

Future Society

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER



John & Charlotte Suhler
Future Society Co-Chairs

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP LUNCH INFORMING & INSPIRING FUTURE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Do you ever wonder how the bagger at your grocery store can afford to live in Fairfield County?

Members of the Future Society discussed this, and many other questions related to affordable housing, at their first annual thought leadership gathering. The event was an elegant luncheon held in the award-winning gallery of the Silvermine Arts Center, where our guests mingled with fellow Future Society members including Juanita James, President & CEO of Fairfield County's Community Foundation and board members David Levinson, President of Norwalk Community College, and Jonathan Moffly, President of Moffly Media.



Charlotte Suhler, who co-chairs the Future Society with her husband John (a member of the Foundation's Investment Committee), has expertise on the topic of affordable housing having served as former Chair of Fairfield County Funders' Collaborative for Affordable Housing, Chair of Partnership for Strong Communities, and Chair of Darien's Affordable Housing Commission. Charlotte gave an informative presentation at the annual meeting which included some surprising metrics highlighting income inequality in Connecticut.

For example, Connecticut was the second state in the country to end chronic Veterans' homelessness. Fairfield County's Community Foundation was instrumental in promoting the work of the Fairfield County Funders' Collaborative for Affordable Housing to support ending Veterans' homelessness.

Other interesting metrics related to Connecticut housing that Charlotte presented include:

- Connecticut is the 2nd worst state for income inequality.
- Connecticut ranks 6th nationally in median monthly housing costs.
- Connecticut ranks 2nd nationally in Millennials (18 – 34 year olds) continuing to live at home.

If you are interested in learning more about supporting housing solutions in Fairfield County, contact Nancy von Euler, nvoneuler@FCCFoundation.org.

Invitations to similar thought leadership events are one of the many benefits of Future Society membership. If you would like to suggest a topic for our next Future Society event or learn how to become a member contact Nancy Tartaglia, ntartaglia@FCCFoundation.org.

"These planned gifts are a powerful way to support our community in perpetuity, while meeting personal financial and philanthropic goals."

- Charlotte Suhler

3 WAYS YOU CAN JOIN THE FUTURE SOCIETY

1. Make a bequest in your will or trust of cash, securities or other assets. This will allow you to make a generous gift that will not compromise your lifestyle.
2. Name Fairfield County's Community Foundation, or one of our funds, as beneficiary of your retirement account, annuity or insurance policy. It's easy and can minimize the impact of estate and income taxes.
3. Invite us to be part of planning conversations with your attorney or advisor, because we can provide language for your will or trust to ensure your dreams of making a difference in your community in the future will be fulfilled.

Ask us for a Future Society brochure, which includes helpful worksheets or, download the brochure at FCCFoundation.org/ways-to-give/future-society/



Philanthropy Just Comes Naturally

by Nancy Tartaglia, *Gift Planning & Stewardship Manager*

I recently had the pleasure of visiting one of our Future Society members, Cindy Richter, who is an art teacher at St. Joseph’s High School in Trumbull. My purpose was to gather some details on a remarkable gift she created in her estate plans: a scholarship to help students attend her school. What occurred during the visit was equally remarkable: an outpouring of generosity that took place right on the spot.

I originally met Cindy when she came to our office with the dream of establishing a scholarship in honor of her late father: Donald P. Richter, founding partner of the law firm of Murtha, Cullina, Richter and Pinney LLP (now known as Murtha Cullina LLP). Donald grew up in a family of modest means but he was able to attend Bates College on a full scholarship thanks to the intervention of a passionate teacher. He went on to attain his law degree from Yale University, launching an impressive legal career culminating in the establishment of one of the most respected law firms in Connecticut.



“My father always paid it forward,” Cindy proudly stated as she talked about his commitment to helping others through community service and his emphasis on giving back. “We didn’t have two houses or a big boat, though we certainly could have.” Instead of investing in such things, Cindy’s father supported numerous educational institutions because he believed “education is power.”

Dr. James Keane, Principal of St. Joseph’s High School, told us that over 50 percent of the students there receive some form of financial aid. The student population reflects that a startling range of economic diversity and scholarship support is vital to student’s success. Dr. Keane stressed the impact of scholarships as “intergenerational,” making a difference on individuals, their children and their grandchildren.

Dr. Keane had just returned from a meeting where it was heartbreaking to learn there were a number of students who needed a little financial support to allow them to finish their senior year. Cindy immediately responded by making a commitment to help fill the gap – right on the spot!

Cindy is proud to share her story as a member of the Future Society. She stressed the importance of formalizing your charitable intentions in your estate plans, no matter your age, “because you just don’t know what the future will bring.” One thing is for sure: generations of deserving students will have a fulfilling high school education thanks to Cindy Richter.

Nancy Tartaglia

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NEW FUTURE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Maya Reddi will support causes that benefit women and girls sponsored by Fairfield County’s Community Foundation with a gift from her estate.

Jeannette Archer Simons and Robert Simons have entrusted Fairfield County’s Community Foundation to help organizations like the Open Door Shelter, which address poverty and homelessness through gifts from their estates.

Cindy Richter, a teacher at St. Joseph’s High School in Trumbull, has created a scholarship that will be augmented from her estate for her students. Read more about it here.

RECENT FUTURE SOCIETY GIFTS

Stuart Bernard
Stu, as his friends knew him, left a bequest to the Meadowridge Scholarship Fund, created by residents where he lived to provide scholarship support to employees and their children.

Sally Dickson
Sally, a long-time Westport resident, created a fund from her estate for designated beneficiaries: the Westport Library, Staples High School Scholarship Fund and Lifebridge, Inc.

Henry Katz
Henry, a respected local accountant, left a bequest to Fairfield County’s Community Foundation where he maintained a donor advised fund to facilitate his philanthropy.