



Fairfield County
Community Foundation

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Altria makes \$100,000 donation to strengthen nonprofit effectiveness

Fairfield County Community Foundation's Center for Nonprofit Excellence provides training and resources

NORWALK, July 7, 2009 — Altria Group Inc., of Richmond, VA has made a \$100,000 donation to the Norwalk-based Fairfield County Community Foundation's Center for Nonprofit Excellence to help local nonprofits operate more efficiently and improve sustainability.

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence provides board and staff members of Fairfield County nonprofits with workshops, grants, networking opportunities, consultant referral, access to a resource library and databases, and meeting space. These resources improve financial management and organizational practices to help nonprofits operate as efficiently as possible while continuing to deliver critically needed services to residents in the community.

“The strength and health of nonprofits directly impacts the strength and health of a community, especially in challenging economic times,” said Susan Ross, Foundation president and CEO. “This gift will help provide Fairfield County's nonprofit community with the training and resources needed to respond to the growing need. As a major national funder of programs to strengthen nonprofits, Altria's choice of the Fairfield County Community Foundation demonstrates the company's recognition of the strength and effectiveness of our programs.”

Altria recently added U.S. Smokeless Tobacco of Stamford to its family of companies, moving the firm's U.S. headquarters to Virginia, along with many of its employees.

“Although U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company's move out of Connecticut will reduce its support for local non-profits in the future, we believe supporting this program is an important way to help ensure local organizations have the tools to continue their important work for years to come,” said Jennifer Hunter, a vice president at Altria Client Services who oversees the company's corporate contributions.

In the past 10 years, Altria and its companies have donated more than \$1.4 billion dollars in cash and in-kind contributions to hundreds of diverse nonprofits that have enriched communities worldwide. The

company focuses its giving in four key areas that align with its business goals: Arts and Culture, Education, Environment and Positive Youth Development.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish their own charitable funds or contribute to existing funds focused on specific areas of need or communities in Fairfield County. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$110 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.

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