



PAGE 2 ►
Power of Pets

PAGE 3 ►
Housing Equity & Access
FRESH New London

PAGE 4 & 5 ►
Sustainable CT
Create Opportunities & Access



Empowering Those in Pursuit of the American Dream

The Immigration Advocacy and Support Center (IASC) got off the ground in New London in 2014 to ensure equal access to our justice system by providing low-cost, quality legal services.

The Community Foundation's support of the "Changing Lives, Empowering All Residents" (CLEAR) program enables IASC to help hundreds of immigrants through legal case management, one-on-one legal clinics, citizenship programs, and outreach events to residents who need them most.

At the core of IASC's efforts are caring people. College students and other volunteers who speak Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese and other languages

help the staff in their outreach and communications. IASC has forged partnerships with key community groups such as Safe Futures, United Community & Family Services and Child & Family Agency to build trust among those they aim to serve. IASC's connections with United Way food pantry sites, schools and churches has created opportunities to reach out to residents who may be reluctant to seek out help.

IASC Executive Director Joe Marino observes that, "Obtaining permanent resident status or citizenship changes lives, strengthens families and creates employment opportunities. This in turn reduces stress, restores dignity and encourages public participation." For each resident served, three additional family members on average benefit. That ripple effect magnifies IASC's important work of empowering and ensuring access to our legal system for those who aspire to the American Dream.

Visit our partner at www.iascct.org

From
Maryam Elahi
President & CEO



Eyes on Equity and Justice

As your community foundation and with our "forever" horizon, we place a lot of importance on being forward-thinking.

Over the next year or so, we'll be seeking your and other community members' input as we ensure that our grantmaking, community leadership and advocacy continue the pursuit of a healthy, thriving, sustainable Eastern Connecticut for all who live here.

You've shown us that generous people who choose to partner with us act on a strong desire to give back so that others have a chance to thrive and prosper, too. Creating opportunities and opening doors: it's what you've been interested in all along and it's what you've counted on us to do. With a refreshed focus on equity, fairness and justice, we'll continue to explore all the ways in which we can work together to connect everyone—regardless of gender, race, ethnicity and zip code—to all that our region has to offer.

Please read on for a glimpse into some of this work and continue along with us on the journey toward positive change.

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OUR VISION FOR OUR REGION

**A healthy, thriving, sustainable
Eastern Connecticut**

OUR MISSION

**To put philanthropy into action
to address the needs, rights and
interests of our community in
Eastern Connecticut while fulfilling
the passions of our donors**

OUR VALUES

- Integrity
- Inclusivity
- Respect
- Courage
- Collaboration
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Kindness
- 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.

"Allowing people to come into shelter with a beloved pet allows them a place of safety and the chance to begin their path back to housing—for themselves and their pet!"

– Cathy Zall, Executive Director,
New London Homeless Hospitality Center

The Power of Pets

New London homeless shelter makes accommodations for our four-legged friends.

Not surprising to anyone who has a pet, animal companionship contributes to emotional well-being and provides a sense of protection for homeless individuals.

One recent study of pet owners experiencing homelessness found that 74 percent of men and 48 percent of women identified their pets as their only source of companionship and love. These furry friends inspire and encourage their owners during what can be very challenging and stressful times.

With a grant from the Community Foundation, the New London Homeless Hospitality Center (NLHHC) has initiated the innovative *Guests with Pets* program



Adorable "Mr. Pugsly" and his owner, who are part of the "Guests with Pets" program at New London Homeless Hospitality Center, with volunteer Faye Richardson.

to allow pets to accompany their humans in the shelter and to receive any necessary veterinary care, as NLHHC works with guests toward attaining permanent housing, employment and hope for a brighter future.

Visit our partner at www.nlhhc.org

Working toward greater equity in access to housing

Shelter is a basic human right.

In eastern Connecticut, it has been increasingly difficult for people to find affordable housing. Many households spend more than 50% of their income on housing expenses. People of color, seniors and lower income families face additional challenges, including lower quality housing options that often impact health and well-being.

Opening doors and removing barriers is the work of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, a statewide organization whose mission is to ensure that all people have equal access to housing opportunities, free from discrimination. Along with funding from several donor advisors, the Community Foundation made a grant to support the advocacy and education work of Connecticut Fair Housing to empower area renters and homebuyers so that they understand their rights and know



CT Fair Housing represented Latisha to help her secure safe and subsidized housing for her and her son who has autism, after their previous living conditions were determined to be uninhabitable.

how to report housing discrimination if it happens to them. This grant also enables Connecticut Fair Housing Center to analyze data from subsidized housing providers to bring to light any practices and policies that

discriminate against people of color and others in protected classes.

