

VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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VALLEY COMMUNITY

FOUNDATION

Dear Valley Friends,

We wish you comfort and peace as we — together — chart better days ahead. The first year of the pandemic called for resilience and the ability to adapt quickly. In contrast, 2021 taught us the power of perseverance. We have all endured prolonged feelings of fear, grief, and the uncertainty of the unknown. No matter the obstacles that may arise, we are ready to find our next normal.

We at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) have found great comfort during the tumult of the past two years in the unwavering strength of our beloved Valley, and the extraordinary and courageous people that live here.

While the needs of our residents have never been greater, there is no limit to the pride and determination of our tightknit community that keeps us moving forward. We see it every day in the generosity of donors and through the tireless work of our community partners, childcare workers, educators, public safety officers and healthcare providers. Like a compass, their strength guides us.

In 2021, we saw a record number of gifts and grants, tangible evidence of the unstinting spirit of our Valley residents and



is a testament to their dedication to giving. Sometimes generosity instilled by others inspires. Just ask Amy Vatner. After the aspiring children's author learned about Gerry Eckhardt's VCF fund that supports her town library, she reached out to us. Grants were applied for, collaborations were made, and in the end, VCF was part of a team of nonprofits that helped get her book published. Today that book, *Hello Sometimes*, can be found in the hands of thousands of children. *For Good*, we inspire one another.

We have also watched seeds planted long ago flourish, as enduring legacies of permanent funds grow and help future generations in so many ways. That is why as part of their estate planning last year, Shelton residents Barry and Josephine Lifrieri established a fund to support causes they are passionate about. *For Ever*, we link generations together.

There are also deep roots of former residents who continue to support the Valley in honor of relatives and friends, and whose love of their hometown has blossomed into scholarships and funds that support our Valley. For them, no matter where they live, the Valley will always be home. Peter Burns Jr. knows this. Although he now lives in California, he created a fund for his father, Peter Burns, Sr. who learned about it on Christmas Day. *For the Valley*, we stay the course.

In our Valley, we treasure the strength of those around us and honor our community's enduring ability to care, lead and lift us all. We pledge to continue to do the same — as we have for more than 17 years — staying true to our course, and mission.

We work For Good, For Ever, For the Valley.

With sincere regards,

Jack Walsh Board Chair Sharon Closius President & CEO







NEW FUNDS

FOR GOOD. FOR EVER. FOR THE VALLEY. FOR GOOD. FOR EVER. FOR THE VALLEY.

FOR GOOD.



Sometimes in the world of philanthropy, the planets align. On that November day in 2019, when Amy Vatner took her children to the library, she never quessed how an event there and its connection to a Valley Community Foundation (VCF) fund, would change her life and help children learn to cope with a global crisis.

Amy, an attorney and at the time an aspiring children's book author, said the free concert was fantastic. It was sponsored by the Gerry Hellmann Eckhardt Fund for the Woodbridge Town Library.

"It was wonderful," Amy said. "That's how I learned about the Eckhardt fund and about VCF."

In February of 2020, she reached out to VCF to express her thanks for the concert and get some advice. She'd been writing for years but hadn't been published. She specifically wanted to get her books to families who may not be able to afford them. VCF staff discussed ideas, including connecting Amy with the Read to Grow (RTG) nonprofit. It seemed at long last, her dreams of getting published were going to happen. But then, in March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"I thought everything was going to be put on hold forever," Amy said. "But that didn't happen. Everyone rallied to help, it was incredible."

That October, amid the first wave of the pandemic, RTG received funds from VCF to publish the book. Then VCF reached out to a longtime fund holder and retired teacher, Liz Kennard. Liz, a former VCF board member, enthusiastically lent support for the project. She approved a grant from the Mary Fund, named for her mother and grandmothers. Also, funding came from generous donors who supported VCF's Valley COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts. The book went into print in the spring of 2021 and was unveiled to the public last July. Vatner's read-aloud book Hello Sometimes is centered around a little boy learning to navigate the sometimes scary and trying times caused by the pandemic. The rhythmic text and colorful art offer readers a comforting perspective on dealing with change. Today more than 22,000 children have received a copy of Amy's book, all because a VCF donor sponsored a library event, another longtime funder supported the book project and an area nonprofit teamed with a writer to tell a story to help children.

VCF connected the dots, fostered collaboration and helped provide funding which launched a project that — For Good — will serve Valley families, and educate children for years to come.

FOR EVER.



It's not clear when life-long Ansonia resident Raymond Mackowski first heard of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and its mission to better the region by fostering local philanthropy. But before he died, at age 90, he left a very generous gift in VCF's care to help his beloved Valley

long after he was gone. In the last four years, the Raymond Mackowski Fund has done just that.

In a community as diverse and caring as the Valley, deciding where, when, and how much to give can be daunting. There are hundreds of worthy organizations — new and old — doing extraordinary work for the region. That's why area nonprofits are such an integral part of the community. That's also why VCF will always be here to support, advise, and steward the wishes of donors striving to make the Valley a better place to live, work and raise a family.

In his will, Raymond directed his gift be used for "the most important opportunities and needs of the Valley" and that VCF could decide where the grants

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would go. Today, grants from this unrestricted fund have made substantial contributions throughout the Valley. His original bequest has grown and helped many area nonprofits and causes, and it will help many more in the future.

Giving and leaving a legacy can also be very personal. Whether you wish to foster learning through scholarships or address broader community needs through an advised or unrestricted fund, a permanent gift can have a meaningful and a long-lasting impact on a region.

That's what Barry and Josephine Lifrieri aim to do with their new donor advised fund. But unlike Raymond's broader-based final wishes, the Barry and Josephine Lifrieri Fund will help causes special to them when they are gone. For the Shelton couple, arts organizations, animal shelters, and programs for senior citizens are their focus of interest.

As the Valley emerges from the life-changing events of the last two years, VCF is bolstered by the incredible foresight and generosity of our funders — like Raymond, Barry and Josephine — who will enrich our community well into the future.

They lift us all with their trust, optimism, and heartfelt love of our Valley. Their contributions will — For Ever — endure.

FOR THE VALLEY.



The rolling hills and the rivers that cut through our Valley makes this area geographically distinctive, esthetically beautiful, and outright picturesque. The people that comprise this close-knit community are equally remarkable. Residents are hardworking, proud, loyal, caring and — when it comes to giving — very generous. They are devoutly committed to their community, and for many the Valley is true north. Always there, always safe — always home.

Evidence of that devotion is easy to find at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) through the many funds and scholarships created by former residents long separated from home, but keen on staying connected. That's how it is for Robert Moseley.

Robert is retired and lives in Georgia now, but he said his 25 years in Shelton were special. So special that when his dad, Luke Moseley, died in 1992 he created a scholarship at Shelton High School to honor him. For 30 years, Robert funded the scholarship for students aspiring to be pilots or aviation mechanics. Now, thanks to him, that scholarship is here at VCF and will always be there to help Shelton students.

For many who have moved away, the events of the last few years have underscored the importance of keeping in touch with hometown roots. Although he hasn't lived here for a while, Peter Burns, Jr. loves the Valley. He was born and raised in Ansonia and now lives in California. He recently decided to honor his father by creating a new donor advised fund.

On Christmas Day, Peter Burns, Sr. opened an envelope from his son, and was amazed. It was a simple letter explaining the details of a fund named after him.

"For my dad who has given so much over the years to his family and Ansonia, I thought it would be the perfect gift, a great way to say thank you," Peter, Jr. said. "I was so thrilled I could do this for him."

School, work, marriage, or a simple zest for travel can take Valley residents to all parts of the country, indeed the world. Those — like Robert, Peter and so many others — who maintain a long-distance legacy of giving to the Valley are true examples of the generous spirit woven into our community. They show that no matter where you go, or where your journey ends, you can always be connected, and — For the Valley — always be part of home.



