

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

A Little Compassion Inc.

Nest Gatherings: Hands-On Coding and Robotics Nights

Nest Gatherings offer a growing array of engaging and interactive social events for young adults with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Activities are geared toward the unique interests and preferences of the young adults served. Expanding the offerings will include Hands-On Coding and Robotics Nights to provide participants with ongoing opportunities to access and utilize STEM activities and encourage collaborative coding skills with their peers.

\$4,000.00

Adelbrook Behavioral & Development Services

A Taste For Living: Providing Culinary and Nutritional Life Skills to Neuro-Diverse Young Adults

To fund a culinary and nutrition life skills program, teaching our neuro-diverse young adults with autism and other developmental and behavioral health issues to choose and prepare fresh, healthy foods based on nutritional value, with an eye towards stretching a budget. Hard costs include the purchase of small appliances, kitchen tools, basic cooking spices and oils and storage containers for each of the group homes.

\$5,000.00

American Red Cross-CT Chapter

Disaster Cycle Services

To provide funding for Disaster Response, Recovery and Preparedness in Middlesex County.

\$2,000.00

Animal Alliance Welfare League, Inc.

Early pediatric spay-neuter program.

To support the Animal Alliance Welfare League innovative early pediatric spay-neuter program. Our program covers homeless cats--some through out TNR (trap-neuter-release) program---residing in areas in central Connecticut.

\$2,500.00

Bikes for Kids, Inc.

The North Pole Express with Bikes and Helmets

To support 35 needy students from Middlesex County, each with one parent or guardian, to experience the Essex Steam Train North Pole Express, and more importantly, receive a new bike and helmet for their very own.

\$1,810.00

Brainerd Memorial Library

AWE Early Literacy Station

To purchase of an AWE Early literacy station for the Brainerd Library children's room to provide users aged 2 - 8 with over 70 STREAM-oriented programs proprietary to the system.

\$2,700.00

Workforce Alliance Inc

Secure Jobs 2.0

To coordinate and promote systemic employment services for individuals and families in Middletown, Meriden, and Wallingford which will aid in raising low- and moderate income families out of poverty and ALICE and into secure, stable, economically-sound employment.

\$5,000.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

**Bushy Hill Nature Center
Bushy Hill Scholarship Program**

To provide scholarships for youth ages 4 - 14 from Middlesex County to spend a summer learning, laughing and growing at Bushy Hill Day Camp. Financial aid is awarded based on need and is determined through our financial aid application process.

\$5,000.00

**Business Industry Foundation of Middlesex County
Middletown Summer Youth Employment Program**

To support the 2020 Middletown Summer Youth Employment Program. Participants will be placed into constructive employment environments from a wide variety of industry sectors for six weeks in the summer months.

\$5,000.00

**Camp Hazen YMCA
Provide Campership Assistance to Middlesex County Youth**

To support financial assistance to Middlesex County children who could not otherwise afford to attend camp.

\$2,500.00

**Center for Children's Advocacy, Inc.
Medical Legal Partnership Project**

To fund legal consultations for parents and school-based health care providers and legal training for school-based health care providers, about children's legal rights regarding economic, social and environmental conditions that are impairing a child's health. The grant will also fund the provision of legal rights brochures to teens, and advocacy for system changes that will reduce conditions that harm children's health.

\$5,000.00

**Chester Historical Society
These Few Lines - Dramatization and Publication of a Family's Civil War Correspondance**

To fund the dramatization of recently discovered Civil War letters between a brother and sister of Chester; his letters describe his struggles as a soldier while she talks about life in Chester during wartime. The two-time production in the historic Chester Meetinghouse will be professionally recorded and produced for public exhibition on YouTube via our website, and a book of all their wartime correspondance will be published.

\$2,525.00

**Children in Placement CT
Guardian ad Litem**

To provide support for child victims of abuse and neglect in Middlesex County expediting a safe, permanent home for these children.

\$5,000.00

**Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Increasing Housing Options through System Wide Coordination**

To support the creation of affordable housing, conducting homeless prevention activities, increasing access to Section 8, and rapidly re-house homeless individuals and connecting them with appropriate supporting services, and identifying gaps in the housing and homelessness system and seek solutions.

\$5,000.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

**Columbus House, Inc
Middletown Warming Center**

To support the Middletown Warming Center which aids in saving lives during the harshest months of the year by providing compassionate care for the most vulnerable residents in Middletown.

\$5,000.00

**Congregational Church In Killingworth, UCC
Preservation 2020 Campaign - Carillon Purchase**

To replace the carillon that was destroyed by lightning in 2011.

