The Women & Girls Fund, established by area civic-minded women in 1999, supports programs that address women’s needs and contribute to the welfare of children, and it promotes the activities of nonprofit organizations that serve women and girls in the Northwest Corner. This year’s grant recipients were among those considering remarks by University of Connecticut President Dr. Susan Dowling-Roraback, who delivered remarks at the fund’s annual meeting, is the University’s 15th president and the first woman to hold that position.

**Making Ends Meet:** Foundation Helps Charities Navigate the Fiscal Crisis

With public funding for essential services drastically curtailed, nonprofits must cast wider fund-raising nets to stay afloat. Annual grant-making opportunities offered by the Foundation are helping area charities bridge the fiscal gap.

Throughout the third grant cycle of 2011, nonprofit organizations serving northwest Connecticut received discretionary awards totaling nearly $50,000. Among them were:

- $4,475 to Literacy Volunteers on the Green to purchase English-language textbooks and instructional materials for free classes.
- $2,200 to Girl Scouts of Connecticut for a program designed to reduce bullying among girls in Torrington grammar schools.
- $3,000 to Music in Common, Inc., to support educational programming and sponsor local students in Torrington, which focuses on the community-building power of music.
- $5,000 to Crise Life Project to develop a replicable program that engages high school students in civic life.

**The Women & Girls Fund, initiated by the Foundation in 1999, provides a unique philanthropic opportunity for community-minded women in northwest Connecticut who are committed to improving the lives of area women and girls by raising awareness and pooling resources. By supporting the fund, women can:

- Help to advance the welfare of local women and girls.
- Join a dynamic group that empowers other women.

In a generous show of support, the State Auto Insurance Group has contributed $10,000 over two years to advance the mission of The Women & Girls Fund. This funding is helping to advance the welfare of local women and girls by meeting their real-life needs and identifying opportunities to transform their lives.

For more information about The Women & Girls Fund or to make a contribution to support the mission, visit www.cfwnct.org or call 860-626-1245.

**The Steward**

**Love Is Service**

One Couple’s Philosophy of Life Manifests Itself as Historical Fund

A s a decorated warrior, the late Colonel James L. Draper, Jr., knew the meaning of service. And when he retired from the U.S. Army in 1965, Jim and his wife, Shirley, who preceded him in 2000, carried on the tradition by devoting their lives to serving the community they cherished.

Jim’s final—and perhaps greatest—act of charity came in the form of The Draper Foundation Fund, a $50 million endowment established at the Foundation. The new fund, which represents the largest single gift in the Foundation’s history will benefit mainly local charitable organizations by making yearly awards to 10 nonprofits named by the Drapers, as well as through annual donor-advised grants.

“Jim and Shirley were well-known in Colebrook, and indeed throughout the area, for their love of community,” Foundation President Guy Roversi said. “This endowment reflects their passion for particular causes—such as education and the welfare of children and animals—and will forever serve as a testament to their compassion for others.”

The historic proportions of Jim and Shirley Draper’s philanthropy will forever be felt in northwest Connecticut. The significance of The Draper Foundation Fund is profound on many levels; however, it does not change the fundamental nature of our work, which is to promote the common good of all who reside in the 20 towns served by the Foundation.

For that, we must say— and always— rely on the generous support of our donors.”

—Foundation President Guy Roversi

**The Draper Foundation Fund: A Lesson in Inspired Philanthropy**

The Draper Foundation Fund has forever changed the face of philanthropy both for The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut and for the 20 communities it serves.

To be sure, a gift of $30 million from the estates of Shirley and Jim Draper of Colebrook, means additional resources can now be brought to bear on critical local issues.

And in terms of catalytic philanthropy, our community foundation is better positioned to play a leadership role in the region, working across sectors to solve complex problems and maximize impact.

But beyond that, The Draper Foundation Fund has the potential to inspire future philanthropy, which is perhaps the greatest impact of all. Donors and fund-holders alike are making contributions in the following areas:

- Technological advances and staff augmentation yielding improved donor services.
- Increased economies of scale in operational costs.
- Heightened portfolio sophistication and opportunities for increased investment benchmarking.
- More resources deployed locally to causes important to our donor community.

