

# Good People Great Things



10 Years of Foundation Leadership  
(left to right): Herb Clark, Immediate Past Board Chair; Cynthia Clegg, President; Bob Kirkpatrick, Board Chair; Patti Anne Vassia, Founding President; Biff Shaw, Founding Board Chair.

[ 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED ]

Grant recipients, friends, and volunteers of the Community Foundation had much to celebrate in late September. Some 170 people gathered at the Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown to acknowledge the organization's success in building a better Middlesex County. A challenge grant from Liberty Bank in 1997 has facilitated a vital grantmaking entity for our community. By year's end the Foundation's Board of Directors will have approved \$1 million in grants.

(continued inside)

SOME OF THE MANY FACES OF CELEBRATION:



Board member Dave Preston and newsletter editor Liz Petry



Gail Gorton (Women's Fund Grants Comm.) & husband John Biddiscombe Board member



Board member Anita Ford Saunders, Maria Holzberg (Women's Fund Grants Comm.) & Willard McRae Board member



Old Saybrook friends Elaine Staplins and Wilma Asch



North End friends Lydia Brewster, Michael Taylor, Ron Krom and Izzi Greenberg

**10TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION (CONTINUED)**

*Other celebration highlights:*



**GROWTH TO MORE THAN \$3 MILLION IN ENDOWMENT AND MORE THAN \$12 MILLION IN KNOWN PLANNED GIFTS BY 50 INDIVIDUALS.**

“These essential planned gifts secure our long-term viability for this and future generations,” said Foundation Board Chair Bob Kirkpatrick. He was liberal in his praise for the many donors, founding givers, and grantmaking partners. “We have much for which to be grateful and thank everyone for their support of our efforts.”



**PRAISE FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER VICE PRESIDENT MARGARET FLINTER FOR FOUNDATION GRANTS THAT HELP PROGRAMS LARGE AND SMALL.**

Vital to the shoreline were two grants that provided the first Spanish speaking maternal-child worker in the Health Center’s Valley-Shore office in Clinton and its Domestic Violence Program in Westbrook. Flinter also commended the Foundation’s partnership with the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, through which the Health Center was able to start a statewide Obesity Tracking program before others were addressing this critical health issue.



**ANNOUNCEMENT BY FOUNDATION PRESIDENT CYNTHIA CLEGG OF A \$10,000 ANONYMOUS GIFT IN HONOR OF FOUNDING PRESIDENT PATTI ANNE VASSIA**

that will be used to enhance local communities through their public libraries, which will decide how to manage the gift. Clegg encouraged everyone to continue their outstanding support to build on the tremendous accomplishments of the past 10 years.



Oddfellows jugglers, including Rob Grim pictured, entertained Celebration attendees on the Wadsworth Mansion front lawn.



# *It's time to ask ourselves and others one question: Who would you like to help forever?*

[ CELEBRATE! ]

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be the newest member of the Middlesex County Community Foundation's family. I am fortunate to be part of a group of individuals and organizations who care so much about the community. You have made the collective commitment to dream and envision a county of strong connections and have invested wisely of your time, energy and resources for the benefit of all. Your will power, perseverance and collaborations have allowed you to accomplish so much.

## TOGETHER YOU'VE:

❧  
GROWN  
*the money invested  
in the endowed funds  
to \$3.5 million*

❧  
GIVEN BACK  
*\$1 million in grants to more than  
130 community organizations  
by the end of the 2007 grant cycle*

❧  
PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE  
*with more than \$12 million in known  
planned gifts to leave a lasting LEGACY  
for Middlesex County*

Middlesex County Community Foundation has, over its first ten years, had many successes. Of course, there's more to do and together we can and will achieve even more. We will continue to strengthen our community by building a substantial, enduring endowment and meet the challenges of our region by reinforcing and connecting the resources of the community.

We celebrate you—your philanthropy—since the Community Foundation's beginning. We believe that there are no limits to the generosity and good will of the residents of Middlesex County. We believe that through combined energy and collective financial and human resources we will be even *better together* in the next ten years.

