

# MAIN POINTS

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR LEGACY. YOUR WAY.



Fall 2021

## Our Vision

To be widely recognized as the comprehensive center for philanthropy and leadership in the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott

## Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life for both present and future generations in the communities we serve.

We accomplish our mission by encouraging and promoting:

- Gift Planning
- Prudent Stewardship of Assets
- Effective Grantmaking
- Community Leadership

## Our Core Values

Excellence, Integrity, Inclusiveness and Transparency in all we do.



## Friends of the Foundation Thanked for Contributions to Community

The COVID-19 pandemic may have been the news event of the year, but Main Street Community Foundation made its annual Friends Reception the event of the year! After a year hiatus, MSCF held its Friends Reception to honor and thank the Foundation's donors and volunteers on August 17 at **Wood Acres Farm in Terryville**. Nearly 130 Friends attended the outdoor reception, enjoying the property, a quintet from the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble and great food including an ice cream bar. The night also featured belated 25th anniversary greetings through city and town proclamations.



**Main Street**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Main Street Community Foundation, Inc. is a public charity committed to partnering with individuals, families and businesses who wish to build permanent charitable connections, now and for generations to come. We support and better the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott, Connecticut. Since 1995, the foundation has provided opportunities to donors to support the causes they believe in and to help further their desire to give back and improve their community.



Special appreciation goes out to our hosts **Joyce and Ken Wood** for their hospitality, including the magnificent horse-drawn carriage rides.

Thank you to all of our supporters for your dedication and insight throughout the year!



## Women & Girls Fund Celebrates 20 Years

### Awards \$20,000 in Anniversary Grants at Wonder of Women Event



20 YEARS OF MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Women & Girls Fund, and since its establishment in 2001, **over \$620,000 in grants** has been awarded to improve the conditions and opportunities for women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott. The endowment has grown to \$830,000.

After a year absence, the 2021 Wonder of Women (WOW) event was held on September 8 and welcomed nearly **350 people** to the Aqua Turf to reflect and celebrate. The evening began with an inspiring story of the creation of the Fund as told by Jeanne Radcliff, one of the Early Leaders and former MSCF Board Chair. Attendees then heard from guest speaker Patti Russo, a nationally recognized leader focused on improving the quality of life for women in Connecticut and the United States; she currently serves as Executive Director of The Campaign School at Yale University.

The announcement of the 20th Anniversary grant recipients brought the mission of the Fund to life. Awardees were asked to respond to a single question: "Twenty years from now, what do you hope others see as your organization's legacy for women and girls?"

A total of \$20,000 in unrestricted grant support was awarded to the following 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 CT - \$2,000**

**Plymouth Community Food Pantry - \$2,000**

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

The Women & Girls Fund began with a living room meeting of local, dedicated women. It is thanks to their perseverance and the commitment of hundreds of other donors that the Fund is able to impact women and girls so broadly and so deeply.



## I'm a Good Person! Isn't That Enough?

### Continuing DEI Work



As a leader in the communities we serve, Main Street Community Foundation is committed to raising awareness around racial and social justice issues so prevalent in our country, while strengthening our practices utilizing a **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)** lens. The Foundation set a goal to become educated as an organization in order to deliver on our promise to do better when we know better. After having conducted DEI training with the MSCF Board of Directors and staff, the

Foundation expanded its focus and brought in others closely connected to MSCF – the volunteers who serve on over a dozen committees that review grant proposals and recommend grant awards.

In August, MSCF invited Debby Irving, a renowned social justice educator and author of *Waking Up White* to engage in a virtual conversation with MSCF Board, staff and volunteers entitled "I'm a Good Person! Isn't That Enough?" Irving is a powerful storyteller and uses her own life story to explore how systemic racism exists in our society. The opportunity to learn and share through the Debby Irving event informed and deepened ongoing conversations around issues of race and the need for action in the communities we serve. It was a conversation offering a fresh perspective on racial bias, stereotypes and tolerance.

The MSCF DEI Subcommittee is planning ongoing DEI education and community collaborations in an effort to build on the momentum created by this early work in our DEI journey. Through this work, we strive to ensure the fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of historically marginalized groups.







## Grants and Scholarships Awarded

Thanks to you, Main Street Community Foundation has awarded **\$1,379,855 in scholarships and grants** through September 30, 2021. For a full list of grants awarded from all funds to date, visit [mainstreetfoundation.org/grants-awarded](https://mainstreetfoundation.org/grants-awarded).

