



# Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation awards more than \$43,000 in grants

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BRISTOL – The Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation has awarded more than \$43,000 in grants to 13 local organizations at the fund's annual meeting Jan. 10.



Local organizations are presented checks from the Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation at their reception. -Photo submitted by Samantha Rajotte

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship & program officer at the Main Street Community Foundation, said that checks totaling \$43,400 were presented to 13 nonprofits at the Women & Girls Fund's annual meeting and grantee reception on Jan. 10. All grants will benefit residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

"The grantee reception was held to recognize annual accomplishments and honor the nonprofit organizations supported," said Rajotte. "The event gathered together donors, community partners and volunteers to celebrate the grants awarded from the Women & Girls Fund."

Grants were funded from four sources - proceeds from the annual WOW (Wonder of Women) event, the endowment and two other named funds whose distributions support initiatives identified by the Women & Girls Fund. These funds are the John & Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women and Girls and the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women. Both of the named Funds were established on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary Year of the Women & Girls Fund.

"The John Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women and Girls was established in 2011 by John and Susan Scarritt to honor Susan's mother Gloria and honor the memory of Susan's father John DiFrancesco, who both lived their lives full of compassion and were committed to community service," said Rajotte.

The Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women was established in 2011 by Barbara Hackman Franklin's family.

"Barbara was the 29th United States Secretary of Commerce, and led the first White House effort to recruit women for high level government jobs, nearly quadrupling the number of women serving in those positions," said Rajotte.

The Women & Girls Fund was established in 2001. The Main Street Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$718,000 in grants to organizations and individuals from the Fund since then.

The following were this year's grant recipients from the Women & Girls Fund:

. Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach - \$1,000 for Warm winter outerwear for women and girls experiencing homelessness.

. Bristol Family Resource Centers - \$4,600 to support the Girl Up! program, a targeted small-group initiative to build leadership skills in girls ages 6 to 12 in three Bristol public schools.

. Bristol Historical Society - \$600 for the Celebrating Local Firsts event, an intergenerational program for Women's History Month in collaboration with the Girl Scouts.

. Girl Scouts of Connecticut - \$3,000 to support the Girl Scout Starter Troop pilot program to establish three new Girl Scout troops in the Foundation's service area.

. Kelly's Kids - \$1,000 to support this Wolcott Youth Services Bureau pilot program featuring activities to increase girls' confidence, self-esteem, social skills and positive development.

. PARC - \$5,000 to support the Aging with Disabilities program for senior women with developmental disabilities in Plainville.

. Plymouth Community Food Pantry - \$2,400 to purchase supplies for the Community Diaper Bank, including diapers, wipes, food and formula.

. Prudence Crandall Center - \$5,000 to support an emergency Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children in the Foundation's service area.

. Shepard Meadows Equestrian Center - \$5,400 for the Mothers and Daughters Equine-Assisted Workshop series aimed at strengthening the mother/daughter bond while also increasing self-esteem and well-being.

. St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol - \$1,900 for the Lunch Table program featuring inspirational speakers and group activities to foster dignity, independence and friendship for women and girls who are either in the shelter or homeless.

. Southington Valley Midget Football League - \$4,000 in support of scholarships and safety head gear for the Powder Puff League serving girls ages 8 to 17.

. The Agape House - \$2,000 to purchase food for prepared meals provided to women and girls experiencing homelessness.

. Tunxis Community College - \$7,500 for the Launch Your Leadership Journey program to develop leadership skills in female students enrolled in Tunxis Community College from the Foundation's service area.

For more information on the Women & Girls Fund, call the Main Street Community Foundation at 860-583-6363 or visit [mainstreetfoundation.org](http://mainstreetfoundation.org).

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