

Legacy Matters



The Valley Now: A 2015 Snapshot

About this Report

For nearly 20 years, the Valley has come together to collect quality of life data throughout the region including the Healthy Valley Report in 1996, the Mt. Auburn Profile in 2001, the Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Centers Community Health Report in 2007, the Valley Cares Report in 2010. Early in 2014, the Valley Council for Health & Human Services approached the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) with a request to fund an update to the Valley Cares Report.

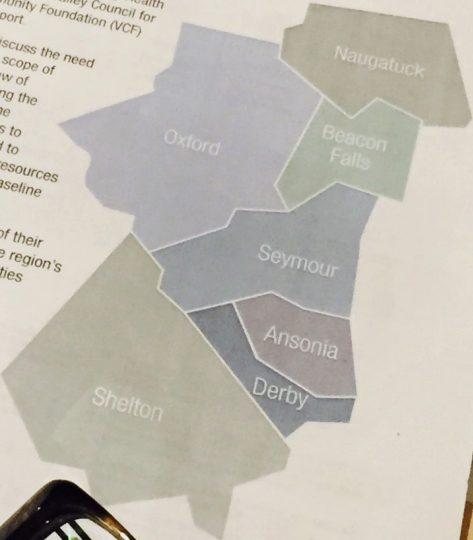
In mid 2014, VCF initiated community conversations to discuss the need for a common-source document which would expand the scope of the Valley Cares Report and provide a comprehensive review of demographic, economic, health and education issues shaping the Valley communities. An advisory committee was formed in the fall comprised of key stakeholders and nonprofit organizations to discuss critical focus areas affecting the Valley community and to define the scope of a baseline report. VCF committed financial resources to support the collection of the data and the production of this baseline indicators report as the first step in its strategic initiative work.

The towns of Beacon Falls and Naugatuck were added as a result of their interest in participating in this collaboration and their inclusion in the region's recognition for the All-American City Award in 2000. These communities were added to the five core Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton.

This report represents the start of a multi-year process, which will culminate in 2016 with a comprehensive study on the demographic, economic, education, health and housing trends within the region. It is the goal of all organizations involved in producing this report that the data be used to convene community conversations; align current efforts and investments; and collaborate on strategic endeavors to build, sustain, and enhance the quality of life in the Valley region.

Advisory Committee

- BHCare
- Center Stage Theatre
- City of Derby, Bureau of Youth Services
- Down To Earth Consulting Solutions
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Griffin Hospital
- Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center
- Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
- Naugatuck Valley Health District
- Shelton Economic Development Corporation
- TEAM, Inc.
- The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven
- The WorkPlace, Inc.



Valley Residents working	Percentage
Greater New Haven	3,091
Derby	3,612
Greater Waterbury	1,911
Waterbury	5,962
Shelton	2,822
Lower Fairfield County	5,091
Stamford	1,591
Western Connecticut	4,717
Outside of Connecticut	1,505
New York City, NY	1,839
Other	2,060

in this issue: May-Aug. 2015

Smart Investment:
Collecting
Community
Knowledge

Partner Spotlight:
The Community
Foundation for
Greater New Haven

Good News:
Community
Grants Awarded

Smart Investment: Collecting Community Knowledge



The Baseline Indicators Report Committee, at the Valley Community Foundation.

Community development and data collection: the two may not seem to have much in common,

but leaders from across the Valley are coming together to collect neighborhood-level data over the next several years to better understand the changing needs, opportunities and demographics. This data collection process will culminate in a 2016 *Valley Community Index* report, which will be updated with new information every three years in a collective effort to maintain an accurate pulse on the region.

In mid-2014, the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) began organizing community conversations to discuss the need for a single-source index that would expand the scope of the *Valley CARES Quality of Life Report* (2010) and assess changes in trends identified through the Mt. Auburn Associates' *Addressing Needs & Opportunities in the Lower Naugatuck Valley: A Funding Strategy* (2001), which was created for the Valley Advisory Committee of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF).

