote the recent historic restoration of the Library’s original vestibule and lobby.

“Currently, the Fund disburses \$2,000 a year to the Library. It allows the Library to supplement its budget and purchase books it otherwise would not be able to afford,” says Jamie. Now that was something both Meyer and Jennie Cohen would have wanted. ❧



DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND

ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 2005

The death of their beloved eleven-year-old son Harcourt in 1897 spurred Colonel and Mrs. H. Holton Wood to donate in their son's memory, the land, the building and \$5,000 to establish the Derby Public Library in 1902.

Since then, many have joined the ranks of these early philanthropists. The Library's original endowment, started with gifts dating back to the 1940s, has grown to almost \$600,000, and in 2005 was turned over to the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) for financial management.

"We believed it was the best move for us: They're Valley people giving back to Valley people," says Dorothy Gleason, president of the Library board, explaining that earnings generated by endowment investment are designated for a variety of Library uses within stipulated guidelines.

Part of the endowment and earnings, for instance, was used in the 1990s to help build and furnish a 7,200-square-foot addition to complement the original Colonial Revival style building that is now listed on the National Historic Register. A future Fund stipulated for historic preservation is currently in development with the Library working hand in hand with the VCF through its "endowment challenge." If the Library can raise \$10,000 in donations, the Foundation will match it dollar for dollar.

"We're very excited about the challenge and the potential of this Fund," says Gleason, pointing out that monies generated by it could be used in a variety of ways to enable display of many of the Library's historical treasures that currently are packed away—treasures such as the original 1865 newspapers that announce the assassination of President Lincoln. "We want to preserve the past while providing for the future," she says. ❧



DAVID M. GRANT FAMILY FUND

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 2005

David J. Grant, 25, and his brother Michael, 22, have been raised to give back to community. Since they were kids they would do such things as accompany their parents to serve Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless before sitting down to their own family celebration.

Now, as young adults, they're beginning to volunteer on their own, and are getting encouragement from their father, David M. Grant, and their mother, Gail, who have established an endowment Fund with the Valley Community Foundation that they foresee their sons managing.

"I wanted to do this for my sons as a way to get them involved," says the elder Grant who began his own volunteering at an older age when Jack Ribas, who runs the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, asked him to become a board member. "I had my eyes opened," says the affable Grant who has run a successful catering business in the Valley since 1974. "Before I joined the boys and girls club in 1986, I really didn't do much with regard to charitable causes because I was so busy building my business. But when I did, I saw the need, and experienced the satisfaction of being involved. I thought that this Fund would not only be a way to give back to the community but would be something my sons could do together through the years."

The David M. Grant Family Fund was established in January 2005 with an initial \$2,500 contribution and a pledge of the same for the next three years to build it to a minimum of \$10,000. At that point, the Grants will meet once a year to determine how to best allocate the interest, giving first preference to youth, perhaps by funding camperships or programs in the arts, says Grant.

"I hope it brings my sons closer together," says Grant, who intends to grow the Fund over time. "And in 30, no, 50 years, when Mom and Dad are gone, they'll work at it knowing that it's something their father and mother wanted. And hopefully, it will grow with them; and them with it." ❧



TYLER, BRIAN & ZACHARY HAYWOOD FUND

ESTABLISHED APRIL 2005

Joseph Pagliaro Jr. has experienced the Lower Naugatuck Valley in all its beauty. And he's not just talking about the scenery.

"This is a very caring community," says Pagliaro, who lost his father in a tragic accident in 2004 and experienced an overwhelming outpouring of support. "People in the Valley come together in such a loving way when people are in need. They surround you and take care of you. Whenever someone is in crisis, you see that wall being built."

And so, Pagliaro began to add his piece to that wall in 2005 when he established with the Valley Community Foundation the Tyler, Brian, and Zachary Haywood Fund. Named for his young nephews, the Fund was a way for Pagliaro to honor his father Joseph A. Pagliaro Sr. and the grandchildren of his father now and to come.

"Everything in due time," says Pagliaro, speaking of the growing Fund that has been set up to aid women and children when it begins to produce enough interest.

