

Legacy *Matters*



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in this issue: Winter 2018

**Smart Investment:
Supporting
Survivors of Sexual
Violence**

**Featured Fund:
Birmingham
Foundation Fund**

**Community
Investment:
Grants that Support
the Valley**

**Good News
About the Valley:
Informing Community
Investors**

Sexual Violence Defined

Forms of sexual violence can include:

- Rape or sexual assault
- Child sexual assault and incest
- Intimate partner sexual assault
- Unwanted sexual contact/ touching
- Sexual harrassment
- Sexual exploitation
- Showings one's genitals or naked body to other(s) without consent
- Masturbating in public
- Watching someone in a private act without their knowledge or permission.

Information above and infographic statistics in the Smart Investment story from National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Save the Date: June 18

Valley residents interested in learning more about the "Me Too" Movement may wish to attend the Annual Meeting of The Community Fund for Women & Girls featuring Tarana Burke.

Register online at www.fundforwomenandgirls.org.

Resources

National and State Information
endsexualviolencect.org/resources

Local Crisis Hotline Numbers
BHcare
203-736-9944; 203-789-8104

Jane Doe No More
1-800-656-HOPE

Rape Crisis Center of Milford
203-878-1212

Smart Investment Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence

Me Too. Two words that have taken the world by storm, sparking a global movement highlighting the commonness of sexual misconduct, especially in the workplace.

The phrase was popularized in 2017 by actress and activist Alyssa Milano, who as a call to action tweeted to her followers "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet." The response was overwhelming. Within 24 hours, millions took to social media to post the phrase as a hashtag in solidarity and share their stories of sexual misconduct.

Before Milano stood in the foreground of the "Me Too" movement there was Tarana Burke, the original founder.

34%
of people who sexually abuse
a child are family members

In 1997, Burke was inspired by a conversation with a young girl who had been sexually assaulted according to a *New York Times* (NYT) article, which left Burke speechless. However, Burke revealed to the NYT that she wished she could have just uttered two words to the young girl – me too.

That conversation never sat right with Burke and because of it, she founded Just Be Me Inc. in 2006 - a nonprofit organization that helps victims of sexual harassment and assault. Her commitment to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct sparked a grassroots movement she dubbed "Me Too."

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), nearly one in two women and one in five men have experienced sexual violence victimization other than rape at some point in their lifetime. Nearly one in five women and one in 71 men in the United States have experienced rape or attempted rape some time in their lives. Too often, sexual violence goes hand-in-hand with domestic violence.

"Perpetrators who are physically violent toward their intimate partners are often sexually abusive as well," the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) reports. "Victims who are both physically and sexually abused are more likely to be injured or killed than victims who experience one form of abuse. Abusers can assault people of all genders, races, ages, social classes and ethnicities. However women who are disabled, pregnant or attempting to leave their abusers are at greatest risk for intimate partner rape."

In the Valley, many preventative and responsive resources are available to survivors of sexual harassment and violence through a number of nonprofits including BHcare, Jane Doe No More, and the Rape Crisis Center of Milford.

"It is our hope that with the recent national media coverage on domestic violence and sexual assault, victims/ survivors will realize that they are not alone; will find their voices and seek services, and no longer suffer in silence," says Esperina Stubblefield, Director of BHcare's Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services otherwise known as The Umbrella Program. "Our staff works every day with many women to empower them as they gain control of their lives."

BHcare is a local mental health authority for Valley and Shoreline residents that has a variety of programs providing domestic violence support services for victims and their children. In 2017, according to their giveGreater.org® profile, The Umbrella Program provided court-based advocacy for more than 4,000 individuals, emergency shelter for 167 women and 151 children,

**One in five women
and one in 16 men are
sexually assaulted
while in college**

counseling and support on 3,415 hotline calls and 861 Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) line calls from police officers. The Umbrella Program trainers also reached out by educating more than 1,000 people about the issue through

Smart Investment

Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence

community education workshops and presentations.

The Rape Crisis Center of Milford (RCCM) is another service provider in the Greater New Haven area serving Valley residents, which has been providing free and confidential services to the victims of sexual assault and their families since 1974. Last year the RCCM provided Victim Services to 580 clients. Its goal is to end sexual assault through education and to empower victims to regain control of their lives through high quality, comprehensive and culturally competent sexual assault victim services.

The RCCM takes a holistic approach to care, which includes victims and their families.

The RCCM provides child-friendly and age-appropriate prevention education for students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. Education covers subjects such as body safety, healthy relationships, what is consent, cyber bullying, internet danger, sexting, preparing for college and more.

School teachers and administrators also receive Minimal Facts Training on how to respond appropriately when a child makes a disclosure of abuse to minimize the trauma, and not to jeopardize an investigation by the Department of Children and Families and/or law enforcement. In 2017, the Center provided prevention education to 6,500 students and additionally more than 1,000 school personnel, police, hospital and community partners throughout the area.

