Philanthropy Fund Lives Up to Its Name

The Northwest Connecticut Philanthropy Fund, an umbrella organization of undesignated gifts to The Foundation, is used to support emerging community needs. Since its inception in 2008, 28 charitable organizations have received nearly $45,000 in funding for critical programs serving some of the area’s most economically distressed residents.

“Your sincere thanks to the Northwest Connecticut Philanthropy Fund for the grant that will be used to further our mission of feeding the hungry. Our fondest wish is to have the ability to provide meals at every food distribution. Your grant will go a long way toward helping us to accomplish this.” —Barbara Pogue, Co-President of OWL’s Kitchen, in Lakeville

Among the grant recipients were nonprofits that provide essential services to area women, children and families and those that help to feed the hungry, as well as charities that enable the elderly and disabled to live safely and independently in their own homes.

By promoting sustainable agriculture and active, healthy lifestyles, LIFES is joining the fight against childhood obesity. President and Executive Director Bill Burgess likens his organization to a “three-legged stool” of core programming which includes Food Drums, KIDSMARATHON. To learn more, visit the agency’s new website at www.lifes-vc.org.

Save the Date:
Chuck Loring Returns October 11

You asked us back. By popular demand, BoardSource’s Governance Associate Chuck Loring returns to the Northwest Corner for his 11th year for an encore presentation on fund-raising strategies for nonprofits.

But that’s not all! On November 9, Anne Yarask, an organizational development consultant with Fos Partners, LLC, shares tips for using social media effectively. And Danovely & Associates President Sharon Danovely returns November 30 with a presentation on governance best practices.

Come network with other local charities, take part in discussions with experts in fund-raising, social media and board leadership, and be inspired by renowned philanthropic advisors who have helped scores of nonprofit develop their boards, improve their governance and raise the money they need to advance their missions.

Don’t miss out on these unique educational and networking opportunities happening throughout northwest Connecticut. For more information or to register visit www.cfnwct.org.

Battle of the Bulge
Litchfield Hills Food Service Weighs in on Childhood Obesity

The hottest trend in the U.S. isn’t Nike’s Air Yeezy, smartphone or new waxing. It’s obesity, and with rates more than doubled since 1980, the push to curb the rise in overweight, Americas, especially children.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, childhood obesity rates have tripled over the past three decades, with nearly one in three children in America overweight today. As alarming as these statistics are, there is hope—and help—locally.

Litchfield Hills Food Service, a nonprofit launched in 2007, educates children and families about the importance of good nutrition and physical activity, with the goal of promoting lifelong healthy habits. Spreading the word is much more effective, said LIFES President and Executive Director Bill Burgess. Thanks to the organization’s robust new website, which was funded by a grant from the Foundation’s Keroden Endowed Fund.

“Our goal is to reach as many people as possible and to link them to more information about the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity,” Mr. Burgess explained. And with the organization’s new social media capabilities, he said LIFES is targeting a younger audience, which is critical at the fight against childhood obesity.

LIFES also supports local agriculture by touting the benefits of organic produce, from fresh chicken, available at regional farm markets. And by exposing the principles of national programs like the Edible Schoolyard Project, LIFES is joining the “edible education” movement to make cafeteria food more wholesome while teaching important lessons about nutrition.

After accepting The White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award for his organization’s contributions to the quality of life in northwest Connecticut, Mr. Burgess summed up what is clearly a personal, as well as professional, quest: “By connecting physical activity with better nutrition, we are trying to create a lifestyle equation that leads to better health.”

You and Your Community Foundation: Making a Difference

Within a few weeks, you’ll find an important letter in your mailbox. More than an appeal for support, it’s an invitation—a chance for you to take part in the work we’re doing in communities throughout northwest Connecticut.

Together, we’re making a difference. Your generosity extends beyond grants to local libraries, food banks, child care centers and conservation groups—it enables us to engage in initiatives that are producing meaningful results across the region, such as:

• A project aimed at rekindling a sense of political awareness and citizenship among our youth;

• Regional efforts to close the achievement gap by developing pre-literacy and reading-ready skills in young children;

• A plan to keep our village centers vital by sourcing economic resources in the Northwest Corner.

Your support makes it all possible. Simply put, the difference is you.

As ever, we thank you for the trust you place in your Community Foundation to make the most of your generosity. If you would like to support our work now, please use the enclosed envelope or donate safely and securely online at www.cfnwct.org.

Foundation Helps Charities Help Others

Each year, the Foundation reaffirms its pledge to strengthen the local nonprofit sector by supporting many of the essential programs and services offered by area organizations. November 30 marks the deadline for applications.