Visit our partner at www.ctfairhousing.org

FRESH New London

Planting seeds for the future.

If you wandered over to a community garden run by FRESH (Food, Resources, Education, Security and Health) New London, you'd likely get the impression that it is an organization that works with youth to grow healthy vegetables for their neighborhoods, builds their knowledge about food justice issues and empowers them to take action—and you'd be right. What you might not see is the caring “village” behind the scenes that stays with and supports the young people as they move through high school, to and through college, and on to young adulthood by providing mentoring, moral support and a 4-year college scholarship.

FRESH youth organizer Julie Garay shares with us her story about that village and the friends and partners she has encountered



Pictured here at one of FRESH's urban farms are some members of the FRESH family: Doug Barrett (left); Julie Garay, (3rd from right); and Barbara Barrett (right), along with FRESH youth leaders.

along her journey as a member of the FRESH family (see sidebar).

Since 2008, the FRESH Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut has awarded 4-year awards to 14 students, totaling more than \$90,000.

Visit our partner at www.freshnewlondon.org

“I grew up in New London since the age of four and started working with FRESH as a freshman in high school in 2011. FRESH has been my ‘home away from home’ and with the help of my FRESH family, I graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a bachelor’s in Sociology. I have continued to work at FRESH for 8 years and now as their Youth Organizer, I am a part of supporting the amazing youth that create this beautiful organization. With the FRESH Scholarship, many other youth just like myself are able to continue our journey in education and develop our paths to greatness.”

– Julie Garay, FRESH Youth Organizer



Individuals from 13 towns participate in Sustainable CT training at Three Rivers Community College.

“We want to make sure that our communities understand the needs of all residents and make or influence decisions and policies that are inclusive of those residents.”

– Lynn Stoddard, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University

Sustainable CT

What if all 169 towns in Connecticut adopted practices and policies to become more livable communities in harmony with the natural environment?

To encourage movement in that direction, the Community Foundation is supporting Sustainable CT to work with local teams in our 42-town footprint on a voluntary certification program.

Over the last two years, New London, Windham and Coventry have achieved bronze certification and 21 towns are currently in the certification process to become stronger, healthier communities.

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Sustainable CT is engaging groups and individuals that historically have not been represented in environmental planning and who are disproportionately impacted by poor air, water and environmental quality.

Together, The Nature Center and Sustainable CT offer an inclusive process and use an equity lens to address the health and well-being of current and future community members in an environmental context.

In 2019, Sustainable CT produced a series of workshops on diversity, equity and inclusion for participating communities and municipal leaders. Follow-up grants will be made available to help selected teams implement new actions.

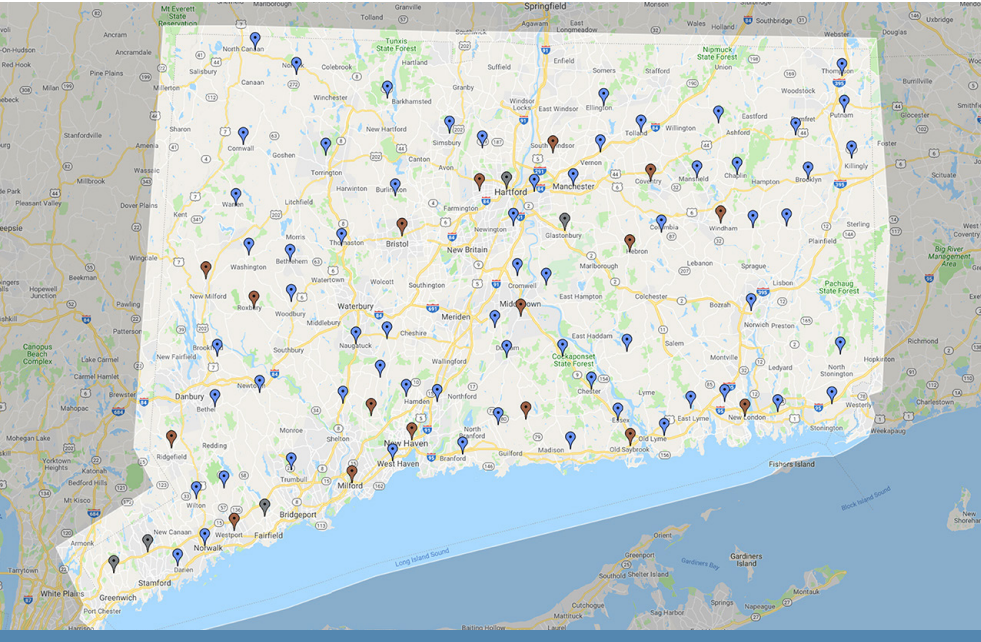
Sustainability programs are getting traction across the nation. By encouraging actions on a local level, they empower people to join a movement toward more equitable, economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable communities. The Community

Foundation aims to make sure Eastern Connecticut is fully involved in this important work.