"No one can do everything themselves. That's the beauty of the Valley. We're there for each other...And that's what this Fund is all about—helping other people in their time of need." ❧



MARY FUND

ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2004

Two of the “Marys” for which the Mary Fund was named were widowed at a young age and forced in the 1900s to raise their children alone on their teaching salaries.

“Where would they have been without their educations?” asks Liz Kennard, granddaughter of Mary L. Powers and Mary J. Kennard, who, unlike so many women of their time, were educated. “That was in the late 1800s—early 1900s when most women did not have the same opportunity,” says Liz, who established the endowed Mary Fund in 2004 to honor her grandmothers and her own mother, Mary P. Kennard, all teachers who understood and valued education.

“They promoted it personally and professionally,” says Liz, herself a Mary—Mary Elizabeth—who initially followed their lead into teaching before changing careers. “They were teachers to us (grandchildren) too, explaining things, reading and...setting standards.”

The Fund, managed by the Valley Community Foundation is set up to make grants for charitable purposes with a preference for helping women in the Valley or the greater New Haven area to pursue their educations.

“My mother and grandmothers always valued education as a way to grow, and this Fund will help others to do that,” says Liz, pointing out that each woman was able to meet the challenges of raising children and working full time. And each believed in the importance of always continuing to educate oneself. “Education is not necessarily a ticket to a job. It is an end in itself.” ❧



JOSEPH A. PAGLIARO, SR. FAMILY FUND

ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2004

He’d sit back. Learn. And then he’d step up to be chairman. That was Joseph A. Pagliaro Sr., the man people said was the embodiment of the spirit of community service. And the man who became the founding chairman of the Valley Community Foundation.

“He was never satisfied just being a member of anything,” chuckles his son Joseph who now runs the family business, Riverview Funeral Home in Shelton, and tries to keep up with his late father’s considerable volunteer and community service activities. “He wanted to see things go a certain way, so he’d become the president or the chairman; the ‘in-charge’ position.”

And from that vantage, he was able to accomplish an incredible amount in the Valley and beyond where he seemed to be everywhere, know everyone and volunteer in myriad arenas. For 28 years he supported the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley as a board member, former chairman and past president. He served on his hometown Shelton’s Planning and Zoning Commission for 20 years, both as member and chairman. He was the former chairman of the Valley United Way, the Bowlathon for the Birmingham Group, the American Heart Association Walkathon and board member of the Griffin Hospital, Valley United Way, Birmingham Group and Parent Child Resource Center. And the list goes on.

“He was a whirlwind; a man of action,” says his widow Ellen, of the man she married only a year before his tragic death in June 2004. “He was an incredible man, devoted to family and community, and constantly looking out for the betterment of other people.” ❧



PALAZZI FAMILY FUND

ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2004

When Ildebrando Palazzi arrived in the United States from Italy in 1911 at age 21, he came with only a few years of grammar school education. But Ildebrando, one of a large Italian family and the only one of his family to come to the United States, made his way in this foreign land. He worked hard as a stone mason and met and married Guerina Bassi who had come to America with her family in 1916. They settled in Derby and raised three daughters.

“My parents were very hardworking people,” says Dorothy Palazzi of her parents who learned English here by reading the newspapers and listening to the radio. “They encouraged reading and wanted so badly for us to do well. Education was very important to them.” Dorothy and her sisters always recalled the excitement and pride when her parents attained U.S. citizenship. “To them, America was truly the ‘Land of Opportunity,’” she says.

That in mind, in December 2004, Dorothy established the Palazzi Family Fund at \$10,000, an endowment Fund earmarked for education purposes. It honors her parents and two sisters, Derva and Norma, who have passed away.

“I think that if my parents were living, they would have been thrilled to see that I did something to honor the family name,” says Dorothy who is watching the Fund grow slowly but surely. Some day, big things will happen with it. Hopefully, we’ll end up with something great.”

