

Impact Report 2023

BRANFORD
Community Foundation



Photo by Tricia Bohan

Dear Friends-

We write with heartfelt gratitude and a sense of accomplishment as we reflect on the progress and impact of our work over the past year, thanks to your support.

In this annual Impact Report, we spotlight the invaluable work of our nonprofit partners who enrich and support our community. We hope these stories provide a sense of the tangible difference your philanthropy makes. Reflecting on our accomplishments, we see more than just numbers- we see the collective efforts of individuals and organizations committed to creating a stronger Branford.

Community Investment

Last year, we witnessed remarkable generosity. We had the most donors ever supporting our operating and annual appeals (except for our 2020 COVID-19 Fund initiative). Our endowment stands strong at just over \$3 million, allowing us to invest nearly \$175,000 in 2023 into Branford through grants, scholarships, and sponsorship awards (in partnership with GSB). Our investment into the Branford community since 2013 is over \$1.5 million.

ARPA Funding

In addition to our traditional grantmaking, we were honored to have been entrusted by the Town of Branford to make grant recommendations for \$395,000 in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The RTM accepted our recommendations for awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000, to 25 local nonprofits to aid in their recovery from COVID-19's impacts. Take a look at page 11 for a list of ARPA award recipients.

Leadership

The historic ARPA funding strengthened our connections with charitable partners, fostering deeper collaborations and initiating site visits to our hard-working grantees. We continue to execute our strategic plan, which serves as our roadmap to increase our community impact. This past year, we added a part-time staff member to assist with administrative duties and have contracted with a marketing and communications specialist to focus on our community outreach and social media presence.

Looking ahead, we're excited to build on the growth of the past year and continue to build our relationships with our nonprofit, Town, and donor partners. Your commitment to Branford and your role in supporting our community has been crucial.

Thank you for your unwavering support. We're committed to building a brighter future for generations, together.

Gratefully,

Liza Janssen Petra
Executive Director

Stephanie Donegan Dietz
Board Chair



A Legacy of Land Conservation

Few people have as deep a knowledge or as strong a passion for the environment — both local and global — as William “Bill” Horne. A research scientist, now retired, from Yale University School of Medicine and the Yale Child Study Center, Bill has spent decades of Thursday nights attending the meetings of Branford’s Planning & Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission. He has served as president and on every committee and the board of directors of the Branford Land Trust, as well as on the Town’s Conservation and Environmental Commission. And Bill was inducted into Branford’s Education Hall of Fame in 2017 in recognition of his efforts to educate the community about environmental matters.

So it should come as no surprise that Bill created a fund within the Branford Community Foundation to preserve a small piece of Branford with a large

environmental impact. His contribution of more than \$10,000 has been designated as the donor advised Todds Hill Preserve Fund.

“I know that keeping track of a lot of little dedicated funds is an administrative nuisance for the Land Trust,” Horne explains, “so I decided to set up this fund through the Branford Community Foundation knowing this is their area of expertise.”

The 24-acre preserve, set aside as part of a large residential development between Cherry Hill, Todds Hill and Parish Farm roads, was deeded to the Branford Land Trust in 2020, along with a contribution from the developer. It also borders another open space set-aside parcel owned by the Regional Water Authority. Neighbors lobbied both the Land Trust and their local RTM representatives to help make it happen, with the request that the

preserve eventually be made open to the public.

The Land Trust, along with the town’s Conservation and Environmental Commission, hopes to create a pollinator pathway habitat at the site. Pollinator pathways are part of a state and national effort to create pesticide-free corridors, with native plants that provide nutrition and habitat to pollinating insects and birds. In the case of the Todds Hill Preserve, the Land Trust also hopes to include accessible parking areas, pathways and viewing spots.

Featuring two large drainage ponds, lots of mature trees and a short grass meadow, the parcel has a lot of potential and a few challenges. Volunteers, including a group of employees of the local pharmaceutical company, FreeThink Technologies, have been working to clear pathways and have begun the arduous task of removing autumn olive and other invasive species.

