

## People of Vision

### Creativity Lives On...

Sid Bernard truly loved sharing the joy and thrill of every art project that he and "his" kids created together in the classroom each and every day. A devoted art teacher in the Bristol Public School System for 25 years and for nearly as many summers at Choate-Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, CT, Sid's love for teaching was evident. Sid believed in the power of learning as is evidenced by his own educational accomplishments. He received his BFA from Alfred University and his MFA from California's Claremont College. When his illness forced him to leave the classroom, Sid continued to keep in contact with the teachers and students in the several elementary schools at which he taught, especially at South Side School.

When Sid passed away last January after his long battle with cancer, his spouse, Ed Miller of Litchfield, decided to honor Sid's memory by establishing the Sid Bernard Memorial Art Scholarship Fund. This is a

permanently endowed fund that annually awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from one of Bristol's two public high schools. After exploring several possible organizations to create and administer the scholarship fund, Ed selected the Main Street Community Foundation for several reasons. In a recent interview with a member of our staff, Ed mentioned specifically that he chose the Foundation because the staff immediately responded to his request this past February for information about the possibility of not only establishing the scholarship fund, but also of making the

*See Bernard Fund page 2*



*Sid Bernard*

## Grants in Action

### Answering the Community's Call for Basic Needs

The big headlines are unemployment rates, the mortgage crisis, and rising energy costs. "Another Meal Served" may not make the front page but Main Street Community Foundation knows the real story is how these economic factors are affecting people who live in our community. In a time when people are facing multiple hardships, Main Street focused on basic needs when awarding its 2009 spring grants. Grants were made from the Dumont Family Charitable Fund, Plainville Community Fund, Edward W. & Audrey K. Mink Memorial Fund, Turkus Family Fund, Merriman Family Fund and Gnazzo/Reidy Charitable Fund to support organizations in Bristol, Plainville, Plymouth and Southington.

The Boys and Girls Club and Family Center of Bristol, reported children in the after school program were staying longer and not eating anything since their lunch break at school until they arrived home at 7 p.m. or later. Children who are hungry are less able to focus in after school programs including the Power Hour Homework Assistance offered at the Club. A grant supported a program called Kids Café which provides a hearty snack upon arrival at the Club and the opportunity to "go shopping" on Fridays for non-perishable food items for weekend meals.

The Plainville Community Food Pantry staff recognized that a record number of families would be in need this year. They committed to an increase in the amount of



*Tom Sasani, a volunteer, helps out at the Plymouth Community Food Pantry*

## Who We Are

The Main Street Community Foundation, Inc. is a public charity that is committed to connecting donors with causes they care about through charitable giving, with a specific focus on building permanent endowments which will support these causes in perpetuity.

Since 1995, the foundation has positively enhanced the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth-Terryville, Southington and Wolcott. We offer donors the opportunity to make meaningful and lasting contributions that maximize community impact both now and in the future.

Our mission is to help assure the long-term well-being of the communities we serve by encouraging and promoting:

- ◆ Planned Giving
- ◆ Prudent Management of Assets
- ◆ Responsible Distribution of Funds

Contact us at (860) 583-6363  
admin@mainstreetfoundation.org



*Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations*

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# Answering the Community's Call...

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holiday food baskets that would provide a real meal with "special fixings" as well as a week's worth of groceries. Holiday baskets given to families in need during Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be even fuller due to this year's grant support.

The Plymouth Community Food Pantry also recognized the growing nutritional needs of Terryville, Plymouth and Pequabuck residents by responding to and leveraging collaboration with other agencies to purchase larger quantities of food from the Connecticut Food Bank. Grant funding assisted with more food items to meet the rising demand.

The Southington Community Services reported that they were feeding twice the number of hungry families as compared to last year. At the food pantry, families can pick up food as well as recipes and hands-on instructions for how to cook with fresh fruits and vegetables. Again, a grant supported the purchase of critical food items.

All of these community programs provide more than food. They give people the helping hand necessary to meet their own basic needs. Main Street may not be able to solve the economic problems that lead the news. But they can make a difference by partnering with organizations that change our community one person at a time.

