The Valley Community Foundation was established in 2004 to serve the cities and towns of Ansonia, Derby, Shelton, Seymour and Oxford, Connecticut.

Since then, we have dedicated ourselves to making our Naugatuck Valley home a better place to live and work, both now and in the future, in several ways:

by providing leadership on critical community issues;

by informing, encouraging and engaging people to play a role in improving the Valley’s quality of life;

by increasing philanthropy, which lifts our entire region;

by attracting and making Grants from Permanent Endowed Funds;

by connecting Fund Donors with the area’s vital Non-Profit Organizations;

by managing and growing the endowment nest eggs of these dedicated local charities; and, most importantly,

by providing a means for individuals to continue their philanthropy in perpetuity.

Our Board of Directors consists of a volunteer group of Valley leaders, each of whom lives and/or works in one of our five towns.

Our VCF President/CEO implements the Board’s objectives, and directs our daily operations.

We are affiliated with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, which provides us with in-kind services, including the management of the Funds entrusted to our care, assuring our Donors that their Funds will receive the careful, efficient and effective attention of one of our country’s oldest community foundations.
DEAR FRIENDS:

We take great pleasure in delivering to you our Sixth Annual Report, which each year builds on the theme set out on its cover: the Proud Past and Bright Future of our five cities and towns in the Naugatuck Valley.

The 70 Funds you will find described in this Report speak much more eloquently than we ever could about why the Valley Community Foundation exists.

The names on the Funds speak volumes about our history.

Many of them were created in memory of loved ones who have passed away, while others honor family members who are still with us.

While our individual pasts have made us what and who we are, this Foundation insures that our collective pasts will continue to have a permanent and positive effect on the Valley’s future.

How can you help achieve that goal? You can open or contribute to a VCF Fund, and you can ask your friends and family to do the same.

The basic purpose of what we do is to assure every Donor, and our entire community, that their philanthropy will live on forever - it is our job to advance the charitable principles of those who entrusted their charitable legacies to us.

And, as you will learn from the 2009 financial statements included in this Report, we have met that challenge quite well in these difficult economic times.

Every step we take - every step you help us take - puts us closer and closer to the most important goal that we as a Foundation can do: to honor our past - by insuring the Valley's philanthropic future.

Sincerely yours,

M. Elizabeth Kennard, Board Chair

James E. Cohen, President & CEO
MARIA CONLON IS A TRUE “VALLEY GIRL.” BORN AND RAISED IN DERBY, SHE COMES FROM A TIGHT-KNIT, HARD WORKING FAMILY, ALL OF THEM VALLEY NATIVES. “MY GRANDMOTHER GREW UP IN SHELTON, MY GRANDFATHER IN DERBY,” SAYS MARIA. “MY PARENTS, WHO WERE HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS, LIVED NEXT DOOR TO MY GRANDPARENTS – MY DAD BUILT THE HOUSE MY BROTHER AND I GREW UP IN. ALL MY COUSINS LIVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IT IS AN AWESOME PLACE THAT DOESN’T GET ENOUGH CREDIT.”

Maria’s strong connection to the Valley led her to the creation of the Maria Conlon Humanitarian Fund, a Donor Advised Fund, with the Valley Community Foundation. “Ever since I was little, especially through my involvement with sports, I’ve seen how important community service is in helping others,” said Maria. “I wanted to be able to give back financially, to leave a legacy of giving for others here in the Valley.” Maria wanted to make her Fund unique, and to have a say over where her money would go. “I want there to be lots of joy involved in it,” said Maria. “I’m especially interested in trying to do fun events that are culturally enhanced, and that will bring people together to learn about the Valley’s history. The proceeds will be used to grow the Fund and to affect lives through sport across the Valley.”

She learned of VCF from Jane Snider of MetLife, who has been a Valley advocate for a number of years. “I’m always on the go, and I wanted to make sure that the Fund would be well taken care of,” Maria said. “I met with VCF representatives, and it was a good fit. Being from the Valley, I wanted to make sure that the money would stay here and be used to help local people.”

Maria’s hopes for the Fund extend far into the future. “To me it is very personal - it’s about my family, my community, and what I represent. I look forward to working each year to continue to support its growth, and to make it available wherever it is needed the most.”

“Being from the Valley, I wanted to make sure that the money would stay here and be used to help local people.”
IT MAY SEEM LIKE JUST YESTERDAY, BUT IT WAS ALMOST SIX YEARS AGO THAT THE DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD FIRST SAT DOWN WITH VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS MARY PEPE AND THE LATE JOE PAGLIAO, SR., TO DISCUSS ENTRUSTING MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY’S ENDOWMENT FUND TO VCF. BUT WHAT BEGAN WITH INITIAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HOW THE TWO COULD BEST WORK TOGETHER TO MEET THE LIBRARY’S NEEDS HAS NOW TURNED INTO A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP.

Through the intervening years, the Library Board has been extremely pleased with the way that VCF has managed the Library’s nest egg. So in 2009, the Board voted unanimously to move their endowment to the Foundation as a component Fund. “We’ve been thrilled with the way that VCF has been able to provide us with a consistent, dependable income stream from our Endowment, and has grown the Fund so well,” said Dorothy Gleason, Library Board President. “We want to see the Endowment continue to grow and flourish to help us accomplish our short and long term goals.”

The Library hopes to use the income to expand programs that attract all age groups. “We also plan to increase our multicultural collection, which includes foreign language texts and publications, to accommodate newly arrived residents from throughout the Valley,” said Mrs. Gleason. “We are working with several groups in the community, such as the Derby Historical Society, to create a mixture of enriching and engaging opportunities for residents to visit us frequently. We are especially interested in making our own local history collection more accessible to the public, and our Harold B. Yudkin Historic Presentation Fund at VCF is helping us do that as well.”

The Library Board has been especially pleased with the Fund’s flexibility, allowing the Board to work with VCF staff and target funding for specific projects and programs. “It has been important for us to be able to direct the funds where we needed them to go,” said Mrs. Gleason. “Most of all, we want to ensure that this money is there for the future. Based on how well VCF has managed it for us already, we know that our money is in good hands for years to come.”

“We want to see the Endowment continue to grow and flourish to help us accomplish our short and long term goals.”
LITTLE DID THE FIRST IMMIGRANTS FROM PUGLIANELLO, ITALY KNOW THAT, WHEN THEY CAME TO DERBY MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO, MANY OF THEIR DESCENDANTS - GRANDCHILDREN, GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN – WOULD RETURN TO ITALY FOR A “CULTURAL EXPERIENCE.” BUT THAT IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THANKS TO A SPECIAL PROGRAM INITIATED BY FORMER DERBY MAYOR MARC GAROFALO, ENTITLED THE DERBY SISTER CITY PROGRAM.

MONEY THAT WAS INITIALLY RAISED TO HELP SEND A GROUP OF 50 DERBY RESIDENTS TO THEIR SISTER CITY – PUGLIANELLO – EIGHT YEARS AGO, HAS GROWN AND HAS NOW BECOME THE “DERBY SISTER CITY FUND” AT THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

“The purpose of the Fund is to help Derby residents and students of Italian descent to trace their roots, to see how people are currently living in Italy, and to immerse themselves in the culture there,” said Mayor Garofalo. “It’s more than just a scholarship program – it gives students a direct opportunity to experience for themselves the Italian lifestyle on a daily basis.”

The program began in February, 2001, when then-Mayor Garofalo was invited to Puglialello by that community’s Mayor Tonino Bartone, to visit the area, and see the town, which is in the Province of Benevento and Region of Campania, about 45 miles northeast of Naples. It was then that the two Mayors formulated the idea of developing the Sister City project. “It was truly about a cultural and an economic exchange,” said Mayor Garofalo. “There had been several waves of immigration to Derby from the region beginning in 1902, with people coming every few years before World War II. Again in the early 1950’s, and in the mid 60’s and 70s, there were large waves of people joining their families and friends here. We wanted to provide an opportunity for their descendants to return to Puglialello, to learn what was happening and how it has affected their lives even today.”

Because Mayor Garofalo and the Sister City Committee wanted to ensure that the Fund would continue to grow, the first grants will not be distributed until 2012, the 10th anniversary of the first trip to Italy. “We feel that is important to go beyond the people who are involved in the project today,” said Mayor Garofalo. “We chose VCF to work with us to create this Fund, because they are an efficient and effective Valley organization. This is our way to recognize the many opportunities the Valley has given the Italian Community in Derby. It’s also the chance for us to give back to others so that they may continue to celebrate their Italian culture and ethnicity for years to come.”
SEVERAL YEARS AGO, JIM GUARRERA JOINED A SMALL GROUP OF LOCAL CITIZENS IN ADVANCING FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY TO OPEN A FOOD BANK AND THRIFT SHOP ON ROOSEVELT DRIVE IN DERBY.

WHEN THEY SAW THE TREMENDOUS GOOD ACCOMPLISHED BY THE FACILITY THEY HELPED TO CREATE, AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE THE NEW FOOD BANK HAS DONE SINCE, JIM AND HIS WIFE BERT WERE PROMPTED TO ESTABLISH THE GUARRERA FAMILY FUND WITH THE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

“We saw how even a small amount of funding can go a long way to help those in need,” said Jim. “We created our Fund at VCF to help not only St. Vincent de Paul, but also Valley children who are going through difficult times.” An educator in the Shelton Public Schools for more than 30 years, Bert knows first hand how important it is to help a child whose family is struggling to make ends meet. “You can just see how much a difference you can make in their lives,” said Bert. “It’s all about helping out where you can.”

Bert grew up in Shelton, a child of Shelton natives, and now the couple’s own children live here as well. “There is really a strong sense of community here – so many people know and help so many other people,” she said. Jim, who moved from his native Waterbury to Shelton many years ago agreed. “We’ve been friends with the Pagliaro family forever, and became involved with the annual Easter Egg hunt to support their Family Fund at VCF. We decided this was the right time for us to create our own.”