NEW FUNDS

FOUNDATION

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) is here to help you make a positive difference in the community and support causes and organizations you care about. Every VCF grant comes from a gift made by someone just like you. When you establish a charitable fund with us, you choose the name and purpose. Our commitment is to ensure your wishes are carried out.

There are various types of funds to meet your specific philanthropic goals and ambitions. In 2021, we had 16 new funds established at VCF. Each was created for a different reason and will help address unique causes. We are proud to share these stories with you. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about establishing a fund. Together, we can find a solution that best fits your philanthropic plan and values.



WINSTON J. BISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Winston J. Bish was a gifted man of many talents who shaped minds and opened hearts throughout his lifetime.

Whether painting magnificent oil portraits or wildlife in their habitats, crafting his own line of quality banjos, serving as Unified Arts teacher at Madison Middle School, or as Head Hockey Coach of Trumbull High, this humble, gentle spirit was beloved by all. Many former students and hockey players continued to keep in touch with him over the years.

Winston — or Win to those that knew

him and always Mr. Bish to his students — served proudly in the 101st Army Airborne during the Vietnam War. Along with his full-time military duties, he coached a boys softball team at Fort Bragg, and while in Vietnam he even sponsored a nine-year-old girl's education, including tuition and uniforms.

"Winston truly loved children," said his wife, Corinne Dellaera-Bish. To honor him, she turned to the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and created the Winston J. Bish Memorial Scholarship. "I wanted this scholarship to support students pursuing technology education and wood-working careers who need financial aid."

Corinne first learned about community foundations through Liz Kennard, former VCF Board Chair and a longtime friend of hers and Winston's.

Winston was a star high school athlete and later a hockey coach, winning awards and accolades throughout his coaching career. In fact, in 1983 he was featured in hockey's Goal Magazine as the country's first African-American high school hockey coach. In 1987, he won the "Coach of The Year" award from the National Ice Hockey Officials Association.

"Winston was the love of my life," Corinne said. "After his passing, I wanted to do something to honor my amazing husband. That's when I turned to VCF to create a scholarship in his name to help students at Trumbull High and Bassick High in Bridgeport, his alma mater."

"Win came from a family of eleven children, so I know there are many kids out there just like him who are gifted and would benefit from some help," Corinne said. "I'm pleased to know that VCF has provided me with the tools to help bring this tribute to my Winston to life."



DONOR ADVISED FUND

On Christmas, Peter Burns, Sr. opened an envelope that left him speechless. "I'm still tongue tied by the gift from my son. It chokes me up every time I talk about it." His son, Peter Burns, Jr. established the Peter F. Burns, Sr. Fund without telling anyone.

"My father never asks for anything, he's a giver," Peter, Jr. explained.

"Years ago he mentioned he'd like a family fund someday. The idea caught my attention and I noticed how many VCF funds are named for his classmates or good family friends. This fund will benefit the Valley and should be in his name. I don't think you can tell Ansonia's story without mentioning my dad."

Peter, Sr. attended Assumption School, graduated from Ansonia High School in 1958, and later the University of New Haven. His devotion to Ansonia started early. He was a tri-captain of the 1957 Ansonia football team and served on the Ansonia Board of Aldermen, the youngest board president in the town's history. For years, he worked as Executive Director of the Ansonia Redevelopment Agency and later Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic Development.



Peter, Jr. said his father helped Ansonia transition from its older manufacturing economy to the town it is today, mirroring his own family's history. "My father worked at Ansonia Copper and Brass for 45 years, and my brother also worked there," Peter, Sr. said.

His public service wasn't just

in politics. Peter, Sr. was a volunteer firefighter with Webster Hose H&L Co. #3, served on the Church of the Assumption parish council and helped form the local chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He was also director of the Connecticut Hurricanes Drum & Bugle Corps, helping win the 1967 American Legion National Championship at Fenway Park.

Today, when most his age are retired, Peter Burns, Sr. is still working to make our Valley better. As an executive at the local engineering firm, Luchs and DeCarlo & Doll, he's been an integral part of a several large regional projects.

"My dad is an incredible person, inspiration, and true role model in the community," Peter, Jr. said. "Ansonia and the Valley are better places because of him."



ANGELA CURAS FUND

DESIGNATED FUND

Angela Curas was a generous, loving, keenly intelligent and a fiercely private person. Despite her years, her family says they couldn't keep up with her when it came to discussing news of the day, politics or world events.

"During her last years, we exchanged email messages daily and I found her knowledgeable on countless topics," said her great-nephew, John Petrone. "She was incredible."

Angela was a retired state court stenographer. In her youth, however, she



was a fashion model and talented photographer. Also, her lifelong love of cats was evident as she often adopted neighborhood strays that needed a loving home.

So, when Greg Stamos, her longtime friend and lawyer, learned Angela was considering creating a fund to support her church, the Salvation Army, and an area animal shelter, he wasn't surprised.

He said over the years, he truly came to appreciate her earnest desire to help her community. Angela passed away

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"She decided to do this with the simple goal of helping others less fortunate than she was"

in late 2020 at the age of 92, but long before that she planned out the fund that now bears her name.

"She decided to do this with the simple goal of helping others less fortunate than she was," Greg said. "Angela could best be described as a quintessential lady, always dressed to the nines when going to the Shubert Theatre or New York City. But I think she'll be remembered most for her generosity, her big heart and how much she loved her family."

Lucas Petrone, Angela's great-nephew, said she was the family's rock who cherished her Greek

heritage and loved showing the younger generation photographs and talking about family members from her youth. They loved her stories and simply adored her.

"Aunt Kitty was my guardian angel," Lucas said. "Her focus on family was strong and she was always there for me. The time I spent with her gave me nothing but a sense of positivity. I am indebted to her and so full of love because of our connection."



CAPT. JERRY DRUGONIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

When Jerry Drugonis graduated from Seymour High in 1954, he never thought he'd ever go back to school again. After all, the headstrong teenager and school just didn't mix well.

"He hated being told what to do, so he didn't like school at all," said his daughter-in-law, and Seymour First Selectwoman, Annmarie Drugonis. "But all that seemed to change after he went into the Marine Corps."

It would be his military service, some stateside and some overseas in the Korean War, that taught Jerry about

discipline and pushed him to eventually further his education. As soon as he was out of the military, after a brief stint at Sikorsky and Pratt & Whitney, he applied for a job with the Connecticut State Police and graduated from the academy in 1960.

Soon after he joined the state police, he married his beloved Arline Popikas, they started a family, and for 29 years, Jerry Drugonis worked as a state trooper. He climbed the career ladder reaching a coveted captain's rank. Somehow along the way, and even though a college degree was not required at the time for troopers, he went back to school. First, he



earned his associate degree in police science, then a bachelor's in business administration, and finally a master's in criminal justice.

He served locally too. He was on the Seymour Police Commission and served more than a decade in the Seymour Fire Department as a member of the Great Hill Hose Company.

His family says as much as he loved being a state police officer, his passion may have been teaching. The once school-hating teenager went on to be an adjunct teacher of criminal justice at the

University of New Haven, his alma mater.

In the spring of 2021, after Jerry died, Arline and their sons Christopher and Matthew, daughter-inlaw, Annmarie and granddaughter, Alana, decided to create a scholarship fund at the Valley Community Foundation for students who plan to pursue careers in law enforcement or the criminal forensics field.

"Dad was always about educating and learning," Annmarie said. "So, this scholarship is always going to be there, and I think he would really be proud and happy knowing that."

