



COMPASS POINTS

A Publication of the
Community Foundation
of Eastern Connecticut

WINTER
2020

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Mentoring Matters



"In The Thick" hosts Maria Hinojosa and Julio Ricardo Varela with panelists Charles Venator-Santiago and Kica Matos.

Broadcasting Youth Voices

A leading journalist, area colleges and podcasting empower local students.

Three Rivers Community College and Eastern Connecticut State University were the "incubators" last fall for students to develop effective communication skills through podcasting, and lively community discussion around the important topics of addiction/mental health and immigration, respectively.

The students - who would not otherwise have had access to these unique learning experiences - learned from one of the leading journalists in the country, Maria Hinojosa, and her team at Futuro Media Group (FMG), which produces multimedia content from a

person of color perspective to educate, enlighten and empower people to navigate the complexities of an increasingly diverse and connected world. Evening community discussions of the topics were held in each location and taped for Maria Hinojosa's *In The Thick* show.

The Community Foundation, along with our funding partners, the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund and the Perrin Family Foundation, share a commitment to empowering youth and advancing equity. Together we will present a third opportunity for students to amplify their voices around racism and discrimination at a March 25th event at the Science & Technology Magnet High School of Southeastern CT in New London. The podcasting workshop will be offered to New London High School students, while the live taping of *In The Thick* is open to the public and begins at 6 pm.

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From
Maryam Elahi
President & CEO



Inspired by Hope

As we begin this New Year, we are energized by the alliances that we have built and the opportunities to work together to bring positive changes to our community.

We were thrilled to partner with Futuro Media Group, Three Rivers Community College, Eastern CT State University and New London Public Schools to provide a unique and exciting learning experience for students in Eastern Connecticut. Hundreds of students and community members packed halls to participate in conversations on topics that were close to their hearts. Our Women & Girls Funds Task Force on Public Policy is continuing to hold listening sessions and advocacy trainings to deepen our outreach into the community. We are building the capacity of our nonprofits to do more to address system change. And, we are partnering with other civic-minded organizations and providing grant monies to ensure that all in our communities participate in the 2020 Census.

The way forward is filled with hope... and hope is what inspires us daily to advocate and work for the rights of all who reside in Eastern Connecticut.

We need you at our table. Please join us.

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OUR VISION FOR OUR REGION

A healthy, thriving, sustainable
Eastern Connecticut with greater
equity for all

OUR MISSION

Collaborating with partners to put
philanthropy into action to address
the needs, rights and interests of our
community in Eastern Connecticut

OUR VALUES

- Integrity
- Equity
- Respect
- Courage
- Empathy

OUR WORK

- Convene and serve as a thought partner with like-minded donors, nonprofits and other leaders to ensure collective impact, especially around four priority focus areas:
 - Empower youth
 - Promote basic needs and rights
 - Preserve the environment
 - Advance animal welfare
- Bring resources and knowledge to nonprofit organizations in Eastern Connecticut so that they may effectively and strategically carry out their missions to meet the needs of our community.
- Advise and support our donors to fulfill their philanthropic interests.

"Having award-winning journalists and the national podcast, In the Thick, air live at Three Rivers Community College allowed for a very timely, rich, and honest discussion about the overdose crisis that is impacting our students, our communities, our lives. The workshop held prior to the podcast was also a highlight, broadening our students' understanding and experience with the power of podcasts. We thank the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for making this event possible. We hope that through this dialogue we were able to educate, remove barriers to seeking help, and eliminate misconceptions about the overdose crisis."

– Mary Ellen Jukoski, President
Three Rivers Community College

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"In The Thick" hosts Maria Hinojosa (left) and Julio Ricardo Varela (right) with panelists Kelvin Young, Kenyatta Thompson, and Taylor Ford.

Listen to the Three Rivers Community College and Eastern CT State University *In The Thick* podcasts on addiction/mental health and immigration at: cfect.org/InTheThick

Census 2020: Ensuring a Complete Count to Help Eastern CT Thrive

Chances are you've heard about how important a "complete count" is for the 2020 Census.

Your Community Foundation is working hard to ensure that all residents of our region are counted so that Eastern Connecticut gets its accurate share of the hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding that will flow into U.S. communities every year for the next decade. Connecticut currently receives \$11 billion in federal funding, based on the last census.

The stakes are high. For every person in Connecticut not counted, an estimated \$2,900 will be lost. An undercount would have significant impacts on education, health and public works that affect us all.

We know you share our concern about how an incomplete count would have a devastating impact on our local safety net, including programs such as Head Start, Medicaid, nutrition assistance (SNAP) and other vital services. The Community Foundation has signed on with the Census 2020 as part of a Complete Count Committee to encourage and support efforts to count hard-to-reach communities in our region.

