

Main Street Community Foundation awards close to half-million in grants to several area nonprofits

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NEW BRITAIN – With many local nonprofits struggling during these challenging times, the Main Street Community Foundation has awarded grants to help sustain organizations in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

There has been a significant increase in the demand for these organization's services and a simultaneous decrease in both program and fundraising revenue.

"The Board of Directors took action and recognized the challenges facing our local nonprofits during this extraordinary time," said Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the foundation. "Back in March, we joined



1/16/2020 Mike Orazzi | Staff Main Street Community Foundation President & CEO Sue Sadecki during The Women and Girls Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation grant reception at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bristol on Thursday night.

hundreds of foundations throughout the country in partnership with the Council on Foundations to pledge our commitment to more flexible funding to help grantee partners meet emerging needs prompted by the covid-19 crisis."

With that in mind, MSCF has adapted its grant making guidelines to provide \$465,226 in general operating support grants this month to these local organizations.

Unrestricted operating support grants totaling \$112,353 were awarded to 18 organizations from the COVID-19 Response Fund, the Bristol Brass General Grant Fund, the KAWFY Memorial Fund and several donor advised funds: the Clement Family Fund, the Hamzy Family Charitable Fund and the Pat & Bob Wollenberg Charitable Fund. The grants ranged from \$2,000 to \$20,000.

MSCF assessed the needs in Southington and awarded \$352,873 in unrestricted operating support grants from the Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust to nine organizations. The trust was originally established in 1973 by the late Bradley Henry Barnes to support the health and well-being of Southington residents. The grants ranged from \$12,500 to \$100,000

"These nonprofits are providing critical services to residents in need," Sadecki said. "We want to provide relief today so we can keep our community strong for tomorrow."

MSCF plans to continue covid-19 response and recovery efforts into 2021 and beyond and encourages individual donors, businesses and other funders to consider a contribution to the fund if they are able, at mainstreetfoundation.org/covid19-fund.