\$1,000.00

**Connecticut Association for Human Services, Inc.
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance in Middletown**

To support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) project in Middletown. VITA volunteer tax preparers help low- and moderate-income households prepare their tax returns and work to ensure that filers claim the tax credits to which they are entitled, maximize their tax refunds, and use those refunds to begin building a more secure financial future.

\$4,000.00

**Essex Winter Series
Strategic Plan Consultant**

To work with a consultant to develop a comprehensive three-year strategic plan that will encompass a review of the vision and mission statements, organization goals, marketing initiatives and tactical programs.

\$2,500.00

**Connecticut Audubon Society, Inc.
Science in Nature Education Program**

To support the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center (CAS-RTPEC) Science in Nature program for over 200 elementary students in the Region 4 school district. Students in grades K-6 in 2 elementary schools will actively engage in experiential science. Science in Nature supplements traditional teaching methods with hands-on, real-world experiences for students. This grant will also support teachers through collaborative, professional ongoing support.

\$4,872.00

**Connecticut Humane Society
Have Vet, Will Travel: Delivering Care to Pets Owned by Middletown's Senior Citizens**

To support a free, pop-up veterinary clinic event for pets owned by Middletown senior citizens living in fixed income housing. The program seeks to deliver accessible veterinary care, keep pets in their homes and out of shelters, and to ensure owned pets get the care they need.

\$3,750.00

**Connecticut River Foundation at Steamboat Dock
Connecticut River Museum Technology Upgrade**

To replace two desktop computers, one laptop computer and to upgrade the Windows 7 operating system to Windows 10 in 3 work stations.

\$5,000.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

**Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC)
Removing Legal Barriers**

To provide legal-aid services for indigent veterans who live in Middlesex County to help move them from homelessness to stable housing, from poverty to sustainable income, and provide access to VA health care and other veteran benefots that have been wrongfully denied.

\$5,000.00

**Connection, Inc.
Eddy Shelter Basic Program Needs**

To help provide basic programmatic needs, unfunded through state budget allocations, for the guests of The Connection's Eddy Shelter, Middlesex County's only homeless shelter for single adult men and women. Specific needs include bedding, towels, washcloths, toiletries, and related accessories, as well as food and upkeep of the facility.

\$5,000.00

**Covenant to Care for Children, Inc.
Basic Essential Goods**

To support the Basic Essential Goods services in the Middlesex County area that have a direct positive impact on children's welfare. If a family does not have basic tangible items the family is considered at-risk of neglect and can result in children going into the Department of Children and Families system increasing the risk in a higher rate of physical, developmental, mental health and stress problems. Funds will be used to purchase beds, cribs, car seats, strollers, etc.

\$3,000.00

**Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.
Replacement Heated Food Transport Truck**

To help fund the purchase of a new heated food transport truck to replace the existing one. This truck is used to deliver meals to three congregate lunch sites, other senior service organizations, and the Meals on Wheels distribution sites.

\$5,000.00

**CT Gilbert & Sullivan Society
Support for Costuming of the 2020 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "RUDDIGORE"**

To support the 2020 production of RUDDIGORE, which will take place in October of 2020. The funds will be used to underwrite a portion of the costume rental and construction expenses for approximately 35 actors for the theatrical production.

\$1,000.00

**Dog Star Rescue, Inc.
CT Dog Gone Recovery**

To purchase a drone taht will more quickly and efficiently cover the area in which dogs may go missing. This piece of equipment will maximize efforts in recovering lost dogs at no charge to families.

\$2,500.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

**Durham Middlefield Youth & Family Services
Knowledge For College**

To fund a series of workshops about what every college bound student should know, including Dorm Cooking, Money Management, Car Repair and Healthy Balance Life Skills for college. The topics mentioned above are life skill workshops for incoming freshman or young adults living on their own for the first time. These topics are not typically taught in the traditional high school classroom and are most helpful to all young adults.

\$1,000.00

**Epoch Arts
Speak Out Productions**

To fund Speak Out Productions, which consists of three of our cornerstone programs: Mini Theater Production, An original student written and performance, Arts Response, an artistic showcase to a worldwide crisis and an original Main Stage Theater Production. These programs offer positive after-school and weekend outlets for teens to voice their opinions, express feelings and work together through issues that directly impact them every day.

\$3,400.00

**Everyone Outside
Girls Outside & Women Too**

To expand programming to enable more girls and women to spend time outside in the natural world to develop skills, knowledge, promote healthy living, and foster environmental stewardship. Support will expand the Girls Outside program to include two new programs in Portland (an after-school program and weekend-long program for middle-school girls) and to expand the Women of the Woods program to include several non-hiking gatherings.

