

## YOUR COMMUNITY UPDATE



Members of Band Together CT at its 34th show, benefiting the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport. Band Together established a donor advised fund at FCCF to support their charitable efforts. They work with nonprofits, musicians and producers to organize performances that support important nonprofit programs in Fairfield County.

## Community Members Increase Their Impact Through Donor Advised Funds

When Rob Fried and his partners at Band Together CT were looking for a partnership to amplify their mission and impact in the local community, a donor advised fund and personalized support from staff at Fairfield County's Community Foundation was the answer.

"Doing philanthropy effectively can be confusing as there are so many causes, nonprofits and considerations," says Fried. "The Community Foundation team makes themselves available to us, all the way from the President to subject matter experts."

Through the Community Foundation, Fried and his partners, Andy Kadison and Jerry Vigorito, learn about new causes, connect with nonprofit

leaders and even go on site visits. That guidance is valued by Fried, who works with musicians and producers to host benefit performances for nonprofits that serve family, children and youth in need throughout Fairfield County.

"The Community Foundation is dedicated to understanding the opportunity gap in our community and coming up with solutions," says Fried. "They help us make our giving really count."

That sentiment is echoed by Bruce Geller and his family, who set up The Geller-Conarck Fund at FCCF to honor departed loved ones. The donor advised fund makes it easy for the family to stay involved in supporting healthcare, education

### GIVE WITH JOY AND MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH A DONOR ADVISED FUND

Establishing a donor advised fund can be a simple, highly effective way to meet your philanthropic goals.

- With the new tax plan, bunch your gifts now, avoid a large tax bite and receive an immediate tax deduction
- Work with our staff to learn about community needs and impactful local nonprofits
- Make grants anonymously, if you wish
- Free yourself of paperwork and fiscal management

To learn more, contact Vice President of Development Kristy Jelenik at [KJelenik@FCCFoundation.org](mailto:KJelenik@FCCFoundation.org) or call (203) 750-3211.

and children in Fairfield County, while tapping into research on critical issues and grantmaking opportunities to maximize impact.

"The staff has been integral in educating us and introducing us to so many worthy and deserving organizations," says Geller. "This has all been accomplished in a tax-advantaged, user-friendly framework – literally a win/win/win from every standpoint."

*As fundholders, you are uplifting the people and places in your community and beyond.*  
**Learn more at [FCCFoundation.org/DAF](http://FCCFoundation.org/DAF)**

# Closing Fairfield County's Opportunity Gap: A Strategic Focus on Our Community Impact Work

As Fairfield County's Community Foundation rolls out a new strategic plan to guide our Community Impact work for the next three years, President & CEO Juanita James and incoming Board Chair Martha Olson share their thoughts on why it matters.

## **What is the main goal of the new 2018-21 Strategic Plan?**

**Olson:** Our overall vision is for Fairfield County to be an inclusive environment where every individual has the opportunity to thrive. To achieve that, we aim to close the opportunity gap in Fairfield County by eliminating disparities in income, education, employment, housing and health. That's a lofty and long-term proposition: when it comes to income inequality in major metropolitan areas of the United States, Fairfield County tops the list. No single organization can solve this issue alone. But by orienting all our efforts and initiatives around this guiding light and leveraging partners around the region, we can make progress.

## **What populations will FCCF serve over the next three years?**

**James:** We will focus on making an impact for women and girls, youth

ages 16 to 25 who are not in school or employed, and immigrants. These vulnerable populations tend to be impacted the most by disparities. By leveraging partnerships with Fairfield County donors, nonprofits, policymakers, and business and community leaders, we can start to create an environment where there is less risk and more opportunity. And we will remain true to our mission of promoting philanthropy as a means to create change by connecting our donors to the causes they care about.

## **What are the desired results identified in the new plan?**

**Olson:** After analyzing regional data and speaking with partner foundations, nonprofit leaders and collective impact groups, we've identified four key results areas. First, we want to ensure that all students graduate with a high school degree and are prepared for post-secondary education and employment. We also want to ensure that older youth and young adults have training and credentials that lead to meaningful careers. We want to ensure that women and girls are economically secure, healthy and safe. Furthermore, we want all residents to have safe,

stable, healthy and affordable housing in communities of opportunity.

