2017 Year in Review
FAIRFIELD COUNTY HAS SIGNIFICANT NEEDS. YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO TACKLE THEM.

The inequities, disparities and needs in our region are significant. With the data from the recent Fairfield County Community Wellbeing Index, we know we have our work cut out for us. It is your commitment to giving where you live that enables us to continue to make the work we do impactful and even more strategic. Together we can improve the quality of life, health, educational and economic opportunities for all residents of Fairfield County.

Here are a few data points from the Index that will inform our solutions going forward.

The region’s income inequality ranks first of the 100 largest U.S. metro areas when comparing incomes of top and bottom earners. In 2014, the top 5% of earners made nearly $560,000 per year, almost 18 times the less than $32,000 that the bottom 20% earned.

While Fairfield County residents on the whole are healthy when compared to national benchmarks, many conditions and risk factors — such as asthma, food insecurity, exposure to community violence and the early onset of diabetes — are disproportionately prevalent in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

While Fairfield County boasts a 90% four-year high school graduation rate, only 43% of the county’s students are proficient in math in 8th grade.

Review the full Fairfield County Community Wellbeing Index at: FCCFoundation.org/wellbeing

THANK YOU FOR MAKING AN IMPACT
$17.2 MILLION IN GRANTS
IN AND OUTSIDE FAIRFIELD COUNTY
DEAR FRIENDS,

Thanks to you – our donors, partners and communities – 2017 was a very good year. With your support and generosity, we strengthened our financial position, exceeded expectations for Giving Day, took our programs to an ever-higher level, and continued to empower women, girls and disadvantaged youth by giving them the tools they need to improve their quality of life and move towards economic self-sufficiency.

We also marked our 25th anniversary in 2017. Over the years, we have broadened our scope from simply making grants to being a unifier that brings together thought leaders from various sectors of our communities. We have come a long way together and can be proud that we have built a Community Foundation that is having a positive impact on our region.

Our success has been driven largely by a commitment to research. Today we are known as a Community Foundation that combines compassion with hard data. Research helps ensure that your support goes to the most promising and sustainable solutions. Our Community Wellbeing Index, published in partnership with DataHaven, was the result of meticulous research. It identifies critical opportunity gaps that exist in Fairfield County. Going forward, it will guide the Community Foundation’s strategies, programs and funding.

On behalf of all of us at Fairfield County’s Community Foundation, we thank you for your commitment and support and for sharing our vision of making Fairfield County a vital, inclusive community where every person has the opportunity to thrive.

IN MEMORY

During the year, we lost three of our dearest friends and supporters. Susan M. Ross, who was the former president and CEO, led the Foundation for 15 years during a time of tremendous growth and change, and was a strong proponent for building nonprofit executive leadership. Anne S. Leonhardt, who was a lifelong believer in the empowerment of women and girls, was the founding donor of our Fund for Women & Girls. Joan M. Warburg, also a longstanding supporter and donor, brought tremendous expertise and enthusiasm to us. We are forever grateful to these three women for their leadership and commitment to Fairfield County.
YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

686 INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING 325 NONPROFITS strengthened their organizations through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence’s offerings

21 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS for nonprofit staff and board members generated a 98% SATISFACTION RATE

129 NONPROFIT LEADERS AND 19 STATE LEGISLATORS AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS from four cities met through CNE to discuss countywide issues

96% OF WORKSHOP ATTENDEES stated they improved their knowledge and skills as a result of CNE training

Building capacity for high-impact success

Our Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) provides high-quality, low-cost training and resources to help Fairfield County nonprofits build capacity and make a powerful impact on their communities. It is a one-stop resource hub unlike any other in the county.

With your feedback on our programs and services — combined with research and data — we have broadened and strengthened our offerings for nonprofit staff and board members. From our Executive Leadership Program to skill building workshops to Board Chair roundtables, CNE is providing the leadership and capacity-building that our nonprofits need to succeed. And thanks to your support, we were able to expand our offerings this year to provide training on succession planning, data skills and collaboration.

Learn more about the work that you are making possible or register for one of our events at: fccfoundation.org/cne.