In addition, neighbors have been helping to maintain some walking paths with regular mowing. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection awarded a grant to the Land Trust to develop plans for a handicap accessible braille and sensory trail. And volunteers will continue to monitor invasive species and test the fortitude and sustainability of more native species with small-scale plantings.

“We all know that pollinators are threatened by climate change,” Horne says. “This project is about building a more resilient environment. At some point, maintenance costs are low so when the project is done, the money will be sitting there and

can be used for other land trust properties or other open space properties.”

It seems a fitting legacy for the man whose name is synonymous with land conservation in Branford.

Photo: Todds Hill Wet Meadow Preserve (left) and Branford Land Trust Trail Head by Tricia Bohem (below)





Relieving Food Insecurity in Our Community

It isn't glamorous. There's no trendy social media post to draw attention. And it would be a hard sell for a black-tie gala fundraiser. But without a working walk-in freezer, the Branford Food Pantry (BFP) wouldn't be able to do what it does — provide groceries to hundreds of Branford families each month. So the timing of the Branford Community Foundation grant awards in the spring of 2023, just as the freezer's compressor began to show its age, could not have worked out better.

"It was a godsend," says president Jaye Andrews. "The freezer had already threatened to die once and we'd had it repaired, but it really needed a new compressor...I think we got word of the grant and the next day I was on the phone with the repair company saying 'Get started!'"

The BFP is an entirely volunteer organization, that began in a local church basement in 1978 providing a box of non-perishable staples to those in need. Today, the organization is located in the lower level of the Volunteer Services Center on Harrison Avenue and provides assistance to more than 200 Branford families each month. They work in concert with social service agencies like the Branford Counseling Center, and upstairs neighbors the BHCare Clothing Bank and the Community Dining Room, which provides a hot meal to diners from around the region.

The BFP is supported by local donations, The (federal) Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and Connecticut Foodshare. During three time periods over two days a week, individuals and families are able to come in and "shop" for the food they need based on the size of their families. In

addition, volunteers deliver food to some residents who are homebound by illness or disability. During the holiday season, the BFP uses that freezer to store approximately 400 turkeys and 200 chickens for distribution for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Allowing families to choose what they need provides a sense of dignity, reduces waste and promotes better nutrition. The average family is allowed to choose up to four frozen protein sources (meat and fish) that are stored in the walk-in freezer. They can also take fresh produce, milk, eggs and butter, as well as more shelf-stable foods like pasta, beans and canned goods. The average distribution is about 40 pounds of groceries.

The US Department of Agriculture reports that average at-home food prices were 5% higher in 2023 than the previous year, and that food prices overall (including at-home and take-out) were 25% higher than in 2019. Meanwhile, according to a nationwide network of food banks called Feeding America, one in 10 people, including more than 83,000 children in Connecticut, are impacted by hunger.

"The number of two-working member families is on the rise. We're seeing larger families and younger families," Andrews says. Even as the economy is reportedly improving from the pandemic, "rent is still expensive, gas is still expensive, utilities are still expensive. We see people who can't get 40 hours from employers who want to keep them in that 27-hour zone so they don't get benefits. We're seeing more elderly and younger families than ever."

Feeding America defines food insecurity as not having enough to eat and not knowing where your next meal will come from. Among the factors

causing food insecurity are unemployment or underemployment, lack of affordable housing, chronic health conditions, and discrimination. It impacts physical health and disease management, mental health and well-being, and school and work. Andrews, who took over as president of the BFP last year, acknowledges that she has been on both sides of the food insecurity equation during her life. As a young woman living and working in Boston after college, she visited a local food co-op when she became desperate.