The Guarrera Family Fund is donor advised, which provides the Guerreras with direct input into where the money is allocated. “Having our Fund at VCF is all-encompassing for us,” said Jim. “The fact that it is a Valley organization, where local groups can go for help, is so beneficial. We especially like that we can recommend distributions, which makes it even more meaningful for what we are trying to accomplish.”

The Guarrera Family Fund goes beyond both Jim and Bert personally. “This is something that we expect our children will continue long after we are gone,” said the Guerreras. “We’re grateful that VCF exists to help those who really can use our support, both now and in the future.”

“There is really a strong sense of community here"
FOR MANY GREEK IMMIGRANTS WHO SETTLED IN THE VALLEY IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THE HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ANSONIA WAS MORE THAN JUST A PLACE OF WORSHIP.

IT ALSO SERVED AS THE SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS CENTER OF THE VALLEY'S GREEK COMMUNITY. IT WAS WHERE FAMILIES SHARED THEIR FAITH, THEIR RECOLLECTIONS AND HOMELAND’S TRADITIONS, THEIR SADNESS, AND THEIR JOYS. MORE THAN ANYTHING, IT WAS AN EXTENSION OF THEIR HOMES – CHERISHED DEARLY BY THOSE WHO WORSHIPPED THERE DURING THE PAST NINETY YEARS.

Parishioners clearly remember the privilege of ringing the church’s bell on special occasions. Others smile fondly when talking about a wedding they attended or the baptism of a newborn at the Hubbell Avenue building. The church was a focal point for Valley leaders, business owners, teachers and residents, who worked together to make it a continuing success throughout the years.

In 2009, however, due to a steady decline in the congregation’s members, Holy Trinity closed its doors for good, and will be absorbed into St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange. But, as the saying goes, when one door closes, another one opens. And so the parishioners of Holy Trinity reached out to the Valley Community Foundation to show their thanks by establishing the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Ansonia Fund with VCF. The Fund will provide grants for general charitable purposes, with a preference for projects which advance the ancient Hellenic ideals of compassion, charity, love (“agape”) and philanthropy (“philathropia”) toward all humanity.

“We were truly blessed to have lived in a community that was so accepting of us and our beliefs,” said former Parish Council President Jerry Vartelas. “The Valley has always been there for us, offering support and kindness to all of us who called it home. We can think of no better way to show our appreciation than to establish this Fund with VCF to help others in need.”

Greg Stamos, an Ansonia attorney and VCF Board Member, who grew up as a member of Holy Trinity, added: “This is our way of giving back. Holy Trinity wanted the Foundation to continue the good work the parish had been doing as a congregation – to help Valley families who might be going through a difficult time,” he said. “It wanted to keep a portion of its funds local – and VCF provided the opportunity to do just that. All of our parishioners are grateful to have been welcome in Ansonia for all of this time, and we look forward to helping to make a difference in the Valley in the years to come.”
EUGENE IMPERATO WAS ONE OF SEVEN CHILDREN BORN AND RAISED IN A FIRST GENERATION ITALIAN AMERICAN FAMILY LIVING IN DERBY. HE BECAME AN ENTREPRENEUR, OWNING A VARIETY OF RETAIL STORES AND RESTAURANTS IN ANSONIA AND WATERBURY. IN THE 1950’S, HE WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF BOTH THE CONNECTICUT HURRICANES DRUM & BUGLE CORPS AND THE DERBY LITTLE LEAGUE PROGRAM, AND WAS VERY ACTIVE WITHIN THE VALLEY COMMUNITY.

“My Uncle Gene was a very traditional Italian-American,” said Paul Romano, one of the four sons of Mr. Imperato’s sister, Pauline. “He was strict, but we all knew how much he loved us, and how much he cared about his family. He strongly believed that education was the great equalizer in life and, upon his passing in 2002, he bequeathed a sum of money to begin a Scholarship Fund to assist graduates of Derby High School.”

When their mother, Pauline Imperato Romano Conti passed away in October, 2009, Paul and his surviving brothers, Joe and Frank, all Derby High School graduates, suggested that donations in her memory be made to the Imperato Scholarship Fund.

As the family representative to the Fund, which had been created and housed at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Paul had already begun to explore options for having the scholarship transferred to the Valley Community Foundation. The tremendous outpouring of support in Mrs. Conti’s memory provided a sound basis for CFGNH President Will Ginsberg to agree with the request to move the Fund to VCF.

“When my uncle established his Fund, VCF didn’t exist,” said Paul. “Its initial and sole purpose was to provide advanced educational opportunities to Derby High School graduates, who had already achieved a Bachelor’s Degree, and were pursuing a Masters Degree in Business. We have since introduced a secondary eligibility which allows DHS graduates who are college business majors to apply for undergraduate help as well.”

Now that the Fund is in the Valley, Paul expects that there will be more local visibility, which can produce greater access for area students. “We felt that having the scholarship housed at VCF gives us a stronger chance to market it locally. The overwhelming support the Fund received on my mother’s passing demonstrated to all of us how serious the Valley is about supporting their own. I know that my Uncle would be pleased to know it has found a permanent home with VCF.”
SAY THE NAME “JONES” IN THE VALLEY, AND THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE, POSITIVE REACTION. THE JONES FAMILY HAS BEEN A SPECIAL PART OF LOCAL HISTORY FOR MORE THAN 160 YEARS, WHEN TERRY JONES’ GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER IMMIGRATED TO SHELTON. HIS MOTTO BE GOOD TO THE LAND, AND THE LAND WILL BE GOOD TO YOU, HAS REMAINED STRONG FOR SEVEN GENERATIONS OF HIS FAMILY. AND THE NEW ENGLAND TRADITION TO LEAVE THE WOODPILE A LITTLE HIGHER THAN WE FOUND IT IS WHAT LED TERRY AND JEAN JONES TO CREATE THE JONES FAMILY FARMS FUND, A DONOR ADVISED FUND, WITH VCF.

“Our family giving occurs across several generations, and we wanted to put it under one umbrella,” said Terry Jones. “We each support charities and causes that we are passionate about. Having this come together and be managed in the Valley really helped us decide to coalesce and focus our giving efforts.”

“We love the Valley,” said Terry. “There is such a sense of community here – the power and ethic of volunteering, of philanthropy, of the rich experiences of our schools, ethnic groups, and way of life. There is such a diverse population, many of whom lived through the ’55 flood, the BF Goodrich fire, and who have not only recovered, but have bounced back even stronger than ever before.”

There are four generations of the Jones Family (all born in Griffin Hospital) currently living on the Shelton family homestead. “We’ve had enormous joy in having our family stay on the land,” said Terry. “There are many of us in different stages of life living together – which is an increasingly rare and wonderful experience for us all.”

From early on, Terry Jones learned how important it was to give back to his community. “My grandmother single-handedly established a night school in the White Hills Civic Center, and helped tutor immigrant families to improve their English. She saw the need, stepped in, and served.” Terry’s father Philip was also actively involved in Shelton, especially as a member of the Plumb Library Board. Each generation of the Jones Family has brought the tradition of community involvement down to the next.

For the Jones Family, VCF embodies the rich sense of community and diversity which has ties reaching far beyond the Valley. “When we heard that VCF had been created, we first thought that our giving might be limited to local organizations. What truly sold us was that creating a Donor Advised Fund would allow us to direct our giving wherever it was needed. We felt this was a splendid opportunity, based upon the wonderful VCF leadership and Board members, both past and present. After talking this over, we believed it was the right fit at the right time for us. My father, who has a great sense of history, was excited because he had known the Gates brothers, whose Gates Fund has been a large part of the success of both VCF and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. For my father, having us join VCF was like coming full circle.”

“As farmers, we live by the philosophy that money is like cow manure – it must be spread around to do the most good. For us, that means working with VCF to create a multi-generational funding mechanism to focus on the wide range of groups, organizations, and causes that we are most passionate about.”
PAUL AND GLORIA KONWERSKI’S LIVES WERE ALL ABOUT FAMILY, EDUCATION, FAITH, AND COMMUNITY. THROUGH THEIR WORK AS HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS, THEY WERE COMMITTED TO THEIR STUDENTS AND THEIR FELLOW EDUCATORS FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS. BOTH GLORIA AND PAUL TOUCHED MANY LIVES THROUGHOUT THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAREERS. WHEN NUMEROUS MEMORIAL GIFTS WERE RECEIVED UPON PAUL’S PASSING IN 2007, AND MORE FOLLOWING GLORIA’S PASSING IN 2008, IT WAS ONLY FITTING THAT THEIR CHILDREN CHOSE TO ESTABLISH A FAMILY FUND AT VCF TO HONOR THEIR PARENTS’ LEGACY OF A LIFETIME OF GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION TO OTHERS.

“Through their life and work, our Mom and Dad inspired a commitment to service and social justice - whether that was to school, church, family, or the environment. The way they each lived their lives, and the lessons they both taught, live on in their students, friends, and family,” said son Peter Konwerski. Older son, Paul Konwerski agreed. “Growing up in and around the Valley, I couldn’t go anywhere without someone who knew either my Mom or my Dad - the insurance agent, the banker, even the policeman would all tell me that my parents were so great, and so very fair. Everyone dreams of helping the community but only a few do. By setting up this Fund, we wanted to carry on the lessons learned from both our parents in helping and caring for people and our community.”

Before her own passing, at a time when the Fund had been initially created in Paul’s name, Gloria Van Delft Konwerski had this to say about its creation: “I’m abundantly proud of my children for their decision to set up the Paul J. Konwerski Family Fund in memory of their father. Paul and I often spoke with great respect of the people who made financial contributions to the needs and children of the Naugatuck Valley. Our wish was to offer a similar legacy one day. Their father would be thrilled.”