## **What strategies will be used to work toward these results?**

**James:** The Community Foundation will continue to expand and deploy financial resources and connect donors with effective nonprofits. We will work to maximize impact by aligning action with results and help build the capacity of our nonprofits. Because we know that lasting change requires the public, private and nonprofit sectors to work together, we will also amplify the voices of community members and leaders and work to influence policies that affect our target populations.

*We invite you, and everyone that cares about the people and places in Fairfield County, to be part of this transformative work. Join the conversation on how we can work together to create sustainable solutions and read more about our strategic plan at [FCCFoundation.org](http://FCCFoundation.org).*

*Thank you for building up Fairfield County as a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.*

*Learn more at [FCCFoundation.org](http://FCCFoundation.org)*



Incoming Board Chair Martha Olson led a team of board members (pictured) and staff in developing a strategic plan that focuses FCCF's Community Impact efforts.

# Center for Nonprofit Excellence Builds Cross-Sector and Advocacy Skills



FCCF President & CEO Juanita James moderates a panel of Danbury-area legislators. Four legislative forums were hosted across Fairfield County through FCCF's Advocacy Series.

## How can we work more effectively across sectors to effect change in our region?

That's the question Fairfield County's Community Foundation explores through convenings and workshops.

On April 25th, FCCF hosted the Boston Federal Reserve to share Connecticut-focused research on cross-sector collaborations.

"We recognize that the opportunity gap cannot be addressed by one organization alone," said FCCF President & CEO Juanita James. "We must work across sectors – public, private, nonprofit – for lasting change."

This year's Advocacy Series began in December with forums across Fairfield County convening 144 nonprofit leaders and 22 state and local policymakers. For participants from the nonprofit community, such as Bridge House Executive Director Mary Ellen McGuire, the forums were a step toward the vision of working collaboratively with legislators.

"It gave us all the opportunity to share concerns, ideas and hope for a better community with our elected officials," said McGuire, whose organization empowers adults with mental illness.

The Series culminates on May 31st with Fairfield County's Advocacy Day, which offers nonprofit leaders another meaningful opportunity to share their

vision and challenges with legislators, grow their network and build skills for collaboration.

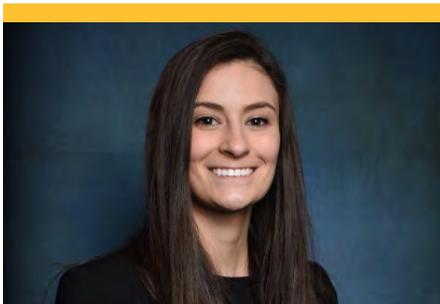


FCCF's Advocacy Series convenes policymakers and nonprofits to discuss ways to work collaboratively. Left to right: Representative Dan Fox, Senator Carlo Leone and Stamford Mayor David Martin.

*Thank you for supporting the Center for Nonprofit Excellence. You are creating a more equitable and inclusive community.*

**Learn more at [FCCFoundation.org/CNE](https://FCCFoundation.org/CNE)**

## Scholarships Enable Youth in Fairfield County to Thrive



Jane Pollard is a recipient of the Walter Breslav, Jr. Scholarship at Fairfield County's Community Foundation.

For marketing student Jane Pollard, a scholarship set her on a path to achieving her dreams.

"For as long as I can recall, I have been intrigued by the fashion and music industries," says Jane. "My dream is to work in marketing in one of those fields."

Jane continued, "When I received the Walter Breslav, Jr. Scholarship, it took an enormous amount of financial pressure off me and my parents, and allowed me to focus on my education."

Walter Breslav, Jr. was a passionate philanthropist and an advocate for education. Before his passing, he regularly brought students into his brokerage office for learning opportunities. Today, his wife Elisabeth and their children continue his legacy through a scholarship fund with FCCF that provides Bridgeport students support to pursue a degree in business or finance.

"It is heartwarming to follow students through school and see how they are developing," says Elisabeth. "The Scholarship Fund enables talented young people to pursue their dreams."

With her scholarship, Jane was able to enroll at the University of Dayton and is now studying abroad in Ireland. As a student on the Dean's List, she was selected by the University to work for Flyer Enterprises, the country's fourth-largest student-run business. "The scholarship has meant a tremendous amount to me," says Jane. "It allowed me to experience opportunities that would otherwise have been impossible."

