

A Fight Against Heart Disease

Fund Established In Boy's Memory To Help Others

Tyler Gingery's parents thought their 5-year-old son would need a heart transplant some day.

They consulted specialists about his heart disease and kept his young life as normal as possible. We've got time, the doctors said.

Then on Dec. 2, Tyler didn't wake up.

Sean and Michelle Gingery had more heartbreak to come. After Tyler's death, their daughter Katelynn, a second grader, was diagnosed with the same heart disease.

"I don't want other parents to lose their kids' lives because of this disease," Gingery said recently.

That feeling also motivated Erin Cyr, a teenage babysitter for the Gingerys.

Stunned by her neighbor's death, she talked to Kevin Estela, her social studies teacher at



Tyler Gingery with his sister, Katelynn, playing in the front yard.

Bristol Central High School.

Estela suggested that the Main Street Community Foundation could help. He knew about the Foundation's work because he had been active on the Foundation's scholarship committee.

Susan Sadecki, the Foundation's president and CEO, suggested establishing a designated fund to provide an annual grant to the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association in New Jersey, whose mission is to educate the public about the little-known disease.

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy damages and thickens the heart muscle, impairing the blood flow. The electrical impulses that keep the heart pumping can also be disrupted. There's no cure, but many adults manage with an implanted defibrillator. Doctors had said they would probably give Tyler a defibrillator when he got older.

Out of the tragedy, the Tyler James Gingery Memorial Fund was born. Now, a committee of family and friends is planning its first fundraiser, a walk-a-thon Saturday, May 16.

According to the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association, about 1 in

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Our communities need strong nonprofit organizations now, more than ever. We are exploring and leading new opportunities to work with donors to support our communities in new and vital ways.

In Tough Times, Take A Long-Term View

The current state of the economy is having a real impact on all of us. We have all been faced with the challenges of the economic time. During this period of challenging world financial markets, the Main Street Community Foundation remains committed to our local nonprofit community and remains focused on our disciplined investment approach to guide us through periods of volatility in the marketplace.

Challenging times call for patience and a long-term perspective. The dramatic downturns in 2008 have affected everyone. Overall grantmaking dollars in our communities have been significantly reduced. However, it is our belief that the economy will improve.

Our Investment Policy is conservative and designed for long-term growth. Our Investment Committee meets a minimum of four times per year and continuously works to ensure that our investments are positioned and structured to provide the best possible outcome over the long term. Based on our excellent historical investment performance, we are confident that funds at the Foundation will recover and grow, as they have in the past, providing support to the charities you care about.

How is the Main Street Community Foundation responding?

See Investing, page 3

Welcome To Three New Board Members

Arthur Hoerle, Mark Peterson and Jeffrey Scott have joined the Main Street Community Foundation's board. They bring a wealth of business experience and community service to the Foundation's board. The new members were elected at the annual meeting Feb. 13.

The Foundation also bid farewell to retiring board members Thomas O. Barnes and Barry Thompson, and thanked them for their many years of service. We look forward to their continued participation on the Foundation's committees.

Arthur B. Hoerle, a Plainville native living in Rocky Hill, worked for 27 years in the 90-year-old family business, The Ideal Machinery & Supply Co. in Plainville, and served as president since 2001. Art is a member of the Rotary Club of Plainville, past member of the Plainville Board of Education and member of the Quononchontaug East Beach Association Board of Directors in Charlestown, Rhode Island.



HOERLE

Mark A. Peterson is a senior business analyst for ESPN in Bristol and serves as a commissioner on the City of Bristol Board of Finance. Mark makes time to volunteer for numerous organizations, including Special Olympics. Mark resides in Bristol with his wife Monique and children Hailey and Hunter.



