

GRANTS IN ACTION

Revitalizing Plymouth Through History and Art

Though a small town of 12,000 people, Plymouth has a very rich history. Incorporated in 1795, Plymouth was built on clocks and locks as manufacturers harnessed the power of the Pequabuck River. Not just a manufacturing center, Plymouth was a traditional New England colonial village that has retained much of what made it unique and inviting to businesses and families.

The Town of Plymouth Beautification Committee wanted to showcase that history. With a \$930 grant from the Bristol Brass General grant Fund at Main Street Community Foundation, a mural depicting important objects, places and people in Plymouth's history on a wall outside at the Terryville Library was created.

"A *Time in History* mural came together because we not only wanted to invigorate Terryville's downtown by adding color and a sense of place, but we also wanted to create pride in Plymouth's heritage and educate the residents," said Jerry Milne, a member of the Beautification Committee.



The mural, which is 100 feet long, depicts 18 places, objects and people important to Plymouth's history. It was created over many months in 2016 by several groups of volunteers led by Art in Motion, a volunteer group whose mission is to use the arts to enliven downtown Terryville.

Most recently third grade students at Fisher Elementary School in Terryville used the mural to play the "I Spy" game to

help them learn about the history of their community and feel more connected to it. The "I Spy" game was created to make it fun for students and visitors to locate things on the mural and learn about the significance of that place, object or person on the town of Plymouth. Objects depicted on the mural include an oven thermometer, an 1835 mileage marker, a horseshoe, cannonballs and a dress form.

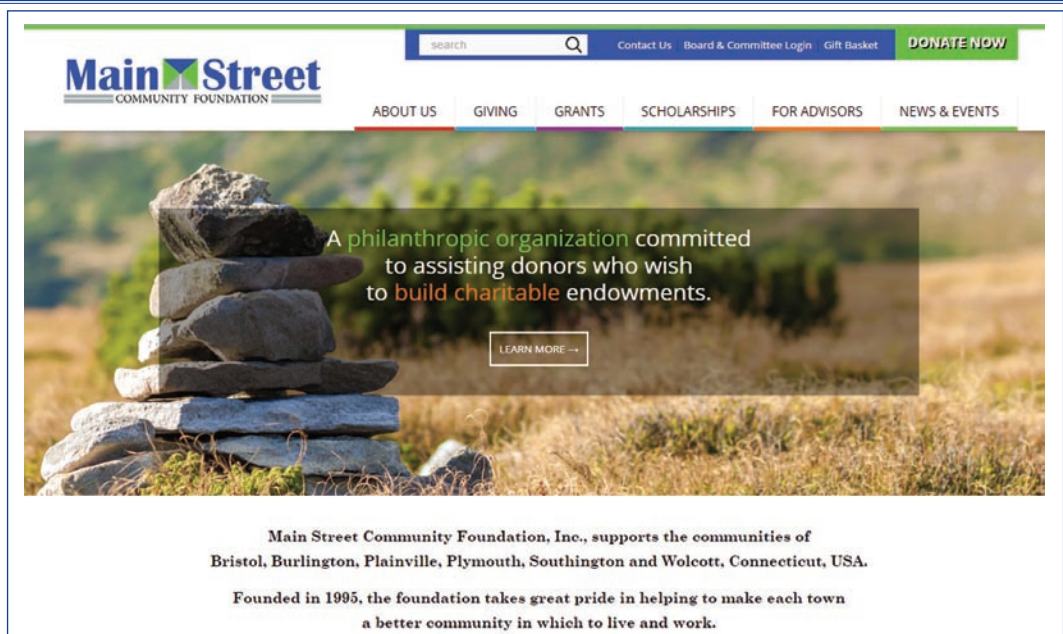
"A *Time in History* also features several landmarks that were recently refurbished, such as the Waterwheel, the Old Terryville Cemetery and the Dorence Atwater Monument, and are within walking distance from the mural," stated Milne. "We hope that it will attract visitors downtown and increase the economic potential of Terryville."

The Foundation funds arts and culture and community development programs like this through its spring General Grant Cycle in addition to programs focused on education, health, human services, environment and animal welfare.



Visit MSCF's New Website

Thanks to generous grants from Farmington Bank Community Foundation and Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, Main Street Community Foundation has launched a new website. With a fresh look and feel and improved usability, it was designed with you in mind. To positively enhance your experience, the new website features a responsive layout for all platforms, easier online donation functionality and a focus on the impact our donors, volunteers and grants have made in your communities. Visit www.mainstreetfoundation.org to learn more about your community foundation, donate to your favorite cause and experience the new site.



