



Women & Girls' Fund

of the Main Street Community Foundation

Making it possible for women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott to improve the quality of their lives.



Honorary Chair, Barbara Hackman Franklin with granddaughter, Lilly, and Tom Barnes at the 10th Anniversary event

Welcome to the new format of the Women & Girls' Fund newsletter!

Letter from the Chair

A Look Back at 2011 - Our Anniversary Year

Dear Friends,

2011 was an exciting year for the Women & Girls' Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation. We celebrated our 10th anniversary in style with two special events, a fundraising challenge and a continued commitment to supporting the many local organizations that share our mission of supporting and advancing women and girls in our communities.

We continue our focus on supporting women and girls in 2012 and as we begin our next decade, we have big goals. We remain steadfast in our continued commitment to our grantee organizations. We know **(continued on page 2)**



The Women & Girls' Fund current and past chairs gather at Jean, Jazz & Jam to celebrate the 10th Anniversary

Interested in Joining Us?

Women of all ages are invited to become part of the Women & Girls' Fund community. If you wish to be part of a dynamic organization dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls, visit us on our

Facebook page at www.facebook.com/womenandgirlsfund and sign up to receive more information about our upcoming events and activities.

Chair's Letter (continued from page 1)

that in order to continue forward with such success, we need to engage more people in our work as friends, board members, committee members, donors, and ambassadors. With a strong foundation, a dedicated Advisory Board and the supportive staff of Main Street Community Foundation, we look forward to advancing our vision of empowering women and girls.

Deidre M. Tavera

Chairperson, Women & Girls' Fund

Community Engagement Task Force Created

As the Women & Girls' Fund embarks on its second decade, our priorities rest on discovering more ways to engage our community in our work, and ensure that programs serving women and girls have access to adequate funding. To that end, a task force was created, led by Maryann Drennen and Timi Paccioretti, with the purpose of developing a two year work plan to help guide our organization's efforts. With the

help of a very talented and engaged group of volunteers, some great ideas were generated and we began the work of prioritizing our tasks. A new committee is now being formed to put those plans into action and we need your help! If you're interested in joining this exciting new opportunity to help women and girls in your community, contact Samantha Rajotte at 860-583-6363.

Distribution Committee Offers Grant Writing Workshops

This past spring members of the Women & Girls' Fund Distribution Committee held a Grant Writing Workshop to increase awareness of the grant making process and to help service providers complete more effective and robust applications. The workshop was held at Tunxis Community College and included a light lunch. Distribution Committee members covered the grant guidelines and process, the

various sections of the grant application, and the evaluation process. Attendees were not only provided insight and information but it allowed them the opportunity for questions and feedback. Distribution Committee members look forward to reviewing this year's applications and, more importantly, awarding grants to support and enhance the lives of women and girls in our local communities.



Thank you to our Advisory Board Members

Deidre Tavera, Chairperson
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Our 2011 Grantees

During the Women & Girls' Fund's Annual Meeting held on January 11, 2012, \$20,000 in grants was distributed to area organizations that serve women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

The Annual Meeting was held at the American Clock & Watch Museum and was attended by Main Street Community Foundation staff and Board members, Women & Girls' Fund Advisory Board and committee members, nonprofit organizations and donors. Representatives from the grantee organizations gave short presentations on their organizations and the programs being funded.

The 2012 grant awards from the Women & Girls' Fund will be announced at the Annual Meeting scheduled for January 2013.

Bristol Family Resource Center - \$4,000

To support the professional development of women providing Licensed Home Based Child Care

Klingberg Family Centers - \$1,100

To support an eleven week prevention education program for adolescent girls residing in a group home in Terryville

Living in Safe Alternatives (LISA) - \$3,000

To provide parent education for clients with children

Southington Youth Services - \$2,400

To support the Success Café program for middle school girls in Southington

Terryville High School/School To Career - \$1,900

To support a series of educational programs for women aged 16+ to develop the skills and access the tools necessary to gain employment

Women & Girls' Immediate Response Fund - \$5,367

To support basic needs and opportunities for females in the six towns served by the Main Street Community Foundation

YWCA of New Britain - \$2,233

To support a women empowerment group at Plainville High School



Susan Saucier of Southington Youth Services accepts the organization's grant.



