

MAIN POINTS

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR LEGACY. YOUR WAY.



Spring 2025

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.



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.

Cheers to 30 Years!

As Main Street Community Foundation enters its 30th year, some time was taken to reflect on the past at the Annual Meeting held in March. In 2024, a record \$2.7 million was awarded in grants and scholarships, bringing the total amount awarded since MSCF's founding to \$30.9 million, all benefiting the communities of **Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott**. Additionally, in 2024, the Foundation received \$2.7 million in gifts and saw the establishment of 12 new funds created by local individuals, families and organizations to support causes they care about to better their communities.

MSCF elected and welcomed three new board members and reelected two members to help lead the Foundation into its next decade. The Foundation's Board consists of community leaders charged with ensuring donors' intentions are fulfilled in perpetuity. "For 30 years, local residents have committed their time and valuable expertise to the Foundation as well as their knowledge of the communities where they live and work. To all those past and present we are forever grateful." said Susan Sadecki, Main Street Community Foundation President and CEO.

New Board members are:



Jonathan Donovan
Bristol resident, Vollono & Donovan, LLC



Jessica L. Pieri
Bristol resident, Travelers Insurance Company



Scott W. Rosado,
Bristol resident, M.R. Homecare



View all
grants
awarded

OUR HISTORY: 30 Years of Commitment to Community

Our history, as told by one of Main Street Community Foundation's Founders Sherwood L. Anderson, who passed away in February at the age of 90. This abbreviated retelling can be read in full on our website:



Like most successful community organizations, Main Street Community Foundation (MSCF) started with a community need, a lot of discussion, a small nucleus of dedicated, patient, and persistent individuals, and plenty of good luck. The acorn has turned into an oak tree.



The original impetus for MSCF came from my good friend Bob Merriman. Bob had become involved in charitable work in Hartford and spent time at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. In the early 1970s, Bob talked to me and Ed Lorensen (then President of Bristol Savings Bank), about community foundations. Bob suggested that we try to encourage local people to leave money to a community foundation rather than to specific charities. He maintained that many area people would give or leave money to a community foundation if they knew that the money would be kept local and used forever for their intended purposes. Bob's ideas made sense then, and still do today.



Around 1974, a meeting was held at Chippanee Country Club where I was present along with Bob Merriman, Ed Lorensen, Hap Barnes, the late C. Stewart Anthony (then the Executive Director of the Chamber), and Terry Fletcher. We discussed the concept of a community foundation, and decided that we would try to begin such an organization when we felt there was enough money for startup and sufficient community interest. At that time, we felt we needed a financial base of no less than \$250,000.

In 1993-1994, Ed Lorensen as President of Bristol Savings Bank was negotiating with Webster Bank to merge the banks. In the bank merger, Ed made it a condition that \$500,000 of bank assets be set aside in the Bristol Savings Bank Foundation and used to start a community foundation. The first MSCF fund was created from that grant of \$500,000.

In 1993, a core group of Bristol area citizens was formed to go forward with MSCF, and met monthly for two years. Every conceivable detail related to the operation of the foundation was explored to make sure that it would succeed. In the spring of 1995, MSCF was incorporated.

In early 1996, the first directors were elected, including Tom Barnes, Delores Capers, Dave Preleski, Bob Merriman, Jeanne Radcliff,

Ann Clark, John Smith, Gary Weed and me. In May, 1996, occurred another fortuitous event - Cheryl Dumont-Smith agreed to be the part-time director of MSCF. Cheryl served for over ten years as the Executive Director and then President until stepping down in 2007. In 2008, Susan Sadecki was appointed President & CEO to lead the foundation through the next period of growth.

I think everyone involved with MSCF will agree that the idea of a community foundation has been fulfilled to an extent greater than anyone's original expectation, with new funds and hundreds of thousands of dollars added each year of our existence. Even more important is that MSCF has a visible presence in six area towns through its officers and directors, staff, committees, donors, and grant recipients. MSCF is now recognized as an organization that knows about our community needs, and can help area citizens with charitable ventures. However, the most gratifying development has been seeing hundreds of unselfish people in the six towns work together for the pure joy of benefiting their communities.

We are truly blessed!



