

MAIN POINTS

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR LEGACY. YOUR WAY.



Spring 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.



No One Goes Hungry

Southington Nonprofit Prepares for Unknown

When so much of the world stopped in March 2020, nonprofit organizations did everything to continue to fulfill their mission and improve the lives of local residents while ensuring they kept their clients safe.

Bread for Life in Southington is one such organization. Their mission is simple: to ensure no one goes hungry. They provide meals served daily, delivered to the senior community and homebound citizens and to children in the summer. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Bread for Life changed their operations of how they serve and deliver food but did not stop any programs.

"All of our meals are now prepared in individual to-go containers and served from our front porch or delivered to the front door of clients," stated Donna Ayer, Executive Director of Bread for Life. "We are proud to report that we never closed during this pandemic.

But we do have a plan in place in the event of an unforeseen emergency closing."

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.

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Women & Girls' Fund: 20 Years Strong



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When Bread for Life was awarded a \$25,000 unrestricted operating support grant from Main Street Community Foundation through the Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust in December, they decided to use a portion of it to create 100 emergency meal boxes. An emergency meal box contains 10 mylar pouches, which contains a dehydrated meal of two portions; a bottle of juice or shelf stable milk; and a box of granola bars.

"So many people we serve rely on us for their meals," said Donna. "If Bread for life had to go under quarantine, our big concern was what would our clients do. We knew we needed a plan. This will allow Southington's most vulnerable citizens to still get food."

This is a true town-wide effort. The Southington High School baseball team assembled the boxes and the Southington Community YMCA has stepped up to help distribute the emergency boxes to both the in-house and homebound clients in the event of a closure of Bread for Life.

"This is such an impressive initiative that we will be sharing this as a best practice for other meal programs in our network," said Vinh Vuong, Partner Programs Coordinator at Foodshare.

It all started with an idea, a gathering in a living room and a bake sale as the first fundraiser. As the **Women & Girls' Fund** at Main Street Community Foundation enters its 20th year, the endowment is now approaching \$750,000 and nearly \$600,000 has been granted to support local women and girls.

While the grants awarded over the past 20 years have impacted thousands of women and girls, the grants awarded in 2020 were perhaps the most important ones made in the history of the Fund.

After careful assessment of the changing needs of organizations serving women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic, MSCF awarded \$42,000 in unrestricted operating support grants from the Women & Girls' Fund to 12 local organizations.

"These grants will help sustain nonprofits providing vital services to women and girls in our communities," stated Catherine Cassin, Chair of the Women & Girls' Fund Advisory Board. "We want to ensure that these essential organizations can meet the increased demand for services caused by the effects of the pandemic."

Grants are traditionally made possible due to the proceeds from the annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event as well as annual distributions from the Women & Girls' Fund endowment, the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women and the John & Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women and Girls. We hope you will join us in celebrating the Fund's 20th anniversary at the **20th annual WOW event with special guest Gina Barreca** on September 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington!



5 Years and Forging Ahead



Your Impact on COVID-19 Response

In 2020, over 100 grants totaling \$852,000 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.

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

Five years ago a group of individuals became concerned about the unmet needs of local men and boys and they approached Main Street Community Foundation for advice and assistance. That led to the establishment of the **Men & Boys' Fund**, which has since awarded a total of \$22,700 in grants to improve the lives of men and boys.

As the Men & Boys' Fund continues to grow, they also work on identifying important local needs through conversations with individuals and small groups. These conversations have revealed that boys continue to struggle in school and underperform academically;

mentoring for boys and men is critical; boys are not taught life skills to the extent they should be; and building confidence in boys is essential.

These conversations have helped to inform the Men & Boys' Fund's grantmaking, and in 2020, \$7,000 was awarded to five organizations. These grants supported programs for fathers, camperships for boys, and life skills programming among other things.

As the Men & Boys' Fund celebrates its 5th anniversary, we invite you to visit mainstreetfoundation.org/men-boys-fund for more information including how you can get involved.



Cheers to BBK!

Local Family Prioritizes Giving Back

Bob Alim, Bob Boudreau and Kevin Prior have always made philanthropy a priority, and when they moved to Bristol over 15 years ago, they refocused their efforts to the community they now call home.

Bob, Bob and Kevin, collectively and affectionately known as BBK, began hosting Cocktails@8 in 2007. The entire ticket price of this must-attend event has always been donated to a local nonprofit organization or cause that supports the emerging issues and social needs of the diverse cultures of Bristol residents. An average of over \$10,000 is raised and put right back into the community every year.

