Our Vision
To be widely recognized as the comprehensive center for philanthropy and leadership in the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott

Our Mission
To enhance the quality of life for both present and future generations in the communities we serve.
We accomplish our mission by encouraging and promoting:
• Gift Planning
• Prudent Stewardship of Assets
• Effective Grantmaking
• Community Leadership

Our Core Values
Excellence, Integrity, Inclusiveness and Transparency in all we do.

Barnes Memorial Trust: Lifesaving Grant

The Southington Police Department responds to over 3,000 medical calls a year, several of which require them to use an automated external defibrillator (AED), a portable device that delivers an electric shock in the event that someone goes into cardiac arrest. However, the AEDs the Police Department currently use have exceeded their useful life expectancy.

In the name of partnership that the community of Southington is known for, the Rotary Club of Southington sought out funding for the replacement of the AEDs. Main Street Community Foundation awarded the Rotary Club of Southington a $50,750 grant from the Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust to purchase 25 AEDs.

Every patrol vehicle will now have an AED; in addition, one will be in the police station and two will be used as backups. All police officers in Southington are trained on how to use AEDs to provide lifesaving care; it has been proven that having an AED increases a victim’s chance of survival from sudden cardiac arrest.
When Main Street Community Foundation commissioned a community health needs assessment for the town of Southington in 2020, one of the identified priority areas was health and health care needs for an aging population. The Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at MSCF annually awards several grants in that focus area, but the most recent grant is to establish a new program in Southington.

MSCF recently awarded a $5,000 grant from the Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust to UR Community Cares, an all-volunteer nonprofit founded in 2019, to provide community-based volunteer support to older adults and those with physical disabilities. UR Community Cares provides the connection that helps individuals live safely at home and maintain their quality of life. Participants enroll online, complete a background check and then request assistance with things such as housework, yard work, transportation and companionship visits; volunteers can then connect with them on a first-come, first-serve basis. Services are free for all participants aged 70 or older or those with physical disabilities.

**15% of Southington’s population is 70 or older**

UR Community Cares currently serves over 115 towns and over 900 participants. They recognize there are many resources for older adults and those that are physically disabled, but they seek to help fill the gaps at the community level directly at people’s homes. UR Community Cares is working with local agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals in Southington to recruit and enroll community members as participants. To help gain local volunteers, the organization hosted a Lunch & Learn in March; volunteers must be 15 or older. Participants and volunteers can register on UR Community Cares website, www.urcommunitycares.org.

**MLK Mural in Bristol Coming this Summer**

Murals reflecting messages that Martin Luther King Jr. represented have been popping up throughout the state of Connecticut. The RiseUp Group, a Connecticut organization, is planning to create a total of 39, to honor each year of King’s life, and the 13th mural will be in Bristol.

When the opportunity came to support this large-scale public art mural showcasing and celebrating the diversity and cultures in Bristol, Main Street Community Foundation knew it had to be an integral part of it. MSCF provided a $5,000 grant from the Money in Motion Fund to kickstart the fundraising campaign, which reached its $15,000 goal in March. The project is being led by the City of Bristol Arts and Culture Commission in partnership with The RiseUp Group.

“The arts create vibrant communities and this project will not only enhance the City of Bristol, but celebrate its diversity,” said Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of MSCF.

The mural will be located on the Primo Press building at 106 Riverside Avenue. Creation will begin in May, and the Arts & Culture Commission is planning to hold “Community Paint Days”, inviting the community to be part of this project. The unveiling is planned for the summer.
Meet the Board Member

Margi Fletcher has served on the MSCF Board of Directors since 2012 and chaired the Board for the last three years. She led the Foundation through a pandemic, and is currently leading the Foundation’s new strategic planning process. We caught up with her to discuss MSCF and her plans.

What did you like most about chairing the Board?
The interaction as a Board member with the staff, as well as working with the various committees. I had the opportunity to be on committees I hadn’t been on in the past and I gained a lot of knowledge about MSCF and the community.