## Funding Partnership with FSB Foundation to Aid Local Nonprofits

When it rains, some complain about the weather. Others see it as an opportunity to grow the things we need to live. In a year with limited grant making funds, the Main Street Community Foundation decided to implement a funding strategy to increase support to local nonprofits in their service area. When the foundation conducted its spring grant application process, we identified local funding partners in addition to donor advised funds to meet local needs. One of those partners was the Farmington Savings Bank (FSB) Foundation who committed \$5,000 and selected three projects from a list of grant applications collected by Main Street. Grant recipients included: Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra to provide educational concerts for third graders from the school districts of Avon, Bristol, Burlington, Plymouth, Southington and



Wolcott; Plainville Community Food Pantry to provide holiday food baskets to families in need; and Plainville Community Schools Project Helping Our Peers Succeed (HOPE) which provides mentoring to elementary schools on the topics of peer pressure, bullying, substance abuse, and tolerance. The half-day workshop is lead by high school students using skits and team building activities to help their younger counterparts to deal with these challenges.

John Patrick, President of FSB Foundation, said "Main Street identified some important community projects for us to consider and that approach fit well with our philanthropic goals this year." The FSB Foundation has always supported the community and eagerly stepped forward to help the nonprofit community in a time when help was needed the most.

### COMING SOON... "New Website"

In January 2010, the Main Street Community Foundation will be launching a new and improved website. Watch for the following enhancements to [www.MainStreetFoundation.org](http://www.MainStreetFoundation.org) and so much more!

- Online Giving
- Donor information tools
- Resources for Professional Advisors
- Donor Stories

*This project made possible with support from the FSB Foundation and Walker Systems Support.*

### Bernard Fund...

Continued from page 1

scholarship a reality by June 2009, something which other agencies had said would probably not be possible. After meeting with Susan Sadecki and Jarre Betts to set guidelines for scholarship applicants, create a formal application, establish a timetable, and choose an interview selection committee, a formal agreement was signed and the first scholarship was awarded in May 2009 to Ashley Cushon, a graduate of Bristol Eastern High School. Ed stated that he was very pleased with the efficiency of the process and the professionalism exhibited by the entire foundation team.

It is Ed's hope that with this scholarship, future students will follow Sid's career path and bring the same passion to the teaching of art that so filled Sid's life with happiness and fulfillment. Ed feels that by establishing this scholarship, the creativity that Sid displayed in the classroom and in his own work as a nationally and internationally-shown ceramicist will live on in perpetuity amongst the children that future graduates of Bristol's Public School System will teach every day.



Sid Bernard's "Untitled" on display at the Art Space East Building at Central Pennsylvania Community College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in October 2009.

# A Community Foundation through the Eyes of a Summer Intern

by Samantha Rajotte

Samantha Rajotte is a Junior at Boston University pursuing a degree in communications. She volunteered from May - August 2009.

I had no idea what a community foundation was when I applied for scholarships two years ago. At that time, I did know I was accepted into a well-known, very expensive university and I would have to find a way to pay the tuition. Like many students, I applied to dozens and dozens of scholarships.

Four of the scholarships I received were from funds at the Main Street Community Foundation: E. Bartlett Barnes Journalism Award, Murielle L. Giacomini Scholarship, Doris Lazorik Memorial Scholarship, McMaster-Moulthrop Scholarship. Though the foundation had always remained in my memory, I did not realize how grateful I was for it and the generosity of others until I entered college.

During my sophomore year of college I registered for a class on public relations (PR) in the non-profit sector, partly because I wanted to better understand the people who helped me reach my dream of attending college. I developed a passion for learning more about non-profit organizations. My dream had always been to do PR for a professional sports team, and that has not changed. However, I now want to find a way to combine non-profits and sports. So, when I came back to Bristol for the summer, I emailed the Main Street Community Foundation hoping they could use a little bit of volunteer help with administrative duties or PR materials. They agreed to accept my volunteer offer and I will be forever grateful.

