

# About the Fairfield County Community Foundation

Helping you make a difference in your own backyard and your world



Whether your backyard is defined by a zip code or a cause close to your heart, we help you make a difference in Fairfield County and beyond.

By using our philanthropic expertise, your charitable giving becomes personally meaningful, effective in the community and easy to do.

**We guide you through the maze of philanthropy**

There are over 2,000 nonprofit organizations in Fairfield County. We help you select those that match your charitable passions *and* provide well-run programs that achieve results.

**You are freed from research, drafting documents and more**

We share our extensive community knowledge about local needs and nonprofit organizations, oversee professional financial management of fund assets, and handle all grantmaking, administrative tasks and reporting.

**Your generosity goes further**

You can join like-minded donors to participate in collective giving. We also help local nonprofits operate at peak efficiency so they achieve the most good with every dollar.

**You can shape the future of Fairfield County**

We identify critical regional problems and, with your support, mobilize forces to tackle those problems.

**We comply with national standards**

We have been recognized by the Council on Foundations for full compliance with its 43 national standards for organizational and financial practices for community foundations.

Since our founding in 1992, more than 4,700 individuals, families, corporations and private foundations have helped us to award over \$123 million in grants. We invite you to join them by establishing a fund, giving to an existing fund, or supporting our leadership work in the community.

*(over, please)*

**Our Mission**

We promote philanthropy to build and sustain a vital and prosperous community where all have the opportunity to participate and thrive. As the region's center of philanthropy, we provide:

- Personalized philanthropic advisory services and financial stewardship to donors and partners,
- Visionary leadership and strategic initiatives to address key regional issues, and
- Grants, counsel and leadership training to local nonprofits.

**In Their Own Words**

“The Foundation helps us focus our major giving. They tell us about programs that are in our interest range, particularly those that are less well known yet worthy. With their expertise as a guide, we’re confident our contributions will have a real impact.”

*Peter & Barbara McSpadden  
Fundholders*

“One client saw her bequest to the Foundation as a way to give to one organization, yet benefit the community as a whole.”

*Michelle R. Hubbard, Esq.  
Hawthorne, Ackerly & Dorrance, LLC*

“The knowledge that I am giving back to a community from which I have derived so much is extremely gratifying. It also sends a message to my children and grandchildren who, when their time comes, I hope will do the same.”

*Edward Capasse  
Contributor*



Fairfield County  
Community Foundation

## Ten reasons why people choose the Fairfield County Community Foundation

1. You can establish and name a fund, or give to an existing fund that matches your local charitable interests
2. You can support your favorite nonprofits close to home and across the country
3. We introduce you to local nonprofits, large and small, achieving results in areas important to you
4. You can engage your children and grandchildren in your philanthropy and pass along your values
5. You can join us in tackling regional problems, and shape local communities for years to come
6. You are freed from the rigors of research, asset management, grantmaking and reporting
7. You can give cash, securities, real estate, retirement plan assets, bequests, life insurance or other tangible property
8. You benefit from maximum tax advantages under state and federal law
9. Your giving goes further. We help local nonprofits operate more efficiently so they can gain the most good from every dollar
10. You can give in confidence. We are in full compliance with national standards for community foundations

“We are so impressed with the ability of the Foundation to identify the most pressing needs in our community, and identify the organizations that most effectively address those needs. Donors can be confident that their investment in philanthropy is being channeled for its greatest impact.”

*Ron & Renée Noren  
Fundholders*

## The Fairfield County Community Foundation at a Glance

### History

The Foundation was formed in 1992 with the merger of five small community foundations: the Danbury, Greenwich, Stamford, Five Town (comprised of Westport, Wilton, Weston, Norwalk and Darien) and the Fairfield County Foundation (which was part of the New York Community Trust). In January 2008, the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation and the Fairfield County Community Foundation merged.

Thanks to the generosity of fundholders and contributors, the Foundation has awarded more than \$123 million in grants that has helped prepare youngsters to thrive in school, kept the elderly in their homes, provided health care to the ill and uninsured, cultivated a new generation of artists, protected our environment, and much more.

### Countywide Initiatives Tackle Critical Issues

Part of the role of a community foundation is to unite resources to address pressing needs in the community. In our backyard—the 23 towns and cities which make up Fairfield County—the critical needs clearly stand out.

The Foundation brings together fundholders, community leaders, policy makers, non-profit leaders, private funders and other experts to work together to close the achievement gap in our urban public schools, increase affordable housing, help low-wage women supporting dependents achieve economic security, and strengthen local nonprofits so they become even more efficient, effective and sustainable.

### What We Fund

In addition to grants awarded by our fundholders to nonprofits in Fairfield County and across the country, the Foundation awards competitive grants to local nonprofits working in six areas that affect the quality of life for all in Fairfield County:

1. Education and Youth Development
2. Economic Opportunity
3. Health and Human Services
4. Arts and Culture
5. The Environment
6. Strengthening Local Nonprofits