Early Learning - A PET Project is an endowment, that launched Jan. 21 in partnership with the Main Street Community Foundation, that was founded by Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek.

Petrucelli-Timek is the grant manager for the Bristol Public Schools - School Readiness Program. According to the Main Street Community Foundation website, "Grants will be made to Bristol Preschool Child Care Center, Inc., and Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center, for the organization's general operating uses and program support purposes."

This is because, Petrucelli-Timek explained, funding for early childhood care programs and services have been greatly reduced, while the requirements for these centers are continuously changing and becoming more costly.

"The way that the school readiness grants are, and the way that they're received, they [the schools] have to spend that within that fiscal year," explained Petrucelli-Timek. "You know as well as I do that that is a nightmare for budgeting because you can never save anything."

Shirley Anderson and Marilyn Lobaczewski, the executive director and grant manager, respectively, of Bristol Preschool Child Care Center, and Coral Richardson, the director at Imagine Nation A Museum Early Learning Center, expressed their gratitude to Petrucelli-Timek, as their organizations will be the sole beneficiaries of the endowment.

"These programs [school readiness and child care] are definitely needed," said Lobaczewski. "Parents rely on us 100 percent. There is a need out there that we still have a difficult time meeting."

Anderson said funding is important for nonprofit, school readiness programs. Since the cost to parents is determined by household income and family size, a family could pay as little as $8 a week. This can be beneficial for the families that require these services, but detrimental to the programs as the cost to remain a quality service and a functional facility continues to rise.

"You have to be NAEYC [National Association for the Education of Young Children] accredited," said Anderson. "You have to meet all of these standards and guidelines and compliances, yet it's a way for a preschool aged child to be in a quality care center at an affordable price."

Richardson agreed, saying that one of the added mandates applies to the educational staff and their level of education. "We have bachelor's degrees, and we need to have compensation for those teachers; we need to pay them more."

Petrucelli-Timek started this endowment in memory of her departed brother, John. John Petrucelli was a successful audio engineer, whose designs were manufactured and sold internationally. Petrucelli-Timek emphasised that her brother's natural curiosity and love of learning is what inspired her and their sisters to push themselves towards achievement. It's this love of learning that inspired Petrucelli-Timek to...
The Bristol Fire Department reported the following incidents:

**Jan. 12**
- 119 Turtle Rd., water leak
- Redstone Hill Road and Birch Street, vehicle accident, general cleanup
- 110 Oakridge Rd., smoke detector activation, no fire
- Malby Street and Stafford Avenue, vehicle accident, general cleanup
- 44 Carolina Rd., electrical wiring/ equipment problem, other
- 899 Middle St., alarm system activation, no fire, unintentional
- 111 Norwood Rd., arc, shorted electrical equipment
- 15 Woodard Dr., water or steam leak
- 36 Pratt St., lock-out
- 430 North Main St., motor vehicle accident, general cleanup
- 424 Prospect St., cooking fire, confined to container

**Jan. 13**
- 57 Uninn St., water problem, other
- 15 Roberge Rd., medical assist, assist EMS crew
- 86 Kilmartin Ave., chimneystack or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue
- 720 Birch St., smoke detector activation due to malfunction
- 145 Skyridge Rd., arcing, shorted electrical equipment
- 73 Park Hill St., gasoline or other flammable liquid spill

**Jan. 14**
- 43 Jan Rd., carbon monoxide incident
- 170 Enterprise Dr., overpressure rupture from steam, other
- 56 School St., false alarm or false call, other
- Bingham School, 3 North St., sprinkler activation due to malfunction
- 121 Lyons Rd., public service
- 57 Uninn St., water problem, other
- 15 Roberge Rd., medical assist, assist EMS crew
- 86 Kilmartin Ave., chimneystack or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue
- 720 Birch St., smoke detector activation due to malfunction
- 145 Skyridge Rd., arcing, shorted electrical equipment
- 73 Park Hill St., gasoline or other flammable liquid spill

**Jan. 15**
- 90 Roberts Terrace, service call, other
- 295 Redstone Hill Rd., Bristol, smoke detector activation due to malfunction
- 140 Fairlawen St., no incident found on arrival at dispatch address
- 183 West St., smoke or odor removal
- 371 Emmett St., good intent call, other
- 220 Ronzo Rd., alarm system sounded due to malfunction
- 182 North Main St., lock-out
- 182 North Main St., lock-out
- 182 North Main St., lock-out
- 182 North Main St., lock-out

**Jan. 16**
- 182 North Main St., vehicle accident, general cleanup
- 220 Surrey Dr., cooking fire, confined to container
- 443 Burlington Ave., water evacuation
- 895 Matthews St., water or steam leak
- 586 Wolcott Rd., smoke or odor removal
- 100 Franklin St., sprinkler activation due to malfunction
- 57 Uninn St., water problem, other
- 15 Roberge Rd., medical assist, assist EMS crew
- 86 Kilmartin Ave., chimneystack or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue
- 720 Birch St., smoke detector activation due to malfunction
- 145 Skyridge Rd., arcing, shorted electrical equipment
- 73 Park Hill St., gasoline or other flammable liquid spill
- 371 Emmett St., good intent call, other
- 220 Ronzo Rd., alarm system sounded due to malfunction
- 182 North Main St., lock-out
- 182 North Main St., lock-out
- 182 North Main St., lock-out

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- want to start an endowment almost twenty years ago, in hopes of inspiring a love of learning in children. When John Petrucelli died in early 2017, he had left his share of Apple stock to Petrucelli-Timek, and she plans to use that money to start Early Learning - A PET Project, so named after the company John started while in high school.

All donations made to the Early Learning - A PET Project Fund will be split evenly between Imagine Nation A Museum Early Learning Center and Bristol Preschool Child Care Center. Inc.

[Comments? Email: tmurchison@BristolObserver.com]