

FEATURED

Moore steps in for ailing Pikiell as featured speaker for anniversary celebration

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Tom Moore

BRISTOL — Retired UConn men's basketball General Manager Tom Moore will be the featured speaker at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Men & Boys Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation.

The celebration will be held Oct. 1 in the Wagon Room of The Aqua Turf Club at 556 Mulberry St. in the Plantsville section of Southington. People are asked to RSVP by Sept. 15. The event will include a social hour from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with dinner stations, a cash box silent auction and networking, and a bourbon tasting provided by Worldwide Wine & Spirits. The program will follow from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The Main Street Community Foundation encouraged people to attend and help celebrate "Men of Value and Purpose" as well as what the fund has accomplished since it was founded ten years ago. The Men & Boys Fund is dedicated to "improving lives, increasing self-sufficiency and making a positive difference" in the lives of men and boys in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott.

"Because of the community's generosity, Main Street Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$99,000 from the Men & Boys Fund in program and immediate response grants," said Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation. "This milestone will honor a decade of progress while continuing to work to build an even stronger network to ensure the needs of local men and boys are met."

According to the Main Street Community Foundation, Moore is "one of the most decorated assistant coaches in the history of college basketball."

“Tom Moore is a four-time national champion who spent 39 years in the college basketball space, starting as an assistant coach at Worcester State University,” the Foundation said. “After a season as an assistant at Assumption College, he returned to Worcester State University as a 24-year-old head coach.”

Moore then joined the UConn staff ahead of the 1994-95 season, spending 13 seasons as an assistant coach.

“After 10 years as head coach at Quinnipiac University and a season as an assistant coach at University of Rhode Island, Tom returned to UConn in 2018,” the Foundation said. “In addition to his on-court role he assisted heavily in UConn’s roster construction and NIL operations while mentoring the young men in the basketball program.”

The 10th anniversary celebration was initially slated to have Rutgers University men’s basketball head coach and Bristol native Steve Pikiell as the guest speaker. However, the Main Street Community Foundation said he will be unable to attend the event as he will be undergoing cancer treatment.

“Steve has asked Tom Moore to speak in his place,” the Foundation said.

Pikiell shared in a statement that just as he asks his team to fight and embrace challenges head-on, he is “going to attack cancer the same way.”

“Steve is an incredible individual and an amazing coach who always wants to make a positive impact,” the Foundation said. “The Men & Boys Fund at Main Street Community Foundation is behind you, Steve. We are thinking of you and your family.”

Seats are \$75 per person and can be purchased today by sending a check to Main Street Community Foundation, P.O. Box 2702, Bristol, CT 06010.

People can also reserve a seat by calling Rajotte at 860-583-6363 or emailing samantha@mainstreetfoundation.org.

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