As we move into our second decade, it's time to share our story with at least ten of your friends. It's time to celebrate the many "Great Things Good People" have accomplished.

It's also time to ask ourselves and others one question: *Who would you like to help forever?*

CYNTHIA H. CLEGG  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Nancy Fischbach educated herself quickly when Community Foundation Board Vice Chair Marcia Kalayjian and Patti Anne Vassia approached her about joining the board. "I knew little of the Foundation," Fischbach said. "I had received the newsletters and set them aside because they looked interesting." What she discovered made her want to contribute to the organization.

Fischbach, a longtime resident of Clinton who now lives in Deep River, brings a vast array of talents to the board. She has years of experience in publishing, including work at *Newsweek* and *Parents* magazine. Her civic activities have involved her in planning and

zoning commissions in Clinton and Deep River, as well as on the finance committee of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, and a variety of leadership positions at Congregation Beth Shalom in Chester.

Foundation President Cynthia Clegg sees the board's newest member as a perfect fit. "Nancy has experience with a foundation and therefore knows the challenges of making responsible grants." And as a resident of the Deep River, which was previously not represented on the board, "She will add to the understanding and knowledge of the shoreline and lower valley towns," Clegg added.



Fischbach said she looks forward to improving the Foundation's visibility among lower valley residents. "The most important thing is for the general population to know that the Foundation exists," Fischbach said. "I've told people—educated people, people involved in the community that I'm on the board of the Foundation, and they say, 'Oh, what's that?'. From now on, they won't have to wonder."

## HONORS ABOUND FOR PATTI ANNE VASSIA



Board members celebrate Vassia's Martha S. Newman Award with a wave.

The Board of Directors thought long and hard about how to recognize the monumental efforts of founding president Patti Anne Vassia as she makes the transition from working part time to retirement. Board members wanted to show their gratitude while providing a lasting tribute for her 10 years of building the Foundation. The result of their deliberations was to establish the *Patti Anne Vassia Fund for Administration*. Board members then raised gifts and pledges of \$100,000 to begin the Fund, which was announced at a celebration for Vassia, attended by past and present volunteers and friends. The guest of honor was overwhelmed by the creation of the fund. "I know better than most how difficult it is to raise operating support, so this is an unbelievable honor. I thank all who made it possible," she said. "Now I will help it grow by adding one of my own planned gifts to this Fund and will encourage others to do the same." You can join the Board in honoring Vassia by contributing to this Fund.

At its 2007 annual meeting the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy presented its first *Martha S. Newman Award* to Vassia. The Newman Award is presented to someone who serves on the staff of a grantmaking organization who has demonstrated sustained and exemplary service to the organization and the philanthropic sector in Connecticut. Vassia's local accomplishments, along with state and national recognitions were instrumental in her winning the nomination. "Perhaps more important, she's never too busy to share her knowledge and experience," said Nancy Roberts, president of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy. "And no one is immune from Patti's quest for community involvement." In receiving this award Vassia reminded those gathered to continue to "see" people: their needs, their desires to volunteer and contribute to make a better community.

## CHEFA PARTNERSHIP SECURES \$160,613 FOR HOMEBOUND AND HOMELESS

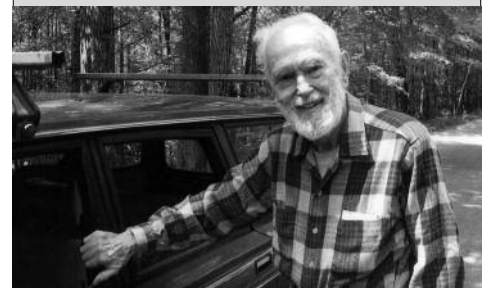
Two nonprofit agencies that provide critical services celebrated Christmas in July through the Community Foundation's partnership with the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA). Based on the Foundation's recommendation, CHEFA awarded \$100,000 to the Estuary Council of Seniors in Old Saybrook and \$60,613 to The Connection, Inc. in Middletown.

The Estuary Council will use the funds to purchase two specialized vans for its Valley Shore "Meals on Wheels" program. Last year the organization delivered more than 85,000 meals to the homebound and to central facilities where seniors gather for meals and socializing. The vehicles now in use, vintage 1995 and 2000, have needed extensive repairs.

