

# Local organizations awarded \$168K in grants from Main Street Foundation

BRIAN M. JOHNSON @brianjohnsonBP  
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Samantha Rajotte

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The Main Street Community Foundation has awarded \$167,740 in grants to local organizations. The funds were awarded through the Foundation's General Grant Cycle.

"A total of 47 organizations working to improve the lives of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott residents were awarded the grants to meet the various needs in the communities," said Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation.

Rajotte said that, since its establishment in 1995, the Main Street Community Foundation has awarded grants and scholarships totaling nearly \$36 million. She said it is one of the leading grantmakers in the Central Connecticut region.

"General Grant Cycle awards support basic needs, increase access to opportunities and create vibrant communities to meet the needs of the communities served by the Foundation," she said. "Grants are distributed from endowed funds established by donors to support local communities and causes they are passionate about, from arts and culture, to food and housing and mental health and wellbeing."

Applications for the General Grant Cycle are submitted annually in the spring. Rajotte said they are then "thoughtfully reviewed" by local residents that volunteer on the Main Street Community Foundation's Distribution Committee.

"The Committee reviews all proposals, conducts site visits and makes funding recommendations to the Foundation's Board of Directors," she said. "This annual process ensures that the nonprofits' goals and programs are feasible and align with the fund donor's intent."

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