

Main Street Community Foundation opens grant cycle

The group is holding the following checks:

- St. Vincent DePaul Mission House:** \$5,000
- BreastWORKS:** \$3,500
- Plymouth Parks and Recreation:** \$3,000
- Shopee In Girls Club Fund:** \$7,500
- Shopped Meadows Equine Center:** \$5,500
- The Children's Love Center:** \$3,500
- PARC:** \$6,000
- Girl Scouts of Connecticut:** \$5,000

Main Street Community Foundation is currently accepting applications from organizations seeking grants for charitable programs that benefit the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott. Information on each grant cycle and how to apply can be found on the Foundation's website at mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant.

“Our Elizabeth I. and Louis J. Matt Animal Protection Fund grant cycle is unique this year, as we typically award grants from this fund during our General Grant Cycle,” said Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer, in an email to TBE.

“Grants from this fund at MSCF support programs and initiatives providing for the protection and welfare of animals in the communities MSCF serves,” Rajotte said. “We are excited to hear from organizations who provide emergency veterinary services and medical care for animals that would not otherwise receive necessary care.”

Rajotte said the best approach for anyone interested in applying, first-timers or a seasoned grantwriting organization, is to contact Whitney Shufelt, director of grants and programs at Main Street Community Foundation.

Shufelt will be able to access a proposal and guided the process, said Rajotte.

“If someone is uncertain if they qualify, reviewing each of the grant cycle guidelines on our website and speaking to Whitney is the first step,” Rajotte said. “She and everyone at the Foundation is keen on helping our local nonprofits and she is available for any questions any time, not just when grant cycles are open.”

Rajotte emphasized the MSCF supports all size organizations and programs, from pilot programs to well-established organizations, that serve the six MSCF communities.

Grants now available include the following:

Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust – Nonprofit organizations may submit letters of inquiry (LOIs) for new capital projects, programs or initiatives that improve the health outcomes of Southington residents. LOIs for new funding requests are due Sept. 18. The continued funding cycle opens Sept. 28 and applications due Oct. 23.

Burlington Community Fund – Organizations located in Burlington and charitable programs that benefit Burlington residents are eligible to apply for funding. Grant requests should support basic needs, access to opportunity, and/or vibrant communities. Applications are due Sept. 18.

Elizabeth I. and Louis J. Matt Animal Protection Fund – Funding requests are accepted from organizations providing for the care and support of animals in need that serve Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott. Applications are due Sept. 18.

Men & Boys' Fund – Organizations with programs or initiatives supporting men and boys in the Foundation's service area are eligible to apply for funding. Applications must support programs or initiatives assisting men and boys to improve the quality of their lives, increase self-sufficiency, and/or make a positive difference in their community. Applications are due Sept. 16.

Women & Girls Fund – Funding requests are accepted from organizations with programs serving women and girls in the Foundation's service area. Grant applications should address one of the fund's priority areas: services for senior women; confidence building and leadership; and mental health and well-being. Applications are due Sept. 16.

The Foundation will open its annual grant cycle for the Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund on Sept. 16, with applications due on Oct. 28. This fund supports established, local artists in the fine or performing arts looking for assistance to further their creativity, explore their talent, or expand their learning.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant from any of the grant cycles should contact Whitney Shufelt, director of grants & programs, (whitney@mainstreetfoundation.org), or Alicia Krar (alicia@mainstreetfoundation.org), grants manager, at (860)583-6363 to discuss their proposal at least one week prior to the deadline.

A nonprofit public charity, created by private citizens, the Main Street Community Foundation works with donors in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott who wish to build permanent charitable endowments to support their communities. Since its founding in 1995, the foundation has provided over \$36 million in grants and scholarships.