Grants from the Konwerski Family Fund will be made with recommendations from the family for a variety of programs and organizations in the Valley, including education. “Our parents’ reputations have opened many doors and conversations in the Valley,” said daughter Amy Konwerski. “We hope that each of their lively spirits can continue to spread to the next generation.”

“Our Mom and Dad spent nearly their whole lives living and/or working in the Valley,” added daughter Julie Mauri. “They taught all of us the true meaning of giving. As a family, we created this Fund so that their generosity, compassion, and commitment to their community and caring for others will continue long into the future.”

“Our Mom and Dad spent nearly their whole lives living and/or working in the Valley”
WHEN HERB ROLLINSON WAS GROWING UP DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION, TIMES FOR HIS FAMILY, AS FOR MOST OTHERS IN THE VALLEY, WERE NOT EASY. ONE OF THE BRIGHT SPOTS HE HAD WAS ATTENDING THE BOY SCOUTS’ SUMMER CAMP ON THE HOUSATONIC – FUNDED BY A SCHOLARSHIP DONATED BY A LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION. HAVING THAT OPPORTUNITY MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON HERB, AND STARTED HIM ON A LIFELONG PATH OF ASSISTING OTHERS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

That’s why after his passing in the spring of 2008, his family chose to honor him by establishing the Herb Rollinson Fund at VCF, a Donor Advised Fund, established to give young people opportunities that they might not otherwise have had, including a chance to attend a summer camp, as Herb did.

“My Dad was involved from a very young age with the local Boy Scouts, and later on with the Derby-Shelton Boys Club. Everything he did – work, family events – revolved around Shelton and the Valley. It made sense to keep the Fund local and, to provide help where the Valley’s needs are greatest,” said Herb’s daughter, Linda Vincent. “Had he been more mobile during the last year of his life, it was something he would have done himself. We were only honoring his intentions.”

Herb’s dear friend and VCF Board Member Dave Grant helped the family establish the Fund. “Dave has been terrific,” said Linda. “Not only did he work with us to create the Fund, but he also started the annual Herb Rollinson Memorial Walk, which helps to support the Valley Boys and Girls Club. It’s been a win-win for all involved.”

Herb Rollinson was an admired and well respected member of the Valley community. “When my dad passed away at the age of 93, he was still living on the street where he was born!” said Linda. “Not many people can say that these days. His loyalty and pride in his hometown was amazing. When he made a commitment to you he always kept it. He would call me at the exact time every week – Sundays at 9:30. He did the same with my daughter when she started college. You could set your clock by my Dad’s phone calls!”

Herb’s granddaughter, Danielle Sidebottom, had this to add about her grandfather. “Since I was a girl, my Grandpa told me wonderful stories of his life in Shelton - from living through the Great Depression, his gardening, and then, in his later years, about all of his friends that would stop and say ‘Hello’ as he sat outside on a bright sunny day. This Fund will bring my Grandpa’s stories to life to benefit the area he loved. And for that, I am grateful.”

Herb Rollinson’s timeless devotion to his family, his beloved Valley, and its young people will continue to live on through the good works that will now be done by the Herb Rollinson Fund at the Valley Community Foundation.
ANTHONY (“SONNY”) SAVIGNANO DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE ADULT LIFE TO SHELTON PUBLIC EDUCATION. BEGINNING HIS CAREER AS A MATH TEACHER, HE BECAME THE YOUNGEST SHS BOYS BASKETBALL COACH, LATER SERVING AS A HOUSEMASTER AND THEN HEADMASTER AT SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL, AND CONCLUDED HIS CAREER IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE AS THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS. WHEN HE RETIRED IN 2004, HIS WORK HAD SPANNED 47 YEARS, AND WAS FILLED WITH STORIES OF HELPING TO GET TROUBLED YOUNGSTERS BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK, AND SAVING THE CITY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WITH HIS TENACIOUS SERVICE ON SEVERAL SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES. UPON HIS PASSING IN 2009, HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN COULD THINK OF NO BETTER WAY TO HONOR HIS MEMORY THAN TO ESTABLISH THE ANTHONY SAVIGNANO MEMORIAL FUND WITH VCF.

“Anthony Savignano was Valley born and raised – and it was always Shelton that held his heart. He felt that it was important to be with people who cared about you, and would be there for you, no matter what. His commitment was evident in all that he did. “He always did what was right for the school system, the staff, and his students – and was never motivated by any personal agenda,” said Carol.

Sonny’s daughter, Susan Pineau, recalled, “As a child who went through the Shelton School system, I was able to see my father’s impact on the advancement of generations of students. Nothing was more revealing of his influence than the sentiments I received from so many former students on his passing. Their comments ranged from ‘If your Dad hadn’t kicked my butt in High School, I would have ended up in jail,’ to ‘Your Dad got me interested in math (or sports or computers, etc.) and helped me get into college when I didn’t think I could do it.’ By establishing this Fund in his name, we can insure that his legacy will continue.”

Daughter Jodi Savignano agreed. “He had a great smile and a real presence, but also had a silly side, too. I can remember walking in the halls of SHS and seeing him skip and laugh, sometimes even singing! My friends always commented on what a fun guy he was, especially for a high school principal. As a father, he led by example. He taught us character, integrity, and the value of hard work.”

The Fund documents provide that grants, awards and/or scholarships may be made from the Fund “to assist the students of Shelton High School...to whom Sonny Savignano was completely devoted.” While the family will determine just how they will do that, it is likely that distributions will not be limited to scholarships. “Whatever we decide will be about what is best for the students of Shelton,” said Carol. “We want them to think of him as we do – a generous and caring man who wanted the best for them and for their future.”
FOR 35 YEARS, MARY A. SCHMECKER WAS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AT THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY. SHE MANAGED TO WEAVE LIFE LESSONS INTO HER CERAMICS CLASSES, TEACHING HER STUDENTS THAT THEY COULD BE CREATIVE, NOT DESTRUCTIVE. AND THAT, IF THEY TRIED HARD ENOUGH, THEY COULD MAKE A CAREER OUT OF THEIR CREATIVITY. SHE PROVIDED HER STUDENTS WITH STRUCTURE AND MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO PAINT SOMETHING. THE CHILDREN LEARNED TO RESPECT HER AND THE CERAMICS ROOM, AS SHE LISTENED TO THEM AND LAUGHED WITH THEM.

Mary always collected turtles – turtle pins, pendants, turtles of all different shapes and sizes. For her, they were a symbol of maternity and longevity. After her passing in 2008, when her family chose to honor Mary’s life, they did so by creating the Mary A. Schmecker Turtle Shell Fund at the Valley Community Foundation, to remind all who knew Mary that she was still here, casting her protective turtle shell over those who needed it the most.

“She wasn’t just my Grandmother, she was everyone’s Gram,” said granddaughter Michele Bialek. “Everyone came to those classes to see their Grandmother – that’s how she treated them. She gave them a place to come and to be. She did it her whole life – and she said it kept her young.”

Born and raised in the Valley, Mary traveled all over the world, and Michele was fortunate enough to go with her to Ireland twice. No matter how far Mary went, she always came back home to be with her friends and family. “She gave of herself – her time, her wisdom,” said Michele. “We initially thought of starting our own foundation, but when she passed away, VCF Board Member Dave Grant talked to our family about different options, about how we could work with VCF and honor my Grandmother’s memory by starting a Fund. We liked the idea of being able to work with a stable and permanent Valley organization. The more we talked to VCF, the more we realized that this was the place for us to accomplish our goals.”

The Mary A. Schmecker Turtle Shell Fund will help those who are interested in learning how to make a career out of the arts. The Fund will also be used to support art classes at the Boys and Girls Club, just as Mary herself had done for all those years. “It’s important for people to know that they can choose paths in their lives that include creativity and the arts,” said Michele. “It doesn’t have to be just about academics or athletics – it can truly be something else. My Grandmother devoted her entire life to letting kids know that they could make another choice. By creating this Fund, her message will continue to live on for those who want to take that different path and find their true creative calling.”

“She gave of herself – her time, her wisdom”
CARLA SUPERSANO AND SEAN SULLIVAN ARE SHELTON NATIVES WHO ATTENDED SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER. SEAN SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD SUMMERS AT THE RECREATION CAMP IN DERBY, AND WORKED AT THE J DINER AND WHITE CROSS PHARMACY. THEY WERE BOTH ACTIVE IN MUSIC MINISTRY AND MUSICAL THEATER, AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THOSE ACTIVITIES BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER AGAIN AFTER EACH HAD GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE. THEY MARRIED IN 1991 AND RETURNED TO SHELTON, WHERE THEY ARE RAISING THEIR THREE CHILDREN - KELSEY, ELISE AND MATTHEW.

Although theirs may not be an unusual story for two Valley kids who grew up and fell in love, what is worthy of note is their devotion to their community and their desire to help it grow and flourish. That’s why in 2009, they decided to create the Carla and Sean Sullivan Charitable Fund with the Valley Community Foundation.

“What appealed to Sean and me was the ability to build our Fund, and to suggest Grants for things that are important to us,” said Carla. “My work as the Community Relations Officer at VCF has helped us see that a little bit can go a long way – and that there are so many immediate needs right in our own back yard. What we especially like is that it will never run out; the Fund will continue to grow over time, and the causes we believe in will benefit long after we are gone.”

Carla and Sean are both deeply committed to community service and education, and are particularly grateful for the sound foundation they received attending Shelton schools. Due to Sean’s work, the couple has had several opportunities to relocate, but the ties to family and community were too strong. They have stayed in Shelton to raise their family and to remain active in their community. Carla has served on the Board of Education, and Sean is the Chairman of the Perry Hill School Building Committee. They are both active with Center Stage Theatre, and volunteer for their children’s schools and their respective Universities.

