

The Fund for Women and Girls

Helping women and girls in your own backyard
with the power of collective giving



We're on a mission to help women and girls in Fairfield County overcome formidable obstacles so they can stand tall, seize opportunities and reach their full potential. Will you join us?

Today's girls face formidable problems

In Fairfield County, too many preteen and teenage girls are confronted by bullying, dating violence, pressures to be sexually active, and abusive behavior at home.

They're also uncertain about the changes in their bodies, how to express anger as well as affection, and how to resolve conflicts.

Caring people like you make it possible for us to support local nonprofits that help girls navigate these problems. Thanks to your generosity, thousands of girls learn how to cope with peer pressure, set boundaries, and respect themselves and others.

They're being taught what to look for in healthy relationships, and how to ask their parents or trusted adults for help. Along the way, they're acquiring confidence and even becoming leaders in their classes and schools.

Women struggle to support their families

Nearly 20,000 households in Fairfield County are headed by women with children under 18. To just "get by," a single parent with two young children needs an income of at least \$60,000. Yet women who work full time in Fairfield County earn a median income of \$47,000.

To help single parents who are juggling child care, work, and running a household, we initiated a partnership with Norwalk Community College and the Norwalk Community College Foundation.

The result is the Family Economic Security Program. It gives Norwalk Community College students with dependents the help they need to earn an Associate degree, a Bachelor's degree, and enter careers that allow them to support their families.

Sixty students are participating now. So far, 24 have graduated from Norwalk Community College. Of those, 13 are attending a four-year college. In addition, nearly all students have reduced debt, increased their credit scores, and are building assets. Their course-completion rate is way up, and so are their grade point averages.

Join us in making a difference

We invite you to join thousands of others in making a difference for women and girls. You can make a secure online donation at www.fccfoundation.org.

Over, please

Mission

The Fund for Women and Girls was created in 1998 by women, for women, to:

- Identify and effectively address the needs of women and girls in Fairfield County,
- Educate women about philanthropy and engage them in creating change through collective, targeted giving, and
- Raise a permanent endowment to generate support for programs that foster the economic and social growth of women and girls.

Thanks to contributors like you, the Fund for Women and Girls awards grants to nonprofit organizations in Fairfield County that help women and girls develop the tools, skills and confidence to make a difference in their own lives, in the lives of their families, and in the lives of others in their communities.

The Fund for Women and Girls Advisory Council

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Fairfield County
Community Foundation



Here's how you make a difference when you contribute to the Fund for Women and Girls

Each charitable donation helps us provide funding to excellent local nonprofits that help women and girls throughout Fairfield County. None of this work is possible without *you*.



Domus' middle school girls who participate in Girls Circle learn how to overcome severe problems to get a fair chance at full and productive lives.

Family Economic Security Program

Low- and mid-wage Norwalk Community College students struggling to support their families get the help they need to move up to better-paying careers. Qualified students receive financial coaching and education, personal career and achievement coaching, and direct financial assistance.

GirlTalk, Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County

Girls who've been victims of (or are exposed to) domestic, dating or sexual violence discover their strengths and gain confidence to move forward. They learn about coping skills, sexuality, healthy relationships, gender roles, body image, stress management, and developing self-esteem.

Girls Circle, Domus Foundation, Stamford

Domus helps students who have been kicked out of other schools, often have a criminal record, suffer severe social and

emotional ills, and are several grades behind in reading and math. Middle school and high schools girls learn how to resolve conflicts in a positive way, pick friends who will treat them well, tell adults what they need, feel good about their bodies, and express positive feelings.

Girls Challenge, Family & Children's Agency, Norwalk

Middle school girls from diverse ethnic backgrounds, plus those from low-income, single-parent homes, learn about conflict resolution, healthy friendships, personal boundaries, communication tools, goal setting, stress management, personal safety, self esteem, assertiveness and public speaking. They also engage in community service.

Growing Together, Girls Inc., Southwestern Connecticut

Girls ages 9 to 11 and their mothers or female caregivers learn how to discuss sensitive subjects, including changes dur-

ing puberty, anatomy, physiology, hygiene, values and expectations about sexual behavior. They learn how to explore mother-daughter disagreements, respectfully work out differences, and keep communicating.

Girlz R.U.L.E. (Respect, Understand, Lead, Empower), Girl Scouts of Conn., Fairfield County

Girls from second to eighth grade learn skills to cope with ostracism, gossip, rumors, put-downs, name calling, betrayal and sexual harassment. Through group "challenge" exercises, they learn how to speak up with ideas, manage outspoken peers, listen to others, include everyone, and make sure all understand the plan to solve the challenge.

Finding Her Voice, RYASAP, Bridgeport

Teenage girls from 10 high schools, each of different races, grades, sexual orientations, faiths and income levels, come together to identify, discuss and address shared problems. They explore making healthy decisions and setting goals. They learn to initiate positive change in their relationships, schools and communities.

YNet, YWCA of Greenwich

Domestic violence is the second highest crime in Greenwich, and dating violence among teens is a problem. Students are trained to educate other students on how to identify and prevent dating violence.

Raising The Bar, RYASAP, Countywide

Over 30 nonprofit leaders that offer programs like these learn how to improve their programs for girls and serve more girls. They also role play many of the activities for their girls programs, giving them a first-hand feel for challenges the girls face.