Also, online...

**Community Foundation Releases Storied for Attention: Food Insecurity in Northwest Connecticut**

The report is based on light touch statistics and food-security challenges in our Northwest Corner and serves as a guide for funders and the public to support the fragile network of organizations that work to address these challenges.

Read more: www.cfnwct.org/storied

**Donors, Fundholders Inspire “Gear heads” to Build a Better Robot**

The robotics team at Northwestern Regional High School received grants from the Ruth and Robert Cron Endowment Fund and Tristate Community Foundation for a High School Robotics Team. The team purchased equipment for much-needed tools and a trailer to transport their work and equipment.

Read more: www.cfnwct.org/journeymemo

**Memorial Fund Sends Children to Summer Camp**

Southside Catholic George Mazzareno Memorial Fund of Community Foundation presented a check to YMCA Camp Wa Wa Seam, and YMCA Camp Mohawk to support camperships.

Read more: www.cfnwct.org/mazzareno

**Corporate Donor Provides Laptops**

Cotitivi, a privately held financial services company with strong ties to the Northwest Corner, donated 150 refurbished Lenovo laptop computers for use by nonprofit in Northwest Connecticut.

Read more: www.cfnwct.org/cotitivi

Litchfield Community Center Funds continued from page 3

The music programs continued to grow, and when the Community Center was built in 2000, Mr. North wanted to use the opportunity to make music available to more people in the community. In 2003, he established the Litchfield Community Music Fund to support various music programs at the Community Center. With the opening of the Community Center, more people could come and enjoy music together,” said Berta. “Dan wanted to be a part of making that happen. He gave us freedom in our program choices, knowing that people like all kinds of different music. We’ve continued dixieland, swing, rock, bluegrass, classical, everything really.”

Mr. North passed away in 2008, but the Litchfield Community Music Fund continues to support programs that being the community together. In 2015, the Fund supported youth and teen programs DJ Music, Red Hot Chili Slam & Bands, Friday Foot & Dancing Feet, Ean Housners Legion, and Irish Music & Coffee House.

Planning for Generations of Community

After 15 successful years of bringing the community together through events and programs, the Community Center began looking toward long-term financial planning. Staff started to notice that children who had attended programs at the Community Center were returning as teenagers and young adults.

“Kids who were here when they were teenagers are now in their late 20s and early 30s,” said Berta. “Their kids are coming back for programming. This is what we hope for. Community Center board members and staff worked to establish a fund that could be used for unplanned circumstances or big expenses beyond the yearly budget, a fund that would ensure the Community Center would be bringing the Community Center together forever.

In 2014, the Community Center established the Litchfield Community Center Reserve Fund.

“Our hope is to let it grow and encourage people to contribute,” said Berta. “The Fund provides assurance that for the organization and the Community Foundation, we’re on a parallel path of saving Northwest Connecticut in perpetuity. "We know we need to come to serve as a hub of Litchfield, a place where the community comes together, as our town changes, as our area changes, as our state changes, as our world changes.”

“The Center is an incredible resource for people of all ages, as well as organizations and businesses, throughout the Northwest Corner and beyond. It is reassuring knowing we can continue to be a hub where the community comes together. We intend to do our best to meet the needs and interests of those we serve.”

**Local and field experts present educational sessions for hundreds of nonprofits**

Chuck Loring discusses effective nonprofit board development with nonprofit professionals from across the Northwest Corner.

The 2015 Nonprofit Education Series brought in local and field experts who provided guidance to hundreds of nonprofit professionals on the topics of improving board and organization management, and fostering positive relationships with donors.

On April 30, Anne Yurasek, Principal of Fan Partners, held a Critical Board Chair Conversations roundtable. Ms. Yurasek discussed the importance of the relationship between an organization’s CEO and its board chair and what makes for an effective board. Participants brainstormed strategies for success in managing critical conversations, such as giving and receiving feedback, delivering negative news and addressing disagreements and impasses.