**Generous donors have created a powerful scholarship program at Fairfield County's Community Foundation, enabling nearly \$1 million in scholarship awards each year for 400 students.**

*Your support is helping Fairfield County youth achieve their dreams of higher education and meaningful careers. Thank you.*

**Learn more at [FCCFoundation.org/Thrive](https://FCCFoundation.org/Thrive)**

# Courage to Create Change: Celebrating 20 Years of Empowering Women & Girls



FCCF President & CEO Juanita James (left) talks with tennis champion and advocate Billie Jean King (right) about Courage to Create Change.

**THANK YOU!** On April 5, 2018, more than 800 supporters came together to raise over \$700,000 at our annual luncheon. This year's Courage to Create Change theme embodied the role that the Fund for Women & Girls has boldly played over the last 20 years. And we remain ever thankful for the dedication and commitment of our Fund's pioneering visionaries, as you continue to change the lives of women and girls throughout our county.

With your support, the Fund for Women & Girls has invested more than \$5 million in sustainable solutions leading to economically secure, safe and healthy women and girls in Fairfield County. By uniting philanthropists to invest in scalable, proven models, the Fund for Women & Girls is rewriting what's possible and improving the future of tens of thousands of women.

At this year's annual luncheon, our keynote was trailblazer Billie Jean



Supporters gathered on April 5th at the Greenwich Hyatt for the 2018 Fund for Women & Girls Luncheon, celebrating 20 years of impact in Fairfield County.

King, who inspired our guests with her enthusiastic activism for women's equality. The event benefits our Family Economic Security Program (FESP), which provides wraparound support services to help vulnerable, low-income students overcome challenges and earn degrees leading to family-sustaining careers.



In honor of Citi's longtime support, Tricia Hyacinth (left), Director of FCCF's Fund for Women & Girls, presents the inaugural Anne Leonhardt Award to Lily Lopez (right), Senior Vice President for Citi Community Development.

The program has made all the difference for participants like Kashaine Ferryman, who bravely shared her story at our luncheon. With the help of FESP, Ferryman earned degrees from both Norwalk Community College and the University of Connecticut, and is now a Support Services Program Coordinator for Norwalk's Family & Children's Agency.

"When I transferred from one community college to another, I had no idea it would be so hard," recalls Ferryman. "The Family Economic Security Program gave me the support I needed and has motivated many other women to stay the course, no matter how rough or long. Today, I get to pay it forward with a career that allows me to guide and empower people."



Kashaine Ferryman (right) was able to earn a college degree and launch her nonprofit career with support from FCCF's Family Economic Security Program.

*Your support has changed the lives of hundreds of young girls and women, building future generations of independent, strong female role models and leaders. Thank you!*  
**Learn more at [FCCFoundation.org/FWG](http://FCCFoundation.org/FWG)**



Stamford Health was the Champion Sponsor for the 2018 Fund for Women & Girls Luncheon, which raised \$700,000 for the Family Economic Security Program at Housatonic Community College.

## Future Society Remembers Betsy Rich, a Visionary Donor

For five decades, Betsy and Jack Rich served Stamford's schools, churches and other organizations. Betsy was also an instrumental leader of Fairfield County's Community Foundation. Their dedication made such a powerful impression that their friends honored them by establishing a charitable fund at the Community Foundation.

Touched and inspired, Betsy wanted to leverage the impact of The Betsy and Jack Rich Legacy Fund. She partnered with experienced Community Foundation staff to explore ways she could put her assets to work. By making the fund the beneficiary of her IRA, Betsy could give generously in the future while maintaining her current lifestyle. For this commitment, she is recognized in the Future Society.

"There are many ways to give back using different types of assets," says Nancy Tartaglia, FCCF's Director of Gift Planning. IRA assets can also be used



Jack & Betsy Rich's legacy will help meet Fairfield County's evolving needs now & forever.

for current gifts to reduce taxable income for those age 70 ½ and older.

Now and forever, Betsy's gift will make an impact for the region's evolving needs – continuing her life's work of serving the community's greater good.

