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 $135,000 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.”

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.”

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.

Don’t be a Statistic – Keep your life on track.

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

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 designed 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 continue to receive support after we are gone.

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 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 3 towns, schools, government agencies, private sector
109 nonprofits, government agencies, private sector
53 cities & towns in CT, NY, MA
11 event sponsors, 21 partners

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.

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 that got in their 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

We’re spreading the word about Fairfield County’s youth achieve self-sufficiency by 24.

Youth unemployment in Fairfield County ranges from 13.6 percent in Danbury to 49.5 percent in Bridgeport.

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 the grassroots action.

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.
“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 selected as one of 13 Partners in Progress grantee. Partners in Progress was created by the Giti 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 question, “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 final 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:

- 20 professional development workshops
- 11 roundtable/networking events

Served: 340 local nonprofits

357 individuals

96% said, “I learned what helps me serve my nonprofit better.”

Per Sekse

Board of Directors President,
Person to Person

“Our board 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@FCGFoundation.org.

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

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

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 $300,000 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 post, 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.

“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.”

Thank you!

Snapshots:

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

Sample Program Progress:

- At All Our Kin, 26 family childcare providers in Bridgewater, 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!

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.

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