

*Proud Past,  
Bright Future*

**The Evening Sentinel**  
 Denver, Aurora, Oxford, Southbury, Hamden, New York, Woodbridge, Orange and  
 November 11, 1918

MOVING PICTURES  
IN THE WORLD  
Everything New and  
All the Latest  
Now

Jan. 7th



# THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*Serving Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, Shelton and Oxford, the Valley Community Foundation was founded in 2004 and is dedicated to making the Valley a better place to live and work by increasing philanthropy, especially permanent endowments; connecting donors to needs and opportunities; and providing leadership on critical community issues.*

*We inform, encourage and engage people to take a leadership role in improving the quality of life in our region, now and for the future through attracting, investing and making grants from permanent endowed funds. Working with individuals, families, businesses, advisors, and non-profit organizations, the Valley Community Foundation provides personalized service to tailor giving to individual interests, tax planning needs, and family dynamics while providing perspectives about the region's issues and needs, and how donors can have impact on their community.*

*A volunteer group of Valley leaders serves as the Foundation's Board of Directors and a President implements the Board's objectives and manages the daily operations. The Valley Community Foundation is affiliated with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and is provided with in-kind services. The affiliation ensures that VCF funds will have the benefit of the authority and oversight of a local Board, and will be administered efficiently and effectively by one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations.*

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## DEAR FRIENDS,

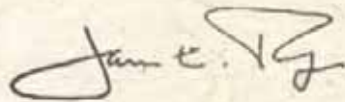
The Valley can best be described by the phrase on the cover of this report: proud past – bright future. Board members of the Valley Community Foundation are keenly aware of the many accomplishments of Valley citizens throughout this community's history and we are committed to working towards even greater success in the coming years.

The Valley and its enhanced vision for philanthropy is a testament to the fundamental spirit and belief that our communities deserve permanent resources to support their continued development. Compassionate services provided by local government, in cooperation with our extremely effective not-for-profit partners, insure that a safety net is available for those in need and opportunities for growth exist for all.

Our Valley is a treasure. We are a region steeped in tradition of family, ethnic pride, industry, hard work and creative competition. While being a place where multi-generational families and businesses thrive, these components also serve as the bedrock for transforming the Valley into a destination for those seeking a place committed to its children, individuals, families, and the elderly.

We are keenly aware of the responsibility the Valley Community Foundation has in helping to make this community continue to be a wonderful place to live, work, and grow. The funds that have been placed in our care have experienced steady growth in 2007, and new funds have increased our assets to over \$7 million. Grants from these funds have been made to fulfill the intentions of the donors while anticipating and addressing the immediate needs and opportunities of our Valley Community.

We hope that as you turn each page of this report, you are reminded of the many citizens who have proudly served the Valley in the past. With your support, the Valley Community Foundation will continue to be a resource, to provide numerous opportunities to ensure the Valley's bright future.



JAMES E. RYAN  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



ANGELA G. POWERS  
PRESIDENT





*Joseph "Jay" Amico*

## JOSEPH "JAY" AMICO SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

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JOSEPH "JAY" AMICO WAS A HARD-WORKING, WELL EDUCATED INDIVIDUAL WHO LOVED INNOVATION, ADVENTURE, AND RISK TAKING. A 1974 GRADUATE OF ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL, JAY BECAME EMPLOYED AT SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT, A DIVISION OF UTC, FOR 29 YEARS. JAY'S TREMENDOUS THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE LED HIM TO PURSUE HIS EDUCATION IN BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY STUDYING AND EXCELLING IN SOO BAHK DO KARATE, CLIMBING MOUNT BLANC AND THE FRENCH ALPS, AND RUNNING IN THE NEW YORK CITY MARATHON.


"In addition to his many other interests, our son was always into music, art, and photography," said his mother, Mrs. Evelyn Amico. "In high school he had a band (he was the guitarist) and they would always practice at our house. He loved taking pictures, put many to music, and often made presentations to interested groups, including schools." When he passed away suddenly in 2006, donations from family, friends, and co-workers came pouring in. His parents, Nick and Evelyn Amico, established the Jay Amico Scholarship Fund for Art and Music through the Valley Community Foundation to honor and help others who shared the same love of art and music as Jay.

"Our son accomplished some pretty amazing things," said Nick Amico. "He loved being innovative in everything he did, from working at Sikorsky to mountain climbing, to scuba diving, karate and photography. He was one of the most active people I've ever known. Most people only dream of having a "full" life. Jay was fortunate to have truly lived his to the fullest."

"We hope that this Fund will help others to achieve their goals," said Mrs. Amico. "Your dreams can become realities if you work hard and believe in yourself. Jay certainly did."

### *Sports and recreation value*

*Sports and recreation are important in the lives of Valley children and adults. Championship high school football, youth baseball leagues, marching bands, and beautiful golf courses are Valley resources that make good sportsmanship and health part of the Valley tradition. A recent addition to the community's health and recreation is the Derby Greenway, officially opened in June 2006, which in the future, will extend into Ansonia and Shelton.*



*"Most people only dream of having a "full" life.  
Jay was fortunate to have truly lived his to the fullest."*



*The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Derby Division,  
march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade*

## THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, DERBY DIVISION FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

THE MOTTO OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE HIBERNIANS IN 1565 WAS "FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND TRUE CHRISTIAN CHARITY." THAT MOTTO IS STILL STRONG TODAY AT THE DERBY DIVISION OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE HIBERNIANS AS THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED A PERMANENT ENDOWED FUND WITH THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (VCF).

Division President Timothy Dillon said, "It is our desire that grants will be made from the Fund for Valley students to attend Roman Catholic elementary schools or high schools, and/or to support educational activities that promote understanding among people of different backgrounds, and/or to fulfill our motto of "friendship, unity and Christian charity."

The Ancient Order of the Hibernians has been in existence for nearly 450 years. It was originally established by those of Irish descent to protect the Catholic Church and defend its members from bigoted oppression. The Derby Division began in 1981, and is currently open to those persons of Irish Ancestry who are practicing Catholics. "We serve all the Valley towns," said Mr. Dillon, who is also a member of the Valley Community Foundation Board of Directors. "We had received two bequests several years ago but for many years the money just sat in our bank account. Once the VCF was established, we determined that it was a great vehicle for us to channel our funds throughout the Valley wherever they needed to go."

It is the Order's goal to have its members add to the Fund individually in the future. "The Valley Community Foundation has done a wonderful job with other organizations such as the Derby Public Library in managing and distributing funds through their endowment," said Mr. Dillon. "They truly served our needs perfectly, and we look forward to working with them to continue to grow our Fund for years to come."