PETERSON

Jeffrey Scott is the fourth generation president and co-owner of Scott Funeral Home in Terryville. A lifelong resident of Terryville, Jeff is a 34-year member of the Terryville Lions Club, incorporator for Thomaston Savings Bank and Bristol Hospital, member of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, member of the Town of Plymouth Economic Development Commission and serves on the Dr. Long Scholarship Committee. Jeff resides in Terryville with his wife Kim and children Kenny, Katie, Natalie and Christine.



SCOTT

Walk-A-Thon

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500 people have the disease, although many don't know it.

"It's not as rare as people think," Erin said. She's working on the walk with Estela, the Gingerys and a committee of friends and neighbors.

"It's a fun way to keep his memory alive," she said. The Gingerys, who live two houses away, were one of her first babysitting customers. Erin remembers Tyler as a blond, blue-eyed kindergartener who wanted her to play whenever he saw her. It didn't matter that she was a freshman at Bristol Central. "He was a happy kid," she said. His parents, too, appreciated Tyler's sunny outlook. His father said, "No matter what kind of day you had, he always ran to meet you at the door."

Still, Tyler's disease required special handling. The Gingerys had a defibrillator at home. Every day, Michelle put Tyler and another defibrillator on the bus to Ivy Drive School. The machine followed him all day and came home again.

"We did everything right," Michelle Gingery said recently.

Looking back, Sean Gingery said, "Tyler had a normal childhood. When we couldn't change his abilities, we changed everyone else around him." The kids knew Tyler couldn't run too much, so sometimes they switched to less active games.

Word of Tyler's death spread quickly along Pondview Lane on Dec. 2. By nightfall, the street was lined with candles glowing in white paper bags.

That support has helped his parents as they move forward.

**'It's a fun way
to keep his
memory alive.'**

**Erin Cyr
Tyler's babysitter**

Katelyn has had a defibrillator implanted under her skin, which the Gingerys had tried to get for Tyler.

On the day of the walk-a-thon, everyone will wear white T-shirts designed by Erin and her friend Allison Drost. The shirts will read: It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow. The teens found the quote one day, but it wasn't quite right for Tyler. "We added that part about the sunshine," Erin said.

The walk-a-thon will be held on Bristol Central's track from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, May 16. Registration begins at 9 a.m. To make a donation, walk or volunteer, contact Kevin Estela at (860) 584-7735, ext. 226, or email kevinestela@ci.bristol.ct.us. The rain date is Sunday, May 17.

Help Us Go Green!

Sign Up For Our Email Newsletter

In the spirit of going green, future issues of this newsletter as well as other important updates may be provided to you by email with your permission. If you would like to stay informed about important Community Foundation happenings, please visit our web site at www.MainStreetFoundation.org to sign up today or email us at Admin@MainStreetFoundation.org and type "Go Green" in the subject line. In accordance with the Main Street Community Foundation's privacy policies we will never sell, rent or otherwise share your personal information.

Grant Helps Burlington Land Trust Celebrate

Oct. 3 Celebration will Mark 20th Anniversary; Local Hiking Booklet Re-Issued

Seen from a satellite map, Burlington's landscape is almost unbroken green.

Paul Rochford, president of the Burlington Land Trust, wants residents to know more about those acres of undeveloped land.

With a \$5,000 grant from the Main Street Community Foundation, the land trust is reprinting its guide to walks and hikes in the area. The grant is also funding a celebration of the land trust's 20th anniversary on Oct. 3.

The 28-page Burlington Rambler's Guide showcases a dozen walks along Burlington's 30 miles of the Tunxis Trail and the local section of Rails To Trails from Unionville to Collinsville.

"Anybody can do this" Rochford said of the walks. "We want you to get out there ... take your friends, your spouse, your kids ... walk the dog," he wrote in the preface to the booklet in 2007.

Most of the last printing of 1,000 booklets is gone. The land trust wants to reprint 1,000 copies.

Plans for the anniversary celebration are still jelling, but

Rochford said the land trust hopes to have displays from other conservation groups it works with, like the Farmington River Watershed Association and Rails To Trails.

