

## GRANTS IN ACTION

### Walsh Summer Work Experience Program Fills Vital Need

The beginning of the summer brought news that the City of Bristol was not expecting. The State Summer Youth Employment Program positions in Bristol would be eliminated due to Connecticut's absence of a state budget.

Despite the jarring news, 30 Bristol high school students were given the opportunity to work a meaningful job within their community at local employer sites while developing the skills and personal qualities necessary for success in the workforce. The Walsh Summer Work Experience Program (WSWEP) was funded with a grant from the Tim and Mary Walsh Charitable Fund at Main Street Community Foundation and coordinated by the United Way of West Central Connecticut. It was started nearly a decade ago to initially serve additional youth that were not



*WSWEP students visited Oxford Airport to learn about careers in aviation and airport management operations.*

served by the state-funded program due to limited funding and eligibility requirements.

The first week of the program was spent in a classroom with Professor Christina Welch who had developed an innovative classroom curriculum with a strong focus on career readiness

skills and social and emotional learning. The following six weeks provided each student a real world work experience four days a week, while the fifth day was spent in the classroom and on thoughtfully planned career exploration field trips.

"What really makes the WSWEP unique is the classroom curriculum and the field trips to employer sites in varying industries," stated Nancy Micloskey. "We're really looking at the lifelong impact that this program can have on the students."



*Students participated in a "Walking Tour of North Main Street, Bristol" which included presentations at the Bristol Fire Department, Bristol Police Department, United States Post Office and a lunch conversation with the Mayor and other city officials.*

### Did you know?

Thanks to you, Main Street Community Foundation has awarded over \$1,045,921 in scholarships and grants through the first nine months of 2017. For a full list of grants awarded from all funds to date, visit [www.mainstreetfoundation.org/grants-awarded](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org/grants-awarded).



*2017 Scholarship Recipients*



*A grant from the Elizabeth I. and Louis J. Matt Animal Protection Fund allowed George, injured and abandoned in a Plainville park, to be brought to the CT Humane Society for surgery and recovery.*



*Natalie Jesionka is presented with a scholarship from the Stanley P. Bitel Memorial Fund from Stan's family.*



*An individual at CW Resources uses an online work-readiness program specifically designed to train adults with significant disabilities.*

# WOMEN AND GIRLS' FUND



The Women & Girls' Fund (WGF) at the Main Street Community Foundation (MSCF) held a *Lunch & Learn* forum on August 24, 2017 at Tunxis@ Bristol. Professionals and volunteers from

twelve nonprofit organizations were in attendance. The WGF supports programming and collaboration among local nonprofit organizations by providing funding, education, and networking opportunities.

The forum provided an overview of the grant process, as well as best practices in applying for a grant using the Foundation's online system. In addition, the 2016 WGF grantees shared mid-year reports about the impact their programs are having on their local communities. In 2016, \$42,570 in program grants were awarded to 15 organizations. The Boys and Girls Club of Bristol stated, "This is the best growth we've seen by our girls in a long time." The *Entrepreneurial Program* was piloted for eight Bristol girls to master simple home repair and develop skills to build projects for their homes or to sell. The Southington Valley Midget Football *Powder Puff* program discussed the importance of maximizing the use of funding through problem-solving

and creative thinking. They were determined to give all of their players the best protection from concussions possible, and their efforts paid off; they contacted the manufacturer directly and negotiated a price that would stretch their grant money to cover 100 percent of the equipment needed for safety head gear.

A community needs discussion was facilitated during the forum to gain insight into the current critical needs and issues local girls and women face. According to Imagine Nation,



*Girls in the Boys and Girls Club of Bristol's Entrepreneurial Program learn how to use different tools.*

A Museum Early Learning Center, "Childcare is a big issue for families especially due to funding cuts." The Children's Museum observed, "There is a lack of women interested in traditionally masculine careers. Cultural change is needed." Building Pathways concurred with the childcare issue and also suggested, "Get women involved in the major fourteen trades." Plainville

Middle School representatives stressed the importance of building STEM Lab (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning opportunities into the curriculum. Mental Health CT noted the increase in mental health issues, which are often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed among women and girls.

The organizations agreed that they need to actively collaborate with one another, especially in the current financial climate. Budget cuts result in scaled back programming and reduced staffing in the nonprofit organizations serving our local communities.

The WGF empowers females by improving conditions and opportunities for women and girls in the communities served by MSCF through funding, education, and increasing public awareness of the needs that exist for women and girls, and to connect them with the opportunities available to meet those needs. To learn more about the WGF, visit: [www.mainstreetfoundation.org/women-girls-fund](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org/women-girls-fund).

## WOMEN & GIRLS' FUND EVENTS

January 2018 WGF Annual Meeting  
April 24, 2018 Wonder of Women (WOW) event at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington at 5:30 p.m.

## INSIDE VIEW

### Local Residents Choose MSCF as their Philanthropic Vehicle

Five different groups of people with one common mission: Make their community a better place by supporting the causes they care about.

Since the Foundation's founding in 1995, 220 funds have been established.

