



NEW CANAAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

NCCCF News

Celebrating 30 Years of Philanthropy

A Newsletter of the New Canaan Community Foundation

December 2007

The mission of the New Canaan Community Foundation is to promote community philanthropy and help donors achieve their charitable goals.

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Giving as a Family

Using a Community Foundation to assist you in your family's philanthropic plans.

Just as parents can bequeath their wealth to their children, they can also pass down a legacy of philanthropy and community service. Creating donor advised funds for children at a community foundation is an excellent way to start building that tradition.

"Setting up a donor advised fund for the children is a powerful way for families to gather around an activity that will contribute to community-building," says John G. Davies, president and CEO of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. "Philanthropy can become a connective tissue of their family structure."

An invaluable partner in this group effort is the local community foundation. It can transform a young person's fledgling interests into lasting charitable behavior...

Introducing Young People to Philanthropy

Donor advised funds offer families a meaningful way to talk about community responsibility "in terms that aren't just father preaching to daughter," according to Kevin Lyle, a Louisiana donor. Lyle's daughters were 15 and 12 when he set up donor advised funds for them through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, where Lyle, his sister, and his father already had funds. "We can talk about how important it is to give back if you're fortunate enough to have the resources," says Lyle, ... "It creates a good avenue for dialogue about a topic that may otherwise have to be conveyed in a preachy way."

For some families, philanthropy begins even earlier. "With one of our funds, the grandparents gave donor advised funds to six of their grandkids, ranging in age from 6 to 16," says Heather Larkin Eason, executive vice president of the Arkansas Community Foundation. Another family includes donors who are 8, 9, and 10 years old. "Each child has to bring one idea to the table and make an argument for why the family should fund it, and then the family decides as a group," Eason explains. ...

Many families find that starting a donor advised fund at a community foundation—as opposed to creating a family foundation—can be the easiest and most effective means to put their charitable goals in action....

The Benefits of Community Foundations

According to Eason, community foundations offer three major benefits to donor families.

- **Expertise:** With their deep knowledge of local charities, community foundations can identify the giving opportunities that best suit a family's interests.
- **Structure:** Community foundations provide an established framework for the giving process.
- **Simplicity:** Families don't need to worry about incorporating or filing tax returns or applying to the IRS for tax-exempt status using Form 1023.

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Third Annual Philanthropy Luncheon Benefits the Young Philanthropists Fund

NCCF held its Third Annual Philanthropy Luncheon on November 1, 2007 at the Country Club of New Canaan. Longtime New Canaan resident and philanthropic leader Lois Anderson served as the Honorary Chair for the event. Susan Crites Price was the key note speaker at the luncheon. Ms. Price is the Vice President of the National Center for Family Philanthropy. She is the author of *"The Giving Family: Raising Our Children to Help Others"*, and a frequent speaker on the subject of instilling charitable values in children and about succession planning for family philanthropy.

All proceeds from the Luncheon went to benefit the Young Philanthropists Fund (YPF). The YPF is a new fund at the New Canaan Community Foundation. The Fund provides an opportunity for high-school-age residents of New Canaan to experience a grant making process and fund programs that address community needs. The 2007 - 2008 YPF Steering Committee is underway with the first year of the program.

According to Foundation President, Bill Walbert, "Creating opportunities, such as this luncheon, for individuals to join together to help make an impact on our community, is a focus for the Foundation. This is just one way in which NCCF promotes community philanthropy." Additionally Mr. Walbert remarked "The Foundation can help donors achieve their personal charitable

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NCCF Launches Young Philanthropists Fund

NCCF created this new field of interest fund in 2007, and with the support of generous donors this educational and grantmaking initiative was launched this fall. The YPF offers a new opportunity for high-school-age residents of New Canaan to experience a grant making process and fund programs that address community needs. Students explore philanthropy, leadership and community responsibility. The Fund's Steering Committee brings together a group of students who are committed to making our community a better place to live and are interested in the many aspects of philanthropy. This philanthropy group works to meet community needs through a grant awards process with NCCF. The focus is to learn how financial contributions to a non profit organization make an impact and how one evaluates which organization to support, among many competing choices.



The 2007 Young Philanthropists Fund Steering Committee. (first row l-r) Tara Carey, Katherine Pettee, Katherine Schultz, Jessica Wachtel.

Second Row (l-r) Will Rice, Ben Charas, Matt Moran, Faith Grabarz, Steven Carey, Laura McCulloch, Will Murphy, Rachel Murphy, Annie Oppenheim, Anjalie Christie, Brian Lobdell and Cassidy Dumbauld. Not pictured: Alex Pettee

Philanthropy Luncheon continued

goals by offering Donor Advised and Field of Interest Funds, which allow individuals and families to target grants where they see the greatest need. Funds can also be a great vehicle for families to work together in their giving or for grandparents to pass on the tradition of philanthropy."

NCCF is grateful for the tremendous corporate support of this event. **US Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management** was a major corporate sponsor for the event. Additional corporate support was received from The Bank of New Canaan and HTG Investment Advisors Inc.

The event was chaired by Sara Daniel and committee members were Judy Bentley, Meg Meurer Brossy, Wendy Carey, Cindy Charas, Indira Christie, Carole Clarkson, Joan Dionne, Marea Dumbauld, Jane Gamber, Gretchen Gertsen, Robin Gestal, Jeanne Gnuse, Sally

Halstead, Leo Karl, Elizabeth Ker, Amanda Layng, Tracy Merrill, Chris Miller, Martha Perry, Sheila Pettee, Gigi Priebe, Lynn Quinn, Pat Rice, Liz Cahill Ruksznis, Judy Stephan, and Toddy Turrentine. The Community Foundation is grateful for all of the volunteer time and energy this committee gave to this event.

The success of this year's event will enable the Fund to make approximately \$4000 in grants into the community this year.



Giving as a Family continued

Community foundations are also well-equipped to accommodate the ever-changing interests and complicated schedules of children and teenagers. "The children's interest in recommending grants may come and go, especially in the teenage years," Eason says. "But that's another role of the community foundation. If we don't hear from them for a while, we contact them to ask, 'Have you thought about your fund?' We try to keep it in the back of their mind."

With the youngest donors, the community foundation's local know-how becomes especially important. "The child might say something like, 'What about animals?'" Eason explains. It's then up to the community foundation to recommend local shelters and humane societies with a good reputation.

The First Step to Lifelong Giving

Animal welfare was an early philanthropic concern for Kevin Lyle's younger child, while his elder daughter, now in college, has become interested in African relief efforts. Family philanthropy "gets them engaged in finding their passions," Lyle enthuses. "At their age, they haven't found passions yet; they've found things that they're interested in that may grow into passions. It's an evolutionary process."

Jessica Winter is a freelance writer based in New York City.

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