"I was in my 20s, and I didn't know where my next meal was coming from. My paycheck was like three days away and there was nothing in my fridge but a jar of mayonnaise. My pass for the T (metro) ran out and I had to put my money on that or I wouldn't be able to get to work. It can happen so fast, and I didn't have kids or a mortgage at the time," Andrews recalls. "Now, people come in to the food pantry and they say 'my hours have been cut' or 'I've been laid off' or 'my kid needs braces' and they are struggling."

So, even though it isn't glamorous, a new compressor for a walk-in freezer makes a big difference.



A New Level of Community Engagement

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation received a \$1000 grant from the Branford Community Foundation (BCF) for outreach and advocacy around Juneteenth, a federal holiday established in 2021. Juneteenth commemorates the practical end of slavery on June 19, 1965, when the Union army reached the last outpost of the Confederacy in Galveston, TX and enforced the nearly two-and-a-half-year-old Emancipation Proclamation.

The outreach marks a new level of community engagement for the Foundation, which was established as a 501(c)3 organization in 2022

when volunteers of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast sought to expand their purpose. The breakfast began as a fellowship meal among the congregation of St. Stephen's A.M.E. Zion church in 1985, just two years after Martin Luther King Jr. Day was recognized as a federal holiday. Eventually, Rev. Charles Woody brought the breakfast to the attention of the Branford Clergy, an interdenominational group of local pastors and ministers, who sought to grow the event.

Over the years, the annual gathering has burgeoned into a celebration featuring inspiring Black speakers and involving students and young people in the

planning and execution, including the Branford High School Music Makers performing and culinary arts students preparing the meal. The Covid pandemic had a tremendous impact on the annual event, forcing it to be canceled and then to be held virtually.

The BCF grant allowed the Foundation to emerge from the pandemic with a strong message around the value of diversity and inclusion.

"We want to educate people that we're not just talking about Black history. It's American history; it's all of our history," says Mary Fitz-Perry, president of the Foundation.

The funds were used to host a booth at the Branford Festival's Artisan Marketplace and to create educational handouts for all their outreach events. The Foundation is also working to create scholarships for Black and Indigenous high school students for college and trade schools.

"We want to educate people that we're not just talking about Black history. It's American history; it's all of our history."

**- Mary Fitz-Perry,
Foundation President**

Photo: Members of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation





A Historic Funding Opportunity

Ecologists use the term “light gap” to describe a phenomenon that occurs when the canopy of a forest is broken by light, usually when a full-grown tree falls. As a result, light reaches the forest floor where it hadn’t before. New growth appears in that light, regenerating and often diversifying the forest, making it a stronger ecosystem.

In the dark days of the pandemic, it was hard to imagine the changes that might come and make a community stronger. There is no doubt every segment of society has been affected. The ways in which we learn and work and interact have all changed, and for many, our priorities have shifted. In the world of non-profits, those shifts caused ripple effects as needs were magnified while resources diminished.

Indeed, four years after the first strains of Covid-19 reached the Connecticut shoreline, the community

is still discovering all the impacts of the pandemic. But in 2023, the light gap appeared when the Town of Branford partnered with the Branford Community Foundation to distribute nearly \$400,000 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021.

The Town received \$8.2 million in total and allocated the bulk of those funds to the schools, social services agencies and the health department to address the most pressing needs. The only qualification on the federal funding is that it be used to respond to the negative economic impacts of Covid-19. So early in 2023, First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove asked the BCF to develop recommendations for distributing one-time grants to area non-profits that were particularly impacted by the pandemic.

“The ARPA funding will fortify nonprofits focused

on delivering critical resources to our Branford residents who were negatively impacted by COVID-19,” Cosgrove said in a press release. “We thank the Branford Community Foundation for their trusted leadership and the ARPA Review Committee for bringing experience and rigor to the process.”

The committee that included BCF board members, an ARPA consultant, and community representatives reviewed the applications that detailed the impacts of the pandemic – from canceled fundraisers and lower contributions to higher costs and higher demands. The committee established priorities and required applications to meet at least one of the criteria: basic needs (food insecurity, shelter, emergency financial assistance, and childcare); populations disparately impacted by Covid-19; mental health and substance abuse services; programs that create joy in the community; child and youth development services; and organizations that strive for high impact in the Branford community.

