



Foundation awards record-breaking \$11.5 million in grants

In tough times, giving increased \$2.4 million to help those in need

NORWALK, Oct. 12, 2010 — The Fairfield County Community Foundation and its donors awarded a record-breaking \$11.5 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and students in Fairfield County and beyond during fiscal year 2010. Grant and scholarship awards increased by \$2.4 million or 26% over the previous year's giving of \$9.1 million.

“This past year was an incredibly difficult one for Fairfield County residents and the nonprofits that support them,” said Susan Ross, Foundation president and CEO. “The Foundation and our donors recognized this increased need and stepped forward as never before to provide critical support to strengthen our community and help those in need during this economic downturn.”

Grants and scholarships from the Foundation come from two principal sources: Charitable funds established by individual donors at the Foundation; and unrestricted funds given to the Foundation to address changing community needs in perpetuity.

In fiscal 2010, \$6.3 million in grants and scholarships were awarded directly to students and nonprofits in Fairfield County. An additional \$1.5 million benefitted statewide organizations. Donors awarded \$3.7 million in grants from their funds to national and international organizations, including significant support for relief efforts in Haiti.

A full list of grants awarded in fiscal 2010 can be found online at www.fccfoundation.org.

Recognizing the impact of the downturn on Fairfield County nonprofits and the residents they support, in 2010 the Foundation continued to prioritize competitive funding to nonprofits providing critical services in the areas of education and youth development, economic opportunity and health and human services. The Foundation also funded nonprofit work in the areas of arts and culture and the environment. Through its Center for Nonprofit Excellence, the

Foundation worked to strengthen nonprofits through leadership and management training and workshops.

Giving from the Foundation and its donors included \$4.2 million to support education and youth development programs, \$3.4 million to bolster health and human services initiatives, over \$1 million to strengthen arts and culture endeavors, and significant funding to economic opportunity, environment and other important nonprofit work.

Grants helped ensure students received tutoring and mentoring, food banks were able to answer rising need, community health clinics could open their doors to more residents and unemployed workers had access to critical job training programs.

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 \$120 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.