“We are strong supporters of music and the arts,” said Sean. “We need to keep them alive in our schools and our community.” Carla agreed, saying “We continue to support several organizations and volunteer our time for these causes, hoping that our participation will make a difference.”

They are raising their children to follow in their footsteps by being involved and giving back. “We learned to focus on ‘other’ instead of on ‘self’ from our parents,” said Sean. “We really want to try and instill a spirit of service in our children, not just for them, but for the others coming behind all of us.” Carla stated, “Creating this Fund is just one more step along our path of giving back for all that we have been given.

“We are strong supporters of music and the arts”
NANCY VALENTINE IS A SELF-PROCLAIMED “CARPET-BAGGER” – HAVING LIVED IN THE VALLEY FOR “ONLY” THE LAST 35 YEARS. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO VALLEY PRIDE, SHE IS ONE OF THE FIRST IN LINE TO PRAISE ITS HERITAGE AND ITS STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY. “THERE’S REALLY SOMETHING SPECIAL HERE – A UNIQUENESS TO THE VALLEY,” SAID MRS. VALENTINE. “I BELIEVE IT’S BECAUSE OF ITS MAGNETISM – PAST GENERATIONS HAVE GROWN UP, STAYED, AND RAISED THEIR FAMILIES HERE. THERE IS SOMETHING HERE TO HOLD ON TO, SOMETHING YOU CAN COUNT ON. THERE’S ALWAYS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE IN THE VALLEY.”

In 2009, Nancy established the Nancy Valentine Fund, a Donor Advised Fund. “I anticipated doing this for quite some time, and finally have the ability to see it come to fruition,” she said. “For me, it’s important to see the progress, the action, and the activity that a Fund can bring to those who need it the most. Since the ‘90’s I have served on many committees where people were getting awards and scholarships. It was great to get to know the recipients - especially what their plans for the future were. It piqued my interest in giving and has now allowed me to do my part to help the Valley where there is need.”

Nancy has been actively involved in the Valley community for years – beginning with her early work with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven when she sat on the initial advisory committee to explore the creation of VCF. As a member of Rotary, first in the Ansonia Club and now with Seymour-Oxford Rotary, and as the two-term Mayor of Ansonia from 1995 to 1999.

“I learned from the beginning how important it was to give back to my community,” said Mrs. Valentine. “VCF was a natural fit for what I hoped to do with my Fund. They’ve accomplished some terrific things from the time they started out, and I know that they will continue to do so in the future. I may not have been born and raised here, but it certainly is a great place to call home. I’m glad to work with VCF to help the Valley continue to grow.”

“I learned from the beginning how important it was to give back to my community”
COLONEL LLOYD WITMER HELD THE CITY OF SHELTON AND ITS SURROUNDING VALLEY COMMUNITIES IN THE HIGHEST REGARD. COL. WITMER AND HIS WIFE JOAN RELOCATED TO SHELTON IN 1969, AS A RESULT OF HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH AVCO LYCOMING. HE BECAME A FIXTURE WITHIN THE CITY, EVENTUALLY SERVING AS THE HEAD OF ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

“He was an exceptional and accomplished individual,” said James Ryan, current head of the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, and a former VCF Board Chair. “Lloyd understood what businesses were looking for. He and his team helped City officials establish Shelton as a landmark - a user-friendly area for businesses to come to and grow in.”

Col. Witmer joined the Navy right after graduating from Catawba College, and was already a Marine Corps officer when he married Joan Platt, a Massachusetts native, who predeceased him. He served his country admirably throughout the Pacific in World War II, receiving the Bronze Star with Valor and the Navy Cross, and again in Korea. A Philadelphia native, he died in October 2007 at his retirement home in Dover, Delaware, and was buried in his beloved Shelton.

“The Valley was so fortunate to have Lloyd and Joan settle here,” said William Nimons, who is the Trustee of Col. Witmer’s estate. “He had no children, and so decided to establish his legacy in his Will, creating a trust which distributes the income among four different organizations, including the Valley Boys and Girls Club.” In his capacity as Trustee, Bill Nimons elected to utilize the services of the Valley Community Foundation to help the Witmer Fund grow.

The Colonel’s planning ensured that his legacy will perpetually benefit the specific groups that he wanted to assist. “Lloyd carefully planned his legacy with the advice of expert legal counsel, and made sure all of his philanthropic priorities were clearly defined in his Will,” said Bill Nimons.

Col. Witmer’s collection of medals and other historic memorabilia have been donated to the Shelton Historical Society for inclusion into their permanent collection. “There is no doubt that Col. Witmer served his country and his community with distinction,” said Jim Ryan, and Bill Nimons agreed. “Because of his incredible dedication to this area, his legacy will live on through the great work this Fund will accomplish.”
2009 Responsive Grant Making

Through our Affiliation Agreement with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, the Valley Community Foundation receives annual funding from the Frank and Ross Gates Fund to support VCF’s operations, initiatives, and grants to the Valley community.

VCF is building resources for future flexible Grantmaking, through the development of Unrestricted Funds, which give discretion to the Board, and Field of Interest Funds, which express a general purpose. In addition, VCF’s Community Fund, the Valley’s permanent endowment, will provide funding for Grants to meet future challenges and opportunities.

In 2009, the Valley Community Foundation conducted its second round of responsive Grantmaking, having set aside $100,000 from the Gates Fund for that purpose. Happily, however, as the result of generous contributions from several Donor Advisors of VCF Funds, the Board of Directors was able to award a total of $136,143.04 to thirty Valley non-profit agencies, as described below.

American Red Cross, Valley Chapter
Provide education and information regarding influenza/pandemic threat - $3,170

*Area Congregations Together, Inc.
Case management support - $6,900

Birmingham Group Health Services
“Drums Not Drugs” youth after-school programming - $6,000

Boys & Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley
Operating support (finance office salary assistance) - $10,000

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford
Ansonia Child Guidance Clinic - $3,400

*Center Stage Theatre, Inc.
Youth CONNection summer theater camp - $8,500

*Derby Bureau of Youth Services
Support program to de-escalate possible violent confrontations - $1,400

Derby Historical Society
Collections management, inventory, organization and relocation - $4,000

*Derby Public Library
Local History Preservation Project - $5,750

*Derby School Readiness and Discovery Initiative (TEAM, Inc., fiduciary)
Kindergarten workshops for parents - $1,500

*Father McKenna St. Vincent de Paul Society
Stock food bank - $1,000

*Friends of the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center
Preparation and planning for Redwing Pond House - $500

Griffin Hospital
Launch new Phlebotomy training and certification course - $10,000

Hilltop Hose Company #5 (City of Ansonia fiduciary)
Purchase cardiac defibrillator and wall cabinet with alarm sensor - $2,400

*Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America
“Scouting for Food” campaign - $5,000

Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut, Inc.
“Spirit of Achievement” event and breakfast - $2,500

Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center Inc.
“Positive Parenting” Program - $4,000

*Morris Foundation, Inc.
Substance abuse treatment for high risk Valley high school students - $2,500

*New Haven Legal Assistance Assoc., Inc.
Re-establish legal assistance in the Naugatuck Valley - $10,000

Oxford Historical Society
Purchase display cabinet for the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead museum - $3,073

Salvation Army Ansonia Corps
Support expansion of community food programs - $5,000

Shelton Historical Society
“Packaging for Posterity” program to assess, catalog and box collection - $5,250

*Shelton School Readiness Council (City of Shelton fiduciary)
Purchase of books for entering kindergarten students - $500

*Shelton Youth Service Bureau
Big Brother-Big Sister mentoring program with peer advocates - $1,400

*Valley Arts Council (City of Derby fiduciary)
Support design study for Sterling Opera House interior - $4,500

*Valley Council for Health & Human Services (Valley United Way fiduciary)
Support for Valley CARES project regarding community needs - $5,500

Valley Directors Network (Derby Neck Library fiduciary)
Expand collection of early child care and education training videos/materials - $2,700

Valley Emergency Medical Services
Assist with replacement of cardiac monitors/defibrillators for advance life support - $5,000

*Valley YMCA
Purchase swimming pool lift for universal accessibility and ADA compliance - $8,000

Visiting Nurse Association of South Central CT
Support creation of a specialized Cancer Care Specialists Team for Valley home care - $6,700

Total: $136,143.04

*indicates support from donor advised funds
2009 Community Investments and Grants

GRANTS and SPONSORSHIPS

In 2009, the Board of Directors made the following Grants to recognize the contributions of outstanding volunteers honored for their community service, and voted to act as Sponsor of events conducted by the local charities listed below:

**Area Congregations Together, Inc.**
- Anniversary Dinner sponsorship - $750
- Kathleen Samela Memorial Food Bank - $500
- Walk Against Hunger platinum sponsorship - $2,000

**Birmingham Group Health Services**
- Holiday Gala Sponsorship - $500

**Boys & Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley**
- Commodore Hull Thanksgiving Road Race - Major Youth Sponsor - $5,000
- In honor of David Grant, recipient of two Philanthropy Service Awards - $250
- In honor of the Keystone Club, recipient of the Valley Chamber’s Silver Award - $500
- In honor of William Nimons, recipient of the Valley Chamber’s Platinum Award - $500

**Boy Scout Troop 3, Derby**
- 95th Anniversary Recognition - $500

**Boy Scouts of America, Housatonic Council**
- In honor of David Grant, recipient of two Philanthropy Service Awards - $250

**Center Stage Theatre, Inc.**
- In honor of Fran and Gary Scarpa, recipients of the Boys & Girls Club’s Lavites Service to Youth Award - $500

**Martin Luther King Brotherhood Committee (City of Ansonia, fiduciary)**
- Martin Luther King Brotherhood Awards event sponsorship - $150