Explore the benefits of a donor advised fund at www.cfnwct.org/donor-advised

Please visit our website for more information.

Visit us on Facebook
Keroden Endowed Fund, Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund ease pain and fear for accident victims

When accidents happen in the Northwest Corner, our highly skilled volunteer ambulance crews arrive in moments to provide emergency medical care and to safely transport patients to the nearest hospital.

In Bethlehem, the Keroden Endowed Fund has made that important job a little easier on volunteers and patients alike. The Bethlehem Volunteer Ambulance Association was awarded a grant from the Fund for the purchase of a Stryker Power Load system.

“A new accident or medical emergency can happen to anyone at any time,” said Jan Sardo, of the Bethlehem Volunteer Ambulance Association.

“People come in all shapes and sizes. The Power Load system helps the crew safely and easily lift and draw the stretcher into the ambulance with less stress on the patient and the volunteers.”

Watch the Bethlehem Ambulance crew showcase the Stryker Power Load stretcher at www.cfnwct.org/leader.

The Keroden Endowed Fund was established in 2004 anonymously as a flexible discretionary fund that will address ever-changing community needs.

In New Hartford, the Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund supported the New Hartford Volunteer Ambulance crew through a grant to purchase a True CPR coaching device, carrying case and two manikins (an adult and a child). The devices provide volunteers with real feedback about the effectiveness of their CPR compression rate and depth.

“The devices work to improve ambulance volunteers’ resuscitation skills as well as train hundreds of community members in emergency resuscitation. Emergency first responders are there for us 24/7,” said an anonymous Community Foundation donor.

“They are our lifelines in an emergency, and they depend on and deserve the support of our community.”

The Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund was established in 2004 through a bequest with the goal of supporting local nonprofit organizations with evolving needs for many years to come.

Great Mountain Forest educates current and future conservationists

In early 2015, Hans Carlson, Great Mountain Forest Director, reached out to the Community Foundation seeking support for technology upgrades for its weather data and internship program. The organization that manages 6,000 acres of forest in the Northwest Corner, works with local universities, enabling students and researchers to study the natural environment, and provides training in forestry management and conservation through the college internship program.

“We wanted to do more with the students,” said Hans. “Many students don’t get the opportunity to actually work in a forest. There is a great benefit to getting students out here, so they can gain practical experience in the woods.”

Completely depleted in the 1900s by agriculture and the charcoal industry, the trail system of Great Mountain Forest was purchased as a private conservation effort in 1906.

The focus for the past 100 years has been conservation with the idea that people can work in the forest, harvest wood from it, and use it for educational and research purposes. Working with the University of Connecticut, the University of Massachusetts, Yale University, the University of Maine, and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Great Mountain Forest typically has two or three research projects going on at any given time, as well as a weather station that has been collecting weather data since 1932. Its internship program in forestry management and conservation has been ongoing for more than 40 years.

“This is very much a working landscape,” said Hans. “It’s not just a preservation effort. Good forest management is built on solid understanding of forest dynamics and researchers are giving us that information. You can learn a lot by just working in the woods, but you can learn a lot more by experimenting.”

Great Mountain Forest’s internship program attracts students from forestry programs across the region to study and work in the forest, but without current computer equipment, students were not working with tools that would carry over to careers in conservation and forestry. Lack of current equipment was making it difficult to share data as well.

Community Foundation staff worked with Sandy and David Slammer whose Fund at the Community Foundation, The Elson-Slemmer Fund for the Environment, supports the charitable, scientific and educational protection of the natural environment.

The Fund provided a grant for a GIS-compatible computer, a large format printer and an upgraded GPS unit with a built-in camera. The equipment has enabled staff and volunteers to upgrade and modernize its internship program. The GIS-compatible computer empowers the organization to improve its weather-data program. Great Mountain Forest has been an official NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) site, but the new equipment has enabled the sharing of data 24 hours a day to NOAA and other weather agencies.