*"They truly served our needs perfectly, and we look forward to working with them  
to continue to grow our Fund for years to come."*





*Paul Hershey*

**FREY-HERSHEY FOUNDATION FUND**  
**ESTABLISHED 2007**

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PAUL HERSHEY KNEW HARD WORK, BOTH AS A CHILD ON HIS FAMILY'S FARM, AND LATER AS A YOUNG MAN WORKING IN THE FACTORIES OF HIS HOME STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. IN THE EARLY 1920'S, HERSHEY CAME TO CONNECTICUT, LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITY. A SMALL TOOL SHOP ON CAROLINE STREET IN DERBY, CLOSED AFTER WORLD WAR I, WAS FOR SALE, AND HERSHEY SAW THE CHANCE TO START HIS OWN BUSINESS. THE TOOL SHOP GREW; THE BUSINESS BECAME HERSHEY METAL PRODUCTS AND MOVED TO LARGER HEADQUARTERS IN ANSONIA. FROM THE EARLY DAYS, THROUGH THE DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II, HERSHEY METALS HAD THE UPS

AND DOWNS OF A CONNECTICUT MANUFACTURER. IN 1940, JOHN FREY, ALSO FROM PENNSYLVANIA, CAME TO CONNECTICUT AND BEGAN WORK AT HIS UNCLE'S COMPANY.

After serving in World War II and then earning his engineering degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, John Frey returned to Hershey Metals. He took charge of repairing the factories and supervised the renovations from the severe damage from the '55 Flood. Later, he became the head of manufacturing. The company employed hundreds of Valley people over the years, including multiple generations of the same families. Hershey Metals products were diverse, from parts for commercial and military aircraft, including the indicator light for the Apollo spacecraft; to parts for everyday products, such as hand tools, mechanical pencils, electric brooms, and beer taps.

From his arrival in the Valley, Paul Hershey led many civic projects and gave to community organizations. He and other industrial leaders were instrumental in supporting the expansion of Griffin Hospital and the Physical Medicine Department was named in memory of Hershey's

*"From his arrival in the Valley, Paul Hershey led many civic projects and gave to community organizations."*

wife, Mary. John Frey succeeded Paul Hershey as President of Hershey Metals in 1970 and, in the 1980's, John Frey also expanded the charitable foundation Hershey had started in 1954, renaming it the Frey-Hershey Foundation. Supporting the programs that served the community and their employees has always been important to the Hershey and Frey families. With personal contributions, and through their Foundation, they give to many Valley organizations.

Mr. Frey also has a special objective to grow young people's interest in science, and through the Hershey Frey Scholarship at the University of New Haven, students from Valley towns are awarded aid to pursue degrees in science and engineering. For the 2007-08 academic year, six scholarships have been awarded to students from Ansonia and Shelton. Frey looks forward to the number and amount of awards continuing to grow over time. "I want to find young people who are interested in engineering, and, hopefully, after graduation, they will consider continuing to live in the area and starting their own businesses."

John Frey's son-in-law, Einar Gudjohnsen, joined the company in 1989 as Director of Engineering. The company changed its name to HMP industries in 1993 and Mr. Gudjohnsen is now the HMP's CEO. Since the mid 1990's the company has focused on upgrading to modern computer controlled (CNC) machine tools and shifting its market emphasis towards more complex, high-tech product categories, including electronics and medical applications. Current products include components for industrial hand tools, transportation systems, electronic paper handling equipment, surgical tools and dental implants.

Gudjohnsen, and his wife, Jane, work with Mr. and Mrs. Frey to continue their philanthropy through the Frey-Hershey Foundation Fund at the Valley Community Foundation. Wanting to insure the Frey-Hershey Foundation's support of the Valley in perpetuity, John Frey transferred the Foundation assets to the VCF in 2006 creating a donor advised fund. Frey, his wife, Mildred, and the Gudjohnsens serve as advisers to the Fund.



Mr. and Mrs. John Frey

#### ***Manufacturing and business, past and present***

*The Valley prospered through agriculture, a successful foreign maritime trade, and finally manufacturing. Products such as communications wire and cable, copper and brass, paper and latex foam, machine parts, and personal care products were made in the Valley. The population grew as German, Irish, Italian and Slavic immigrants and African-Americans from the South streamed in to take the jobs offered by the factories. Now Route 8 links the Valley to New York and has transformed the community again as a booming business center.*



HMP Industries  
Precision Machined Product

*"I want to find young people who are interested in engineering, and, hopefully, after graduation, they will consider continuing to live in the area and starting their own businesses."*





Arthur Bogen

## THE FUTURE FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

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ARTHUR BOGEN HAS SPENT MUCH OF HIS LIFE WORKING TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT. “I BELIEVE WE ALL NEED TO BE STEWARDS OF THE EARTH DURING OUR TIME AND PLACE HERE,” SAID MR. BOGEN. “THE ENVIRONMENT HAS NOT HAD AN EASY TIME OF IT. WE NEED TO LOOK BEYOND WHAT WE CAN SEE RIGHT NOW, DO NO HARM, AND MAKE A CONTRIBUTION THAT WILL HELP OTHERS IN THE FUTURE.”

That’s why in the fall of 2006, Mr. Bogen established the “Future Fund” at the Valley Community Foundation. The purpose of the Fund is to help the earth, with a preference for scholarships or other support to

encourage students interested in the environment, and/or to help people who have experienced childhood trauma restore their sense of self.


“I know first hand the effect abuse can have on people, especially children,” said Mr. Bogen. “It’s extraordinarily important for them to feel worthy, to have a sense of redemption. They need to know that no matter what they’ve been through, that they can trust in life. Hopefully this Fund will make a difference for them and help to build back their self-esteem.”

Mr. Bogen has a lifelong connection with the Valley. “I know many of the Board members who helped form the Valley Community Foundation, and made it what it is today. I wanted to be someone who supports the VCF and helps them make it strong.”

Mr. Bogen’s goal is to grow the Future Fund over time. “The earth is going to need all the help we can give it,” he said. “I want to thank the Board and its staff for their dedication in creating the Foundation. Their vision created a resource to help keep the Valley and its people growing stronger each day.”

### *Agriculture, past and present*

*The early fertile green lands and forests of the Valley were spotted with clearings for farms and grazing cattle. As the nineteenth century progressed, dairy and other farm products became a main source of revenue when sold in cities. Valley farms were among the first to adopt mechanized and scientific farm techniques. Many still produce local produce and other agricultural products.*



*“We need to look beyond what we can see right now, do no harm, and make a contribution that will help others in the future.”*





*Paul J. Konwerski*

### PAUL KONWERSKI FAMILY FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

PAUL KONWERSKI'S LIFE WAS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE AND EDUCATION. HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST LAYMEN IN THE COUNTRY TO RECEIVE A MASTER'S IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FROM FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY, AND TAUGHT SOCIAL STUDIES AT SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR 37 YEARS, SERVING AS CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 2000. He was a member of the Connecticut and National Education Associations as well as the Shelton Education Association where he was a member of the Ethics, Publicity, and Teacher of the Year Committees. He touched so many lives throughout his career, that when numerous gifts were received in his memory upon his passing in 2007 it was only fitting that his family chose to establish a family fund in his honor.