**Father McKenna St. Vincent de Paul Society**
- In honor of Jim Guarerra, recipient of the Valley Chamber’s Gold Seal Award - $500

**Griffin Hospital**
- 100th Anniversary Gala sponsorship - $1,250

**NAACP Ansonia Branch**
- 22nd Annual Freedom Luncheon program sponsorship - $100

**Seymour Land Conservation Trust, Inc.**
- Park vandalism repair - $500

**Seymour Oxford Rotary Club**
- In honor of Joyce Barclay, recipient of the Valley Chamber’s Gold Seal Award - $500

**Shelton High School**
- Assist re-stocking High School Food Bank destroyed by fire - $1,000

**TEAM, Inc.**
- In honor of Richard Knoll, recipient of the Valley Chamber’s Gold Seal Award - $500
- “Men Who Cook” sponsorship - $500

**Valley Arts Council**
- “Art of Giving” Best in Show sponsorship - $500

**Valley United Way**
- Match of Graustein Memorial Fund Regional Discovery Grant to support Valley Early Childhood Task Force - $5,000
- “Harvest House” Food Bank sponsorship - $500
- In honor of Fred Ortoli, recipient of the Charles H. Flynn Humanitarian Award - $500

**2009 DESIGNATED FUNDS GRANTS and ENDOWMENT FUNDS TRANSFERS**

Grants are made from Designated Funds established by Donors to support specific organizations (such as the Derby Public Library and the Boys and Girls Club, for example). In addition, VCF holds and manages the Endowment Funds of several local civic organizations (including, among others, the Oak Cliff Cemetery Association and Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts), which receive annual transfers of income from their respective Funds.

In 2009, the following transfers and grants were made to organizations from these Funds:

**Assumption Church** - $1,000

**Birmingham Group Health Services** - $2,443

**Edward J. Cecarelli Fund for Derby Public Library**
- Derby Public Library - $456

**Cohen Family Book Fund**
- Derby Public Library - $2,000

**Derby Public Library - Harold B. Yudkin Historic Preservation Fund**
- Derby Public Library - $2,418

**Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America Endowment Fund** - $7,881

**Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America Fund** - $1,798.00

**Oak Cliff Cemetery Association Fund** - $134,000

**Planetree, a Subsidiary of Griffin Health Services Fund** - $1,964

**Dorothy E. & Kenneth E. Schaible Fund for the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley**
- Boys & Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley - $2,749

**Donald W. & Lillian C. Smith Family Fund**
- Boys & Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley - $56.50
- Seymour-Oxford Rotary Club - $56.50
- Trinity Episcopal Church - $56.50
- Trinity Cemetery Association - $56.50

**Peter J. Vartelas Invest In Youth Fund #1 for the Valley YMCA**
- Valley YMCA - $4,251

**Peter J. Vartelas Invest In Youth Fund #2 for the Valley YMCA**
- Valley YMCA - $837

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 597 Fund**
- Ansonia Public Schools - $1,264
2009 Community Investments and Grants

**DONOR ADVISED and PREFERENCE FUNDS**

Grants from Donor Advised Funds are made by the VCF Board upon the request, and with the participation, of the Donors of each of the respective Funds.

Grants from Preference Funds are made by the VCF Board honoring Donor intent that Grants be made with a preference for supporting particular causes or applications from a specific geographic area.

**Michael J. Adanti Community Fund**
+Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center - $500

**Bassett Family Fund**
+New Haven Legal Assistance Association - $10,000
Area Congregations Together - $5,000

**Cohen-DeToro Charitable Fund**
Boy Scout Troop 3, Derby - $250
+Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America - $250
+Valley Council for Health and Human Services - $500
Area Congregations Together/Spooner House - $100
Kathleen Samela Memorial Food Bank Ansonia - $100
Boy Scout Troop 3 - $100
Center Stage Theatre, Inc. - $100
Salvation Army Ansonia Corps - $100
Cinestudio, Inc. - Trinity College - $100
Elm Shakespeare Company - $250

**Jane C. and David B. Cohen Fund**
+Area Congregations Together/Spooner House - $500

**D’Addario Community Fund**
+Area Congregations Together/Spooner House - $400

**Lawrence J. DeTullio, Jr. Fund**
+Center Stage Theatre, Inc. - $500
+Derby Public Library - $500

**The Frey-Hershey Foundation Fund**
American Cancer Society, New England Division - $1,000
American Red Cross, Valley Chapter - $1,000
Ansonia Rescue Medical Services - $1,000
Area Congregations Together, Inc. - $3,000
Benhaven, Inc. - $1,000
Birthright of Greater New Haven - $1,000
Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America - $1,000
Boy Scouts of America, Connecticut Yankee Council - $1,000
Clarks Memorial Library - $1,000
Connecticut Children’s Medical Center - $1,000
Girl Scouts, Connecticut Trails Council - $1,000
Recreation Camp, Derby - $2,000
Seymour Ambulance Association - $1,000
Saint Raphael Foundation - $4,000
Connecticut Hospice, Inc. - $2,000
The Foundation School - $1,000
Griffin Hospital - $4,000
Salvation Army Ansonia Corps - $1,000
The Umbrella Program, Birmingham Group - $2,000

Ronald McDonald House - $1,000
University of New Haven - $5,000
Valley YMCA - $1,000
VARCA - $1,000
White Memorial Conservation Center - $1,000
Waterbury Adult Education Technical Training Center - $1,000
Boys & Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley - $5,000
National Right to Work Legal Defense Fund - $2,000
Friends of Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center - $1,000
Derby Historical Society - $1,000

**David M. and Gail A. Grant Family Fund**
Birmingham Group Health Services - $1,000
Area Congregations Together, Inc. - $2,500

**Tyler, Brian & Zachary Haywood Fund**
Birmingham Group Health Services - $500

**Joseph A. Pagliaro, Sr. Family Fund**
+ Derby School Readiness and Discovery Initiative - $1,500
+Morris Foundation, Inc. - $2,500
+Shelton School Readiness Council - $500
+ Derby Bureau of Youth Services - $400
Shelton Economic Development Corporation Tribute Walk - $1,000

**Palazzi Family Fund**
+ Derby Bureau of Youth Services - $400
+Shelton Youth Service Bureau - $400

**Pepe Family Fund**
Griffin Hospital - $250
Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America - $250
Boy Scout Troop 3, Derby - $250
Birmingham Group Health Services - $300

**Sam Rifkin Memorial Fund**
+Valley Arts Council - $2,500

**Carla & Sean Sullivan Charitable Fund**
Center Stage Theatre - $1,000

**Torbi-Saldamardo Family Fund**
+ Derby Bureau of Youth Services - $200
+Fr. McKenna St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Bank - $1,000

**John Tyma Fund**
+Valley YMCA - $500
+Center Stage Theatre, Inc. - $500

**Angelina M. and Valentina V. Vitali Fund**
+ Derby Bureau of Youth Services - $400
+indicates Donor Advised funding in support of VCF 2009 Responsive Grantmaking
**indicates Preference Fund**
## SCHOLARSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Fund</th>
<th>Funding Institution(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael J. Adanti Memorial Community Fund</td>
<td>Southern Connecticut State University - $1,500 (Three $500 scholarships)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph ‘Jay’ Amico Artistic Memorial Awards Fund</td>
<td>Central Connecticut State University - $200, Southern Connecticut State University - $200</td>
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<td>Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Fund</td>
<td>Wooster Polytechnic Institute - $500, University of Connecticut - Avery Point - $500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hon. Joseph P. Flynn and Family Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Academy - $200, Assumption School - $200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geissler Family Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>Southern Connecticut State University - $1,500, Housatonic Community College - $1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traci L. Haines Memorial Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>Western Connecticut State University - $500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia M. Kondrath Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>Lauralton Hall - $1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann O’Neil Memorial for Integrity Fund</td>
<td>Southern Connecticut State University - $500</td>
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<tr>
<td>George and Beatrice Ryan Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>College to be determined - $1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen, Megan and Katelyn Ryan Fund</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Academy - $310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph and Pauline Warichar Fund</td>
<td>University of New Haven - $1,000, Southern Connecticut State University - $1,000</td>
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<td>University of New Haven - $1,000</td>
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## 2009 VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

In partnership with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, the Valley Community Foundation co-sponsors the Valley Neighborhood Small Grants Program, now in its 18th year. In 2009, Grants of up to $3,000 were awarded to the following Valley groups:

- Alumni Association - Boys & Girls Club
- American Red Cross, Valley Chapter
- Ansonia Cultural Commission
- Ansonia Garden Club
- Ansonia High School Human Relations Club/Doyle Senior Center
- Ansonia High School Life Skills Center
- Ansonia High School National Honor Society
- Ansonia High School PTSA
- Ansonia Historical Commission
- Ansonia Rescue Medical Services
- Ansonia Summer Youth Theater Club/Ansonia Community Action
- Antoinette’s House Residents/Birmingham Group
- Assumption Church Parish Nurse Program
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
- Bridge Ministry
- Community Women & Heart Disease Committee/Valley Parish Nurse Program
- Derby Historical Society
- Derby Neck Needle/Derby Neck Library
- Diabetes Education & Support Group/Valley Parish Nurse Program
- Family and Children’s Aid/Shelton Safe Home for Children
- Friends of Gattison Park
- Friends of the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center
- Friends of the Derby Public Library/Derby Public Library
- Great Hill United Methodist Church Parish Nurse Program
- Howe Avenue Residential Supervised Housing
- Kathleen Samela Memorial Food Bank/Christ Episcopal Church, Ansonia
- Keystone Club – Boys & Girls Club
- North Star/Parent Child Resource Center
- Nurturing Families Network Parenting Group/Visiting Nurse Association
- Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
- Oxford Cultural Arts Commission
- Oxford High School Booster Club, Inc.
- Oxford Historical Society, Inc.
- Oxford Land Trust, Inc.
- Parents and Communities for Kids (PACK)
- Paugassett Lodge 553 Order of the Arrow/Housatonic Council B.S.A.
- Prendergast School Community Explorers
- Riverside Tenants’ Association
- Salvation Army Ansonia Corps
- Seymour Oxford Rotary Club
- Seymour Police Department - Community Resource Division
- Shelton Historical Society
- Shelton School Readiness Council
- St. Joseph Church Parish Nurse Program
- Sutter-Terlizzi Post 16 American Legion
- Thanksgiving Basket Committee/Star of Bethlehem Church
- United Anime Clubs of the Shelton Library System
- Valley Arts Council
- Valley Council for Health and Human Services
- Valley Historical Research Committee
- Valley NAACP/Valley Parish Nurse Program
- Valley Parish Nurse Program
- Valley United Way High School Volunteer Council
- Valley YMCA
- YET (Youth Empowerment Team) Program
- Youth CONNection/Center Stage Theatre, Inc.
- Youth Conservation Corps
2009 Donors