The screenshot shows the website's header with the Main Street Community Foundation logo, a search bar, and navigation links for Contact Us, Board & Committee Login, Gift Basket, and DONATE NOW. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for ABOUT US, GIVING, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FOR ADVISORS, and NEWS & EVENTS. The main content area features a large image of a stone stack with the text: "A philanthropic organization committed to assisting donors who wish to build charitable endowments." and a "LEARN MORE" button. At the bottom, it states: "Main Street Community Foundation, Inc., supports the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott, Connecticut, USA. Founded in 1995, the foundation takes great pride in helping to make each town a better community in which to live and work."

WOMEN AND GIRLS' FUND



Celebrating Partnerships

"We always ask our students what their goals are and about 90 percent of them state that they want to improve their job situation and be able to better support their family," said Maria Simao, Executive

Director of Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut, while accepting a grant at the Women & Girls' Fund's *Annual Meeting & Grantee Reception* in January. "Because of that, we have recently started shifting our focus a bit towards financial literacy. With the grant from the Women & Girls' Fund, we will concentrate on helping the women in Bristol, Plainville and Southington and their children to learn skills like opening a bank account, counting and understanding money, applying for credit cards and other basic skills that can help them move towards better financial sustainability."

That was the cause for celebration at the Women & Girls' Fund's Annual Meeting & Grantee Reception. The event gathered donors, community members and Fund representatives together to award 15 organizations serving women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott a record \$45,465 in grants.

Grants were made possible with the proceeds from the annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event, the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women, the John & Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women

and Girls, the Malerbo Childrens Field Maintenance Fund, the JoAnn & David Mills Family Fund and the City of Bristol Treasurer's Fund for Financial Awareness. For a full list of grants awarded and the programs they supported, visit www.mainstreetfoundation.org/women-girls-fund.

"We are thrilled to be announcing over \$45,000 in grants thanks to the generosity of the many donors who believe in the mission of the Women & Girls' Fund," said Dawn Nielsen, Chair of the Fund's Advisory Board.

The Women & Girls' Fund of Main Street Community Foundation is built on partnerships - with donors, the communities and nonprofit organizations. All working together toward a common goal - to improve the conditions and opportunities for local women and girls.

A Dream Realized

When the Women & Girls' Fund was founded in 2001, the original founders had a dream - to build a permanent endowment of \$500,000 to ensure that there will always be funds available to identify and meet the needs of local women and girls. That dream was within reach at the start of 2016, the 15th anniversary of



2016 Women & Girls' Fund Grantees

the Women & Girls' Fund. At the annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event, the First 500 Challenge was launched to give everyone an opportunity to participate.

Thanks to your generosity, the dream has been realized! Nearly 150 individuals, families, and businesses contributed to the *First 500 Challenge*. In addition, there are 42 members of the "500 Club," a designation for those who have donated \$500 or more to the Challenge.

But we cannot stop there. Advancing opportunities for local women and girls is essential. As the Fund continues to impact you and your neighbors, we invite you to join us. Together we will continue to improve the conditions and opportunities for local women and girls.

For more information on the Women & Girls' Fund, please contact the Main Street Community Foundation at 860.583.6363 or visit www.mainstreetfoundation.org.



INSIDE VIEW

New Year Brings New Leadership to MSCF Board of Directors

The Main Street Community Foundation elected officers and two new board members at its annual meeting on March 17, 2017.

Officers elected to serve for the 2017-2019 term are: John D. Scarritt, Chairman; Michael Brault, Vice Chair; Valerie DePaolo, Secretary; Marguerite Fletcher, Treasurer; and John A. Letizia, Past Board Chair.



Mell Hobson

The Board of Directors also elected two new directors representing the communities the Foundation serves. Mary Ellen "Mell" Hobson, a Southington

native, previously served on the Foundation Board of Directors a decade ago and is a longtime Advisory Committee member of the Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Foundation. She is passionate about helping others as evidenced by her career as a registered nurse and her positions with several local nonprofit organizations.



Jen Scully

Jennifer Scully is a lifetime resident of Wolcott who has been an active member of the Foundation's Distribution and Scholarship Committees for many years. The owner of Scully Travel, Jennifer is a business leader in the

Wolcott community, and a member of the Wolcott Chamber of Commerce.

"The Board of Directors plays an essential role in guiding the Foundation's work in the region," said Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of the Foundation. "As we welcome in the new officers and directors, we also thank those who are retiring from the Board - Jan Neri of Southington and Rob Caiaze of Burlington. Their leadership, tireless service and numerous contributions to the communities not only helped elevate the Foundation but the lives of local residents."

