

# Good People Great Things

Youngsters from the Chester Opera Company performed at the Ivoryton Playhouse, as part of the Ivoryton Library's *Opera: How Sweet the Sound* successful program funded by a Foundation grant made possible by the River View Cemetery partnership.

SPRING 2008



[ NEW GRANTS BRING 10 YEAR TOTAL TO MORE THAN \$1 MILLION ]

No question about it, the most celebrated success of the Foundation's first 10 years of operation is surpassing \$1 million in grants to 150 non-profit organizations. From Clinton to Cromwell, from East Hampton to Old Saybrook, programs for toddlers through seniors have benefitted from grants from our Community Foundation. This year the Board approved a record \$122,708 in competitive grants recommended by the Grants Committee.

(Read on to learn more.)

SOME OF THE MANY WHO BENEFITED FROM FOUNDATION GRANTS



Hook and Pan faced off at Oddfellows Playhouse



Visiting artist demonstrates *plein aire* painting for Tracy Art Center



Kentucky Derby Hat Day at the Estuary Council of Seniors



Brittle making is new business for Vista in Westbrook



*Macbeth* with his Lady presented by ARTFARM



10 YEAR TOTAL TO MORE  
THAN \$1 MILLION

*Continued from front cover:*

Since our early years, the Foundation has recognized that the Arts are important to our quality of life. Seventeen percent of Foundation grants have supported performing, visual, and creative arts activities over the years. Recent capacity building grants (those supporting infrastructure and growth) to Oddfellows Playhouse in Middletown, Tracy Arts Center in Old Saybrook and the Greater Middletown Chorale have helped these diverse organizations bring in new members, new resources and new audiences. One of the most heartwarming responses has been to the Ivoryton Library's *Opera: How Sweet the Sound* that brought hundreds of adults to programs to learn more about opera and to see how young persons are learning the wonders of the art at the Chester Opera Company.



[ ★ ]

WHILE THE ARTS EXPAND OUR  
HORIZONS AND BRING BEAUTY TO  
OUR LIVES, OTHER GRANTS FOR  
2007-08 ARE HAVING AN IMPACT:

- Feeding the poor;
- Providing transportation for seniors;
- Mentoring at-risk youth;
- Improving the environment;
- Supporting education; and
- Enhancing our heritage by helping to preserve our many historic treasures.

[ ★ ]

*You can support grants to the Arts by contributing to the Arts Fund, a Field of Interest Fund dedicated to the Arts countywide, one established by Elizabeth Swaim for Arts in the Middletown Public Schools or those established in memory of Ann and George Petry and Dr. Louis and Eva Loffredo.*



Three organizations which received capacity building Arts grants. Pictured top: Oddfellows Playhouse in Middletown. Pictured middle: Tracy Arts Center in Old Saybrook. Pictured bottom: Greater Middletown Chorale.



*We look forward with excitement to the second decade and beyond . . . The best is yet to come.*

[ THE SIMPLE ACT OF GIVING! ]

Dear Friends,

End all dieting! Skip the gym! There's another way to reap all the benefits of better health. Sounds too good to be true, doesn't it? So before you tear up your gym membership and tell your physician that you're done with veggies, please read on for some insights into you—our donors, volunteers and staff.

According to numerous studies (and personal observations), the simple act of *giving* actually benefits you more than anything else. The reasons for giving vary as much as you do: compassion for children and the homebound, sense of duty to others, willingness to share for the good of all in the county, a desire to help women and girls reach their potential. It seems that *giving* is the best possible thing you can do for YOU. What you “get from giving” is far greater than your gift itself. Virtue truly does have its own reward. Since I believe this to be true and not just a passing “in” theory, Middlesex County is one of the healthiest and happiest counties in Connecticut, and, dare I say, in the U.S.

As you read this newsletter, think about the “DNA of generosity” that runs through you. Your giving stories are as unique as you are and your gifts multiply the gifts of others in the county. Collectively, you enabled Middlesex County Community Foundation to fund a sold out, six week introductory opera program, support training and professional development for an agency that supports senior citizens, and provide after school tutoring to students reading below grade level. Your support allows the Community Foundation to continue to “Help Good People Do Great Things”. You have made possible through your desire to leave the county just a little better than you found it, the distribution of \$1.1 million in grants to over 150 non-profit organizations. Those are great statistics backed by generous hearts and spirits.