The Foundation Center’s Cooperating Collection, a partnership of more than 235 Cooperating Collections in cities across the country, helps nonprofits develop their boards, improve their governance and raise the money they need to advance their missions.

Collaborative Efforts Bring Regional Lore to Life

Annual grants made possible by funding from the Connecticut Humanities Council help connect us with the history of our region’s rich cultural heritage. Recent CHC-sponsored initiatives in history and literature include:

• The Enrichment Committee’s award-winning Virginia Alice Mertz and its contribution to Scouting.

• The Gunn Memorial Library & Museum’s exhibition of early American stoneware and other pottery of the region.

Though the Community Foundation, established in 1956, the Foundation Center is the nation’s leading authority on organized nonprofit management.

Enrichment Committee awards were: $91,000 thus far in 2012. Among the winners:

• $2,000 to Audubon Sharon in support of wildlife rehabilitation and public education programs.

• $1,500 to VNA Northwest to assist clients who are uninsured or who have insufficient health care coverage.

• $1,800 to Goshen Public Library for programs related to (former Goshen resident) Madeleine L’Engle’s science fantasy novel, A Wrinkle in Time.

The Foundation awards grants to local nonprofits three times a year: in early spring, late June and late fall. Find a complete listing of this year’s first- and second-cycle grants online by clicking “News” at www.cfnwct.org.

E stablished in 1956, the Foundation Center is the nation’s leading authority on organized nonprofit management. Its focus on helping grantees, grant seekers, researchers, policy makers, the media and the general public.

The Foundation offers free access to detailed information on funders as well as instruction on how to apply for grants.

The Foundation Center is the largest repository of data on the nonprofit sector and its activities.

Access to the database is free for area 501(c)(3) nonprofits wishing to investigate opportunities for funding from private foundations, corporations, foundations and the government.

Information on database training is available by contacting The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut at 860-324-1245 or info@cfnwct.org.

Online Resource Streamlines Funding Quest

Nonprofit organizations in northwest Connecticut looking for funding sources can now turn to The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut for the vital information, training and tools they need to become successful grant seekers.

The Foundation Center’s Cooperating Collection, a valuable set of resources located at the Community Foundation of Torrington’s office, offers free access to detailed information on funders as well as instruction on how to apply for grants.

The Foundation Center is the largest repository of data on the nonprofit sector and its activities.

Access to the database is free for area 501(c)(3) nonprofits wishing to investigate opportunities for funding from private foundations, corporations, foundations and the government.

Information on database training is available by contacting The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut at 860-324-1245 or info@cfnwct.org.

You and Your Community Foundation: Making a Difference

Within a few weeks, you’ll find an important letter in your mailbox. More than an appeal for support, it’s an invitation—a chance for you to take part in the work we’re doing in communities throughout northwest Connecticut.

Together, we’re making a difference. Your generosity extends beyond grants to local libraries, food banks, child care centers and conservation groups—it enables us to engage in initiatives that are producing meaningful results across the region, such as:

• A project aimed at rekindling a sense of political awareness and citizenship among our youth;

• Regional efforts to close the achievement gap by developing pre-literacy and reading-ready skills in young children;

• A plan to keep our village centers vital by sourcing economic resources in the Northwest Corner.

Your support makes it all possible. Simply put, the difference is you.

As ever, we thank you for the trust you place in your Community Foundation to make the most of your generosity. If you would like to support our work now, please use the enclosed envelope or donate safely and securely online at www.cfnwct.org.
NVG Is Closing Connecticut’s Literacy Gap

Imagine that your infant child needs urgent medical attention. When you arrive at the E.R., you’re bombarded with questions by doctors and nurses—a frightening experience for any parent, but especially new parents like you. The scenario repeats itself several times. This is a scenario that our students are familiar with, as they face similar challenges in accessing health care. NVG’s mission is to support children’s education and contribute both economically and socially to their communities.

NVG is committed to providing comprehensive services that support children’s education and health. They offer individualized programs for college-preparatory students, and these services also include a host of community programs such as citizenship test preparation. NVG’s goal is to help children succeed in school and in life.

The NVG website offers valuable information about their programs and services. They encourage educators, parents, and others to learn more about how NVG can support children’s education. Visitors can explore NVG’s mission and values, learn about their programs, and get involved in supporting their cause.

NVG’s programs and services are designed to be accessible and affordable. They aim to provide children with the support they need to succeed in school and in life. Whether it’s individualized programs for college-preparatory students or community programs like citizenship test preparation, NVG is dedicated to helping children achieve their full potential.

NVG is a truly inspiring organization that makes a real difference in the lives of children. They work tirelessly to support children’s education and contribute both economically and socially to their communities. By supporting NVG, you can help shape the future of Connecticut’s children and ensure that they have access to the resources they need to succeed.