“Having been in CNE’s Executive Leadership Program for two years, I’ve been able to take the best practices shared and competencies learned – from marketing and branding to finance to advocacy work – and apply them throughout our organization. This professional development enables networking which leads us to collaborations that deliver results and impact, and it all starts with CNE ... at a minimal or no cost.”

MATTHEW QUINONES
Chief Executive Officer
Stamford Public Education Foundation
Empowering women and building self-sufficiency

You are empowering the women and girls of Fairfield County, helping them achieve their dreams and build a better life for themselves and their families. Our Family Economic Security Program (FESP), a partnership with Housatonic Community College, had a record 143 students enrolled in 2017, moving us closer to our goal of helping to move 400 students towards greater economic security by 2019.

During the year, we held our first community college symposium, bringing nonprofits, funders and educators together to discuss how to make better investments in education to help women access and attain sustainable employment opportunities. We also launched a renewable grant program to provide multiyear assistance to some of our strongest grantee partners.

In 2017, we held a one-day advocacy program to help women run for public office. Participants learned the most effective techniques to successfully launch their political life and networked with key community leaders who shared their political experiences.

Learn more about the work that you are making possible at: FCCFoundation.org/fwg.

YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

AWARDED $860,000 IN GRANTS TO 27 ORGANIZATIONS that share your commitment to education

INCREASED NUMBER OF SMALLER GRANTS to leadership development and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs for girls

ACHIEVED 72%-86% RETENTION RATE for FESP students spring-to-spring and fall-to-fall versus the college’s approximate 52%

RAISED NEARLY $500,000 FROM MORE THAN 600 ATTENDEES at our FWG Annual Luncheon

“...” It was always my dream to go to college. After 16 years of various immigration setbacks, the minute I got my green card I enrolled at Housatonic Community College. As a grandmother of three, I’ll be completing my associate’s degree in Sociology this December and plan to enroll in another college to earn my bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work. I tell everyone: Never give up on a dream, and FESP made sure that I didn’t give up on mine!

DIONNE WILLIAMS
FESP Student
The goal of Giving Day is to inspire, empower and unite individuals across the region to learn about their local nonprofit programs and support the impactful work these organizations are doing. It is the one day of the year that brings all of us in the county together to support our shared values and celebrate local philanthropy. Let’s see what you can do on March 1, 2018!

Thank you once again Bank of America for being our Giving Day Lead Sponsor for the fourth year!

Be part of the next Giving Day at: FCCFoundation.org/giving.

YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

NEARLY $1.5 MILLION RAISED IN 2017

414 PARTICIPATING NONPROFITS

13,718 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

OVER $4.5 MILLION RAISED FOR MORE THAN 600 NONPROFITS since Giving Day began in 2014
Creating hope and achieving dreams with your help

Your support is helping bright and motivated students achieve their dreams of a rewarding career and a higher standard of living.

Many of our donors create a scholarship as an enduring tribute to honor the memory of a loved one or to acknowledge the achievement of an individual who has made a difference. Others give to support higher education in general. No matter the reason, the scholarships you fund enrich students and bring exponential benefits to the community.

Talk with us about starting a scholarship fund. Contact our Director of Development at 203.750.3200.

YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

$965,479 in scholarships for 485 scholarship recipients.

When we open a door with a scholarship to someone, we’re not just helping that individual, we’re helping that family and its children. We see it as a win-win because we’re paying it forward and helping close the opportunity gap, while seeing the communities that we lived in for so long progress and thrive. This year alone our scholarship fund gave out $72,000 to 23 people!

JUDITH HAMER
Meadow Ridge Scholarship Committee Member

In 2005, the residents of Meadow Ridge, known for its exceptional care for seniors, created a scholarship fund at the Community Foundation. The scholarship helps Meadow Ridge employees and their families pursue college degrees or continuing education.
THRIVE BY 25

YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE
NEARLY $1.5 MILLION IN GRANTS AWARDED
58 GRANTEE PARTNERS
14 YOUTH AMBASSADOR GRADUATES

Helping young adults achieve self-sufficiency

Through our Thrive by 25 initiative, we are accelerating our efforts to give every young person in our region the skills, support and opportunities to succeed in school, launch a career and become civically engaged by the time they reach the age of 25.

