

**Community Foundation of Middlesex County
2020-2021 Competitive Grant Awards**

**Ahern Whalen Baseball
Middletown Baseball Programs**

Ahern Whalen is a baseball club that offers recreational baseball programs for 13-18 year old boys that live in Middlesex county. Funding will be used to reduce financial barriers to support at risk youth, who other wise may not be able to afford to play baseball, with the opportunity to play and compete with youth from surrounding towns.

\$2,500.00

**American Red Cross-CT Chapter
Disaster Cycle Services for Middlesex County**

to fund American Red Cross Connecticut Disaster Cycle Services for Middlesex County during the Covid Pandemic. The goal of American Red Cross Disaster Services is to help create resilient communities. There are three components to achieving this goal: Disaster Response and Relief, Disaster Recovery and Disaster Preparedness. Protocols have been modified to continue our the mission during this pandemic.

\$5,000.00

**ARTFARM, Inc.
Where Are We Now?: Race, Pride, Class and Inequity**

to support "Where Are We Now?: Race, Pride, Class and Inequity" - a generative theater project that explores where our communities are in relationship to race. By necessity, we will update and adapt the work to meet the current moment as recent societal events and the pandemic shape our needs, understandings and capacities.

\$1,500.00

**Artists for World Peace
Buckets of Love Program**

to expand the BUCKETS OF LOVE project launched summer 2020, providing free art supplies to children living in and around Middletown, CT. The project was so successful and appreciated within the community that AFWP would like to expand our the reach to serve more families in need. With so many programs for children effected by the pandemic, AFWP is hoping to continue to fill the gap of families struggling financially to provide fun, creative art activities for their children.

\$1,500.00

**Aurora Women and Girls Foundation, Inc.
Women and Girls Data Platform**

to collaborate with women's funds and women and girls serving organizations to sustain the Women and Girls Data Platform, a online tool for data sharing. Data on Middlesex County is available for all of the available data sets on the WGDP, allowing for in-depth analysis of your service area, as well as for comparison to neighboring counties and the statewide data.

\$1,500.00

**Bare Necessities, Inc.
Keeping Babies Healthy, Happy, and Dry Program**

to fund Keeping Babies Healthy, Happy, and Dry to serve very low to low-income families in the nine Middlesex County communities of Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Haddam and Higganum, Killingworth, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. Foundation funds will support the discounted diapers and wipes as well as baggies (supplies) within which the toiletries are packaged to benefit 350 babies (unduplicated) during 2021.

\$5,000.00

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**Bikes for Kids, Inc.
Safety Helmets for Children**

Bikes for Kids, Inc. (BFK) is a quality non-profit organization that provides refurbished bicycles and new helmets to needy children. The funds from this grant will allow BFK to provide up to 500 new helmets to these children, thereby enhancing their safety while operating their bikes.

\$2,750.00

**Brian House, Inc.
Portable Generator Purchase**

to fund the purchase of a Honda portable generator for one of the residential homes.

\$4,950.00

**Camp Hazen YMCA
Summer Camperships**

This grant will be used to provide financial assistance to children from Middlesex County who could not otherwise afford to attend Camp Hazen YMCA. We recognize the need for summer camp in our community and are committed to providing this service regardless of a family's ability to pay.

\$5,000.00

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

to fund the Medical Legal Partnership Project's COVID response activities. The Project will train Middlesex County health care providers and offer individual legal consultations to providers about specific children, so providers can advocate for young patients to reduce social or environmental conditions that arise during the pandemic that are harming a child's health.

\$5,000.00

**Chester Social and Human Services Department
Improve Community Outreach through Human Services Department**

A critical component of the Town of Chester's long-term recovery plan is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its Human Services Department, including 1) adopting the Charity Tracker data system used by 25 CT municipalities; 2) purchase 5 tablets to enable trained volunteers to assist the part-time Social Services Director with client intake and administrative functions; and 3) provide Internet Access for one year for up to 20 Chester households.

\$2,000.00

**Child & Family Agency Southeastern Connecticut
Mental Health Care and Support**

to ensure the continuation of mental health care and support for Middlesex County families and adults financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$5,000.00

**Children in Placement CT
Child Advocate Volunteers**

Funds will be used to support the recruitment, training, and oversight of volunteers and child victim cases in Middlesex County. Specifically, funds from the Foundation will help to support the efforts of our Regional Manager.

\$5,000.00

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**Clinton Park & Recreation Dept.
Ecology Camp**

to provide Ecology Camp and/or Ecology Walks for "At Risk"/ Low Income youth.