The result was 25 grants, ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000, made to organizations like the Orchard House Medical Adult Day Care, BHCare, Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library and the Branford Microfund. For some, the infusion of funding provides a stop-gap to keep them running smoothly. For others, like the Community Dining Room, which is using funds to purchase a vehicle, it provides the light to grow in new direction.

The RTM overwhelmingly approved the recommendations in December of 2023. Addressing the RTM at the time, Cosgrove said, “I’m proud of how this community – not only

through this window of time – [has] set ourselves up to continue to take care of our most vulnerable populations.”

The Branford Community Foundation in partnership with Town of Branford distributed \$395,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to local non-profits that serve the community of Branford.

- \$ 2,000 Shoreline Eldercare Alliance
- \$ 5,000 The Cove Center for Grieving Children
- \$ 5,000 Stony Creek Museum Inc.
- \$ 6,000 The Branford Chorale
- \$ 7,000 Shoreline Arts Alliance
- \$ 8,000 Branford Historical Society
- \$ 8,800 Friends of James Blackstone Memorial Library
- \$10,000 BHcare, Inc.
- \$10,000 Shoreline Village CT
- \$10,000 Child Development Center
- \$13,000 Orchard House Medical Adult Day Center
- \$14,000 Branford Land Trust
- \$15,000 The Branford Electric Railway Association, Inc.
- \$15,000 Read to Grow, Inc.
- \$15,000 Soundview Family YMCA c/o Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
- \$20,000 Carrie P. Chandler Housing Development Corporation
- \$20,000 Branford Microfund
- \$20,000 Special Olympics Connecticut
- \$20,000 Fair Haven Community Health Care
- \$20,000 Move to Heal CT
- \$20,000 Community Dining Room
- \$21,200 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation
- \$25,000 Women & Family Life Center
- \$35,000 Legacy Theatre
- \$50,000 The Connecticut Hospice, Inc.

Photo: Branford Microfund Volunteers

BCF 2023...

...by the numbers.

CLIFFORD W. BEERS
GUIDANCE CLINIC

**51 local
children & families**

received mental health services

SOCIETY OF NEPALESE
IN AMERICA

250 students

participated in the
Nepali Language Class



FEED BRANFORD KIDS

300 students

received backpacks full
of food on a weekly basis

READ TO GROW

500 children

received free books

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
CONNECTICUT

48 residents

participated in programming

CAMP TOTOKETT

40 residents

participated in camp



STONY CREEK MUSEUM

4,000 campers

participated in the
Stony Creek Puppet Shows



SOUNDVIEW YMCA

**54 second
graders**

learned to swim



BHS PROJECT GRADUATION

200 graduates

participated in a substance-free,
safe, all-night celebration



CAMP HAZEN YMCA

28 residents

participated in camp



ORCHARD HOUSE MEDICAL
ADULT DAY CENTER

31 seniors

participated in exercise
programs



COMMUNITY DINING
ROOM

1,500 meals

served to the community



JAMES BLACKSTONE
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

3,778 children

age 5-17 participated in the
Find Your Voice summer
reading program



WOMEN AND FAMILY
LIFE CENTER

78 residents

served through the
Guided Assistance Program

GRANT AWARDS

In 2023, Branford Community Foundation invested in the community through its grantmaking, sponsorships in partnership with GSB and designated charitable funds and scholarships.

\$1,000 Branford Microfund to support an increase in number of applications from people who face a sudden emergency beyond their immediate financial capability.

\$1,000 High Hopes Therapeutic Riding to support the participation of youth and adults from Branford in High Hopes' range of equine assisted services.

\$1,000 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation to support participation in the Branford Festival to educate our community about the meaning of Juneteenth.

\$1,044 Branford Compassion Club to cover the cost of neutering 6 cats.