We are grateful to the following donors who have made gifts to Valley Community Foundation Funds

- Linda Adanti
- Anonymous
- Arlene Barbieri
- Olga Barcik
- Judith & William Bassett
- William H. Bassett
- Jennifer & Hugh Belton
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- Michele & Frederick Bialek, Jr.
- Ellen & Emil Blaho, Sr.
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- Michael T. Blau
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- Beverly & Edward Brown, Jr.
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- Melanie Cecarelli & Michael Smith
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- Mary Jane Drauss
- Janet & Robert Drummond
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- Ellen Duboff
- The Dwan Family
- Estate of Lloyd E. Witmer
- Mary Ellen Felsmann
- Clare C. Frease
- Kathleen & David Frenette
- James A. Frost
- Josephine Gaida
- George Vartelas Family Trust
- Teresa Giardina
- Donna D. Gooch
- Jean M. Gowel
- Barbra & Ronnie Gradozzi
- Bert & James Guarrella
- Judith Gura
- Frank A. Haines
- Teri L. Haines
- Tifani Haines
- Joanne D. Halstead
- Virginia & Mark Hargrave
- F.F. Heath III
- Lisa & John Heerdt
- Barbara Herman
- Mary & Ronald Herrick
- Joyce H. Hinsley
- Jo-Anna & Allen Holden
- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- Thomas E. Jermain
- Jean & Terry Jones
- Susan A. Kalloch
- Dolores & Charles Kelly III
- Janet & James Kertesz
- Mabel & Robert Kezelevich
- Kids First Learning Center, LLC
- Knetz, Tobias & Associates, L.L.C.
- Gerri-Lynn & Paul Konwerski
- Peter Konwerski & Leah Rosen
- Gail & Donald Kosakowski
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- Patricia McQueeny
- Shirley Miani
- Judith & William Miko, Jr.
- Pat & Carl Miller
- Anne & Louis Minatti
- MJA Memorial Golf Tournament
- Marilyn T. Moore
- Kathryn & John Morales
- James Moran & Margaret Watts
- Jeanne C. Nicolari
- Elaine N. and William C. Nimons
- Nancy & William Noga
- Edward I. O’Brien
- David O’Neil
- Cary Yeh & Lynn O’Neil
- Oak Cliff Cemetery Association
- Louise & Anthony Pagliaro, Sr.
- Frances Pagliaro
- Joseph A. Pagliaro, Jr.
- Kristin & Jon Pedersen
- Douglas W. Pelland
- Lynne B. Perry
- Pamela Petro
- Rose & Anthony Piccolo
- Marie & Frank Piscatone
- Angela G. & William E. Powers
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- Breda A. Quirk
- Evelyn S. Rainey
- Monica & John Rak
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- Ellen & Kevin Reichelt
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- Nadia Russell
- Beatrice & George Ryan
- Anonymous Gift
- Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Sabetta
- The Sabos
- Catherine Sabo
- Kelly T. Salemme
- Anne Samodel
- Mr. & Mrs. John Samodel & Daughter
- Nicholas Samodel
- Carol S. Savignano
- Kenneth E. Schaible
- Jane I. Scheiber
- Marian Schmitz
- Beverly & Alan Schpere
- Lisa & Gary Shashinka
- Angela & Hugh Shea
- Mary Sheridan
- Elaine P. Silverman
- Helene & Frank Skoronski
2009 Donors

We are grateful to the following donors who have made gifts to Valley Community Foundation Funds

Thomas R. Smarz
Rita & James Smith, Jr.
Shirley & Donald Smolley
Bob & Bernice Haines Snell & Robert & Darlene Elizabeth & Arthur Sonnichsen
Lucille & Dave Sonnichsen
Deborah St. Laurent
Paul Stamos
Joann S. Stoughton
Sullivan, Schoen, Campane & Connon, LLC
Carla & Sean Sullivan
Diana & Alan Supersano
Barbara Sylvester
Leon Sylvester
Barbara J. Synos
Catherine & Matthew Taylor

Irene & Claude Testani
Dominick J. Thomas, Jr.
Anne R. Tighe
Kathleen & John Tilki
Patrick J. Tisi
Top Drawer Designs
The Tracy Family
Betty Ann Trapasso
Alan J. Tyma Esq.
Nancy Valentine
Valley Egg Hunt
Valley YMCA
Diane & Raymond Vanacore
Helen & Jerry Vartelas
Ted Vartelas, CLU
W.E. Bassett Company

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Thomas J. Welch
Arlene & Royal Wells
Lucille & Richard Wells
Susan Whetstone
Lorraine Williams
Rosemary & William Wilson
Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
Sandra Zuraw

The Gates Society Of The Valley Community Foundation

The Gates Society is named to honor Frank and Ross Gates whose bequests have benefited the Valley community in profound ways, including seeding the formation of the Valley Community Foundation.

Endowment gifts, such as the Gates, provide permanent support for purposes donors held dear during their lives. While increasing in size, the Gates Fund has supported diverse Valley organizations and initiatives, including capital and equipment improvements, scouting trips and teen mentoring programs, and emergency food, shelter and transportation services.

The Board of the Valley Community Foundation invites you to become a member of The Gates Society which recognizes those individuals who have included a charitable gift in their estate plans through the Foundation.

The Gates Society provides a way to thank and honor individuals during their lifetimes for gifts that will come through their estates. These gifts may contribute to an existing Fund, or with a gift of $10,000 or more, can establish new funds with purposes of the donor’s choosing. Gifts may be bequests through wills; charitable trusts or annuities that pay the donors income during their lives; and gifts of life insurance and retirement assets.

Donors have the sense of satisfaction that comes with making a commitment to the future of this community through a permanent endowment. Members will be listed in the Foundation’s publications (unless donors prefer anonymity) and will be kept current on Foundation programs and activities. Members also provide a powerful example to others who are considering a legacy gift. Foundation staff is available to The Gates Society members and their financial and legal advisors to discuss their estate and gift planning objectives.
2009 Board of Directors

M. Elizabeth Kennard, Chair
Gregory J. Stamos, Vice Chair
William C. Bassett
Timothy P. Dillon
David M. Grant, Secretary
Ernestine Luise
Joseph A. Pagliaro, Jr.

*Mary L. Pepe
James E. Ryan
Kenneth E. Schaible
Diane Stroman
Leon J. Sylvester
Alan J. Tyma
John J. Zaprzalka, Treasurer

* not in photo

STAFF:
James E. Cohen, President & CEO
A.F. Drew Alden, Chief Financial Officer
Carla Supersano Sullivan, Community Relations Officer
INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

The Valley Community Foundation is pleased to report that, for the year ended December 31, 2009, the capable investment management team of our partner, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, achieved an annual return on our Funds of twenty-seven percent (27%), net of the cost of investment management.

This net return is 3.2% better than the average against its peer group of community foundations, and 10% higher than the average against the Russell-Mellon Endowment and Foundation index, for the same one-year period.

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 & 2009

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REVENUE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed contributions</td>
<td>$403,455</td>
<td>$1,009,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unendowed contributions</td>
<td>606,388</td>
<td>353,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total contributions</td>
<td>1,009,843</td>
<td>1,362,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: contributions to organization endowments</td>
<td>(140,425)</td>
<td>(322,626)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total contributions, net</td>
<td>869,418</td>
<td>1,039,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net</td>
<td>783,917</td>
<td>(812,595)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income, net</td>
<td>283,367</td>
<td>87,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenue</td>
<td>1,936,702</td>
<td>314,277</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSE AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant appropriations</td>
<td>676,859</td>
<td>464,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: grants to organization endowments</td>
<td>(147,132)</td>
<td>(131,217)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant appropriations, net</td>
<td>529,727</td>
<td>333,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Expense</td>
<td>230,108</td>
<td>232,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expense</td>
<td>759,835</td>
<td>565,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
<td>1,176,867</td>
<td>(251,376)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets - Beginning of year</td>
<td>2,571,546</td>
<td>2,822,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets - End of year</td>
<td>3,748,413</td>
<td>$2,571,545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Valley Community Foundation’s financial activities are part of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven’s audited financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for supporting organizations. Complete copies of the audited statements are available on the website, www.valleyfoundation.org under Investment Management.

### Summary of Financial Position *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$276,091</td>
<td>$259,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment investments at market value</td>
<td>6,711,334</td>
<td>5,148,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total investments</td>
<td>6,987,425</td>
<td>5,407,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>2,616</td>
<td>2,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable for endowment</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,165,041</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,810,602</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>8,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization endowments</td>
<td>3,383,020</td>
<td>3,184,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants payable</td>
<td>32,600</td>
<td>45,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>3,416,628</td>
<td>3,239,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>3,748,413</td>
<td>2,571,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,165,041</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,810,602</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Valley Community Foundation’s financial activities are part of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven’s audited financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for supporting organizations. Complete copies of the audited statements are available on the website, www.valleyfoundation.org under Investment Management.
Jane C. and David B. Cohen Fund
Established 2008
Jane C. Cohen is no stranger to philanthropy. Throughout her life, she has supported numerous charitable organizations ranging from the Columbus House in New Haven, to serving as Chairwoman of the Valley Red Cross Blood Drive, and President of Derby’s Griffin Hospital Auxiliary.

