Jeff and Susan Lalonde Give Back to their Communities

Jeffrey and Susan Lalonde Community Betterment Fund

Recent Grants

Cancer Care Fund of the Litchfield Hills
DonorChoice
FISH of Northwestern Connecticut
KidsPlay Museum
LARC
Litchfield Community Center, Inc.
Litchfield Community Services
Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation
Northwest CT YMCA
PrimeTime House
Torrington Library
White Memorial
White Memorial Conservation Center
Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center
Oliver Wolcott Library, Inc.

Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund

Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund Awards $2,950 in Grants

EdAdvance was awarded $57,500 to support a collaborative expansion and coordination of existing home visitation programs. The grant will enable a collaboration among Torrington Public Schools, Family Strides, a community-based program that provides ongoing education, support and free home-based services to families; and EdAdvance, which works with school districts to provide educational services; the grant builds and strengthens the existing home visitation system that serves local families experiencing homelessness, poverty, unemployment, and trauma.

New Beginnings of Northwest Hills Litchfield County, Inc. was awarded $45,000 to support the cost of a full-time home visitor for The Gathering Place, a resource for homeless people and families to access the skills, resources and services they need to obtain and maintain housing and employment.

Northwest Hills Council of Governments was awarded $42,900 to support a produce production pilot program in Torrington and Winsted.

Participants who suffer from or are at risk of developing diet-related health conditions will be given a prescription for fresh produce, and individuals with at least one barrier to employment, such as childcare, transportation, or language skills. Participants asked him to take the reins and serve as the then-named Torrington Area Foundation for Public Giving’s first staff member and first CEO/Executive Director.

Jim gave the Foundation its first physical office, created a corporate form of the foundation called the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, and expanded the foundation’s territory from Torrington and the surrounding communities to 12 towns in Northwest Connecticut.

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Also Online...

Join the Women & Girls Fund for an Enchanted Evening

Join the Women & Girls Fund October 17th for a fun-filled dinner and fundraiser with Carol Birch, known for her compelling blend of energy, warmth, vulnerability, and directness. Carol restores reality and spontaneity to the fixed-siloed stories of found in print.

Tickets available at northwestcf.org/womenandgirls

The Women & Girls Fund Named Best Supporting Organization

The Women & Girls Fund of the Northwestern Connecticut Community Foundation has been named 2019 Organization of the Year by The United Way of Northwestern Connecticut’s Women’s Leadership Initiative.

To learn more about The Women & Girls Fund, visit northwestcf.org/womenandgirls

To make a gift that supports women and girls in Northwestern Connecticut, visit northwestcf.org/give

Local Nonprofits Receive Spring/Summer Grants

Local nonprofits were awarded spring and summer grants supporting music and arts events, access to healthy food, and emergency funding to avert homelessness.

Read more at northwestcf.org/springsummer

Participants Awarded Scholarships

More than 200 area students were awarded scholarships and awards for the 2018-2019 academic year through scholarship funds of the Community Foundation.

Read more at northwestcf.org/scholarships

Congratulations 2019 LEAP Graduates

The Community Foundation and Danvers & Associates congratulate 2019 graduates of the Leadership for Advancing Professionals (LEAP) program.

The graduates completed an intensive eight-week program designed to build skills in all areas of nonprofit leadership.

Read more at northwestcf.org/leap

Draper Foundation Fund Supports Local Nonprofits

The Draper Foundation Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, recently awarded area nonprofits $714,145. The Fund awarded $546,750 to 19 designated nonprofits and $167,395 in donor-advised grants to nonprofits that provide essential programs and services for residents of Northwest Connecticut.

Read more at northwestcf.org/drapear


The Connecticut Giving Report documents charitable giving by individuals, bequests, and foundations as well as philanthropic trends and insights. This year’s report includes a geographic breakout of foundation giving, a foundation giving by population, how much of a state’s nonprofits flow from out-of-state foundations, and a deeper dive into foundation giving to education.

The report was sponsored in part by the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. Read the report at northwestcf.org/givingreport

Volunteer readers left the books as a gift to the classroom.

“W e are so grateful to the Draper Foundation Community Fund,” said JoAnn M. Ryan, President and CEO of the Community Foundation.