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MAYOR RICHARD A. GRANDE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2017, Camille Kurtyka started a memorial scholarship fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) with her cousin Joanne Cannata to remember her brother, Mayor Richard A. Grande. Recently, Camille added funds to ensure that the scholarships would continue permanently.

"It's good to know that people can always contribute to a fund like this and it will continue. We want to keep it going in Richard's memory," she said. "The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) was a perfect organization to manage the fund ensuring scholarships

will always be there to help Derby High School students."

Richard served three terms as Mayor of Derby, from 1986 to 1991. He was always working to lift Derby by making it a better place to live for all, Camille said. He was instrumental in spearheading the construction of the town's new Police Headquarters, reviving Olde Derby Day, and the gazebo, on the Derby Green, bears his name. He was also active with Derby Pop Warner, and helped with the construction project of St. Jude Church on Pleasant View Road.



Camille's husband, George, recalled that his brother-in-law worked the third shift as a respiratory therapist at Griffin Hospital for 32 years, using his days to help members of the community.

"There are people in our current government who got their start with Richard. He counseled and even inspired them," George said. "The city was very important to him, second only to his family. Whether he was mayor or just a citizen, he'd always be there for someone who asked for his help."

"He was very community-oriented," his sister said. "The community truly appreciated his dedication. When I ran for alderwoman, I made sure to run as Camille Grande Kurtyka because he was so loved."

Camille said the scholarship will benefit high school seniors who exhibit academic success, participate in civic and religious activities, as well as sports, and social events. "Just like Richard, we want to support future leaders who will make a difference in society."



COACH BOBBY KELO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Most Seymour residents know Robert Edward Kelo simply as — Coach Kelo. When Coach Kelo passed away in 2020, his mom, Jackie, and sister, Deb, set up the Coach Bobby Kelo Memorial Scholarship for graduating students at Seymour High School. It's where he taught math for 32 years, and was head baseball coach, and coached Wildcats football for 27 years.

"Bobby had such a love for baseball and spent so much time at French Park," Deb said. "It was his second



home. The Seymour Board of Selectmen even named the dugout and road leading up to the park after Bobby. Today people can see his plaque and know the impact he had on all of us."

After Coach Kelo passed away, people all over town displayed their letterman jackets on their porches in his honor. Deb and her family were very moved by the outpouring of love.

"He was more than just a coach to so many," Deb said. "He was humble and

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"He was a tough guy with a heart of gold."

did what he could for the kids, whether it was helping them prep for the SATs or coaching. So many told me he didn't care if someone was the best athlete or student, so long as they wanted to learn he'd help them."

Even in retirement, Deb said Coach Kelo continued to help others. "His friends in Florida told me he was their life coach. It's hard to know how many he helped over the years. It was mentioned during his eulogy that Bobby's superpower was being a friend. Whether you knew him for years or just met, he treated you like you had been friends forever." Deb fondly remembers how her big brother would come to her high school games, and later drive hours to see her play in college. "The support he showed for his family was the same support he showed to his players and friends," she said. "He was a tough guy with a heart of gold."

Editor's Note: Just a few weeks after the fund was created, Jackie Kelo died peacefully knowing her beloved son would be honored in perpetuity.



BARRY AND JOSEPHINE LIFRIERI FUND DONOR ADVISED FUND

Barry and Josephine Lifrieri fell in love with the Valley more than 30 years ago and have always worked to make their community better.

Recently, the Shelton couple decided to take their love for the region to the next level by establishing a fund to support the Valley now, and well into the future.

"I worked in the nonprofit sector and I remember when the Valley Community Foundation was formed," Josephine said. "I have seen the positive impact VCF has had on our community as the Valley has received the attention it needs."

"We wanted to leave a legacy by giving back to our community when we started our estate planning," Barry said. "We don't have children, so we were thinking about the causes important to us."

Barry and Josephine said the Valley has so many wonderful nonprofit organizations, but through their fund they want to help the ones dear to them. Right now, they have three areas of interest.

"We've always been animal lovers, especially cats," Josephine said. "And helping the elderly captures my



heart because that was my focus when I was working. We love the theater and arts, I could see a show every week. These are the things we want the fund to support."

Josephine said establishing a fund through VCF was easy, fit perfectly with their final wishes, and was reassuring to them. "Now no one needs to wonder what we would have wanted," she said.

Barry said he likes being able to encourage friends and family to support the fund now. "The fund will grow and of course carry out our wishes when

we're gone," he said. "And friends can add to it for birthdays, or special events."

"We both came from hard-working middle-class families and to do this is more than we possibly could have imagined," Barry said. "Just like people who plan to leave their belongings to individuals, we incorporated nonprofits that share our passions. Anyone can set up a fund like this and pick the areas that are important to them. This is just our way, and it's good to know you don't need to be a millionaire."





KATE MARKS BRILLIANT FEMALE FUND

DONOR ADVISED FUND

Kate Marks is not only a successful and talented businesswoman, she's also an award-winning jewelry designer, metalsmith and gemologist, seasoned in the jewelry industry since 1985. She's also determined to give back to her Valley. The name Kate chose for her fund says it all.

"I think anyone who has been through a challenging experience in their career or lifetime will learn from it and something positive will always come to fruition," Kate said. "I want to help other women understand that. I've been fortunate and successful in my

journey, and this Valley community is a large part of my success. The Valley Community Foundation has given me a way to support women who are driven goal-setters."

Kate said she's had her share of challenges as an outspoken assertive female, both in her youth and adulthood. "Brilliant females in male-dominated fields, such as mine, need help at times. I want to support other strong women with starting a business, scholarships, financial assistance or even just trying



to make it through something like the recent pandemic. This is a fund for fabulous women of all ages."

Kate said she taught her children that giving back to the community should always be a priority.

"They understand how important it is to give back to those that helped me be successful," Kate said. "That's why my children and nieces are on the fund's advisory committee, I want them to understand why it exists and the impact it can have on our community." Kate's passion as a gemologist and

goldsmith is evident by the success of her business. Marks of Design jewelry store has thrived in Shelton for more than 22 years.

"Diamonds and gemstones are a large part of my business," Kate said. "We need to be there for each other, to straighten each other's crowns when needed, because they get heavy at times. This fund will allow me to create a legacy that will help other women sparkle."



LUKE MOSELEY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Robert Moseley established the Luke Moseley Aviation Scholarship at Shelton High School to honor his father when he passed in 1992. The scholarship was an annual award that provided \$2,000 to a student eager to enter the aviation industry in any capacity, such as a pilot or technician.

Eric Martire, the high school's guidance counselor, informed Robert that the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) manages all Shelton High scholarship funds. "I had no idea that by giving a



certain amount of money there would be enough to carry on the scholarship in perpetuity," he said. "It was exciting to learn because I had been writing a check every year and wondered what would happen if I stopped."

"My father was captivated with aviation right from the start. As a kid in Iowa on the farm, he'd lay down in the fields, look at the sky and watch planes fly overheard," Robert said. "That perked his interest in aviation. He managed to take some lessons but most of his

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"We set up this scholarship after he was gone but I think he'd be thrilled to know we're still honoring his legacy by supporting younger people who enter this field."

training came from the Army Air Corps. Dad flew troops and supplies to Europe during World War II."

After military service, Luke Moseley's career would include 35 years as a corporate pilot for PepsiCo.

Luke Moseley lived in Ridgefield so he could be closer to Westchester Airport, but Robert and his family lived in Shelton for 25 years. His son, also named Luke, graduated from Shelton High in 2007. Bob is retired now and lives just outside of Atlanta, which just happens to have the busiest airport in the country. "Shelton means a lot to us," he said. "We thought the scholarship would have more impact at Shelton High because there are likely fewer scholarship opportunities for aviation students compared to the Atlanta area."