This community gave Jim and Shirley their closest family and friends, and they wanted to return the favor by fostering their good fortune.”

As legacy gifts go, The Draper Foundation Fund is in a class by itself. One of the largest single gifts on record to a community foundation in the state of Connecticut, it will forever immortalize Jim and Shirley Draper as two of the area’s foremost benefactors. And what is more, there’s no telling how many others it will inspire.
**For the Love of Animals**

_Torrington Couple Bring Passion for Pets to Foundation_

With deep roots in Torrington, Jim and Sandra Thibault know the value of giving back to the community where they live and work. It’s a commitment they both hold dear as they set their volunteer sights to the Foundation, knowing it was a perfect fit.

“Out of the kindness of our hearts, making good on our own passions and goals, we are able to help animals,” Sandra explained. “Our family has always been an animal-centered family. When we make our final transition, we’re going to help animals in our own community and perpetuity.”

“Additional opportunities for us to be involved in planning events that support the Foundation’s work.”

But Jim and Sandra, who serve as Barron Financial Group’s operations coordinator, don’t limit their generosity to community service. Each year, the firm recognizes its clients by making a sizable contribution to their homes to the Northwest Connecticut Philanthropy Fund. This endowed fund, comprised of designated bequests to the Fund, is used to support emerging community needs.

“A successful business to run. Jim and Sandra have learned how to select their volunteer efforts where they can do the most good. A newly elected Chair of the Torrington Animal Advisory Committee and serves on the Torrington Charter Review Committee. Sandra, as one might expect, serves on the board of The Little Guild of St. Francis, a human-handicapped organization based in West Cornwall.

“Although I love all animals, I’m particularly concerned about the plight of homeless dogs and cats,” Sandra said. “I hope the future holds many more animal advocates in our community.”

“I enjoy this role because it allows me to use my professional knowledge and learning skills to benefit the Foundation.”

**Change the World: Get Our New Guide to Legacies**

Have you ever wished you could make a difference in the world? Well, you can.

And it’s easier than you might think. Just follow our guide to creating a charitable gift in your estate plan. It’s a sure way to make a positive impact on the causes, charities or communities that matter most to you.

_A bequest could be the most important charitable gift you ever make._

That’s because an endowed fund established through your Community Foundation becomes a powerful and true legacy—one that will ensure your generosity becomes a lasting tribute.

Call us to learn more about making a bequest to the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut. We are always here to help you make the most of your charitable gift.

**Shallow Pool of Public Funding Hampering Human Services**

_According to an article in the Stanford Social Innovation Review, the long-term outlook for government funding for human services is bleak. The sobering reality is that nonprofits will have even more to manage in the future’s funding models, efficient in deploying their resources and vigilant in serving their mission to make headway._

“Fred has left an indelible mark on the community he loved as well as one might expect, serves on the board of The Little Guild of St. Francis, a human-handicapped organization based in West Cornwall.

“Although I love all animals, I’m particularly concerned about the plight of homeless dogs and cats,” Sandra said. “I hope the future holds many more animal advocates in our community.”

“I enjoy this role because it allows me to use my professional knowledge and learning skills to benefit the Foundation.”

**Giving Back Helps Communities Get Ahead**

Growing up in Norfolk, Karen O’Connor forged many ties with the people and places in northeastern Connecticut. So when it came time to update her estate plan, Karen knew the cause she wished to support.

“With the passing of my parents, the idea of a legacy gift came to mind. I happened to read about Gail and Charles Olson deciding to include the Community Foundation in their estate plans. Mrs. O’Connor explained, “Having grown up in Norfolk and attending grammar school with Charlie, I found the article inspirational.”

By including a gift to charity in her will, Ms. O’Connor can be certain that the Foundation will honor her wishes in perpetuity. “A bequest has so many benefits. It’s helping to build the Community Foundation’s work and endorses our shared values.”

