



Spring 2012

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION = COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY (PHILANTHROPY – PURE AND SIMPLE)

The community foundation concept is a simple one. It is a group of individuals and businesses who pool resources to support the community where we live, work and play.

Most of our major donors choose specific charitable initiatives which have had special meaning to them or a loved one during their lifetimes. Some establish funds or support existing funds as a part of their estate plans, and may become even active in the causes they support. Others make anonymous gifts. Some donors make unrestricted gifts to the community and entrust us to allocate those funds where we see the greatest need. Some donate large sums of money; others make much more modest donations of \$50 or \$100.



Whatever you choose to do, and however you'd like to express your

love for Middlesex County and some of the great initiatives within it, we're here to help tailor the right program for you.

The Community Foundation is limited only by your vision. Together, we improve the arts; cultural and heritage programs; educational activities; environmental conditions; and health and human services. It's called Community Philanthropy.

In this issue we will introduce you to some of your neighbors working through the Community Foundation. With you, these individuals are making a difference, following their passions, and building on 15 years of Community Philanthropy through Middlesex County Community Foundation.

A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS

You hear it all the time: "Do your homework." "Stay in school." Study hard and you'll be a success."

How often do you actually see someone doing more than offering these platitudes? Well, in Mary Rawlins, many students found their champion.

Mary Rawlins (1929-1995), a founder of the Connecticut Association of Affirmative Action Professionals (now CADEP), was particularly interested in improving educational opportunities for minority students and encouraging them to stay in school. Some twenty years ago, she and her fellow members of CAAAP

(now CADEP) established an educational grant award to support Connecticut students and encourage them to continue their education.

In 2003, recognizing Mary's years of tireless efforts to serve underserved communities, CADEP honored by naming the award she helped establish the Mary Rawlins Award.

Working with the Community Foundation, CADEP established the Mary C. Rawlins Award Fund to continue her legacy to support students in their academic endeavors. The award is given each year to qualifying high school



Cynthia Clegg with Pat Alston of CADEP

seniors; and CADEP believes that through this fund, Mary's passion to help students will continue.

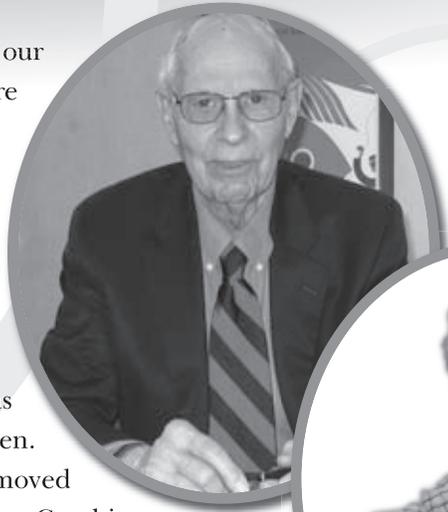
The Circle is Complete

The Community Foundation moved UP in February. No need to change our address, we are still in the same bank building, at the same address. We're now on the top floor of our building, and we welcome one and all to visit our new space.

This move is particularly heartwarming to Biff Shaw, first President, Founding Board member, first elected Board Chair, and Director Emeritus of the Community Foundation.

In 1997, when a group of committed business and communities leaders decided Middlesex County needed a Community Foundation, Biff, as President of Farmers & Mechanics Bank, worked to make that happen. Now, 15 years later, the Community Foundation he helped found, has moved to the floor where Biff once worked. His office, as bank President, is now Cynthia Clegg's office, as President & CEO of the Community Foundation.

The Circle is Complete.



Applause Thunders Throughout Middlesex County

There are just some people who need no introduction at all. MCCF is honored to count some of them as friends, founders and heroes. **Herb and Sherry Clark** and **Willard McRae** fall into these categories and more.

The Community Foundation joins with everyone in a resounding round of applause for Herb and Sherry Clark and Willard McRae, recently honored by the Middlesex United Way at its annual meeting. **Herb and Sherry** were given the United Way Tocqueville Society Philanthropy Award for inspiring philanthropy. **Willard** was honored with the Community Leadership Award for his leadership

in strengthening communities.