\$1,250 New Haven Ballet to support a free community performance on the Branford Green.

\$1,600 BHS Project Graduation to support a substance free, safe, all-night celebration for the graduating class. This event is organized and staffed by volunteers and open to all Branford High School graduating seniors.

\$1,667 James Blackstone Memorial Library to support the 2023 summer reading program "Find Your Voice".

\$1,800 Designated Grants to The Branford Community Foundation Operating Fund and Shoreline Village CT.

\$2,000 Society of Nepalese in America to support Nepalese language classes.

\$2,000 Orchard House Medical Adult Day Center to support an exercise program for dementia and Alzheimer clients.

\$2,100 Donor Advised Grant to support Branford Land Trust Education and Outreach programming.

\$2,250 The Cove Center for Grieving Children to support peer support groups for children experiencing grief.

\$2,250 Children in Placement, Connecticut Inc. to support the Guardian Ad Litem Program, providing crucial services to Branford children in the child welfare system.

\$2,250 Camp Hazen YMCA to provide financial assistance to Branford campers.

\$2,300 Stony Creek Museum Inc. to support the installation of the puppet display at the museum, and presentation of a traveling puppet show.

\$2,500 Read to Grow, Inc. to provide free children's books to families in Branford through Bookmobile visits and our partner organizations such as the Community Dining Room, East Shore District Health Department and other Branford organizations, including child care centers and preschools.

\$2,950 BCF Leadership Initiatives to support the professional development of leaders of local charitable organizations.

\$3,000 New Antioch Church to support programs serving women in crisis and expand children's programming for at risk youth.

\$3,000 Special Olympics Connecticut to revitalize and support the Central Shoreline local program, which is still rebuilding and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$3,000 Community Dining Room to close the gap on additional costs of food purchases as well as additional food purchases needed due to less food donations from procurements.

\$3,000 Soundview Family YMCA to support the Y Be Fit afterschool program designed to increase physical activity for students in Grades 4 and 5.

\$3,800 Soundview Family YMCA to support a partnership with Branford Public School system to ensure every child is water safe by the age of 12.

\$3,900 Shoreline Village CT to develop a long-range strategic plan to help more seniors.

\$4,000 Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven to train and support at least 10 volunteer tutors to teach at least 100 adult learners in English as a Second Language (ESL) literacy in partnership with Shoreline Adult Education.

\$7,000 Camp Totokett to support a week of camp at Killiam's Point for children from refugee families and children affected by trauma.

\$7,500 Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc. to support Outpatient Mental Health Programs for the delivery of trauma-informed clinical services and non-reimbursable, case management and care coordination services for Branford children and families.

\$8,000 Feed Branford Kids to provide food to all Branford kids on a year-round basis.

\$8,000 Women & Family Life Center to strengthen and enhance the Guided Assistance Program.

\$10,000 Branford Food Pantry to replace the compressor for the walk-in freezer.

\$49,300 Branford High School Scholarships to 37 Branford High School graduates pursuing higher education and 2 scholarships to the Branford Fire Department for emergency services education.

Annual grants are awarded to qualified nonprofit and government agencies serving the town of Branford. For more information and the application form, visit our website www.branfordcommunityfoundation.org



Photo by Tricia Bohlen

GRANT AWARDS

Sponsorships

The Branford Community Foundation partnered with GSB to provide sponsorships for the following events in 2023:

- BHcare, Inc. A Chance to Shine
- Branford Community TV Ninth Annual Tour de Branford
- Branford Compassion Club Animal Awareness Day
- Branford Early Learning Center Week of The Young Child
- Branford Festival Father of the Year Essay Contest
- Branford High School Performing Arts *School of Rock: The Musical*
- Branford Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner
- Branford Land Trust Nature Events and Speaker Series
- Branford Parks and Recreation Department: Branford Summer Jazz Concert Series & Musical Mondays on the Green
- Branford Parks & Recreation Shoreline Theatre Company: Summer Performances
- Camp Rising Sun Night Out for the Kids
- Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic Builders of Hope Breakfast
- Community Dining Room
- Friends of James Blackstone Memorial Library Annual Fall Book Sale
- James Blackstone Memorial Library Mini Golf
- Legacy Theatre Mainstage Season
- Living Wisely & Well on Planet Earth Day Fair
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving New England Walk Like MADD
- Roots 4 Relief Wishing Wheels Bike Drive
- Rotary Club of North Branford Fall Fling
- SARAH Gala