"Through his life and work, our Dad inspired a commitment to service and social justice—whether that was to school, church, family, or the environment. The way he lived his life and the lessons he taught live on in his students, friends, and family," said son Peter Konwerski. Older son, Paul Konwerski agreed. "Growing up in and around the

Valley, I couldn't go anywhere without someone who knew my father: the insurance agent, mortgage broker, bankers, even the police. They would all tell me he was a great man who was very fair. Everyone dreams of helping the community but only a few do. By setting up this Fund, we wanted to carry on the lessons learned from both our parents in helping and caring for people and your community."

It is clear that the children of Paul Konwerski learned many lessons about philanthropy and community from both their parents. "I'm abundantly proud of my children for their decision to set up the Paul J. Konwerski Family Fund in memory of their father," said Paul's wife of 38 years, Gloria Van Delft Konwerski. "Paul and I often spoke with great respect of the people who made financial contributions to the needs and children of the Naugatuck Valley. Our wish was to be able to offer a similar legacy one day. Their father would be thrilled!"

Grants from the Paul J. Konwerski Family Fund will be made with recommendations from the family for a variety of programs and organizations in the Valley, including education. "Dad's reputation opened many doors and conversations in the Valley," said daughter Amy Konwerski. "We hope that his lively spirit can continue to spread to the next generation." "Our Dad spent nearly his whole life living or working in the Valley," added daughter Julie Mauri. "As a family, we created this Fund so his generosity, compassion, and commitment to community and caring can continue long into the future."

*"Through his life and work, our Dad inspired a commitment to service and social justice—whether that was to school, church, family, or the environment."*



Janet N. and Norman K. Santa

## THE JANET N. AND NORMAN K. SANTA FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

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NORMAN SANTA STARTED WORKING FOR HIS DAD'S OIL BUSINESS WHEN HE WAS JUST EIGHT YEARS OLD. BY THE TIME HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE WAS WORKING PART TIME DELIVERING OIL AS SOON AS SCHOOL LET OUT. AFTER SERVING IN THE MARINES FROM 1952 TO 1954, HE RETURNED HOME AND WENT BACK TO THE OIL BUSINESS, WHERE HE WORKED UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 2004.

"I came from a family of four brothers and one sister," said Mr. Santa. "We all worked together with my mom and dad, and the business just grew. We originally lived in Stratford, and then moved to Huntington in 1956, and have made the Valley our home ever since."

Mr. Santa knows what it is like not to attend college and that there are many students of all ages throughout the Valley who would like to improve themselves. That's why he and his wife Janet have established the Norman K. and Janet Santa Fund with the Valley Community Foundation.

"There is a great need for skilled workers today," said Mr. Santa. "Electricians, plumbers, people who work with their hands. This Fund is geared to helping them to achieve their goals."

Mr. Santa has a deep commitment to the Valley, having been active in the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, the Housatonic Council Boy Scouts, the Shelton VFW and American Legion, the Shelton Inland Wetlands Commission, the Shelton Tax Review Board and the Shelton Economic Development Commission. Mr. Santa also served as the former president of H. B. Brownson Country Club and was an Alderman for the City of Shelton. "I'm pleased to be working with the Valley Community Foundation because it has such tremendous potential," he said. "The Valley is a great and very positive community. I'm glad to be able to help those who are pursuing non-traditional options to keep it growing stronger now and in the future."



### Volunteerism

Civic engagement and volunteerism are hallmarks of the Valley. Committed citizens serve as volunteer fireman, ambulance and rescue workers, and as trustees of churches and numerous non-profit organizations. The United Way's Volunteer Action Center matches volunteer interests with community needs.

*"There is a great need for skilled workers today. Electricians, plumbers, people who work with their hands. This Fund is geared to helping them to achieve their goals."*





*Valley United Way Corporate Volunteer Council volunteers giving back to the community.*

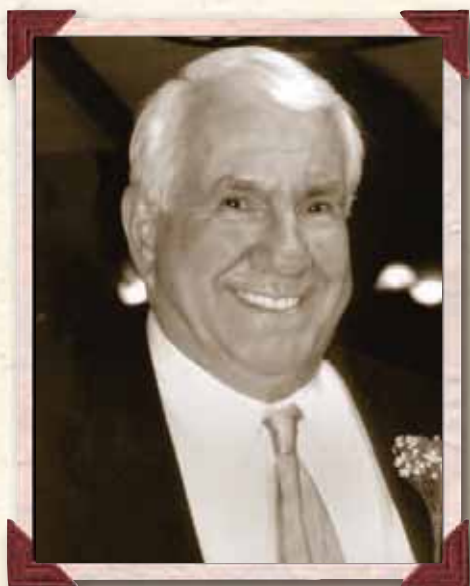
## THE VALLEY UNITED WAY HERITAGE FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

NEARLY 15 YEARS AGO, THE VALLEY UNITED WAY RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF CREATING AN ENDOWMENT THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN. “WE WERE TRULY AHEAD OF OUR TIME IN CREATING THE HERITAGE FUND,” SAID VALLEY UNITED WAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN WALSH. “WE LOOKED TO THE FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE US WITH LONG TERM INVESTMENT SUPPORT, ADMINISTRATION, AND MANAGEMENT TO ASSIST US IN MAINTAINING OUR CHARITABLE ASSETS IN PERPETUITY.” The Heritage Fund also provides a way for donors who support the community’s health and human service needs through the Valley United Way to continue that support through a gift by will or other planned gift.

Late in the summer of 2006, the United Way transferred its “Heritage Fund” endowment to the Valley Community Foundation. “The VCF has done an outstanding job throughout the past several years building a strong financial base to make additional monies available for community grant making. It was only natural for us to bring our funds back into the Valley, allowing us the flexibility in the distribution of our assets, and the ability to assist the VCF in building philanthropy right here in the Valley.”

The Heritage Fund has become a component fund of the Valley Community Foundation, under the same terms and conditions under which the Fund existed at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. “It’s all about local control,” said Mr. Walsh. “Having the VCF manage this account for us allows us to direct support to where it is needed while still benefiting from the investment power of the CFGNH. It’s truly the best of both worlds, and we look forward to continuing to develop this relationship and this Fund in the coming years.”