\$5,000.00

**Families Helping Families
Boosting Fresh Produce**

To increase by 20% the amount of fresh produce given by Families Helping Families (FHF) to clients of the Clinton Pantry, part of the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries (SSKP).

\$3,000.00

**Farm Hill Elementary School
STEAM Machine**

To support a new after school program, STEAM Machine, which will aid in removing all barriers to developing the next generation of STEM innovators. The program will be offered at Farm Hill Elementary with external enrichment provided by STEAM Train, Inc. to offer students exposure to each of the disciplines of STEAM to develop critical thinking skills and deeper understanding as they discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering, Digital Arts, and Mathematics.

\$2,000.00

**FISH for C.D.& E.
Free rides for the needy to medical appointments**

To help fund our operating expenses, mostly telephone answering services and our dispatcher payroll.

\$1,800.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

**For Goodness Sake, Inc.
Sweet Dreams Bedding Bundles**

To support the "Sweet Dreams" program which provides complete bedding bundles for 20 children aged four to twelve in Middletown. The bundles include a bed frame, twin box spring and mattress, mattress protector, sheet set, comforter, pillow, and stuffed animal.

\$5,000.00

**Gilead Community Services
Integrative Services & Community Outreach at the new Mental Health Resource Center**

To support the pilot of a Mental Health Resource Center that will offer a wide variety of integrated services to the Middlesex County community. The Center will provide assessments, information, referrals, integrative medicine and education. We are requesting funds to help offset professional fees to provide integrative service programs. Grant funding would also be used for costs associated with providing four community outreach sessions to gather information about mental health service needs.

\$5,000.00

**Girl Scouts of CT
2020 Campership Program**

To provide an under-served population of girls the opportunity to attend camp and access the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, helping them to develop skills which will enhance academic achievement and reduce summer learning loss.

\$2,500.00

**Goodspeed Opera House Foundation, Inc.
Arts Education Collaboration with Nathan Hale Ray Middle School**

Goodspeed's Arts Education Collaboration provides a rich and interactive educational environment for participating students, inspiring the next generation of musical theatre artists and audiences. In the 19-20 school year, 820 students, including 50 from Nathan Hale Ray Middle School in East Haddam, will experience a Goodspeed production, in-school and on-campus workshops, a healthy lunch, transportation and access to Common-Core aligned instructional Guides.

\$5,000.00

**High Hopes Therapeutic Riding
Financial Aid Program**

To provide financial assistance to support the participation of Middlesex County residents, particularly school-aged youth, young adults transitioning out of high school and adults from various community organizations, in equine-assisted activities.

\$5,000.00

**Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation
LED Retrofit & Lighting Equipment Purchase Project**

To replace significant stage lighting inventory to more efficient and professional LED format.

\$5,000.00

**Junior Achievement of SW New England
Economic Empowerment and Career Readiness Programming for Middletown Adolescents**

To implement dynamic job readiness and employment preparedness programs for 100 students at Vinal Technical School in Middletown during the 2019-20 school year. These initiatives will help the students to discover local businesses, explore career opportunities and goals, and experience the power of entrepreneurship.

\$2,000.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

**Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center
Summer Arts Program at the Kate**

To support Summer Arts Programs at the Kate which includes the popular Kate's Camp for Kids, entering its eighth year, for children ages 5 to 10; our new Summer Spotlight at the Kate program, for youth ages 11 to 13; and a Counselor-in-Training program for ages 14 and 15. Combined, these provide a continuum of creative programming during the summer months.

\$3,000.00

**Killingworth Land Conservation Trust
Cranberry Bog Maintenance**

The Killingworth Land Conservation Trust (KLCT) purchased a cranberry bog in 2000 that contains rare and endangered plants as well as cranberry plants. The KLCT intends to restore a 2 acre piece of the bog to improve habitat for the rare and endangered plants and cranberries.

\$4,000.00

**Killingworth Library Association
Children's Room Access Improvement Project**

To replace the standing bookshelves which impair access to print material with accessible bins configured to enable children and those with limited mobility ready access. This will improve safety, utility, and ADA compliance. Furniture in the craft area will also be replaced with purpose-designed tables and chairs.

\$1,000.00

**Literacy Volunteers of Central CT, Inc.
Greater Middletown Volunteer Literacy Program**

To improve print and media visibility in the Middletown area to increase board membership and tutors who will be trained to teach English reading, writing, speaking and/or math to Middletown area residents. Over 100 Middletown area adults with low levels of literacy will improve their education, work and life skills and over 30 tutors will be trained and supported to teach Middletown adults.

