Great Donor, Great Gift

John Vaccaro’s Westport Resources Charity Golf Classic donates 100% of the gross to our Community Leadership Fund.

John, founder and CEO of Westport Resources, an investment and financial planning firm, has turned a golf tournament into a fundraiser and a friend-raiser for us.

An ardent supporter for more than a decade, John wanted to introduce new people to us and support our work that provides every Fairfield County resident with opportunities to thrive.

John and his team decided to organize and host the Westport Resources Charity Golf Classic at the Connecticut Golf Club in Easton. Their goals included increasing awareness of critical issues and needs in Fairfield County among golfers who live and work in Fairfield County, and raising money for our Community Leadership Fund.

Here’s where Westport Resources’ generosity is extraordinary—the firm donated 100 percent of the gross to the Community Foundation! Westport Resources covered all expenses. In just one year, its Charity Golf Classic raised more than $153,000 from clients and the financial community.

“In all my years of involvement with nonprofit fundraising events, I have never encountered a host who is adamant about giving an organization one hundred percent of the proceeds,” said Juanita James, president and CEO of the Community Foundation. “John’s and Westport Resources’ amazing generosity and enthusiasm for the community leadership work we do is deeply appreciated.”

We envision a vital and inclusive community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

Our mission is to promote philanthropy as a means to create change in Fairfield County, focusing on innovative and collaborative solutions to critical issues impacting the community.

“TOGETHER WE THRIVE”

Our new tagline reminds us what can result when we work together. Here is a snapshot of accomplishments:

1. COLLABORATIVE GIVING MAKES EACH GIFT GO FURTHER
Giving Day 2014
- $750,000 raised
- 24 hours
- 9,211 online donors
- 267 local nonprofits

2. PARTNERSHIPS HARNES THE POWER OF MANY
The collaboration PT Partners empowers housing residents at PT Barnum Apartments in Bridgeport to lead positive, lasting change in their community.
- 1,180 residents
- 360 families
- $15,000 average income family of 4
- 15+ community partners
- 1st goal met
- 36 families joined the leadership coalition

3. EVENTS CONNECT PEOPLE & SOLUTIONS
2nd Annual Fund for Women and Girls Symposium
- 230 attendees who work with girls from 109 nonprofits, school, government agencies, private sector.
- 53 cities & towns in CT, NY, MA
- 11 event sponsors, 21 partners

Youth unemployment in Fairfield County ranges from 13.6 percent in Danbury to 49.5 percent in Bridgeport. These young adults, part of our new “Self-sufficient by 24” initiative, are among 2,880 young people telling us the barriers that get in their way. For them, providing opportunities—clearing the way. This increase in our collaborative “beyond the grants” work helped us realize it was time to refresh our brand.

New name recasts vision, mission, logo of your community foundation

One of our roles as a community foundation is to bring together passionate people like you and trusted resources to create lasting change in Fairfield County. Since our founding in 1992, you have helped us grow and evolve.

With your support, we have researched emerging issues, launched initiatives and forged partnerships to tackle critical needs, created opportunities for collective giving to amplify impact, established the Center for Nonprofit Excellence to strengthen local nonprofits, and initiated community conversations on regional issues to raise awareness and spark grassroots action.

Last year you told us the widening gap between wealth and poverty gnaws at our young people troubles you.

That is why we’re embarking on a commitment to help Fairfield County’s youth achieve self-sufficiency by 24.

“We had become Fairfield County’s Community Foundation”

As we’ve engaged more supporters and partners—you, local nonprofits, corporations, private foundations, legislators, and community leaders—and benefited more people, we realized we had become Fairfield County’s Community Foundation.

It was time to update our name, hone our vision and mission, and capture it all in a new logo and tagline that positions us for the future.

A three-generation legacy of giving back

Their parents’ grantmaking, The Mains wanted to pass their charitable values on. Jeremy and Patricia raised their three children, reared them to give back forever and leave a lasting legacy. It’s easy, and does not compromise your lifestyle.

Legacy gifts are stewarded in our investment portfolio which earned 15.8% in the past year, exceeding benchmarks.

Talk with your legal and financial advisors.

Creating a legacy of charitable giving was always important to Jeremy Main and his late wife Patricia.

Giving back, whether volunteering in Ridgefield, contributing to their alma mater, or supporting community programs, was an important part of their marriage.