When I first met with Susan Sadecki, I was delighted to learn that she took her work seriously, that the foundation is not just another non-profit in town; it is an organization that has the ability and potential to change hundreds of lives. She taught me the definition of a community foundation and explained what the foundation does to help better the surrounding

communities, through the generosity of many donors from those same communities. What I did not realize, until I started volunteering, was the scope of the foundation and how many people depended on it. I listened to how staff worked with donors to determine what community causes mattered most so the right type of fund could be established. I also listened to the staff respond to urgent request for grants from immediate response funds to aid a family or child in need.

My volunteer position with the Main Street Community Foundation has been an unbelievable and invaluable experience. By writing press releases, redesigning brochures and assisting with other communication needs, I gained experience in community relations, donor relations and media relations as well as general office work. These skills will be carried with me throughout my education, career and everyday life. Just like when I received the scholarships as a high school senior, strangers took a chance on me, believed in me and gave me some of the confidence necessary to succeed. With this group of devoted people who fulfill the mission and vision of the foundation, Main Street is undoubtedly raising the quality of life in our community. They are prepared for what lies ahead and that is what matters.



Samantha Rajotte

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**'My volunteer position with the Main Street Community Foundation has been an unbelievable and invaluable experience.'**  
Samantha Rajotte

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## A Q&A with the Foundation's Investment Committee

*The Investment Committee is a standing committee comprised of board members and other volunteers appointed for their knowledge of investment practices and other financial matters.*

*Participating in this interview were Rob Caiaze of Wells Fargo Advisers, Chair of the Committee and Board Member and Committee Members David Maikowski of Farmington Bank and Bill Micari of Main Street Financial Group, LLC.*

**Q: What does the Foundation's Investment Committee do?**

A: We act as a liaison between the Foundation and the professional advisors who manage the foundation's invested funds. We meet quarterly with the foundation's investment advisors and monitor allocations and speak up if we identify something inconsistent with the investment policy. We're watchdogs, making sure the money entrusted to the Foundation will be there in perpetuity. No member of the committee manages the funds.

**Q: Tell me something special about your group.**

A: There are at least three professional investment advisors on the committee. We eat, sleep, and breathe investing every day of the week. The committee is more than the sum of its parts. We all bring valuable professional skills as well as a strong desire to give back to our community and ensure donors that the Foundation is a good steward.

**Q: How do individuals, families or businesses donate to The Main Street Community Foundation?**

A: Donors can give by bequest through a will, trust, or other estate planning. We also see donors giving while they're

alive. Some have highly appreciated investments and they can benefit charitable causes while diversifying their personal holdings or mitigating tax burdens.

**Q: Why should someone donate to a community foundation instead of directly to a favorite charity?**

A: The benefit is purchasing power. The foundation has access to services, people, pricing, and resources that are only available to large investors. You can establish your own family fund for as little as \$10,000 and add that amount to a pool of millions of dollars therefore benefiting from its purchasing power. When you care deeply about a cause, you can specify the community-based project that is most important to you when you work with the Foundation to provide for something beyond yourself.

**Q: Why volunteer your time and effort to the committee?**

A: It's a way to give back to the community by offering our professional experience so the Foundation has the best people possible to do the work it does for our area. We live in this community and care about the programs that wouldn't be in place without the Foundation's support.



Debbie and Bruce Yarde

# Annual Reception Gathers Foundation Donors

The annual Friends Reception has been a wonderful opportunity to thank the foundation's many donors. Sincere appreciation to Bruce & Debbie Yarde for hosting our 2009 Friends Reception on a glorious July evening. Over 100 attendees enjoyed a beautiful event on Cedar Lake in Bristol. Many thanks to all who supported our annual friends appeal and to all donors who value the work of the foundation.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Our  
2010 Friends Reception  
is scheduled for  
June 3, 2010

Kindly consider supporting the work of the Main Street Community Foundation by making a gift to the foundation as you plan your 2009 year end charitable giving.

December 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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