

What is your legacy? In this edition of News & Notes we recognize the passing of a friend and celebrate the legacy he established; there's also a project update on the James Family Documentary Film; and finally ... a very special thank you.



Philanthropy • Leadership • Legacy

CFMC News & Notes

March 2016

A Legacy Lives Forever - in this edition of News & Notes, we celebrate Legacy: the history a family left that led to a documentary film project, a friend who gave so much to our community, including a way to support youth for years to come, and a few special Thank You's we just can't keep to ourselves.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Only Willard Could ...

From civil rights to mental health to youth advocacy and community organizing and beyond - Willard McRae touched all of Middlesex County. A friend and a mentor, he set the standard high and led by example.

We have our ["Only Willard Could" list and links](#) to the wonderful articles recently celebrating his life, his work, and his legacy.



Progress Report - From Ice Cream Tin to Interviews

Liz Petry and her cousin Ashley James and his wife Kathryn Golden have been very busy this winter working on the documentary film, "For Dear Mother's Sake: The James Family Letters That Shaped Ann Petry."



Making a documentary film is no easy job, but Liz, Ashley and Kathryn have a great team of volunteers and have begun interviewing and cataloging.

[They share an update HERE](#) ... and if you don't know about the project, [click HERE to read](#) how an ice cream cone tin of letters led to a documentary idea.



(l to r) Cynthia Clegg (CFMC), Dawn Harris (Cystic Fibrosis), Barry Gordon, Phyllis Gordon, Julie Parr (Yale Cancer Center), Amy Brough (Trinity College) Wally Jones (CFMC Board Chairman), Thayer Talbott (CFMC) (unable to attend: Kingswood-Oxford School)

One Young Man's Legacy Continues to Grow Thanks to Friends and Family

Ryan Gordon was a remarkable young man who lost his life to cancer a month before his 20th birthday ten years ago. Before he died, he asked his parents to do something special with his college fund - he asked them to give it to organizations that made an incredible difference in his short life - and in the lives of others.

In 2008, Phyllis and Barry Gordon established the Ryan's Circle of Giving at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County to continue Ryan's act of generosity, providing friends and family a way to continue Ryan's gift year after year.

Each year the Gordons join CFMC staff and representatives of the organizations to catch up on all the great things that have happened, share memories of Ryan, and celebrate the continued gift his life and his college fund began years ago.

Thank you - over the last eight years, you have awarded \$161,901 to help Cystic Fibrosis, Yale Cancer Center, Trinity College-Hartford Wolfpack Scholars Fund, and Kingswood-Oxford School.

Thank you - Phyllis and Barry for sharing Ryan's story and Ryan's legacy with us; friends and family of the Gordons who keep Ryan's legacy alive and impacting our region; the nonprofit organizations Ryan cared deeply about for continuing to improve and impact the lives of so many in our region and beyond.

[Learn more about Ryan and the Giving Circle Fund his family established to honor his life HERE](#)

Thank You

We want to take a moment to say **THANK YOU** to two incredible businesses in Middlesex County. We are lucky to partner with some remarkable people - people who go above and beyond to serve our region.

Essex Printing and Events Magazines in Essex

Essex Printing is a partner in the Council of Business Partners Fund and the Campaign for Bully-Free Communities. They care deeply for this region and its youth, and they help spread the word through Events Magazines about the Campaign for Bully-Free Communities. We appreciate their partnership and their support!

Young's Printing and Fast Signs in Middletown

The team at Young's Printing didn't bat an eye recently when we reached out for their assistance in preparing for Willard McRae's services. Thanks to their quick thinking and great team, we were able to help the McRae family during a time of great sorrow.

A round of applause, a pat on the back, and big Thank You to Essex Printing and Young's Printing for caring about our community and working with the Community Foundation to make an impact today - and forever!

"Anything Goes" on the Connecticut River

Reserve your seats today!

You are invited to spend two exciting nights on the Connecticut River with friends, old and new.

Fun, food, music and great people will make for a fabulous celebration of the many reasons to live and work in Middlesex County.

[StowAway for a Great Adventure Tuesday, June 7](#) at the Essex Yacht Club

Then, join us for [Delightful, De-Lovely, De-Cruisin' on Friday, June 10](#) aboard the Becky Thatcher followed by Goodspeed Opera House's production of "Anything Goes."

Follow the [LINKS](#) or call us at 860.347.0025 to reserve your seats!

Proceeds will benefit ALL in the region through the work of the Community Foundation

