

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 \$115,000 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."



(L-R) John Vaccaro, Juanita James, and Community Foundation board member Jonathan Moffly celebrate Westport Resources Charity Golf Classic raising over \$100,000 for our Community Leadership Fund.

John said, "Thank you to everyone who has supported the Charity Golf Classic. The Westport Resources team is very proud to help the Community Foundation bring people and resources together to create lasting change in our communities."

Fairfield County's Community Foundation

TOGETHER WE THRIVE



YOUR COMMUNITY UPDATE

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



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 288 young people telling us the barriers in their paths. The next step includes recruiting partners to help clear 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 you, and the decline in opportunities for

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



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 charity 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.

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 and us.

SAVE THE DATE!

Funders, Donors and Friends

March 5: Fairfield County Giving Day

April 9: Fund for Women and Girls annual luncheon

Nonprofit Leaders

Sept. 10: 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

2. PARTNERSHIPS HARNESS 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, schools, government agencies, private sector;

53 cities & towns in CT, NY, MA

11 event sponsors, **21** partners

“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



There are **100,000** young people **ages 16-24** in Fairfield County who face unemployment rates from **13.6%** in Danbury to **49.5%** in Bridgeport. Up to **10,600** are not in school or working. We must find new pathways of opportunity for them to succeed in school, gain meaningful employment, and secure stable housing.

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.



Snapshots:

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

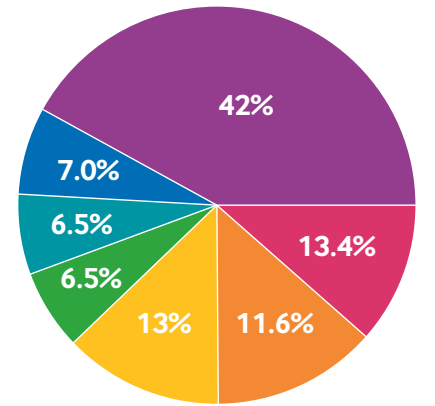
- Girls Symposium
- Girls Leadership Summit
- Philanthropic workshops
- **\$434,000** in grants to **16** organizations

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 reformatted **Family Economic Security Program**.

Thank you!

Investment Areas



- \$130,000 Women's Economic Security
- \$ 22,000 STEM (Education)
- \$ 20,000 Body Image & Self Esteem
- \$ 20,000 Child Care
- \$ 40,000 Health
- \$ 35,965 Girls At Risk
- \$ 41,500 Crime & Safety



Snapshots:

20 professional development workshops
11 roundtable/networking events

Served: **340** local nonprofits
587 individuals
96% said, “What I learned will help me serve my nonprofit better.”

Your support helps board chairs lead local nonprofits

Fairfield County nonprofits serve hundreds of thousands of people. Each one needs a board of directors and a board chair.

The board chair wields great influence on the strategic direction, leadership and sustainability of the organization. Yet this position often receives minimal support.

Thanks to supporters like you, our Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) launched the region’s only Board Chair Roundtable gatherings in 2012.

Each year, two groups of 15 board chairs from 30 nonprofits meet quarterly, network with peers, and share their experiences in a private, supportive environment.

“These chairs have established trust and look to each other for guidance on issues from dealing with an executive director retiring to engaging board members who aren’t contributing in a valuable way,” said Elaine Mintz, CNE director. “It’s great to see board chairs turn to each other as resources, and see improvement in their board’s performance.”

Roundtable meetings begin in the fall and are facilitated by Elaine and Roundtable co-sponsor Bill Brautigam of the National Executive Service Corps.

If you’re interested in participating in the next series, or supporting the CNE, contact Elaine at emintz@FCCFoundation.org.



Per Sekse

Board of Directors President, Person to Person

“The Board Chair Roundtable provided a unique venue for discussing in private the issues and challenges nonprofit boards are tackling today. These conversations led to specific suggestions for improving board performance and effectiveness, several of which were successfully adopted by our board. The opportunity to learn from each other by sharing experiences and perspectives with fellow board chairs was invaluable.”

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.”

Guests received a copy of the 16-page Executive Summary.

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

Nineteen middle and high school girls who entered our essay content, “Why I Would Like to Meet Dr. Maya Angelou.” were our guests, and met Dr. Angelou.

Next luncheon: April 9, 2015

(L-R): Keynote speaker Dr. Maya Angelou; student speakers Theresa Robbins and Stacy Ann Reid; (L-R) Kristen Beckman, Dana Perriello, Mary George, Fairfield County’s Community Foundation board chair Vicki Craver.