In 2017, we strengthened the focus of our competitive grantmaking, awarding significant dollars to our grantee partners who are supporting the educational and career success of our most at-risk youth. In partnership with Norwalk Community College and Norwalk Community College Foundation, we launched Career Connections to demonstrate how community colleges can re-engage and support young adults who are disconnected from school and employment. One hundred students, ages 18-25, will have the opportunity to quickly earn an allied health certification and be placed in a well-paying job with a clear pathway for advancement.

We also graduated our second class of Youth Ambassadors, a committed group of young adults ages 16-25 who worked together to study and address the issues that hold young people back. Moving forward, we’ll share what we have learned from them with our grantee partners to scale this work, so that all young adults have the chance to find their voice and develop their leadership skills.

Learn how you can help our young adults achieve self-sufficiency at: FCCFoundation.org/thrive.

FCCF understands not only the diversity and economic disparity of the region, but also the critical role community colleges can play in preparing students for a sustainable career. The Career Connections pilot is doing groundbreaking collaborative work by engaging, or re-engaging, our underserved youth in the educational process and providing financial support for certificate programs, which is unique. Together we’re unlocking the potential of these students and guiding them toward a professional career in which they can grow.

KRISTINA TESTA-BUZZEE, ED.D.
Associate Dean, Extended Studies and Workforce Development, Norwalk Community College

“Besides opening my eyes to new and different ways to thrive, I am now aware of more ways than one to earn a degree. As a Youth Ambassador, I’m helping my community give kids of low income and hard times hope that they too can thrive.”

ARIADNA LOPEZ
Youth Ambassador and Stamford High School Senior
Celebrating milestones, envisioning our future

In 1992, none of us could have imagined how much we would achieve over the next 25 years. Our organization was formed through the merger of several individual community foundations – Danbury, Greenwich, Stamford and The Five Towns (Westport, Wilton, Weston, Norwalk and Darien), and expanded in 2008 with the addition of the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation.

From the start, we were founded on the belief that by combining resources we would be better able to serve the region’s changing needs. We have gone on to build a community foundation with the capacity to collaborate and convene, to identify trends and issues, and to provide sustainable, scalable solutions based on best practices and sound research.

As we look to the next 25 years and build on past successes, we know the challenges we face are systemic and generational. No one organization or person can solve them alone. Our role as the region’s unifier and convener will continue to grow, engaging our and your expertise to jointly accomplish much more. Together we will work to close the area’s opportunity gaps, and we will continue to envision a vital and inclusive community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

Become part of Fairfield County’s future and help make a lasting impact. Contact our Director of Development at 203.750.3200.

To all of you – our supporters, donors, partners, committee members, Board and staff – thank you for what you have given over the past 25 years of your time and treasure. Thank you for your ideas and for bringing us together. Thank you for helping us connect with each other and with our communities. And thank you for creating a community foundation that is creating lasting benefits to Fairfield County. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

JUANITA T. JAMES
President & Chief Executive Officer

2017 NET ASSETS:
571 CHARITABLE FUNDS
$204,918,394

1992 NET ASSETS:
85 CHARITABLE FUNDS
$8,413,356
In this environment of slashed state and federal budgets, it is invaluable to have FCCF here to keep us aware of local grantmaking opportunities and to help us channel our giving to those less fortunate and to those who enrich our world. These efforts benefit all our collective lives in the region.

MICHELLE R. HUBBARD, ESQ.
Advisor, the Barbara Benton Davis Fund
A Donor-Advised Fund at FCCF

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT*
**FY17 JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017**

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<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$31,088,042</td>
<td>($13,243,630)</td>
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**NET ASSETS**

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*Includes agency funds

For a complete copy of Fairfield County’s Community Foundation’s audited financial statements, go to fccfoundation.org or contact our Controller’s Office at 203.750.3200. To view a copy of the Community Foundation’s tax return (IRS Form 990), visit guidestar.org or contact the Controller’s Office.
2017 was a year in which Fairfield County’s Community Foundation broke records. From passing the $200 million mark in assets to exceeding the number of grants awarded to the dollars raised for Giving Day, we could not have accomplished any of this without you – our donors, sponsors and partners!
New Funds

We are pleased to acknowledge the following funds established this past year.