“Torrington Animal Advisory Committee and serves on the Torrington Charter Review Committee. Sandra, as one might expect, serves on the board of The Little Guild of St. Francis, a human-handicapped organization based in West Cornwall.

“Although I love all animals, I’m particularly concerned about the plight of homeless dogs and cats,” Sandra said. “I hope the future holds many more animal advocates in our community.”

“I enjoy this role because it allows me to use my professional knowledge and learning skills to benefit the Foundation.”

**Legacy Gifts and You**

More and more people are including charitable gifts in their estate plan. Why? Because it’s a sure way to make a positive impact on the causes or communities that matter most to them. Whatever you choose to do with your endowed bequest, you can be sure it will bring more hope, care and goodness into the world.

_A bequest can be made in the form of a stated sum of money, stocks and bonds, a percentage of an estate or even a set period of time. Or you can name a fixed dollar amount._

**Community Mourns a Local Legend**

_It would be safe to say that Fred Bruni served one of his 92 years. And to the Torrington community he cherished, he leaves an impressive legacy befitting his exceptional generosity and profound civic pride._

_With its grant, the Litchfield Hills Elderly Nutrition program run by the Edward & Elitizen Senior Center will continue to provide weekly home delivered meals to the elderly._

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Giving Back Helps Communities Get Ahead

Giving Back to the Community

Giving back helps communities get ahead. With deep roots in Torrington, Jim and Sandra Tihalich know the value of giving back to the community where they live and work. It’s a commitment they both share, with Sandra devoting their volunteer efforts to the Foundation, and Jim sharing it with a smile. “Over the years, we’ve become unofficial ambassadors for the fund,” Jim and Sandra earned that recognition, at least in part, by serving on planning committees for the 2008 Hare Ball—touted as a barn dance for animal lovers—serving on the West End saloon Life, which helped rescue more than a dozen abandoned dogs, find new homes while raising awareness of the plight of homeless pets. As organizers of both well-attended local events, their names have become synonymous with animal-related causes. But their contributions to the Foundation don’t end there. As managing partner of the Torrington-based investment advisory firm Barron Financial Group, Jim was an ideal candidate for the Foundation’s Investment Committee, assuming chairmanship in 2008. “The Investment Committee is charged with overseeing the Foundation’s investments, selecting professional strategists and upholding the organization’s mission and community responsibilities,” Jim explained. “I enjoy this role because it allows me to use my professional knowledge and long-term skills to benefit the Foundation.”

But Jim and Sandra, who serve as Barron Financial Group’s operations coordinator, don’t limit their generosity to community service. Each year, the firm recognizes its clients by making a sizable contribution in their honor to the Northwest Connecticut Philanthropy Fund. This endowed fund, comprised of undesignated gifts to the Foundation, is used to support emerging community needs. With a successful business to run, Jim and Sandra have learned to select their volunteer efforts where they can do the most good. A newly elected board member in Torrington, Jim also chairs the city’s Economic Development Committee and serves on the Torrington Community Fund’s board, as one might expect, serves on the board of “The Little Guild of St. Francis, a animal organization based in West Cornwall. “Although I love all animals, I’m particularly concerned about the plight of homeless dogs and cats,” Sandra said. “I hope the future holds more opportunities for us to be involved in planning events that support the Community Fund.”

Pictured with 4-year-old Toby, a recent addition to the Tihalich family, Jim and Sandra are staunch advocates for pet adoption. Over the years, they have put their passion into practice, rescuing all four dogs from cities pounds in Torrington and Bridgeport. Toby’s availability for adoption makes him a likely candidate for the foster Good Citizens award, something Sandra believes helps to shape positive stereotypes about the animal’s role in society. “Sandra’s active lifestyle wouldn’t be complete without a pet,” says Jim, who hopes the couple’s advocacy work will help to spread their “reverse a null” philosophy.

