

# COMPASS POINTS

*Our mission is to transform our region into a more vital, caring community*

A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

## *A Message from the President*

This is the year when private philanthropy became front page news. From the *Time* magazine's People of the Year (Bill & Melinda Gates and Bono) to the bountiful Buffett to the unlikely team of Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush raising lots of money together, personal generosity amazes and astounds us. Simultaneously, governments at all levels keep edging away from social services. Corporations are shrinking their giving programs. Cities like New London have closed down their social services departments. Who will close the gap between rich and poor that widens each year?

Community foundations are well-positioned to play a critical role in this shift from the public to the private sector. We celebrate the gust of wind that is inspiring a resurgence of personal ownership of social and environmental ills. We have many stories of people you might know who have decided to do their part. They aren't named Buffett or Gates, but they care a lot about where they live and how others who live here go on with their lives. We are blessed with a healthy array of agencies that make life sweeter for us all. We are rich in schools and colleges, libraries and hospitals, recreational opportunities and cultural wonders. Ever wonder how they stay alive? By simple acts of generosity by many ordinary folks. Help us preserve a climate of contributing that is in keeping with the times. We know deep in our bones that it's up to individuals to make life better where we live.

*Alice F. Fitzpatrick*



*Photo by Kate Gardiner / The Day*

*"Everything comes from literacy," said Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., left, in a conversation with retired Day editor and publisher, Reid McCluggage and almost 900 people who gathered at the Garde Arts Center for "An Evening with Henry Louis Gates, Jr." on October 5, 2006. This free community event was hosted by the Community Foundation's Let's Read Fund, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the Connecticut Library Consortium.*

## You Call Him Skippy?

By **Christine Bradley**

Executive Director, Connecticut Library Consortium

Skippy? That would be Henry Louis Gates Jr., W.E.B. DuBois Professor of Humanities, Chair of the Department of African and African-American Studies at Harvard University, producer of the PBS mini-series *Wonders of the African World*, author of numerous books, and recipient of numerous prestigious awards, but Skippy to his friends in New London. It was a great night at the Garde Arts Center on October 5th. As I was hustling into the theater, three buses

pulled up to disembark a hundred Coasties intermingled with literary types and just plain folk from the neighborhood. The occasion was "An Evening with Henry Louis Gates, Jr." sponsored by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut to promote their *Let's Read* initiative, whose goal is "to get every child in southeastern Connecticut, no matter the town or school or family of origin, to love to read by the third grade." Good goal for a good organization in a region with a high school drop out rate that is way too high.

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# Clarissa Burrows Jones Leaves Legacy

Clarissa Burrows Jones wanted to leave a legacy—one that for years to come would help people in the community where her family had deep roots. But she wasn't sure how to do that.

Of course, she planned to make specific bequests for family and friends. But how could she help others? How could she determine what future community needs would be, or what organizations might best meet those needs?

After talking with her attorney and friend, Susan Pochal, she made a generous bequest that established the **Clarissa and Richard Jones Fund at the Community Foundation** — an unrestricted fund for general community grant-making that can help meet many future needs.

"I talked with her about how the Foundation helps to support many different programs and organizations," says Pochal. "I explained that its staff knows the community, regularly looks at what's needed in particular areas, and can direct its help accordingly. Clarissa thought that was wonderful."

Clarissa Burrows Jones (1921-2005) taught for several years at Mystic Academy. She and her husband, Richard



*Photos courtesy of the Denison Society.*

*High school yearbook photos of Clarissa Burrows Jones, left, and her husband Richard Jones, right.*

(1923-2000), both members of the Fitch High School Class of 1940, married in 1949. They lived in Mystic, in the house where Clarissa was born.

Her ancestor Captain George Dension had settled in the Mystic-Stonington area in 1654. She grew up spending time at the Denison Homestead on Pequotsepos Road in Mystic, and later she wrote down family stories, for new

generations to read.

The Foundation will honor Clarissa Jones' interests. Alison Woods, director of development, says, "We've allocated portions of her bequest to our *Let's Read* Fund, since she was a teacher, and to our Women & Girls Fund." Clarissa Jones' generous act is creating ripples that will forever impact many people in many ways.