Great Mountain Forest interns collect data surrounding streams and upload photos and data into a GIS mapping system.

“Everything relies on something else. If we don’t protect our natural resources, we ourselves will be affected. Everything is connected, and we need that connection.”

Eventually, Sandy answered the call of the wild, leaving her corporate office. She completed a master’s degree in environmental sciences at Western Connecticut State University and joined Shardon Audubon as a volunteer in the aviary.

At the Shardon Audubon, Sandy helps rehabilitation workers who work on the organization’s stowaway board and volunteers for events. A volunteer for more than 16 years now, Sandy has cared for thousands of birds. Some remain at the Audubon for educational reasons, but most are rehabilitated and released into the wild.

Giving Back—Looking Forward

In May of 2007, Sandy and David Slammer established The Elson-Slemmer Fund for the Environment. The Fund has supported the Shardon Audubon in the construction of new aviaries, supported technology upgrades to the weather station and internship program at Great Mountain Forest in Falls Village, and supported the Housatonic Valley Association in the development of trail maps for towns along the Housatonic River.

“Organizations that work to protect the natural environment and the wildlife require a lot of money and resources,” said Sandy. “If the Fund can help an organization by supporting an educational program or in another way, I’m all for it.”

“Everything relies on something else, even at the soil level—the rocks that make up the soil, the insects and the nematodes. Without them, we wouldn’t have the plants and the animals that feed off of the plants. If we don’t preserve our natural resources, we, ourselves, will be affected.”

The Elson-Slemmer Fund for the Environment

Experts present educational sessions continued from page 1

On September 10, Chuck Loring, senior governance consultant for Bosworth Fund in Washington, DC, and senior partner of the firm Loring, Sturhahn & Associates, offered a two-session seminar on board development and management. Mr. Loring provided guidance about effective board structure, including why high profile, and how long board members should serve. Attendance learned the three-step process of “emancipating” cultivation, cultivation and stewardship, and how board members can be instrumental in all three steps.

On June 24, Tom Ahern, one of the world’s top authorities on how to increase revenue through donor communications, offered two sessions in donor-centric communications. Mr. Ahern discussed the importance of understanding nonprofit specific donor demographics, and demonstrated language choices for marketing materials, newsletters and websites that are compelling as well as inviting and inclusive to donors.

On October 20, Rick Schantu, independent nonprofit consultant, discussed strategic communications and provided instructions for building a bequest program that invites and encourages donors to include nonprofits in their estate planning.

LEAP continues to educate, inspire nonprofit leaders

On November 6, a new generation of LEAP (Leadership Enrichment for Advancing Professionals) participants graduated a 6-week program presented by Danbury & Associates LLC that prepares nonprofit professionals for their next stage of leadership through hands-on and group activities that builds on building and enhancing leadership style, governance and management, implementing a vision and a plan, financial management and program-based budgeting, the right people for the right job, crisis management and communication, and fundraising and marketing.

“As a new executive director with a lot of leadership experience, I found the information about board relations extremely powerful,” said Matt Tynan, KidzPlay Children’s Museum.

“It was empowering to learn more about my role, and I am looking forward to putting the strategies I learned into play.”

The Elson-Slemmer Fund for the Environment of the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut supports the charitable, scientific and educational protection of the natural environment. For more information, contact Bradford Hoar,VP of Philanthropic Services at bhhoar@cfnwct.org or (860) 626-1245.
Keroden Endowed Fund, Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund ease pain and fear for accident victims

When accidents happen in the Northwest Corner; our highly skilled volunteer ambulance crew arrives in moments to provide emergency medical care and to safely transport patients to the nearest hospital.

In Bethel, the Keroden Endowed Fund has made that important job a little easier on volunteers and patients alike. The Bethel Volunteer Ambulance Association was awarded a grant from the Fund for the purchase of a Stryker Power Load system. "An accident or medical emergency can happen to anyone at any time," said Jan Sauder, of the Bethel Ambulance Association. "People come in all shapes and sizes. The Power Load system helps that crew safely and easily lift and drop the stretcher into the ambulance with less stress on the patient and the volunteers."