Released in April, *The Valley Now: A 2015 Snapshot* spotlights trends in the Valley using existing data as a baseline indicators report. The *Snapshot* reveals changing demographics, a shifting employment landscape and regional health trends among the Valley's population.

VCF enlisted the support of DataHaven, a nonprofit with a 25-year history of compiling and interpreting public data, along with several dozen community leaders from the five Valley towns, as well as representatives from Beacon Falls and Naugatuck. The addition of these two towns, which were included in the region as part of the All-American City Award in 2000, is meant to provide continuity and a historical comparison to the study of trends within the region.

"These cross-sector working groups reviewed existing data and decided what information would be most meaningful to include in the report," says DataHaven Executive Director Mark Abraham. "We continue to be impressed by the turnout at these convenings, and by how excited these organizations are about collecting and using localized information."

"This is an impressive committee, representing important community groups interested in utilizing the survey results and the upcoming data report," says Will Ginsberg, VCF Board member and President & CEO of TCF. "Strong philanthropy in any region starts with strong leadership. The Valley has always had strong, passionate leaders who are dedicated to the success of their community."

DataHaven and the Siena College Research Institute are conducting a statewide phone survey through October, to collect wellbeing data on a variety of topics. As part of the multi-year data collection process, more than 1,000 Valley residents will be surveyed and are encouraged to "answer the call" from a 518 area code. The results will be featured in the *Valley Community Index*.

"Up to date demographic information is crucial to effective decision-making and helps us build and update our long-term strategic planning initiatives," says Seymour First Selectman and Advisory Committee member Kurt Miller.

Griffin Hospital is a major partner in moving this project forward and will provide critical support with health-related data. The *Valley Community Index* will also be produced to fulfill the hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment requirements. This information is expected to help Valley nonprofits leverage grant dollars and funding at both state and federal levels. Groups such as the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce also recognize the value of this endeavor.

"It sensitizes us, as a business community, to what some of the challenges are in the region," says Chamber President and Advisory Committee member Bill Purcell. "The data provides a solid foundation for the Chamber to chart its course. I hope other organizations will also recognize the value, as we all have our part to play."

"My hope is that it will drive new philanthropy to the Valley," explains VCF Board member and Program Committee Chair Lynne Bassett Perry. "We want new donors to see the value in our community and create a measurable impact."



Healthcare:
2,000 jobs



Manufacturing:
1,600 jobs

53%

adults report being in good health

The recent snapshot report reveals a shifting employment landscape, changing demographics and regional health trends among the Valley's population.

Read the full report at

www.valleyfoundation.org or stop by the VCF office for a hard copy.



1 in 3

households struggles to make ends meet



86%

four year graduation rate

How You Can Help:



Answer the call for the Community Wellbeing Survey, coming from a 518 area code, now through October. All answers are anonymous and completely confidential.

Partner Spotlight:

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven



In 2013, TCF analyzed data to share at its *Convening about the state of the nonprofit sector. Strengthening the community through data collection can be traced back to 1930, when TCF distributed one of its first grants to establish an experimental program for the control of cancer.*

Improving the quality of life of residents is a core value among community foundations. But, how does a community foundation determine the best course of action for doing that?

"It begins with establishing a baseline of the current circumstances through quality data collection. The Valley region has always been a leader in wanting to understand their community," says Christina Ciociola, Senior Vice President for Grantmaking & Strategy at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF).

"They were ahead of many of us in taking a comprehensive approach in studying multiple facets of the community at once."

"We have a partnership that strengthens philanthropy in the Valley in the best ways possible."

- Will Ginsberg,
The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven

Ciociola refers to the long history of data collection and reporting in the Valley, including when TCF established the Valley Advisory Committee in 1993 to assess needs and opportunities in the five Valley towns it served and encourage grant applications to TCF.

Funds such as those established by the bequests of Frank and Ross Gates at TCF, for the benefit of residents living in the Valley, provided the dollars to meet those needs, but not necessarily a plan.

The Mt. Auburn Associate's *Report Addressing Needs & Opportunities in the Lower Naugatuck Valley: A Funding Strategy* (2001) was commissioned by TCF to recommend comprehensive strategies for grantmaking in the Valley.