Thank you, Herb, Sherry, and Willard, for continuing to be leaders and Good People Doing Great Things.

Willard and Kathy McRae are all smiles with Herb and Sherry Clark



STORIES ABOUND – SIMPLE AND PROFOUND

Tell us YOUR story! We are celebrating 15 years of You – our donors, colleagues and friends – throughout the entire year for all the great things that – TOGETHER – we have made possible with and through MCCF.

We are telling stories of heart, of roots, of passion, of giving ... Help us spread the word. Help us do even more *Good Things with Great People*.

Call, e-mail, write us a note and tell us who inspired you to become a philanthropist; what cause do you care most about; why do you give to and through the Community Foundation; and how has the Community Foundation helped your cause.

Don't miss a single story – sign up for our e-news, too. You can join our mailing list on our website, www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org, or send an e-mail to Info@MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

Did you miss the story of Jean and Rachel in the March e-news?

Not to worry, visit our website and read all about it!



Ryan's Circle of Giving

Ryan Gordon was 19 years old when he was diagnosed with cancer. He passed away just six weeks later. Right before his death, he made a simple request of his parents, that his unused college funds be donated to specific Connecticut charities. His written, expressed purposes were to thank those organizations he believed helped him throughout his life, and to enable others to benefit from the education he would never receive.

In partnership with Middlesex County Community Foundation, Ryan's parents, Barry and Phyllis, created the Ryan's Circle of Giving Fund in 2008. They chose to work with the Community Foundation to establish a centralized fund which provides donors with the opportunity to give to Ryan's selected charities and see his simple request flourish for years to come.

Six years after Ryan made his request, Phyllis and Barry joined representatives of Kingswood-Oxford School, Trinity College, the Yale Cancer Center, and the Connecticut Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on March 2, 2012 at the Community Foundation. The morning was spent sharing memories of Ryan and discussing the programs



supported by the friends and family of Ryan through contributions to his fund.

Phyllis remarked, "Ryan would be so pleased with the wonderful news from these four organizations. He had a huge impact on all who crossed his path. His final deliberate act was giving to others, and it is so heartwarming to see that continued by those who cared for and loved him so deeply."

Each and every contribution has made Ryan's hope take root. Through the support of those who knew Ryan and those who care for the Gordons, Ryan's Circle of Giving has awarded more than \$69,000 in four years.

The Ryan Gordon Memorial Fund supports financially deserving students attending **Kingswood-Oxford School's** Team Tobati yearly trip to Paraguay. This team is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to working with and assisting the poor of Tobati, Paraguay.

The Ryan Gordon/Hartford Wolf Pack Community Foundation Scholars Fund at **Trinity College** provides deserving Hartford youth with the opportunity to learn to play hockey.

The Frank Detterbeck Research Fund in Memory of Ryan Gordon at **The Yale Cancer Center's** thoracic oncology research department focuses research on early detection of esophageal and thoracic cancers.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is the primary sponsor of critical research that is making tremendous advances toward a cure and control of cystic fibrosis.



Barry and Phyllis (3rd and 4th from left) joined representatives of Ryan's four chosen nonprofits and MCCF staff on March 2nd to talk about the programs and research Ryan's legacy is supporting. L to R: John Biddiscombe, MCCF Board Vice-Chair; Dawn Harris, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; Barry and Phyllis Gordon; Ron Garcia, Kingswood-Oxford School; Amy Brough, Trinity College; Ron Monroe, Kingswood-Oxford School; Susan Frankenbach, Yale Cancer Center; and Cynthia Clegg, MCCF



Barry and Phyllis Gordon

DATES TO REMEMBER

Join us as we engage in conversations, honor individuals working tirelessly in our communities, and celebrate 15 years of making Middlesex County a great place to live, work and play!

Conversations That Matter ... 2012 Party With A Purpose Series Begins ...