**The MLK39: Racial Equity Mural in Southington** (pictured above) is located downtown on High Street, reflecting the diversity and youth of Southington. It is part of a larger project to create 39 murals in towns across Connecticut that reflect the messages that Martin Luther King Jr. represented. MSCF supported this project through grants from the KAWFY Memorial Fund and the Southington Arts Council Legacy Fund.



MSCF staff members teamed up with other community volunteers to support the **Farmers to Families** food distribution that has been active since the start of the pandemic.



The **LEAF**, located in Southington, works to promote education through agriculture experiences. The LEAF is working to establish gardens at all Southington schools to help the community grow.

### Messages from 2021 Scholarship Recipients:



**KAYLA:** Thank you so much...you are supporting women in STEM.



**KHA:** Words cannot begin to express how much I appreciate you believing in me.



**GABRIEL:** This is such a relief, I am very grateful.



**LAUREN:** As a student continuing a career in the arts your support means so much to me.

## Your Impact: MSCF Surpasses \$1 million to Support COVID-19 Response

Since March 2020, over 130 grants totaling **\$1,163,000** were awarded from the COVID-19 Response Fund and other funds at MSCF to meet the urgent and emerging needs of organizations. For a full list of grants awarded to support response and recovery efforts, visit [mainstreetfoundation.org/covid19-response-grants](https://mainstreetfoundation.org/covid19-response-grants).

Thank you for partnering with us to meet the most critical needs.

## New Funds Join MSCF Family

In the last six months, five new funds have been established. The funds all have different purposes but the donors share one common mission: Make their community a better place by supporting the causes they care about. The new funds established are:

- **Alicia M. Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund**
- **Manning/Sisson Memorial Fund**
- **C. Henry Ozga Memorial Scholarship Fund**
- **Southington Pride Fund**
- **Suchopar Family Charitable Fund**

For the stories of all 263 funds visit [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](https://www.mainstreetfoundation.org) and explore ways you can help.

**Please use the enclosed donation envelope to start making a difference in your community!**

**REMEMBER** if you are aged 70½ or older you can donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA to a qualified public charity, such as MSCF, to satisfy all or part of your annual minimum required distribution.



# A Giving Heart



**Chester "Chet" Henry Ozga**, a longtime resident of Wolcott who was born and raised in Terryville and graduated from Terryville High School, lived his life quietly. He was married to his wife Darlene for over 20 years before she passed away in 1999,

and prior to his retirement he was employed by White Oak Corp as a truck driver. Chet had a giving heart, and one way he chose to give back to his community is one of the simplest yet one of the most important – he left a bequest in his will to Main Street Community Foundation.

While it was a surprise gift to MSCF, Chet carefully planned his legacy. Upon his death in 2020 at the age of 76, he left the remainder of his estate to establish the C. Henry Ozga Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship will be awarded for the first time in 2022 to a graduating senior of Terryville High School who has financial need.

But Chet wanted to do more than that – he wanted to support students throughout the entirety of their

education. He understood that it is often harder to find scholarships after the first year of college, and that if a student finishes their second year of college they are more likely to complete their degree. And so the scholarship will be awarded for one year with the possibility of renewal for up to four years.

"Chet wanted to strengthen the community that raised him," said Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of MSCF. "We had not had a relationship with Chet during his lifetime, but he knew by leaving a bequest to the Community Foundation that his hard-earned assets would be used according to his wishes. We are proud to carry out his legacy."

MSCF is built on the dreams and desires of people who are part of this region. For some people, the desire to create a legacy comes during their life as a current gift, but for others like Chet, these legacies are shaped by the donor as future bequests or planned gifts.

If you would like to learn more about how easy it is to leave a legacy to support your community, contact your financial advisor or Main Street Community Foundation today. It is never too early to think about the difference you want to make.

## Meet the Board Member



**WILLIAM R. MICARI**

**Where are you from and where do you currently live:** Lives in Burlington,

works in Bristol

**How long have you been involved at MSCF:**  
13+ years

**Current occupation:**  
Owner/Investment Advisor at Micari Financial Group, LLC

**3 words to describe volunteering with MSCF:**  
Educational, Satisfying and Impactful.



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MAIN STREET  
POINTS



www.mainstreetfoundation.org

860.589.1252

860.583.6363

Bristol, CT 06011-2702

P.O. Box 2702

120 Halcyon Drive

Main Street  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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BRISTOL, CT  
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