

## Grants in Action

### Small Grants Provide Big Impact for Those in Need

One year after a Bristol family received an Immediate Response Fund grant, the mother approached Stafford School Principal Cathy Cassin. The family had regained its financial stability and wanted to make a donation to the fund that had helped her family. She stated that she wished to “pay it forward” to help another family in need.

According to Jarre Betts, Director of Programs & Community Relations, between 2009 and 2011, there has been a 79 percent increase in distributions from four of the seven Main Street Community Foundation Immediate Response funds. The funds include the Werner Family Fund, Main Street Children’s Fund, Women & Girls’ Immediate Response Fund, and the Bristol Board of Education Immediate Response Fund. In 2009, 24 grants were approved totaling \$3,169. In 2011, MSCF approved 41 grants totaling \$5,667. According to Linda Rich, Director of the Bristol Family Resource Center, “around 80 percent of the children who attend O’Connell School qualify for free or reduced lunch.” Mrs. Cassin explained the relevance of that statistic: “Many students eat breakfast and lunch at school. There is not enough food at home to stave off hunger and provide adequate nutrition. If you cannot attend to a child’s basic needs, their learning and relationships are impacted. You cannot teach a child unless you’ve met their basic needs.” Mrs. Cassin also stated that “children want to look good and feel good about themselves.

They want to go to school with a full belly and a backpack to put things in. They worry about their peers noticing anything about them that would make them stand out as ‘different’ – for example, having shoes that are falling apart or not owning socks to wear with their sneakers.” Families often find themselves in the dilemma of deciding whether to pay the rent and utilities vs. feeding and clothing their family.

A grant from the recently established Karen DuCotey Fund for Kids supported a student suffering from serious illness by providing the family food and necessary household items. This immediate response fund supports students attending schools in the Region 10 School District which includes Burlington and Harwinton. Like many of the immediate response requests, needs may be related to food, clothing, shelter, health, safety, extracurricular educational experiences, and opportunities for inclusion (i.e. sports, camp) for students faced with a particular life situation or unexpected financial hardship.

Immediate Response Fund requests are initiated by a social service organization, other nonprofit, or school working with an individual or family and aware of the financial hardship. The recipient’s anonymity is preserved. Grants are made on a one-time basis in order to distribute funds in a way that will help as

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### In Memoriam — Carlyle Fuller “Hap” Barnes (1924-2012)

Founder of Main Street Community Foundation, Hap Barnes, age 87, passed away on January 21, 2012. As cliché as it is, he will never be forgotten by the Greater Bristol community or by anyone associated with Main Street Community Foundation. “It was he, after all, who came up with the name ‘Main Street Community Foundation,’” said Sherwood Anderson, founding member, “when he and a core group of community leaders founded the philanthropic organization in 1995.” Surrounded and supported by this core group, Hap applied all of his corporate training and leadership skills to help build the foundation.

His passion and vision were evident in

everything Hap did. He was a corporate leader with a successful business career. He was the City of Bristol’s fire commissioner for 36 years and collected firefighting equipment that is now on display in the Museum of Fire History. He played key roles in many of Bristol’s nonprofits and was a true philanthropist. “Most people never witnessed his visits with patients in the hospital emergency room – I did on several occasions and his interactions clearly qualified him as a ‘care giver,’” stated John E. Smith, founding member. “I even had some patients ask ‘who was that wonderful man?’”

He touched many lives in our community both directly and indirectly. His warm smile and caring personality will be truly missed.



Hap Barnes

## Visionary Leadership Boosts Women and Girls' Fund

The Women & Girls' Fund is an outstanding example of how one visionary idea can inspire others to join in a philanthropic effort that can have a significant impact on improving the quality of life for individuals in a community.

In 2001, the Women and Girls' Fund became a community based endowment of the Main Street Community Foundation, and since its inception, has awarded over \$200,000 in grants and immediate response funds to over 50 organizations benefiting women and girls of all ages in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott.

In early 2011, the leadership of the Women and Girls' Fund announced a goal to increase their endowment from approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000. Members of the community responded enthusiastically.