## National Council on Foundations Confers Accreditation

*Rules that CFSECT meets high standards for organizational & financial practices*

In a time of heightened scrutiny of the non-profit sector, the Community Foundation has been recognized by the Washington, DC-based Council on Foundations (COF) for employing operational and financial practices that are in compliance with the Council's National Standards for community foundations. The National Standards promote common legal, ethical and operational practices that demonstrate the foundations' transparency and financial accountability.

In order to meet the 43 separate standards, community foundations must undergo an extensive evaluation of their organizational and financial policies and procedures by a team of national reviewers. Areas for review include mission, structure and governance; resource development, stewardship and accountability; grant making and community leadership; donor relations; and communications.

"We are pleased to receive this affirmation by the Council because it underscores our commitment to excellence, accountability and outstanding service to our donors, grantees, and the region," said Alice Fitzpatrick, foundation president.

## Good Stewardship for Long Term Community Well-Being

Three years ago, the Community Foundation's investment committee actively sought out increased diversification of its investment portfolio and selected the Russell Investment Group, a Tacoma, WA-based investment industry leader. In 2005, we enjoyed a return of 8.22% which outperformed a comparison composite benchmark of 5.87%. The annualized return for all three years was 11.85% compared to our benchmark of 11.59%

As of September 30th of this year, return on investment for the foundation's \$21 million asset base was 8% and we anticipate a very favorable year-end result.

What does this mean to the community at large? A growing capacity to award high impact grants and scholarships (in excess of \$1 million annually) and a growing endowment for the benefit of generations to come.

# Lowering Rate of Teen Pregnancy With Grant from Women & Girls Fund

New London's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force, aided by a grant from the Foundation's Women & Girls Fund, is taking action to reduce the city's high rate of teen pregnancy.

After using the grant funding to commission a study by the respected Philliber Research Associates (PRA), the Task Force is now implementing a Community Action Agenda based on the PRA findings.

"We've engaged schools, faith communities, and other community organizations and community members, including many not previously addressing this issue," says Laurel Holmes, MSW, director of Community Partnerships. "We've raised the level of concern and focused efforts so that peo-

*"We've raised the level of concern and focused efforts so that people can get involved."*

ple can get involved."

The commissioned report noted that agencies have been reaching far too few young people. Also, the providers of information and services for at-risk young people are not located near to where those young people live.

The Task Force has hired a part-time coordinator and organized a series of "community conversations." It is fostering collaboration among faith communities, working with educators, helping parents talk with their teens, and — always — listening to what people say. In response to requests from leaders of

faith communities, the Task Force is now providing programs to help adults mentor teens and to help people of different beliefs find common ground in working to reduce teen pregnancies.

"The Community Foundation's support," Holmes says, "has been essential to moving us forward."

*The Women & Girls Fund supports programs and organizations that improve the lives of women and girls in southeastern Connecticut. Established in 1999, over 600 individuals and businesses have contributed to the fund which now totals over \$1.2 million and awards more than \$75,000 in grants annually. For more information, contact Alison Woods at 860-442-3572 or Alison@cfsect.org*



## Humanities Council, Foundation, and Others Promote Family-Literacy Program



People without reading skills lack ways to help their children learn words, recognize letters, understand information and delve into stories. A research-based family literacy program, Motherhead/Fatheread®, is an effective new resource for parents to help their children become readers and lifelong learners.

"The idea is to break generational cycles of low literacy by connecting parents and children to the world around them through literacy," says Sandra Santy, director of reading programs for the Connecticut Humanities Council. The CHC and the Community Foundation's *Let's Read* initiative brought Motherhead/Fatheread® here, with support from Pfizer, Russell Investment Company, the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, the Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation and the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust. This national program is up and running in several other areas of the state including Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury.

*The idea is to break generational cycles of low literacy by connecting parents and children to the world around them through literacy*

In Motherhead/Fatheread®'s small classes, parents meet with trained facilitators. As they share award-winning, culturally-appropriate children's literature and talk about its themes, the parents develop literacy skills — reading, writing, speaking and listening — and relate the readings to their own lives. Then, at home, they share such books as "Where the Wild Things Are," by Maurice Sendak, with their children. "Nurturing relationships between parents and children around reading and learning is a priority for the *Let's Read* initiative," says Jennifer O'Brien, program director at the Community Foundation. For more information, contact Jennifer O'Brien at 860-442-3572 or JennOB@cfsect.org.