The Palazzi Family Fund is a donor-advised Fund that will make grants for charitable purposes, with a preference for helping Valley students pursue their educations. Grants will be given to assist with tuition, books, tools and other supplies needed in furthering education for these students. ❧



PEPE FAMILY FUND

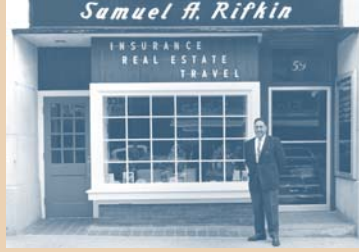
ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2004

Family, heritage and community have always been important to the Pepe family. Like many in the “greatest generation,” Anthony and Norma Palazzi Pepe were second generation Italian Americans. Born and raised in Derby, they were children of the Great Depression, graduates of Derby High School, a veteran and a young woman of World War II, and parents of baby boomers. As such, they instilled in their children, William and Mary, the value of education, the arts and the importance of doing for others. They did all this by their example.

With this legacy in mind, their daughter Mary, a founder of the Valley Community Foundation, established the donor-advised Pepe Family Fund with an initial contribution of \$10,000. The Fund is in honor of her father, who still resides in Derby and continues after 45 years to be involved in cub scouting. It is also in memory of her mother who passed away in 2001 and of her brother William, a brilliant chemical engineer, who passed away in 2003.

Establishing the Fund was a way for Mary to immortalize her family while at the same time continuing their tradition of community support. As she expresses it: “This Fund ensures that the support our family has provided for all of our lives—for those things in which we most believe and we most value—will continue long after we’re gone. There is no greater gift.

“And so the Valley Community Foundation has the potential to have a significant and continuing impact in the region,” says Mary, adding, “Creating this Foundation is probably the single most important thing we have ever done—and we can ever do—for our community.” ❧



SAM RIFKIN MEMORIAL FUND

ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2001

“If you believe in it, you need to contribute to it.” Those are the words of Dave Rifkin, who, like his late father Sam, believes in the Valley. And so, like his father, he contributes. Not just his time and his energy to high-powered volunteer activities on the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce or the Valley United Way, but by establishing an endowed Fund that will give back to the community for years to come.

“My father and mother were very involved in giving back to the community and supporting philanthropic causes,” says Dave, who in 2000, following his father’s death, approached the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to set up the Sam Rifkin Memorial Fund in honor of his father. Later, in 2005, he transferred the endowed Fund to the newly formed Valley Community Foundation, of which Dave was a founding board member.

“Being involved and giving back was his legacy,” says Dave, speaking of his father, the man who was a charter member of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Community Chest before it became the Valley United Way; the man who in the 1960s formed a fathers’ club at Dave’s high school to raise funds for the athletics department. It was the beginning of what has become a fund-raising powerhouse. “It started with just my dad and a few other interested parents,” says Dave, remarking how his father was always involved in multiple activities, both professionally and personally. “If he saw there was a need, he’d try to find a way to solve it.”

The Fund has been set up to first support renovation of the Sterling Opera House in Derby—a place his father once worked—if that project gets underway. It will also contribute to other Valley charitable organizations as decided by Dave and his family. ❧



GEORGE J. RYAN SCHOLARSHIP

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 2004

When he left the service after World War II, George Ryan had a decision to make: what should he do with the rest of his life? With aid from the GI bill, the Shelton resident jumped with both feet into the automotive industry he had come to love as a kid while pumping gas at his uncle’s gas station.

Years later, this man is still passionate about the career that has taken him from the gas pumps to running the successful Curtiss-Ryan Honda car dealership. And now he’s eager to share his passion and extend a helping hand to others who want to enter the field.

“I always thought I should give back to the community,” says Ryan, who has been active on various community boards, including the Shelton Economic Development Corporation and the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce. “It supports me. I think I should support it.”

Ryan chose to do that in 2004 by establishing with the Valley Community Foundation, the George J. Ryan Scholarship Fund. It will be used to provide scholarships to students active in the Boys and Girls Club of the lower Naugatuck Valley, who are planning to study automotive administration, sales or technology. “This business has evolved into a very high-tech industry today and needs qualified people,” says Ryan who has requested of family and friends that they donate to the endowed Fund in lieu of gifts for him, or if they are looking for a charity to support. “I’m hoping that this scholarship Fund will serve as an inducement to boys and girls to consider going on to further their training and education and enter this field where there is tremendous opportunity.” ❧



MAUREEN, MEGAN
& KATEY RYAN FUND

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 2005

At 18, Megan Ryan of Ansonia is already serving her first year as a corporator at the Valley United Way. As such, she will attend the non-profit's 2006 annual meeting and play a role in electing the new board of directors. Later, she will assist with fund-raising. Her younger sister, Katey, 15, is eager to follow in her sister's footsteps.