Shallow Pool of Public Funding

Hampering Human Services

According to an article in the Stanford Social Innovation Review, the long-term outlook for government funding for human services is bleak. “The sobering reality is that nonprofits will have to be even more entrepreneurial in their funding models, efficient in deploying their resources and vigilant in serving their mission to make headway,” authors Daniel Sied and Willem Antoon, of the Bridgeport Group, said. Given the grim assessment that “those organizations are left to cobble together their own resources from other funding sources to make up the difference,” grants like those from the Foundation’s Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund are more critical than ever. “We are extremely grateful to The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut,” Kit Wright, coordinator of LARC’s Transition School to Community program, said. “Their ongoing support of the area’s residents and organizations makes so much positive impact.”

Learn more about how human service nonprofits can advance their mission while concomitantly with governing council cutoffs at www.sfourw.org.


Basic Needs Meet by Year-End Grants

Focused with dwindling government support, charitable organizations serving some of the area’s most disadvantaged residents are even more entrepreneurial in their funding models, efficient in deploying their resources and vigilant in serving their mission. This year, much of the $20,150 in critical-needs awards from the Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund will go to nonprofits to provide the most basic of necessities—food, warm clothing and shelter.

With the grant, the Litchfield Hills Eldelry Nutrition program run by the Edward E. Baldwin Senior Center will continue to assist homebound seniors in northwest Connecticut. “Nationwide, and right here in Litchfield County, seniors are struggling to obtain the basics of necessities, like nutritious food and basic health care,” program supervisor Joel Sikorski said. “Our assistance helps many remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.” Likewise, the Torrington Chapter of FISH will use its grant to assist some of the area’s most disadvantaged families. “Federal and state funding is being reduced, and donations are down from previous years,” Executive Director Kevin Purcell said. “We have had as many as 13 children living in our facility—now we’re down to two weeks old—which clearly demonstrates the need!”

Likely a result of the economy, year-end grants applications continued to trend upward in 2011. “These grants are intended to help our area nonprofits provide essential services at a time of year when the need is greatest and budgets are tight,” Foundation President Guy Rozic said.

Nobody knows more about need than Susan Leigh, who coordinates the services provided by Goshen Community Care & Hospice to town residents, many of whom are elderly. “We thought it would be nice to surprise some of our homebound seniors with a gift of a new oven or a warm blanket,” Ms. Leigh said. “That gift helps in so many ways, from simple home repairs to a holiday meal . . . it allows us to go a step beyond and make more of a difference.”

In December of 2011, 42 area charities received grants intended to help them meet the critical need of area residents.

In addition to awards for critical needs made annually in December, the Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund provides grants to local nonprofit organizations three times a year, in early spring, late June and late fall. Learn more about deadlines and grants, and how to apply at www.cfnwct.org

Foundations Focus

Dinneen Named Program Officer

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Heather Dinneen as Program Officer. In her new role, Heather will oversee the Foundation’s grant-making process, including all discretionary and programmatic awards.

A Cornwell native, Heather holds bachelor’s degrees in social work and international relations from Concordia College. She also earned master’s degrees in social work, from Fairfield University, and in fund-raising and philanthropy, from Bay Path College.

Heather has extensive experience in the nonprofit sector, both here and abroad, and her expertise and global perspective are sure to integrate our grant-making process.

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Heather has extensive experience in the nonprofit sector, both here and abroad, and her expertise and global perspective are sure to integrate our grant-making process.
The Women & Girls Fund, initiated in the Foundation in 1999, provides a unique philanthropic opportunity for community-minded women in northwest Connecticut who are committed to improving the lives of area women and girls by raising awareness and pooling resources. By supporting the fund, women can:
- Help to advance the welfare of local women and girls.
- Join a dynamic group that empowers other women.

In a generous show of support, the State Auto Insurance Group has contributed $10,000 over two years to advance the mission of The Women & Girls Fund. This funding is helping to advance the welfare of local women and girls by meeting their real needs in new and surprising ways.

For more information about The Women & Girls Fund, visit www.cfnwct.org.