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Main Street awards 30th anniversary grants

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The grantees for the Main Street Community Foundation's 30th anniversary celebration, "Meet Us On Main."
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SOUTHINGTON — The Main Street Community Foundation awarded \$30,000 in grants to area organizations at its 30th anniversary celebration, "Meet Us On Main", Sept. 13. at the Aqua Turf Club.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said the event had a sold out crowd of 380 guests. The night featured a variety of roaming entertainment, live and silent auctions, food and a celebration of the history of the Foundation and its Founders.

“The event was sold out and was a memorable celebration of the history of the Foundation and its Founders,” she said. “In addition, the event featured a special ‘You Be the Grantmaker’ program, in which the attendees participated in the selection of ten Circa 1995 grants, totaling \$30,000, to ten local nonprofit organizations.”

The finalists were chosen from an applicant pool that answered the following prompt: “Our organization will make a difference in the next 30 years because we will.”

Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the Main Street Community Foundation, said that all ten organizations “do incredible work” in the communities that they serve. However, only one walked away with the top grant of \$10,000.

The recipient of the \$10,000 Circa 1995 Grant was Southington Community Cultural Arts. SoCCA is an organization that “strives to create an environment in which people of all ages and abilities can have a place to create, exhibit and welcome the arts into their lives.”

In addition to their gallery and gift shop, SoCCA offers a variety of art classes for both children and adults. They also offer an “All Access” program, which “connects neurodiverse adults with learning differences and disabilities with their community.” The program also provides creative skills training and allows participants to “produce meaningful income that enhances their quality of life.”

“The top Circa 1995 Grant will support SoCCA in their mission to connect all community members through art and the creative process,” Sadecki said.

The other Circa 1995 Grantees announced at the event were:

- American Clock & Watch Museum - \$1,000
- Memorial Military Museum - \$1,000
- The Agape House - \$1,000
- Thy Eagle’s Nest - \$1,000
- Veteran’s Strong Community Center - \$1,000
- PARC - \$2,500
- Plymouth Community Food Pantry - \$2,500

— Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut - \$5,000

— Shepard Meadows Equestrian Center - \$5,000

Sadecki, on behalf of the Main Street Community Foundation's founders, board and staff, expressed her gratitude to those who attended.

"We are so grateful to everyone who joined us in this celebration in recognition of the work we have done together," she said. "We can all make a difference in the next 30 years."

Since its establishment in 1995, Sadecki said, the Main Street Community Foundation has become one of the leading grant makers in the Central Connecticut

region. The Foundation has awarded a total of \$32.7 million in grants and scholarships to support the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott.

Sadecki said that another "exciting opportunity" offered at the event was that attendees could "leave a legacy" and "create lasting change in their local communities" taking advantage of the stewardship services of the Foundation. The Main Street Community Foundation offered to match any \$5,000 donation made to establish a named Unrestricted Community Fund, which then becomes a \$10,000 endowment.

"The match had a massive response and over two dozen donors took advantage of the opportunity," Sadecki said. "These named unrestricted community funds will be

announced at the end of the year."

Sadecki said that the Foundation is honored by the community support shown at their anniversary event. She expressed appreciation for the sold-out attendance, near 100 percent participation in "You Be the Grantmaker" and the "overwhelming response" for the matching fund opportunity.

"MSCF is honored by the community support shown for The Main Event and celebration for the Foundation's 30 years of work in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville,

Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott," she said. "Cheers to 30 years, and to 30 more."

For more information on the Main Street Community Foundation, visit mainstreetfoundation.org or call 860-583-6363.

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