Linda Rich of Bristol Family Resource Center discusses the organization and Licensed Home Based Child Care.



Fran Murphy of the New Britain YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Services talks about the role and importance of empowerment groups.



Our 2011-2012 Donors

Thank you for making our 10th Anniversary special!
 We are so grateful to the many individuals, families
 and businesses who have chosen to give so generously
 to the women and girls of our community.

If we have inadvertently failed to note your contribution, please let us know so that we may acknowledge it in a future publication.

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(continued on page 5)



Many Thanks to our 10th Anniversary Sponsors!

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GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT: Prudence Crandall Center - *One Woman's Story*



The Bristol Intervention Program, funded in part by a grant from the Women & Girls' Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation, provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence. Located in Bristol, the program is part of the continuum of services provided by New Britain's Prudence Crandall Center. "The vision and mission of the Main Street Community Foundation of enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations and making a difference in the community are concepts we also live by every day at Prudence Crandall Center," explains Barbara Damon, Prudence Crandall's executive director. "Although the majority of our clients are from low and moderate income households, domestic violence knows no economic boundaries."

Women are referred to the Intervention Program from Bristol and the surrounding towns of Berlin, Burlington, Kensington, Plainville, Plymouth, New Britain and Southington.

Services are tailored to meet individual needs, but can include education, support, advocacy and counseling.

One Woman's Story

Diane was a bright, charismatic young mother who endured horrific emotional, sexual and physical abuse for years. Diane had the good fortune of connecting with a Prudence Crandall Court Advocate who introduced her to the Bristol Intervention Program and her life took a positive turn. Through the program, Diane received the support and guidance she needed to get her life back on track. Individual and group counseling provided Diane with improved self-esteem and an acute awareness of the dynamics of healthy and unhealthy relationships. Diane now has more confidence and is actively taking steps toward self-empowerment and independence. She is currently working on acquiring a CT

driver's license and obtained a restraining order against her abuser. She sleeps more soundly knowing that she has the power to facilitate a safer environment for herself and her children. Things have also improved socially for Diane. She and her children reconnected with family and are active members of their church community.

"We couldn't provide the help we do without financial support from organizations like the Main Street Community Foundation," said Rheba Krieger, intervention advocate of the Bristol program. "We are extremely grateful to the Women & Girls' Fund and we make the most out of every dollar we receive."

Article written and submitted by MaryAnn Drennen, Manager of Community Outreach at Prudence Crandall Center.



2012 Wonder of Women



Faith Middleton

Photo by Pam Johnson, Shoreline Publishing

Our 2012 WOW event, held on April 23, 2012, and chaired by Catherine Cassin and EJ Conlin, brought record attendance, sponsorships and auction contributions! No doubt, having nationally celebrated radio and television journalist, Faith Middleton, didn't hurt. Faith Middleton is perhaps best known for her shows on NPR including *The Food Schmooze* and *Politics, Burgers and Beer*.

The 2012 WOW committee certainly outdid themselves and created a spectacular evening to benefit the women and girls in our community. Funds raised at the event will be granted to programs benefitting women and girls in our six communities.

In addition, WGF logo pendants were also sold at this year's event, with proceeds benefitting the Women & Girls' Immediate Response Fund. Limited quantities of the pendant are still available and can be obtained by visiting the Main Street Community Foundation office located at 200 Main Street, Bristol. Pendants are \$10 each or two for \$15.



WGF pendants on display at WOW. They can be used as necklaces, keychains, ornaments or just as a charm.

2012 WOW Sponsors

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Main Street



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FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2702
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www.MainStreetFoundation.org

Save the Date for our 2013 WOW Event!



Special guest speaker:
Grace Killelea

The 12th annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event will be held on Monday, April 22, 2013 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT. The event will be held from 5:30-8:30pm, and seats will be \$55 per person. Look for your "Save the Date" card in the mail just after the new year.

The WOW event is a major fundraiser for the Women and Girls' Fund. It is through the monies raised at this event that allows the Women and Girls' fund to award grants to local organizations in the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott. We hope you will continue to support the WGF by attending our 2013 WOW event.

We hope to see you there!