Litchfield Performing Arts Brings the Magic of Jazz to Northwest Connecticut

Litchfield Performing Arts welcomes thousands of local residents and visitors to Washington, Conn., for Litchfield Jazz Camp, held June 30th-July 6th, Litchfield Jazz Festival, held July 20th-28th, and Jazz After Work, 15 nightly concerts held from July 1st to July 25th at The Gunner Emmylou Harris Performing Arts Center. Jazz After Work concerts feature nationally known and local performers.

Litchfield Jazz Camp instructors and students performing both well-known and original music.

In 2019, Jazz After Work concerts were free to attendances through a grant from the Robert V. Carr Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

In the summer of 2019, the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation and our Northwest Corner lost someone near and dear to us, James A. Garfield or “Jim” as most everyone called him, passed away at his home in Fort Myers, Florida with his wife, Nancy, by his side.

Jim and Nancy Garfield were the impetus for the James A. Garfield Fund for the Arts and the Jim and Nancy Garfield Compassion Fund.

Community Foundation, and changed Northwest Connecticut for the better. At the time, the Foundation Fight—which under Jim’s leadership would grow to become the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, had assets invested at several Northwest Connecticut banks. Trustee officers from those banks managed the funds. Grants were awarded with the help of dedicated volunteers.

In 1996, when Jim retired, Foundation volunteers asked him to take the reins and serve as the then-named Torrington Area Foundation for Public Giving’s first staff member and first CEO/Executive Director.

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Jeff and Susan Lalonde Give Back to their Communities

Jeff and Susan Lalonde have lived and worked in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut for many years, Jeff as president of Torrington Savings Bank and Susan as owner of a graphic design business. Devoted to community and highly involved with local nonprofits, they met each other through their service on the Board of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and the Torrington-Winsted Rotary.

“The community provided a lodestone for us,” said Jeff. “And, it’s provided a good life for us, friends and opportunities.”

In 2005, Jeff and Susan were newly married and settling into a new home in Goshen. They found that they had the means and the desire to give back to their community and the nonprofits that had brought them together.

“We had always given our time,” said Jeff. “And, that’s valuable too. But, now we were in a position to make a one-time financial contribution. Instead of giving it to one organization, we thought we would establish a fund, so we could give to many organizations for years to come.”

The Lalondes established the Jeffrey and Susan Lalonde Community Betterment Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

Like the many donations of time and talent the Lalondes shared with their community for many years, the newly formed donor-advised Jeffrey and Susan Lalonde Community Betterment Fund supports a wide range of programs that improve life for the residents of Litchfield County.

Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund Helps the Northwest Corner Thrive

The Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund recently was established through an agreement between Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and Hartford Health Care Corporation. The focus of the Fund is to enhance the economic and community well-being of the Greater Torrington region by improving social determinants of health.

Focusing on community well-being areas including education, health and healthcare, neighborhood, and the environment, and economic stability and growth, the donor-advised board is working to award grants that:

• Support improvements to business growth, diversification, and retention
• Expand educational and workforce development opportunities
• Foster collaborations and economic strategic partnerships
• Enhance or replace aged infrastructure
• Improve population health and conditions of daily living across all life stages

“We exist to improve the health and welfare of citizens of the Greater Torrington and Winsted areas, and as we continue our work, we will build upon these investments in the spirit and intent behind this fund,” said Brian Mattallos, chair of the Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund.

In your Northwest Corner: The latest publication from the Community Foundation highlights recent grants and the fund’s mission to make this possible.

The e-publication arrives in inbox on the last Thursday of every month. Recent issues feature videos of Little Britches Therapeutic Riding, Litchfield Performing Arts Jazz After Work concerts, and “Upgrading Addiction,” a documentary film by Hope Payson and Tony Estes, Javowl of RC Productions, focusing on the connection between childhood trauma and drug and alcohol addiction.

James A. Garfield, a Gift to the Northwest Corner—Past, Present and Future

He and Nancy had already established the Women & Girls Fund, the Community Foundations’ Youth in Philanthropy initiative, and the Northwest CT Arts Council, which has grown to become a hub for all aspects of Northwest Connecticut cultural information and resources.

