

MAIN POINTS

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR LEGACY. YOUR WAY



SPRING 2026

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.



Are You Focused on Your Brain Health?

Chances are the answer to that question is no, which is exactly what LiveWell Alliance Inc. wants to change. LiveWell is a Southington organization that offers services, support, and resources to people living with dementia and cognitive changes, as well as to their care partners and anyone interested in taking an active role in their own cognitive health and wellbeing.

Recently, MSCF awarded a grant from the Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust to support the brand-new FINGER-based Cognitive Wellness Clinic at LiveWell – the first of its kind in the United States! Led by the Yale School of Nursing and internationally recognized dementia prevention expert Dr. Miia Kivipelto in partnership with LiveWell, this clinic is modeled on the landmark Finnish Geriatric (FINGER) Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability. The study showed that multidomain lifestyle interventions in the areas of diet, exercise, cognitive training, social activity, and cardiovascular health are effective in slowing cognitive decline.

At the clinic, community members are welcomed into the beautiful Resilient Living Center to be assessed for potential risk factors and immediately connect them to existing programs in the same building. LiveWell is aiming to make Southington a Healthy Brain Zone, a community that protects brains at every age, acting on research that shows that about 45 percent of dementia can be prevented or delayed through lifestyle interventions.

To learn more about LiveWell and how to take control of your brain health, visit livewell.org.

Main Street
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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.

Community Endowments Celebrate Anniversaries

This year sees the anniversary of four MSCF community endowment funds. Two of these funds support local nonprofits through grants for women and girls and men and boys. Two additional funds were established by local community leaders in the towns of Burlington and Plainville to further enhance the quality of life for residents living in those communities. Learn more about the Women & Girls Fund and the Men & Boys' Fund below; be on the lookout for features on the Burlington Community Fund (established 2011) and Plainville Community Fund (established 2006) in the fall newsletter.

These four funds not only rely on generous donors, but on dozens of volunteers and dedicated advisory board members. Thank you to those who have shared their time and talent to grow and promote these funds.

Women & Girls Fund



WOW! The Women & Girls Fund (WGF) at Main Street Community Foundation is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and started off the celebrations with remembering the Fund's earliest beginnings. The establishment of the WGF began with a living room meeting and then its first fundraiser – a bake sale in June of 2001. A group of visionary women, known as the Early Leaders, organized and held a bake sale at the newly-opened Walmart in Bristol in order to help raise funds toward the \$10,000 needed to establish a fund at MSCF.

Celebrating 25 years, the Fund's endowment has reached over \$1 million, and the total amount of grants awarded from the Fund is not far behind at \$921,000. The WGF truly has "A Million Reasons to Celebrate," and this milestone will be commemorated at the 25th Anniversary Wonder of Women (WOW) event on April 30. This year's guest speaker will be Kara Wolters, an Olympic Gold Medalist, UConn National Champion, and WNBA Champion, as well as a nationally-recognized broadcaster and entrepreneur.

Improving the conditions and opportunities for women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott has been the mission of the Fund since its establishment. Twenty-five years later, the WGF continues to identify and support local women and girls.



Wilma Hart, Amy Betts, and Mary Benoit at the June 9, 2001 bake sale, the first fundraiser for the WGF.

Men & Boys' Fund



This year marks the 10th anniversary of MSCF's Men & Boys' Fund (MBF)! This Fund was established when a group of local men approached MSCF with concerns and data describing the unmet needs of men and boys. Community conversations were then held, and the Fund was officially established by the Foundation's Board of Directors in 2016 to provide grants to organizations that address the needs of men and boys in our local communities. From promoting healthy, outdoor activities for youth, to offering parenting support for dads, MSCF is committed to supporting the social, emotional, and educational needs of men and boys through this Fund.

In 2025, the Men & Boys' Fund distributed \$16,000 in grants to local nonprofit organizations, and since its establishment, nearly \$100,000 in grants have been awarded.

View the most recent grants here:



Over 50 individuals attended one of the early MBF community gatherings to discuss the needs of local men and boys.



In late 2025, MSCF awarded \$59,150 to 12 organizations from the WGF. The organizations were celebrated at the Fund's *Annual Meeting & Grantee Reception*. To see a full list of the 2025 grantees, scan here:



SAVE THE DATE!

To celebrate the Fund's anniversary and the impact it has made on the local communities, the Men & Boys' Fund 10th Anniversary MVP Celebration will be held on October 1, 2026 at 5:30pm at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. Seats are \$75 per person. The guest speaker will be Steve Pikiell, the Rutgers University men's basketball head coach and a Bristol native. With 35 years of coaching experience, Pikiell has been instrumental in program turnarounds throughout his career, achieving conference championships and NCAA Tournament berths. As a player at UConn from 1986-1991, Pikiell was a two-year captain. Prior to college, he enjoyed a storied career at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol where he ranks among its all-time leaders in points, assists, and steals.

We hope you will join us to commemorate the Men & Boys' Fund's 10th anniversary!

Steve Pikiell



Join Us in Welcoming Dawn Nielsen as the Foundation's Director of Donor Services



If you are interested in leaving a legacy or discussing your current fund, you can contact her at dawn@mainstreetfoundation.org



The newly-elected officers of MSCF will be leading the Foundation for the next two years.

Looking Back on 2025 While Looking Toward the Future

In MSCF's 30th year, over \$2.7 million in grants and scholarships were distributed to benefit the residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott. The total amount awarded from the Foundation since its establishment in 1995 is now over \$33.6 million. Additionally, the Foundation received \$4.9 million in contributions and 35 new funds were established by local individuals, families, and organizations to support causes they care about to better their communities. Assets as of December 31, 2025 were over \$71 million.

At MSCF's Annual Meeting in March, these and other accomplishments were celebrated by the Foundation's staff and volunteers. The Annual Meeting also saw the election of two new members of the Board of Directors, Terry Gomez Lombardi and Keith Bernier, as well as an election of key officer positions: Kathryn C. Reinhard was elected as Chair, William R. Micari as Vice Chair, Kyle S. Biddick as Secretary, Mark Moriarty as Treasurer, and Daniel J. Daigle moved into the position of Past Chair.



New members of the Board of Directors, Terry Gomez Lombardi and Keith Bernier.

"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 provides nonprofits with technical information and sector-wide training on topics such as grantwriting, planned giving, and volunteer management. In addition, MSCF is open for "office hours," and appointments can be made with Foundation staff to discuss grants, their program sustainability or related topics.

Local Woman's Legacy Supports Children's Love of Reading in Plymouth

The Myra Boccardi Desroches Advancing Young Minds Fund is a donor advised fund that was established in 2022 to honor Myra's life and her passion for children and literacy. The Fund's advisors, Michael Desroches and Rebecca Boccardi Zappone, Myra's husband and sister, respectively, recommend grants to organizations that provide literacy services and resources needed to make literature more accessible to young minds.

Recently, a \$1,000 grant was awarded to Plymouth Human Resources to support the Town of Plymouth Small Wonders program. This program provides gifts for over 100 children in Plymouth around the holidays and the grant is used to purchase the books requested by the participants. By providing the funds necessary to gift books to children, the Fund continues its mission to support organizations that encourage children's interest in reading and work to advance young minds holistically – and continue Myra's legacy of helping youth reach their full potential.



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CFNS
Confirmed in
compliance
with Community
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ACCREDITED
National Standards.



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