

CONNECTIONS



The quarterly newsletter of
The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

OPPORTUNITY + EQUITY

2023 Marks Final Year of *Stepping Forward* Spending

Additional Resources Sustain Nonprofits, Address Disparities

Through *Stepping Forward*, more than \$8.5 million of extra endowment spending is being used for nonprofit operating support and advancing equity. In addition, as part of *Stepping Forward*, The Foundation created three funds as permanent resources for long-term change: the Basic Needs Fund; the Civic Engagement and Awareness Fund; and the Black Futures Fund. Though *Stepping Forward* spending will end in 2023, The Foundation's priority remains that of addressing the longstanding disparities in our community that only became more acute and more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic and over the last three years, including racial disparities and social disparities in educational outcomes, health outcomes, and economic wellbeing. Learn more at cfgnh.org/SteppingForward.



Though *Stepping Forward* will end in 2023, The Foundation's commitment to addressing the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and advancing racial equity will remain a top priority of its strategic plan.



DataHaven's Executive Director Mark Abraham at the launch. Inset: The cover of Greater New Haven's Index.

Photo: Defining Studios

2023 Index Highlights Challenges, Opportunities

DataHaven Releases New Statewide Reports on Quality of Life

In Connecticut and throughout the country, communities of color face persistent disparities which negatively impact health, wellbeing and wealth-building. These disparities did not happen by accident; they are the result of historical systemic barriers to opportunity and disinvestment in urban communities, many of which are still woven into the fabric of our institutions. DataHaven, in collaboration with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Fairfield County's Community Foundation and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, recently hosted a launch event at the State Capitol to share highlights from its three new Community Wellbeing Index 2023 reports and to promote dialogue on Connecticut's challenges and opportunities. Speaking at the event, Foundation president and CEO Will Ginsberg characterized the Index as "a call to action for those seeking a more equitable Connecticut," and "a uniquely valuable resource." Download Greater New Haven's report at cfgnh.org/2023CommunityWellbeingIndex.

Foundation Ahead of Benchmark During Difficult 2022 Markets

Although equity markets finished the year with a strong rally (the S&P 500 was up 7.6% in the fourth quarter), markets still suffered one of their worst outcomes in decades in 2022, as the S&P 500 finished the year down -18.1% — the worst outcome in 14 years. The Community Foundation's Corporation return for the fiscal year of 2022 was 60 basis points better than its market benchmark (-12.6% against -13.2% for the benchmark). While 2022 was a very tumultuous year, the Corporation's Commingled Fund remained well-positioned and diversified in a variety of asset classes, strategies and geographies. Learn more at cfgnh.org/building-endowment.



Photo Courtesy of Greentown Labs

CEO Ryan Dings sees addressing climate change as both a moral imperative and an economic opportunity.

Grant Addressing Climate Change

Investment Supports Entrepreneurs in High-Growth Industry

In March, The Community Foundation Mission Investments Company (TCF-MIC) granted \$100,000 from its general resources and from its Elm Seeds Fund to ClimateHaven, a new effort to incubate and accelerate climate change entrepreneurs by providing education, tools and resources to help take carbon-reducing technologies to market. Yale University is also a supporter of the new climate tech startup incubator, which intends to be a strong part of the local community with a regional and global reach. “Climate change is the unique challenge that unites both moral imperative and economic opportunity,” said ClimateHaven CEO Ryan Dings in an interview with Yale Ventures. “ClimateHaven has an incredible opportunity to tap into the deep well of brilliance and entrepreneurial talent that exists at Yale University and in New Haven, and support startups that have the potential to scale globally.”

Scholarship Offers Pathways to Careers in Bioscience

In 1959, the construction of the Route 34 Connector tore apart several New Haven neighborhoods, displacing 881 households and 350 businesses. The City of New Haven is working with developer Winstanley Enterprises to right that wrong with the Downtown Crossing Project. Construction of 101 College Street, a \$250 million, state-of-the-art life sciences building is set to be completed this year. Part of the project’s community benefits package established a community fund, offering residents pathways to careers in bioscience. In 2022, the City transferred the fund to The Foundation, and it will distribute funding to the Together We Grow Scholarship for residents to study at Gateway and SCSU.



Photo: Angel Starr

Constance Royster at the “Timeless” exhibit on her aunt, Constance Baker Motley: “This is just the beginning.”

“Timeless” Honors Past, Inspires Futures

Constance Baker Motley Exhibit Launches at Q House

As part of The Foundation’s Black Futures strategy and its Vineyard Project, a new exhibit entitled, “Timeless: Telling Our Neighborhood Stories; Chapter 1: Constance Baker Motley,” opened at the Dixwell Community House (Q House) in March. Among her many accomplishments, Judge Motley was the first Black woman to serve as a federal judge. Born in New Haven, she attended Hillhouse High School and was active with the Q House, making the exhibit site especially meaningful. The display expands on last year’s collection at the Yale Law School to include both Judge Motley’s professional and personal lives. “This is just the beginning,” said Vineyard Project Founders Circle member Constance Royster, J.D., a niece of Motley. “There are so many stories in this community that need to be told.” “Timeless” will remain on view through spring. Learn more at cfgnh.org/CBM.