"My father loved aviation and always wanted to help others," he said. "We set up this scholarship after he was gone but I think he'd be thrilled to know we're still honoring his legacy by supporting younger people who enter this field."





MICHAEL J. REGAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Michael J. Regan's legacy is a truly remarkable story of human inspiration. He lived a life nothing short of amazing and had an incredible love for his family, and lifelong friendships that meant the world to him.

Michael was severely injured at age 11, and had to learn to live life all over again confined to a wheelchair. But his personal grit,

humility and relentless determination made him an example of courage to everyone he met.

"Michael was a trusted friend to so many both young and old. He was so compassionate, and the most unselfish person you would ever meet," said Michael's mom, Kathleen Malerba. "He was always gracious with his time to listen or bestow sagely advice. He was an old soul."

Michael's devotion to Derby High School athletics and his classmates was unmatched. He was an extremely talented young athlete, and was a fixture at many local sporting events. He was also a sports fanatic, historian and incredible trivia buff who loved the Boston Red Sox, Miami Dolphins, and anything



connected to the University of Notre Dame.

Also, despite his physical disability, Michael experienced his love of music to the fullest, attending more than 100 rock concerts in his lifetime. His friends and family say it was a privilege to be around him and impossible to not be profoundly impacted by his positive energy.

"He was able to touch the lives of so many and give far more than he ever received," Michael's mom said. "His display of strength, no matter how rough the circumstances, made him an example to live by. He was constantly on the go and his pursuit to live life to the fullest was an absolute inspiration to witness."

Through this fund, Michael's friends and family hope to keep his spirit and memory alive and inspire others with the annual scholarship for a graduating Derby High School senior.

The scholarship amount – \$2,424 – is a tribute to Michael's Pop Warner football jersey – No. 24.

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PETER STAMOS FUND FOR THE ANSONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

DESIGNATED FUND

The tale behind the Peter Stamos Fund for the Ansonia Public Library is just as wonderful as the stories sitting on its shelves.

For most of his life, Peter Stamos, now 96, has been an avid reader finishing three or more books weekly. Born in Bridgeport, he moved to Ansonia after marrying his late wife, Mary Vartelas, in the early 1950s. He became an educator and retired as the principal of the Lincoln-Hayes School in Ansonia.

His love for the library started during his frequent stops there on his way

home from work. He developed longstanding and meaningful relationships with the staff, and a deep appreciation for the library's significant role in the community.

"If the library didn't have the book, the librarians would be happy to order it," said Greg Stamos, Peter's son. "The staff always took care of dad, and in return he would make modest annual donations and supported any initiative, such as the clock restoration and repair of the iconic Pegasus mosaic at the entrance." When Greg's mother passed away in 2005, Peter donated money for books in her memory and Greg was impressed with the reaction of other library patrons.



"People would approach my dad to say they read a library book and noticed my mother's name on the inside cover. How neat is that?"

Greg credits his siblings, Paul, Lisa and Paris, with the idea to create a fund at the Valley Community Foundation. "By establishing a fund during his lifetime, he can see the difference his generosity is making," Greg said. "He has always been an advocate for literacy, that's why we're all voracious readers."

Although Peter has patronized libraries in

other towns over the years, he said the Ansonia Public Library holds a special place in the Stamos family's heart.

"I have received so much from the Ansonia Public Library over the years," Peter Stamos reflected. "The friendships I have made and the experiences I have been able to receive are so incredibly valuable to me. I hope, through this fund, the library is able to continue to offer the same to others for generations to come."

Editor's Note: Peter Stamos passed away on March 19, 2022 surrounded by his large and wonderful family knowing his legacy had passed to future generations.



MARGARET ANN KOFARAGO THOMAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Margaret Ann Kofarago Thomas spent her life helping and healing others. She graduated from the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing in 1972 and went on to work at Bridgeport and Griffin Hospitals until her lifelong battle with Lupus forced her to change careers.

When Margaret passed away in 2020, her husband, Fred and daughters, Alyse and Jodi, established the Margaret Ann Kofarago Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor her memory and legacy of giving back and helping others. SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Alyse remembers her mother "Marge" as a strong advocate for good health. "She would answer questions when friends called, making sure they reported symptoms to their doctors. At work, she was always there for her patients."

Even after Marge retired from her nursing career, she decided to continue serving others by working at Bishop Wicke Health Center.

The family wants to honor Marge's passionate dedication to her work,

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"She loved family, butterflies, sunflowers, and being a nurse. She was very good at what she did. Now through this fund we can help someone who also wants to help others like she did."

by awarding scholarships to Shelton High School seniors pursuing careers in nursing. They also picked Shelton High because nearly everyone in Marge's family either graduated from the school or has strong ties to the city.

Fred and his daughters included Marge's maiden name in the scholarship because the Kofarago family – like the Thomas family – has old roots in Shelton. Marge's family is well known, and because of Marge's outgoing nature and love of people, Fred and his daughters hope the Kofarago name will bring back fond memories to her Valley neighbors.

Jodi said she is so grateful to the family friend who suggested creating a scholarship fund to honor her mom. "It's a great way to keep my mother's memory alive," Jodi said. "She loved family, butterflies, sunflowers, and being a nurse. She was very good at what she did. Now through this fund we can help someone who also wants to help others like she did."



VAN EGGHEN FAMILY FUND

DONOR ADVISED FUND

Robert Van Egghen is no stranger to volunteering and giving back to our Valley.

Bob, as he's affectionately known, has been lending his time and talent to this community for more than 20 years, serving on several boards of directors, advisory committees and councils for nonprofits throughout the entire Valley. Bob just says he's making up for lost time.

"I don't think I did my fair share to help while growing up," Bob said. "Now, I spend five nights a week on Zoom, helping various community organizations. I think it's wonderful."

Bob was bitten by the volunteer bug after he was appointed to several area nonprofits, including the Valley Community Foundation's (VCF) advisory council and TEAM, Inc.'s board of directors. He's also the Chair of the Advisory Board for the Valley chapter of the Salvation Army.

"I just fell in love with what all these great organizations do," Bob said. "Their work is near and dear to my heart. My wife, Elly, keeps asking me why I volunteer so much. I tell her if everyone did a tiny bit, no one would have to do a lot." In 2019, Bob and Elly decided to create a build-a-fund at VCF. This type of fund allows anyone to contribute over time with the intent of making it a permanent fund. This past year, they met the fund minimum and now can start recommending grants.

Bob said he's been thinking about creating a family fund for some time and VCF was the perfect

organization to steward and manage it.

"I love the way things are going at VCF and the phenomenal synergy they have through their connection with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven," Bob said. "I know our philanthropic wishes will be honored."

Bob has even recruited his 95-year-old father to participate by supporting the fund through his estate planning. "I'm not the thriftiest person in the world, but it's been easy and painless to reach this goal," Bob said. "That's one of the reasons why I found this type of fund attractive. We can build something that involves the entire family and truly create a Van Egghen legacy."



Once in a generation, a special family member comes along. It's a person who constantly gives, serves as a mentor, stands like a rock when needed, and always — with a smile — has only kind words for all.

Their generosity and spirit also grow, and they become a constant fixture in the community. For the Stamos family — Greg, Lisa, Paul,

and Paris, and their cousin, Ioanna — that person was Elias Vonetes, their beloved Uncle Louie.

To honor his memory, the family established the Uncle Louie Fund at the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) to benefit the Valley community and St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church.

"Every family should have the blessing of an Uncle Louie," said his great-niece, Lisa Heerdt.

In 1914, Elias arrived in America. He was 18 years old, from the mountain village of Vamvakou outside of Sparta in Greece. He settled in Ansonia, working in the family market and as a crane operator for Farrell Corporation. He never drove, nor married and lived with his extended family all his life until his death at the age of 101. He walked with his nieces, nephews, greatnieces and great-nephews, and pushed his great greatnieces and nephews in their carriages and strollers well into his 90s. Everyone loved him — neighborhood children, parishioners, friends of his

nieces and nephews. He was Uncle Louie to all.

