

# Men & Boys' Fund provides twice the grant money in second year

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@brianjohnsonBP

BRISTOL - Four local nonprofit organizations have received a combined \$6,000 in grants from the Men & Boys' Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation.

The recipients are Bristol Youth Services, Bristol Hospital's Parent & Child Center, the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol Family Center and the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut.

The \$6,000 was twice as much as the fund distributed in its first round of grants last year.

The grants were awarded at a ceremony at the Main Street Community Foundation. Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the foundation, along with Richard Carmelich of the Distribution Committee of the Men & Boys' Fund and Rodger Stotz, the fund's advisory board chairman, presented the grants to representatives of the nonprofits.

"We know from experience that having a big impact starts with filling small needs," said Sadecki. "Every positive action we can take to meet an unmet need makes a difference, not only today but into the future."

"The generosity and enthusiasm of the six communities we serve makes what we do possible," said Stotz. "It takes many volunteers and their ongoing involvement to deliver on our mission."

Bristol Youth Services received \$2,000 for its Skills to Pay the Bills program. High school students in this program learn about personal finance, healthy eating, positive relationships, and other life skills that increase their ability to make good decisions and become productive citizens.

The Parent & Child Center was awarded \$2,000 for its Full Circle program, which aims to help young fathers build stronger relationships with their children, increase their parenting skills and reduce domestic violence.

The Bristol Boys & Girls Club Family Center got \$1,500 for its Passport to Manhood program, which encourages boys 8 to 14 years old to develop and mature through discussions and activities that reinforce character, leadership, and positive behavior.

A \$500 grant was given to the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut for its summer camp scholarships, which provide financial assistance to lower-income families so they can experience a week of summer camp at reduced or no cost.



Submitted by the Main Street Community Foundation Representatives of Bristol Youth Services, Bristol Hospital's Parent & Child Center, the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol Family Center and the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut display ceremonial checks representing grants received from the Main Street Community Foundation.

Established in 2016, the Men & Boys' Fund's goal is to help men and boys improve the quality of their lives, increase self-sufficiency and make a positive difference in their communities.

Each fall, the fund provides grants to programs that align with the its mission.

Throughout the year, the Men & Boys' Immediate Response Fund supports grants of up to \$250 for men and boys needing immediate assistance due to certain life situations or unexpected financial hardships. In 2018, the immediate needs met included helping a student attend a national leadership conference, providing a month's rent to a veteran and paying a utility deposit so a single father and daughter without a home could move into an apartment.

For more information about the Men & Boys' Fund, visit [mainstreetfoundation.org/men-boys-fund](http://mainstreetfoundation.org/men-boys-fund).

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806 or [bjohnson@bristolpress.com](mailto:bjohnson@bristolpress.com).