Jim worked tirelessly alongside volunteers and professional advisors to increase bequests to the Foundation. Under his leadership, Community Foundation assets grew from $2.5 million to about $10 million, and grants and scholarships awarded annually grew from $113,000 to $473,648.

The Lalondes established the Jeffrey and Susan Lalonde Community Betterment Fund. Since its establishment, the Jeffrey and Susan Lalonde Community Betterment Fund has awarded more than $35,000 in grants to 25 nonprofits providing emergency services, assisting veterans, supporting the arts, enhancing life for special needs adults, and assisting those struggling with hunger.

“Through on-going gifts and prudent investment, the balance of the fund has continued to grow, enabling more grants each year,” said Susan.

What matters to you? Tell us at northwestcf.org/contact

Be What’s Possible — Join the Legacy Society

The Community Foundation established the Legacy Society to recognize and acknowledge individuals and families who have included the Community Foundation in their estate plans to support the causes they care about.

Being a member of the Legacy Society gives you the opportunity to participate in special gatherings and educational programs with like-minded people who are committed to supporting the needs of our communities, through the Community Foundation. Other benefits include:

• networking opportunities to learn what others are planning in order to create good in an everlasting and meaningful way
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• complete flexibility in designing your philanthropy
• The comfort of knowing that your fund and its grants are guaranteed to stay local, with fiduciary oversight
• special recognition in newsletters and annual reports, unless anonymity is desired; and
• the peace of mind knowing that your fund’s principal is invested wisely and safeguarded.

Youth in Philanthropy Encourages Compassion

Established in 2000, the Youth in Philanthropy Council is comprised of local high school students. Every fall, Council members examine local issues affecting youth and determine action.

Through the Fund, established by the Borghesi family, Council members award grants every spring to organizations that address those issues. A recent grant from the Council made possible a Care Closet at Torrington High School that enables homeless students to wash their clothes, and pick up essential items. “We all got together and talked about our passions and what we could do to help,” said Natalie, a Torrington High School junior. “We had heard that other schools have care closets.”

“You all came together to clean and create something useful. It’s unbelievable what the Torrington High School Care Closet looks like now.”

Other grants awarded by the Youth in Philanthropy Council have supported presentations about healthy teen lifestyle choices through the McCarter Center for Behavioral Health, and supported improvements to the close encounters aviaries at Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservatory.

To make a gift to the Youth Fund, visit northwestcf.org/legacy

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- Improve population health and conditions of daily living across all life stages

“We exist to improve the health and welfare of citizens of the greater Torrington and Winsted areas,” and as we continue our work, we will build upon these investments in the spirit and intent behind this fund,” said Brian Mattello, chair of the Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund. “There are so many good people in this community, and they have so much to offer,” said Susan. “We admire those who come forward and work hard and are so passionate about working within local nonprofit organizations.”

Since it was established, the Jeffrey and Susan Lalonde Community Betterment Fund has awarded more than $15,000 in grants to 25 nonprofits providing emergency services, assisting veterans, supporting the arts, enhancing life for special needs adults, and assisting those struggling with hunger. Through on-going gifts and prudent investment, the balance of the fund has continued to grow, enabling more grants each year.

A recent grant from the Fund supported the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to provide fresh, healthy vegetables to those suffering from or at-risk of developing diet-related disease.

In your Northwest Corner

Jeff and Susan have always said that the focus of their philanthropy is to make a difference in the lives of people in our region. In 2019, they decided to redirect a portion of their giving to local nonprofit organizations that address those issues.

A recent grant from the Fund supported the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to provide fresh, healthy vegetables to those suffering from or at-risk of developing diet-related disease.

“Jeff and Susan gave the fund the power it couldn’t have otherwise,” said Alisa Carney, program officer for the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. “Because of their generosity, the Fund will continue to support the needs of our community.”

Fresh produce arrives at FISH of Northwestern Connecticut as part of a grant to the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to provide healthy vegetables to those suffering from or at-risk of developing diet-related disease.

In your Northwest Corner

The latest publication from the Community Foundation highlights recent grants and the funds that made them possible.