"Uncle Louie was a perfect blend of the grandfather we didn't have. He was an uncle, second father, best friend to all," said great-nephew, Greg Stamos. "He somehow pulled this all off without any effort or being conscious of it."

The Stamos family has several other funds with VCF, so it was logical and easy for them to create this donor advised fund. "We wanted to honor Uncle Louie, who by example instilled in us the virtues of love and kindness not just towards family but towards all people," Lisa said. "We can't think of a better way to keep his memory alive."



ANNE M. AND VINCENT J. ZAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Anne and Vincent Zak were married for more than 50 years. The loving couple lived long happy lives, and had a large, wonderful family. He was a mechanical genius who worked with his hands. She was a retired nurse that loved knitting and gardening.

After both passed away, Vincent at age 80 and then last year Anne at 103, their children wanted to honor the hardworking and generous Shelton couple. They decided to create a scholarship fund in their name at the



Valley Community Foundation to benefit Shelton High School students.

"The scholarships will benefit kids in our hometown," said Vincent and Anne's daughter, Debra Petrushonis. "One scholarship will be awarded to a student who enrolls in a trade school or goes to college for machining, manufacturing, HVAC, automotive, electrical, or mechanical engineering. To honor my mother, a scholarship will go to a student who studies nursing."

(continued on page 16)

"This scholarship fund gives back to our community in a way that honors all that my parents have done."

Debra, a nurse like her mother was, remembers how her father encouraged his children to continue their education as far as possible. She and her sister, Linda Purcel, worked for the Shelton School District and their brother, Vincent Zak III, was a tuqboat captain and worked in construction.

"My father left school in the sixth grade because he and his four siblings had to work on the farm," she said. "He was a self-taught mechanic and would take care of tractors and bulldozers on the farm. He could fix anything. When he was older, he worked in the factories as a tool and die maker. He was a genius in

math and could do any calculation he needed at work."

Anne could sew, knit, crochet, grow any vegetable or flower, and bake like a pastry chef. But her true passion was nursing.

"She went to nursing school when we were kids and then worked at Griffin Hospital until her retirement," Debra said. "I treasure the photo of the three generations of nurses, my mother, me, and my daughter. This scholarship fund gives back to our community in a way that honors all that my parents have done.



AGENCY ON AGING FUND AT VCF

ORGANIZATION FUND

For years, the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut has provided help to our Valley's older residents. Through food programs, live-at-home services, educational outreach and other life-enhancing activities, the Agency has always been there for our Valley seniors.

disabilities.

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) has

collaborated with the Agency on Aging for years.

Most recently in April of 2020, at the height of the

food for homebound older adults and people with

Now the Agency on Aging is entrusting VCF with

a portion of its reserved assets to the foundation's

investment care. By doing so, it is supporting VCF.

Each year, the Agency on Aging makes a positive

impact in the lives of more than 15,000 area older

adults, many in the Valley, said Melissa Lang,

President and CEO of the Agency on Aging

pandemic, VCF granted the Agency funds to provide



Agency on Aging OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

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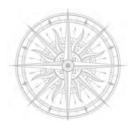
She added although they're headquartered in North Haven, they are the Agency on Aging for the Valley.

"We're already invested in The Community Foundation

for Greater New Haven, and although it's the same investment pool, we wanted the administrative fees from the new fund to go directly to VCF," Melissa said. "During COVID, we as an agency continued to provide direct services to our clients and we couldn't have done that without VCF. This fund allows us to support VCF and the Valley too."

The Agency on Aging could have invested its money with any financial business, but by choosing VCF it shows how trusted it has become as a steward in the region, said Sharon Closius, President and CEO of VCF.

"It was totally unexpected, and I appreciate their thoughtfulness," Sharon said. "Our administrative fees go directly to support our overhead which allows us to fulfill our mission to improve the Valley."



How to Set Up a Fund





Define the Goal of your Fund

Would you like your fund to be flexible so that it can address changing community needs and opportunities? Is there a specific charity or cause that you would like to support? Would you like to be involved in the grantmaking?



Name your Fund

This is your legacy. You, of course, can be anonymous if you prefer. Whether it is a family fund or created in memory of a loved one, the fund will still be making grants many decades from now and beyond.



Contact us

Let's have a conversation about how we can tailor your charitable goals to fit your personal situation. Whether you establish a fund now or give later via a planned gift, we will ensure your legacy and interests will be honored today, tomorrow, and forever. We connect private philanthropy to the long-term public good of the Valley and offer several types of funds as referenced throughout this report. You can support an existing fund or establish a new fund with the use of cash, appreciated securities, IRA distributions, and more.

Our funds are managed through our partner in philanthropy, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF), and their diversified investment portfolio. Over time, as the endowment grows, so do our funds and your ability to award grants.

By investing your charitable gift with us, you are increasing the long-term impact of your gift. All donations to the Valley Community Foundation are tax-deductible. When you're ready, we will work with you to prepare the fund agreement that fits your philanthropic goals.

Impact the Valley for generations to come by creating a permanent endowed fund. Call (203) 751-9162, visit us in person at 253-A Elizabeth St., Derby, CT or view our website at www.valleyfoundation.org.

Donor Advised Funds

The easiest way to support nonprofits and causes dear to you in the Valley and beyond is through a Donor Advised Fund. Offering maximum flexibility, you recommend grants from the fund to any qualified public charity in the country. You can also add to your fund and recommend grants from it at any time.



Kathleen and Mariano Adamo Community Service Fund John and Paraskeve Vartelas 'AGAPE' Fund Alesevich Family Fund **Bassett Family Fund** Monty Blakeman Fund Peter F. Burns, Sr. Fund* Champagne Family Fund Cohen Community Advised Fund Cohen-DeToro Charitable Fund Iane C. and David B. Cohen Fund Nick Collicelli Legacy Fund Frank and Ann Conroy Fund for the Joy of Music Mary Lou Cicia Cook Memorial Fund Salvatore and Linda Tiano Coppola Family Fund Thomas and Ruth Curran Family Fund D'Addario Family Fund Michael and Elizabeth Dalton Family Fund Derby - Puglianello Sister City Fund Walter and Bonnie Drozeck Fund Frey-Hershey Foundation Fund Marc J. Garofalo Cultural Experience Fund Mario Garofalo Family Fund Raymond and Gloria Gildea Memorial Fund David M. & Gail A. Grant Family Fund Guarrera Family Fund Tyler, Brian and Zachary Haywood Fund Carol Ann Hyder Memorial Fund Jones Family Farms Fund Kaplan Family Fund Paul & Gloria Konwerski Family Fund Edward and Laura Lane Family Fund Robert C. Lang Fund Kate Marks Brilliant Female Fund* John Lauretti Memorial Family Fund Barry and Josephine Lifrieri Fund* Uncle Louie Fund*

Mary Fund

Marion Shortell and Joseph Meade Fund Carl and Patricia Miller Fund William C. and Elaine N. Nimons Family Fund Joseph A. Paqliaro, Sr. Family Fund Palazzi Family Fund Pepe Family Fund Nina Poeta Scholarship Fund President's Fund of the Valley Community Foundation Sophie and Robert W. Rapp Family Fund Samuel Rifkin Fund Leah Rondon Fund Anthony (Sonny) Savignano Memorial Fund Dorothy E. & Kenneth E. Schaible Donor Advised Fund Mary A. Schmecker Turtle Shell Fund Seymour Public Schools Fund Shelton CT Gaels Alumni Fund Shelton Education Endowment Fund Dr. Beth Smith Fund Smythe Family Fund Stengel Family Fund Sterling Opera House Endowment Fund Sally & Dominick Thomas Fund John Tyma Fund Nancy Valentine Fund Valley Bar Association Memorial and Commemorative Fund Valley Breast Health Care Fund Valley Pride Fund Van Egghen Family Fund* Alphonso and Eulalia Vitello Family Fund Warichar Family Fund Joe and Judy Zaprzalka Family Fund John and Laura Zaprzalka Family Fund Katarzyna and Ludwik Zaprzalka Fund

"For Good, we inspire one another. We have also watched seeds planted long ago flourish, as enduring legacies of permanent funds grow and help future generations in so many ways."