As far as their dad Jimmy Ryan is concerned, this is the way it should be. "We have to pass the torch and get our young people involved," says Ryan, a community leader who currently is serving as chairman of the Valley Community Foundation. "Leadership development is a priority in the Valley."

To help drive the process, Ryan has started at home. In 2005, he established the Maureen, Megan & Katey Ryan Fund, an endowed Fund to provide scholarships based on financial need and academic merit to girls from Assumption School in Ansonia to attend Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden where his daughters are currently enrolled, and from where his wife, Maureen, also graduated.

"I wanted to get my family involved in philanthropy, particularly my children, as my wife is already very involved," says Ryan, explaining why he set up the Fund that is named for his wife and daughters. "I think it (philanthropy) is part of our social responsibility and that this Fund will serve as a good example for them to see how it works."

Ryan, who himself has been active on the Valley United Way, the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, the Birmingham Mental Health Center, the Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America, and the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, among others, is excited about the future of philanthropy in the Valley. "I've become convinced over the last few years that there are many opportunities to increase philanthropy in the Valley," he says. "I believe the Valley Community Foundation is a way to do that, and that it will have lasting benefits for all of our communities." ❧



JULIAN A. TAYLOR
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ESTABLISHED APRIL 2005

Whether he was instigating Biblical competitions from the pulpit, encouraging his parishioners at the Macedonia Baptist Church to visit other churches to speak about what it was like to be a negro in the 1960s, or walking Valley main streets persuading merchants to hire African Americans, the Reverend Dr. Julian A. Taylor always had his life's mission in mind: to reach young African Americans and encourage them to pursue their education and lifelong learning.

"He pushed people to do what they thought they couldn't, but what he believed they could," says Lily Douglas, who with Dr. Taylor's prodding, started college after age 30 and graduated shortly thereafter in 1957. "He was very persuasive and encouraging; very much interested in education and civil rights. He influenced so many."

And that continues today thanks to the Julian A. Taylor Scholarship Fund, established in 1981 by many of his benefactors who were passionate about honoring the lifelong scholar, pastor of 42 years, community activist and civil rights leader who started an NAACP chapter in the 1940s.

The Fund is designed to recognize African American students in grades three through 11 as J.A.T. scholars. It also awards a \$5,000 scholarship annually to a graduating African American senior at Ansonia High School with the highest grade point average. This year the Fund's committee of 25 entrusted it to the Valley Community Foundation. "We know that by entrusting the Fund to the Foundation, Dr. Taylor's legacy will continue to motivate and aid young scholars in Ansonia, affecting our great grandchildren's generation and beyond," says Evelyn Lindsey, chairperson of the Fund committee. ❧



JOHN TYMA FUND

ESTABLISHED MAY 2005

John Tyma was not a politician. He wasn't a big name legislator. Or a powerful businessman. He was the guy who lived an ordinary life extraordinarily.

He touched many within his sphere, whether it be the factory workers he eventually supervised, the eager, bright-faced youngsters he coached on his only child's Little League and basketball teams, his teammates on the fast-pitch softball team, or the family and friends who turned to him to talk.

He would listen. Really listen. And he would help. For that, his only son has established a Fund to honor the man who quit school in his senior year to care for his mother and siblings after his father's death; the man, a World War II veteran, who worked so hard all his life to make sure his family always did well before his own early death at 48; the man who knew the value of education and community involvement.

The donor-advised John Tyma Fund, established in May 2005 through the Valley Community Foundation, provides the means to not only honor this man who loved the Valley so much, but to ensure that people who "need a lift to the next stage," as son Alan puts it, can have a chance.

"So many, like my father, feel it's important to be involved in community and give their time, effort and expertise," says Alan. "For those who want to give something more, we've created this long-term vehicle to which they can donate. It will live long after they do and keep on promoting the best for their community." ❧

2006 COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AND GRANTS

The Valley Community Foundation distributes grants to qualified organizations from unrestricted, field of interest, donor advised, and designated Funds that carry out donor charitable intentions, respond to needs, and anticipate community opportunities.

