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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Community Foundation Awards \$650,000 in Grants**

The New Canaan Community Foundation (NCCF) recently announced \$650,000 in grant investments supporting local nonprofit organizations. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the foundation gathered with 80 local nonprofit organizations receiving new grant awards. The event included nonprofit staff and Board members, the foundation's staff and Board, and some of the 80 volunteers from New Canaan who gave their time to vet these investments.

The foundation's annual grant process distributes funds raised from donors across the community, who give at all different levels to pool their collective resources and make their community a better place. Together, with the foundation's other grantmaking programs, NCCF will invest more than \$1 million this year.

Local families and businesses work with the foundation to plan how to reach their charitable goals. Some set up donor-advised funds within the foundation, as an efficient vehicle to manage their charitable giving. This year, the number of donor-advised fundholders co-investing with the Foundation's spring grants has increased. While fundholders can give anywhere across the country, Sharon Stevenson, the foundation's Board Chair, called this "a testament to the shared passion for making our community a better place."

Every year, NCCF's grantmaking goal is to provide impactful funding for a range of programs serving our community. This spring's 80 grants support five categories, in pursuit of the following results:

- Human Services – Community members feel safe and are supported to get their basic needs met
- Arts, Culture & Community Resources – Preservation, expansion, and use of New Canaan cultural and recreational resources
- Youth & Education – Youth have the academic, social, and financial support they need to succeed
- Health – Community members have the information and access they need to stay healthy
- Seniors & Special Needs – Older adults and persons with special needs achieve and maintain a high quality of life

By dollar amount, the largest portion of resources were invested in human services, closely followed by access to arts, culture, and community resources. The largest percentage increases in funding this year,

however, supported the categories of seniors and health. Lauren Patterson, the foundation's President & CEO, commented on how this increased funding reflects what nonprofit organizations and community members are telling the foundation about growing community need.

Also notable, new grantees for the foundation's investments this year include: the Friends of Mead Park Playground, LiveGirl, and the New Canaan Parent Support Group.

Total grants this spring were made as follows. An asterisk (\*) indicates co-investment by a donor-advised fund:

**Human Services** – \$171,800 to 20 organizations, ensuring community members feel safe and are supported to get their basic needs met.

- **Building One Community\***: To support its comprehensive Workforce Preparation and Placement programs, which provide immigrants with English language and job skills that increase their employability and propel them forward on the path to self-sufficiency.
- **Child Advocates of SW Connecticut**: To support expanded volunteer advocacy services, including the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. Connecticut's CASA law became effective January 2017 and allows trained community volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children.
- **Domestic Violence Crisis Center\***: To support Court, Legal, and SustainAbilityCT services. Legal and Court services ensure victims of intimate partner violence know their rights and remedies available to them in the courts, and are a liaison to police departments. The SustainAbilityCT program focuses on economic solutions to drive employment, education, and housing – the building blocks for a sustainable future for clients.
- **Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of Southern CT\***: To support the organization's home-based and family-centered services to vulnerable and at-risk families in lower Fairfield County, including New Canaan.
- **Family Centers\***: To support the Den for Grieving Kids, which provides an array of programs that enable children ages 3-18 to process and cope with their grief.
- **Family ReEntry**: To support the organization's mission and vision of supporting the safety and self-sufficiency of families impacted by crime, violence/abuse, and incarceration. Funds will be used for operations of Reentry, Domestic Violence, and Youth & Family Programs.
- **Filling in the Blanks**: To support an expansion of the organization's partnership with the Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County, allowing the organization to expand from serving 40 students/week to 65 students/week at the early childhood center.
- **Food Rescue US**: To support the organization's volunteer-driven, community-based food rescue platform in Fairfield County.
- **Human Services Council Children's Connection**: To support Children's Connection, the organization's nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center, which provides wrap-around case coordination, support, education and treatment services to children who have been sexually and/or physically abused and their family members. Services are available free of charge to individuals in New Canaan and surrounding communities.
- **Inspirica**: To support the organization's two-generation approach to breaking the cycle of homelessness, investing in programs and services that help both adults and children on the path to self-sufficiency.
- **Kids in Crisis\***: To support Safe Haven for Kids, a free, 24/7 crisis intervention, counseling, and comprehensive emergency shelter for newborns to 17 year olds.

