Community foundation awards local grants

By TAYLOR MURCHISON-GALLAGHER

State Rep. Rob Sampson (R-80) voted to restore funding to the Medicare Savings Plan (MSP) during a special session of the Connecticut General Assembly on Monday, Jan. 8. In a press release from his office, Sampson outlined the reasons for his vote.

"Connecticut’s only hope for surviving this fiscal crisis is prioritization," he said in the release. "Providing assistance to our most vulnerable residents is always a priority for me. Our seniors have worked long and hard. Their golden years should not be burdened with difficulties and uncertainty regarding their healthcare."

MSP provides financial assistance to nearly 113,000 Connecticut seniors and disabled individuals who rely on these funds to pay for Medicare co-insurance, deductibles and premiums. The program, administered to qualified individuals based on income eligibility limits, was set to be reduced to match federal eligibility limits. Prior to passage of the current budget, Connecticut was one of five states that exceeded federal eligibility limits. Prior to passage of the current budget, Connecticut was one of five states that exceeded federal eligibility limits. Had funding not been restored, some recipients would have seen significant reductions in assistance while others would have become completely ineligible.

Sampson said that the Department of Social Services had pushed the implementation of the cuts from Jan. 1 to March 1, but Republicans felt that immediate action was needed.

"I am pleased that we were able to restore funding for this crucial program without resorting to tax increases, but rather by making sensible cuts to an oversized state government," he said in the release.

Sampson said that he and his colleagues signed letters and petitioned for a special session to address the funding issues.

The Step Saver/ The Observer

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Sampson explained that this is the 16th year
of the Women and Girls Fund.
"We exist to provide support,
financial support, to organiza-
tions in the communities we
serve," said Weston, "that put on programs to empower and
improve the lives of women and girls.
These organizations help
women of all ages, but many will
use their grants to assist a specific
demographic, such as the
grants awarded to Bristol
Preschool Child Care and Imagine
Nation Early Learning Museum.
These grants will be used to sup-
port early learning workshops for
parents and children to promote
literacy, language and physical
developments, and to start new
programs that promote healthy
lifestyle choices to families and
children.
Kendra Morales, president of
For Goodness Sake, a nonprofit
that aids people in their transi-
tion to independent living, said
that by providing the necessities
to turn a house into a home, such
as appliances and linens, you can
help people take root. "When
people can root, they can grow," said Morales.
"The grants and their pro-
grams were, the Boys and Girls
Club of Bristol Family Center,
Smart Girls initiative; Bristol
Family Resource Center, Ed-
ducation and support for
Licensed Day Care Providers;
Bristol Youth Services, Skills to
Pay the Bills; Connecticut
Women’s Education and Legal
Fund, to increase access to free
legal information, bilingual advo-
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attorneys; For Goodness Sake, support for women transitioning
to independent living; Girl Scouts
of Connecticut, for scholarships to their 2018 summer camp;
Imagine Nation, A Museum Early
Learning Center, for their pro-
gram A Healthy Imagination
Nation - Creating a Happy
Healthy Start; Jane Doe No More,
for a safe student initiative at
Lewis S. Mills High School; John J.
Driscoll United Labor Agency,
Building Pathways Connecticut;
Literacy Volunteers of Central
Connecticut; the Bushnell Center,
to provide women with alterna-
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Museum, to benefit their Girls
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The Women and Girls Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation announced over $50,000 in grant distribution to 14 organizations that support the women of Bristol, Plainville, Southington, and more towns across the region. The annual event took place on Thursday, Jan. 18, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

President and CEO of the MSCE, Susan Sadecki, said that events like these allow the MSCF to recognize the non-profit organizations that are working to help advance opportunities for women and girls.

"It’s a way to highlight the
work that they do," said Sadecki, "show the partnerships between the community foundation and the organizations and show how we work together to make other people’s lives better.

Newly elected Chair of the Advisory Board, Julia Weston, explained that this is the 16th year of the Women and Girls Fund.
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