Grants from donor advised Funds are made with the participation of the donors, after review by the Foundation. Grants from designated Funds are made to meet the charitable interests expressed by organizations or individual donors. The Foundation also holds endowment Funds dedicated to providing financial assistance to students for secondary, college, and graduate school education.

The Valley Community Foundation also works with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven in making investments in this community and is building flexible Funds for additional grantmaking.

IN 2006 THE FOLLOWING GRANTS AND TRANSFERS WERE MADE:

FUND / PURPOSE	GRANT AMOUNT	FUND / PURPOSE	GRANT AMOUNT
Cohen Family Book Fund To the Derby Public Library for book purchases	\$ 2,000	Patricia M. Kondrath Scholarship Fund To Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall for Kelsey J. Rogers	\$ 500
Discretionary Funds To Griffin Hospital for its Community Cancer Center, in recognition of Bill Powanda's Platinum Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$ 3,000	Oak Cliff Cemetery Fund To the Oak Cliff Cemetery Association from their endowment	\$ 70,500
Discretionary Funds To the Shelton Historical Society in recognition of Martin Coughlin's and Fred Musante's Gold Seal Awards from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,000	Ann O'Neil Memorial for Integrity Fund To Ansonia High School for Brendon Dempsey	\$ 500
Discretionary Funds To the Community Fund of the Valley Community Foundation, in recognition of Jamie Cohen's Gold Seal Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$ 500	Joseph A. Pagliaro Sr. Family Fund To the Shelton Economic Development Corporation for the Tribute Walk	\$ 750
Derby Public Library Fund To the Derby Public Library from their endowment	\$ 27,729	George J. Ryan Fund To Naugatuck Valley Community College for Tierra Phillips	\$ 450
Geissler Family Scholarship Fund To Southern Connecticut State University for Anthony DeMarco	\$ 1,000	Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Donor Advised Fund To the Valley United Way for the 2005 and 2006 campaigns	\$ 20,000
		Valley United Way To the Valley United Way from their endowment	\$ 1,315
		Joseph and Pauline Warichar Fund To the University of Vermont for Heather Czajkowski	\$ 1,000

The Foundation launched the Endowment Challenge Program in 2005 and the following organizations received transfers from the Foundation's discretionary Funds during 2006 to match new gifts raised by the organizations on a one-to-one basis to create permanent designated Funds for their benefit.

The Derby Public Library
The Birmingham Group Health Services
The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America
Planetree, Inc., a subsidiary of Griffin Health Services
Storm Engine Company Ambulance and Rescue Corps
Valley YMCA

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Pagliaro Family Egg Hunt
Marty Palange
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Deborah Zotian

We also gratefully acknowledge
the gift of office space from
Robert D. Scinto

FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Each Fund created through the Valley Community Foundation is a unique resource for the community, now and in the future. The following Funds honor a loved one, fuel a passion, help a student, and insure a prosperous future. And each reflects the personal values and spirit of the donor who strives to help others and leave a legacy of thoughtful and effective giving. Funds established in 2006 appear in **bold**.

*Name**Establishment Date*

Michael J. Adanti Community Fund **October 2005**
The Adanti family established this Fund with the many gifts given in memory of Michael J. Adanti. Linda Adanti, Michael's wife, and their daughter, Kristen Adanti-Pedersen will advise the Fund.

Anonymous Fund **April 2006**

Bassett Family Fund **December 2005**
This Fund was established by William C. and Judith P. Bassett as a donor advised Fund to support their various community activities and as a means to involve their children in philanthropy.

Birmingham Group Health Services, Inc. Fund **November 2005**
As a participating organization in the Foundation's Endowment Challenge Program, this is a designated Fund to benefit Birmingham Group Health Services, Inc. and gifts will be matched by the Foundation.

Edward Cecarelli Book Fund **December 2005**
This Fund was established and will be built by the Cecarelli Family of Derby to support the purchase of books for the Derby Public Library.

Cohen Family Book Fund **December 2004**
This Fund was established by the David Cohen Family of Derby to support the purchase of books for the Derby Public Library.

