

MAIN POINTS

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR LEGACY. YOUR WAY.



FALL 2025

Our Vision of Impact for the Community

Vibrant communities where people have equitable and inclusive opportunities to prosper, participate, and be inspired to give.

Our Mission

Inspiring donors and community partners to foster a sustainable legacy of impactful giving 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.



A Hometown Celebration Marks 30 Years!

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, Main Street Community Foundation (MSCF) welcomed a sold-out crowd of 380 guests to *The Main Event 30th Anniversary Celebration – Meet Us On Main Street* at the Aqua Turf Club on September 13, 2025. The night featured a variety of roaming entertainment, live and silent auctions, delicious food, and a memorable celebration of the history of the Foundation and its Founders.



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.



Attendees also experienced two unique opportunities that brought even more energy to an already unforgettable evening – they were honorary grantmakers, awarding \$30,000 to ten nonprofits, and they had the chance to take advantage of matching dollars and leave a legacy by establishing a named fund.

Turn the page to discover the powerful impact of those who attended!



\$30,000 Awarded to Local Nonprofits

The Main Event featured a special “You Be the Grantmaker” program in which the attendees participated in the selection of ten grants, totaling \$30,000, to ten local nonprofit organizations. These finalists were chosen from an applicant pool that answered the prompt “Our organization will make a difference in the next 30 years because we will...” All ten of these organizations do incredible work in our communities but only one walked away from the event with the top grant of \$10,000.

Loud cheers erupted when it was announced that the recipient of the \$10,000 Circa 1995 Grant was **Southington Community Cultural Arts** and Diann Thomson accepted the big check.

The other grantees were:

• American Clock & Watch Museum	\$1,000
• Memorial Military Museum	\$1,000
• The Agape House	\$1,000
• Thy Eagle's Nest	\$1,000
• Veteran's Strong Community Center	\$1,000
• PARC	\$2,500
• Plymouth Community Food Pantry	\$2,500
• Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut	\$5,000
• Shepard Meadows Equestrian Center	\$5,000



Overwhelming Response to Matching Fund Opportunity



At The Main Event attendees had the unique opportunity to leave a legacy and create lasting change in their local communities while also taking advantage of the stewardship services of MSCF.

The room was buzzing with excitement as MSCF offered to match any \$5,000 donation to establish a named Unrestricted Community Fund, which then will become a \$10,000 endowment. The match had a massive response and over two dozen donors took advantage of the opportunity. These named unrestricted community funds will be announced at the end of the year.

Unrestricted Community Funds are an important aspect to the Foundation's work as they give MSCF flexibility to respond to emerging and changing community needs.



From the sold-out attendance, near 100 percent participation in “You Be the Grantmaker,” and the overwhelming response for the matching fund opportunity, MSCF is honored by the community support shown for *The Main Event* and celebration for the Foundation's 30 years of work in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott.



Thank you for your support the last 30 years, and cheers to 30 more!

Inaugural Grants to Local Artists Continue Louise Lauretano DeMars' Legacy

On Saturday, May 17, a reception was held to honor two Bristol-based artists who were the inaugural recipients of grants from the **Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund** at Main Street Community Foundation. Marlo Marrero and Nigel Wynter each received \$5,000 to further their artistic growth.



Marlo is a trained artist in multiple mediums and co-owns Creative Jam Art Co. in Bristol. She used this

grant to improve her water marbling technique

through participation in workshops. Nigel is an established artist whose primary media are watercolor, acrylics, and oils created in a realistic style. He used the awarded funds to study with and be mentored by like-minded professionals through the Created to Thrive Mentoring program.



The Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund was established by bequest upon Louise's passing in January 2023. Grants will support local artists through stipends to help further their creativity, explore their talent, or expand their learning. **The 2025 grant cycle is open with applications due October 31.** Requests are limited to proposals for fine arts and graphic arts from established artists who reside in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott. To learn more, visit www.mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant.

