**Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation**

**2018 At-A-Glance**

- **Founded**: 1969
- **Assets**: more than $101 million
- **Geographic Area**: 20 towns in Northwest Connecticut
- **Scholarships Awarded**: 1185, $158,500
- **Grants Awarded**: $53.9 million
- **Gifts Received**: $2.3 million

**Also Online...**

- **Community Foundation Accredited with National Standards**

  The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation was recently accredited with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations—the highest standards for philanthropic excellence. Learn more at northwestct.org/standards

- **Year-Ending Guide**

  The 2018 year-ending guide is available on the Community Foundation website. It includes instructions and deadlines for year-end gifts to your fund and grants/donations from your fund that support the communities you love and the causes that matter. Learn more at northwestct.org/year-end

- **2018 Community Report is Online**

  People for People highlights the more than $2 million in gifts and more than $4 million in grants and scholarships that helped shape our Northwest Connecticut communities in 2018—gifts and grants that worked toward the challenges we face together: outmigration, gender equity, social justice, opioid addiction, food security, and access to education, among many others—and the collaborative efforts of nonprofit crafting solutions that benefit all of us. Learn more at northwestct.org/publications

- **Women & Girls Fund Accepting Grant Applications**

  The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation Women & Girls Fund will be accepting grant applications in January 2020 in support of programs that serve women and girls in the development of economic self-sufficiency by means of education, financial literacy and social services. Learn more at northwestct.org/womandg

**50 Years of Building Strong Communities, Together**

With $15,000 remaining after renovation, Torrington Club members saw an opportunity to support local nonprofits. By the fall of 2019, they had established a trust managed by several local banks. A volunteer grants committee was formed. The Torrington Area Foundation for Public Giving was born.

Torrington Savings Bank donated to the Foundation, followed by a bequest from prominent Torrington residents Edwin M. and Edith H. Stone, and in 1977 a gift from John H. Brooks, the president of Brooks Bank and Trust Company, and chair of the Torrington Savings Bank. That same year, Robert Vern Carr, founder of the Litchfield County Insurance and Travel Agency, made a sizable donation. Those gifts made possible the first grants awarded in 1972, $1,000 in support of emergency homeless shelter FISH of Northwestern Connecticut, and $1,200 in support of the Community Council of Northwest Connecticut.

In the decades that followed, hundreds of funds were established through bequests, including a large gift from the Estate of Carlton D. and Jenny R. Fyler. Carlton worked as a chauffeur and gardener and Jenny as a Torrington Public School teacher. They wanted to support the children of the community they loved, preferring that their gift be used to “support the moral, artistic, intellectual, and physical development of children.”

**Edward W. Diskavich Fund Helps Public Works Staff Fight Invasive Species**

Japanese Knotweed can be spread by moving devices and is most effectively treated early on. It’s important to keep it away from rivers. Event attendees learned the appropriate mix of herbicide to kill the weed without damaging nearby plants as well as injection techniques, whereby herbicide is injected directly into weed stems. Hands-on demonstrations prepared the crews to effectively eradicate Japanese Knotweed in their towns.

**Contact the Steward editor Nicole Carlson-Beal at nicole@northwestct.org or 860-626-1249**

**Questions or comments?**

**Phyllis Dower Joins the Legacy Society – sets a plan in motion to care for her community**

Winsted resident Phyllis Dower grew up in the hills of North Canaan, surrounded by family who believed in giving back to others. Her mother was a school teacher and her father was a nurse in New York City, where she resided for twenty years, completing a Bachelor of Science degree at Columbia University with a major in nursing. Later, she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English literature at New York University. Phyllis worked as a registered nurse in New York City in various clinical and administrative positions. She enjoyed the culture and arts offered by the City in particular the ballet and art museums.

Interested in seeking more education and experience in public health administration, Phyllis completed a Master’s in Public Health degree from Yale University and went on to pursue a career in public health administration at the New Jersey Department of Public Health and at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Her public health experience focused on cardiovascular health and disease prevention.
During their 35-year marriage, Shirley and Toby MacCallum shared many things, an antique opportunities to befriend animals of all kinds. “We had rabbits, chickens, cows, horses and cats, you name it,” said Shirley. “I wanted to bring all of the animals inside. Dad was not happy about that.”