At the annual WOW fund raising dinner event in April 2011, past board member of the Main Street Community Foundation and founding member of the Women & Girls' Fund, Noreen Schumann, issued a fund raising challenge in response to the goal, committing a \$25,000 gift to match funds donated to the Women and Girls' Fund. Any donation received prior to December 31, 2011, would be matched dollar for dollar by Ms. Schumann.

In September 2011, Barbara Hackman Franklin, who served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce under President George H. W. Bush, was the keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary celebration of the fund

and was surprised by her family with the establishment of the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women. All 22 members of her family contributed a total of more than \$10,000.

Also in September, John and Susan Scarritt started a new \$10,000 fund in memory of her parents, Gloria DiFrancesco of Farmington and the late John DiFrancesco. The fund is designated to benefit the activities of the Women and Girls' Fund, of which Susan Scarritt was a founder.

To date, over \$43,000 has been raised to boost the endowment of the Women and Girls' Fund, considerably more than enough to meet Schumann's \$25,000 challenge, and helping ensure that the fund will continue for many years to invest in the potential of women and girls and the potential they have to build strong communities. The success of the 2011 fund raising campaign is certainly a testament to the power of visionary leadership to bring members of our communities together in an effort to transform the lives of deserving individuals.



Women and Girls' Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation

## 2012 Learning Opportunities for Nonprofits

For the third year, Main Street Community Foundation, in partnership with the Connecticut Chapter of AFP, is offering a web/audioconference series, consisting of six sessions, to enhance the development of nonprofit professionals. These sessions will provide nonprofit leaders with advice and guidance on board development and fundraising issues, among other timely and important topics.

New this year is the addition of four seminars for local non-profit organizations. Main Street Community Foundation has partnered with Deborah Polydys, principal of Strategic Management Resources LLC, a business advisory firm founded in Southington in 1985, to offer these seminars on topics of interest including communications, board development and social media.

All sessions will take place from 1:00 -2:30 p.m. at Tunxis @ Bristol, 430 North Main Street, Bristol, CT and will be offered at no charge to local nonprofits.

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

**How to Create a Written Fundraising Plan in 6 Easy Steps**

*AFP Webinar/Audioconference*

**Tuesday, March 20, 2012**

**Harness the Power of Proactive Communications to Educate & Influence Your Community**

*Presenter: Deb Polydys*

**Thursday, April 12, 2012**

**Spinning Like a Top: 8 Secrets to Well-Oiled Fundraising Operations**

*AFP Webinar/Audioconference*

**Thursday, April 26, 2012**

**Get Your Board On-Board With Your Vision**

*Presenter: Deb Polydys*

**Wednesday, May 9, 2012**

**Online Success Strategies, Tools and Trade Secrets**

*AFP Webinar/Audioconference*

**Tuesday, May 22, 2012**

**The Power of Social Media to Influence Your Community and Attract Board Members & Volunteers**

*Presenter: Deb Polydys*

**Wednesday, June 6, 2012**

**Big Gifts for Small Shops**

*AFP Webinar/Audioconference*

**Tuesday, September 18, 2012**

**Strengthening the Role of Board Members & Volunteers ~ Vital to the Growth of Your Organization**

*Presenter: Deb Polydys*

**Thursday, October 4, 2012**

**How to Turn Your Volunteers (Board and Non-Board Members) into Great Fundraisers**

*AFP Webinar/Audioconference*

**Tuesday, November 6, 2012**

**The Ever Changing World of Small Non-Profit Boards**

*AFP Webinar/Audioconference*

*For more information or to pre-register, contact Samantha Rajotte, Program Associate, at [samantha@mainstreetfoundation.org](mailto:samantha@mainstreetfoundation.org) or via phone at 860.583.6363. Information is also available at [www.MainStreetFoundation.org](http://www.MainStreetFoundation.org)*

## Wrapping Up 2011

It was an exciting year for the community foundation in 2011. Changes were made and initiatives were enhanced all while keeping what is important in mind – the community. Main Street Community Foundation distributed \$850,000 in grants and scholarships, provided an education series for nonprofit organizations and assisted many donors with their charitable goals.