What’s unique about MSCF?
There are really two things: MSCF is particularly donor-driven, and the staff and the Board are so involved in the community and thus have a sense of what’s happening in the region.

What is your personal passion or your biggest joy?
Family. Animals. Those two things bring me the most joy.

Margi was also an Early Leader for the Women & Girls Fund and established the Terry & Marguerite Fletcher Family Fund at MSCF with her late husband Terry, who was a founder of the Foundation. She will continue as an officer of the Board as Past Chair for the next two years and will remain active on several Committees.

Donor Advised Fund Fosters Family’s Love of Swimming in Bristol and Plainville

Swimming was instrumental to the Manning and Sisson families of Bristol and Plainville, so when they decided to establish a fund at Main Street Community Foundation to honor the memory of Mary M. Sisson along with her parents, Dennis and Anna May Manning, they knew what the purpose would be.

In 2021, the Manning/Sisson Memorial Fund was established as a donor advised fund, allowing for grants to be made at the recommendation of the donors. However, the families have stated that grants will be awarded to organizations with preference for programs that foster the sport of swimming through team competition and skill-building at the municipal recreational level for the City of Bristol or the Town of Plainville, and/or support of swim team programs at the collegiate level.

Dennis and Anna May Manning raised their seven children in Bristol. They were involved in all of the sports each child played, especially the sport of swimming. They often participated as timekeepers at swim meets, coordinated award banquets and lent a hand wherever help was needed. Additionally, Anna May served as a middle school swim team coach in Bristol.

Mary was the oldest of the seven Manning siblings and an accomplished swimmer. She worked as a lifeguard at the Marriott in Farmington and the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center in Bristol, and she served as a swim team coach for the recreational team in Plainville. She was often seen performing her expert duties as a Connecticut Swim Team Official at high school swim meets.

“We hope to foster compassion, kindness and build the character of young individuals through the sport of swimming in the same manner it fulfilled their lives,” said Don Sisson, Mary’s husband.

The first grants from the Manning/Sisson Memorial Fund were awarded this past October: $500 to the Plainville Recreation Department to support the Plainville swim team, and $500 to the Bristol Parks and Recreation Department to support the Bristol Splash swim team.

“We are so proud to support these programs,” said Clare White, Dennis and Anna May’s daughter.
The COVID-19 pandemic challenged MSCF and the community in ways no one could have imagined, yet we all persevered and MSCF continued to respond with flexible and responsive grantmaking. The Foundation awarded a record $2.2 million to benefit the residents of and improve the quality of life in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott. The grants were distributed from component funds, most of which are endowments, established by individuals, families, businesses and other organizations.

Over $23.4 million has now been distributed since the Foundation’s establishment in 1995. “Now more than ever, the impact of local charitable giving is making a difference every day in our communities,” said Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of MSCF.

The MSCF Board of Directors elected new officers at its Annual Meeting on March 25, 2022. **Scott F. Fournier** will serve as Board Chair and **Daniel J. Daigle** as Vice Chair. Moving into the role of Secretary is **Kathryn C. Reinhard**, and the Treasurer will be **William R. Micari**.

In addition, two new members of the Board of Directors were welcomed: **John-David Scarritt**, Vice President, Senior Commercial Loan Officer at Thomaston Savings Bank and **Michael F. Sweeney**, Vice President Commercial Loan Officer at Torrington Savings Bank.

“The Board plays an essential role in guiding the Foundation’s work in the region. These individuals are ambassadors of the communities they represent,” said Sadecki. “We are grateful for their generous commitment of time and the valuable expertise each brings to the Foundation.”

**The Community Foundation Board consists of community leaders charged with ensuring donors’ intentions are fulfilled in perpetuity.**

**additional highlights of 2021**

- $61 million in total assets
- 266 funds established since 1995
- $2.1 million in contributions received
- 200+ volunteers supporting MSCF