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Celebrating \$2.7M in grants and scholarships

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The new officers at the Main Street Community Foundation.

Samantha Rajotte



The Main Street Community Foundation celebrated \$2.7 million in grants and scholarships distributed at its annual meeting as well as electing new members to its Board of Directors.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said the annual meeting celebrated the Foundation's accomplishments in 2025. Last year saw the establishment of 35 new funds by individuals, families and organizations to support the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

“At the start of every year, Main Street Community Foundation gathers together board members, past leadership and founders for a year-end review and to celebrate another year of successful grantmaking and community partnerships,” Rajotte said.

With the \$2.7 million in grants and scholarships distributed in 2025, the total awarded since the Foundation’s establishment in 1995 is now over \$33.6 million. The foundation received \$4.9 million in contributions last year.

“MSCF is excited for the year ahead and to continue supporting the residents and organizations of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott,” Rajotte said.

The Main Street Community Foundation elected and welcomed two new Board members at the Annual Meeting: Terry Gomez Lombardi, a Southington resident and retired executive/community volunteer, and Keith Bernier, Senior Region Manager for Webster Bank and Bristol representative.

The meeting also saw the election of five officer positions: Kathryn Reinhard was elected as chair, William Micari as vice chair, Kyle Biddick as secretary, Mark Moriarty as treasurer, and Daniel Daigle moved into the position of past chair.

“The Foundation’s Board consists of community leaders charged with ensuring donors’ intentions are fulfilled in perpetuity, all of whom take the responsibility very seriously,” Rajotte said.

Rajotte said the Annual Meeting is also a time to hear directly from a local organization that is improving the quality of life in Central Connecticut.

“This year, LiveWell’s president and CEO, Michael Smith, attended the meeting to share how LiveWell is creating a community focused on brain health,” she said. “Most recently, MSCF awarded a grant from the Barnes Memorial Trust to support the FINGER-based Cognitive Wellness Clinic — the first of its kind in the United States, based at LiveWell.”

Rajotte said this clinic is led by the Yale School of Nursing in partnership with Livewell's Resilience Center. She said it "welcomes community members to be assessed for potential risk factors and immediately connects 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," she said. "They are acting on research that shows that about 45% of dementia can be prevented or delayed through lifestyle interventions. MSCF is proud to be part of that mission."

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