Over the years, Shirley and Toby welcomed many canine companions into their family and made regular donations to local animal welfare organizations. When they were forced to put down their longtime companion, Smokey, a mixed-breed shelter dog and member of the family for more than 18 years, Shirley was so heartbroken that she decided she would never adopt another dog. Instead, she doubled the couple’s efforts to support local animal welfare organizations.

“I gave to everything,” said Shirley. “Any animal organization that needed help. I didn’t care if it was a dog or a cat. I just wanted to help.”

Then in 2003, Toby was diagnosed with cancer and given a year to live. He had one request of Shirley. “I want a dog,” he said. Days later, the couple ran into a colleague who was returning from her veterinarian’s office with a litter of yellow labs. Toby scooped a wiggling puppy into his arms. “I have found a home,” said the puppy.

Shortly after Toby’s death, Shirley MacCallum established the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation MacCallum Family Fund for Animal Welfare, a field-of-interest fund that helps sick animals regardless of their owner’s ability to pay for their care.

“I always wanted to do something for animals,” said Shirley. “This fund will continue to help them long after I’m gone.”

The Fund accepts donations from the community to provide medical care for sick and suffering animals who require extensive and costly treatments that are often unexpected and necessary to alleviate pain and extend pets’ lives.

To the surprise of doctors, Toby lived for more than eight years, fighting for his life with Molly by his side. “She never left him,” said Shirley. “They were always cuddled up together. Molly would lay in the bed with him on her head on his leg. She slept with us.”

They soon discovered that Molly was fighting a battle of her own. Molly was diagnosed with lymphoma. “Whatever happens,” Toby said to Shirley. “When I’m gone, take care of Molly.”

Toby passed away in 2012. Soon after, Molly became arsonly. After seven months of dialysis, with Shirley a constant by her side, Molly too passed away.

Phyllis Frances Pitcher Dower Fund

In anticipation of retiring and returning to the Northwest Corner, Phyllis purchased an antique home in Winsted, where she currently resides. She retired from the New Jersey Department of Public Health and moved to Winsted, working for the Connecticut Department of Public Health for six years. Having retired from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Phyllis volunteers for many activities with Trinity Episcopal Church in Torrington, and serves as a Trustee for the Friends of the Library, a fundraising organization that provides supplemental funding to Baudrey &殒iton Library. Seeking to leave her estate to address the needs of low-income residents in North Canaan, Phyllis reached out to her attorney and to the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation for their assistance in establishing the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation Phyllis Frances Pitcher Dower Fund, which will be funded by her estate.

MacCallum Family Fund for Animal Welfare Helps Animals in Need

Fleet General Fund Helps Litchfield Celebrate 300 Years

An 18th century village set up on the green encouraged visitors to learn about early village life, such as medical treatments, apothecary and musket safety. The Sons of the American Revolution established a military camp, complete with a revolutionary-era encampment officer. The Daughters of the American Revolution shared tools to help visitors research their genealogy. View photos of Litchfield’s 300th anniversary celebration at northwestcf.org/litchfield300.

Phyllis Dower Joins the Legacy Society

The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation Phyllis Frances Pitcher Dower Fund will provide financial assistance to low-income residents of North Canaan, including assistance with rent, food, clothing, heat, utilities, disaster assistance, elderly care, child care, and medical expenses.

MacCallum Family Fund

“Spent so much time at the veterinarian’s office, meeting sick animals and their caregivers,” said Shirley. “There is a real need in our community to reach out to sick animals whose caregivers don’t have the means to provide them with life-sustaining medical care.”

Donate to the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation MacCallum Family Fund for Animal Welfare online at northwestcf.org/donate
MacCallum Family Fund for Animal Welfare Helps Animals in Need

During their 35-year marriage, Shirley and Toby MacCallum shared many things, an antique business, three children and a strong sense of connection and responsibility to animals in their community. A deep respect for animals was a part of their relationship from the beginning. “There is a real need in our community to reach out to sick animals whose caregivers don’t have the means to provide them with life-sustaining medical care.”