\$3,000.00

**Columbus House, Inc
Middletown Warming Center**

to operate the Middletown Warming Center during the 2020-2021 winter season. The overarching goal of this project is to save lives during the harshest months of the year by providing compassionate care for the most vulnerable residents of Middletown.

\$5,000.00

**Community Health Center-New Horizons
Domestic Violence Shelter Renovations**

The New Horizons shelter is part of a network of safe havens providing safety and support to domestic violence victims. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a spike in the demand for domestic violence services across the region and in Middlesex County. CHC is requesting funding to purchase new kitchen appliances for the two apartments in the New Horizons shelter, a project that will have both an immediate and long-term impact on those seeking shelter, especially during the pandemic.

\$5,000.00

**Connecticut Association for Human Services, Inc.
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program**

to support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) project in Middletown, CT. 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 to build a more secure financial future.

\$2,500.00

**Connecticut Audubon Society, Inc.
Youth-Directed Webinar and Mentorship Program**

to fund a new Youth-directed Webinar and Mentorship program for Middlesex County students ages 14-18. This program will provide students with a platform to share their passion for the environment as well as the opportunity to learn valuable skills in environmental conservation research and communication as well as presentation and public speaking skills. Students will be connected to mentors for coaching with webinar presentations and research.

\$3,000.00

**Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Foot Bridge Project**

to build two bridges on the Tynan Park Connector to the Mattabesett Trail. The bridges will allow hikers to easily and safely cross the Fall Brook, especially in the wet seasons.

\$2,000.00

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**Connecticut Humane Society
Free Pop-Up Veterinary Events**

to support a free, pop-up veterinary event for pets owned by Middletown senior citizens. 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. In the unprecedented time caused by the pandemic, the companionship of a pet means so much, especially for seniors who can be disproportionately affected by the isolation associated with social distance measures.

\$4,195.00

**Connecticut River Conservancy
Community Science Projects to Maintain and Steward the Connecticut River**

to engage community members to participate in hands-on applied scientific research and stewardship of the Connecticut River and its tributaries

\$2,500.00

**Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC)
Legal Aid for Veterans**

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 benefits that have been wrongfully denied.

\$5,000.00

**Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)
Know Your Rights Workshops**

to increase the access of low-income and marginalized women in Middlesex County to free legal information, bilingual legal advocacy and referrals to low-cost attorneys. CWEALF will provide 2-3 virtual helpline presentations or "Know Your Rights" workshops on topics impacting women's economic security, conduct outreach to service providers in Middlesex County to increase knowledge about CWEALF's free services; and serve a minimum of 45-65 clients in one year.

\$3,500.00

**Connection, Inc.
Essential Goods for Families at Hallie House**

Mothers who come to seek treatment at the Hallie House often have little to no income and very few possessions. Basic necessary items for baby care must be supplied by the program to ensure safety and stability for mother and child. Funding would support provide pack and play cribs, strollers, and video monitors to families in treatment at Hallie House. The items will then accompany the family when discharged to stable housing.

\$4,995.00

**Covenant to Care for Children, Inc.
Basic Needs and Goods for At-Risk Youth**

to provide required basic essential goods and services to Youth, 0-18 years of age who are neglected, abused, at-risk and/or impoverished within Middlesex County. Funds will be used to purchase basic tangible items such as, bed, cribs, car seats, strollers items, to decrease the risk of neglect and keep families intact.

\$3,000.00

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**Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet
Innovative Dance Program**

to offer eight (8) individual scholarships to dancers in Middletown and the surrounding communities who want to explore an innovative method of using dance, movement and performance as a vehicle for wellness and social change. Two (2) scholarships will also be offered for the Summer Intensive Program in 2021 which is designed to train dancers who are serious about pursuing dance as a career.

\$1,000.00

**Essex Fire Engine Co. #1
Wand-Entry System for Rapid, Emergency Access to Properties**

KnoxBox is the system that is utilized by over 100 in the town of Essex to provide a secure rapid access for public safety agencies such as fire and ambulance, and property owners and is accessed by a master key. To alleviate fears of homeowners and businesses that there would be improper access, EFD would like to change the key to a wand which would allow access only for the brief time needed and is tracked by GPS thus allowing for safe and easy access to homes and businesses.