"The #MeToo movement has offered a forum for both women and men to tell the world their experiences have not been forgotten. The abuse could have occurred recently or may have occurred 50 years ago. Their abuse may have included harassment or may have been sexual assault in the first degree, but they have not forgotten," says RCCM's Director of Victim Services Peggy Pisano. "I feel the #MeToo movement continues to



be an empowering opportunity to join a chorus of victims who may never have told anyone before or may have indeed reported their experience to authorities. While at the national level, only 20% of sexual assault victims ever make a report to police, The RCCM is here to listen and help."

A third local organization that helps survivors of sexual assault shorten the time from crime to healing is Jane Doe No More. Founder and

of the pain and suffering associated with the crime, the abuse afterward rendered my healing all the more difficult." In 2017, Jane Doe No More celebrated 10 years of service to sexual assault survivors.

"To date 46 women and men have gone through Jane Doe No More's Survivors Speak training program," says Palomba. These brave survivors have found their voice and share their personal story to educate others, which in turn empowers victims to come forward, many for the first time. This transformative process has become the cornerstone of our work."

According to the NCADV, one in three women and one in four men have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime and one in four women and one in seven men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Rape is the most under-reported crime, 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police and only 12% of child sexual abuse is reported to the authorities. With the help of the organizations working on this issue in the Valley, across the nation and across the world and the rapid growth of the "Me Too" movement, there is proof that change is on the horizon.

**325,000 children are
at risk of becoming
victims of commercial
child sexual
exploitation each year**

President, Donna Palomba, knows firsthand what the people coming to her organization seeking help are going through. She too, is also a victim of sexual assault.

"In the weeks and months following my assault, I was re-victimized by the very system put in place to protect and serve me – an innocent victim," Palomba says in a "Message from the Founder" on the organization's website. "On top

Featured Fund

Birmingham Foundation Fund

In the formative years of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), the Foundation launched an endowment challenge to help local nonprofits start a fund. This program allowed nonprofits to set a fundraising goal, which was matched by VCF funds to create endowed funds designated for that organization. Birmingham Group Health Services, now known as BHcare, was among the five organizations accepted into the program.

“BHcare chose to participate in the grant challenge in 2005 to build an endowment that would provide an additional source of funding for our programs such as the Umbrella Program and The Alliance for Prevention and Wellness,” says BHcare Chief Financial Officer Lorraine Branecky.

Originally established as the Birmingham Group Health Services, Inc. Fund, the organization set a fundraising goal of \$30,000, which was met in September 2006 through a number of donations. In 2012, the fund agreement was amended to change the name to the Birmingham Foundation Fund.

BHcare provides services that address behavioral health, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol addiction to individuals and their families both in the Valley and along the shoreline. BHcare is the result of a 2012 merger between Birmingham Group Health Services



BHcare established the Birmingham Group Health Services, Inc. Fund in 2005 as part of VCF's Endowment Challenge.

in Ansonia and Harbor Health Services in Branford. Last year, BHcare provided services for more than 17,000 people according to giveGreater.org® and with the addition of the Parent Child Resource Center in 2016, BHcare now provides services for more than 1,200 children.

Despite BHcare's major impact in both the Valley and Shoreline communities, the organization continues to experience major budget cuts. As funding is reduced, so too does the number of clients the organization can serve. Diversifying a nonprofit's revenue source is critical to softening the

impact of federal and state budget cuts.

“BHcare relies heavily on funding from state agencies,” Branecky says. “The State of Connecticut is in a fiscal crisis, so endowment funds are more critical now than ever before. We continue to invest in the endowment and hope that others will as well. Partnering with VCF for our endowment provides our donors with the flexibility of making more complete gifts to help secure funding for our programs. As our endowment's balance increases, it can provide a larger stream of funding that may offset additional budget cuts in the future.”



Planned Giving

VCF welcomes Edmund J. Conklin and Patricia DeCicco to the Gates Society, the Foundation's planned giving community.

Your planned gift will impact the charities you're passionate about forever, regardless of the amount. Call us at 203-751-9162 or learn more at valleyfoundation.org

Community Investment

Grants that Support the Valley

For more than 100 years, Community Foundations have been serving the public good in specific geographic locations throughout the world.

Contributions range from traditional cash gifts to those of stocks or property, and are combined to create a pool of assets for charitable giving. One of the cornerstones of a community foundation's work is honoring the intent of its donors by providing dedicated grant funds to enhance the overall quality of life of those it serves.

Grantmaking through the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) has truly evolved over the years. VCF's grantmaking process is distributed through unrestricted, preference or field of interest, donor advised, and designated funds that carry out donor charitable intentions and are available to qualified organizations serving the Valley. Community Grants support volunteer civic and community engagement efforts; Needs and Opportunities grants address innovative programs and urgent needs in the Valley, and Responsive Grants fund projects, capacity building, and general operating support.

"VCF has made a growing impact in the Valley throughout its 14 years of existence," said President and CEO Sharon Closius. "Our grant investments to nonprofits have ranged from leveraging federal funds for economic development opportunities to supporting programs to reduce increasing incidences of asthma and childhood obesity, to aiding those who work with our most vulnerable populations throughout the Valley."