Tickets and information on the following events can be found at www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org, e-mailing Info@MiddlesexCountyCF.org or calling 860.347.0025

MONDAY, APRIL 30 5:30 – 7:30 P.M. TICKETS: \$20 AT MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Through The Eyes of The Reporter Who Survived To Go Back

Kimberly Dozier's compelling story will provide the political and human aspect of what our veterans do for our country.

Associated Press correspondent covering intelligence and special operations and author of "Breathing The Fire: Fighting To Survive and Get Back To The Fight," Kimberly Dozier fought to return to her life as a journalist after being seriously injured in a car bomb attack on Memorial Day, 2006, in Iraq. Leaving broadcast journalism to go back to print, she now travels wherever the story takes her, staying true to her principles that as hard as it may be for your loved ones, they have to learn to let the combat injured out of the "wounded" box.

Ms. Dozier's book, "Breathing The Fire: Fighting To Survive and Get Back To The Fight" will be available for purchase and autograph after the program. Proceeds of the sale of Ms. Dozier's book at this event support MCCF's Williams-Rosen Memorial Fund for Veterans.



THURSDAY, MAY 10 6:00 – 9:00 P.M. TICKETS: \$45 AT IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE

Lady Parts: Car Talk for Women's Bodies with Amy Bloom & Mary Jane Minkin, MD

Back by popular demand, Mary Jane Minkin, M.D. and Amy Bloom return with their popular evening of frank talk – Lady Parts: Car Talk for Women's Bodies. Join these well-known authors who have appeared on NPR and morning television talking about the inner and outer lives of women--and the people they love and live with – for a night of fun at the Ivoryton Playhouse.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT RIVERHOUSE AT GOODSPEED STATION, HADDAM, CT

Join neighbors and friends as we celebrate 15 Candles – 15 Towns – 15 Years of Helping Good People Do Great Things. Don't wait for your invitation -- Reserve your seat today!

SUNDAY, MAY 13 – MOTHER'S DAY

Remember the special woman in your life with a gift to the Sari A. Rosenbaum Fund for Women & Girls in her honor or memory. Give a gift in honor of a special woman by May 7th, and we will send her a special card acknowledging your gift ... just in time for Mother's Day!



NONPROFIT RESOURCE CENTER

Tuesday, April 17	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Nonprofit Listening Forum at MCCF
Thursday, April 26	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Workshop - "The Fate of Your Fete" with Heather Tolley-Baur, Done on the Run, LLC
Thursday, May 24	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Workshop – "Strategic Planning: The Why's and How's of Realistic Plans" with Janice Atkeson
Tuesday, June 12	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	MCCF Competitive Grants Information Session in Middletown
Tuesday, June 19	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	MCCF Competitive Grants Information Session at Valley Shore YMCA, Westbrook
Monday, July 16		MCCF Competitive Grants Application available on-line

A SIMPLE GIFT BENEFITS MANY

Christopher R. Belfoure was just 24 when he tragically died in July 2011. Yet his passions - his belief in the global community, his dedication to teaching and the environment - will be shared through the Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund at Middlesex County Community Foundation.

A graduate of Valley Regional High School and West Virginia University, Chris spoke fluent Mandarin and was pursuing a career as a corporate trainer in Shanghai. He is remembered as a charming, intelligent, ambitious man with a zest for life and adventure. Chris believed knowledge to be a bridge between cultures and a key in developing innovative approaches to education and customer service. He loved to talk and knew that overcoming the barriers of language provided people an opportunity to learn about one another, to share hopes and dreams, and that just by talking, one could encourage people to see themselves as members of a global community.

Chris' mom and step father, Robin and George Chapin, established the Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund at the Community Foundation in January 2012. This designated Fund supports Middlesex Lower County public schools and public library programs focused on integrating multicultural experiences, learning foreign languages, and environmental programs into the curricula.