## Motheread / Fatheread®

**in Southeastern Connecticut — Fall 2006**

*New London Public Schools*

*Friendship School*

*Drop-in Learning Center*

*Covenant Shelter*

*New London Adult Education/Even Start*



Photo courtesy of LEARN

Participants in the *Eat Smart Grow Healthy* project share a nutritious snack.

## Kids Who Eat Well and Get Exercise Feel Better – and Learn Better

Learn how *Eat Smart, Grow Healthy* puts knowledge into action

**W**ith a grant from the Community Foundation, the project *Eat Smart, Grow Healthy* is bringing good nutrition and physical exercise programs to 12 child-care and early-learning centers in three southeastern Connecticut cities.

Childhood obesity is a growing problem across America. The fact is, children who eat well and get exercise feel better — and learn better. “We’re having an impact on a national problem here in our own community,” says Jennifer O’Brien, the Foundation’s program director.

Leading *Eat Smart, Grow Healthy* is LEARN, the region’s educational services center. Lisa Cooney, grant coordinator at LEARN, notes that the project is designed to make lasting improvements. “We’re working on policies and practices,” she says. “We’re changing the way people think.”

The project’s multidisciplinary team,

which includes a nutritionist and an exercise physiologist, works with the staff at each center. Together, they look at just what constitutes a healthy snack for young children, how centers can offer healthy food that youngsters will like, how much and what kinds of exercise young children need, and how to include that exercise in a daily routine — even on those rainy days when everybody’s stuck inside.

Backing from the Community Foundation enabled Groton, New London, and Norwich to apply, together, for the project’s grant from the Funders’ Collaborative Promoting the Health and Learning of Young Children, comprised of the Children’s Fund of Connecticut, the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, Connecticut Health Foundation and Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. Other local funders have also pitched in. “With our contribution, *Eat*

*Smart, Grow Healthy* was able to leverage \$225,000 so far,” O’Brien says. “We’ll help leverage an additional \$100,000 for its final year.”

The four-year project, cutting across town and agency lines, began with a year of planning. “That was important,” says Cooney. “We talked with center staffs, with parents. We asked, ‘What are your needs? What barriers do you face?’ We built relationships that will last.”

Center staffs are serving healthier snacks, getting kids up and moving with innovative exercise programs and even revising guidelines for holiday celebrations that aren’t steeped in sugar. During the past year, the project has recorded increases in physical activities at the centers, along with decreases in behavior problems. “*Eat Smart, Grow Healthy* will benefit children for years to come,” Cooney says.

# Gates event

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Skippy was introduced by the woman who cajoled him into coming to New London, Dr. Bettye Fletcher Comer, a beautiful woman in a smashing light blue suit who is a retired New London school principal and an old friend. I admit it, as charming as Bettye was, and likewise Alice Fitzpatrick, the Community Foundation's president, I expected Skippy to be a bore. The last prestigious author I heard speak in a setting like this was Mr. Updike, and he certainly was, and so very full of himself. But Gates (I just can't call him Skippy!) was wonderful and compelling, and as much as I hate it when people say he's a regular guy like it's an accolade, he was. (When I leaned over to Betty Anne Reiter to whisper my amazement, she said that if I had read his 1995 **Colored People** I would have expected just the man he is.) With none of that academic pretentiousness that I was fearing, Gates began to talk about what it was like to grow up in the Fifties and Sixties in America, in West Virginia, no less. He talked about his family and what he termed their blackest values – reading, writing, and aspiring to be a doctor or a lawyer. He talked about how the factory workers in his home town of Piedmont, West Virginia, were proud of his and his brother's academic accomplishments, how they encouraged him when he transferred from the local community college to Yale. And when he went on to Cambridge (not the one in Massachusetts) he found African teachers and fellow students who have remained lifelong friends.