"The main purpose of VCF's grant program is to fulfill the first part of our mission statement: to make the Valley a better place to live and work, both now and in the future," said VCF's Board Chair Alan Tyma. "We are committed to providing assistance where and when it is needed – supporting nonprofit organizations in our region

that strive towards providing the highest quality services and advancing ideas, innovations and techniques that improve the quality of life for our residents."

To further aid grant seekers in their efforts to obtain funding, VCF offers a series of capacity building workshops throughout the year. "It is important that nonprofits continually improve their services and programs by applying what they learn through self-reflection, assessment, evaluation and use of data, knowledge building, risk taking, and the use of sound and prudent financial management practices," said VCF Program Officer, Valerie Knight-Di Gangi. "It is VCF's belief that the best use of the community's endowment is to invest in nonprofits that display leadership in addressing issues and seizing opportunities in the community, regularly performing evaluation of their services and practicing sound programmatic and organizational management."

VCF also works with its partner in philanthropy, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF) in making investments in the Valley, and is building flexible funds for additional grantmaking. "The Affiliation Agreement with TCF outlines an annual transfer of unrestricted funds from TCF to VCF based on the Gates Fund's annual distributable revenue," said Sarah Fabish, Vice President of Grantmaking and Scholarships for TCF. "This substantial donation becomes part of VCF's discretionary grant pool. Since inception, nearly 2,000 grants totaling approximately \$7.8 million have been awarded to Valley nonprofits. We are pleased to have partnered with VCF through our combined competitive responsive grant program which has had such a positive impact on the Valley." For more information on how an idea becomes a grant, or how you can support VCF's grant programs, visit www.valleyfoundation.org and click on Impacting the Valley.

Sponsored Events

The following events were supported with unrestricted funds by VCF this season:

March

Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut, Inc.

\$1,000 to sponsor the Junior Achievement High School Business Challenge at Sacred Heart University.

Seymour High School

\$250 to sponsor the Seymour High School production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

April

Shelton Exchange Club Foundation, Inc.

\$500 to sponsor the 6th Annual Indoor Mini Golf Tournament at the Ansonia Boy & Girls Club.

TEAM, Inc.

\$1,000 to sponsor Men Who Cook at Warsaw Park.

May

Irving School

\$1,000 to sponsor a Field Day.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships for events are awarded to nonprofits or groups located in or serving the Valley communities.

Sponsorships may not exceed \$2,500 per event. Call 203-751-9162 for details.

You're Invited!

Join us on the evening of **Tuesday, May 22, 2018** at Race Brook Country Club for the Valley Community Foundation's **14th Annual Reception**. Register at valleyfoundation.org.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Bridgeport, CT
Permit No. 347

253-A Elizabeth Street
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p: 203-751-9162 • f: 203-751-9352
WWW.VALLEYFOUNDATION.ORG

Good News About the Valley

Informing Community Investors: giveGreater.org®

Informed decision making has never been easier in philanthropy. Those looking to invest in nonprofits that align with their passion have access to a wealth of data found at giveGreater.org®.

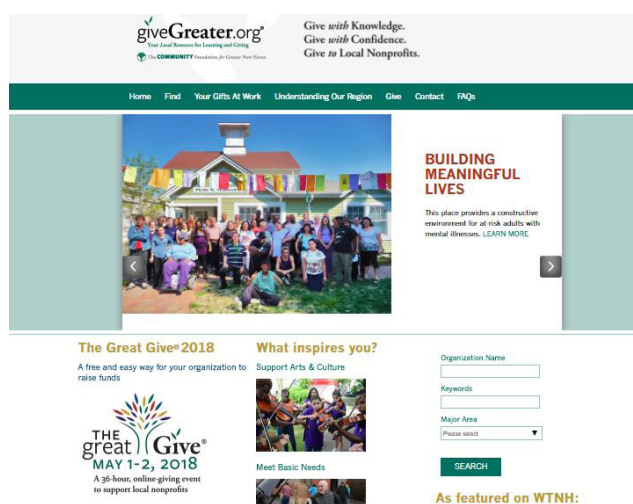
giveGreater.org® is a resource for local giving made possible by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF). It is a database of more than 400 nonprofit organizations providing services in TCF's region, including the Valley. giveGreater.org® helps donors learn about, connect with, and give to nonprofits online. The site also enables nonprofits to increase their visibility and receive online donations through a widely advertised, searchable database.

An informed decision is often based upon a clear appreciation and understanding of the facts, implications, and future consequences of an action. Building a stronger community starts with knowledge.

The more that we know about our region, the better we are able to engage with each other in meaningful dialogues about what is going on and still needs to be done.

giveGreater.org® provides comprehensive information about local nonprofits. Visitors can view IRS letters of nonprofit determination, budgets, IRS form 990s (nonprofit tax reporting forms), audit and/or financial reviews and more, all

provided on a voluntary basis by area nonprofits, vetted, and updated annually.



Learn more about your favorite local charitable organizations by visiting www.giveGreater.org®