You, our generous donors and volunteers, have learned that what you “get from giving” is the strong sense of happiness, accomplishment and satisfaction that comes from helping a cause, a neighbor, a friend. We thank you for what you've made possible during our first ten years. We extend our thanks and appreciation to our board of directors, volunteers, past and present, and welcome new board and staff members. We look forward with excitement to the second decade and beyond. With your combined efforts, *the best is yet to come.*

CYNTHIA H. CLEGG  
PRESIDENT & CEO

NEW FACES AT THE FOUNDATION: MEET ANN FAUST



Ann Faust, Vice President of Operations

*A*nn is the Foundation's new Vice President of Operations...a new face in a new position. Ann will be busy applying her years of experience in grantwriting to manage the Foundation's competitive grants process, work with donor advisors, and develop programs to increase local organizations' capacity building methods

to improve effectiveness...helping them govern more efficiently, write better grants and better serve their constituents more effectively. The Foundation will also benefit directly as Ann works with our funding partners, contributors and sponsors to increase the organization's resources.

*“Having received Foundation grants for others, I know how important the Community Foundation is and I am delighted to be part of this vital community organization.”* ANN FAUST

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

New people have also joined the Board of Directors—new to the Community Foundation but not new in service to the community—they are Sue Barrett Peters of Portland and David Director of Cromwell. Both grew up in the area and benefitted from participation in local non-profits. Both have given back as engaged volunteers. The Board welcomes their talent, fresh perspectives and experience.

SUE BARRETT PETERS is Chief Operating Officer for Outpatient Services at United Community & Family Services in Norwich and Project Director for the Southeastern Connecticut Oral Health Initiative. She has held financial and planning positions at Aetna, Middlesex Mutual Assurance and the Community Health Center. Her volunteer involvements have included the Neighborhood Preschool, Portland's Own Playscape Committee and service on the Portland Long Range Capital Planning Committee. Sue's experience in establishing accounting and financial policies for the Community Foundation in its early years made her a logical choice to serve as Assistant Treasurer and on the Foundation's Finance and Investment Committee.

DAVID DIRECTOR is president of Connecticut Lighting Centers and Restoration Lighting Gallery. He brings a wealth of business experience and expertise to the Foundation and will serve on the Foundation's new Marketing Committee. David serves on the boards of Liberty Bank, Rushford Center and Middlesex United Way and is a member of the Connecticut Better Business Bureau and Quinnipiac University Business School's Advisory Board. He has been recognized with the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award, Independence Issue Award for Israel Bonds and the Rushford Center's Community Spirit Award.

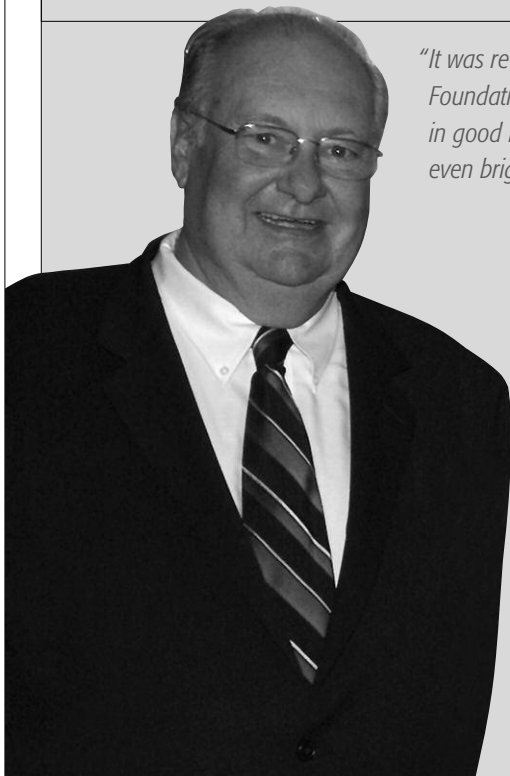


Sue Barrett Peters of Portland



David Director of Cromwell

## HERB CLARK ELECTED DIRECTOR EMERITUS



*"It was rewarding to work with the Founders to bring the Foundation to where it is today. I believe the Foundation is in good hands with its new leaders who will secure an even brighter future."* HERB CLARK

Leading by example sums up Herb Clark's ten year tenure with the Community Foundation. A Founding Director and past Board Chair, Herb has been there every step of the way to assure the Foundation got off to a good, solid start. Quiet and unassuming by nature, he continually provides resources and contacts that lead to good things without taking credit or seeking the limelight. The Board of Directors recognizes that the Foundation would not be where it is today without Herb's leadership, input and vigilance. For these and many other reasons Herb was unanimously and gratefully elected Director Emeritus at its 2007 Annual Meeting.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **Sunday May 11 ~ Mother's Day**

Remember the special women in your life with a gift to the Fund for Women & Girls in their honor or memory.