REACH Through the Arts Grant Program Inspires Joy, Justice, Healing

Cultural festivals, healing gardens, theater and youth poetry were among 13 projects that received \$426,000 in grant funding from The Foundation’s Racial Equity and Creative Healing (REACH) through the Arts program in 2022. Grants were awarded by a community-based advisory committee organized by the Arts Council of Greater New Haven. The REACH program has awarded two rounds of grants supporting community and neighborhood art projects that create cultural experiences centered on racial justice, collective healing and youth development. In 2021, a total of \$600,000 was awarded to 17 projects. Learn more at cfgnh.org/REACH.



Photo Courtesy of Karen Bellamy

“I say to clients, ‘What is your passion? You can pick an organization based on your passion or favorite cause. You can leave a legacy.’ They are giving something forever. That means a lot.”

— Karen J. Bellamy
Farmers Insurance

Advisors Are Important Partners

Advising and Setting an Example for Philanthropic Giving

Born in North Carolina, Karen Bellamy leads her own Farmers Insurance agency and does volunteer work as a member of New Haven Links and the Woodbridge Rotary, where she is the president-elect.

She helps clients understand how they can have a lasting impact, even with small amounts left with their estate. “I ask, ‘What is your passion?’” she says. “They are giving something forever. That means a lot.” Last year, she started her own fund to support ConnCORP, a workforce and economic development program in New Haven because she “wanted to do something for today’s youth,” she says, as she had been helped in the past. Karen Bellamy is among The Foundation’s network of trusted financial advisor partners. Since its beginning, The Foundation has worked with estate planning, wealth advising, accounting, financial planning and insurance experts who advise their clients about charitable giving. Working closely with Foundation staff, advisors provide clients with individualized giving plans to meet their unique charitable goals while maximizing tax advantages. As part of the partnership, seminars are offered for advisors, giving up-to-date information on important issues. On Feb. 16, Laurie Ingwersen of The Harvest Group and Michael D’Addio of Marcum, LLP unpacked recent legal changes affecting retirement plans. Earlier this year, The Foundation launched a special showcase page on LinkedIn called “Partnering for Impact” to share news and resources among advisors. To learn more about charitable giving, contact Sharon Cappetta, CAP®, Director of Development, at 203-777-7071.



Members of the Progreso Latino Fund's Advisory Committee at the 20th anniversary kick off celebration.

Photo Chiké Photography

Progreso Latino Fund Marks 20th Anniversary

Match Campaign to Increase Positive Impact on Latine Issues

In February, the Progreso Latino Fund (PLF) kicked off a yearlong celebration of its 20th anniversary with a festive evening at Bregamos Community Theater. PLF honored its history and founders and launched a \$20,000 match campaign to raise the endowment and further its positive community impact. The program featured poignant stories from the founders of newly-established charitable Latine funds. PLF founders John and Frances Padilla provided a history of the Fund's founding.

"The seed that was planted has blossomed into a garden of opportunity," said Joe Rodriguez, State Deputy Director for Conn. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, as he delivered proclamations from several elected officials. PLF Advisory Committee co-chairs Tara Davila and Yari Ijeh shared PLF's plans for the anniversary year and beyond, including \$100,000 in grants planned to be made for the community over the next two years. Learn more at progresolatino.org.

Join Us for the Next Groundwater Approach Presentation

As part of its ongoing work to advance racial equity throughout the region, The Foundation is offering free community access to The Groundwater Approach, a racial equity workshop that builds an understanding of systemic racism and racial disparities through data and historical analysis. The virtual presentation is provided by the Racial Equity Institute, an alliance of trainers, organizers and institutional leaders devoted to creating racially equitable organizations and systems. "I deepened my understanding of inequity, which is a core responsibility of everyone as a human," said one of our previous attendees. To reserve your spot at the next workshop, visit cfgnh.org/groundwater.



Photos Courtesy of Community Healing Network and Biohaven

Left to right: Enola G. Aird, Esq. and Vlad Coric, M.D.

Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Board Elects Nunez-Smith as Chair, Muñiz as Vice Chair





The Foundation welcomed two new members to its board of directors effective January 1: Enola G. Aird, founder and president of Community Healing Network, appointed by The Foundation's board; and Vlad Coric, M.D., CEO of Biohaven, appointed by the president of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. A global leader in combatting anti-Black racism, Aird is "a very powerful voice in how we as a community and as a nation can and must confront racism at its root causes," said Foundation president and CEO Will Ginsberg. As a key leader in the industry that is building our community's future economic base, Coric's experience "will be invaluable to The Foundation's work on inclusive growth," said Ginsberg. Aird and Coric succeed Flemming L. "Nick" Norcott Jr. and Roxanne Coady, respectively, whose terms ended at the end of 2022. In addition to the new appointments, the board has elected former vice chair Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith to serve as chair and Fernando Muñiz to serve as vice chair for 2023.

Experienced Leaders at the Helm at VCF

The Valley Community Foundation announced the appointment of Nancy Valentine as the new chair of its Board of Directors. Valentine, who has a long history of public service and was mayor of Ansonia from 1995-1999, succeeds Jack Walsh. Aleta Miner, who has worked for the Shelton Economic Development Corporation since 1994, serves as vice chair. In addition to Valentine's appointment, the board appointed Mark Goumas as a new member. An experienced civic leader, Goumas is a retired executive from Sikorsky, United Technologies and Lockheed Martin. Retiring board members include Jennifer Magri and Diane Stroman. Learn more at valleyfoundation.org.



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