Community Fund **January 2005**
Established as a general unrestricted Fund by a gift from William C. and Judith P. Bassett, with their hope that the Fund insures all donors with gifts of any size can invest in the community endowment which supports our community's opportunities and ever changing needs over time.

Edward J. Cotter Fund for Storm Engine Company Ambulance and Rescue Corps Fund **December 2006**
As a participating organization in the Foundation's Endowment Challenge Program, this is a designated Fund to benefit Storm Engine Company Ambulance and Rescue Corps and gifts will be matched by the Foundation.

Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Fund **August 2006**

Established by gifts of many donors and the efforts of Team DeFilippo to honor Coach Lou DeFilippo and his wife, Dolly, this Fund will support a scholarship to a graduating student from Derby High School or other grants and awards as recommended to the Board by the Advisory Committee.

Derby Public Library Fund **February 2005**

The Board of the Derby Public Library transferred endowments to the Foundation for investment management to care for, and grow, these Funds will support various valuable activities and programs of the Library that are outside operating costs.

Harold Yudkin Fund for Historical Preservation of the Derby Public Library **November 2005**

As a participating organization in the Foundation's Endowment Challenge Program, this is a designated Fund to benefit the Derby Public Library's work preserving and displaying historic items and gifts will be matched by the Foundation.

Derby Sister City Fund **December 2005**

This Fund was established to support the efforts of the Derby Sister City project.

The Honorable Joseph P. Flynn and Family Scholarship Fund* **December 2005**

This Fund was established by the Friends of Ansonia Historical Commission to provide scholarships for graduates of Assumption School, Ansonia.

The Frey-Hershey Foundation Fund **December 2006**

This Fund is established by a gift of assets from the Frey-Hershey Foundation to create a donor advised Fund.

The Future Fund* **November 2006**

This Fund was started and is being built by Arthur Bogen to help in the restoration and preservation of the environment and/or to help people who have suffered childhood trauma.

Geissler Family Scholarship Fund **December 2005**

This Fund was established by the transfer of the Robert J. Geissler Memorial Award assets held by Shelton High School at the request of Harold Geissler. The Fund will make scholarship awards to graduating students of Shelton High School.

David M. Grant Family Fund* **January 2005**

This Fund was started and is being built by David M. Grant and his wife, Gail, as a donor advised Fund to support their various community activities and as a means to involve their sons in philanthropy.

Tyler, Brian & Zachary Haywood Fund April 2005
Joseph A. Pagliaro Jr. started and is growing this Fund to honor his father, the founding Chair of the Valley Community Foundation and his grandchildren, the children of his sister, Michelle Pagliaro Haywood.

**Housatonic Council,
Boy Scouts of America** November 2006
As a participating organization in the Foundation's Endowment Challenge Program, this is a designated Fund to benefit Housatonic Council, BSA and gifts will be matched by the Foundation.

Patricia M. Kondrath Scholarship Fund December 2005
This Fund was established by Paul Kondrath in memory of his wife to support scholarships at Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall.

Mary Fund* December 2004
This Fund was started and is being built by M. Elizabeth Kennard to honor her grandmothers, Mary L. Powers and Mary J. Kennard; and her mother, Mary P. Kennard, all teachers who understood the value of education and promoted it professionally and personally.

**Ann O'Neil Memorial for Integrity Fund
Transferred to VCF in 2005** July 2003
This Fund was established by the children of Ann O'Neil to memorialize their mother and supports an award to a student of Ansonia High School who most embodies the qualities of high moral character.

Oak Cliff Cemetery Association Fund May 2006
The Board of the Oak Cliff Cemetery Association transferred their endowment to the Foundation for investment management to care for, and grow these Funds which support the cemetery.

Palazzi Family Fund December 2004
Established by Dorothy Palazzi, this donor advised Fund honors Miss Palazzi's parents, Ildebrando and Guerina Palazzi; and her sisters, Derva A. Palazzi and Norma Palazzi Pepe.

Joseph A. Pagliaro Sr. Family Fund December 2004
The Pagliaro family established this Fund with the many gifts given in memory of Joseph A. Pagliaro Sr. who was the founding Board Chair of the Valley Community Foundation. It supports various community projects and organizations as recommended to the Board by an advisory committee.