- **New Covenant Center:** To support the organization's food programs, including operations of Stamford's largest food pantry.
- **Open Door Shelter:** To support the organization's housing, case management, social services, and job training which help individuals and families identify their own strengths and find a path to a home and sustained success.
- **Pacific House:** To support the emergency shelter's meals program, which leverages volunteers and community donations to operate 365 days a year and serve nearly 20,000 meals each year.
- **Person-to-Person:** To support the organization's new Mobile Food Pantry, that recently launched to increase food access in Stamford, and to support the campership program, providing summer camp scholarships for children in need.
- **Pivot Ministries\*:** To support the purchase of a commercial grade refrigerator/freezer for the organization's 60-bed residential facility that serves men in treatment and recovery from substance use.
- **Saint Joseph Parenting Center:** To support the organization's mission to strengthen families at-risk of abuse and neglect by providing parent education and support.
- **Sexual Assault Crisis and Education Center\*:** To support the organization's sexual violence prevention education programs.
- **Voices of September 11th\*:** To support internships for NCHS students who learn and then teach their fellow students about September 11th, other incidents of mass violence, and resiliency.
- **Women's Mentoring Network:** To support the E to the 4th POWER Program (Employment, Education, Economic Security, Empowerment), which engages low-income women in building their job skills, financial literacy, and life skills.

**Arts, Culture & Community Resources** – \$152,900 to 20 organizations working to preserve, expand, and use New Canaan cultural and recreational resources.

- **American Red Cross:** To support the provision of emergency services including Disaster Cycle Services, Service to the Armed Forces and International Services, as well as Blood Services in New Canaan, Stamford and Norwalk.
- **Carriage Barn Arts Center:** To support design and planning to update the facility to meet the growing needs of the arts space.
- **Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County:** To support the Alliance's peer networking programs, which benefit the professional development of more than 260 arts and cultural organizations serving Fairfield County.
- **Friends of Mead Park Playground:** To support a thoughtfully renovated playground in Mead Park that better meets the recreational, social and developmental needs of the children of New Canaan and surrounding communities. Upgrades will include a fully inclusive play space that accommodates children of all abilities.
- **The Glass House:** To support "Glass House Presents at New Canaan Library," an on-going series of free lectures that explore architecture, design, and Modernism in New Canaan and beyond.
- **Magical Music for Life Foundation:** To support the production and dissemination of an educational music album that teaches young children about water safety, and has a special focus to reach individuals with autism and special needs.
- **New Canaan Historical Society:** To support the "Today is Tomorrow's History" project, an art installation that engages individuals and families to create a community portrait of New Canaan.
- **New Canaan Library\*:** To support the Design Development stage of architectural planning for the Library's new building.

- **New Canaan Nature Center:** To support 2018 bus transportation for the LINKS program, after the loss of state funding for the program that enables New Canaan and Norwalk students to engage in program activities at the Nature Center. Additional funding will also support a new seasonal groundskeeping assistant, to help with essential maintenance and upkeep of facilities and natural habitats.
- **New Canaan YMCA\*:** To support the Registered Nurse position at Camp Y-Ki summer camp.
- **New England Dance Theater:** To support the organization's Community Outreach programming, which is offered free of charge to constituents of more than 25 senior, youth and family social service agencies within a 25-mile radius of New Canaan. Funding will support a new relationship with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra to perform at Nutcracker performances, including the free Annual Nutcracker Benefit Show.
- **Norwalk Symphony Orchestra\*:** To support Not Just For Kids, a free music education program presented in partnership with the New Canaan Library.
- **Pro Bono Partnership:** To support free legal services to nonprofit organizations serving Fairfield County.
- **Shakespeare on the Sound:** To support production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at this year's Shakespeare Festival.
- **Silvermine Arts Center:** To support a new computer lab for Digital Art and 3D Animation programs, that will be used for both teaching and Open Studio.
- **Stamford Museum & Nature Center:** To support a new mobile app that will allow more individuals and families in Fairfield County to engage with the organization. The app will also offer new ways to experience learning at the property, and provide increased access to individuals with visual impairments, mobility challenges, and multiple languages.
- **Stamford Symphony Orchestra:** To support top quality orchestral music to residents of New Canaan and Fairfield County, at a price that excludes no one.
- **Summer Theatre of New Canaan:** To support the purchase of professional technical theatre equipment that enables the summer theatre to both sustain its quality programming and upgrade its award winning education program and their presentations and performances.
- **Waveny Park Conservancy\*:** To support the completion of trail renovations between South Ave. and Waveny House, as part of a multi-year partnership that has refurbished over 500 yards of trail.
- **Wildlife in Crisis:** To support renovations at the only wildlife hospital in Fairfield County. More than 25% of the organization's rescued wildlife come from New Canaan.