The NVG website is a great resource for learning more about their programs and services. Visitors can explore NVG’s mission and values, learn about their programs, and get involved in supporting their cause.

NVG is committed to providing comprehensive services that support children’s education and contribute both economically and socially to their communities.
(Formerly) Lost in Translation: LVG Is Closing Connecticut’s Literacy Gap

Imagine that your infant child needs urgent medical attention. When you arrive at the E.R., you’re bombarded with questions by doctors and nurses—a frightening experience for any parent, to be sure. Now picture the same scenario, except this time imagine what it would be like if you couldn’t speak English.

With support from the Marion Winn and Alice Edwards Fund and the Fulciano and Lydia Turri Zaccheo Fund, LVG Volunteers on the Green is addressing what has been described as an adult literacy crisis in Connecticut.

“Thanks for hosting another remarkable seminar and helping to make our Northwest Corner the great caring and giving area that it is for so many people.” – Kevin Parcell, Executive Director, Torrington Chapter of F.L.S.H., Inc.

Money Talks: Fund-Raising Is Focus of Conference for Nonprofits

Engaging, energetic and enlightening: three apt descriptions of expert philanthropic advisor and best-selling author Laura Fredricks, who invited an audience of nearly 200 nonprofit leaders at the Foundation’s Money Matters: Funding Nonprofit Success conference, in Torrington.

Mr. Fredricks has been helping organizations get the funds they need to advance their missions for nearly two decades. Her best-selling primer on fund-raising is considered the go-to-guide for nonprofits of all sizes. The daylong educational and networking event, sponsored by Union Savings Bank, Torrington Savings Bank and Northwest Community Bank, covered all aspects of raising money, from annual appeals and capital campaigns to planned giving and special events.

“Donor cultivation events are very effective, but they’re only as good as your follow-through,” Ms. Fredricks warned. “You must close the deal or you’ve lost a lot of money on the table.”

PHOTO: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Discover the Many Ways “Giving Matters”

In our 2011 Community Report, you’ll discover how—and why—giving matters to our extraordinary donors whose generosity makes possible a milestone $1.2 million in grants and scholarships last year.

Our commitment to the vitality of northwest Connecticut is strong, but your ongoing support is what makes good things possible. Visit www.cnfnwct.org today to see how charitable giving is making a difference in your community.

Add the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut to your home screen:

Your Community is 37 years young and $47.6 million in assets strong.
Philanthropy Fund Lives Up to Its Name

The Northwest Connecticut Philanthropy Fund, an umbrella organization of designated gifts to the Foundation, is used to support emerging community needs.

Since its inception in 2008, 28 charitable organizations have received nearly $40,000 in funding for critical programs serving some of our area’s most economically distressed residents.

“Our sincere thanks to the Northwest Connecticut Philanthropy Fund for a grant [that will be used] to further our mission of feeding the hungry. Our fund is wish to have the ability to provide meals at every food distribution. Your grant will go a long way toward helping us to accomplish this.”
—Barbara Pugliese, Co-President of OWL’s Kitchen, in Litchfield

Among the grant recipients were nonprofits that provide essential services to area women, children and families and those that help to feed the hungry, as well as charities that enable the elderly and disabled to live safely and independently in their own homes.

By promoting sustainable agriculture and active, healthy lifestyles, LHFS is joining the fight against childhood obesity. President and Executive Director Bill Burgess likens his organization to a “three-legged stool of core programming, which includes Food Force, KIDSMARATHON. To learn more, visit the agency’s new website at www.lhfs-ct.org.

Philanthropy Fund Helps Charities Help Others

Each year, the Foundation reaffirms its pledge to strengthen the local nonprofit sector by supporting many of the essential programs and services offered by area agencies. Nearly 30 nonprofits throughout northwest Connecticut have received discretionary grants totaling more than $100,000 thus far in 2010. Among the awards were:

$1,500 to Warren School Arts Enrichment Committee to provide arts exposure and creative opportunities for local elementary school students.
$2,000 to Colebrook Historical Society to preserve and protect documents of historical significance to the community.
$3,981 to Wellspring to aid children with emotional disturbances in building healthier relationships with their families and others.
$2,000 to Audubon Sharon in support of wildlife rehabilitation and public education programs.
$1,500 to VNA Northwest to assist clients who are uninsured or who have insufficient healthcare coverage.
$1,800 to Goshen Public Library for programs related to (former Goshen resident) Madeleine L’Engle’s science fantasy novel, A Wrinkle in Time.