Robin, George and a host of family friends are launching the Fund with a Run for Chris - Run for Education Saturday, June 23, 2012, in Essex; the proceeds will be donated to the Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund. Information about the "Run for Chris" can be found on MCCF's website, www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

"Keeping Chris' dreams alive is so important to us. Chris was passionate about life, and I want to share his passion and determination with others, so they can grow and enhance



*Run for Chris -
Run for Education,
June 23, 2012*



Chris Belfoure's adventurous spirit and zest for life took him to many places; here with monks in China

their lives. He was always smiling and inspiring others to pursue their dreams. The Fund allows us to provide opportunities for schools and libraries to fund their foreign language programs and global education programs. Giving back to the community was a part of who Chris was. This all helps to keep his memory alive."

Robin Chapin, mother of Chris, Ivoryton

Philanthropy...as simple as 2 cans for a local food drive...as simple as \$1 a day

Live Local Give Local 365 (LLGL365) is simple: Each \$1 becomes a force within our community. \$1 a day -- \$365 a year - pooled with your neighbors, your friends, your colleagues. Alone each of us can do good works; together, we can do great things throughout Middlesex County.

LLGL365 is a giving circle, a group of people who come together to learn about what is going on in their community; to understand what the needs are and how those needs are being met. Together, they actively participate in deciding what they wish to support through grant awards.

The LLGL365 mission resonates with Sonny and Jessica Whelen so much that they have stepped forward and placed a match "challenge" grant on the table for LLGL365. They will match fifty new members, \$365 for \$365.

"I like LLGL365 because I can share my passions with others," Jessica Whelen explains. "The more of us, the more we learn and share, the more we can do. Together we make a difference. I like that. I am part of a movement, part of a group, part of an organization that is working to make life better for all of us."

To find out more about LLGL365,



Sonny and Jessica Whelen

come to a meeting, get to know the group and learn more about the power of leveraging your contribution. Meetings are noted on the calendar at www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org, or email Thayer@MiddlesexCountyCF.org.



MIDDLESEX COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

211 South Main Street • Middletown, CT 06457
phone 860-347-0025 • www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #525
Middletown, CT

Board of Directors

Marcia L. Kalayjian, Chair
John S. Biddiscombe, Vice Chair
Nancy Fischbach, Secretary
Vincent G. Capece, Jr. Treasurer
Cynthia H. Clegg, President & CEO

Janice Atkeson
William C. Chatman
David Director
Sharon K. Griffin
Wallace C. Jones
Jean C. LaTorre
Moirra Bessette Martin
Lyn May
Deborah L. Moore
Thomas J. Pastorello
David M. Royston
Gary Salva
Judith D. Schoonmaker
Richard W. Tomc

Directors Emeriti
Herbert T. Clark III
Patrick J. Crowley
Robert L. Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Jane Stokes McMillan
Willard McRae
David Preston
Sari A. Rosenbaum*
Ralph H. Shaw II
Assistant Secretary

*deceased

Staff:

Thayer Talbott
Janice Kalkreuth
Nikole Doolittle

THIS ISSUE IS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY
ESSEX SAVINGS BANK AND ESSEX FINANCIAL SERVICES

DESIGN COURTESY OF YOUNG'S PRINTING



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Make A Donation

The Community is where we work, where we play, where we raise our children, where we call home. Now, more than ever, your donation will have a tremendous impact on the quality of life in Middlesex County.

Donate to our

**LIVE LOCAL
GIVE LOCAL FUND!**

100% of the proceeds will be donated to our area nonprofits.



A Legacy Supports Our Community and Fulfills Your Philanthropic Wishes

There are several ways to ensure a bright future for Middlesex County:

- When preparing a will, include a gift for the charity or charities that have made a difference in your life
- Donate a specific dollar amount or percentage of your assets, including stocks, bonds, CDs or other property
- Name your favorite charity as the beneficiary of an IRA or pension plan or life insurance policy
- Honor deserving friends and remember loved ones with a memorial gift

Middlesex County Community Foundation welcomes conversations with good people who want to leave a legacy. Call us at 860-347-0025. There's no end to the good you can do!