Watch the Bethel Ambulance crew showcase the Stryker Power Load stretcher at www.cfncwct.org/leader

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Completely depleted in the 1900s by agriculture and the charcoal industry, the initial 3,000 acres of Great Mountain Forest was purchased as a private conservation effort in 1900.

*The focus for the past 100 years has been conservation with the idea that people can work in the forest, harvest wood from it, and use it for educational and research purposes. Working with the University of Connecticut, the University of Massachusetts, Yale University, the University of Maine, and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Great Mountain Forest typically has two or three research projects going on at any given time, as well as a weather station that has been collecting weather data since 1912. Its internship program in forestry management and conservation has been ongoing for more than 40 years.*

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Great Mountain Forest’s internship program attracts students from forestry programs across the region to study and work in the forest, but without current computer equipment, students were not working with tools that would carry over to careers in conservation and forestry. Lack of current equipment was making it difficult to share data as well. Community Foundation staff worked with Sandy and David Elson-Slemmer on the development of new equipment to enhance the student experience.

The Elson-Slemmer Fund for the Environment, continued from page 2

Eventually, Sandy answered the call of the wild, leaving her corporate office. She completed a master’s degree in environmental sciences at Western Connecticut State University and joined Sharon Audubon as a volunteer in the aviary.

At the Sharon Audubon, Sandy helps rehabilitates raptors, a job she says is most intense in the summer when the aviary is full of hawks in need of attention. "I also work on the organization’s stewardship board and volunteers for events. A volunteer for more than 16 years now, Sandy has cared for hundreds of birds. Some remain at the Audubon for educational reasons, but most are rehabilitated and released into the wild."

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“We need that connection,” Sandy added. "It’s everything that we have out here—let’s protect it.”

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For more information, contact Bradford Hoar,VP of Philanthropic Services at phoar@cfncwct.org or (860) 626-1245.
Litchfield Community Center Funds

Also, online...

Sandy and David Slemmer protect our natural environment, care for our wildlife through their charitable fund.

For years, Sandy Slemmer of Winsted enjoyed a career as a scientific researcher and later an information technology professional. She worked in programming and database management for several large corporations in New Jersey and Westchester County, New York. The work was creative and satisfying, but there was something missing. Sandy felt a daily pull toward the natural environment beyond the walls of the corporate park.

“I found that I kept looking out the window,” said Sandy. “I felt I was in a conference room, I’d position myself so I could look out the window—Litchfield community center.

When she could, Sandy and her husband, David, explored the Appalachian Trail in Kent, Great Mountain Forest in Falls Village, and the Housatonic River, and the surrounding areas. The two began to bicycle on the trails. They found new places, and began exploring the river with kayaks.

“It was quiet and peaceful,” said Sandy. “And, we discovered places, environments, country roads that we wouldn’t have seen on a car. When people feel stress, the ability to go for a hike or find a quiet spot makes a difference,” she said. “People need natural areas. Maybe it’s just a fishing pond, but taking the time to go out and go fishing or hiking—it’s important.”

Litchfield Community Center funds bring together generations for music, fitness, and fine arts

The Litchfield Community Center has served as a hub of Litchfield since it opened its doors in 2000. The Community Center offers constant and innumerable activities that bring the community together, including music, fitness, arts classes and a teen center.

Some of the most popular events at the Community Center are the music events inspired by former Litchfield resident Daniel North. In the late 1990s, Mr. North was a frequent participant in music programs held at the Danbury Inn. After his wife’s death, he and his friends would gather at the Inn on Sunday afternoons for jazz, swing and dixieland program.

“It gave him a chance to overcome a lot of sadness after his wife died,” said Berta Ambriel Mette, Litchfield Community Center Executive Director.