MSCF Recognized by City of Bristol



On May 9th, Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano visited the MSCF office to honor the Foundation's 30th anniversary. The staff and Board of Directors were presented with a framed citation that congratulates Main Street Community Foundation on the work it has accomplished since 1995 and how it has "improved countless lives in each of the communities MSCF serves."

At the presentation, Mayor Caggiano stated, "The City of Bristol appreciates the contributions that Main Street Community Foundation brings to our All Heart City and thanks MSCF for creating a legacy that will live on for many generations to come and well beyond the 30 years we celebrate today."

MSCF's staff and Board were honored by the recognition and the gift. The framed citation now hangs in the MSCF office for all to see.

Celebrating A Retirement and a Hiring

After nine years, **Kate Kerchaert**, MSCF's Director of Grants & Programs, will be retiring in November, 2025. During her tenure, she provided guidance to grantee organizations, developed program initiatives and led all grantmaking efforts for the Foundation. After this near decade at MSCF, Kate states "I have valued my time at the Foundation and the opportunities it has given me to learn about the wonderful resources in our communities. I have treasured all the connections I have made, especially the dedicated people I have met who work at nonprofits, volunteer in the community, and take great pride in their towns. Cheers to my hardworking colleagues who make MSCF the special place that it is!"



Stepping into the position of Director of Grants & Programs is **Whitney Shufelt**. Before joining MSCF, Whitney was the Director of Public Strategy Philanthropy at Sevita where she was the Executive Director of its corporate foundation and nonprofit employee assistance fund, and led mission-aligned charitable giving and community engagement efforts. Whitney said, "I am thrilled to be joining the Foundation and being a part of serving its mission across the six communities."

On November 13, MSCF will be holding a casual gathering to celebrate Kate and wish her well in her retirement. Please join us at the MSCF office, 120 Halcyon Drive in Bristol, from 3p.m.-5p.m.



New Board Member Elected: **Kim Ward Holley**

Main Street Community Foundation is proud to announce the election of Kim Ward Holley to its Board of Directors. Kim is the Executive Director of BristolWORKS! and a Bristol resident.

Kim is looking forward to being part of the MSCF Board, saying, "I've grown up and raised my family in this community, so I understand how much stronger we are when we support one another. I'm proud to be part of an organization that honors local legacies by supporting the people and organizations that make this such a great place to live."

Nonprofit Education Workshop Builds Strength in Uncertain Times



Nonprofit organizations continually have to adapt to new challenges and opportunities during these ever-changing times. To assist organizations in reviewing the current political landscape and its effect on the industry, Main Street Community Foundation partnered with Pro Bono Partnership to offer a workshop, "How Nonprofits Can Strengthen their Governance and Operations During a Time of Uncertainty." Executive Directors, board members, and senior staff members from 20 local organizations attended this interactive session that focused on what they can proactively do to build strength in the face of external pressures, with an emphasis on board governance and human resources and operations. Sara Taylor, Senior Staff Attorney at Pro Bono Partnership, led the workshop. MSCF regularly partners with local organizations and businesses to offer educational opportunities to nonprofits.

Philanthropy is for everyone. Here's how you can help your community as you plan your year-end giving...

Match your favorite cause with action – Give to an existing MSCF fund

Direct your giving – Start your own fund or build one into your estate plan

Strengthen the Foundation's role as a funder, leader, convener and advocate – Give to the annual Friends Campaign

Donations can be sent by mail or made online today at www.mainstreetfoundation.org.

Remember – if you are aged 70 ½ or older you can donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA to a qualified public charity, such as MSCF. This can also help with age-specific required minimum distributions.

Helping Neighbors, Improving Lives, Creating Connections

Dollars awarded from January 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025:

\$2 million
in grants

\$358,085
in scholarships



Fall 2025

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MAIN STREET
POINTS

CFNS
Confirmed in
compliance
with Community
Foundations
ACCREDITED
National Standards.



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