The Sweetness of Serving Community

From our first year of awarding grants, which totaled **\$70,600**, to record grantmaking in **2024 of \$2.7 million**, today MSCF has:



Join the Celebration



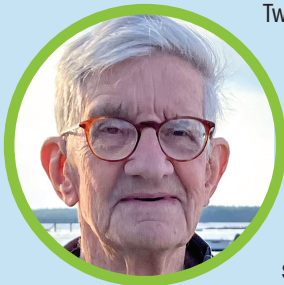
Join us to celebrate 30 years of
YOUR COMMUNITY.
YOUR LEGACY. YOUR WAY.

Saturday, September 13, 2025
5:30 to 10:00 PM at the Aqua Turf Club

New Funds Join MSCF Family

During the first quarter of 2025, seven new funds have been established.

- **Sherwood L. Anderson Charitable Fund**
- **Animal Rescue Foundation Fund**
- **Animal Rescue Foundation Helen & Scott Lowe Scholarship Fund**
- **William V. O'Leary and Marcus J. Rogers Legacy Fund**
- **Terryville Public Library Phyllis A. Corsetti Fund**
- **Terryville Public Library Trust Fund**
- **William J. Tracy, Jr., Esq. Memorial Fund**



Two of the above funds – the Sherwood L. Anderson Charitable Fund and the William J. Tracy, Jr., Esq. Memorial Fund – honor two men who were instrumental to the Foundation and who passed away in the last six months. **Sherwood Anderson** was one of the Founders of MSCF, he served on the Foundation's first Board of Directors and was the Chair of the Board from 1999-2000; he then played a significant role in the transfer of the

Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila

Upton Barnes Memorial Trust to the Foundation, which was transformational for the Southington community. **Bill Tracy** served on the MSCF board of directors for 16 years and served every officer position, retiring from the board in 2015; he continued to volunteer his time through committee service. He was an active leader in so many initiatives, strategies, policies, and governance procedures that have made MSCF the foundation it is today.



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



"Office Hours" for Nonprofits

Nonprofits are experts in their fields, and the Foundation wants to provide a strong network as a way to support their success and provide important resources beyond funding. That is why **Main Street Community Foundation** often provides nonprofits with technical information and sector-wide training on topics such as grantwriting, planned giving and volunteer management. Recently, during the Grant Mastery Mini Conference, which you can read about on the back page, the Foundation held "office hours" where nonprofits participating could meet with Kate Kerchaert, Director of Grants & Programs, for a one-on-one conversation. "Office hours" will continue to be offered in the future, and appointments can be made with Foundation staff at any time to discuss grants, their program sustainability or related topics.

Save the Date

**MVP
BREAKFAST**
Tuesday, June 3, 2025



Seats are \$40 per person
RSVP BY MAY 21, 2025

Call: 860.583.6363

Email: samantha@mainstreetfoundation.org

More information: www.mainstreetfoundation.org



GUEST SPEAKER: Arda Ocal is an Emmy Award winning ESPN anchor who appears on the NHL on ESPN and SportsCenter. Previously, Arda worked for MSG Networks, WWE and various networks across Canada. Arda is an avid mentor to aspiring broadcasters in the industry and believes in paying it forward.

Accredited for Another 3 Years

Main Street Community Foundation has once again received accreditation with the nation's highest standard for philanthropic excellence for another three years. The Community Foundations National Standards Board establishes legal, ethical and effective practices for community foundations everywhere. This accreditation is a significant accomplishment that indicates MSCF's commitment to transparency, quality, integrity, and accountability as it carries out its mission.

CFNS
ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION

Grant Mastery Mini Conference



As part of our Nonprofit Education Series, Main Street Community Foundation partnered with **Community Foundation of Greater New Britain**, **American Savings Foundation**, and **Farmington Bank Community Foundation** to hold a Grant Mastery Mini Conference. This 2-day event invited local nonprofit leaders to learn a holistic approach to grant writing from nationally recognized trainers, Cyndi MacKenzie and Scot Scala. Executive directors, development staff, volunteers, and more, all from nonprofits in Central Connecticut, attended this conference and came away with more skills,

knowledge, and connections with each other than they did when they arrived.

The feedback from participants about the event and the trainers was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees remarked how much they enjoyed the presentations and acknowledged the new information they were learning as well as the connections they were making.

Events like this bolster the confidence and skills of our local nonprofits so they can better fulfill their missions and the needs of local residents.

"I am new to non-profits and grant writing. **This workshop gave me a sense of peace and answered a lot of my questions** about where I am on my journey, and what I need to do to get where I want to be."

"I have already started using the forms provided, and have this experience to **support my decision making** to the Board and staff."

"Thank you for such a professional and **perfectly executed** valuable course!"



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CFNS
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with Community
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