**Youth & Education** – \$123,850 to 18 organizations helping youth build the academic, social, and financial support they need to succeed.

- **A. B. C. Inc. of New Canaan\*:** To support the organization's mission to increase college enrollment of minority youth, by housing and supporting the academics, community involvement, and leadership endeavors of boys attending school in New Canaan.
- **All Our Kin:** To support the educational consulting program which provides intensive individualized coaching and consultation to family child care providers. By building their capacity as early childhood educators, they are able to give the youngest, most vulnerable children high-quality early learning experiences.
- **Carver Foundation of Norwalk:** To support the afterschool youth development program, which provides academic enrichment, recreation and wellness programs for disadvantaged middle and high school students.

- **Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County\***: To support early childhood education and support services for low-income families in Stamford and surrounding communities.
- **Domus Kids**: To support the organization's family advocacy model at two public schools and two alternative charter schools in Stamford. This model provides holistic care to the highest-risk, most disengaged youth in Stamford so that they can improve attendance, behavior, and emotional skills and improve their engagement in school.
- **Earthplace**: To support the expansion of Harbor Watch's water quality monitoring program into the upper reaches of the Rippowam/Mill River in New Canaan, and to support education programs for students in New Canaan.
- **Future 5\***: To support college prep workshops, job prep workshops, and tutoring for low-income high school students.
- **Horizons at New Canaan Country School**: To support school year and summer programming for low-income students, with the aim of closing the achievement and opportunity gaps experienced by Fairfield County's low-income students.
- **INTEMPO**: To support the organization's free or minimal-tuition bilingual music instruction for underserved children, ages 6-17, largely from immigrant backgrounds. This year, the organization will continue its literacy initiative, to increase the reading skills of students, and will form an advanced ensemble for their most accomplished students to have a positive, challenging learning environment in which they can self-advocate, develop as artists, and take on leadership roles.
- **LiveGirl**: To support LiveGirlTalk, a 10-week afterschool mentoring and discussion group, at Saxe Middle School and the New Canaan Library. Funding will also support scholarships for New Canaan teens to attend Camp LiveGirl in the summer.
- **Mercy Learning Center**: To support the Literacy and Life Skills Program's Tutoring Program, the organization's oldest and largest program which provides holistic literacy and life skills education to 800 undereducated, low-income women each year.
- **New Canaan CARES\***: To support the organization's high-quality, evidence-based parent, youth and community programming.
- **New Canaan High School Scholarship Foundation**: To support the administration of the scholarship program, providing financial aid to deserving and qualified NCHS graduates who plan to attend college.
- **Norwalk Community College Foundation\***: To support the Summer Bridge Math Intensive Program, which prepares students who have placed into remedial math for college-level courses.
- **Norwalk Grassroots Tennis & Education\***: To support the organization's Girls Club programming, which provides 24 girls ages 6-18 with a unique opportunity to connect, learn and play with other girls in a safe, nurturing environment. The program is hosted at New Canaan Racquet Club.
- **REACH Prep**: To support Prep Academy, a 15-month academic enrichment program, and college guidance for REACH Prep students.
- **Stamford Cradle to Career Initiative**: To support a community-wide partnership working to collectively align resources to ensure that all youth succeed in education, career and life. The initiative is housed at the United Way of Western Connecticut.
- **Stepping Stones Museum for Children**: To support a pilot program expansion of the Mutt-i-grees program at New Canaan Library. Mutt-i-grees is a social and emotional learning curriculum that brings shelter animals into spaces that encourage literacy, communication, empathy, and understanding. Stepping Stones recruits volunteers from their teen

empowerment internship program to train as Mutt-i-grees program facilitators, and incorporates shelter animals identified through their existing partnership with Norwalk PAWS Animal Shelter.

**Health** – \$118,950 to 12 organizations helping community members have the information and access they need to stay healthy.