Gates reminded us that this is the generation that produced not only **Beloved**, the number one novel of the last twenty-five years, but also **Invisible Man**, 1965's number one novel of the last twenty five years. Gates was unequivocal in attributing his success to affirmative action, without which he believes he would never have gotten out of community college, no matter his record of straight A's. (He tells how his older brother was demoted from valedictorian to salutatorian so as not to embarrass his high school, and how his friend Governor Jay Rockefeller reinstated his brother's Golden Horseshoe award which a segregated society had been too skittish to bestow on a black man in the 1950's.) As further proof of the need for affirmative



Kate Gardiner / The Day

Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., left, in a conversation with retired Day editor and publisher, Reid MacCluggage on stage at the Garde Arts Center for "An Evening with Henry Louis Gates, Jr." on October 5, 2006.

action, Gates brought it home by reminding us that Yale had a quota for Roman Catholics until 1963. In 1966, only six Black men graduated from Yale, compared to 96 in his class of '73. "Do you think Black men got that much smarter in ten years?" he asked. He told us something else I never knew about civil rights icon Rosa Parks. He said, "Do you think she was just tired that day on the bus in Montgomery?" On the contrary, Parks' disobedience was carefully stage-managed by civil rights leaders, and Parks was just as carefully chosen for her role. Months before Parks' action, another black woman had taken a seat in the front of the bus, but she was too dark, and too pregnant with an out-of-wedlock child, not the type they wanted for that historic role. Parks had been schooled in the ways of non-violence, and her looks and her manner were just right for her to be able to represent the race. Likewise, Gates said, with Jackie Robinson, James Meredith, and Charlayne Hunter-Gault.

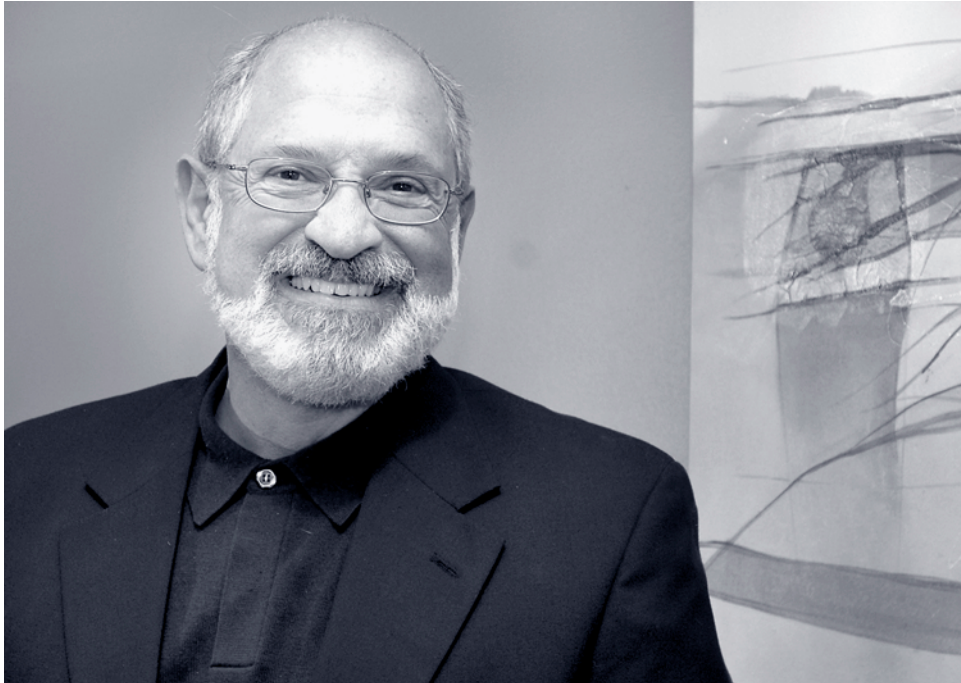
"What has happened since the Sixties?" Gates asks. He thinks if Martin Luther King, Jr. were alive today he would say that we need another civil rights movement based on class. Gates would like to see the *Let's Read* campaign go national because he says "Everything comes from literacy." Gates wants a return to the "barbershop values" of the men who encouraged young

men like himself and friends Cornell West and Bettye Fletcher and her husband to get a job, avoid having babies out of wedlock, and never show up without your shoes shined, because "you've got to represent the race. We've got too much bling. We've lost our way and we've got to get it back."

When interviewer Reid MacCluggage offered to donate his copy of Gates' documentary series **African American Lives** (for whose production Gates credits Oprah Winfrey) to the New London Public Library, Gates told MacCluggage to keep his copy; he would give six copies to the New London Public library. As Gates said, "If I sell 30,000 copies of a book, that reaches a lot of people, but 11 million people saw that documentary." **Oprah's Roots** is due out in February, 2007, to be followed by a sequel to *Lives* in 2008. Gates closed with a good humored account of his induction into the Sons of the American Revolution, for which he was declared eligible after tracing his genealogy with the help of DNA testing.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. may look like a pointy headed intellectual from Harvard, but he's still his mother's son who went to Yale and who came to New London so Bettye Fletcher's students and the students who will benefit from the *Let's Read* campaign will get back in touch with those barbershop values. Thanks, Skippy. We needed that, and you.