"Mt. Auburn was a guiding principle for TCF's grantmaking and actually led to the formation of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), because the report

identified a need for building philanthropy in the Valley," says Sarah Fabish, Vice President for Grantmaking & Scholarships at TCF.

"Ongoing support from TCF has been critical in better understanding the diverse and changing needs of our Valley residents," says Sharon Closius, VCF President & CEO.

Recently, TCF supported the Shelton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) study of the Naugatuck Valley

Corridor in order to create an up-to-date Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and successfully access federal funding for economic development.

"This strategy for the 19-town and city region of the Naugatuck River Valley is all-inclusive," says SEDC President Jimmy Ryan, who also serves on the Boards for both TCF and VCF. "It's about economic development, transportation, housing, brownfields and so many other community issues. And we wouldn't be able to do this without the seed money from TCF and the ongoing support from VCF."

Currently, TCF's funding of the 2016 *Greater New Haven Community Wellbeing Index* will assist in the collection of data to help inform nonprofits, donors, businesses, councils, and legislators as to the needs and quality of life of the Greater New Haven area.

"TCF and VCF are partners, in the truest sense of the word, through our grantmaking and our capacity building for nonprofits in the region we both serve," says TCF President & CEO Will Ginsberg. "We have a partnership that strengthens philanthropy in the Valley in the best ways possible."

VCF Sponsored Events

July

Derby Historical Society 25th Annual Silver Tea

The 25th Annual Silver Tea will take place at 2:00 pm Monday, July 13th, at Molto Bene Restaurant in Ansonia and will feature speaker Sheryl Faye portraying Helen Keller. Tickets are \$25 each and available at the DHS office. For more information, visit www.derbyhistorical.org.

September

Shelton Exchange Club

The Shelton Exchange Club Foundation's Annual Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, September 28th at the Brownson Country Club in Shelton. To register, visit www.exchangeclubshelton.com.

BHcare

The Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council's 25th Anniversary Piece of the Prevention Puzzle Conference will be an all-day event on Thursday, September 24th, at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. This workshop will also feature the 2015 Community Champion Awards. For more information, visit www.bhcare.org.

November

Center Stage Theatre

Each year, Center Stage Theatre holds a Teen Musical Theatre Workshop, which promotes an enthusiasm and a love for musical theatre. The workshop culminates with a performance in early November. To learn more about the workshop program, visit www.fallcab.com.



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Good News About the Valley

VCF Community Grants Awarded to Support Valley Programs



The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) awarded \$33,295 through its Community Grants program to 15 community groups serving the Valley. Applications for VCF's Community Grants Program are considered through a request for proposal process that occurs in the Spring of each year for groups or organizations that serve Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and/or Shelton and have less than 2 full-time or less than 4 part-time staff. Grants can be for new or recurring programs and support civic and community engagement efforts. Grants range from \$250 to \$2,500.

"VCF is proud to support these 15 organizations with more than \$30,000 in Community Grants," said Sharon Closius, VCF President & CEO.



"Community Grants are responsive to groups that are volunteer or nonprofit in nature with very limited staffing capacity and serve our five-town region. Using this grant support, these small, dedicated organizations can work on issues that make a big difference in our community."

The 2015 VCF Community Grants were awarded to:

- \$2,500 - Annual Thanksgiving Basket Committee
- \$1,000 - Ansonia High School/ AHS Quilting and Sewing Charity Club
- \$2,500 - Ansonia High School/Class of 2018 Advisories
- \$1,600 - Ansonia School Readiness



- \$2,500 - City of Derby
- \$2,500 - College Access for All Kids
- \$2,500 - Colonial Youth Football & Cheer
- \$1,500 - Derby Historical Society
- \$2,500 - Friends of Derby Neck Library
- \$2,500 - North Star
- \$2,500 - Oil Drum Art
- \$2,500 - Seymour Historical Society
- \$1,695 - Southford Falls Quilt Guild
- \$2,500 - Valley Deaf Club
- \$2,500 - Youth to Youth Peer Advocates

For a complete description of each grant award, please visit www.valleyfoundation.org.