Visit our partner at www.sustainablect.org

Color Key for Map:

- Blue:** Registered communities
- Bronze:** Communities that achieved Sustainable CT Bronze certification in 2018
- Silver:** Communities that achieved Sustainable CT Silver certification in 2018



How people create opportunities and access through their community foundation.

By Giving Together

So far in 2019, \$4.3 million has been awarded in grants and scholarships, including \$324,000 to benefit residents of our towns in Windham and Tolland Counties. All of the Community Foundation's grants are made possible by the 526 different funds created by generous people in our region.

This year, two new unrestricted bequests — with the help of two donor advisors — made it possible for us to put extra grant dollars on the ground in the northern part of our region. We are thrilled to support Northeast Opportunities for Wellness (NOW), which offers fitness, nutrition and athletic programs for children regardless of their financial circumstances.

Visit our partner at www.nowinmotion.org

Photos: youth programming provided by Northeast Opportunities for Wellness.



By Making Giving Work For Them

The Charitable IRA Rollover provision is a great way to make a difference.



- The law allows those age 70 1/2 and older to transfer up to \$100,000 from an IRA to charity tax-free.
- The gift must be made directly from the custodian of your IRA to the Community Foundation.*
- Your tax-free rollover gift will be excluded from your gross income.
- Your gift can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).

* Gifts to donor advised funds, life income plans and private foundations excluded.

By Creating Funds

New Funds in 2019 (as of August 31)

- Clancy Family-St. Joseph Fund
- Frederick & Rebecca Crosby Fund
- Rebecca Crosby Fund for Women & Girls
- Abby I. Dolliver Family Fund
- Fitzpatrick-Chwalek Scholarship Fund
- Valerie S. Grimm Fund for Women & Girls
- June Salamy Krisch Fund for Women & Girls
- Laura and Scott Moorehead Fund
- Barbara Sahagan Fund for Women & Girls
- Ernesto & Mary Soriano Memorial Fund
- Lee & Thomas Terry Fund for Women & Girls
- Skip Thavenet Scholarship Fund
- Waterford Country School Fund



Scott and Laura Moorehead at the 2019 Northeast CT Women & Girls Fund Sassy Chapeau Hat Show.

The Laura and Scott Moorehead Fund

"When Scott and I began discussing the idea of a named fund under the umbrella of the Northeast Connecticut Women & Girls Fund, he smiled and said it would be like the projects we've done around our home—a combination of my creative energy and his sensible

engineering. That brought a smile to my face, too. I thought of the new, exciting projects that nonprofits would be creating, using our fund, to improve the lives of women and girls in our area. At the same time, the idea of building a legacy investment that would allow us to transfer our current investments into a vehicle that would grow during our lifetime, provide decades of giving, and allow us to take advantage of the new tax laws by bundling our multi-year giving into a single, large contribution made perfect sense.

We hope that others are inspired to join us in investing in northeast Connecticut, an area that is so full of heart, creativity and energy—a place we are so proud to call 'home.'"

— Laura Moorehead



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of Eastern Connecticut

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SAVE THE DATE

Community Foundation Annual Celebration

December 4, 2019

The Spa at Norwich Inn

Women & Girls Funds

Are You Up for a Challenge?

Our four Women & Girls Funds have a common commitment: To lift up women and girls and their families toward equity and opportunity for all. We are very fortunate that generous donors have stepped up to challenge others to build each of the four endowments through gifts and legacy commitments.

Southeast Women & Girls Fund:

\$215,000 challenge to match gifts dollar for dollar by December 31, 2019.

Norwich Women & Girls Fund:

\$125,000 challenge to match gifts dollar for dollar by December 31, 2019.

Windham Women & Girls Fund:

\$180,000 challenge to match gifts dollar for dollar by December 31, 2021.

Northeast Women & Girls Fund:

\$130,000 challenge to match gifts dollar for dollar by December 31, 2021.

START A CONVERSATION TODAY

The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut is here to help you invest in optimism and put your philanthropy into action to support your community.
Call or email Alison Woods at 860.442.3572 or alison@cfect.org.

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. 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.

Visit us at
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