The five newly established funds are:

**Betts Family Fund** – Whit and Jarre Betts established this donor advised fund to support charitable causes important to their family primarily in the communities served by the Foundation.

**Haiti Medical Fund** – This project fund was established by Dr. Daniel Scoppetta, a longtime surgeon in Bristol. It will support medically

and technically trained volunteers participating in humanitarian efforts in Haiti to improve access to essential medical and surgical services and education of local medical providers.

**Geoffrey M. Pierce Memorial Fund** – This donor advised fund was established by family and friends to honor the life of Geoff Pierce who passed away of a drug overdose in 2016 at the young age of 26. The Fund will support organizations for general charitable purposes with preference for programs that promote addiction recovery.

**Ray Machine Corp./Ray & Darlene Lassy Family Fund** – Ray Lassy, a

longtime resident of Plymouth, established this scholarship fund to assist Terryville High School seniors who are pursuing post-secondary education and/or training in the field of precision machining, mechanical engineering, or manufacturing and design.

**Laura Schlesinger Minor Fund** – Laura Minor established this fund to support initiatives identified by the Women & Girls' Fund. Laura has also included a bequest in her estate plan to further fund this endowment.

For the stories of other named funds at the Foundation, visit [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org).

## What Will Your Legacy Be?

"Have I created a family legacy to inspire and help others? Have I instilled in my children the joy of giving and the ability to see the need of others?" Noreen Schumann



wondered aloud during *Your Legacy – By Design or By Default?*, a presentation hosted by Main Street Community Foundation.

Forty individuals attended the April event where former longtime Southington resident Noreen Schumann explored how individuals and families can ignite or reignite their

passion for creating something that endures. The event was generously sponsored by Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

Noreen discussed how by being intentional with your giving, you can transform lives in the way that is important to you. And that is exactly what she did - she established the Douglas and Noreen Schumann Special Interest Fund at the Foundation in 1998 to support community programs focused on building self-esteem, confidence and strong values in youth. In addition, Noreen is a member of the Foundation's CornerStone Society, which recognizes those who have left a bequest in their will.

"I feel so privileged to have been introduced to Main Street Community



Foundation," Noreen stated. "Community foundations know the assets and needs of the community and they are instrumental in bringing those two things together."

"It's not all about money," Noreen reflected at the end of the evening. "It's about the heart and the joy of giving back. You have the power to shape your legacy. What will you do?"



## Friends of the Foundation Thanked for Contributions to Community

*"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."*  
~ Pablo Picasso

Main Street Community Foundation held its annual Friends Reception to honor and thank the Foundation's donors and volunteers on June 29 at Southington Community Cultural Arts (SoCCA). Nearly 120 Friends attended the annual reception and enjoyed dozens of art pieces, including paintings, sculptures, pottery, textiles and abstract pieces.

Special appreciation goes out to the staff and volunteers of SoCCA who guided attendees in hands-on art activities, such as weaving.



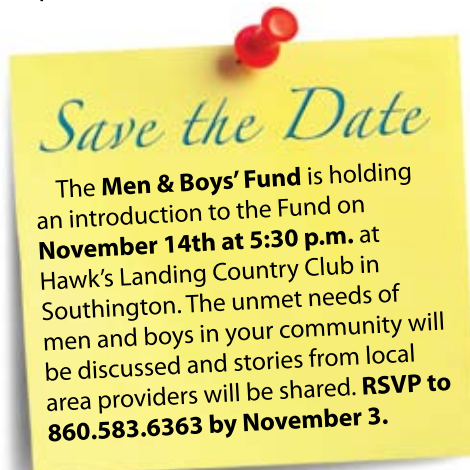
Thank you again to all of our supporters for your dedication and insight throughout the year!

## How you can help your community as you plan your year-end charitable giving...

- 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**
- Strengthen the Foundation's role as a funder, leader, convener and advocate – **Give to the annual Friends Campaign**
- Help others in your community – **Give to the Money In Motion Fund**

Donations can be sent by mail or made online today at [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org). Remember – if you are aged 70½ or older you can donate up to \$100,000

from your IRA to a qualified public charity, such as MSCF, to satisfy all or part of your annual minimum required distribution.



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

## Foundation Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards

When it comes to doing good in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth,

Southington and Wolcott, you can trust us. Main Street Community Foundation is pleased to announce our re-accreditation with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations™. National Standards, which was first achieved by the foundation in 2006, affirms our commitment to excellence and accountability. It provides assurance that we have sound policies and procedures in place for governance, grantmaking and operations. In short, we meet the highest standards for local philanthropy, and we are able to meet the unique, changing needs of your community.

Learn more at [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org) or [www.cfstandards.org](http://www.cfstandards.org).

**January 15, 2018**  
Grant and scholarship applications will be available online at [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org).

# 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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Excellence, Accountability, Impact.™



Get regular updates on community news, grant awards and application deadlines at [facebook.com/MainStreetCommunityFoundation](https://facebook.com/MainStreetCommunityFoundation)



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Thank you.

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