The publication arrives in boxes on the last Thursday of every month. Recent issue features a video of Little Britches Therapeutic Riding, Litchfield Performing Arts Jazz After Work concerts, and “Upending Addiction,” a documentary film by Hope Payson and Tory Scrim Jadows of RC Productions, focusing on the correlation between childhood trauma and drug and alcohol addiction.

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Art, Community and Caring

Jeff and Susan Garfield established two funds with the Community Foundation, the Jim & Nancy Garfield Fund for the Arts and the Jim and Nancy Garfield Compassion Fund. As a celebration of their love for the arts, theater and music, the couple established the Jim & Nancy Garfield Fund for the Arts in 2002. The Fund supports arts organizations and programming within Northwest Connecticut. In 2016, through their estate planning, Jim and Nancy established the Jim and Nancy Garfield Compassion Fund. The Fund, which will be funded through their estate, assists the most vulnerable citizens of Torrington by supporting immediate basic needs, including rent, food, heating, utilities, elderly and child care, medical expenses and disaster-recovery assistance.

Youth in Philanthropy Encourages Compassion

Established in 2000, the Youth in Philanthropy Council is comprised of local high school students. Every fall, Council members examine local issues affecting youth and the environment. Through the Youth Fund, established by the Borghesi family, Council members award grants every school year as representatives of the next generation of community leaders.

Members of the Youth in Philanthropy Council and other student volunteers work to create a Care Closet at Torrington High School.

Other grants awarded by the Youth in Philanthropy Council have supported presentations about healthy teen lifestyle choices through the McCAll Center for Behavioral Health, and supported improvements to the Close encounters aviaries at Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservatory.

To make a gift to the Jim & Nancy Garfield Fund for the Arts and/or the Jim and Nancy Garfield Compassion Fund, visit northwestcf.org/donate

Be What’s Possible — Join the Legacy Society

The Community Foundation established the Legacy Society to recognize and acknowledge individuals and couples who have made provisions in their estate plans to provide a gift through the Community Foundation to support the causes they care about.

Being a member of the Legacy Society gives you the opportunity to participate in special gatherings and educational programs with like-minded people who are committed to supporting the needs of our communities through the Community Foundation. Other benefits include:

- networking opportunities to learn what others are planning in order to create good in an everlasting and meaningful way
- opportunities to meet and discuss charitable giving with the individuals who provide stewardship for your philanthropy
- complete flexibility in designing your philanthropy
- The comfort of knowing that your fund and its grants are guaranteed to stay local, with fiduciary oversight
- special recognition in newsletters and annual reports, unless anonymity is desired; and
- the peace of mind knowing that your fund’s principal is invested wisely and safeguarded

Legacy giving does not require a large income or vast estate. To join the Legacy Society:

- include a gift to the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation in your will or trust, or name the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, Charitable Remainder Trust, or retirement account
- notify the Community Foundation of your plans!

Your planned gift or bequest puts you in good company today. Tomorrow, your endowed fund will be multiplied with gifts from other caring individuals and families to do good work in our communities for generations to come.

If you have included the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation in your estate plans and are not a recognized Legacy Society member, please contact Philanthropic Services at 860.625.1245. For more information about the Legacy Society and leaving your own legacy, please contact Philanthropic Services at 860.625.1245.

Recent Gifts from the Jim & Nancy Garfield Fund for the Arts

The American Mural Project

Kid’s Play Children’s Museum

Northwest Connecticut Arts Council

Warner Theatre

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

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Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation
Northwest CT YMCA
PrimeTime House
Torrington Library
Torrington/Theatrical
White Memorial Conservation Center
Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center
Olive Wolcott Library, Inc.

"These grants are not only significant in upholding the purpose of the fund—every penny will make a difference in the lives of those served by these programs," said Brian Mattituck, chair of the Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund.

Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund Awards $29,400 in Grants

EdAdvance was awarded $57,500 to support a collaborative expansion and coordination of existing home-visitation programs. The grant will enable a collaboration among Torrington Public Schools, Family Strides, a community-based program that provides ongoing education, support and free home-based services to families; and EdAdvance, which works with school districts to provide educational services; the grant builds and strengthens the existing home-visitation system that serves local families experiencing homelessness, poverty, underemployment, and trauma.

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