With 40% of its land undeveloped, Burlington might look like a community awash in open space. Rochford said much of the property is owned by water companies, who no longer need that vast acreage to protect their watersheds.

Rochford said the land trust's hope is "to get people invested in the idea that conservation has economic benefits." Development can also be done properly to safeguard Burlington's rural character, he said. "We're not looking to stop anything," but the group wants the community and developers to think about the benefits of open space, Rochford said.

The land trust manages some of the land that the Tunxis Trail crosses. That includes the 43-acre Martha Brower Nature Preserve off Greer Road, which it owns, and the 187-acre Taine Mountain Preserve, owned by the Nature Conservancy. The land trust also owns 11 acres abutting the Taine Mountain Preserve and owns a conservation easement on 12 acres abutting the preserve.

To get a free color copy of the Rambler's Guide in the mail, send an email to: paul@burlingtonlandtrust.org



The Land Trust's sign-in box on Johnnycake Mountain.

Join Our CornerStone Society!

It is easy to leave a bequest to the Main Street Community Foundation for the community causes you care about. Our Main Street Cornerstone Society has more than two dozen members who have communicated their plans to leave a gift to the Foundation in their will, estate plan or another type of deferred gift.

If you would like to be included in the Main Street CornerStone Society, please contact us to discuss your plans.

If your estate plan already includes the Foundation, please let us know, so we can enroll you in this special legacy society. We can be reached at the Foundation office at (860) 583-6363.



Investing

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Our communities need strong nonprofit organizations now, more than ever. We are exploring and leading new opportunities to work with donors to support our communities in new and vital ways.

For those who are concerned about being able to support the needs of nonprofits and causes that matter to them in perpetuity, endowment building is the answer.

We are committed to ensuring that all of our policies and best practices are grounded in protecting assets entrusted to us while fulfilling our donors' charitable dreams in perpetuity.

Parent and Child Center Strives To Earn Matching Grant

Young families who need help getting diapers, wipes and kids' clothes are coming to the Parent and Child Center at Bristol Hospital more than ever.

"We were averaging 20 visits a month. Lately it's been 60 to 65 visits a month," said Rebecca Tuttle, who heads the center.

Now, more help is on the way. With a matching grant from a donor-advised fund at the Main Street Community Foundation, the program is hoping to raise over \$15,000 for supplies. The donor-advisor to the fund recommended the matching grant and will provide 50 cents for every dollar contributed.

Tuttle is confident about reaching the goal. "We have found the more difficult the times become, the more people want to give," she said.

For the past six years, the program has operated the Treasure Chest, which gives basic supplies to families with

children under 5. Racks of colorful kids' clothes fill the small storage room where families can come eight times a year to get clothes for their children. Diapers are available four times a year.

But storage was a major problem for diapers, wipes, baby food, formula. Those supplies jam two closets at the Prospect Street center.

4 When Tuttle went on a TV show to talk

about the center, she was overwhelmed with calls from people who wanted to donate. There just wasn't space.

So she's ecstatic that the Treasure Chest will have money to buy the supplies as they are needed. "Now, to be able to purchase diapers ... is outstanding," she said. "We are also considering ways to make the most of these grant dollars by purchasing diapers from lower cost vendors like diapers.com."

The center and the Treasure Chest have had strong support from Exchange Clubs in Connecticut. One shoreline club hosts an annual baby shower to replenish the baby supplies. Local families often donate gently used clothes, which the Treasure Chest takes up to size 5T.

"It's not the Parent and Child Center that helps," Tuttle said. "It's the community."



To help the Parent and Child Center meet its \$10,000 goal and earn the matching grant, please send checks to: The Parent and Child Center at Bristol Hospital, 9 Prospect St., Bristol, CT 06010.

Families with children under 5 who need help can get more information about the Treasure Chest by calling 585-3481.

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, it has improved the capacity of numerous organizations and 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

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