

Community Foundation's Women's & Girls Fund collects hundreds of feminine products for those in need

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BRISTOL – The Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation has recently collected hundreds of feminine hygiene products for local schools, shelters and service agencies.

Items were collected before the fund's annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event through a drop box at the foundation's office and an Amazon Wish List. Attendees to the WOW event also brought items that evening.

"We wanted to do even more to help local women and girls," said Jeanine Audette, co-chair of the WOW event. "These necessary products are not covered by WIC and SNAP benefits, and schools do not always have access to extra products, especially ones that may fit teen girls. Dozens and dozens of people donated hundreds of items, and we are so thankful."



Feminine products collected by the Women & Girls Fund -The Main Street Community Foundation

According to information provided by the Main Street Community Foundation, one-in-five teens struggle to afford period products and have missed a day of school due to that. Additionally, 46% of low-income women have had to choose between buying period products or a meal.

The Women & Girls' Fund was established in 2001 as a community-based endowment of the Main Street Community Foundation. Over the past 20 years, the Women & Girls' Fund has awarded over \$620,000 in grants and immediate response funds to improve the conditions and opportunities for women and girls in the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

The WOW event also saw \$20,000 in anniversary grants to seven local organizations:

- *Jane Doe No More - \$5,000
- *The Children's Law Center - \$4,000
- *Prudence Crandall Center - \$3,000
- *Environmental Learning Centers of CT - \$2,000
- *Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut - \$2,000
- *Plymouth Community Food Pantry - \$2,000

*St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol - \$2,000

For more information on the Women & Girls' Fund, call the Main Street Community Foundation at 860-583-6363 or visit mainstreetfoundation.org

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