\$1,500.00

**Essex Historical Society
Mobile Amplification Devices for Outdoor Programming**

to support a one-season rental of mobile amplification devices to offer outdoor programming adhering to social distancing guidelines. The ClearTone Vox System would allow us to host programming outside, including walking tours, tours of our historic landscapes, boat tours and "under the trees" talks at a safe distance, sharing those stories with individual amplification aids.

\$1,500.00

**Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.
Generator Purchase**

to purchase a generator to mitigate food losses and interrupted Meals on Wheels service during a power outage.

\$5,000.00

**Families Helping Families
Food for Clinton Program**

Public/Social Benefit (Civic Improve/Social Svcs)

Due to the huge increase in the number of families using the Clinton Food Pantry, Families Helping Families would combine two of its initiatives to meet the increased need. Called Food For Clinton, funding would enable us to provide more fresh produce and non-perishable food, increasing our contribution to \$3,500 per month.

\$5,000.00

**Futures Inc.
Refrigerator for "Grab and Go" Food Items**

to purchase a refrigerator that will store moderately priced "Grab and Go" food items that will be available for purchase by community members and Futures staff. By expanding our catering services, we will be able to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities employed at The Kitchen at Futures.

\$2,000.00

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**Gilead Community Services
Business Consultant for the Mental Health Resource Center**

to support business consultation for our Mental Health Resource Center to provide expertise in the development of a business plan to adapt to COVID19's new implications for our community and invest in the Center's long-term sustainability.

\$4,000.00

**Girl Scouts of CT
Leadership Development Program**

to serve girls and young women, following our mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. In these unprecedented times, GSCT is meeting the challenge of providing the premier leadership development program to girls throughout Connecticut, ensuring that they have the social and emotional competencies that they need to succeed in school and in the workplace.

\$4,000.00

**Goodspeed Opera House Foundation, Inc.
Virtual Arts Education Collaboration (AEC)**

Goodspeed's Virtual Arts Education Collaboration (AEC) will provide 470 students, including 100 from Nathan Hale Ray Middle School in East Haddam, an immersive virtual educational experience that will include pre- and postshow workshops, a fully-staged Goodspeed musical shown virtually through a password protected portal, and access to Study Guides influenced by curriculum standards, all at no cost to students or schools.

\$2,000.00

**Greater Middletown Chorale
Virtual Season of Choral Enrichment**

to fund the establishment and marketing of the Greater Middletown Chorale's "Virtual Season of Choral Enrichment," a 2021 program of online courses, lectures, recitals and livestream fundraising events designed to maintain membership, engage audiences and generate revenue, all currently threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic. This program will see us through the COVID crisis and create an opportunity for us going forward to bring music and art to Middlesex County in a new way.

\$3,000.00

**High Hopes Therapeutic Riding
Equine Assisted Therapies**

High Hopes has seen increased financial need from all individuals in order to participate in our equine assisted therapies and activities as a result of the pandemic and the uncertainty it has introduced both to our participants and organization. Funding will provide financial assistance to support the participation of Middlesex County residents, particularly school-aged youth and adults from various community organizations in equine assisted activities at High Hopes in 2021.

\$5,000.00

**HK Backpack Program
Backpack Program**

to provide food assistance to the students enrolled in our program.

\$2,000.00

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**Hope Alliance for Animals, Inc.
Spay-Neuter Program**

to support the spay-neuter program for 25 temporary homeless feline residents who stay in the animal sanctuary located in Killingworth, Connecticut.

\$1,000.00

**HOPE Partnership, Inc.
Washers and Dryers for ADA and Family Affordable Housing Units**

to support the final stage of the construction of 17 new affordable housing units in Essex with the purchase of washers and dryers for the ADA units and 3 bedroom family units.

\$3,500.00

**Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation
Live Stream Equipment**

to support the purchase of a complete package of equipment and software that will allow the theatre to live stream performances.

\$5,000.00

**Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center
Summer Arts Education Programs**

To support Summer Arts Education Programs in 2021 for children ages 5 to 13 and our Counselor-in-Training Program for youth ages 14 and 15.

\$2,000.00

**Kids of Chatham Organization, Inc.
Electronic Tablets**

to purchase electronic tablets for 5 of our classrooms. This will enable KOCO to continue with virtual visiting curriculum and maintain electronic communication with parents.

\$1,200.00

**Literacy Volunteers of Central CT, Inc.
Computer Literacy and New Technology Access**

As LVCC attempts to adapt to a "new normal" because of the COVID pandemic, our mission still remains of helping adults and families improve their lives through literacy. LVCC recognizes the need to broaden our services to helping our students gain computer literacy and access new technological platforms so that our volunteer tutors may continue to meet their student's educational goals.