Grants from the MacCallum Family Fund for Animal Welfare

The MacCallum Family Fund for Animal Welfare, established in 2013, has provided for the emergency medical care and alleviation of suffering for dogs and cats in Northwestern Connecticut, including: Delta, a young Terrier who needed multiple surgeries and medications after having been hit by a car; Floyd, a homeless kitten with a broken leg who had taken shelter in a local barn; and Honey, a four-year-old orange tabby kitty in need of monthly diabetic care.

To the surprise of doctors, Toby lived for more than three years after his diagnosis in 2003. Toby was diagnosed with cancer and given a year to live. He looked at Shirley, and they both knew that Esmerelda “Little Molly” would not have been possible,” said Rosemarie Greco, MacCallum Family Fund for Animal Welfare.

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Public Works Staff Fight Invasive Species

Connecticut Community Foundation has grown from its initial assets of $15,000 to $101 million. The Community Foundation has provided educational resources, as well as opportunities for investment in the state of Connecticut,” said Tom Zetterstrom, event organizer.

Knotweed in their towns.

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Japantown can be spread by moving devices and is most effectively treated early on. It’s important to keep it away from rivers, where it moves downstream and begins to spread on riverbanks. Event attendees learned the appropriate mix of herbicide to kill the Knotweed, and its thick quick-spreading root system is pushing through and thin spindles of white flowers is blanketing the edges of rivers, wetlands and concrete foundations and asphalt roadways. Its dense thickets are suffocating indigenous flora.

Throughout Northwest Connecticut, a dense plant with large flat leaves and thin spindles of white flowers is blanketing the edges of rivers, climbing into roads and winding through stone fences. It’s called Japanese Knotweed, and its thick quick-spreading root system is pushing through concrete foundations and asphalt roadways. Its dense thickets are suffocating indigenous flora.

Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation

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By 1997, many of those who had provided the gifts that created the Foundation had passed away, but what they had created, a Community Foundation providing grants in support of the arts, education, basic human needs, animal care and protection, and conservation in northwest Connecticut, was already having a positive long-lasting impact, and growing quickly. In 1999 and again in 2005, the Community Foundation expanded its service within Northwest Connecticut, and became known as the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

Through the vision of local citizens—those gifts of time and talent, annual financial contributions, andquests from their estates, the Community Foundation has grown from its initial assets of $15,000 to almost $10 million—supporting Torrington area nonprofits with grants to working with hundreds of nonprofits throughout Northwest Connecticut, to provide educational resources, as well as opportunities to convene and collaborate.

Learn more about Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation history at northwest.org/history

Phyllis Dow er established the Phyllis Pitcher Dow er Fund.

This November, the Community Foundation begins its 50th year of inspiring local giving—making improvements in education, arts and culture, healthcare, human services, conservation, environmental causes, civic initiatives, animal welfare, and more. The Community Foundation began simply in early 1969 members of The Torrington Club, a local business club, had recently told their headquarters building on Prospect St. in Torrington and remediated a new meeting space.

With $15,000 remaining after renovation, Torrington Club members saw an opportunity to support local nonprofits. By the fall of 19, they had established a trust managed by several local banks. A volunteer grants committee was formed. The Torrington Area Foundation for Public Giving was born.

Torrington Savings Bank donated to the Foundation, followed by a bequest from prominent Torrington residents Edwin M. and Edith H. Stone, and in 1977 a gift from John H. Brooks, the president of Brooks Bank and Trust Company, and chair of the Torrington Savings Bank.

In the decades that followed, hundreds of funds were established through bequests, including a large gift from the estate of Carlton D. and Jenny R. Pale. Carlton worked as a pharmacist and teacher and Jenny as a Torrington Public School teacher. They wanted to support the children of the community they loved, preferring that their gift be used to “support the moral, artistic, intellectual, and physical development of children.”

Q uestions or comments?
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Christo pher G. Wall Secretary
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Jam es Blackketter
Rod Pleasants
Victor M. Muschell
Lori Riiska

Please visit our website northwestcf.org

Funds under management | 286
Assets | more than $101 million
Gifts Received | $2.3 million
Grants Awarded | $3.9 million
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