## A Life of Service Continues to Shape the Future

For Connecticut lawmaker Julia Wasserman, making our community a better place was a lifelong pursuit. For nine decades, until her passing in 2015, she worked with boundless energy and heart to serve others. Now, through a donor advised fund at Fairfield County's Community Foundation, her passion for giving will be carried on for years to come.

Julia had deep roots in Newtown and loved spending time with her dogs at her farm in Sandy Hook. As an elected official, she served on the Newtown Legislative Council and as a State Representative for the 106th District. An active member of many boards and commissions, she worked tirelessly throughout her life to advance public health issues and preserve the environment.



Julia Wasserman, hard at work as State Representative for the 106th District, now honored as a member of the Future Society.

Her work continues through The Julia Wasserman Animal Welfare Fund at Fairfield County's Community Foundation. This fund entrusts Julia's legacy to philanthropic stewards who expertly manage its investments and ensure that grants are awarded to nonprofits that can make an impact now, and in the future.

## THANK YOU

### NEW FUTURE SOCIETY MEMBERS

**James Photis**, who received a college scholarship himself, created a scholarship in his estate because, "I now wish to return that gift as many times over as I possibly can."

**Marianne Pollak**, a long-time supporter and partner of Fairfield County's Community Foundation, whose generous philanthropy has addressed numerous critical issues in our region, designated Fairfield County's Community Foundation as one of her beneficiaries.

### RECENT FUTURE SOCIETY GIFTS

**Joan Warburg**, instrumental in leading and supporting the Fund for Women & Girls, left a bequest to the fund as part of her legacy.

**Frances Barry** lived in the 3030 Park retirement community, where she served as its librarian. A bequest from her estate to their endowed fund will help residents with financial need afford to live there.

**Gene Wilder's** passion for the arts in our community will live on through his bequest.

### JOINING THE FUTURE SOCIETY IS EASY!

The Future Society is a visionary group of like-minded philanthropists who are creating lasting community impact through bequests and beneficiary designations to Fairfield County's Community Foundation.

Tell us that you have made a bequest in your will or trust of cash, securities or other assets to Fairfield County's Community Foundation or one of our funds.

Or tell us you have named Fairfield County's Community Foundation as beneficiary of your retirement account, annuity or insurance policy.

**Ask for a Future Society brochure or download the brochure at [FCCFoundation.org/future](http://FCCFoundation.org/future)**

Call our gift planning expert: 203-750-3212

# Giving Day: 5 Years of Remarkable Generosity, Powered by YOU!



As lead sponsor for Fairfield County's Giving Day for the fifth year, Bank of America championed a day of philanthropy that raised \$1.4 million for 415 nonprofits.

## Thank YOU for powering this monumental day!

On March 1st, 13,137 community members made our fifth annual Fairfield County's Giving Day a giant success! During this 24-hour giving marathon of true community altruism, \$1,400,887 was raised for 415 nonprofits. Family, friends, neighbors,

co-workers and businesses from our region answered the call to "give where you live and work."

Since Fairfield County's Community Foundation launched Giving Day in 2014, it has become our region's biggest philanthropic event of the year, raising more than \$1 million annually and nearly \$6 million dollars cumulatively.

Over the past five years, the collective power of over 60,000 small donations has touched lives in a real way. Giving Day donations have helped build theaters, enabled preschoolers to get a vital head start in school, filled backpacks with food to ensure students don't go hungry and so much more.

"At Fairfield County's Community Foundation, we live by our motto "Together we thrive,"" says FCCF President & CEO Juanita James. "And thrive is exactly what we do as a community on Giving Day."

"The tremendous outpouring of support for our nonprofits has been

rewarding and deeply gratifying," she adds. "Great work can be achieved in our communities because of this generosity."

Left to right: Media Partner Jonathan Moffly, FCCF President & CEO Juanita James and incoming FCCF Board Chair Martha Olson kick off Fairfield County's Giving Day.



*Thank you for supporting our Community Impact Fund which fuels Giving Day. A report on Giving Day key findings can be found at [FCCFoundation.org/giving](https://www.fccfoundation.org/giving)*



On March 1, 2018, nonprofit partners and community members celebrated Fairfield County's Giving Day at Brewport in Bridgeport.

 Fairfield County's Community Foundation  
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