*“We looked to the Foundation to provide us with long term investment support, administration, and management to assist us in maintaining our charitable assets in perpetuity.”*



*Peter Vartelas*

**PETER J. VARTELAS  
INVEST IN YOUTH FUND  
ESTABLISHED 2007**

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FOR PETER VARTELAS, GROWING UP DURING THE DEPRESSION IN THE VALLEY AS THE SON OF HARD-WORKING GREEK IMMIGRANT PARENTS MEANT HELPING OUT AT THE FAMILY GROCERY STORE IN ANSONIA EVERYDAY AFTER SCHOOL AND ON WEEKENDS. IT ALSO MEANT FREQUENT TRIPS TO THE VALLEY YMCA (CALLED THE ANSONIA YMCA AT THAT TIME) TO PLAY COUNTLESS HOURS OF HIS FAVORITE SPORT - BASKETBALL. SO IT WAS NO SURPRISE THAT IN 1987 HE CREATED THE INVEST IN YOUTH FUND AT THE VALLEY YMCA WHICH PAYS FOR THE MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR CHILDREN WHOSE FAMILIES CAN'T AFFORD THEM. "Through Mr. Vartelas' generosity, more than 2,000 children have now benefited from the Fund," said Valley YMCA Executive Director Suzanne Reilly. "His gifts have helped us to serve the

community in so many special ways. We are pleased to honor his memory by establishing the Peter Vartelas Invest in Youth Fund through the Valley Community Foundation."

Peter Vartelas was proud to make the Valley his home. After working a short time on oil pipelines in Caspar, Wyoming at the age of 19, he returned home to Ansonia and apprenticed to a local roofing company. In 1958, he established Valley Roofing and Siding, which is now run by his son's Paul and Chris. "Our father always made everyone he met feel like a million dollars," said Paul Vartelas. "Everywhere he went, he knew someone, and would strike up a conversation with them - about their family, or a sport they played in high school. He built his business through hard work and integrity - and he kept his word to his customers who invariably became his friends. He always cared about the well being of other people - but his family came first. If other kids growing up had dads like him, the world would be a much better place. I miss my dad more and more each day - the world truly lost a really great and generous man."

"Our father was very humble," said daughter Larissa Cristiano. "He achieved great success in his lifetime, but he always remembered where he came from. He was so compassionate to those who did not have as much, and he raised his family on that belief." Brother Chris Vartelas agreed. "The values our father brought us up with will be ingrained in our lifestyles forever. For a man who accomplished so much in life, his modesty and simplicity is what we cherish most. We are so blessed to have many great memories of him. Although words can't express the impact he had on us, his legacy will speak volumes."

One of the students who has benefited from Peter's contributions is Ansonia High School All State Running Back Alex Thomas, an AHS junior recruited by many Ivy League schools. Alex was also named as one of the Youth of the Year at the Valley YMCA. "The Invest in Youth program has benefited me significantly, and I am very grateful for it," said Alex Thomas. "Getting a membership to the YMCA has given me the opportunity to lift which makes me a better football player, and more importantly through football I have been given the opportunity of getting into some excellent colleges."

"Peter was so happy to have created this Fund," said his wife Tekla Vartelas. "He said that life had been good to him through his business and other endeavors. This was his way of giving back to the community, and helping to keep kids off of the streets. He was so generous to us all, with a keen sense of humor and wit that kept us all smiling. No matter how busy he was, he never missed our children's school or sporting events. He was always there for us and his beloved Valley. We will be forever proud to be his family, and will do all that we can to continue to support the Peter Vartelas Invest In Youth Fund."

*"He achieved great success in his lifetime, but he always remembered where he came from. He was so compassionate to those who did not have as much, and he raised his family on that belief."*





*John and Paraskeve Vartelas and their nine children (l-r):  
Paul, Mary, Jeremiah, Constantine, Alfreda, James, Theodore, George and Peter*

### THE VARTELAS-STAMOS FAMILY FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

THIS FUND IS ESTABLISHED BY THE VARTELAS AND STAMOS FAMILIES IN HONOR OF THEIR BELOVED PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, JOHN AND PARASKEVE VONETES VARTELAS. Talking about what he, his siblings and numerous cousins are building, Greg Stamos says, “We want to remember and honor the sacrifices made by our grandparents, two Greek immigrants who over a century ago established a new home together in the Valley, and to perpetuate their legacy of selflessness, compassion and concern for others.”

Many tales, large and small, abound about John and Paraskeve’s selflessness; whether it was their door always being open and Paraskeve’s table overflowing for all of their friends, John refusing to send out charge account bills from his market to struggling families during the Great Depression years or upon being told that someone had stolen chickens from the backyard coop, remarking “thank God we had chickens for someone to steal.” Their true essence, however, was captured by their willingly accepting a request by a distant relative from Greece to take in and raise her two teenage boys whose father had been killed by the Communists during the post World War II Greek Civil War, adding them to and treating them as equals to their nine (9) children.

The Vartelas-Stamos Family Fund is composed of four component sub-funds. It generally recognizes the significance of the Vartelas Family Food Market, which served as a social fulcrum of the Vartelas family on Maple Street in Ansonia for half a century until being washed away in the Flood of 1955. At that market, John and Paraskeve’s children learned the values of hard work, honesty, integrity and fairness. The site is now Vartelas Park, an Ansonia park that serves as a reminder of the labors and sacrifices of the many immigrants of various ethnicities and faiths that comprise the social fabric of the Valley, and the resilience and rebirth of its citizens and the Valley following that natural disaster.

One component fund is the previously endowed Mary Vartelas Stamos Fund, which serves general charitable purposes and funds projects that served Mary’s beloved birthplace of Ansonia, such as the Valley Y.M.C.A., the Birmingham Group and the Boys and Girls Club. In addition, the Peter Vartelas Scholarship Fund and the George Vartelas Scholarship Fund provide scholarships to needy graduates of Ansonia High School for purposes of secondary education. The heart and soul of the Fund, however, is the largest component sub-fund, the Agape Fund, named for the Greek word for love and charity towards others, which will support general philanthropic purposes with special emphasis on providing assistance to those most in need, including in particular those facing obstacles presented by virtue of the immigrant experience. Such emphasis truly honors the legacy of John and Paraskeve.

*“We want to remember and honor the sacrifices made by our grandparents, two Greek immigrants who over a century ago established a new home together in the Valley, and to perpetuate their legacy of selflessness, compassion and concern for others.”*



*Angelina M. and Valentina V. Vitali*

### ANGELINA M. VITALI AND VALENTINA V. VITALI FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

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VALENTINA VITALI HAD A DEEP LOVE FOR THE VALLEY. SHE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN DERBY BY ITALIAN IMMIGRANT PARENTS AUGUSTO AND MARCELLA VITALI, ALONG WITH HER SISTER ANGELINA, AND HER BROTHERS LOUIS AND NELSON. SHE MOVED TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AND WORKED FOR THE GOVERNMENT FOR 42 YEARS UNTIL HER RETIREMENT, WHEN SHE RETURNED HOME TO LIVE THE REMAINDER OF HER LIFE WITH HER MOTHER AND SISTER.