The Community Foundation Board consists of 21 community leaders charged with ensuring donors' intentions are fulfilled in perpetuity.

PEOPLE OF VISION



"Imagine walking into an apartment and not only having it be empty but you have nothing to bring into it," said Kendra Morales, Executive Director of For Goodness Sake, a Bristol based nonprofit organization.

The realization that that is what many individuals transitioning to independent living face sparked the idea that led to For Goodness Sake. Started in Kendra's garage in 2013, the 100 percent volunteer-run nonprofit has grown to a large warehouse on Riverside Avenue in Bristol.

"Over 490 families have been helped since we started," stated Kendra. "The smiles, the gratitude, the tears. It's an incredible thing."



For Goodness Sake volunteers moving a client into their new home.

For Goodness Sake provides direct aid, such as furniture and household goods, to individuals and families making the transition to independent living at no cost to them. These individuals and families may be formerly homeless, escaping a domestic violence

situation or rebuilding a life after a fire.

"We help them transform an empty living space into a home," said Kris Dargenio, Director of Operations for the organization.

All individuals and families are referred to For Goodness Sake by a partner agency. A shopping date is then scheduled where they go and pick out the items for their new home, including furniture; linens; kitchen and dining items; cleaning supplies; accessories and

miscellaneous objects. All items are donated by local residents and businesses and they can be either dropped off at the warehouse on Saturday mornings or a pickup can be scheduled.

"We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the support of the community," stated Kris.

In August of 2014, Main Street Community Foundation became the fiscal sponsor of For Goodness Sake while they were applying for their 501(c)3 nonprofit status. That status was obtained in late 2015.

"The work this organization is doing in our communities is not only unique but vital," said Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of Main Street Community Foundation. "We were proud to be their fiscal



For Goodness Sake Warehouse

sponsor and we are proud to continue to support them."

Most recently, For Goodness Sake received a grant from the Smith Family Charitable Fund at the Foundation for new mattresses and a grant from the Women & Girls' Fund at the Foundation to provide welcome-home baskets containing items to make their new homes feel even warmer. Over 80 percent of For Goodness Sake's clients are women and their families.

"We believe in the inherent goodness of people. We just want to help them and we want to do it with dignity," said Kendra.

INSIDE VIEW

2016 Sees Record Grantmaking

Additionally, the Annual Meeting celebrated 2016, which saw the distribution of a record \$1.4 million in grants and scholarships to benefit the residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott. Nearly \$14 million has been distributed since the Foundation's establishment in 1995.

Furthermore, the Foundation received \$1.1 million in contributions in 2016 and six new funds were established at the Foundation by local individuals, families and organizations to support causes they care about to better their communities.

"Our local communities have very generous residents," Sadecki explained. "They have established a total of 216 funds

and made contributions that fuel these grants to their favorite nonprofits, their towns and their most passionate causes, like education, healthcare and the environment. We are honored to help our donors carry out their wishes and accomplish their charitable goals."

What You Can Do

Match your favorite cause with action

Give to an existing Main Street Community Foundation fund

Direct your giving

Start your own fund or build one into your estate plan

Help others in your neighborhood

Give to the Money In Motion Fund

Foundation Welcomes New Staff

The Foundation recently welcomed two new members to its team. Kate Kerchaert



Kate Kerchaert

has been hired as the Program Officer. She has over 10 years of grantmaking experience and will be responsible for developing program initiatives, particularly in the health area. Rhonda Pilkington has been hired as the Accountant. She has over 25 years of accounting experience and will oversee the financial administration of the Foundation and its component funds.



Rhonda Pilkington

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.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

OUR VISION

To be widely recognized as the comprehensive center for leadership and philanthropy in the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott

OUR MISSION

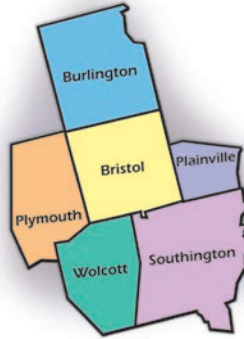
To enhance the quality of life for both present and future generations in the communities we serve. We accomplish our mission by encouraging and promoting:

Gift Planning ~ Prudent Stewardship of Assets
Effective Grantmaking ~ Community Leadership

OUR CORE VALUES

Excellence, Integrity, Inclusiveness and Transparency in all we do.

Communities We Serve



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Chairman of the Board

Michael Brault
Vice Chairman

Valerie A. DePaolo
Secretary

Marguerite P. Fletcher
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Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Confirmed in Compliance with
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Community Foundations.



Get regular updates on community news,
grant awards and application deadlines at
facebook.com/MainStreetCommunityFoundation



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