

COMPASS POINTS

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

A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT



Bridget Baird

Dream... Connect... Build

*Foundation's new
board chair
outlines a vision
for the future.*

We intend to leap into the future with these words: dream, connect, build. Those three verbs speak to who we are as an organization and who we are as people – we dream: we have not forgotten what it is to be young, what is to believe that “yes” is a stronger word than “but”, what power creativity can play in our cultures and our lives. We “connect” –for a community foundation, “connect” has a very practical meaning- we can connect resources to solutions, we can connect organizations together to bring strength to meet community challenges – we connect donors to opportunities – we connect our dreams to solutions. And then, finally, we “build” – we build a sense of community, we build solutions to problems- we build an enduring endowment that will serve and enrich our community in perpetuity. We have big dreams for the future and we count on all of you to help us identify problems and solutions, to help us make connections and to help us build solutions.

One of the most remarkable characteristics of community foundations in general and this one in particular, is that they give people a chance to do what they really want to do. Each of you knows the joy that one gets from working on something that matters – something that turns us outward from our immediate families and our immediate concerns – something that reminds us that we are, thankfully, part of something larger. It is the gift of the Community Foundation to each one of us, that it gives us the chance to do that.

–Bridget Baird



Photograph by Jeff Evans / The Day

Christine Kitchings, left, and Constance Pike

An Honor for Constance Pike Boosts the Learning Center

For years, Christine Kitchings and Constance Pike have been friends with a common cause: a place that's a boon to families in and around Old Lyme.

In 1986 the two helped launch what's now the Old Lyme Children's Learning Center, Inc. Both are completing decades of service on the center's board of directors, and Connie runs its annual fund drive.

To honor Connie as she leaves the board in 2006 and to aid the center, Chris

has established the Constance Pike Fund, a permanent endowment at the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut. Income from the fund will go to the center.

The fund was a surprise to Connie, who's known for steadily helping the center and other community projects without ever expecting any special notice of her work.

“Chris knocked my socks off with that!” she said. “It was a wonderfully generous thing for her to do. It will provide stability

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Women & Girls Fund Announces 2005 Grants!



This October, the Women & Girls Fund presented "Taking Care of Ourselves and Those We Love." Featured speakers, Mally Cox-Chapman and Attorney Lynn Gammill Walker, gave an overview of financial, estate and charitable planning issues from a women's unique perspective. They shared technical information, sage advice and inspiration to help the group of about forty women think about their values and priorities as they plan for their own futures, and for the well-being of their families and communities.

This year the Women & Girls Fund approved \$42,850 in grants, putting total distributions close to the \$200,000 mark since the Fund's inception in 1999. Ten grants were awarded from a total of 20 grant proposals submitted. Funding partners are The Day, the Lydia I. Korolkiewicz Fund, and the Lewis Female Cent Society.

"We are continuing to focus on high impact programs aimed at preventing teen pregnancy and domestic violence," said Women & Girls Fund grants committee chair and head of The Williams School, Charlotte Rea, further noting that one of the grants is a follow up to last year's funding of a community wide assessment of teen pregnancy prevention programs. This grant will allow the New London-based Community Partnerships to bring a range of community organizations together to take action on this issue.

The Women & Girls Fund topped \$1,000,000 last year, ensuring its continuation as an important source of support for programs that benefit women and girls in southeastern Connecticut.

2005 Grant Recipients

Community Partnerships <i>(funded in part by The Day)</i>	Implementation of recommendations from the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Action Agenda	\$9,500
Connecticut Teen Peace	Informal and supportive discussion group on teen pregnancy and STD prevention for teens at New London Youth Organization.	\$4,300
East Lyme Public Schools	Ophelia Sister Project—a national mentoring program between high school and middle school student based on book <i>Reviving Ophelia</i> .	\$4,000
Planned Parenthood of Connecticut	Medical services and outreach aimed at teens to reduce teen pregnancy and STDs	\$7,500
Sound Community Services <i>(funded in part by the Lewis Female Cent Society)</i>	A Second Chance—a program to assist women who have experienced teen pregnancy and domestic abuse to become independent, contributing members of the community.	\$4,550
Thames River Family Program	Upgrades to security system to increase the safety of the residents who have been victimized by domestic violence	\$8,500
Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut	Man to Man — Take a Stand — a program on domestic violence prevention aimed at young men in high school.	\$4,500
Total		\$42,850

A vision for Let's Read –

to help all children in southeastern Connecticut read at or above grade level.



LET'S READ

The need to boost school achievement rates, press reports on sliding literacy rates among college graduates and statistics such as one in 20 adults in the U.S. is not literate enough in English to handle everyday tasks, all add to the case for Let's Read, a Community Foundation initiative designed to promote reading and learning among children and their families in southeastern Connecticut. This spring, Let's Read awarded \$46,146 in its third round of grants to 16 schools, libraries and other organizations for programs that build literacy skills and nurture relationships between children and their teachers, parents, and mentors around reading. The Frank Loomis Palmer Fund of the Bank of America, Dominion Millstone, Essex Financial Services and The Russell Investment Group were major funding partners in this effort.

Last spring, the Community Foundation announced a campaign to build a \$1 million permanent endowment for Let's Read to provide a minimum of \$50,000 annually. A Founding Member drive has attracted close to 70 supporters at the \$1,000 level so far (payable as a one time gift or over a three-year period). Ellen McGuire, Let's Read grants committee chair and foundation trustee, observed, "We want to strengthen our partnership with schools, libraries and other community organizations to provide the tools that children and their families need to support their learning. This is a regional effort to attract support and provide funding across town borders in order to make a difference wherever it is most needed."