# If You're 70 1/2 or Older, You May Have an Exciting New Giving Option!



Nicholas M. Orobello

By **Nicholas M. Orobello**  
CLU, ChFC, CIC, RHU, REBC

**T**he Pension Protection Act of 2006 may very well prove to be a huge windfall for charitable organizations. Community foundation funds, including scholarships, field of interest funds, and funds designated for specific charities may benefit from this legislation as may many other non-profit organizations in the area.

**Individuals aged 70 1/2 or older can distribute up to \$100,000 of their IRA balance to charitable organizations in 2006 and in 2007 with no reportable income and no deduction to complicate matters. The distribution counts towards the required minimum distribution (RMD).**

This change is potentially very beneficial to those individuals who need to take distributions from their IRA and who prefer to avoid tax on the RMD that must be made with respect to a traditional IRA after the owner reaches age 70 1/2.

This provision will most likely boost charitable giving from middle-class retirees who believe they have sufficient

other funds to meet their needs. The effect of these distributions will be to transfer funds intended as long-term and emergency reserves into present usage by charities. Of course, these transfers are not for every person but only for those for whom it makes good sense.

There are a number of tax windfalls as well as some pitfalls which should be noted.

## Some windfalls:

- Annual minimum distribution requirements can be satisfied by making charitable gifts from IRAs
- About two-thirds of taxpayers taking the standard deduction can't deduct charitable gifts — now they can get the equivalent of a deduction by making gifts directly from the IRAs to qualified charities (not being taxed on income is the equivalent of a deduction).
- Those itemizers who bump into the Adjusted Gross Income ceilings on deductibility of charitable gifts can use distributions from IRAs to make addi-

## IRA ROLLOVER TO CHARITY AT A GLANCE

*The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows for the tax-free rollover of traditional or Roth IRAs to charity.*

- You must be 70 1/2 or older.
- The IRA charitable rollovers will be allowed in 2006 and 2007 only.
- Up to \$100,000 per individual per year qualifies.
- Unrestricted, field of interest, scholarship and designated funds are eligible. Donor advised funds do not qualify for nor do supporting organizations, commercial gift funds (such as Fidelity's) or private foundations.
- There is no change to the rules that govern charitable bequests of IRA assets. A rule of thumb for the charitably-inclined working on their estate plans is to use IRA assets to meet charitable objectives and leave other assets to heirs.

*For anyone interested in establishing a permanent legacy in this community, this may be the opportunity of a lifetime to make the gift of a lifetime. For more information, call the foundation at 860-442-3572.*

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tional gifts. Effectively, they have the equivalent of additional charitable deductions since they aren't taxed on the distributions.

■ Donors with AGI above \$150,500 (\$75,250 if married, filing separately) won't have the tax benefit of their gifts reduced if the gifts are made from the donor's IRA to qualified charities. The two percent "haircut" in 2006 and 2007 is avoided.

### Some pitfalls:

■ To be a qualified donee, charities must be public charities.

■ IRA distributions to supporting organizations, private foundations and donor advised funds are ineligible, as are distributions to charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) and gift annuities.

■ The gift should be directly from the IRA to the charity, not from the IRA to the donor and then to the charity. You run the risk of being taxed on the distribution if you are not careful.

■ The rollover must be from an IRA and not other types of retirement plans. *However, you may roll over tax free from the other plan into an IRA; and then the IRA makes the distribution directly to the charity.*

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 has finally given charities what they have long sought for the past twenty years. It's not the ideal legislation but it's a huge step to jumpstart additional funds flowing in the direction of charities and to the people and causes they serve.

Allow the Community Foundation to help you to determine if this legislation can help you help them to better serve our community.