Donor Designated Funds

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



1920 Society Fund Edward J. & Marie M. Cecarelli Book Fund Herbert M. Clark Fund Cohen Family Book Fund Edward J. Cotter, Jr. Memorial Fund Angela Curas Fund* D'Addario Family Fund for the Benefit of Griffin Hospital Derby Public Library - Harold B. Yudkin Historic Preservation Fund Derby-Shelton Civil War Monument Preservation Fund Gerry Hellmann Eckhardt Fund for the Woodbridge Town Library Harvey & Gerry Eckhardt Fund for the Seymour Oxford Food Bank First Taxing District and the Mulvoy - Tarlov -Aquino VFW Post 603 Cannon Preservation Fund Neville Osmond Forsythe Senior Memorial Fund Griffin Family Memorial Fund Health Initiative for Men (HiM) Fund

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"While the needs of our residents have never been greater, there is no limit to the pride and determination of our tight-knit community that keeps us moving forward. "

Preference Funds

Also known as a field of interest fund, a Preference Fund supports evolving needs and a variety of nonprofits by focusing on broad areas of interest. This fund can support education, childcare, environmental issues, healthcare, or a specific geographic area. VCF makes grants to nonprofits that serve the donor's field of interest in perpetuity.



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

Scholarship Funds

You can help students pursue their educational dreams with a Scholarship Fund. Scholarship funds are often created in honor of someone and can be used to support educational opportunities for students at specific schools.



Michael J. Adanti Scholarship Fund Joseph 'Jay' Amico Artistic Memorial Awards Fund Ansonia High School Endowed Fund Ansonia High School Non-Endowed Fund Ansonia Public Schools Fund Ansonia Rotary Club Scholarship Endowment Fund Bruno Battaqlino Memorial Fund Stella Behuniak Fund Winston J. Bish Memorial Scholarship* John F. Blake, Jr. Memorial Prize Rachel and William Brogadir Scholarship Fund Stanley and Irene Chlebowski Memorial Scholarship Fund Stephen & Emily Chuckta Memorial Scholarship Fund Class of 1940 Scholarship Fund Eddy Conklin Scholarship Fund Ruth H. Feinberg Connors Principal's Award Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Scholarship Fund Rosa Dell'Oso Memorial Scholarship Fund Derby High School Endowed Scholarship Fund Derby High School Non-Endowed Scholarship Fund Domorod-Youd Shelton High School Scholarship Fund Capt. Jerry Drugonis Memorial Scholarship* Ellen DuBoff Memorial Scholarship Fund Agnes and Helen Dubrava Fund Honorable Joseph P. Flynn and Family Scholarship Fund Francis Family Fund Louis 'Neni' Gaetano, Sr. DHS Scholarship Fund Geissler Family Scholarship Fund Brandon Giordano Football Scholarship Fund Mayor Richard A. Grande Memorial Scholarship Fund* Peter S. Goumas Presidential Scholarship Fund Traci L. Haines Memorial Scholarship Fund Amos Hawley Memorial Award Arthur Hayes Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

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For Ever, we link generations together.

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Anne M. and Vincent J. Zak Memorial Scholarship*

Organization Funds

Nonprofit organizations can set up either a permanent Organization Endowment Fund, or an investment-only Organization Fund. Both funds provide a stable source of distributable revenue for the nonprofit.



Anonymous Agency on Aging Fund at VCF* **Birmingham Foundation Fund** Derby Community Endowment Fund Derby Historical Society Organization Fund Derby Public Library Endowment Fund Housatonic Council. BSA Endowment Fund Housatonic Council, BSA Fund Edmund D. Strang Campership, Housatonic Council, BSA Fund Edmund & Caroline Strang Eagle Scout Scholarship Award, Housatonic Council, BSA Fund Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation Camp Maintenance, Housatonic Council, BSA Fund Massaro Community Farm Fund Massaro Farm Legacy Fund Oak Cliff Cemetery Association Fund Oxford Land Trust Fund Parent Child Resource Center Endowment Fund **Planetree Fund** Plumb Memorial Library Reserve Fund Plumb Memorial Tri-Centennial Endowment Fund **Recreation Camp Endowment Fund**

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Unrestricted Funds

You can help us support emerging issues and the most pressing needs in the Valley by creating an Unrestricted Fund. As the need in our community is ever-changing, unrestricted funds allow VCF the flexibility to prioritize and address high-priority issues.



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

The Gates Society



The Gates Society is a close circle of supporters who share a special love and appreciation for this region and its people, by making a planned philanthropic commitment to the Valley through the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) or one of our funds.

The Society is named in honor of Ross and Frank Gates, the brothers of a prominent Derby family. In 1938, the brothers created trusts in the family name at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) to support broad charitable purposes with consideration that the income benefit the residents of Derby and vicinity. Today, this fund continues to support the Valley with more than \$1.2 million annually.

Joining VCF's planned giving community is simple. Let us know you have named VCF or one of our funds in your estate plan or if you would like to discuss the many options for making a difference in the Valley either now or in the future.

GATES SOCIETY MEMBERS

Anonymous Dayne & Dawn Bachmann Twan & Karen Bentlage Sharon Closius John Corraro **Jamie Cohen** Iane Cohen* Angela Curas* Edmund I. Conklin* Pat DeCicco Walter & Bonnie Drozeck Helen Dubrava* Patricia Dziuba **Gregg Goumas** Robert & Sheri Grier William & Jo-Anna Holden Michael Hyder Heidi Kaplan M. Elizabeth Kennard **Richard Knoll** Laura Lane Robert C. Lang* Barry & Josephine Lifrieri Raymond Mackowski*

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* Deceased

Designate and Donate Life Insurance



Most decide to buy life insurance when they have people dependent on them – a spouse, children, a partner, or family members. They want to provide for loved ones after they pass away.

Later in life, however, when you no longer need to provide for those you love, don't let your life insurance policy lapse without consulting your trusted financial advisor. You can sell a policy, or gift it to a favorite charity, or even change the beneficiary of the policy to your favorite nonprofits. Any of these methods can fulfill your philanthropic goals to support causes you care about now, and in the future.

Start your conversation with VCF about using a current life insurance policy to fulfill your charitable goals.

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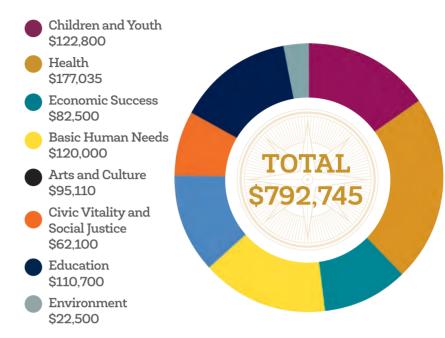
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Community Investment

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

Note: This data reflects grants made through the New Responsive, Needs and Opportunities, Multi-year, Community, and Sponsorship grant programs. It does not include \$135,000 in capacity building and community initiative support. These grant programs would not be possible without the significant financial and staffing contributions provided by our partner in philanthropy, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.



