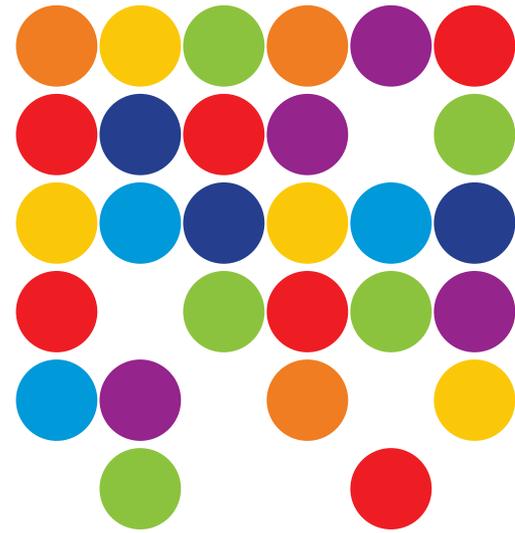


MAIN POINTS

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR LEGACY. YOUR WAY.



Spring 2024

Our Vision of Impact for the Community

Vibrant communities where people have equitable and inclusive opportunities to prosper, participate, and be inspired to give.

Our Mission

Inspiring donors and community partners to foster a sustainable legacy of impactful giving 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.



MSCF Helps Bring Summer Fitness to Southington YMCA

The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCA has been serving their community for over 90 years and their programming has only grown in that time. Within the past few years, there has been a dramatic increase in day camp enrollment at the Y, which has led to the need for a larger aquatic program area. Between 2019 and 2023, MSCF has awarded grants totaling \$229,983 to the Southington YMCA to fund the construction of the new 2,200 square-foot Bradley & Leila Barnes Spray and Splash Park at Camp Sloper. The splash park features nozzles that spray, mist, and rain water into the air, providing a safe outdoor area to play and cool down in the summer months. It officially opened on the first day of the 2023 summer camp season.

The YMCA works to strengthen the foundation of the community through youth development and teaching healthy living and social responsibility. The new splash park hits upon these two focus areas by providing the opportunity for kids to be outside and active, away from electronics and devices, making new friends, and of course, having fun. The YMCA also opens the splash park on summer weekends for all members and hosts community hours on Sundays where the facility will be open to all Southington residents, regardless of whether they are YMCA members.

The grants were awarded from the **Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust**. This Trust was established by Bradley Barnes in 1973 in order to create a resource that would benefit the health and well-being of Southington residents; it was then transferred to MSCF in 2004. Since then, many organizations serving Southington have been awarded grants to improve health outcomes for Southington's residents. Projects like the Bradley & Leila Barnes Spray and Splash Park invest in the health of residents in a unique way by providing a safe place for children to play, which has an undeniable positive impact on them, their families, and the community's well-being.



Main Street Community Foundation, Inc. is a public charity committed to partnering with individuals, families and businesses who wish to build permanent charitable connections, now and for generations to come. We support and better the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott, Connecticut. Since 1995, the Foundation has provided opportunities to donors to support the causes they believe in and to help further their desire to give back and improve their community.

Investments to Address Homelessness and Assist the Unsheltered Population



Homelessness has been a growing issue nationally for years, and recently the amount of people who struggle to find and keep housing in the local communities has risen dramatically. That is why MSCF has made a concerted effort to support organizations working on this issue, including projects that bring awareness to the growing challenges and programs that provide food to those who need it. In 2023, MSCF awarded 18 grants to organizations serving and supporting people who are experiencing homelessness, totaling \$40,065; 18 immediate response grants totaling \$8,583 were also awarded, which supported residents in the community with housing assistance.

Some grants were awarded to organizations that provide immediate and basic needs to their clients, such as **St. Vincent De Paul Mission of Bristol** for their cold weather overflow shelter, or **The Agape House** for food to serve during the holiday season. These organizations provide support to those who need it and create a place where they can find community. Other organizations received grants for programs that address homelessness directly, like the **Southington Manna Fund, Inc.** that helps displaced Southington residents find emergency housing.

