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## Main Street Foundation revisits quarter-century roots

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Bristol Walmart Store Manager William Fenlon, Early Leaders Jeanne Radcliff, Susan Scarritt and Mary Benoit, Bristol Walmart People Lead Joanne Picard and President & CEO of Main Street Community Foundation Susan Sadecki.

Main Street Community Foundation



BRISTOL — The Main Street Community Foundation paid a visit to the Bristol Walmart, where the Women & Girls Fund got its start 25 years ago with a bake sale.

Leadership from the Main Street Community Foundation and Women & Girls Fund visited the Walmart on Farmington Ave. They thanked Store Manager William Fenlon along with staff for Walmart's support over the years, and for hosting the bake sale that kickstarted the fund 25 years ago.

Both the Bristol Walmart and the Women & Girls Fund are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

Nielsen explained how the establishment of the Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation began with a bake sale. In June 2001, she said, a group of "visionary women," known as the Early Leaders, organized and held a bake sale at the newly-opened Walmart store in Bristol. Their goal was to help raise funds toward the \$10,000 needed to establish a fund at Main Street Community Foundation.

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"This was the 'Mother of All Bake Sales' thanks to the willingness of so many mothers, future mothers, mothers in spirit and a couple of guys, too," said Mary Benoit, an Early Leader of the Women & Girls Fund. "It was a tremendous success which helped to raise funds toward the \$10,000 needed to start a fund dedicated to serving the needs of local women and girls."

Some of the Early Leaders joined the chairs of this year's Wonder of Women event in thanking Walmart for its support.

“We want to thank the store manager and the staff of the Bristol Walmart for once again partnering with the Women & Girls Fund to celebrate the 25th anniversary of both the Fund and the opening of this location in Bristol,” said Jeanine Audette, who co-chair of the Wonder of Women Event. “Walmart’s continued support will help us create change for local women and girls.”

This year the Women & Girls Fund at Main Street Community Foundation has “A Million Reasons to Celebrate.” With an endowment of over \$1 million and a total of \$921,000 awarded in grants since the Fund’s establishment in 2001, the Women & Girls Fund at Main Street Community Foundation invites the community to join them for the 25th Anniversary Wonder of Women event.

This year’s event will be held April 30 at the Aqua Turf Club. The guest speaker is Kara Wolters, an Olympic gold medalist, UConn national champion and WNBA champion as well as a nationally-recognized broadcaster and entrepreneur.

Proceeds from the event support grants awarded to programs that assist women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

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