

## VCF Endowment Challenge Program Raises \$150,000 in New Gifts

Nearly one year has passed, and Birmingham Health Services, the LNV Boys and Girls Club, the Derby Public Library, Planetree, Inc. (a subsidiary of Griffin Health Services), and the Valley YMCA have been hard at work to meet the goals of the VCF Endowment Challenge Program. The Valley Community Foundation will match every dollar raised by each of the participating organizations to meet their respective Endowment Fund goals.

"How these groups raised the funds varied from one donor's matching gift to a broad based campaign among their patrons, employees, and other donors," said Angela G. Powers, VCF President. "Overall, the program will have raised \$150,000 in new gifts and established funds totaling \$300,000 to support these Valley organizations.

An Endowment is a designated Fund established for the purpose of providing ongoing



Harold Yudkin plants a tree at the Derby Public Library, circa 1985

revenue for the organization's general operations or for a specific program. The principal Endowment remains intact, and is invested in a careful manner that promotes growth of principal and produces a predictable stream of annual revenue. The principal of the Endowment Fund can be added to at any time, increasing its value and the resulting revenue.

A new project was the impetus behind the Derby Public Library's goal in developing a \$30,000 fund through support from donors and the VCF match. The fund will allow the library to securely display valuable historical items. "We are very excited about having participated in this program," said Cathy Williams, Library Director.

"Promoting philanthropy is a core principle of VCF," said Ms. Powers. "The Endowment Challenge provides an avenue for us to directly assist organizations in the community. It is our goal to continue to work with donors and organizations throughout the valley on major gifts and giving beyond annual support now and in years to come." For more information about the Endowment Challenge Program visit [www.valleyfoundation.org](http://www.valleyfoundation.org) or call Angela Powers at 203-225-0880.



*One of the greatest things about living and working in the Valley is how connected everyone is to making this area a better place for future*

*generations. No one knows this better than the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, which for the past 35 years has recognized outstanding individuals through Gold Seal and Platinum Award programs. Each winner has gone above and beyond in their effort to support many worthwhile causes and organizations throughout the Valley during their lifetime. The Platinum winner must have received the Gold Seal award at least 10 years ago in order to be considered for this honor.*

*I am writing this message not only as a VCF Board member, but also as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Chamber and a past Gold Seal award recipient. To celebrate the 35th anniversary of this event, the VCF is providing Platinum Winner Bill Powanda and Gold Seal recipients Jamie Cohen, Marty Coughlin, and Fred Musante with special grant awards to support organizations of their choice in the valley. The money will be used to support organizations of their choice in the Valley.*

*The VCF is honored to be working with valuable organizations such as the Chamber to acknowledge leadership and volunteerism and to continue to grow the philanthropy that exists here. With your continued support, the possibilities are endless. Remember, we are always here for you. For Good. For Ever. For the Valley.*

*David M. Grant*

*Editor and Foundation  
Board Member*

# What is happening in the world of philanthropy



Angela G. Powers, *President Valley Community Foundation*

As I reported in our first issue of Community Legacies, more than 85% of gifts received by charitable organizations come from individuals. Now, since nearly two-thirds of giving is done in the last quarter of the calendar year, I would like to suggest two of the several helpful resources available to donors as they make these important decisions about their charitable investments.

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance produces in-depth evaluative reports on national charities based on comprehensive Standards for Charity Accountability and publishes a quarterly magazine, the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Guide. The Alliance can be reached by telephone at (703) 276-0100 or through their website, [www.Give.org](http://www.Give.org).

GuideStar provides comprehensive data on more than 1.5 million non-profit organizations, and includes searchable data from IRS Forms 990 and the IRS Business Master File, including comprehensive facts on employee compensation and grant activity. GuideStar's telephone is (757) 229-4631 and their website is [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

Both organizations offer tips to donors about making wise giving decisions, suggesting that donors begin by reflecting on their values and what is important to them. Ask for information, get the facts about the organization you wish to support, and finally, trust your instincts. Happy giving!

## V A L L E Y C O M M U N I T Y F O U N D A T I O N

### Harold B. Yudkin Fund



Harold Yudkin was a truly unique and energetic man who was actively involved throughout his entire life in his beloved communi-

ty of Derby. He loved his family, his friends and co-workers, and his chosen profession of law which he successfully practiced with distinction for more than 60 years.

Harold chose capable and determined associates, including the late Appellate Court Justice JoAnne Kiley Kulawiz, and Superior Court Judge Barbara Coppeto, who along with his brother George, became his partner in the firm known as Yudkin, Yudkin, and Coppeto. Though his law practice kept him in the spotlight for a number of years, Harold was also an active real estate developer. When returning veterans came home from World War II, Harold's foresight and ingenuity transformed hundreds of acres of land (forever known as the Yudkin development) into affordable housing for them, and helped to make him a wealthy man. A portion of this wealth is now entrusted into several funds at the Valley Community Foundation.

"Harold was a proud and loyal member of his community," said his wife Selma Yudkin. "Telling us that her husband was generous with both his time and his money, giving to both local and national charities. Yudkin said

that he was also fortunate to travel extensively throughout the world. No matter where we went, Harold always said that he was glad to be home because there was no place in the world quite like Derby."

Mr. Yudkin was an avid historian, and spent many hours as a young man reading and researching local and national history in the Derby Public Library which was just a few steps away from his Seymour Avenue boyhood home.

Harold Yudkin died in 2004 and Selma established the Harold B. Yudkin Fund at the Valley Community Foundation, to ensure that his tradition of generosity and dedication to his community would continue for years to come. Mrs. Yudkin also made a significant contribution to the Derby Public Library to support the Library's new Historic Preservation Fund, as part of the endowment challenge program. The Library's Board of Directors has since changed the name to the Harold B. Yudkin Historic Preservation Fund indicating they wanted to "honor Harold's love of history and the people of Derby. Many historic treasures will now be displayed for all to enjoy as a result of this generous donation." Selma also made generous gift was made to another VCF Fund established by the Valley Bar Association, of which Harold was a member for over 50 years.

"There was no one else like Harold," said Mrs. Yudkin. "He was a wonderful and giving man who valued his family, friends, and clients alike. I know he'd be pleased to be helping his treasured Derby and so many other worthwhile causes that he had supported all through his life."

### Valley Community Foundation Hosts Advisor Event



Attorney and VCF Board member James E. Cohen addresses the advisor group

Earlier this summer, the Foundation hosted an informal networking session at Il Palio restaurant in Shelton for lawyers, accountants, and financial planners with clients in the Valley to learn more about its goals and objectives. VCF Board Member Jamie

Cohen provided background to the attendees. "Donors can choose a variety of ways to ensure that their funds will support causes they believe in and wish to see continue," said Attorney Cohen.

Oxford lawyer Mary Chromik understands the value of working through the Foundation and has already referred several clients. A meeting with a client about including charitable beneficiaries in his will led to a conversation with Angela Powers and the client's decision to establish, and enjoy, a VCF fund during his lifetime. "My work is about helping my clients make informed decisions to manage their funds," said Attorney Chromik. "The Foundation provides a local and effective solution for people who want to make a long term difference in the Valley."