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PRESS RELEASE

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Community Foundation Awards over \$670,000 in Grants

The New Canaan Community Foundation (NCCF) made over \$670,000 in grant investments in the local community this spring. On May 23rd, the foundation gathered with 72 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 nearly 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. Leo Karl III, the Chair of the foundation's Board of Directors, called the annual process "the 'secret sauce' that provides incredible due diligence on behalf of our donors while helping to strengthen the organizations we support."

Together, with the foundation's other grantmaking programs, NCCF will invest approximately \$1 million in local community organizations and scholarships for students this year. To-date, the foundation has invested nearly \$12 million in local nonprofit organizations.

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. Several donor-advised funds contributed to help increase the foundation's grant investments in the community this spring.

Every year, NCCF's grantmaking goal is to provide funding for a wide range of important programs that have an impact in our community and improve our quality of life. This spring's 72 grants support activities in six broadly defined categories: Arts, Culture, & Community Resources; Seniors; Health Care; Human Services; Special Needs; and Youth/Education.

Lauren Patterson, the foundation's President & CEO, estimates that the most recent grant investments will touch New Canaan residents more than 10,000 times this year, and will reach more than 50,000 people in Fairfield County.

Total grants this spring were made as follows:

Arts, Culture, & Community Resources: \$154,250 to 17 organizations

- **American Red Cross:** To support emergency services which includes disaster cycle services, service to the armed forces, international services and blood services to residents in New Canaan, the surrounding communities of Norwalk and Stamford, and Lower Fairfield County.
- **Center for Contemporary Printmaking:** To support internships for artistically talented college student from Fairfield County, whose works will be transformed through the introduction of a variety of print mediums.
- **Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County:** To support its peer networking programming for local arts organizations which includes its executive directors network, marketing roundtable, and preservation network.
- **Franklin Street Works:** To support an art exhibit and discussion that will expand allyship with the LGBTQ community in New Canaan and surrounding towns.
- **New Canaan Land Trust:** To support the successful acquisition of the 6.35-acre Silvermine-Fowler Preserve. This time-sensitive grant was made earlier in 2017.
- **New Canaan Library:** To support planning and design for the new library's construction.
- **New Canaan Nature Center:** General operating funds to support the Nature Center's programs and operations
- **New Canaan YMCA:** To support a registered nurse to be on site at the YMCA's Camp Y-Ki summer camp program, held annually at Kiwanis Park.
- **New England Dance Theater:** To support the organization's community outreach programs, including the annual Nutcracker benefit show and the dance demonstration series.
- **Norwalk Symphony:** To support the Not Just For Kids educational outreach program which brings musicians to New Canaan and other nearby towns.
- **Shakespeare on the Sound:** To support the upcoming annual festival production of "Macbeth," and the accompanying education programs.
- **Silvermine Arts Center:** To support critical tree removal, cabling and pruning to maintain safety on the Silvermine campus, after three buildings were damaged last year.
- **Summer Theatre of New Canaan:** To support the purchase and upgrade of critical equipment necessary to deliver the theatre's summer programming and the organization's expansion into fall/spring elementary school touring.
- **The Glass House:** To support the organization's public programs at the New Canaan Library that focus on architecture, design, and Modernism in New Canaan and beyond.
- **Thrown Stone Theatre Company:** To support production of the U.S. Premiere of the new play, *Milk*.
- **Waveny Park Conservancy:** To support the rehabilitation of the park trail system.
- **Wildlife in Crisis:** To support repairs to a wall and adjoining structure currently used for on-site educational events.

Seniors: \$47,500 to 5 organizations

- **ElderHouse:** To support the ElderHouse Adult Day Program as well as subsidized fees for low-income seniors.
- **Getabout:** General operating funds to support reliable transportation for New Canaan seniors and residents with special needs.

- **Meals on Wheels:** General operating funds to support the delivery of meals to homebound elderly, frail or disabled residents of New Canaan who need the service to maintain their health and independence.
- **Schoolhouse Apartments:** To support health and wellness programs in the organization's affordable senior housing.
- **Staying Put in New Canaan:** To support annual dues for New Canaan seniors with limited financial means.

Health Care: \$79,400 to 9 organizations

- **AmeriCares Free Clinics:** General operating funds to support the Bob Macauley Americares Free Clinic of Norwalk, which provides free high-quality care to low-income residents.
- **Child Guidance Center of Mid Fairfield:** To support the delivery of wrap-around behavioral health services to children and families from New Canaan in the Outpatient Children's Clinic.
- **Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut:** To support access to professional mental and behavioral health services for children in New Canaan and its surrounding communities, regardless of their families' ability to pay.
- **Circle of Care for Families of Children 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.
- **Laurel House:** To support Thinking Well, a program that addresses the long term cognitive impairment of those living with serious mental illness.
- **Liberation Programs:** To support life-saving treatment for individuals addicted to opiates who are unable to pay for these services.
- **Silver Hill Hospital:** To support training for opioid overdose death prevention, including a basic explanation of addiction, background on opioids with data on the overdose epidemic, and step-by-step instructions on how to administer naloxone to save a life.
- **Tiny Miracles Foundation:** General operating funds to support and expand the full range of services, programs, and assistance provided to preemies and their families.
- **Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County:** To support hospice and palliative care for families and patients with financial need.

Human Services: \$183,470 to 21 organizations.