Impressed with how her first-established Fund, the Cohen Family Book Fund, had grown, Mrs. Cohen endowed the Jane C. and David B. Cohen Fund, named for the donor and her late husband, David B. Cohen, a Derby lawyer and City Court Judge.

“There are so many worthy organizations out there – the list is endless,” she said. “This Fund will allow me to be able to give to many of them long after I am gone.” Mrs. Cohen is a firm believer in helping others. “It doesn’t matter what your Fund begins with,” she said. “You can truly make a difference by starting small and having it grow over time.”

D’Addario Community Fund
Established 2008
In May, 1968, Mario D’Addario purchased a small Buick GMC dealership on Main Street in Ansonia, which he relocated to Shelton in 1970. Today the dealership continues as a family owned and operated business, which has been led since the 1980’s by Mario’s son, Tom.

The D’Addario Family established their Fund to help meet the needs of others throughout the Valley who could use some help. Grants from the D’Addario Community Fund are made for general charitable purposes to benefit the residents of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton.

“There’s always time in life to give back,” said Tom D’Addario. “Our business has grown through the years, and the Valley has been very good to us. We wanted to help those who are in need in our community, and felt that we could really make a difference by establishing this Fund at VCF.”

Mary Lou Cicia Cook Memorial Fund
Established 2008
For nearly fifty years, Mary Lou Cicia Cook spent her professional career, and much of her personal life, working with children with special needs. After graduation from college in 1963 with a Special Education degree, she went on to serve as a teacher at Ferry School and VARCA (Valley Association for Retarded Children and Adults), Head Teacher and Principal at Ripton School, and later Shelton’s Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, until her retirement in 1988.

“Even after she retired, she wanted to keep giving back,” said her husband, Victor Cook. “She became a surrogate parent for about 50 kids throughout New Haven and Fairfield Counties, advocating on their behalf. She was loved and respected by those who worked with her. The sense of camaraderie was always there.”

Since Mary Lou’s life was “always about the kids,” following her death, Victor established a fund in her memory. Grants from the Mary Lou Cicia Cook Memorial Fund will benefit the exceptional children with special needs to whom Mary Lou dedicated her life.

Lawrence DeTullio Jr. Fund
Established 2008
Lawrence J. “Larry” DeTullio Jr. loved his family, friends, and the City of Derby, serving as the city’s Community Development Director from 1976-1995.

“Larry was always looking out for the betterment of Derby,” said wife Maryanne DeTullio. “His memory lives on in many ways, including through the trees he had planted along Main Street 30 years ago to dress up the downtown area. Each year they bring such beauty and joy to everyone who sees them. I know that always meant a lot to him when he was alive, and it still does to us today.”
Larry DeTullio was a man who truly loved Derby, and his family decided that there was no better way to keep his memory alive than to work with VCF to support the people and programs he held so dear. “This Fund is a wonderful way to carry on Larry’s legacies,” said Larry’s mother, Ann DeTullio. “The money it generates will be used to benefit youth sports, local Scouting programs, the Derby Public Library, and many other activities and organizations serving young people, with a preference for his hometown, just as Larry had always done.”

Traci L. Haines Memorial Scholarship Fund
Established 2008
Traci Haines was a young teacher, who loved her family, friends and students, and was loved dearly by them in return. After obtaining both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Early Childhood Education, Traci worked for fifteen years as the head teacher for Ansonia Day Care. She found no greater joy than being in her classroom surrounded by students, many of them from underprivileged backgrounds.

In 2004, Traci was diagnosed with colon cancer and died on July 31, 2006 at the age of 36. At that most difficult time, her family suggested that in lieu of flowers, donations to create a scholarship fund would best honor Traci’s life. Their attorney, Fred Stanek, suggested they pursue additional options for the scholarship, and they turned to VCF.

“We know that this scholarship will help other Seymour High School graduates achieve their dream of teaching young children as Traci did,” said Frank Haines. “This Fund is all about Traci – all about how committed she was to doing her best each and every day and living her life to those high standards. She was just a sweetheart – and we can think of no better way to continue her legacy than by establishing this Fund in her honor.”

Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America Fund
Established 2008
Informally organized in 1917 and incorporated in 1920, Derby-based Housatonic Council has the distinction of being one of the nation’s oldest (and smallest) Boy Scout Councils. It was formed by a group of Valley business and community leaders, who understood the benefits that the scouting program could provide to the youth of the Valley.

Over the years, more than 50,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Scouts have benefitted from Council programs, which reach approximately one in every five youth in the Valley area. Each year, twenty Eagle Scout candidates provide more than 4,000 hours of service projects which benefit the community.

Having faith in VCF, Housatonic Council, entrusted its endowed funds to VCF’s management. “We trust that our endowment will grow so that we can increase funding for Eagle Scout Scholarships, Summer Camp Camperships for disadvantaged boys, and for continued improvement of the Ed Strang Scout Reservation,” said Council President Rich Marano.

Elaine N. and William C. Nimons Fund
Established 2008
Bill Nimons and his wife Elaine have lived in the Valley their entire lives: lived here, raised their family in Ansonia, and know what a special place it is. Mr. Nimons has watched many well-intentioned individuals and organizations come and go throughout his banking career, and knows a good thing when he sees it. That’s why, when he and Elaine decided to create their own Fund to support the operations of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys and Girls Club’s Ansonia Project, they chose VCF to help them accomplish this goal.

“At this point, the Valley Community Foundation has passed the ‘Succeed Test,’” said Mr. Nimons. “I’ve watched VCF grow over the years, and am confident that it will continue to succeed in the future. Establishing this Fund will help the Boys and Girls Club provide Ansonia children and their families with safe, affordable, and high quality after-school care,” said Mr. Nimons. It will also provide additional preschool slots through the Club’s partnership with the Valley YMCA.

“VCF and the Ansonia Project are two tremendous initiatives bound together and destined for success – truly a win-win for all the Valley,” he concluded.

Donald and Lillian C. Smith Family Fund
Established 2008
Donald and Lillian Smith were no strangers to hard work. Don was born and raised in Ansonia and his late wife, Lillian, in Seymour during the Great Depression. What Don learned from the beginning was that the Valley was a great place to do business. That’s why he turned to the Valley Community Foundation to establish the Donald W. and Lillian C. Smith Fund to lend a helping hand to others throughout this community.

“It’s always been about the Valley,” said Mr. Smith. “I lived here my whole life, and was always treated fairly by anyone I worked for. People always knew what they were doing, and it was a super place to do business.”

Lillian and Don started Donald W. Smith Builder in the 1950’s. Don was the builder and developer, Lillian was behind the scenes managing the books and business, and they both became active throughout the community. Don Smith acknowledges that, as their business grew, they received support and mentoring from many successful Valley business leaders. “We started this Fund because the Valley was very good to us,” said Mr. Smith. “Hopefully our Fund will continue to help Valley people for years to come.”
Funds Of The Valley Community Foundation

Michael J. Adanti Community Fund
Established 2005
Two-term Mayor of Ansonia and President of Southern Connecticut State University for nineteen years, Michael (“Red”) Adanti was constantly willing to help those around him. Michael loved the Valley, where he began his successful career in education as a teacher at his alma mater, Ansonia High School.

Following Michael’s tragic death in 2005, the Adanti family established this Fund with the many gifts given in his memory. Linda Adanti, his wife of 40 years, and their daughter, Kristen Adanti-Pedersen, advise the Fund. The Fund makes scholarship grants to local students attending SCSU, because “Michael’s whole life was about giving kids and others a break, a helping hand,” said Linda.

“We hope that this Fund will help others to achieve their goals,” said Evelyn Amico. “Your dreams can become realities if you work hard and believe in yourself. Jay certainly did.”

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Derby Division Fund
Established 2007
The Ancient Order of the Hibernians has been in existence for nearly 450 years. Its Derby Division began in 1981 and is currently open to practicing Catholics of Irish Ancestry.

According to Division President Timothy Dillon, “Grants will be made from the Fund for Valley students to attend Roman Catholic elementary schools or high schools; to support educational activities that promote understanding among different people of different backgrounds, and/or to fulfill our motto of ‘friendship, unity, and charity.’”

This motto stands strong today, as the Derby Division of AOH established this permanent endowed fund with the Valley Community Foundation in 2007. VCF “truly served our needs perfectly, and we look forward to working with them to continue to grow our Fund for years to come,” said Dillon.

Bassett Family Fund
Established 2005
At the age of 25, William E. Bassett began the W.E. Bassett Company in 1939. Since then, the company expanded and opened plants in Derby and Shelton. Now, more than 30 years after the 1978 Shelton factory opening, Mr. Bassett’s son and current Board Chairman, William C. Bassett, along with his wife Judy and their children, Lynne, Betsy, and Bill, carry on the Bassett tradition of giving through the Bassett Family Fund at the Valley Community Foundation.

Bill’s father and his uncle, Harry Bassett, set a tone for the company of giving back to the community. That philosophy continues today. “Judy and I, along with our children, want to continue the legacy of giving that my father and uncle established here in the Valley,” said William C. Bassett.

Bassett’s daughter, Lynne Bassett Perry, agreed. “Working with our parents and VCF, we support many worthwhile Valley organizations,” she said. “Our hope is that this Fund will help make the Valley a better place to live and work for generations to come.”