For more information on Let's Read founding membership, please contact Alison Woods at the foundation, 860-442-3572 or alison@cfsect.org.

Guests enjoy an evening at the Old Lyme home of Dyanne and John Rafal to learn more about the Let's Read Fund, as one of a continuing series of events in our eleven-town region to promote awareness and support for this priority literacy initiative.

"We want to keep this center going. It's like home for these children. And I'm in awe of Connie for her involvement."
– Chris Kitchings

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for the center."

That stability matters greatly to area families. The center maintains two buildings (with an outdoor play area) on Lyme Street for its day-care and pre-school programs and also operates before-and-after-school programs in two elementary schools. That combination, Connie noted, serves children "from six weeks through sixth grade."

On a recent day she and Chris visited the Lyme Street facilities. Outside, little kids zoomed down the slide and around the tree-shaded play area. Inside one building youngsters listened to a story; inside another, babies snoozed.

"We want to keep this center going," said Chris. "It's like home for these children. And I'm in awe of Connie for her involvement."

Getting things done

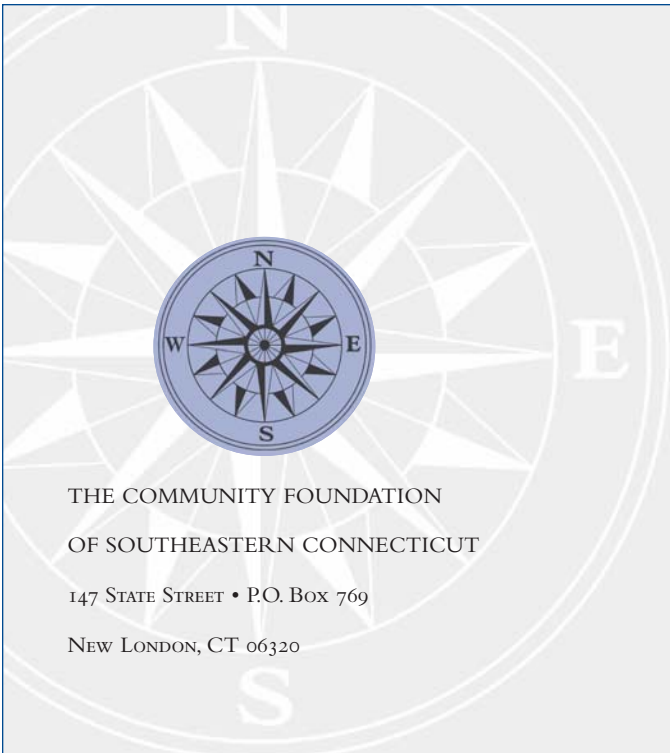
Chris expects the fund to be especially helpful for maintaining the facilities; she knows that things like furnaces can just go. "Upkeep is the hardest thing," she said. "We need to cover the unanticipated."

Connie offered a perfectly simple explanation for her why she's so involved in her community. "Things need to get done," she said.

For years to come, the fund in her name will help get things get done at the Old Lyme Children's Learning Center.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Foundation pays tribute to outgoing board chair

“We need to dedicate ourselves to involving more people in our mission and growth. No one organization holds more promise for the future of the region than The Community Foundation and I am very pleased that have I had the opportunity to be a part of its development,” were parting words by Tim Bates who was recognized at the 2005 Annual Meeting in November for his service upon completion of his three-year term as board chair. Outgoing trustees, Marc Ginsberg and Julie Olson were also recognized.

Newly elected trustees are: Laurel A. Butler of Mystic, Rose Jones of Oakdale, Sandy Lieber of Lyme and Doreen Thomas of Old Lyme.

Dates to Remember for 2006

Kids & Books 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. Please call the foundation before applying.

Scholarship application deadline: April 1

Scholarships awarded for college education.

Women & Girls Fund grant deadline: August 1

Grants for programs and projects that benefit women and girls. Please call the foundation before applying.

General Grants deadline:

November 15

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

Collaborative Initiative for Management Assistance (CIMA):

Rolling deadline

Grants are made for consultant fees to improve effectiveness of non-profit organizations.

Visit us at www.cfsect.org to download applications or contact Jennifer O'Brien, program officer at 860-442-3572 or jennob@cfsect.org.

Viola A. and Henry W. Turner Scholarship

Philip Turner's late parents worked hard, raised a family, and never stopped giving to their community. His mom was a teacher; both she and his dad volunteered for all kinds of projects and organizations. “In their honor, we'd like to help students follow in their footsteps,” he said.

That's why he and his wife, Sherry, with his sister and her husband, Susan and David Krampitz, established the Viola A. and Henry W. Turner Memorial Scholarship through the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut.

The first recipient of the scholarship is Vivianne Hage, a 2005 graduate of Waterford High School who is determined to help others.

In her teens, Vivianne lost her mother, who'd battled multiple sclerosis for 20 years, and her grandmother. Sustained by her dad and other members of their close-knit family, she forged on – getting good grades, working part-time, volunteering at the hospital and elsewhere, visiting family in her dad's home country of Lebanon.

“I learned to work through things,” she says. She plans to go



Viola A. and Henry W. Turner

into teaching or psychology—fields in which she can guide others. On her scholarship application, she explained that she could relate to people who were experiencing “confusion, anger, sadness and heartache.” She hopes to help young people “learn to value their family, health and life.” Besides, she says, “I really like working with people.”

The way Turner sees it, “Vivianne was the ideal candidate,” for a scholarship aimed at helping students who are involved in their community and considering careers in education. Vivianne, who will pursue her studies at the University of Connecticut, says simply, “It means a lot that people took time to pay attention to what I had to say. I'm very thankful for the scholarship.”