- **Building One Community:** General operating funds to support its comprehensive English Language program, aimed at increasing English proficiency among immigrants to help expand their career opportunities.
- **Child Advocates of Southwest Connecticut:** To support and expand volunteer advocacy services by developing the state's first court appointed special advocates (CASA) program. The CASA legislation makes it possible for 100% of abused and neglected children to be appointed a volunteer advocate focused on the child's well-being.
- **Domestic Violence Crisis Center:** To support the Court and Legal Project as well as the SustainAbilityCT Project. These projects provide domestic violence victims with legal stability and self-sufficiency as they leave an abusive relationship.
- **Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse:** To support home based services for 4-6 months that strengthen the family unit using nurturing parenting practices, teaching age appropriate expectations, and establishing discipline techniques.

- **Family Children's Agency:** Funding for the Community Connections Center programs which work with over 1,200 individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, as they begin to regain self-sufficiency.
- **Family ReEntry:** General operating funds to support for the agency's wide range of behavioral health, violence intervention, re-entry assistance, and youth prevention programs.
- **Filling in the Blanks:** To support weekend meals for 80 children from Horizons' summer program at New Canaan Country School.
- **Food Rescue US:** General operating funds to support the organization's model of food rescue and delivery throughout Fairfield County.
- **Human Services Council "Children's Connection":** General operating funds to support the Children's Connection's work coordinating care for victims of child abuse and their families.
- **Inspirica:** To support the Family Housing Program which provides housing and supportive services to families in emergency shelter and transitional housing.
- **Kids in Crisis:** To support Kids in Crisis' core program, Safe Haven for Kids, which provides safe, round-the-clock crisis intervention, counseling, and emergency shelter care for children under 18.
- **New Covenant Center:** General operating funds to support the organization's programs, including the soup kitchen and food pantry.
- **Open Door Shelter:** To support the shelter's case management services, homeless outreach, hot meal and food pantry program, job training and housing support initiatives.
- **Pacific House:** To support the Emergency Meals Program which provides two meals daily to clients of the Pacific House Emergency Shelter.
- **Person to Person:** To support the campership program during the summer of 2017 which will send 25 children-in-need to camp.
- **Pro Bono Partnership:** General operating funds to support free legal assistance, educational resources, and a Legal Resource Helpline to small- to mid-size qualified nonprofits in NCCF's service area.
- **Saint Joseph Parenting Center:** To support a software initiative that will more effectively measure client interactions and outcomes. The organization strengthens families who are at risk of abuse and neglect by providing parent education and support.
- **St. Mark's Gospel Garden:** General operating funds to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the New Canaan Food Pantry and the food pantry at Darien's Person-to-Person.
- **The Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling & Education Center:** To support the Prevention Education Initiative to reach students, parents and professionals with its message of the importance of sexual violence prevention.
- **Voices of September 11th:** To support Voices' summer high school internship program.
- **Women's Mentoring Network:** To support the efforts of the 4th POWER Program (Education, Employment, Economic Security, Empowerment), which includes Life Skills workshops to provide women with a foundation for their workforce development and financial literacy.

Special Needs: \$65,500 to 6 organizations.

- **Abilis, Inc.:** To support for the hiring and training of an additional job coach to provide job training for individuals from the Life Skills programs, which will increase competitive employment opportunities for 200 day program participants with developmental disabilities.
- **Arts for Healing:** To support music therapy programs targeted towards seniors suffering from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia at Waveny LifeCare and two other local senior living centers.

- **Horizons, Inc.:** To support the “Cleaner is Better in 2017” project, which will upgrade laundry equipment at the camp for children with special needs.
- **New Canaan Mounted Troop:** General operating funds to support the "Super Trooper" program, an equine therapeutic program for individuals with special needs.
- **Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs:** To support arts programs including music therapy that services children and young adults with developmental disabilities.
- **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.

Youth and Education: \$143,400 to 15 organizations.

- **A.B.C. House of New Canaan:** General operating funds to support the organization's mission to increase college enrollment of minority youth. The program currently supports five young men in their academics, community involvement, and leadership endeavors while they attend 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:** To support the after-school youth development program for disadvantaged middle and high school students, which provides not only academic enrichment but also recreation and wellness programs.
- **Children’s Learning Centers:** To support early childhood education and support services for low-income families in Stamford and the surrounding communities.
- **Domus Kids:** To support the organization's family advocacy model at two charter alternative schools in Stamford and two Stamford Public Schools. 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.
- **Future5:** General operating funds to support college prep workshops, job prep workshops, and tutoring for low-income high school students.
- **Harbor Watch (Earth Place):** To support the water quality monitoring program, as well as Harbor Watch’s four education programs that engage New Canaan high school and college students in experiential learning.
- **Horizons Student Enrichment Program at New Canaan Country School:** To support scholarships for four New Canaan students to attend the summer program that serves 280 low-income children in grades K-9.
- **INTAKE Music:** General operating funds to support free or minimal-tuition bilingual music instruction for underserved children, ages 6-17, largely from immigrant backgrounds.
- **Mercy Learning Center:** To support the Literacy and Life Skills Program’s Tutoring Track, 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:** General operating funds to support the organization's youth, parent, and community education programs for wellness and health.
- **Norwalk Community College Foundation:** To support the Summer Bridge Math Intensive Program, which prepares community college students who have placed in remedial math, a major obstacle to student success.

- **Norwalk Grassroots Tennis & Education:** To support the Young Girls-Only Tennis Club program, hosted at the 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 the 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.

NCCF promotes community philanthropy and helps donors achieve their charitable goals. The Foundation helps all residents make their charitable giving personal, simple, and powerful. Local donors make a difference in New Canaan through the foundation's high-impact grants and life-changing scholarships. For more information call (203) 966-0231 or visit www.newcanaancf.org.

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