Your charitable giving can be magnified for generations when you establish a fund at the Community Foundation. Charitable funds, such as Donor-Advised Funds and Scholarship Funds, allow you to give back in the ways that matter most to you and your family.

Donors

You are the reason our community thrives. Your generosity, philanthropic investment and charitable kindness is powering our programs and making a difference.

Gifts noted were made from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.
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<td></td>
<td>James White</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
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<td>Jane S. and Brian Williams</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
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$1,000 to $4,999 (cont.)

Christine and John Palumbo
Frank Paone
John L. and Donna A. Parisi
David and Faith Pedowitz
The Pelletier Fund
People’s United Bank
Person-to-Person
Marjorie Peterson
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Marsh Shenderell
Shipman & Goodwin LLP
Sarah L. Simmons
Leonard and Margaret Smith
Barbara L. Spadone
Spinnaker Real Estate Partners LLC

$1,000 to $4,999 (cont.)

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Betty Sternad
Stone Harbour Management
Allison Straub
Catharine S. and Jeffrey C. Sturgess
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The Richard & Jean Swank Charitable Fund
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Matthew and Martha Terry
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The Witmer Family Fund
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Mary Woods
Ted and Christine Yang
YMCA, Central Connecticut Coast
YourCause LLC, Trustee for New York Life
Peter R. & Joanne K. Ziesing Family Fund
John and Sara Zimmermann

$500 to $999

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Hillary Ambrose
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Housatonic Community College Foundation
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$206,500

- Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art
- Anti Defamation League - CT
- Backcountry Jazz
- Barnum Museum Foundation
- Brookfield Craft Center
- City Lights and Company
- Connecticut Beardsley Zoo
- Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County
- Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut
- Fairfield Museum & History Center
- Greater Bridgeport Symphony Society
- Intake Organization, Inc.
- Little Kids Rock
- Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum
- Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County
- Pequot Library
- Project Music
- Stamford Symphony Orchestra
- Westport Country Playhouse

**Economic Opportunity**

$1,349,800

- AmeriCares Free Clinics, Inc.*
- Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, Inc.
- Building One Community*
- Burroughs Community Center
- Career Resources
- Catholic Charities of Fairfield County
- Center for Popular Democracy
- Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County*
- The Child Guidance Center of Southern CT, Inc.*
- CONECT
- Connecticut Community Care*
- Connecticut Legal Services
- Connecticut Radio Information Systems
- Connecticut Veterans Legal Center
- Continuum of Care, Inc.
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Danbury Youth Services
- DataHaven
- Family Centers, Inc.
- Food Rescue US
- Friends of Bridgeport Public Library
- Healthy Eyes Alliance
- Inspirica, Inc.
- International Institute of Connecticut*
- Kids in Crisis
- Laurel House
- Malta Justice Initiative
- Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern CT
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- New Neighborhoods, Inc.
- Partnership for Strong Communities
- People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond
- Person-to-Person
- Pro Bono Partnership
- Regional Plan Association
- Remarkable STEAM, Inc.
- Renewal House
- Resiliency Center of Newtown
- Southwest Regional Mental Health Board
- Southwestern CT Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
- Supportive Housing Works
- The Diaper Bank
- Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut, Inc.

**Education**

$1,470,975

- Abilis, Inc.
- Ability Beyond Disability
- All Stars Project, Inc.
- Barnum Festival LLC
- Boy Scouts of America, Connecticut Yankee Council
- Boys & Girls Club of Stamford
- Boys & Girls Village
- Bridgeport Caribe Youth League

* Donor-Advised Fund Partnership Grants

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**HOW DISCRETIONARY GRANTS ARE AWARDED**

Grants are awarded through a competitive process. Nonprofits working in our priority areas are invited to submit a letter of inquiry.

Letters are reviewed, and we follow up to learn more about the projects.

When the proposed project fits our grantmaking priorities, we ask for a full proposal. Grant application guidelines are posted on [FCCFoundation.org](http://FCCFoundation.org).

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$15,000

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