CFMC May News & Notes

Grants in Action:
Just Look At How You Help Middlesex County

YOU truly make a HUGE impact every day. Here are just a few recipients of your caring and generous ways through CFMC.

Memory Kits Ready for Circulation at Durham Public Library

Did you know The Alzheimer's Association released a 2024 report stating that 76,800 individuals have Alzheimer's Disease in the state of Connecticut?

Durham Public Library saw a unique opportunity to serve members of our community who face memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer's Disease - Memory Kits!

Memory kits, you ask? The kits are based on the principles of reminiscence therapy which is a way to use all the senses to help individuals with dementia remember the events, places, and people of their past. This therapy can benefit both the individual living with dementia and their caregivers. Each of the kits has a theme and contains activities related to the theme.

The **St. Luke's Home Fund** at CFMC supported the purchase of the memory kits and the Fund Committee sends a huge Thank You to Durham Public Library for all the ways it serves everyone in the community!

Our heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the St. Luke's Home Fund Committee members, Jason Cassese, Jennifer Glick, Terry Morris, Joe Santaniello, and Bill Tait, for their time and commitment to the Fund's mission. St Luke's Home Fund provides support for the various needs of seniors and veterans in Middlesex County.

Experiential Learning Project at Middletown High School is Taking Flight!

Waterfowl habitats require food sources, open water, and brush/woodland. Luckily for **Middletown High School** (MHS), these resources can all be found on adjacent property - a unique urban wetland.

MHS saw an **experiential learning opportunity** with this neighboring wetland that is now accessible as a "Land Laboratory" for its Middletown Agriculture Science & Technology program.

Since January, students have been collaborating with a waterfowl expert and an environmental literacy expert to identify potential nesting sites, map the area, and remove invasive plants for improved access. One of the next steps was for the participants to install DuckHuts. **What are DuckHuts?** They are nesting sites that consider the nesting preferences of shy birds, as well as predator guards, so any nesting birds will not be disturbed.

As an experiential learning opportunity, there are so many different pieces to this project including site mapping and constructing shelters to improve the waterfowl habitat. The committee for the **Mary Janvrin and Natalie Janvrin Wiggins Fund for Birds, Other Animals, and Nature at CFMC** was inspired by the students' passion and pleased to award Middletown High School a grant to support the project.

There is a great deal of observation and learning ahead - and we're eager to hear more! A Round of Applause to the Agriculture Science & Technology program students for their hard work.

Our sincere **THANK YOU** to the Janvrin Fund Committee members, Christine Cummings, Nancy Fischbach, Matt Fleury, Tom Gezo, Moira Martin, Wendy Pollard, Judy Schoonmaker, Andy Tanaka, and Maureen Westbrook, for their time and commitment to carrying on the Janvrin sisters' legacy through the work of the Janvrin Fund.

It's Show Time - Building Courageous Storytellers

Have you ever thought about all of the details that go into a stage production? At **Epoch Arts**, the students truly "do it all." From exchanging views and ideas for the script, to designing the stage and costumes, to marketing the production. These young people have the opportunity to experience all facets of bringing a performance to life.

Mainstage Production provides the opportunity for youth to take part regardless of whether they want to be on the stage or behind the curtain. Each role and job is vital and play an important part in the production and each activity demonstrates to the community how talented the students are!

The Reset, Epoch Arts' Spring 2025 teen theater production, was a futuristic play depicting a dystopian society with many "Promised Children" living under the control of the powerful Great Council. The story then followed the characters as they become "aware" of their situation and act to free themselves and all children from the control of the Great Council.

A Standing Ovation to the cast and crew of *The Reset* for their creativity and teamwork resulting in an outstanding performance! CFMC is so pleased to support Epoch Arts' work in helping young people communicate, collaborate, create, and celebrate through experiencing the arts hands-on.

The Road to Academic Success

Study Hall, a Clinton nonprofit organization, knows developing effective study habits and skills can be challenging. It's mission is to provide in-person, subject-specific, individualized tutoring and academic support to any student grades three and up, regardless of financial need.

Study Hall's services cover a wide range of student needs including reading comprehension, productive note-taking, creating effective study habits, essay writing, navigating the college experience, and more. Yes, there's more! In addition to one-on-one subject tutoring, Study Hall offers SAT preparation courses, summer math boot camps, and it participates in local high school annual career/college seminars for parents and students. Study Hall continues to assess the needs of the community and expand its **educational programming** ... all while ensuring our youth excel in their studies and prepare for a bright future.

We award Study Hall an A+ for their commitment to providing personalized attention to each student in need, and we are proud to support their work. Thank you for investing in our future!

Catch the Latest on ...

The Final Reveal!

We previously shared **a very special video** announcing a partnership between **Bare Necessities** and the creative minds at **Option A Group (OAG)**, who met each other at a CFMC celebration event.

What happens when you combine a passion to help families and babies with the magic of an energetic, creative team?! A Bare Necessities shuttle bus "wrapped with love, new magic, and the Bare Necessities logo."

With the help of a CFMC grant, the nonprofit was able to establish a budget for a design covering half the vehicle. As Option A Group began work designing the wrap, they learned all about Bare Necessities' mission. Then one thing became very apparent – the organization deserved a more impactful, full-vehicle wrap. Option A was determined to make that happen. They reached out to CFMC and funded the expansion of the grant to cover the full-vehicle wrap.

Now, thanks to OAG, CFMC and its wonderful donors, "The wheels on the Bare Necessities bus" will deliver essential supplies at sites along the shoreline ... with style, smiles, and community awareness.

Keep an eye out for the shuttle bus on the roads of Middlesex County! It is surely a testament to Good People Doing Great Things ... for our little ones!

Mark Your Calendars!

Reserve Your Spot Early! CFMC Cruise on the Connecticut River

Thursday, September 4 | 5:30 - 8:00 PM

What better way to spend a beautiful September evening than combining Great People with Spectacular Views ... and a big dash of fun and festive fare!

Bring a friend or two or three aboard the Becky Thatcher and join us for a joyful evening celebrating the many reasons we love to live, work, and play in Middlesex County!

Click Here to Register

Killingworth Community Fund Picnic Celebration

Thursday, June 5 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

River Valley Fund for Families Positive Paths Initiative Fundraiser

Thursday, July 24 | 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

JB Parke Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday, July 25 | 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

East Haddam Sprint and Family Fun Triathlon

Saturday, August 2
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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