



Fairfield County  
Community Foundation

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## **Bank of America awards \$50,000 to Fairfield County Community Foundation**

*Grant provides support for the Family Economic Security Program at Norwalk Community College*

NORWALK, Jan. 21, 2011 — Bank of America has awarded \$50,000 to the Norwalk-based Fairfield County Community Foundation’s Fund for Women and Girls to provide working parents who are students at Norwalk Community College with career coaching, financial literacy training and direct financial assistance.

The grant will help more than 250 students and expand the Family Economic Security Program, an initiative created by the Foundation’s Fund for Women and Girls, the Norwalk Community College Foundation and Norwalk Community College.

The Family Economic Security Program is a five-year, \$2 million working families initiative designed to help low and medium-wage students with dependents receive tuition assistance, career guidance, achievement coaching, personal financial guidance and financial assistance for childcare and transportation. The program is designed to help students complete their Associate degree, transfer to a four year college and earn a Bachelor’s degree, then enter careers that pay a family-sustaining salary.

“Our program helps working parent students achieve both educational goals and long-term economic security,” said Suzanne Brown Peters, Director of the Foundation’s Fund for Women and Girls. “This grant from Bank of America will help students at Norwalk Community College receive the support and training they need.”

“The men and women that will directly benefit from this grant have taken a crucial step toward economic stability for years to come,” said Bill Tommins, Bank of America Fairfield County market president. “Support from the Fairfield County Community Foundation will help them reach their goals, creating opportunities for their families and others.”

The Foundation’s Fund for Women and Girls uses the power of collective giving to identify and address the needs of women and girls, educate women about philanthropy and engage them in creating change, and raise a permanent endowment to support programs that foster economic and social growth for women and girls. Since 1998, the Fund for Women and Girls has awarded more than \$1.9 million in grants.

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 \$123 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org).

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, in 2009 Bank of America embarked on a 10-year goal to donate \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation gave more than \$200 million in 2009, making the bank one of the largest corporate cash donors in the United States. Bank of America approaches investing through a national strategy under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Reaffirming a commitment to develop and sustain a culture of service, the bank announced the "Million Hour Challenge," a pledge by the company's associates around the world to donate 1 million volunteer hours by the end of 2010. In 2009, bank associate volunteers contributed more than 800,000 hours to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit [www.bankofamerica.com/foundation](http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation).

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