\$4,000.00

**Living in Safe Alternatives, Inc.
Youth Excellence Project**

To empower adversity and trauma-exposed boys to experience success, navigate life obstacles, and achieve resilience. Youth engage in several outdoor group activities with incorporated opportunities to cover topics relevant to mental and physical health, and specifically, challenges associated with stress, trauma, loss, mistreatment, and betrayal in primary relationships.

\$3,000.00

**Manes & Motions Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.
Run In Horse Shelter for Inclement Weather**

To purchase a run in shelter for horses to escape the elements while maintaining their freedom to roam in our outdoor pastures.

\$3,490.00

**MARC Community Resources
Adult Skill Development & Leisure Program**

To support Adult Skill Development & Leisure Program. This over 25 year old program guides adults living with intellectual developmental disabilities (I/DD) with basic life and experiential learning; thus the grant will be used to bolster general programming and any activities associated with it.

\$4,000.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

**Mercy Housing & Shelter Corporation
Mercy Supportive Housing Services**

To support the programming costs of operating the Mercy Housing Supportive Services program which helps individuals who are chronically homeless with the highest service need to remain stably housed in the community and connected to care.

\$5,000.00

**Middlesex Community College Foundation
Magic Food Bus**

Middlesex Community College (MxCC) requires a commercial grade refrigerator to store fresh food produce from the Veteran's Memorial Organic Garden and refrigerated food products from the Connecticut Food Bank for the Magic Food Bus. The refrigerator will also enable the distribution of cold fruit drinks and provide healthier food to students.

\$2,049.00

**Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of CT
Lake Drive, East Hampton Energy Efficient Insulation**

To purchase energy efficient insulation for a Habitat home that will be built on Lake Drive, East Hampton.

\$5,000.00

**Middlesex Health Cancer Center
Shake Off Cancer**

To supply complete nutritional drinks to patients in financial need who are undergoing treatment for cancer to prevent or reverse malnutrition and improve patient care.

\$5,000.00

**Middletown Public Schools
Parent University: Wrap Services to Support Children and Families**

To support the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PTLI) which helps adults become leading advocates for children. The cornerstones of the program are respect, validation, and a belief that when the tools of democracy are understood, the public will actively engage in civic life. Classes include self and perception of leadership, democracy skills building, a project, and graduation.

\$2,500.00

**National Conference for Community and Justice of CT and WMA, Inc. (NCCJ)
NCCJ Prejudice Reduction Education Partnership in Middletown**

To continue the operation of our partnership with the Middletown Racial Justice Coalition (MRJC) to provide Middletown youths ages 13 to 19 with prejudice reduction education programs. The goal of the partnership is to educate and provide tools for youth to create more welcoming and inclusive environments within Middletown public schools and their community.

\$4,000.00

**Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters
Community-Based Mentoring**

Community-Based Mentoring provides one-to-one mentoring between at-risk youth, aged 6-18, and volunteer adult mentors. Matches meet for 6-10 hours each month to participate in enriching activities, while discussing issues of importance to the child and forming a bond that allows the child to reach their highest potential.

\$5,000.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

Oddfellows Playhouse

Teen Repertory Company Production of Romeo and Juliet

To support a landmark Teen Repertory Company production of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet in May 2020. Mounting high-quality classical theater requires specialized training and staff; Foundation support will enable us to provide advanced training to students before rehearsals begin, and bring in specialized staff to raise production quality & create a better experience for teens, which will have long term impacts.

\$5,000.00

Parmelee Farm

Shared Harvest Garden at Parmelee Farm

To purchase lumber for construction of 20 raised bed gardens plus soil amendments, mulch and plants/seeds for Shared Harvest Garden expansion.

\$1,000.00

Pay Forward, Inc.

Boat GPS (Global positioning satellites) navigation system, Raymarine Axiom 9" screen multifunction display

To purchase a boat navigation system. The navigation system selected is a Raymarine Axiom 9" multi function display.

\$1,100.00

Protectors of Animals, Inc.

Dog Spay/Neuter Surgery Subsidy - Middletown

To reduce the cost of dog spay/neuter surgeries for dog owners in Middletown, CT.

\$1,250.00

Reach Out and Read, Inc.

Middlesex County Rx for Success

Reach Out and Read gives young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together. Funding will support the implementation of the Reach Out and Read intervention at five clinical sites in Middlesex County.