\$5,000.00

**Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore
Recruit and Train Volunteers**

Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore knows that in the service area, 13.55% of the population lacks English language skills necessary to compete in today's job market, assist their children to learn, or engage effectively in their community. Funding will help to maintain and expand our ability to recruit, train, and certify new tutors, reduce the number of individuals waiting for tutors, and teach English to more residents in our towns.

\$3,000.00

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**MARC Community Resources
Adult Skill Development and Leisure program**

Adult Skill Development and Leisure program is a unique community-based program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) provided opportunities for socialization, daily life skill-building and essential respite for families and caregivers throughout Middlesex County and the Shoreline. The goal is to return to a community-based, social program focusing on skill development and personal growth. Due to COVID-19, MARC has redeployed staff to create a centralized virtual services program working in tandem with this program.

\$5,000.00

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

to support the programming costs of operating the Mercy Supportive Housing 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
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Best Practices**

Middlesex Community College formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council in September 2020. We want MxCC to be a college where all are valued, respected, and included; and where our workforce reflects the composition of our student body and engages with them in culturally relevant ways. Employees, students, and community partners such as Wesleyan and the Middletown Schools will explore DEI best practices in education through a campus climate survey, focus groups, and staff development.

\$2,500.00

**Middlesex County Historical Society
Critical Technology Enhancements**

To provide critical technology tools and infrastructure needed to build a foundation for the future of the Middlesex County Historical Society (MCHS) and transform how the organization does business in a post-COVID world. COVID has given MCHS an incredible opportunity to move us into cutting edge technology and nonprofit operating practices.

\$1,500.00

**Middlesex County NAACP
Health Education Programs**

to improve the health status of People of Color in Middlesex County in an effort to address existing health disparities. Based on health concerns and contributors among People of Color, identified by the Middlesex County NAACP Health Equity Focus Group Report, this program will offer quarterly virtual, interactive health education and discussion for adults and monthly virtual health education with an accompanying art project for elementary school-aged children.

\$3,200.00

**Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of CT
Veterans Build - Middlefield Appliances**

to fund the appliances, as well as the materials for the kitchen and bath, for the Veterans Build - Middlefield Renovation Project.

\$5,000.00

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**Middlesex Health Cancer Center
Cancer Patient Nutrition Program**

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

\$5,000.00

**Middletown Public Schools - All Pro Dads
All Pro Dads**

All Pro Dads brings fathers together with their children at school. Now, through socially distanced one hour breakfasts and guided conversations, All Pro Dads helps develop emotional connections between children and their fathers, supports families' social-emotional needs, builds families' community networks, while promoting family engagement in school and overall positive life outcomes.

\$4,000.00

**Middletown Public Schools - PLTI
Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) and People Empowering People (PEP)**

Offer families a continuum of family support, education and advocacy to help families thrive in life. Funding will support Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) and People Empowering People (PEP) which helps adults become leading advocates for children; classes include communication, self perception, problem solving, child development, how city and states work, policy, budgets, networking, the law, democracy skills building, a project and graduation.

\$5,000.00

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

to provide Middletown youth ages 13 to 19 with prejudice reduction education programs in partnership with the Middletown Racial Justice Coalition. This program continues to be successful in providing tools for youth to create more welcoming and inclusive environments within Middletown public schools and in the community.

\$2,000.00

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

Community-Based/Virtual Mentoring provides one-to-one mentoring between at-risk children/youth and volunteer mentors, including ongoing case management. Matches meet regularly either in the community (following social distancing and other public health guidelines) or virtually to engage in enriching activities and discussions aimed to support the child academically, socially, and emotionally.

\$5,000.00

**Oddfellows Playhouse
Teen Repertory Company main stage production**

to support a spring Teen Repertory Company main stage production of Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 in May 2021. The play, written by Anna Deavere Smith in 1994, is the result of interviews with over 200 people following the riots in Los Angeles in 1992 which were ignited by the not guilty verdicts of the police officers charged in the beating of Rodney King; the nationwide events of 2020 make this a particularly poignant piece for contemporary teens.

\$5,000.00

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**Pandemonium Rainforest Project Inc
Parrot Cages**

to fund the purchase of two parrot cages as part of an exotic animal rehabilitation and education organization's on-going efforts to rescue and rehabilitate unwanted exotics.

\$2,696.00

**Pay Forward, Inc.
Replace Sailboat Skeg**

The skeg which holds up the rudder has seriously rotted and needs replacement. The skeg is a metal piece of steel that connects the rudder to the boat.