Valentina wanted to honor Angelina, who, except for attending the College of New Rochelle, lived in the Valley for her entire life. She worked at Derby High School first as a biology teacher, and then later served as Vice Principal of the school until her retirement.

Miss Vitali's first cousin, Dorothy Saldamarco, discussed the possibility of creating a Fund through the community foundation that would forever remember the Vitali name in the Valley. Mrs. Saldamarco and her husband Frank had established such a Fund themselves to preserve her father's name and to honor his memory. "I said to her, Val, this is something you can do, too," said Mrs. Saldamarco. "It's a great idea, and can help so many people here in the Valley. She must have thought it was, too, and worked with her attorneys, Sabetta and Sabetta in Shelton, to remember the Foundation in her will."

In doing so, Miss Vitali is the first person to have left a bequest to the Valley Community Foundation. Her gift will establish the Angelina M. Vitali and Valentina V. Vitali Fund which supports a broad range of local needs. "Val came from a family that was raised to save," said Mrs. Saldamarco. "But it's also important to use your money to benefit others who can really use it. Val Vitali was fortunate to have had the resources to keep her family's name alive and to help the Valley for years to come."

*"Val Vitali was fortunate to have had the resources to keep her family's name alive and to help the Valley for years to come."*





*Members of Women In Networking*

## WOMEN IN NETWORKING (WIN) FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

TEAMWORK HAS MADE QUITE A FEW REMARKABLE THINGS HAPPEN SINCE THESE DYNAMIC VALLEY WOMEN CAME TOGETHER. THE GREATER VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOMEN IN NETWORKING (WIN) GROUP WAS FOUNDED IN 2002 BY SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMEN IN THE VALLEY WHO MEET TWICE EACH MONTH AT THE CHAMBER OR OFFSITE AT A CHAMBER MEMBER LOCATION TO DISCUSS COMMON ISSUES. IT IS THE FIRST GROUP OF ITS KIND TO SERVICE THE SIX-TOWN REGION OF THE NAUGATUCK RIVER VALLEY.

In 2003, the members of WIN learned that there were no grant programs in the area available for women-owned businesses. They voted to use excess funds available in their treasury to establish the Women in Networking Grant program, which provides financial assistance to women entrepreneurs 18 years or older in the Greater Valley area. With the establishment of a permanent endowed fund

at the Valley Community Foundation, in addition to their annual efforts raising money for the grants program, they have insured that funds will be available for women-owned businesses in the Valley forever.

“We had been having conversations with the VCF for quite some time,” said WIN Chair Cara Mocarski. “We wanted to ensure that the program would continue to outreach to women, and foster the entrepreneurial spirit in the Valley. Giving back to the community is so important to all of us – and the Foundation provided a great vehicle for us to achieve our goals for posterity.”

“We are very proud of the Women in Networking group,” said Chamber President Bill Purcell. “What they have accomplished in the few short years that they have been in existence speaks volumes about their enthusiasm and determination. This Fund will help to ensure that the goals they have for the future of women owned businesses throughout the Valley will be met both now and in years to come.”

“The Chamber has been so supportive of our work,” said Ms. Mocarski. “From the very beginning they’ve believed in us and what we wanted to do. Their partnership with the Foundation has allowed us to take this program to the next level and to truly make a difference in the lives of businesswomen throughout the Valley for generations to come.”

*“Giving back to the community is so important to all of us –  
and the Foundation provided a great vehicle for us to achieve our goals for posterity.”*

## 2007 COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AND GRANTS

The Valley Community Foundation makes grants that carry out the intentions of donors while responding to needs and anticipating community opportunities. Grants from donor advised funds are made with the participation of the donors. Earlier this year, the Board approved a grant to the Birmingham Health Services Group's Umbrella and Young Adult Services programs from the Joseph A. Pagliaro Sr. Family Fund, recommended by the family.

Grants are made from designated funds to support specific organizations as expressed by individual donors or organizations, such as the Derby Public Library or Oak Cliff Cemetery Association. The Foundation also holds endowed scholarship funds dedicated to providing assistance to students for secondary and post-secondary education and training.

Through an agreement with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, the VCF receives a grant from the Frank and Ross Gates Fund to support its operations and for grants or initiatives. With this grant, the VCF ran the Endowment Challenge Program through which six organizations received transfers from the VCF which matched new gifts raised by the organizations to create permanent designated funds for their benefit.

The VCF is also building resources for additional flexible grant-making, through named funds which express a field of interest or give discretion to the Board. In addition, The Community Fund, the Valley's permanent endowment, will make grants to meet challenges and opportunities now and in the future.

The VCF Board adopted the following guidelines for VCF grantmaking:

- Be responsible in fulfilling the intentions of donors in the context of current needs and opportunities
- Focus on the long-term perspective of community betterment
- Make investments in activities which grow philanthropy because philanthropy is a major contributor to the quality of life in a community
- Emphasize increasing giving by individuals
- Listen to diverse groups and interests in the community and respect community knowledge and experience
- Support the work of the community's non-profit organizations, both individually and as they organize in groups, so that VCF is an additive resource, not as a duplicative competitor
- Provide positive visibility for, and understanding of, the Valley Community Foundation.

To inquire about grants from the VCF, please contact the Foundation staff by calling 203-225-0880 or check for grant application guidelines on the VCF website: [www.valleyfoundation.org](http://www.valleyfoundation.org).

### IN 2007 THE FOLLOWING GRANTS AND TRANSFERS WERE MADE:

#### JOSEPH "JAY" AMICO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To Central Connecticut State University for Joseph Imbro	\$150
To Southern Connecticut State University for Nadia Gaddis	\$150

#### COHEN FAMILY BOOK FUND

To the Derby Public Library for book purchases	\$2,000
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#### DOLLY AND LOU DEFILIPPO FUND

To the Derby Public Schools for scholarships	\$2,000
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#### DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND

To the Derby Public Library from their endowment	\$28,708
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#### DISCRETIONARY FUNDS THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE FRANK AND ROSS GATES FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GREATER NEW HAVEN

To Ansonia Community Action for emergency operating support and for organizational planning	\$10,000
To the Derby Historical Society for the Day in 1762 Educational Program	\$1,000

To the Valley YMCA Sprinters Club for an electronic timing system	\$1,500
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To the Parent Child Resource Center in honor of David Grant's Platinum Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$500
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To Center Stage in honor of David Grant's Platinum Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$500
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To the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley in honor of David Grant's the Platinum Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$500
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To the Women In Networking Fund at the VCF to match new gifts	\$1,000
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To the Valley Parish Nurses in honor of their Silver Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$1,000
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To Area Congregations Together Spooner House in honor of Carolyn Schuster's Gold Seal Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$500
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## GRANTS AND TRANSFERS (CONT.)