“Cocktails@8 is about the spirit and energy of community and the people who come together for one night to get behind a cause that will benefit those among us who need it the most,” said Kevin Prior.

As the event and their goals grew, BBK decided to establish a donor advised fund at Main Street Community Foundation in 2016. Donor advised funds at MSCF allow the donor(s) to actively participate in grantmaking by recommending charitable organizations to receive grants. “We established the Broad View Fund to leave a permanent legacy in our community of Bristol, and to encourage others to follow suit,” said Bob Boudreau.

After the Fund was established, BBK worked closely with the program staff at MSCF to determine how the dollars raised could provide the most benefit to Bristol residents.

“Partnering with donor advised funds at the Foundation to award innovative grants like those from The Broad View Fund are a striking example of the collective power of philanthropy,” stated Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of MSCF.

In 2020, BBK decided to continue the tradition and host Cocktails@8, albeit virtually. The proceeds from the event would not benefit just one organization, but an entire sector.

“Bristol is filled with arts and culture organizations that help the city thrive and greatly enhance the quality of life,” stated Bob Boudreau. “Unfortunately, those organizations have been hit particularly hard during the COVID-19 pandemic and we recognized that there are certain challenges they face during the response and recovery periods.”

A total of \$12,800 was awarded to eight arts and culture organizations; each nonprofit received a \$1,600 grant. These grants provided a game-changing initiative or service to help them combat the effects of the pandemic such as video production, virtual programming, fundraising and marketing.

“These organizations are part of the fabric of our community here in Bristol,” said Kevin Prior. “Seeing everyone come together to support each other makes our hearts so full.”

The 15th annual Cocktails@8 event is scheduled for October 16, 2021. Proceeds from the event will once again fund a game-changing initiative in Bristol.

New Funds More Opportunities

Local Residents Choose MSCF as their Philanthropic Vehicle In 2020 and through the first few months of 2021, **12 new funds** were established. They all have different purposes but the donors have one common mission: Make their community a better place by supporting the causes they care about.

The new funds established are:

- **Kai Alejandro Yagual Betts Memorial Fund**
- **Bread for Life Fund**
- **Bristol Health Fund for the Parent & Child Center**
- **Ron Burns Community Leadership Scholarship Fund**
- **COVID-19 Response Fund**
- **David Greenleaf Community Support Fund**
- **Rafi Hamzy Memorial Fund**
- **Ladies Power Lunch Fund**
- **Lorenson Fund**
- **Jacob Perkins Memorial Fund**
- **Pyrzenski/Audette Family Fund**
- **Reverend Dr. Eddie C. Whitehead of Bristol, CT – Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund**

For the stories of all 258 named funds at the Foundation, visit www.mainstreetfoundation.org and explore ways you can help.

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



MSCF Built for a Year Like 2020, Provided Strength to Communities

Main Street Community Foundation began 2020 on a high note preparing for a celebration of its 25th anniversary and planning additional grant programs. However, everything changed with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the local communities were overwhelmed, MSCF was able to respond swiftly and effectively. MSCF awarded a record **\$2 million in grants** to nonprofit organizations that are filling critical needs and running vital programs. The grants were distributed from funds, most of which are endowments, established by individuals, families, businesses and other organizations.

"MSCF was founded and built for a year like this," stated Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of the Foundation. "We have deep relationships in the communities we serve and have taken on numerous leadership roles, thus ensuring that we are aware of any and all emerging needs."

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

- \$54.7** million in total assets
- \$3.9** million in contributions received
- 254** funds established since 1995
- 200+** volunteers supporting MSCF

Over \$21.3 million has been distributed since the Foundation's establishment in 1995.

MSCF Promotes Staff Members to Better Serve Communities

Please join us in congratulating them!



Julie Matthews, has been promoted to Administrative Services Manager.



Rhonda Pilkington has been promoted to Director of Finance.

New Board Members to Lead the Way

At MSCF's Annual Meeting on March 12, 2021, four local residents were elected to the Board of Directors.



Megan Albanese
of Southington



Jarre Betts
of Bristol



Eric Clemons
of Bristol



Becky Zappone
of Plymouth

"The Board of Directors plays an essential role in guiding the Foundation's work in the local communities," said Sadecki. "We are grateful for their generous commitment of time and the valuable expertise each brings to the Foundation."



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