One organization received grants that benefitted their projects that work to raise awareness and educate the public on the issue of homelessness in Connecticut. **Productions for Change**, which provides full-service video production to nonprofits, was awarded \$11,650 in grants from MSCF in 2023. These grants helped fund the creation of promotional videos for The Agape House as well as to support the creation of the docuseries "No Way To Live." These videos show the personal stories and lives of some of the thousands of people in Connecticut who are unsheltered, putting a face and voice to an often-overlooked population, as well as the lives of the volunteers that work to support them.

The issue of homelessness is a multifaceted one that must be addressed from multiple angles. The organizations supported by MSCF all bring something different to the table – whether that is securing someone temporary housing, providing a hot meal, or increasing awareness about the prevalence of homelessness locally. Despite the varied approaches, all efforts are equally important to meeting the needs of unsheltered community members and working towards finding solutions to homelessness.



A premiere for the docuseries "No Way To Live" was recently held on March 2 at the Rockwell Theater at the Bristol Arts and Innovation Magnet School to share these moving stories with the community and inspire others to commit to driving positive change. To view the series, visit www.productionsforchange.org/no-way-to-live.

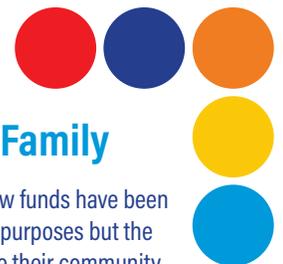
Nonprofit Leadership Academy



The boards of directors of nonprofit organizations are often not representative of their communities. There is usually less diversity, yet it is critical to have individuals with various lived experiences on boards to add a perspective that will enable better decision making and enhance the community they serve. To aid with that, Main Street Community Foundation recently held the Nonprofit Board Leadership Academy for 14 local individuals with diverse backgrounds and experience. There were two main goals of the four-part training series:

- **Assist local nonprofit organizations' diversity and inclusion efforts** to achieve community-wide cultural diversity through the development of community members/residents ready to serve on nonprofit boards
- **Provide professional development** to community members/residents in an effort to prepare them for board service addressing best practices in board governance

The Academy, presented by Fred Jenoure and Anne Ruwet of the TANGO Nonprofit Academy, taught the basics of effectively governing a nonprofit and gave individuals the knowledge and confidence to serve on a board. Congratulations to all participants.



New Funds Join MSCF Family

During the first quarter of 2024, three new funds have been established. The funds all have different purposes but the donors have one common mission: Make their community a better place by supporting the causes they care about. The new funds established are:

- **Carousel Museum Fund** (Agency Endowment)
- **Coach Randy Doucette Scholarship Fund** (Scholarship Fund)
- **Mary T. Hobson IDA FEMS Family Fund** (Donor Advised)

For the stories of all named funds at the Foundation and to donate online, scan here



Thank you for making a difference in your community!

COBRA Program



Grant Addresses Substance Misuse through City Partnership

In Connecticut, residents are more likely to die from an unintentional drug overdose than a motor vehicle accident. The Opioid Epidemic is a crisis not just in the state and nationally, but in the city of Bristol. A grant made in 2023 will help to revitalize COBRA, the City of Bristol Recovery Alliance, which was formed in 2016 in response to the disproportionate number of opioid deaths in the city. This partnership brings together the City of Bristol, the police department, and Bristol Health to provide substance misuse recovery services. Bristol Health was awarded a \$3,500 grant from MSCF's **Pat and Bob Wollenberg Family Fund** for the purchase of marketing materials to educate the public and help move the program forward.

COBRA supports citizens of Bristol who are struggling with substance misuse in a variety of ways, including reducing barriers to treatment options, reducing return visits to the emergency department, diminishing suicide ideation in the community, and promoting healthy lifestyles. Additionally, if someone is under the influence, they can ask to participate in the COBRA program and they will be transported to an emergency room to speak with a crisis worker.

“The partnership between our local hospital, Bristol Health, and our Bristol Police Department provides hope to those struggling with substance abuse (as well as their families) with an alternative to arrest and incarceration. Thank you to all our first responders and healthcare personnel that are making recovery more likely through this program here in Bristol!”