- Shoreline Arts Alliance Tassy Walden Awards - New Voices in Children's Literature
- Shoreline Arts Trail
- Shoreline Eldercare Alliance Celebration of Healthy Aging
- Society of Nepalese in America Nepal-US Relationship Day
- Soundview Family YMCA Cycle for a Cause and 16th Annual Golf Tournament
- Walsh Intermediate School Memorial Day Contest
- Women & Family Life Center empowHer Gala
- Women & Family Life Center SHEro Awards



2023 BCF CHARITABLE FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds: Helping to meet ever-changing community needs, including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time a gift is made.

- *Dr. Thomas H.G. Aitkin Fund*
- *Andriole Family Fund*
- *Peter Borgemeister Fund*
- *The H. Allen Carroll Fund*
- *The Clark Family Fund*
- *A. Peter and Fae Delfini Memorial Fund*
- *The John E. Donegan Fund*
- *The Darin G. Etzel Fund*
- *Farricielli Fund*
- *The Tom & Carol Gagliardi Fund*
- *Branford Community Foundation General Trustees Fund*
- *William T. Gorman Family Fund*
- *Grossman Family Fund*
- *The William C and Barbara R Lyons Fund*
- *Robert J. Massey, Sr. Family Foundation*
- *Mobeck Family Fund*
- *John & Carol Moss Fund*
- *Virginia Page ~ Page Family Legacy Fund*
- *Jane W. Rosenthal Fund*
- *James F. Ryan Fund*
- *Torello Family Fund*
- *Jacqueline Ulrich Fund*

Designated Funds: Earmarked for a specific nonprofit organization or purpose, such as a local welfare fund or the local library.

- *Branford Community Foundation Operating Fund*
- *Stephanie & Leonard Farber Fund*
- *Donald & Carla Grigley Memorial Fund*
- *Shoreline Village CT (SVCT) Legacy Fund*

Field of Interest Funds: Supports an area of interest identified by the donor.

- *Brain Injury, Brain Illness and/or Mental Health Fund*
- *Guilford Savings Bank Charitable Fund*
- *Thomas C. Hooker Memorial Fund*
- *Lasala Family Fund for Animals*
- *Joyce & Robert "Pat" Mailhouse Fund*
- *Donald & Mary Lou Welch Fund*

- *Linda Edsall Winward and Walter Winward Fund for Music Programs in the Branford Elementary and Middle Schools*

Donor Advised Funds: Donors have continued and ongoing involvement in the use of their gift.

- *Nobile Fund for Cultural and Artistic Innovation*
- *Deirdre Baker Schiffer Fund*
- *Todds Hill Preserve Fund*

Scholarship Funds: Supports graduates from Branford High School.