Jeremy and Patricia raised their three children with philanthropic values. After they grew up, they participated in their parents’ grantmaking. The Mains wanted to pass their charitable values down to the grandchildren. Every year, Jeremy and Patricia gave each one $100 to donate to any nonprofit of their choice. Patricia called this MAD (Make a Difference) money.

It was important to them to support their favorite charities beyond their lifetimes. Jeremy and Patricia included a provision in their will to establish a fund designated to benefit 10 organizations.

“Patricia and I chose to include the Community Foundation in our will because we trusted them to manage our funds efficiently,” said Jeremy. “We were confident our favorite charities would continue to receive support after we are gone.”

The Legacy Society honors those who have chosen to give back forever and leave a lasting legacy. It’s easy, and does not compromise your lifestyle.

SAVE THE DATE!

Funders, Donors and Friends

March 9 Fairfield County Giving Day
April 9: Fund for Women and Girls annual luncheon
Nonprofit Leaders
Sept. 16: The Board Chair Workshop
Oct. 15: Don’t be a Statistic—Keep your Donors Engaged with your Cause
Oct. 17: Girls Symposium
Nov. 14: Girls Leadership Summit

Professional Advisors
Nov. 4: Annual breakfast
“What Works” Challenge: Do you have the winning idea?

We want your ideas for improving Fairfield County for our suburban and urban young adults.

Last year, we were selected as one of 13 Partners in Progress grantees. Partners in Progress was created by the Citi Foundation and the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) to advance economic progress in low-income communities.

What does this mean? We engage the public through a website to gather ideas to improve where we live.

Young, old, students, workers, parents, retirees—anyone can submit an idea. Here’s how.

Go to the “What Works” website, www.WhatWorksChallenge.spigit.com and answer our questions. “What barriers prevent Fairfield County youth and young adults from achieving independence and success by age 24? What opportunities and support can we provide to improve the results?”

Share your idea on Facebook and Twitter. Ideas with the most votes and comments will make it to the finalist round.

If you’re a finalist, you will present your idea to a panel of experts and community and state leaders. Incentives and prizes will be awarded throughout the challenge.

If you’re the Challenge winner, your idea will come to life! The challenge closes October 3.

Register to submit your idea at www.WhatWorksChallenge.spigit.com. Your registration information will not be shared or open to the public.

Annual luncheon amplifies need to support women & girls

Over 830 friends came together on April 3 at the Greenwich Hyatt to celebrate women and girls—and hear the phenomenal Dr. Maya Angelou.

This luncheon challenged us to do more to uplift and empower women and girls in our lives and communities.

Generous supporters contributed over $500,000 to help Fairfield County women and girls achieve economic security and surmount obstacles to enable them to reach their full potential.

Despite an early life filled with challenges, keynote speaker Dr. Angelou became one of the most influential voices of our time.

The poet, novelist, educator, and civil rights activist called on us to be rainbows in others’ lives. “Find the rainbow, be the rainbow,” said Dr. Angelou.

Theresa Robbins and StacyAnn Reid shared their journeys as members of the Family Economic Security Program at Norwalk Community College, an initiative supported by you.

“Thank you for helping me complete my education, believe in my dreams, and help others like me. You have truly changed my life,” said Ms. Robbins.

Ms. Reid said, “You have helped me build a better life for me and my children.”

Suzanne Peters, vice president of the Fund for Women and Girls, shared highlights from our 2013 commissioned status report, “The Full Circle of Women and Girls in Fairfield County.”

Snapshots:

Your support helped empowered nearly 3,000 Fairfield County women and girls through our:

- Girls Symposium
- Girls Leadership Summit
- Philanthropic workshops
- $434,000 in grants to 16 organizations

Sample Program Progress:

- At All Our Kin, 26 family childcare providers in Bridgeport, Norwalk and northern Fairfield County participated in the Child Development Associate training program. As their early childhood education knowledge increased, they moved closer to a degree.
- The Live Healthy. Lead Healthy initiative at Girl Scouts of Connecticut addresses critical health needs and encourages healthy choices for girls in grades K-5. Girls learn the benefits of fitness, nutrition and stress reduction.
- Housatonic Community College is a new partner in our reformed Family Economic Security Program.

Thank you!