Main Street Community Foundation awards $431,000 in grants

SOUTHBOROUGH - The Main Street Community Foundation's Barnes Memorial Trust has awarded more than $431,000 to local organizations.

"We are thrilled to be announcing over $431,000," said Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the foundation. "We are honored to carry out Bradley Barnes' legacy through these important health initiatives."

Three grants were awarded to organizations for programs that are being funded by the Barnes Memorial Trust for the first time:

- $115,000 is being awarded to the Alzheimer's Resource Center of Connecticut. The funds will be used to establish a Dementia Friendly Southborough initiative whose goal is to decrease the stigma and isolation associated with the disease as well as to increase meaningful community engagement and quality of life for Alzheimer's sufferers. The program is also intended to teach communities to become more accommodating and knowledgeable about dementia.

- $67,079 is being given to Mulberry Gardens in order to purchase equipment to improve the gym area and expand the existing "Good Life Fitness" program for seniors.

- $54,000 is being granted to the Hospital of Central Connecticut which will allow them to repurpose existing medical office space at their 96 Main St. location into an outpatient behavioral clinic.

Additionally, three grants were awarded to continue the following programs:

- $30,000 was awarded to Hartford HealthCare at Home to allow them to continue to provide an integrated care approach to Southborough seniors. This includes a geriatrician, a geriatric pharmacist, behavioral health assessments and a certified homecare specialist for patients with dementia as well as a tele-monitoring system.

- $30,000 was given to Wheeler Clinic to continue their "Southborough Health Outreach Project," which enhances access to medical health and substance abuse programs by educating residents about the tell tale signs of these issues and the services that are available to those struggling with them.

- $35,000 is also being given to the Alzheimer's Resource Center of Connecticut to support "Hope Full Lives." This community-based program is designed to increase caregivers' positive mental health and well-being by providing support groups, individual and family coaching, skill building workshops, and respite activities for people with Alzheimer's.

The Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust was originally established in 1973 by the late Bradley Henry Barnes of Southborough to support the health and health care needs of town residents. The trust was transferred to the Main Street Community Foundation in 2004.

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