- *BACA Scholarship Fund for the Arts*
- *George Barone Scholarship Fund*
- *Philip A. DeLise Memorial Scholarship*
- *Bob Dow Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Fund*
- *PJ Ferriolo Memorial Scholarship Fund*
- *Vincent S. Giordano Sr Scholarship Fund*
- *Maureen Gustafson Scholarship Fund*
- *Margie L. Hughes Scholarship Fund*
- *Joseph E. Higgins Jr 9-11 Memorial Scholarship Fund*
- *Dr. Harold D. Levy M.D. Scholarship Fund (NEW)*
- *James MacVeigh Scholarship Fund*
- *George D. Malcolm Memorial Award*
- *Kendra Martin Scholarship Fund*
- *D. William Owens Jr and Attorney Robert M. Owens Scholarship Fund*
- *Jeanette L. Palluzzi Scholarship Fund*
- *Palumbo & Robbins Scholarship Fund*
- *Joyce Watson Potts & Carl E. Potts Scholarship*
- *Jim and Carol Redden Memorial Scholarship*
- *Mari-Ellen Reed Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund*
- *Christopher and Robert Reynolds Scholarship Fund*
- *Cathyann Roding Performing Arts Scholarship Fund*
- *The Austin Ryer Memorial Scholarship Fund*
- *William Schwanfelder Scholarship Fund*
- *Sally Slater BHS Scholarship Fund*
- *John B. Sliney Scholarship Fund*
- *Torello Family Fund*
- *Peggy Welch Fund*
- *Celia Whorf Wheeler Scholarship Fund*
- *Linda Edsall Winward Scholarship Fund*
- *Ryan Fielding Wynne Scholarship Fund (NEW)*

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Branford Community Foundation (BCF) is pleased to present its financial report for fiscal year 2023. BCF awarded over \$174,000 in grants, scholarships, and sponsorships during our 2023 fiscal year, a consistent year over year growth in our community investment through our permanent charitable funds.

In addition to these investments, BCF was proud to partner with the Town of Branford to create recommendations for an additional \$395,000 (not reflected in the figures below) in American Rescue Plan Act funding for charitable organizations serving the Branford community. The funds were designed to address the negative financial impact from the COVID19 pandemic, and we are pleased that the Town accepted and funded BCF's recommendations, which supported 25 local nonprofits. Together with our annual grants, BCF directed nearly \$570,000 in support in 2023 to those agencies serving our Branford neighbors, friends and loved ones.

BCF takes the stewardship of the assets entrusted to it very seriously. Our investment portfolio closed the fiscal year (Dec. 31, 2023) with \$3.04 million, up 10% from the end of our prior fiscal year, a welcome performance improvement over the prior year where market conditions were challenging.

BCF's work is made possible through the passion and generosity of our donors. We are grateful to our individual, family, nonprofit and corporate donors for their confidence in us as an effective steward and partner. We received over \$287,000 in contributions in 2023, a 21% increase over the previous year. Your generosity and trust enable us to be a courageous and enduring partner in philanthropy.

We are so grateful for the incredible donor support the local community provides BCF. None of this would be possible without you.

AS OF DECEMBER 31	2023 (unaudited)	2022 (audited)	% CHANGE
Total Assets	\$3,046,717	\$2,745,126	11%
Total Contributions	\$287,373	\$227,358	26%
Total Grants	\$174,636	\$172,648	1%

Key Financial Indicators are extracted from annual financial statements and exclude inter-fund gifts and grants. A copy of our Form 990 is available upon request.

We and our donors seek to address the needs of today while upholding charitable legacies for generations to come, so we invest both for now and for the future. The prudent fiscal stewardship of our donors' funds and legacies is our top priority. BCF works with the investment professionals at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (CFGNH) who manage our endowment. BCF's individual funds are pooled and invested

in a globally diversified portfolio across stocks, bonds, alternative investments such as hedge funds, private equity and private real assets. While market dynamics inherently involve ups and downs, our Finance Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to a long-term strategy that will sustain our ability to serve our community for generations to come.



Photo by Tricia Bohan

LIST OF DONORS

We are so grateful for the incredible donor support the local community provides the Branford Community Foundation. None of this would be possible without you. We extend our deepest gratitude to the following individuals, businesses and foundations who made financial contributions to the Branford Community Foundation from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

\$10,000 AND UP

American Polyfilm, Inc.
 Anonymous
 Carole Brown
 GSB
 Jeanette & Robert Mobeck
 Nancy & Thomas Patton
 Catherine & John Seibyl
 Jan Walzer & David Etzel