To St. Vincent DePaul in honor of Robert Lally's Gold Seal Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce \$500

To the Parent Child Resource Center in honor of Michael Marcinek's Gold Seal Award from the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce \$500

To the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley and a transfer to the Julian A. Taylor Scholarship Fund in recognition of Diane Stroman's receipt of the Charles Flynn Humanitarian Award from the Valley United Way \$500 \$500

### FREY-HERSHEY FOUNDATION FUND

American Cancer Society, New England \$1,000  
American Rescue Medical Services \$1,000  
Area Congregations Together \$1,000  
Benhaven \$2,000  
Birmingham Group Health Services, The Umbrella \$2,000  
Birthright of Greater New Haven \$1,000  
Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley \$5,000  
Boy Scouts of America, Connecticut Yankee Council \$1,000  
Clark Memorial Library \$1,000  
Connecticut Children's Medical Center \$1,000  
Connecticut Hospice \$2,000  
The Foundation School \$1,000  
Girl Scouts, Connecticut Trails Council \$1,000  
Griffin Hospital \$3,000  
Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America \$1,000  
National Right To Work Legal Defense and Education Foundation \$2,000  
Recreation Camp \$2,000  
Ronald McDonald House Tree of Hope \$1,000  
Saint Raphael Foundation Endowment \$4,000  
The Salvation Army, Ansonia Corps \$1,000  
Seymour Ambulance Association \$1,000  
University of New Haven for Hershey Frey Scholarship \$5,000  
Valley American Red Cross \$1,000  
Valley United Way \$2,000  
Valley YMCA \$1,000  
VARCA \$2,000  
Waterbury Adult Education Technical Training Center \$1,000  
White Memorial Conservation Center \$1,000

### GEISSLER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To Johnson and Wales University for Patrick Glass \$1,000

### DAVID M. GRANT FAMILY FUND

To Area Congregations Together Spooner House \$2,500  
To Center Stage \$250  
To Griffin Hospital Cancer Center Campaign \$2,500

### PATRICIA M. KONDRATH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall for Alissa Keyes \$1,000

### OAK CLIFF CEMETERY FUND

To the Oak Cliff Cemetery Association from their endowment \$139,500

### ANN O'NEIL MEMORIAL FOR INTEGRITY FUND

To Southern Connecticut State University for Anna Marie Rego \$500

### JOSEPH A. PAGLIARO, SR. FAMILY FUND

To the Birmingham Group Health Services for The Umbrella And Young Adult Services \$1,663  
To the Birmingham Group Health Services for The Umbrella Program \$1,000  
To Rotary International South Asia Clean Water Initiative \$857

### PEPE FAMILY FUND

To the Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America \$375  
To the Birmingham Health Services Endowment \$500

### GEORGE AND BEATRICE RYAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To the University of Connecticut and Amanda Telo \$784

### DOROTHY AND KENNETH SCHAIBLE FUND

To the Griffin Hospital Cancer Center Campaign \$2,500  
To the Valley United Way \$10,000  
To the Birmingham Health Services Fund at VCF \$5,000

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 597 FUND

To Ansonia High School for the Music Department \$2,103

### JOSEPH AND PAULINE WARICHAR

To the University of Connecticut for Elizabeth Bowman \$1,000

### Early inhabitants and history

The Valley area was inhabited by several Native American tribes including the Paugassetts, Pequots, and the Pootatucks for centuries. The Paugasuck Indians, an Algonquin tribe, lived in the hills surrounding the Housatonic and Naugatuck river valleys.



## 2007 DONORS

We are grateful to the following donors who have made gifts to Valley Community Foundation Funds

Michael J. Adanti Memorial Golf Tournament	Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Scholarship Fund	Constance Jarvis
AJ's Center Service, Inc.	Stephen M. DeFrancesco	Ted Jester
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony D. Alessio	Steven Delgrego	Elwin Jimmo
Estate of Joseph 'Jay' Amico	Marsha Della-Giustina	Lorraine, Laura, and Brett Johnson
The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Derby Division	Elizabeth DePaolo	Paul and Elizabeth Kecskes
Jeff Anderson	Fran DeToro	M. Elizabeth Kennard
Joan Anderson	Mary A. Dickinson	Mary P. Kennard
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Boy Scout Troop #1	Theodore and Judith Fowler	Colleen Lieder
Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation	Frey-Hershey Foundation	William, Colleen and Constance Lieder
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Marie Cecarelli	Peter Gajdosik	Ioanna Madi
Melanie J. Cecarelli	Rudy and Pat Gajdosik	Joseph and Ruth Majoros
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## 2007 DONORS

We are grateful to the following donors who have made gifts to Valley Community Foundation Funds

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Robert and Laura Zambrano  
Rosemary J. Zavarella

Special thanks for Robert Scinto and Scinto Enterprises for their donation of office space.

*Valley veterans are proud of their service to their country. From the Revolutionary War through the current deployment of US troops throughout the world, Valley citizens have honorably served this nation in uniform during times of peace and conflict.*



## THE GATES SOCIETY OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Board of the Valley Community Foundation invites you to become a member of The Gates Society which recognizes those individuals who have included a charitable gift in their estate plans through the Foundation.

The Gates Society provides a way to thank and honor individuals during their lifetimes for gifts that will come through their estates. These gifts may contribute to an existing Fund, or with a gift of \$10,000 or more, can establish new funds with purposes of the donor's choosing. Gifts may be bequests through wills; charitable trusts or annuities that pay the donors income during their lives; and gifts of life insurance and retirement assets.

Donors have the sense of satisfaction that comes with making a commitment to the future of this community through a permanent endowment. Members will be listed in the Foundation's publications (unless donors prefer anonymity) and will be kept current on Foundation programs and activities. Members also provide a powerful example to others who are considering a legacy gift. Foundation staff is available to The Gates Society members and their financial and legal advisors to discuss their estate and gift planning objectives.

THE GATES SOCIETY IS NAMED TO HONOR FRANK AND ROSS GATES WHOSE BEQUESTS HAVE BENEFITED THE VALLEY COMMUNITY IN PROFOUND WAYS, INCLUDING SEEDING THE FORMATION OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

Endowment gifts, such as the Gates, provide permanent support for purposes donors held dear during their lives. While increasing in size, the Gates Fund has supported diverse Valley organizations and initiatives, including capital and equipment improvements, scouting trips and teen mentoring programs, and emergency food, shelter and transportation services.