\$1,800.00

**Ray of Light Farm, Inc.
Family Farm Adventure Walkabout**

The Family Farm Adventure Walkabout allows individuals, families, veterans, and students to take a guided walk by foot with a horse through the Ray of Light Farm's beautiful wooded pony trail accompanied by a horse handler who teaches them the basics of leading and walking with an animal. Upon returning, walkers enjoy feeding our goats, guinea pigs and visiting our many other farm animals.

\$4,000.00

**Reach Out and Read, Inc.
Early Literacy and Relational Health Intervention**

Reach Out and Read will to provide early literacy and relational health intervention at 5 clinics throughout Middlesex County: Middlesex Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program and Community Health Center in Middletown, Community Health Center in Clinton, East Hampton Family Practice in East Hampton, and Portland Family Practice Group in Portland.

\$3,500.00

**Ronald McDonald House Charities for CT and Western MA
Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut's Family Togetherness Program (FTP)**

Providing a place to stay for weary, frightened, and overall stressed parents of hospitalized children is why Ronald McDonald House Charities exists. Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut's Family Togetherness Program (FTP) helps families through the most difficult and traumatic times of their lives by being a part of their extended support system, and providing all services free of charge to families who are unable to contribute the suggested donation of \$15/night.

\$3,000.00

**Rushford, a Hartford Healthcare Partner
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**

to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses to Middlesex County to increase mental health literacy and to decrease stigma and discrimination. MHFA is a low-cost, high impact program similar to CPR, teaching community members to intervene in a mental health crisis until the crisis is resolved or professional help arrives.

\$5,000.00

**Shoreline Arts Alliance
Reopening CT Arts Venues: Science-Based Safety**

to fund a webinar series, Reopening CT Arts Venues: Science-Based Safety, providing science-based information about reopening to inspire both artist and consumer confidence, and ensure economic success and long-term viability.

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\$4,000.00

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**Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Inc.
Food Purchases**

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. Funding will support CT Food Bank and wholesale food purchases.

\$5,000.00

**St. Vincent DePaul Place
Food and Supplies**

to provide a month's worth of additional food and supplies needed now at St. Vincent de Paul Middletown's (SVDM) Soup Kitchen and Amazing Grace Food Pantry due to the Covid-19 pandemic. People in Middletown affected by homeless, poverty and /or are physically and/or mentally compromised will be able to receive daily take-out meals or delivery through the Soup Kitchen or boxed groceries for curbside pickup or delivery of food through Amazing Grace Food Pantry.

\$5,000.00

**Sustainable CT
Summer Fellowship Program**

The Sustainable CT Fellowship Program places top-notch, passionate college students in regional planning offices throughout the state to provide hands-on assistance to municipalities in implementing Sustainable CT actions. Over the past 3 summers, 40 Fellows have provided over 15,000 hours of direct support to help towns implement sustainability actions and achieve Sustainable CT certification. Funding will support one Fellow to support CFMC region towns during the summer of 2021.

\$2,000.00

**Valley Shore YMCA
Move for Better Balance Program**

The goal of Move for Better Balance is to reduce the number of falls or near falls in seniors. Seniors who fall see significantly poor health outcomes, including extended hospital stays, depression, and ongoing pain.

\$1,500.00

**Vista Life Innovations
Virtual Programming**

Vista Life Innovations prepared for the changes presented by COVID-19, utilizing video communications via Zoom to support Vista's full-service programs and services for individuals with disabilities in the Connecticut Middlesex area. Since social normalcy has significantly changed, Vista has employed Zoom services, so its programs and services can continue to have a positive impact in the lives of our students and members in 2021.

\$2,500.00

**Westbrook Conservation Commission
Toby Hill VIII Parcel Acquisition**

to fund the purchase of a 146.74 acre parcel known as Toby Hill VIII to be preserved as Town Open Space.

\$5,000.00

**YMCA of Northern Middlesex County
Kids Korner full-day distance learning programming**

to provide financial support to low-income working families for Kids' Korner full-day distance learning programming.

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\$5,000.00

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

to merge an established Pen Pal program with a newly reformatted/developed Mentoring Program for elementary and lower middle school students. The program will include an initial COVID compliant face-to-face meeting of mentors with the mentoring coordinator, mentee and his or her parents virtual mentoring, letter writing exchanges, and monitored "chat room" conversations overseen by a former teacher now mentoring consultant/coordinator.

\$1,430.00