### **Morning Musings 9–10 AM**

May 21 & June 24 *Finding and Writing Grants*  
June 4 *Building an Endowment*

### **Thursday, May 22 ~ 7 PM**

Swaim Strings Concert  
Middletown High School Auditorium

### **Thursday, June 5 ~ 5:30–8 PM**

Friend Raiser for  
The Fund for Women & Girls

### **Fall Competitive Grantmaking Schedule**

September 1 *Dates posted on Website*

### **Monday, November 10 ~ 5–7:30 PM**

Amy Bloom Event for Women & Girls  
RiverHouse at Goodspeed Station, Haddam

## LEAVING LEGACIES—WORLD JOURNEY SPURS WOMAN TO ACTION



Gayle in Cambodia was given a ride to the top of a temple hill by a motorcycle policeman eager to practice his English.

Taking a trip around the world takes a lot of planning...what to take, what to stop (papers, mail, etc.), who to watch the house and take care of the garden. For Gayle Kranz of East Haddam planning for the trip of a lifetime also meant updating her will and thinking about what causes she felt strongly about. Years before, she attended a gathering at Anita Ballek's where she learned about the Foundation's Fund for Women & Girls and remembered that she liked the idea of empowering women and girls to be self-sufficient. That's when she called the Foundation and found that the Fund was growing and grants were already being made. The next step was easy: give the wording and tax ID number provided by the Foundation to her attorney. The last step, really the first, was to begin the wonderful journey—with peace of mind knowing her estate planning documents were in good order.

### FIVE WAYS YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY

[ 1 ]

Prepare a will, and include a gift for the charity or charities that have made a difference in your life.

[ 2 ]

Donate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your assets, including stocks, bonds, CDs or other property.

[ 3 ]

Name your favorite charity as the beneficiary of your IRA or pension plan.

[ 4 ]

Name your favorite charity as the beneficiary of an existing or new life insurance policy.

[ 5 ]

Honor deserving friends and remember loved ones with memorial gifts.



LEAVE A LEGACY

### WOMEN HELPING WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Fund for Women & Girls Committee has set 12/12/12 as the target to have the Fund reach \$1 million. "Only by raising significant monies can we have an impact on helping women and girls reach their potential," stated Thelma Ball Freeland, Chair of the Committee. The Fund, presently just under \$300,000, has grown from contributions, fund raisers and wise investment. Plans to increase the Fund include the annual Mother's Day mailing, new Second Decade Initiative and a fall special event featuring notable local author Amy Bloom.

Thanks to the Ivoryton Playhouse actors, who performed *The Vagina Monologues* two nights in February to raise \$5,600 for The Fund for Women & Girls. (Front L to R) Enza Giannone, Jacqui Hubbard, Jamie Freeman, Beverley Galpin, Virginia Wolf and (Back Row L to R) Director Missy Waryas, Ruth Lanzer, Carolyn Kirsch, Janis Astor del Valle and Kathleen Mulready.



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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*

### [ MID-MORNING MUSINGS BENEFIT NON-PROFITS ]

The Foundation's Second Decade Initiatives include a series of one-hour workshops for non-profit staff and volunteers to increase their capacity building to meet their mission. Coordinated by Vice President of Operations, Ann Faust, the workshops address issues identified as needed by area non-profits. Topics include: grantwriting, public relations, website essentials, financial accountability and reporting, fund raising and more.

Upcoming Musings are scheduled from 9 to 10AM in the Foundation's newly redecorated Conference Room at 211 South Main Street, Middletown: *Making Projects Happen: Finding and Writing Grants that Win* presented by Ann Faust on Wednesday May 21 and Tuesday June 24. *Building an Endowment by Partnering with the Community Foundation* with Cynthia Clegg on Wednesday June 4th.

Check the Foundation's website [www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org) for ongoing sessions and repeat workshops that fill to capacity. Be sure to sign up early as space is limited by calling 347-0025 or emailing [Janice@MiddlesexCountyCF.org](mailto:Janice@MiddlesexCountyCF.org).



Joan Youngs, Nan Zimmer and Sari Rosenbaum prepare Mother's Day mailing in the newly renovated Conference Room.

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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