\$5,000 TO \$9,999

Charlie Andriole
 Anonymous
 Polly A. & Alan S. Fitz
 Anne & Creighton Hooker
 Progressive Business Solutions
 Karen & Ryan Torello
 Rita Trayner
 John Wynne

\$2,000 TO \$4,999

BNY Mellon
 Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
 Timothy Dineen
 Rose Dufour
 Stephanie & Len Farber
 Fidelity Charitable
 Joyce Mailhouse
 Kathy & Dale Maycen
 Annetta & Louis Potts
 Ann Rutherford & Bruce Lively

\$1,000 TO \$1,999

Anonymous
 Sue Bender & Al Klevatorick
 Rita Berkson & Randy Reinhold
 Terri & Roger Boissonneault
 Branford High School
 Lea Brilmayer & William Horne
 Kevin Cassell
 Marilyn & Victor Cassella
 Deborah & Donald Conklin
 Betty Ann Donegan
 Amy Etzel
 Jean & Joe Farricielli
 Josephine Farricielli
 Susie & Bob Fiskio
 Shelley & Gordon Geballe
 Pamela & John Griffin
 Joan Krochmal
 Melodie Lane & Curtis O'Connor
 Susanne Lendler Marsh & Chip Marsh
 Ann & Robert Lyons
 Patricia & John Mooney
 Alicia & Jeff Torello
 Penny Bellamy & Mark Simon

\$500 TO \$999

Susan & Bruce Ackerman
 Elizabeth Alcorn
 Merle & Bob Berke-Schlessel
 Lois & Philip DeLise
 Donna Doherty

Christine Donegan
 Stephanie Donegan & William Dietz
 Elizabeth & Niall Ferguson
 Carol & Tom Gagliardi
 Melissa & Tim Geelan
 Allison Grigley & Josh Geballe
 Heather & Joseph Hackley
 The Holmes- Praecht Family
 Linda Karoff
 Kimberly & Frank Kenna
 Hedda & Gary Kopf
 Martha Link & Fran Walsh, Jr.
 Carol & Robert Lyons
 Lyons- Ruzzi Family Fund
 Barbara Marks
 Kendra Martin & Cormick Martin
 Kelley McDevitt & Stephen Hooker
 Stephanie & John McGow
 Margaret & Donald Mitchell
 Greg Robbins
 Terry & Jeff Vailette
 Phyllis Whitin
 Helen Wong & Frazier Bronson
 Nancy Young & Paul Ford

\$250 TO \$499

Juliette & David Andrews
 Patricia Andriole
 F. Vining Bigelow
 Branford Basketball Booster Club
 Layna & Peter Cain
 Steven Carlson

Ingrid Caruso & John Christian
 Jennifer Davies
 Marcia & Ron Delfini
 Betty & Frederick Eckert
 Valerie Engstrom
 Donna & Peter Ferriolo
 Christine & Joe Fontana
 Kathleen & Parker Fox
 Nancy & David Fryer
 Denise & James Gannon
 Brenda & Joe Garrison
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BCF was honored to receive gifts in memory of the following:

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 Barbara Lyons
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We worked carefully to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this list. We apologize for any mistakes and ask that you contact Liza Janssen Petra at lpetra@branfordcommunityfoundation.org or (203) 444-4898 to correct any inconsistencies.

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TESTIMONIALS

NEPALI LANGUAGE CLASS

“We use the grant money to educate kids about Nepali culture and help them talk and read Nepali. Because of this class, so many kids and grandparents back in Nepal, who don’t understand English, can have a conversation in Nepali.”

CAMP HAZEN YMCA

Financial Assistance to Support Youth from Branford

“I am so grateful for the financial assistance and the Camp Hazen experience that my child received. It was a life-changing opportunity for my child to explore nature, make new lifelong friends, and learn new skills. My child came back from camp with a new confidence and a positive outlook on life. Camp Hazen is more than just a camp. It is a place where dreams come true.”

- Testimonial from 2023 camper parent



BRANFORD

Community Foundation

Thank you.

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