Responsive Grants

VCF's annual Responsive Grants program is open to requests for organizational support and projects that serve Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and/or Shelton. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, these grants were all awarded to address each nonprofit's general operating support needs.

Adam Wysota Foundation - To provide general operating support for grief education and peer support for children and their families in a home-like setting called Adam's House. \$71,000

Derby Historical Society - To provide general operating support for more programs, and to educate the public about local Valley history. **\$75,000**

Griffin Hospital - To provide general operating support to assist the physicians, staff and volunteers at Griffin Hospital who are dedicated to rendering care that encompasses the mind, body and spirit and emphasizes prevention and wellness. **\$90,000** Julia Day Nursery - To provide general operating support for quality childcare in a safe, warm, nurturing, environment where, in partnership with families, children can grow and learn. \$90,000

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County -To provide general operating support to help inspire and prepare young people with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a global economy. \$100,000

Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps -To provide general operating support for its Emergency Assistance program efforts. **\$90,000**

Shelton Historical Society, Inc. - To provide general operating support to help preserve elements of the community's history in order to create lasting and meaningful connections between Shelton's past, present and future. \$50,000



Needs and Opportunities

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

Best Buddies Connecticut - To support the Virtual School Friendship and Social Inclusion Programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. **\$5,000**

cARTie – To support mobile art museum programming for Valley students. \$1,500

Center Stage Theatre – To support renovations to the main theatre lobby, dressing rooms, and bathrooms. **\$10,000**

Coco's Animal Rescue – To support a spay/neuter and vetting program for felines in an effort to reduce the number of breeding cats in the Valley region. **\$7,500**

Connecticut Hospice, Inc. - To support the purchase of Macy Catheters to administer medications to Valley patients with the inability to swallow. **\$9,600**

Connecticut Partnership for Children -To support the Mobile Food Pantry and the Diaper Bank for Valley residents. **\$5,500**

Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. - To support IT infrastructure updates for the Community Training Center. **\$9,935**

Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America – To purchase materials and support repairs at Camp Strang. \$5,000

Junior Achievement (JA) of Southwest New England, Inc. – To support the JA High School Heroes Program at Quaker Farms Elementary School in Oxford. **\$5,000** Life Health and Wellness Center - To support financial assistance for child care fees for families receiving Care4Kids support. **\$10,000**

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

Operation Fuel, Inc. - To support emergency energy assistance to families living in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. **\$10,000**

Saint Mary-Saint Michael School - To support the creation of a Lego club. \$700

Shelton Economic Development Corporation – To support a summer intern. \$5,000

Community Grants

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

All-America Valley Basketball Club - To support the club's participation in a 10 week competitive basketball tournament. **\$1,800**

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

Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby - To support an Eagle Scout project building a vegetable garden at St. Mary-St Michael's school. **\$1,950**

Girl Scout Troop 60030 - To support improving the community gardens in Seymour. **\$1,750**

Girl Scout Troop 60054 - To support a Gold Award Project refurbishing a War Memorial in Seymour. **\$2,000**

Massaro Community Farms - To support a series of garden workshops. \$2,000

Community Investment

Saint Thomas Church - To support the St. Thomas' bereavement and caregivers programs and the Parish Nurse Ministries. **\$1,500**

Seymour Historical Society - To support Seymour Historical Society's virtual and online programs. \$1,200

Southford Falls Quilters LLC - To support the Southford Falls Quilters 2021-2022 programs. **\$2,100**

Valley Parish Nurse Program - To support the Valley Parish Nurse outreach & education programs at multiple churches. **\$2,500**

Youth Conservation Corps. - To support the Walk through History at Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary. \$2,500

Sponsorship Grants

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

Adam Wysota Foundation - To sponsor the annual Dancing with the Stars benefit. \$1,000

BHcare

- To sponsor "A Chance to Shine". \$1,000
- To sponsor "Strength for Survivors". **\$1,000**

Boy Scout Troop 3 – To sponsor the annual goods and services auction and wine tasting. **\$500**

Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley - To sponsor the 19th Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Day 5K Road Race. **\$2,500**

Celebrate Shelton

- To sponsor Downtown Sounds. \$2,500
- To sponsor the annual community tree lighting. **\$500**

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

Derby Historical Society

- To sponsor the Cultural Speaker Series. \$600
- To sponsor the Virtual Valley Lecture Series. \$600

Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce -

To sponsor the Annual Holiday Breakfast Club Awards Celebration. **\$500**

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County

- To sponsor a virtual interactive career fair. \$1,000
- To sponsor the 20th annual golf invitational. **\$500**

Oxford High School Booster Club – To sponsor a senior class fun lock-down event - **\$750**

Seymour Historical Society - To sponsor the 2021 Educational Speakers Series. **\$2,500**

Seymour Pink - To sponsor the 10th Annual Pounding the Pavement for Pink live and virtual 5K run/walk. **\$2,500**

Seymour Public Schools – To sponsor the distribution of a child identification kit. **\$1,000**

St. Joseph High School - To sponsor the Maroon & Gold Gala. **\$500**

TEAM, Inc. - To sponsor the annual Toys4Kids drive. **\$2,500**

Valley Council for Health and Human Services – To sponsor the annual meeting. \$1,000

Valley United Way - To sponsor the virtual annual community meeting. \$2,500

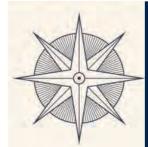
For the Valley, we stay the course.

Donor Advised Grants

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

ALS Association, Connecticut Chapter American Farmland Trust American Red Cross, Connecticut Chapter American Red Cross, National Headquarters Ansonia Public Schools Ansonia Rescue Medical Services Area Congregations Together, Inc. Bethany Library Association BHcare Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby Boy Scouts of America Troop 34 Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Capri Christian Church Center Stage Theatre, Inc. Christ Episcopal Church Common Ground High School **Connecticut Burns Care Foundation** Connecticut Farmland Trust **Connecticut Forest & Park Association** Connecticut Hospice, Inc. Derby Historical Society Derby Public Library Derby Running Club First Congregational Church of Chester The Foundation School Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center Girl Scouts of Connecticut Inc. Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce Green Village Initiative Griffin Hospital Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America Huntington Congregational Church Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center Massaro Community Farm, Inc. Mishkan Israel Day Camp

National Park Foundation National Right to Work Legal Defense and Education Foundation, Inc Our Daily Bread Food Pantry Paugassett Hook and Ladder Co #4 Read to Grow Recreation Camp Inc. Ronald McDonald House of CT. Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps Save the Sound Seymour High School Seymour Oxford Rotary Club Shelburne Farms Shelton High School Shelton Historical Society St. Jude Children's Research Hospital St. Matthew's House St. Vincent de Paul of the Valley Susanna Wesley School TEAM, Inc. Troop 3 - Derby BSA Alumni & Friends Foundation, Inc. University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. University of Nebraska Foundation University of New Haven University of New Hampshire The Valley Independent Sentinel Valley Save Our Youth Valley United Way Valley YMCA Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut Yale New Haven Hospital Saint Raphael Campus



Donor Advised

69 Funds

\$12,174,295 – Total Assets 139 – Total Grants \$472,908 – Grant Amount

Community Investment

Designated Grants and Organizational Fund Transfers

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

Ansonia High School Ansonia Public Schools Ansonia Rotary Club Assumption Church Assumption School Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Center Stage Theatre, Inc. Central Connecticut Coast YMCA City of Derby Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Derby High School Derby Neck Library Derby Public Library Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School First Taxing District of the City of Norwalk-Water Department Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce **Griffin Hospital** Griffin Hospital Development Fund Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center Massaro Community Farm, Inc. Oak Cliff Cemetery Association Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish Oxford High School Planetree, a Subsidiary of Griffin Health Services, Inc. Plumb Memorial Library Recreation Camp Inc. Seymour Oxford Food Bank Seymour Oxford Rotary Club Seymour Pink, Inc. Shelton High School Shelton Historical Society Shelton Public Schools Storm Engine Company Ambulance Corps, Inc. Rowland R. Strong & Edith H. Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund TEAM, Inc.