*Nicholas M. Orobello is founder of Orobello & Associates, Inc. in Waterford and a member of the Community Foundation's Professional Advisory Council. He has 35 years of experience in employee benefit plans, annuity and estate concepts, and life insurance planning for individuals and business owners.*

## Dream, Connect and Build with Us

**T**he Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut is building social capital in our region by connecting people, building resources, problem solving and looking for opportunities where our encouragement and support can make a difference. Please consider starting a fund with us that will permanently link you and your family with the long-term needs of this region and help build its reservoir of social capital. We offer a flexible range of fund options. You can start a fund now and add to it through your will. You can be anonymous or not. You can use a variety of assets to start a fund ... e.g. appreciated securities, real estate, cash, bonds, closely held stock, tangible personal property, insurance, retirement assets, etc. You can even make a gift that pays you income for your lifetime. The possibilities are boundless.



*David Rahr, above, has joined the staff of the Community Foundation as Senior Philanthropic Advisor. He retired in 2003 as the Founding President and CEO of The Vermont Community Foundation and moved to Old Lyme to be nearer grandchildren. The VCF began in 1987 and is now a major resource for Vermont with nearly \$140 million in permanent charitable endowment. David has extensive experience working with individuals and families helping them think through their charitable options and plans.*

### Charitable Gift Annuities - Turn A Gift To A Good Cause Into Current Income

For people who want to support their favorite charitable organizations, but don't wish to reduce their annual income, there is a wonderful opportunity to combine charitable desires with sound financial planning.

A charitable gift annuity pays you income for life in a manner similar to a commercial annuity. The Community Foundation offers attractive rates based on the age of the income beneficiaries, as shown here.

#### SAMPLE SINGLE LIFE CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES

(two-life annuities also available)

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
60	5.7%	80	8.0%
65	6.0%	85	9.5%
70	6.5%	90 +	11.3%
75	7.1%		

Charitable gift annuities can be established with cash or appreciated property, and there are no immediate capital gains taxes to pay. Plus, donors receive a charitable deduction that may save them significant current federal and state income tax.

Charitable gift annuities are simple to

understand, easy to arrange and safe. The minimum gift level is \$10,000. Income to the beneficiary lasts for life and is guaranteed by all the assets of the Community Foundation. In addition, some of your annual annuity income is not subject to income tax. Many gift annuitants actually increase their retirement income by gifting a low yielding stock to fund a higher yielding annuity. At the death of the income beneficiary(ies), what's left in the annuity goes to establish (or add to) a fund at the Community Foundation.

Charitable Gift Annuities are a simple, guaranteed, tax advantageous and satisfying way to benefit your community forever.

*If you would like to learn more about charitable gift annuities, contact Alison Woods, director of development or David Rahr, senior philanthropic advisor, at 860-442-3572 or email [alison@cfsect.org](mailto:alison@cfsect.org) or [drahr@cfsect.org](mailto:drahr@cfsect.org)*

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The Trustees of

## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *of Southeastern Connecticut*

invite you to join us for our

### 2006 Annual Meeting

featuring

*“Millions to spend... mere minutes to do it”*

## Tuesday, November 28th

The Lyman Allyn Art Museum  
625 Williams Street  
New London

4:30 ~ Business Meeting for trustees and emeriti  
5:00 ~ Program: Granting with the Stars  
6:15 ~ Reception

RSVP by November 17th to 860-442-3572 or [jessica@cfsect.org](mailto:jessica@cfsect.org)

### Dates to Remember

# 2007

**General Grants deadline:** NOVEMBER 15

Grants are made to non-profit organizations in the areas of arts and culture, health, education, environment, social services and community development.

**Annual Meeting:** NOVEMBER 28, 5:00 pm, at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum

**Let's Read Fund grants deadline:** MARCH 15

Grants are made to schools, libraries and their community partners for projects that promote literacy and foster the love of reading and learning.

**Scholarship application deadline:** APRIL 1

Scholarships are awarded for college education in a variety of fields

**Women & Girls Fund grants deadline:** AUGUST 15

Grants are made for programs and projects that benefit women and girls in four different focus areas.

**Collaborative Initiative for Management Assistance (CIMA) grants:** ROLLING DEADLINE

Grants are made for consultant fees to improve effectiveness of non-profit organizations in the areas of board development, strategic planning and fiscal management.

Visit us at [www.cfsect.org](http://www.cfsect.org) to download applications or contact Jennifer O'Brien, program director at 860-442-3572 or [JennOB@cfsect.org](mailto:JennOB@cfsect.org).