*Today's generous and forward-thinking citizens leave a legacy that will be the key to the future for generations to come.*





*Pictured L-R Front Row: M. Elizabeth Kennard, Alan J. Tyma, Esq., Mary L. Pepe, A.F. Drew Alden, Angela G. Powers, Leon J. Sylvester, Gregory Stamos, Esq., Timothy P. Dillon, Esq. Back Row: Joseph A. Pagliaro, Jr., James E. Ryan, James E. Cohen, Kenneth E. Schaible, William C. Bassett, David M. Grant, John Zaprzalka*

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## 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. Each reflects the personal values and spirit of the donor who strives to help others and leave a legacy of thoughtful and effective giving.



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### **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 advise the Fund.

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.



### **JOSEPH "JAY" AMICO ARTISTIC MEMORIAL FUND MAY 2007**

Established by Nicholas Amico, executor of the estate of Joseph Amico and Jay's father, to provide scholarships to graduating students of Ansonia High School. (see profile page 4)



### **THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, DERBY DIVISION FUND DECEMBER 2007**

Grants from this Fund will be made for Valley students to attend Roman Catholic elementary schools or high schools, and/or to support educational activities that promote understanding among people of different backgrounds, and/or to fulfill the motto of "friendship, unity and Christian charity." (see profile page 5)

### **ANONYMOUS FUND APRIL 2006**



### **BASSETT FAMILY FUND DECEMBER 2005**

This Fund was established by Founding Board Member William C. Bassett and his wife Judith as a donor advised fund to support their various community activities and as a means to involve their children in philanthropy.

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



## FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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."

### **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 were matched by the Foundation.



### **EDWARD CECARELLI BOOK FUND DECEMBER 2005**

This Fund was established by the Cecarelli Family of Derby to support the purchase of books for the Derby Public Library.

As a lifelong 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 a designated endowment supporting the purchase of books for the Derby Public Library, now and in years to come.



### **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.

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, established 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. "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 Founding 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 served 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. "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.

### **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



## FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

community endowment which supports our community's opportunities and ever changing needs over time.



### 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.

Every once in awhile, if you are fortunate enough, someone comes into your life who truly points you on a path towards 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. 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 DiCenso. "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 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."



### 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 which support various valuable activities and programs of the Library that are outside operating costs.

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 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-squarefoot addition to complement the original Colonial Revival style building that is now listed on the National Historic Register.

### DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY HAROLD YUDKIN FUND FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION 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 were matched by the Foundation.

"We were very excited about the challenge and the generosity of Mrs. Yudkin and others in reaching our match," says Ms. Gleason, pointing out that monies generated by it have been 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.



### 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.

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 at 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 Leader, he was trial and



## FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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. 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."



### THE FREY-HERSHEY FOUNDATION FUND DECEMBER 2006

This Fund is established by a transfer of assets from the Frey-Hershey Foundation to create a donor advised fund. (see profile pages 6-7)



### 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. (see profile page 8)



### 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 makes scholarship awards to graduating students of Shelton High School.

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 with the recipients up until his passing in August 2006,

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 are selected by the Administration and Guidance Departments of Shelton High School.



### DAVID M. GRANT FAMILY FUND JANUARY 2005

This Fund was started and is being built by Founding Board Member 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.

David J. Grant, and his brother Michael, have been raised to give back to their 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,



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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  
APRIL 2005**

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

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 someone is in need. They surround you and take care of you. Whenever there is 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, his nephews, now and in years 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 grants. 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."

**HOUSATONIC COUNCIL BOYS  
SCOUTS OF AMERICA FUND  
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 were 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.

Patricia Kondrath thought education was important, so much so that she instilled her strong desire for learning and knowledge with 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, Luralton Hall in Milford. "Our attorney, Alan Tyma, suggested utilizing the Valley Community Foundation as a flexible way to simplify the process of the donations we received." "My wife attended school at Luralton, 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 Luralton Hall. "My wife grew up in Derby and Shelton, we then married, and moved to Stratford," said Mr. Kondrath. "Our two sons grew up here and went to colleges in New England. Matthew married Kelly in 2002 and lives in Florida with our two grandchildren, Amanda and Benjamin. Chris lives in Oregon with his two 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."



**PAUL KONWERSKI,  
FAMILY FUND  
DECEMBER 2007**

Grants from the Paul J. Konwerski Family Fund will be made with recommendations from the family for a variety of programs and organizations in the Valley, including education. (see profile page 9)



**MARY FUND  
DECEMBER 2004**

This Fund was started and is being built by Founding Board Member 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.

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 1900's when most women did not have the same opportunity," says Liz, who established the 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 makes grants 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



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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."



### ANN O'NEIL MEMORIAL FOR INTEGRITY FUND JULY 2003

#### TRANSFERRED TO VCF IN 2005

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.

Ann O'Neil always placed a high value on integrity. She raised her five children to the highest standard of honesty, hard work, and determination. Mrs. O'Neil herself was one of thirteen children who left school in the 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.



### 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, its funds.

The Oak Cliff Cemetery Association oversees three properties of historic significance to the Valley, 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 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 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."



### 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.

"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."



## FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



### **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.

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.

With 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. "Someday 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 DECEMBER 2004**

Founding Board Member 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.

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 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 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."



### **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 were matched by the Foundation.

### **PRESIDENT'S FUND DECEMBER 2006**

Established by the Board of Directors in recognition of the President's efforts and is being built as a donor advised fund. The Chief Executive Officer of the Valley Community Foundation serves as the Advisor to the Fund.



### **SAM RIFKIN MEMORIAL FUND DECEMBER 2001**

#### **TRANSFERRED TO VCF IN 2005**

Established with gifts at the time of Sam Rifkin death in 2001, Founding Board Member David Rifkin, Sam's son, added to the donor advised fund and requested its transfer to the new Foundation.

David Rifkin speaking about his father, Sam, "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. "Being involved and giving back was his legacy," says Dave, speaking of 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 father's club at Dave's high school to raise funds for the athletics department. It was the beginning of what has become a fundraising 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 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.



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**GEORGE AND BEATRICE  
RYAN SCHOLARSHIP  
SEPTEMBER 2004**

George and Beatrice 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.

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 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 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  
JANUARY 2005**

Founding Board member 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.

At 18, Megan Ryan of Ansonia was already serving her first year as a corporator at the Valley United Way. As such, she attended the non-profit's 2006 annual meeting and played a role in electing the new board of directors. Her younger sister, Katey, has eagerly followed 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 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 in 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."