Town of Seymour Trinity Cemetery Association Trinity Episcopal Church Valley United Way Valley YMCA Woodbridge Town Library



Designated Grants & Organizational Fund Transfers

68 Funds

\$16,407,479 – Total Assets 61 – Total Grants \$313,230 – Grant Amount

Scholarships

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

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Lauralton Hall American International College Amity Regional High School Ansonia High School Assumption School Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Bunnell High School Central Connecticut State University The Culinary Institute of America Derby High School Derby Public Schools Emmett O'Brien Regional Technical School Hamden High School Julian A. Taylor Scholarship Fund Committee Oxford High School Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rochester Institute of Technology Sacred Heart University

Community Investment

Seymour High School Shelton High School Southern Connecticut State University University of Connecticut University of Delaware University of New Haven University of Vermont West Haven High School



Scholarships

80 Funds

\$3,409,321 – Total Assets 95 -Total Grants \$214,327 – Grant Amount

"There are also deep roots of former residents who continue to support the Valley in honor of relatives and friends, and whose love of their hometown has blossomed into scholarships and funds that support our Valley."

Unrestricted and Preference Funds

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

Area Congregations Together, Inc. Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford Center Stage Theatre, Inc. Central Connecticut Coast YMCA Christ Episcopal Church Connecticut Hospice, Inc. Connecticut Partnership for Children, Inc. Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center Griffin Hospital Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America Julia Day Nursery of Ansonia, Inc Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, Inc. Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County Life Health and Wellness Center. Inc. Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven Online Journalism Project Inc. Operation Fuel, Inc. Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps Seymour Historical Society Shelton Economic Development Corporation Shelton Historical Society St. Marv-St. Michael School TEAM. Inc. Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer



Unrestricted & Preference

15 Funds

\$3,357,532 – Total Assets 26 – Total Grants \$148,364 – Grant Amounts

Stewardship of Charitable Assets

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) and The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven (TCF) have been affiliated for the past 18 years, and the assets entrusted to VCF since 2004 have been invested and managed by TCF. Access to TCF's commingled investment management program affords VCF funds the benefits of a diverse, long-term and global endowment model by providing direct access to more than 47 world-class institutional investment managers specializing in more than seven distinct and globally differentiated asset classes.

In 2021, VCF posted a return of 9.0%, net of the expense of managing the Commingled Fund, trailing its benchmark for the one-year ended.

In a year of somewhat concentrated and narrow equity advancement, the uncertainty regarding the Omicron variant, the surging inflation, and the geopolitical turmoil made for a very volatile ending to 2021. The annualized net return of the Commingled Fund for the trailing 3, 5, 7, and 10 years has consistently outperformed the market benchmarks and generated more than VCF's effective spending rate in each period.

It is due to the design of the spending policy and calculations over a trailing five-year average that distributions can be managed in a predictable way that both keep pace with inflation and provide for financial resources into the community.



Raymond Oppel Treasurer, Valley Community Foundation





INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

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

Periods ended 31 December 2021 (expressed in percentages)	Trailing 1 Year	Trailing 3 Years	Trailing 5 Years	Trailing 7 Years	Trailing 10 Years
Actual Results (net of expenses)	9.0	14.4	11.1	8.9	10.4
Market Benchmark ¹	12.3	14.4	10.3	8.0	8.8
Value vs. Benchmark	(3.3)	0.0	0.8	0.9	1.6

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

Past performance is no indication of future results. The Commingled Fund is managed by The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven, Inc., which is a Connecticut Registered Investment Adviser.

Fiscal 2021 in Review

FINANCIAL POSITION					
	2021	2020			
Assets Cash and cash equivalents Investments at market value - component funds Investments at market value - organization funds Total investments	\$1,037,433 22,681,961 12,363,051 36,082,445	\$685,226 21,635,285 10,130,759 32,451,270			
Contributions receivable Other assets Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	72,000 - 37,249	72,000 4,200 46,696			
Total assets	\$36,191,694	\$32,574,166			
Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued expenses Organization funds Grants payable	\$64,214 12,363,051 84,841	\$16,814 10,130,759 43,869			
Total liabilities Net assets without restrictions	12,512,206 23,679,488	10,191,442 22,382,724			
Total liabilities and net assets	\$36,191,694	\$32,574,166			

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES						
Revenue, Gains and Other Support	2021	2020				
Total contributions Less: contributions to organization funds	3,740,512 (1,771,873)	1,986,133 (198,408)				
Net contributions Investment gain, net Investment income	1,968,639 1,762,330	1,787,725 3,125,846				
Total revenue, gains and other support	3,730,969	4,913,571				
Expense Grants approved, net Less: grants from organization funds	1,973,432 (208,043)	1,963,333 (331,082)				
Net grant and program expense Grants for program management and direct charitable activities	1,765,389 401,285	1,632,251 395,996				
Total grant and program expenses	2,166,674	2,028,247				
Development, donor services and fund stewardship Financial, endowment, investment, and mission investment management	167,208 100,323	164,998 98,999				
Total administration expense	267,531	263,997				
Total expense Increase (decrease) in net assets Net assets – Beginning of year Net assets – End of year	2,434,205 1,296,764 22,382,764 23,679,488	2,292,244 2,621,327 19,761,396 22,382,723				

VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Valley Community COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund and The Great Give

Created in 2020 in response to the pandemic, the Valley Community COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund is a partnership between the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, Valley Community Foundation, Valley Council for Health and Human Services and the Valley United Way.

The fund provides flexible resources to organizations throughout the Valley that serve the region, especially to those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and its harsh economic consequences. It is designed to complement government efforts and expand local capacity to address all aspects of the crisis.

Since its inception, the fund has supported more than \$230,000 in response and recovery efforts. In 2021, it assisted Valley veterans, emergency services personnel, residents



needing fuel assistance, displaced hospitality workers, and general vaccination support, distributing \$33,900 in total grants. Thanks to all our generous donors who continue to contribute to this fund.



The Great Give is a very popular annual 36-hour online giving event. It was created in 2010 by The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven to boost philanthropy in its 20-town region. Each year, Valley nonprofits enthusiastically participate and thousands of its residents support it. Last year was no different. The Great Give 2021 raised more than \$3.35 million for 431 Greater New Haven nonprofits. A total of \$414,977 was raised with the help of Valley residents, employees, and Valley Community Foundation donor advised fund holders that benefited 41 nonprofit organizations in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton.

Although the burdens for nonprofits have increased in the last few years, The Great Give continues to be an incredible fundraising event bringing resources and awareness to our Valley nonprofits. The successful campaign was just another sign of the Greater New Haven community's commitment and generosity to the region.

A total of 2,116 gifts were made by 1,265 donors who live or work in the Valley. Thank you so much for stepping up and making a tremendous impact on the community and those who serve it.

2021 Staff, Councils, Committees and Volunteers

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*John Ready left VCF in the summer of 2021. We wish him all the best, and thank him for his years of dedication and skillful work in communications and donor relations.

VCF thanks the following outgoing Board Member Don Smith, Jr.



Partners in Philanthropy

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

VCF wishes to thank The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven staff and all the volunteers for their time, contributions and expertise. "In our Valley, we treasure the strength of those around us and honor our community's enduring ability to care, lead and lift us all."



VALLEY COMMUNIT

FOUNDATION

www.valleyfoundation.org 253-A ELIZABETH STREET DERBY, CT 06418 PHONE: (203) 751-9162