Although confidentiality in the process is federally protected, some communities remain wary of participation. We seek to empower trusted community partners

and those who speak the language of a given community to help build trust and make the process as inclusive as possible.

In addition to connecting community organizations that are working to get a complete count for Census 2020, we have created a small grants program to support outreach efforts. For more information or to apply, please contact Jennifer O'Brien at JennOB@cfct.org or 860.442.3572.

The logo for the United States Census 2020, featuring the text "United States® Census 2020" in white on a maroon background.

Nonprofit Leadership Needs All Voices

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Cohort: From Learning to Action

After 160 representatives from nonprofits attended two local workshops designed to increase diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) across their organizations' leadership, mission and daily work, we knew that we had tapped into an important need. Embracing and promoting equity will better serve everyone across our region and help to reduce the racism and intolerance that impacts our most vulnerable neighbors on a daily basis.

The Community Foundation itself is building upon its core values of equity and justice with Board and staff immersed in reading, workshops, discussions with experts, and other learning opportunities with the intent of applying a greater equity and justice lens to our operations, grantmaking, fundraising and community leadership. As we move forward, we will invite our fundholders and other stakeholders to continue on this listening and learning journey with us.



Guest speaker & workshop facilitator Jamal Jimerson of Minority Inclusion Project with local nonprofit board and staff representatives.

With the expertise of Jamal Jimerson and his team at the Minority Inclusion Project (www.ctmip.org), we responded to our nonprofit partners' desire to extend and deepen their learning on equity by supporting a six-month DEI cohort of four organizations in 2019: New England Science & Sailing (NESS), LaGrue Center, Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition and the Connecticut Audubon Society.

Next up in 2020 is a collaboration with other area funders on new DEI offerings, with an eye toward helping to develop the next generation of board members and volunteers to advise policy and practice at local organizations.

"In the 120 years since we began as an organization, we haven't diversified like our state has. We reach over 15,000 students every year and a majority of them are from marginalized communities. Yet, when these students look at our educators, they do not see anyone that looks like them. Our efforts to have these students become the next generation of conservationists relies on our ability to evolve to a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organization. It's crucial for our sustainability and vision for impact."

– Patrick Comins, Executive Director
Connecticut Audubon Society



Right: Nonprofit board and staff representatives at the 2019 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshop.



Laurel Butler with her husband, Christopher Daniels, and their granddaughter.

Unleashing the Powerful Potential of Your IRA

“It’s such an easy way to create a legacy for the organizations I care about!”

These were the words of Laurel Butler when she had an “aha” moment during her tenure as chair of the Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees in 2008-2009. As a busy financial advisor and volunteer with a spouse and children, Laurel realized the importance of planning for “when I’m no longer here.” She wanted to include the community she calls home, but also had to focus on taking care of her family.

Laurel reasoned she could do that and still leave something for the organizations in whose missions she strongly believes. “I wanted the work they do to make our community thrive to be part of my legacy,” said Laurel. And so, she included those organizations as partial beneficiaries for her Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Fast forward a decade to another “aha” moment:” When reviewing her legacy giving plans, Laurel decided to create a single repository for her IRA partial beneficiary

designation and include all of her charitable priorities in one endowed field of interest fund at the Community Foundation. The **Butler Daniels Fund** will support five area nonprofit organizations in perpetuity.

At a time “very far off from now,” this new plan will simplify the distribution process from her IRA, create a favorable tax situation for her heirs, and put into place annual grant distributions to five organizations whose important work addresses the educational and spiritual needs, as well as overall quality of life, of residents of our region.

Creating a legacy fund at the Community Foundation can be as easy as adjusting your beneficiary form online with your IRA plan administrator. To explore this further, please contact Alison Woods at alison@cfect.org or 860.442.3572.

Gifts That Work For You

The Charitable IRA Rollover (qualified charitable distribution or QCD) could be a wonderful opportunity for you to make a lasting impact on the charitable causes you love through a fund at the Community Foundation.

It allows individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 per year from individual retirement accounts to qualified charities without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes. Since no tax is incurred on the withdrawal, gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction, but may be counted toward an individual’s required minimum distribution (RMD*).