**Dr. Joseph J. and Anne Pagliaro
Scholarship Fund*** February 2006
Dr. Joseph Pagliaro established this scholarship Fund and it is being built by his nephew, Joseph A. Pagliaro Jr. to support students graduating from Shelton High School to pursue higher education.

Pepe Family Fund December 2004
Mary L. Pepe established this donor advised Fund to honor her family: father, Anthony M. Pepe; mother, Norma P. Pepe; and brother, William A. Pepe; and their contributions to the Valley community.

Planetree Fund November 2005
As a participating organization in the Foundation's Endowment Challenge Program, this is a designated Fund to benefit the Planetree, Inc., a subsidiary of Griffin Health Services and gifts will be matched by the Foundation.

Sam Rifkin Memorial Fund December 2001
Transferred to VCF in 2005
Established with gifts at the time of Sam Rifkin's death in 2001, David Rifkin, Sam's son, added to the donor advised Fund and requested its transfer to the new Foundation.

George J. Ryan Scholarship September 2004
George J. Ryan established this Fund to provide scholarships for higher education to students graduating from secondary schools in the region serviced by the Valley Community Foundation.

Maureen, Megan & Katey Ryan Fund January 2005
James E. Ryan started and is building this Fund to provide scholarships for girls from Assumption School in Ansonia to attend Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden.

**Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible
Community Fund** December 2005
This Fund was established by Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible for general charitable purposes as decided by the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

**Dorothy E. and
Kenneth E. Schaible Fund** December 2005
This Fund was established by Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible as a donor advised Fund to support their various community activities and as a means to involve their children in philanthropy.

Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible December 2005
Fund for the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
 As a participating organization in the Foundation's Endowment Challenge Program, this Fund is a designated Fund to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley and gifts will be matched by the Foundation.

Mary Vartelas Stamos Fund* November 2006
 This Fund is established and being built by the Stamos family to honor their wife and mother, Mary Vartelas Stamos, and will be used for general purposes with a preference for organizations and projects serving Ansonia.

Julian A. Taylor Scholarship Fund April 2005
 The JAT Scholarship Committee transferred, and will advise this scholarship Fund to provide scholarships to students graduating from Ansonia High School, preferably African-American, who excel academically, and are accepted into an accredited college or university.

Torbi Family Fund June 2006
 This Fund was established by Frank Saldamarco in celebration of his wife Dorothy's birthday and will support organizations in their hometown of Derby.

John Tyma Fund May 2005
 Established by Alan Tyma in honor of his father, this Fund will be advised by the donor.

Valley Bar Association Memorial and Commemorative Fund April 2004
 This Fund was established by the Board of the Valley Bar Association as a means to honor and memorialize Bar Association members or other members of the legal profession and will support grants, awards and/or scholarships as recommended to the Board by an advisory committee.

Valley United Way Heritage Fund May 1993
Transferred to VCF in 2006
 This Fund was established to support the Valley United Way and to attract planned gifts in support of their efforts.

Valley YMCA Invest in Youth Fund #1 and #2 November 2006
 As a participating organization in the Foundation's Endowment Challenge Program, Fund #2 is a designated Fund to benefit the Valley YMCA and gifts will be matched by the Foundation. Fund #1 is the YMCA's endowment to provide access to the YMCA's facilities and programs to youth who otherwise could not afford it.

Veterans of Foreign War Post 597 Fund July 2006
 This Fund was established by the Board of the VFW Post 597 and will support the band program of Ansonia High School.

Joseph and Pauline Warichar Fund March 2006
 This Fund was established by Donald and Joseph Warichar to honor their parents and currently supports a scholarship to a student from Derby High School. Upon additional gifts, the Fund will support numerous organizations.

Women In Networking Fund* December 2006
 This Fund was established and is being built by the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce and its Women in Networking group to support the women-owned businesses in the Valley.

Harold B. Yudkin Fund April 2006
 This Fund was established by Selma L. Yudkin in memory of her husband, Harold B. Yudkin, and will support students and organizations in his hometown of Derby.

*Building over time.



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2 ENTERPRISE DRIVE
SHELTON
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06484
T: 203 - 225 - 0880 F: 203 - 926 - 9505