**NORMAN K AND JANET N.  
SANTA FUND  
AUGUST 2007**

This Fund was established by Janet and Norman Santa to provide assistance to people from the Valley who are attending trade schools. (see profile page 10)



**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.



## FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

### DOROTHY E. AND KENNETH E. SCHAIBLE FUND FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY DECEMBER 2005

As a participating organization in the Foundation's Endowment Challenge Program, this Fund is a designated fund to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley and gifts were matched by the Foundation.

Ken and Dotty Schaible know first hand the value of a community foundation. After serving seven years on the Board of Directors for the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Ken was one of the Founding Board Members of 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 and 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." Community foundations are flexible vehicles for donors and their families to leave lasting legacies."



### 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.

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. "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.



### 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.

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 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 Founding Board Member 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."



## FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



### JOHN TYMA FUND MAY 2005

Established by Founding Board Member Alan Tyma in honor of his father, this Fund will be advised by the donor.

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 was 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 John Tyma Fund 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 that will live long after they do and keep on promoting the best for their community."



### 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.

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. 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 since 1937. Additional monies have been given to commemorate deceased family members, and to honor significant events in the lives of other Association members.



### 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.  
(see profile page 11)



### PETER J. VARTELAS INVEST IN YOUTH FUND FOR THE VALLEY YMCA #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 were 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. Both funds are named to honor the significant contributions of Peter J. Vartelas to the Valley YMCA.  
(see profile page 12)



### VARTELAS-STAMOS FUND NOVEMBER 2006

This Fund is established by the Vartelas and Stamos family members in honor of their beloved parents and grandparents, John Vartelas and Paraskeve Vonetes Vartelas.  
(see profile page 13)



# FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



## 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. The saxophone-playing high school student, 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 ongoing 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,” she said. “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 Boland, and the Ansonia Veterans of Post 597, shiny new instruments and uniforms will be a staple for the Ansonia High School Band.



## ANGELINA M. VITALI AND VALENTINA V. VITALI FUND ESTABLISHED 2007

Valentina V. Vitali is the first person to have left a bequest to the Valley Community Foundation.  
(see profile page 14)



## 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.

More than 70 years ago, Joseph Warichar built his family home on Sentinel hill in Derby, an area filled with large farms and fields. He had a custom 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 Mary Chromik, 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.”



## FUNDS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



### WOMEN IN NETWORKING FUND

DECEMBER 2006

This fund was established by the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce and its Women in Networking group to support the women-owned businesses in the Valley.  
(see profile page 15)



### 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. 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 commu-

nity," 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."

### *Children are the future*

*Children have always been treasured as an important community resource. Infants, young children, and teenagers have been cared for and have received opportunities through the Valley's schools, service clubs and recreational leagues. Over the years Valley leaders have made significant investments to build character and provide numerous programs for this community's young people.*



OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HELPED  
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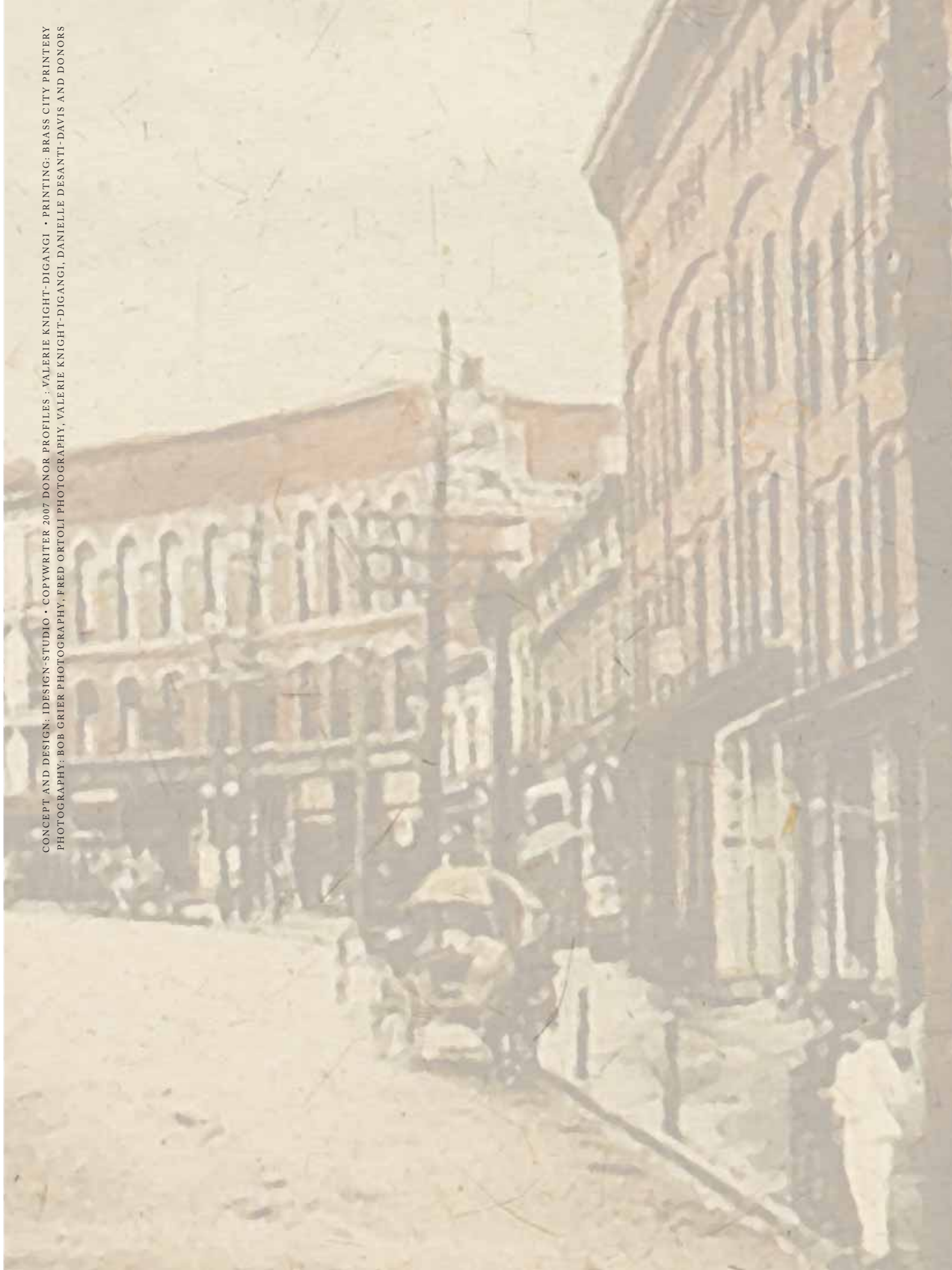
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