We welcomed the following new funds in 2011 to bring the total funds established since our founding in 1995 to 190:

- **Bradley Henry Barnes Fund for the Southington Community YMCA**  
to benefit the Southington Community YMCA
- **Bill & Pattie Dunn Family Charitable Fund**  
to support a variety of charitable organizations in the areas served by the community foundation
- **Jay W. & Elizabeth M. Tyrrell Scholarship Fund**  
to provide scholarships to assist individuals from the greater Bristol area in pursuit of higher education in the field of art
- **Jay & Elizabeth Tyrrell Fund for the Arts**  
to support artistic and cultural opportunities in the greater Bristol area
- **Burlington Bell Community Fund**  
to support charitable projects and programs that will enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Burlington, Connecticut
- **John & Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women and Girls**  
to support those initiatives identified by the Women and Girls' Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation
- **Karen DuCotey Fund For Kids**  
to provide grants to assist students attending Region 10 schools who may be in need of immediate assistance due to a particular life situation or unexpected financial hardship

- **Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women**  
to support those initiatives identified by the Women and Girls' Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation
- **Edward Ingraham Fund**  
to provide support to the Bristol Boys & Girls Club and Family Center for summer camp expenses or to provide a summer camp experience for the youth of Bristol
- **Nicholas P. Maglio ACE Fund**  
to provide financial assistance to graduating seniors attending Bristol Eastern High School in pursuit of a post-secondary education at a two or four year college or university
- **Peggy Ann Walsh Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
to provide financial assistance to graduating high school seniors at Bristol Central High School pursuing post secondary education at a four-year college or university
- **Tim and Mary Walsh Charitable Fund**  
to support a variety of charitable organizations in the areas served by the community foundation
- **Sky Bight Foundation Fund for the Bristol Boys & Girls Club**  
to support a new Club facility



The number of funds at the Foundation is not the only thing that changed during 2011. Main Street Community Foundation welcomed two new employees to the staff: Christine Utting and Samantha Rajotte. Christine Utting works as the Accountant and oversees the financial administration of funds. Samantha Rajotte joins the Foundation as a Program Associate assisting with grantmaking, communications and office management. The foundation bid farewell to Kim Larkin who joined the staff in 2005 and most recently served as the Director of Finance & Administration.

**2012 Grant and Scholarship Applications**  
are available now at  
[www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org)  
Application deadlines vary.

*Save the Date*

**April 23, 2012**

Women & Girls' Fund annual Wonder of Women (WOW) dinner event at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington with special guest Faith Middleton

**June 21, 2012**

Annual Friends Reception

**June 27, 2012**

Annual Scholarship Reception at the Bristol Public Library

# Small Grants...

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many recipients as possible. Grants are usually under \$200. Most immediate response fund requests are fulfilled within 24 to 48 hours of the referral to address a critical need. "We had a student whose glasses were broken. The child literally could not see without the glasses. The prescription was expensive. The mother had already appealed to her insurance company but the policy did not cover replacement glasses. An Immediate Response Fund grant enabled the family to purchase a new pair of glasses," recalled Mrs. Cassin.

Responding to a critical need often requires a collaborative effort due to the limited amount of funding available and the increasing numbers of individuals and families in need of assistance. These grants may be small in dollars but provide big impact on the lives of the residents of our communities. The Main Street Community Foundation is honored that donors have provided these opportunities to help those in greatest need in our six communities. For more information about how to donate to an Immediate Response Fund contact us or visit our website at [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org).

## Who We Are

**Main Street Community Foundation, Inc.**, is a public charity committed to partnering with individuals, families and businesses who wish to build permanent charitable connections, now and for generations to come. We support and better the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott, Connecticut. Since 1995, the foundation has provided opportunities to donors to support the causes they believe in and to help further their desire to give back and improve their community.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for both present and future generations in the communities we serve. We accomplish our mission by encouraging and promoting:

- ◆ Gift Planning
- ◆ Prudent Stewardship of Assets
- ◆ Effective Grantmaking
- ◆ Community Leadership

Help make your community a better place in which to live, work and play. Contact us at [office@mainstreetfoundation.org](mailto:office@mainstreetfoundation.org)



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