

# Good People Great Things

SPRING 2009



Volunteer driver Bill Chatman picks up Edward Unghire for a doctor's appointment, as FISH's dispatcher Leo Zavatore looks on. A MCCF grant helps FISH provide rides to medical appointments for seniors without transportation in Chester, Deep River and Essex.

[ BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ]

Thank you to our donors. Without you we couldn't have responded in such a big way to challenges facing our nonprofits. We were able to give a record \$133,000 in competitive grants to 39 area nonprofits this year. Requests for funding this past fall increased 25% from the previous year, reaching a record 126 requests. We are so pleased that you made this increase in our giving back to the community possible. Thank you.

KEEP READING TO LEARN ABOUT THE GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO MAKE ALL THIS POSSIBLE...



Epoch Arts performance!  
The Breaking Silences program empowers girls through journaling and theater-based activities.



Region #4 Early Childhood Council works to ensure that children have access to high quality pre-schools.



Summertime is fun for Middletown's middle school girls thanks to a grant from the Fund for Women and Girls.



Calling all Knights to the Essex Library! The "Days of Knights" program engages boys in a fun reading program.



Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut provides tutoring to improve language skills needed in the workplace.



**DONATE ONLINE OR  
DONATE BY MAIL**

The Community Foundation has a new, safe, easy way for you to donate by credit card. Just go to our website [www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org) and click on

**Make a Donation**

You'll have many options to choose from as your gift can be made in honor of a loved one, designated for a specific purpose, or given for unrestricted use. Or use the enclosed envelope to mail a check the old-fashioned way! Now, more than ever your donation will have a tremendous impact on the quality of life in Middlesex County.

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR  
E-NEWSLETTER**

We hear you! You want us to keep you informed of all that we do via e-mail. We launched our first e-newsletter in March to rave reviews. We'll be sending it out monthly so you'll be able to hear about our latest happenings in this convenient format. To subscribe, go to our website and follow the prompts or call Ann at 347-0025.

**Three organizations were awarded grants in 2008.**

Pictured top to bottom: The Town of Killingworth, Parmalee Farm Project; Cross Street Training Center, After School Tutoring Program; and North End Action Team, Community Organizing Project



# *Philanthropy matters in your own backyard. Ask your friends who live local to give local.*

## [ PHILANTHROPY MATTERS ]

Dear Friends,

We're all philanthropic. We all strive, in our own unique ways, to make a difference. Philanthropy takes many forms and encompasses many ways of giving.



### PHILANTHROPY IS SPONTANEOUS

*When you put a few extra dollars in the jar at the grocery store for the "Safe Graduation Night" for the local high school, you're being philanthropic.*



### PHILANTHROPY IS NOW

*When you donate to your favorite cause and help worthwhile organizations finance a new program and/or cover administrative costs, you are philanthropic.*



### PHILANTHROPY IS PLANNED

*When you establish a bequest in your will to a noteworthy institution, a specific cause that will help the community, the disadvantaged, help children (or adults) learn to read, you are philanthropic . . . and you've created a lasting legacy.*

There's a return on investment to philanthropy. Imagine just one of the programs and services you have supported with your donations. Now multiply the numbers of recipients in that program by their family members, friends and classmates. Your philanthropy has extended its reach exponentially. With one gift, you've touched many. You've made the community a stronger, caring place in which to live, work and play.

Philanthropy is necessary, now more than ever. Your generous spirit of giving your time, talent and donations are critical in these difficult times. Yet, there are a few other ways to help. Two of the most important things you can do to leverage your investments in philanthropy are: (1) Tell your story to as many people as you can about the organizations you care about and why. (2) Become the most passionate "Friend Raiser" you can for the programs you believe in.

Tell your friends that philanthropy matters. Philanthropy matters in your own back yard. Ask your friends who live local to give local.

CYNTHIA H. CLEGG, PRESIDENT & CEO

*P.S. There are so many ways to give back. Contact us to learn how to put your heart into action and your dollars at work for Middlesex County.*

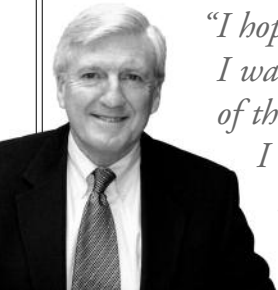
## DAVID ROYSTON ASSUMES CHAIR OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We are so fortunate that David M. Royston, Principal of Dzialo, Pickett & Allen and Old Saybrook resident, has been elected as board chair. Dave has a broad working knowledge of the Community

Foundation's operations and has been a member of the Board since 2005. Dave also served as Chairman of the Grants Committee for two years from 2007 to 2008. Dave sees the role of the Community

Foundation as being a resource, not just for funding, but for assistance to the many agencies doing important work for people in the county, especially those organizations with limited or no staff.