The Foundation awards grants to local nonprofit organizations three times a year: in early spring, late June and late fall. Find full list of this year’s first- and second-cycle grants online by clicking “News” at www.cfnwct.org.

Online Resource Streamlines Funding Quest

Nonprofit organizations in northwest Connecticut looking for funding sources can now turn to The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut for the vital information, training and tools they need to become successful grant seekers. The Foundation’s e-Collaborating Collection, a valuable set of resources located at the Community Foundation of Torrington’s offices, offers free access to detailed information on funders as well as instruction on how to apply for grants. The collection includes The Foundation’s Online Professional, with more than 100 U.S. grant makers, plus grant directories and guides to proposal writing and funding sources.

Our mission is to help local nonprofits find the funds they need to continue their essential work in the community.”
—Guy Forrister, President, The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut

By promoting sustainable agriculture and active, healthy lifestyles, LHFS is joining the fight against childhood obesity. President and Executive Director Bill Burgess likens his organization to a “three-legged stool of core programming, which includes Food Force, KIDSMARATHON. To learn more, visit the agency’s new website at www.lhfs-ct.org.

Save the Date: Chuck Loring Returns October 11

You asked us: Back by popular demand, BoardSource’s Governance Associate Chuck Loring returns to the Northwest Corner October 11 for an encore presentation on fund-raising strategies for nonprofits.

But that’s not all! On November 9, Anne Yurasek, an organizational development consultant with Fio Partners, LLC, shares tips for using social media effectively. And Daniele & Associates President Sharon Daniels returns November 30 with a presentation on governance best practices.

Come network with other local charities, take part in discussions with experts in fund-raising, social media and board leadership, and be inspired by renowned philanthropic advisors who have helped scores of nonprofit boards, improve their governance and raise the money they need to advance their missions.

Don’t miss out on these unique educational and networking opportunities happening throughout northwest Connecticut. For more information or to register, visit www.cfnwct.org.

You and Your Community Foundation: Making a Difference

Within a few weeks, you’ll find an important letter in your mailbox. More than an appeal for support, it’s an invitation—a chance for you to take part in the work we’re doing in communities throughout northwest Connecticut.

Together, we’re making a difference. Your generosity extends far beyond grants to local libraries, food banks, child care centers and conservation groups—it enables us to engage in initiatives that are producing meaningful results across the region, such as:

□ A project aimed at rekindling a sense of political awareness and civic responsibility among our youth.
□ Regional efforts to close the achievement gap by developing pro-literacy and reading-ready skills in young children.
□ A plan to keep our village centers vital by spurring economic reawakening in the Northwest Corner. Your support makes it all possible. Simply put, the difference is you.

As ever, we thank you for the trust you place in your Community Foundation to make the most of your generosity. If you would like to support our work now, please use the enclosed envelope or donate safely and securely online at www.cfnwct.org.

Battle of the Bulge

Litchfield Hills Food Service Weighs in on Childhood Obesity

The Sweetest thing in the U.S. isn’t Nike’s Air Yeezy, smartphone or even wu-tang. It’s obesity, and rates more than doubled since the ’80s. This push is to curb the rise in overweight, Americans, especially children.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, childhood obesity rates have tripled over the past 30 years, and nearly one in three children in America overweight today. As alarming as these statistics are, there is hope—and help—locally.

Litchfield Hills Food Service, a nonprofit launched in 2007, educates children and families about the importance of good nutrition and physical activity, with the goal of promoting lifelong healthy habits. Spreading the word is much more effective, said LHFS President and Executive Director Bill Burgess, thanks to the organization’s robust new website, which was funded by a grant from the Keroden Endowed Fund.

“Our goal is to reach as many people as possible and to link them to more information about the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity,” Mr. Burgess explained. And with the organization’s new social media capabilities, he said LHFS is targeting a younger audience, which is critical at the fight against childhood obesity.

LHFS also supports local agriculture by donating the benefits of organic products, oat cheese from fresh-baked goods, available at regional farm markets. And by exposing the principles of national programs like the Edible Schoolyard Project, LHFS is joining the “edible education” movement to make cafeteria food more wholesome while teaching important lessons about nutrition.

After accepting The White Memorial Foundation Conservation Award for his organization’s contributions to the quality of life in northwest Connecticut, Mr. Burgess summed up what is clearly a personal, as well as professional, quest: By connecting physical activity with better nutrition, we are trying to create a lifestyle equation that leads to better health.”

Keroden Endowed Fund

The Keroden Endowed Fund has made a critical contribution to the welfare of our region, generating nearly $352,000 in grants to local charities. Established anonymously, this unrestricted endowed fund enables the Foundation to make a broad range of working community needs.

Testing 1 2 3...