

# Women & Girls' Fund awards \$45K in grants

By BRIAN M. JOHNSON STAFF WRITER | Posted: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 8:24 pm

BRISTOL — The Women & Girls' Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation awarded more than \$45,000 to 15 area organizations Tuesday at its annual meeting.

Dawn Nielsen, chair of the fund's advisory board, said the grant money awarded, an all-time record high, was collected during the fund's annual "Wonder of Women" fundraiser as well as the John & Gloria DeFrancesco Fund for Women and the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women and a planned gift from Laura Minor. This gift will establish the Laura Schlesinger Minor Fund and will provide additional grant money.

The fund, which is dedicated to supporting women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott, also celebrated its 16th year and the achievement of its founders' goal to reach a \$500,000 endowment. In addition to the representatives of the recipient organizations, fund leaders honored 42 members of the "500 club" who donated \$500 or more to helping the fund reach its goal.

"2016 was an incredible year with many accomplishments thanks to the collective work of so many people," said Nielsen. "First and foremost, our donors, the Women and Girls' Fund Advisory Board, many committee members and supporters of the fund. The fund's 15th anniversary initiative, the First 500 challenge, was an exciting opportunity to reach the goal of the original founders — building a permanent endowment of \$500,000 to ensure there will always be funds available to identify and meet the needs of local women and girls."

Nielsen said that nearly 150 donors supported the challenge.

"There are so many challenges old and new in the communities we serve and I wish we could support everyone," said Jeanine Audette, chair of the fund's distribution committee and a member of the local Board of Education.

"We have the honor of building upon a legacy of courage like yours to support real change and progress."

The following organizations received grants:

The Boys & Girls Club and Family Center of Bristol, Bristol Youth Lacrosse, Bristol Youth Services, Chippens Hill Middle School, Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington, Environmental Learning



Women & Girls' Fund

Brian Johnson | Staff  
Representatives from 15 organizations received more than \$45,000 in grants from the Main Street Community Foundation's Women & Girls Fund.

Centers of Connecticut, Inc., For Goodness Sake, Imagine Nation A Museum Early Learning Center, Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut, Oak Hill/Chapter 126 Sports Center, Plymouth Family Resource Center, Prudence Crandall Center, Southington Valley Midget Football, The Children's Museum and Wheeler Clinic.

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