- **Americares Free Clinics\***: To support the Bob Macauley Americares Free Clinic of Norwalk, which provides free, high-quality health care to low-income uninsured community members.
- **Child Guidance Center Mid-Fairfield County**: To support the delivery of comprehensive behavioral health services to children and families from New Canaan in the Outpatient Children's Clinic. Outpatient services include individual, family and group therapies, as well as psychiatric services, parent guidance and case management services.
- **Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut**: To support high-quality mental health services for children and teens in New Canaan and surrounding communities, regardless of their families' ability to pay.
- **Circle of Care for Families with Cancer\***: To support the Lifeline Emergency Fund, a financial assistance program that alleviates some of the financial difficulties many families experience when their children are undergoing treatment for cancer.
- **Fairfield County Hospice House**: To support a new Volunteer Coordinator, which will allow the organization to set into action direct and indirect hospice care volunteers to serve residents.
- **Laurel House**: To support a Youth Resource Specialist, who will serve young adults in Fairfield County who have completed high school and have mental health disabilities that have been a barrier or limited their access to higher education.
- **New Canaan Parent Support Group\***: To support the organization's mission to provide support for parents of loved ones struggling with substance use disorder or in early recovery; and to raise awareness about addiction, mental health and recovery in our community.
- **Norwalk Hospital Association\***: To support the Emergency Department's pain management initiative, including medical education and clinician training that helps decrease opioid usage.
- **Silver Hill Hospital**: To support a conference focused on issues facing the LGBTQ community, to better inform local healthcare providers in their care of community members.
- **Tiny Miracles Foundation\***: To support a continuum of services for New Canaan preemies and their families.
- **Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County\***: To support hospice and palliative care for New Canaan and Fairfield County families facing financial hardship.
- **Waveny LifeCare Network\***: To support a multi-year investment in the Outpatient Rehabilitation Center as part of the Forever Generosity Campaign. Renovations to the outpatient rehabilitation center will add a new speech therapy room, create additional space for professional therapy services, and allow the purchase of new rehabilitation equipment.

**Seniors & Special Needs** – \$82,500 to 10 organizations ensuring older adults and persons with special needs achieve and maintain a high quality of life.

- **Abilis**: To support the organization's employment program, which places individuals with developmental disabilities in competitive employment, and helps them experience enhanced independence, self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-sufficiency.
- **Arts For Healing**: To support continued and expanded music or dance/movement therapy to clients with Alzheimer's/dementia at Waveny LifeCare, Cannondale and Brightview Senior Living Centers. These interventions have demonstrated significant help by engaging the clients,

triggering memory, shifting mood, managing stress induced agitation, coordinating motor movements, and facilitating cognitive function, and expand upon an NCCF grant from last year.

- **ElderHouse:** To support the Subsidy Program, which ensures all seniors have access to quality day-time care services regardless of ability to pay.
- **Family & Children's Agency:** To support the organization's continuum of home care services, which empower seniors with services to remain safe and independent as they age in place.
- **Getabout:** To support the organization's mission to provide transportation services to New Canaan seniors and to anyone with special needs in the New Canaan community.
- **Meals on Wheels of New Canaan:** To support the organization's mission to provide nutritious meals to New Canaan residents whose physical, emotional, mental, medical or social condition makes it difficult to provide these meals for themselves, regardless of their ability to pay.
- **New Canaan Mounted Troop:** To support the Super Troopers equine care and adaptive riding therapeutic programs, which are dedicated to serving children and adults with special needs who reside in the local community.
- **Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs:** To support a comprehensive arts program, including music therapy, music, photography, movement, visual arts and literacy, for children and young adults with special needs. The organization's work includes a partnership with Arts for Healing.
- **STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way...:** To support the Birth to Three Program, an in-home early intervention service for young children with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism. The program goal is for children to enter school developmentally on-track in literacy and social, emotional and intellectual skills with a personalized transition plan.
- **Staying Put in New Canaan:** To support the organization's mission to help New Canaan seniors live safely in their homes and remain actively engaged in the community as they age.

New Canaan Community Foundation serves as New Canaan's local partner for advice, leadership and facilitation of charitable giving. For over 40 years, NCCF has invested in high-impact local organizations and has helped donors achieve their charitable goals. For more information call (203) 966-0231 or visit [www.newcanaancf.org](http://www.newcanaancf.org).

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