**If you reach age 70½ in 2020 or later you must take your first RMD by April 1 of the year after you reach 72. If you reached the age of 70½ before January 1, 2020, the prior rule of 70½ as the age requirement for RMDs still applies.*

(Source: www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-required-minimum-distributions)

Scholarship Donors Help Open Doors

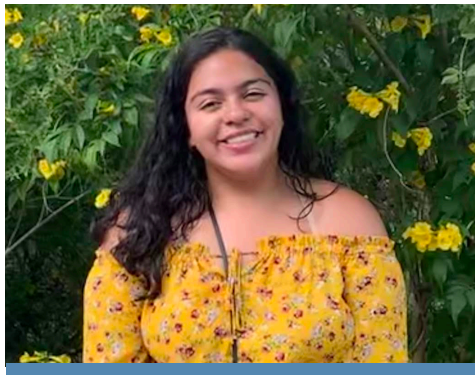
Every day, we work with donors and nonprofits to help students – regardless of race, ethnicity, or zip code – afford post secondary education and training.

Be inspired by these three scholarship recipients who are sure to make their mark on the world, thanks in part to the generous donors behind their Community Foundation scholarships.



"In the 13 years between my second and third years of college, I lived and worked all over the US and Europe. I learned that our world sits at a tipping point, and it was time to act for our future. I moved back to Connecticut to major in Environmental Earth Science and Sustainable Energy Studies at Eastern Connecticut State University. My career goal is to help implement renewable energy projects domestically and abroad."

- Daniel Simpson, Eastford, recipient of the **Esther & Lucie Harmon & Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship**



"I have always enjoyed being able to help other people, which is why I plan to pursue a career in the healthcare field. I also hope to be able to help underrepresented communities and empower them to learn more about their health. Thanks to the Chalecki Scholarship, I am one step closer to those goals. The financial assistance that it has provided will be of great help in paying my educational expenses at the University of Connecticut, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying."

- Ailin Cuevas Gonzalez, Windham, recipient of the **Bernard & Alice Chalecki Scholarship**



"I am a single mom and full-time student in the Rhode Island College School of Nursing. RICSON's courses are preparing me to graduate with a baccalaureate degree, take the NCLEX-RN exam, and have the foundation for pursuing a graduate degree. The Serafin Scholarship has reduced the financial burden and stress associated with work overload. I'm focused on my passion for all things nursing and am looking forward to beginning a new and rewarding career."

- Lenka Horsakova, Pomfret, recipient of a **Shirley Bradway Serafin Scholarship**

Eastern CT Mentoring Collaborative (ECMC) Celebrates Mentors and Mentees

The ECMC is a key vehicle for the Community Foundation to promote mentoring as a means of empowering young people.

At its second annual awards ceremony in January, the ECMC presented the **Outstanding Mentor Award** to Holly Butler, a mental health worker at Natchaug Hospital's Joshua Center adolescent day treatment program in Groton. The **Outstanding Mentor Champion Award** was given to LifeFAQs.org, a New London-based nonprofit that brings volunteer mentors into schools in New London, Norwich and elsewhere to connect caring adults with students who need them.



Awardees: Tom Miyashiro, Executive Director, LifeFAQs.org; and Holly Butler, Natchaug Hospital's Joshua Center Southeast.



"Big Brother" Tom with his "Little Brother" Malcolm Simmons, a relationship that began when Malcolm was 10 years old and that has changed both their lives.



Community Foundation
of Eastern Connecticut

68 Federal Street
P.O. Box 769
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860.442.3572
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SAVE THE DATES

Northeast Women & Girls Sassy Chapeau Hat Show

May 7, 2020

Windham Women & Girls Celebration Breakfast

June 5, 2020

CONNECT YOUR PASSION TO A PURPOSE

Contribute to your own or an existing fund and/or promote your Community Foundation's work through these funds:

- A gift to the **Community Leadership Fund** helps advance our strategic efforts to support our four priority areas. It also helps us to bring together people and organizations in powerful partnerships that strengthen our region's nonprofits.
- A gift to the **President's Discretionary Fund** enables us to step up when leadership is needed and to get behind innovative projects as they emerge.

In addition to making a straight tax-deductible donation, there may be other tax-advantaged ways for you to make a difference:

- Transfer appreciated securities.
- Roll over up to \$100,000 of your IRA assets if you are age 70 ½ or older (*donor advised funds excluded*).
- Make gifts that produce life income, such as Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Lead Trusts, and Charitable Gift Annuities.
- Donate gifts of real estate.

START A CONVERSATION TODAY

Whether you are new to philanthropy or looking to do more through your giving, we can help you have a meaningful impact on the issues and communities that you care about. Contact **Alison Woods** at alison@cfect.org or **Lauren Parda** at lauren@cfect.org for a confidential conversation. Or call them at 860.442.3572.

Build a Fund

Did you know that you can create a permanently endowed fund and build it up over time? You can start a fund and add to it over 3-5 years to reach the \$10,000 minimum (\$25,000 for scholarships). You can then add more as circumstances allow. A long-term plan might include a legacy provision in your estate plan or naming your fund as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy.

Your community.
Your legacy.
Your power to
do good.

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