Jeff Caggiano, Mayor of Bristol

While the COBRA program has been available for several years now, its utilization and recognition has declined, which is why investing in the marketing materials to bring awareness to the program was so important to MSCF. Lisa Coates, Director of Practice Administration at Bristol Health, stated, “Bristol Health, on behalf of the COBRA team, is extremely grateful for the grant that the Main Street Community Foundation has awarded us. With this funding we will be able to print material to aid in supplementing the training for the police department, EMS, medical staff and other emergency responders on ways to help those in need access this program. We will also be able to print resources for first responders and medical staff to leave with individuals who might not be ready for recovery just yet.”

Reflection and Inspiration from Outgoing Board Chair: Scott Fournier

Scott Fournier has served on the MSCF Board of Directors since 2015 and chaired the Board for the last two years. We caught up with him to discuss MSCF and his plans.



What did you like most about chairing the Board?

It was an honor and privilege to represent this organization and the directors who serve on the MSCF board. I was able to witness all the planning and effort which takes place to make the MSCF a valuable community asset.

What have you learned/what is a lesson you've taken from this experience?

The challenge is ever present to expand the sustainable donor base and meet the increasing needs of nonprofit organizations in our service area.

What's unique about MSCF?

I have not served on many other boards but I like to believe that it is the people which makes MSCF unique. It is the expert leadership and professional staff and it is the supportive board of directors and all the dedicated volunteers that believe in our vision and mission which makes a difference.

What is your personal passion or your biggest joy?

I have always enjoyed serving on the scholarship committee. After reading many scholarship applications over the years, I continue to be impressed by the students' high level of achievement. Choosing an award recipient can be challenging but attending the Scholarship Reception in June and meeting the student in person is very rewarding.

Scott will continue as an officer of the Board as Past Chair for the next two years and will remain active on several Committees.

SAVE THE DATE!

MVP BREAKFAST
Thursday, June 6, 2024



GUEST SPEAKER: Dave Stevens played NCAA football and minor league baseball. Dave won seven Emmys as a sports journalist during 20 years at ESPN.

\$40 per person • RSVP Today!



For more information, visit www.mainstreetfoundation.org/men-boys-fund

Looking Back on 2023 while Looking Toward the Future

In 2023, Main Street Community Foundation saw the distribution of a record \$2.4 million in grants and scholarships to benefit the residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott, bringing the total amount awarded from Main Street Community Foundation since its establishment in 1995 to \$28.2 million. Additionally, the Foundation received \$2.2 million in contributions and six new funds were established at the Foundation by local individuals, families and organizations to support causes they care about to better their communities.

At its Annual Meeting in March, MSCF re-elected Megan Albanese, Jarre Betts, and Rebecca Zappone to the Board of Directors, and an election of key officer positions took place. Daniel Daigle was elected as Chair, Kathryn Reinhard as Vice Chair, William

Micari as Secretary, and Kyle Biddick as Treasurer, while Scott Fournier moved into the position of Past Chair. Additionally, MSCF elected and welcomed two new board members who will serve on the Board of Directors for a three-year term:

PAULA KNIGHT

Paula Knight is a Southington resident and life-long educator who has dedicated thirty-seven years to leading children through their own personal educational journeys. Her previous Board of Directors experience includes the Southington YMCA, Southington Community Cultural Arts, and Southington Educational Foundation.



WYLAND DALE CLIFT

Wyland Dale Clift, or Dale to his family and friends, is an attorney with a solo law practice in Southington.

Prior to moving his law practice to its current location, Dale practiced law in Bristol and served as the City of Bristol's Corporation Counsel. Additionally, he has held numerous positions in other nonprofit organizations, including the YMCA of Greater Hartford, and is actively involved in the Bristol Rotary Club and the Meriden Amateur Radio Club.



\$2.4 Million

Distributed in grants and scholarships in 2023



View all 2023 grants and scholarships awarded



Spring 2024

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CFNS
Confirmed in compliance with Community Foundations National Standards.



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