*"I hope to bring to MCCF some 'local knowledge' having lived and worked in the County for 45 years. I want to utilize the tremendous talents of our Board and staff in expanding the reach and influence of the Community Foundation in a positive way, particularly in these difficult economic times. I want the Community Foundation to continue to provide leadership in meeting the needs of the nonprofit organizations throughout Middlesex County."* DAVID M. ROYSTON



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

The Board of Directors welcomes a wealth of new talent to guide the Community Foundation into its second decade.

RICHARD TOMC of Middletown is newly elected to serve on the Board as a member of the Finance & Investment Committee. Mr. Tomc has been in private law practice in Middletown since 1978, focusing on business and estate planning. He has served as Middletown Corporation Counsel and Town Attorney for Cromwell and East Hampton.

JUDITH DEGROFF SCHOONMAKER of Essex, who will serve on the Development/Communications Committee, is an active volunteer and community leader. She has been a member of the Durham and Middletown Garden Clubs, the Women's Board of the Northern Middlesex YMCA, the Middletown Preservation Trust, the Middlesex County Medical Alliance and the Middlesex United Way. She is also an active participant in pet therapy programs.

MARK RICHARDS of Clinton, a member of the Development/Communications Committee, is the co-owner of Preferred Foam Products, Inc., a manufacturer of urethane foam systems, located in Clinton. Mr. Richards presently serves as a Trustee of the Essex Savings Bank and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Clinton Country Club. He has served as an elected official in the Town of Clinton as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for more than twenty years.

VINCENT CAPECE of Watertown, is Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Middlesex Health System, Inc. Mr. Capece is involved in all aspects of business and strategic planning for Middlesex Hospital and its allied outpatient and primary care facilities. He is active in several professional organizations including Healthcare Financial Managers Association (advanced member), American College of Healthcare Executives and the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants. He will serve on the Finance and Investment Committee.

These four individuals will bring a great many skills to the Board as the Community Foundation continues to raise funds and provide grants and training to the nonprofit organizations in Middlesex County.



Richard Tomc of Middletown



Judith deGroff Schoonmaker of Essex



Mark Richards of Clinton



Vincent Capece of Watertown



## FOUR HONORED AS DIRECTOR EMERITI

The Board of Directors elected long-time Board members Robert Kirkpatrick, Jr. of Middletown, Sari Rosenbaum of Portland, Willard McRae of Middletown and Patrick Crowley of Lyme, Directors Emeriti (pictured clockwise beginning with the upper left photograph). Their extraordinary dedication to the Community Foundation is well-known and we are fortunate that they have given their time and talent for many years. We thank them for their many contributions. "The Community Foundation has been fortunate to receive the many contributions of these outstanding individuals and for the leadership they have provided. We need to build on the foundation they created and continue the good work the Community Foundation does," said Board Chair David Royston.

## RYAN'S CIRCLE OF GIVING



Pictured front row, left to right, are the first three recipients of Learn To Play hockey scholarships awarded by the Ryan Gordon/Hartford Wolf Pack Community Scholars Fund at Trinity College: Joshua Huffman, Marcus Pagan and Ernesto Roque. Also pictured (back row, left to right): Barry Gordon, Ryan's father; Phyllis Gordon, Ryan's mother; and Richard Pettit, facility manager for Trinity College's Koepfel Community Sports Center.

Phyllis and Barry Gordon established Ryan's Circle of Giving to honor the memory and legacy of their son, Ryan Charles Gordon. As a freshman in college in 2005, Ryan was on his way to fulfilling his life's dream of becoming a broadcast journalist. He was forced to return home because he knew he was very ill. He was diagnosed with a non-curable cancer eight weeks later, and just six weeks after that, on March 2, 2006, Ryan passed away. He was only 19. A week before he died, Ryan requested that his parents donate his unused college funds to Connecticut charities. He wrote that the funds be used to thank those organizations he believed helped him throughout his life, and to allow other young people to receive the education he never would. He also wrote that he hoped his bequests would inspire others to give. What an inspiration Ryan has been. To date, Ryan's Circle of Giving has achieved a total of \$24,600, all because of over 100 donations from family, friends and colleagues.