\$5,000.00

Ronald McDonald House Charities for CT and Western MA

Sponsor A Stay (SAS)

Although the cost of providing lodging and essential services to a family at RMHCT is approximately \$120 per night, families are suggested to contribute only \$15 per night. Families are never refused services at RMHCT due to their inability to contribute towards their stay and the SAS program provides low-to-moderate income families with service at no cost.

\$3,000.00

Rushford, a Hartford Healthcare Partner

Rushford Prevention Leadership Skill Building for Youth

The consequences of adolescent alcohol and marijuana use have seriously impacted our communities in school suspensions, arrests, and death; there is a need for enhanced prevention services but limited staff resources available to cover the service area. Training students in leadership skills will help to build the prevention program in the Middletown community by allowing students to comfortably take more active roles to encourage kids to say no to drugs.

\$5,000.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

Russell Library

Future-Ready for Middletown: A Strategic Focus for Russell Library

To fund the services of a professional library strategic planning consultant, who will conduct the next phase of Russell Library's visioning and strategic planning process. This phase will encompass the creation of a community-based planning committee/ advisory council, the establishment of key service roles, intensive work with the Board of Trustees and staff, and writing/revising/publishing the final Strategic Plan.

\$5,000.00

Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Inc.

Pantry Food Distribution (includes Westbrook, Clinton and Old Saybrook pantries)

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) provides weekly grocery distributions to needy residents at our pantries in Clinton, Westbrook and Old Saybrook with fresh and non-perishable food given at no cost to shoreline residents living in our 11-town service area, including the Middlesex County towns of Centerbrook, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Ivoryton, Killingworth, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. All grant funds will be used exclusively for CT Food Bank and wholesale food purchases.

\$5,000.00

St. Vincent dePaul Place

Community Assistance Program

To support the Community Assistance Program staff who guide people in need to find solutions to overcome homelessness, addictions, and debilitating challenges.

\$5,000.00

The Buttonwood Tree (NEAR, Inc.)

Computer Replacement and Marketing Materials

To fund the replacement of the organization's computer and software which are reaching end of effective lifecycle. Of the new software, a video production platform will be purchased which will allow the organization to develop short video segments to promote the work of the organization to a broader audience.

\$2,500.00

Tri-Town Youth Services

Early Childhood Specialist

To support the creation of a part-time Early Childhood Specialist position to work directly with parents of young children, providing tips and resources to improve skills and solve family challenges. The Early Childhood Specialist will serve a leadership role in the Early Childhood Council, coordinating meetings, managing the Preschool Scholarship Fund and providing professional development for preschool teachers.

\$5,000.00

Valley Shore YMCA

2020 Youth Water Safety Programs

To support Youth Swimming and Water Safety Skills for children, including Fit Kids for Westbrook Children and the annual SPLASH! program.

\$2,500.00

Vista Life Innovations

Inclusion Through Environmental Action

To establish an Environmental Group to educate individuals with disabilities about issues impacting their local environment and how to engage. The first step is the identification issues plaguing the local environment and the second is to research how to address them. Participants will learn best practices for making a positive impact on the environment, advocating for cleaner communities, and engaging in community-based actions.

\$5,000.00

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2019-2020 Competitive Grant Awards**

**Wesley School
STEM for Muggles**

STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] for Muggles after school club is a unique way to get students coding, based on the book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone; this program is one part book club, one part STEM club, and all magic. Students will read the first book in the Harry Potter series with their peers, participate in traditional book club discussions; how this club is unique is that students will also be learning to code from challenges set in the Wizarding World.

\$4,406.00

**Wesleyan University
Girls in Science**

Girls in Science (GiS) program seeks to address the under-representation of women in pursuit of STEM related degrees at the post-secondary level and beyond, via immersive summer programming for 4th-6th grade girls, mostly from Middletown Public Schools, year-round exploration of STEM content, and inter-generational mentoring between aspiring young scientists (at all levels of K-12), college students, and women working as professionals in STEM related fields.

\$5,000.00

**YMCA of Northern Middlesex County
LIVESTRONG at the YMCA**

To fund the LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program, a free evidence-based small-group program developed and established in partnership with the LIVESTRONG Foundation. This program assists those who are living with, through and beyond cancer to strengthen their spirit, mind and body.

\$4,500.00

**Youth & Family Services Haddam-Killingworth
Pilot--Haddam-Killingworth Mentoring Program**

To introduce a school-based mentoring program that will be offered in two elementary schools, one intermediate school and target youth referred to the Haddam Killingworth Juvenile Review Board (JRB). Funding will cover program oversight and training, materials development, screening tests, and volunteer training and will equip volunteers to work 1:1 with youth utilizing school grounds and spaces as a base.

\$4,500.00
