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Main Street Community Foundation to honor founders at 30th anniversary celebration in September

TOPICS: Fundraiser Main Street Community Foundation



This year's Main Street Community Foundation scholarship recipients gather at the scholarship reception on June 20. | MSCF

POSTED BY: DAVID FORTIER AUGUST 23, 2025

The Main Street Community Foundation will mark a 30-year milestone and celebrate its history, especially the contribution of its founders, with an evening

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“MSCF is deeply proud of this history and grateful for the foresight of its Founders. The Founders’ vision was to create a place that serves as a single point of entry for anyone’s charitable goals, and every day we are able to show our community that philanthropy can be for everyone,” said Susan Sadecki, MSCF president & CEO in a MSCF release.

“Community foundations are all about convening and helping to develop collaborative solutions. That’s what we strive to be part of all while honoring the charitable intentions of our donors,” Sadecki said.

“The Main Event 30th Anniversary Celebration – Meet Us On Main Street” will be held Sept. 13 at the Aqua Turf Club. Proceeds from the event will support MSCF’s community leadership efforts, also known as “Money in Motion,” an unrestricted fund that is used to address the ever-changing needs of the local community.

Seats are \$125 per person and can be purchased through the end of August by contacting Main Street Community Foundation.

Established in 1995, MSCF has become one of the leading grant makers in the Central Connecticut region and has awarded a total of \$32.7 million in grants and scholarships to support the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott, according to the release.

“The idea of an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Main Street Community Foundation would not have even crossed the minds of the small group of community leaders who began discussing the creation of a community foundation back in the early 1970s,” the MSCF releases states.

“It began with Bob Merriman, Sherwood Anderson, and Ed Lorensen considering the idea that in addition to giving to specific charities, local residents should have the opportunity to give to a community foundation where all needs of the community would be considered,” it continues.

The first conversation involved Merriman, Anderson and Lorensen, as well as Hap Barnes, C. Stewart Anthony, and Terry Fletcher, in 1974 “where they decided to start such an organization when there was both enough money and community interest,” according to the release.

“In 1993, after many years of careful planning and a bank merger, \$500,000 was set aside to be used to start a community foundation. From that point a core group of Bristol area citizens — Edward Lorensen, Bob Merriman, Hap Barnes, David Preleski, John Smith, Terry Fletcher, Chris Ziogas, and Sherwood Anderson — met monthly for two years in order to ensure the establishment of a community foundation would succeed. In the spring of 1995, MSCF was incorporated, by the fall, I. R. S. approval was secured, and the first grants totaling \$70,600 were awarded in 1996.”

The event will culminate in the announcement of 10 Circa 1995 Grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000; all attendees will participate in the selection of the



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A total of \$30,000 will be awarded from the Bristol Savings Bank Fund to celebrate the Foundation's 30th anniversary. Ten local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations were selected from an applicant pool and challenged with providing a vision for how their organization will make a difference in the next 30 years.

For a list of the finalists and their responses go to the MSCF website:

www.mainstreetfoundation.org/circa1995grants.

To learn more about the event, Main Street Community Foundation, and the ways in which they support your local community, visit

mainstreetfoundation.org/30-anniversary.

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