The Connection received its grant to hire a vocational specialist for the Eddy Shelter to help residents reduce homelessness, substance abuse, and criminal behavior. The work of the specialist will serve as a demonstration program for future grants from other sources.

The Foundation nominated The Connection and the Estuary Council because they address important needs in Middlesex County: services to the homebound and vocational services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. Since 2002, the Foundation has helped to secure CHEFA grants totaling \$406,373.

## IN MEMORIAM



RICHARD H. GOODWIN  
1910 - 2007

We celebrate the long and productive life of Dick Goodwin, early land preservationist and past president of The Nature Conservancy, who died on July 6th. His visionary environmental leadership has provided thousands of acres of open space for future generations to enjoy. A magnificent bequest to the Community Foundation will provide stewardship for the Burnham Brook Preserve in East Haddam and other preservation efforts that he nurtured in his lifetime.

# Good People Great Things

FALL 2007

*Dear Friend of the Community Foundation,*

*2007 has been a great year for the Middlesex County Community Foundation! We celebrated our tenth anniversary and our many achievements, especially providing more than \$1 million in grants to 130 community organizations. Our grant making partnership with CHEFA has brought an additional \$406,000 to nonprofits in our community. We also celebrated Patti Vassia's ten years of service as our President, and, in response to her request for a reduced schedule, welcomed Cynthia Clegg, a veteran nonprofit executive, as our new President and CEO. With extraordinary investment return, our endowed funds reached a new high. Thanks to many caring individuals, our known planned gifts have also grown significantly.*

*As with all new community foundations, raising funds for operating costs represents a significant challenge. Fortunately, the Foundation has enjoyed extraordinary on-going support from its founders, its directors, and our generous community. Last year's new President's Society helped identify those willing and able to contribute \$1,000 or more. More than 50 individuals and businesses have already joined the Society for 2007. We are extremely grateful for their leadership and their vision for the future of Middlesex County and the Community Foundation. Of course, we welcome others to join them and appreciate donations of any amount to support our efforts.*

*The Community Foundation has always insisted in quality in everything it does. We were the fourth community foundation in the state to meet the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. We have made great progress in our first ten years, but we are still relatively small. Until we have a much larger endowment, we will continue to need public support to cover operating expenses.*

*Fortunately, the Clark Group, Middlesex Mutual Assurance and Whelen Engineering will continue their generous offer to match \$1 for every \$2 given or pledged for operations. Your year-end gift can help secure that support. Perhaps you can increase your gift by directing a matching corporate gift through your employer. Please help, as you are able, by using the enclosed reply envelope.*

*We appreciate your consideration and wish you a happy holiday season!*



ROBERT L. KIRKPATRICK, JR.  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DAVID PRESTON  
CHAIRMAN, DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

211 South Main Street, P.O. Box 25  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457-0025  
860 347-0025  
[www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org)

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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#### COMMUNITIES SERVED

*Chester / Clinton / Cromwell / Deep River / Durham / East Haddam / East Hampton / Essex / Haddam / Middlefield / Middletown  
Portland / Killingworth / Old Saybrook / Westbrook*

### [ MARY KLAAREN HONORED WITH FUND ]



About the same time as the Fund for Women & Girls spring appeal arrived, so did the announcement that Mary Klaaren would retire from being pastor of Middletown's UCC South Church. Lee Guilmartin wanted to recognize Mary's 28 years of service to the church and the community. She realized that she could honor Klaaren as an exemplary role model and help women and girls by establishing the *Mary Klaaren Fund for Women & Girls*. "I could think of no finer tribute for such a special person," Guilmartin declared. As with all funds, anyone can add to this endowed fund whose income will be used for grants to empower women and girls to be self-reliant and reach their potential.

The Middlesex County Community Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Middlesex County. Our mission is to work with charitably-minded individuals and organizations to build permanent endowments and other charitable funds, and to support local non-profit organizations through effective grantmaking to address community needs.

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EDITORS: LIZ PETRY & PATTI ANNE VASSIA