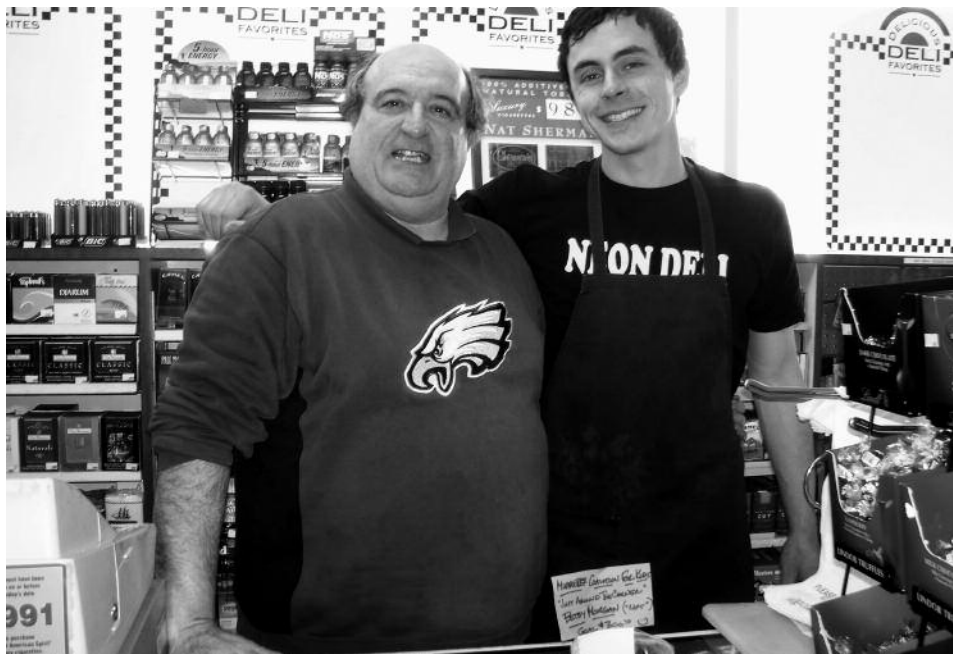
In partnership with the Middlesex County Community Foundation, Phyllis and Barry created Ryan's Circle of Giving to provide a centralized fund for family, friends and others inspired by Ryan's courage and generous spirit to make a difference for others. Ryan's selected charities are:

- The Ryan Gordon Memorial Fund at Kingswood-Oxford School
- The Ryan Gordon/Hartford Wolf Pack Community Foundation Scholars Fund
- The Frank Detterbeck Research Fund in Memory of Ryan Gordon
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Connecticut Chapter

Ryan lived his short life to the fullest despite a lifetime of medical problems. He was a thoughtful, generous young man who made a huge impact on all who crossed his path. His final, deliberate act was giving to others. In an effort to support their son, Ryan's parents hope to fulfill their child's last wishes by partnering with the Community Foundation.

## NEON DELI

Thanks to Fran and Cynthia Galle, owners of Neon Deli, and their loyal customers. Each month Fran and Cynthia choose a "charity of the month" and place a jar on their counter for customer donations. Thanks to their customers and matching funds from Fran and Cynthia, the Community Foundation received a \$500 donation in October, and we're scheduled as their "charity of the month" again this spring. So be sure to drop by their store on the corner of Vine and Cross Streets in Middletown and give Fran and Cynthia a big "Thank You!"



Fran Galle and Max Roth offer their help from behind the counter.

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860 347-0025  
[www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org)

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Willard McRae  
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Ralph H. Shaw II  
*Board Secretary*

Learn more about us at our updated website!

[www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org)

NATIONAL SILVER WEBSITE AWARD WINNER:  
2006 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program for Excellence in Communications

### [ COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WINS THE GOLD! ]

We have received a **Gold Award** for excellence in communications by the Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program for our Spring 2008 newsletter. Sponsored by the Council on Foundations, the national awards program recognizes effective communications efforts to increase public awareness of foundations and corporate giving programs.

“We are pleased to be recognized for communicating our mission to the people who live in Middlesex County in an effective and professional manner. It was truly a team effort, and we are so grateful to Noemi Kearns, owner of How 2 Design, for her creativity and design expertise and to Patti Vassia for her keen insight into our community. We look forward to doing an even better job of keeping our donors and the nonprofit community informed and involved through our newsletter.”

CYNTHIA CLEGG, PRESIDENT & CEO

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

##### **Tuesday May 19—Before You Seek a Grant**

Presented live and online by grants professionals at The Foundation Center, the webinar will provide a step-by-step checklist to help increase your organization's grant funding. Also included in the session is a demonstration of the two new grant seeking databases that are accessible from Russell Library, *The Foundation Center Online* and *Grants to Individuals*.

2:00pm – 4:00pm at Russell Library  
123 Broad Street, Middletown

##### **Thursday September 17—“Oh, What a Knight”**

Come to Goodspeed Landing and climb aboard the Becky Thatcher for a ride on the beautiful Connecticut River. Enjoy good food, wine, and company before coming ashore to see Camelot performed at the Goodspeed Opera House. Proceeds to benefit the Middlesex County Community Foundation.

The Middlesex County Community Foundation is a nonprofit 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 nonprofit organizations through effective grantmaking and multiple programs that address community needs.

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