Birmingham Group, Health Services Inc. Fund
Established 2005
As a participating organization in the Foundation’s Endowment Challenge Program, this is a designated fund to benefit Birmingham Group Health Services, Inc. and gifts were matched by the Foundation.
Edward Cecarelli Book Fund  
**Established 2005**

As a lifelong citizen of Derby, civic leader and former Mayor Ed Cecarelli discovered at a young age the adventures of books and the treasures that abounded at the Derby Public Library. His devotion to his community and his love of reading inspired his family to establish the Edward J. Cecarelli Book Fund as a lasting memorial tribute.

Ed’s three children, Joseph, MaryAnn, and Melanie, recall how Ed instilled in them a sense of love, integrity, humility, and respect – and his passion for books. They can still remember many of their father’s favorite quotes. According to MaryAnn, “Of all the quotations, his favorite by far was from William Shakespeare: ‘This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.’”

This quotation holds a special meaning to the Cecarelli Family. It brings to mind the legacy that Ed left behind to his children and grandchildren. A legacy that will continue to honor Ed through a designated endowment supporting the purchase of books for the Derby Public Library, now and in years to come.

Cohen Family Book Fund  
**Established 2004**

What do you get a happily married couple for their 40th wedding anniversary when they say they want nothing? That was the position the family of Meyer and Jennie Cohen of Derby found themselves in back in 1951. Deciding to do something that would honor their parents and last into perpetuity, their daughter-in-law Jane Cohen established the Cohen Family Book Fund, an endowment to support the Derby Public Library.

Over the years, many gifts have been made to the book fund by family and friends. “My grandfather was a self-made, self-taught man who read a lot and appreciated the Library. He thought education was the most important thing in the world,” said VCF Board Member Jackie Cohen, who recalled visiting the Library two to three times a week in his youth. “The Derby Public Library has been very important to our family, and my mother served as a member of its Board of Directors for 25 years,” he said.

“The Book Fund allows the Library to supplement its budget and purchase books it otherwise would not be able to afford,” said Jamie. Now that is something both Meyer and Jennie Cohen would have wanted.

Community Fund  
**Established 2005**

Established as a general unrestricted Fund by a gift from William C. and Judith P. Bassett, with their hope that the Fund insures all donors with gifts of any size can invest in the community endowment which supports our community’s opportunities and ever changing needs over time.

Lou and Dolly DeFilippo Fund  
**Established 2006**

Lou DeFilippo, Derby High School’s football coach from 1968–1982, was someone special to hundreds of young athletes. Hoping to honor the legacy of the legendary coach and his wife Dolly, a group called “Team DeFilippo” comprised of players, coaches, and friends of the DeFilippo family, established a fund at VCF in their name, which provides college scholarship assistance to DHS students.

“As players, the very first time we met Coach DeFilippo we knew it was going to be the start of something special,” said John Saccu, who played football for Derby High School from 1966–1969. “The respect people had for him and for Dolly was immense.” When plans for the scholarship became known, former players from Massachusetts to Florida to California offered their support.

“We will always be ‘Lou’s Boys,’” said Mr. Saccu. “And now his family has grown even larger through the creation of the Team DeFilippo family. Lou taught us, through example, that to live extraordinary is more than just putting your effort in when you have to. Rather it is an entire way of life.”

Derby Public Library Harold Yudkin Fund for Historical Preservation  
**Established 2005**

As a participating organization in the Foundation’s Endowment Challenge Program, this is a designated Fund to benefit the Derby Public Library’s work preserving and displaying historic items and gifts were matched by the Foundation. The Fund was greatly assisted in reaching its goal by a generous donation from Selma L. Yudkin, in memory of her late husband, Harlond.

“We were very excited about the challenge and the generosity of Mrs. Yudkin and others in reaching our match,” says Ms. Gleason, pointing out that monies generated by it have been used in a variety of ways to enable display of many of the library’s historical treasures that currently are packed away—treasures such as the original 1865 newspapers that announce the assassination of President Lincoln. “We want to preserve the past while providing for the future,” she says.

Hon. Joseph P. Flynn and Family Scholarship Fund  
**Established 2005**

In March 2005, the City of Ansonia’s Historical Commission approved the commissioning of a portrait to honor their native son, Joseph P. Flynn, in recognition of his contribution to his community, legal profession, and in public service. A lifelong Ansonia resident, Judge Flynn was a practicing Valley attorney, State Senator, Superior Court
Judge, and currently serves as the Chief Judge of the State’s Appellate Court.

The Fund was established by the Friends of the Ansonia Historical Commission to provide scholarship assistance to graduates of Assumption School in Ansonia, the grammar school which Judge Flynn attended.

“I believe that this Fund will assist students who, like Judge Flynn, are committed to the community and higher education,” said Carol Starkey, a member of the Friends of the Ansonia Historical Commission.

Frey-Hershey Foundation Fund
Established 2006
In the early 1920’s, Paul Hershey came to Connecticut and saw the chance to start his own business, originally named Hershey Metal Products. John Frey joined his uncle’s company in 1940, and succeeded Paul Hershey as President in 1970. Now know as HMP Industries, the company has employed hundreds of Valley people over the years, including multiple generations of the same families.

During his tenure, Mr. Frey expanded the charitable Fund his uncle began, and made it a part of VCF in 2006. Now, the Frey-Hershey Fund of VCF provides grants to numerous Valley organizations. Supporting the programs that served the community and their employees has always been important to the Hershey and Frey families, and through their scholarship program, Valley students are awarded aid to pursue their degrees in science and engineering.

Mr. Frey looks forward to the number and amount of awards continuing to grow over time. “I want to find young people who are interested in engineering, and hopefully, after graduation, they will consider continuing to live in the area and starting their own business.”

The Future Fund
Established 2006
Derby native Arthur Bogen has spent much of his life working to protect and preserve the environment. “The environment has not had an easy time of it,” said Mr. Bogen. “We need to look beyond what we can see right now, do no harm, and make a contribution that will help others in the future.”

In the fall of 2006, Mr. Bogen established the “Future Fund” at the Valley Community Foundation. The purpose of the Fund is to help the earth, with a preference for scholarships or other support to encourage students interested in the environment, and/or to help people who have experienced childhood trauma restore their sense of self.

“I know first hand the effect abuse can have on people, especially children,” said Mr. Bogen. “They need to know that, no matter what they’ve been through, they can trust in life. Hopefully this Fund will make a difference for them and help to build back their self-esteem.”

Mr. Bogen’s goal is to grow the Future Fund over time. “I want to thank the VCF Board and its staff for their dedication in creating the Foundation,” he said. “Their vision has created a resource to help keep the Valley and its people growing stronger each day.”

Geissler Family Scholarship Fund
Established 2005
The Geissler family has always valued the importance of education. Wife and mother Margaret Geissler taught business, accounting, and shorthand, and despite having a learning disability, Harold and Margaret’s son, Robert, obtained a degree in accounting from the University of Bridgeport.

In 1995, the family originally established a scholarship Fund that was maintained in a regular savings account through a local bank. Once the Valley Community Foundation was established, however, Harold Geissler decided to transfer the funds into an endowed Fund at VCF.

Originally established to assist accounting or business students, under son Jim Geissler, the Fund now provides scholarship tuition assistance for needy children who desire to attend the grammar school at St. Joseph parish in Shelton, through the St. Joseph’s “Angels’ Fund.”
Funds Of The Valley Community Foundation

David M. and Gail A. Grant Family Fund
Established 2005
David J. Grant, along with his brother Michael, have been raised to give back to their community. Now as young adults, they’re volunteering on their own and getting encouragement from their parents, David M. and Gail Grant, who have established an endowed fund with the Valley Community Foundation that they foresee their sons managing.

“Before I joined the Boys and Girls Club in 1986, I really didn’t do much with regard to charitable causes because I was so busy building my own business,” said David M. Grant. “But when I did, I saw the need, and experienced the satisfaction of being involved. I thought that this Fund would be a way to give back to the community and, at the same time, to start something that my sons could do together through the years.”

“I hope it brings my sons closer together,” said David M., who intends to grow the fund over time. “And in 30, no, 50 years, when Mom and Dad are gone, they’ll work at it, knowing that it’s something their father and mother wanted. And hopefully it will grow with them, and them with it.”

Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America Endowment Fund
Established 2006
Informally organized in 1917 and incorporated in 1920, Derby-based Housatonic Council has the distinction of being one of the smallest Boy Scout councils (3rd smallest of 304 councils) and one of the oldest. It was formed by a group of Valley business and community leaders, who understood the benefits that the scouting program could provide to the youth of the Valley.

Patricia M. Kondrath Scholarship Fund
Established 2005
Patricia Kondrath thought education was important - so much so that she instilled her strong desire for learning and knowledge in her family. After her passing, her husband, Paul, decided to honor her memory by establishing an endowed fund to provide financial assistance to students attending Lauralton Hall Academy, in Milford. The Fund gives preference to freshmen, sophomore, and junior students who participate in sports, including Patricia’s favorites: tennis, swimming, or softball, and the music programs.

“Our attorney, Alan Tyma, suggested utilizing the Valley Community Foundation as a flexible way to simplify the process of the donations we received,” said Mr. Kondrath. “My wife attended Lauralton and always supported the school. She probably wouldn’t have liked all this attention – she liked to do things in a very low-key way. I just wanted to do this to carry on what she had already been doing all her life.”

“This is our way of continuing her tradition of helping those in need, as well as remembering her connection to the Valley,” said Mr. Kondrath.

Mary Fund
Established 2004
The Mary Fund was started, and is being built, by VCF Board member M. Elizabeth (Liz) Kennard to honor three women each named Mary (her grandmothers, Mary L. Powers and Mary J. Kennard, and her mother, Mary P. Kennard), and all teachers who understood the value of education and promoted it, both professionally and personally.

“They were teachers to our family as well, explaining things, reading and setting standards,” said Liz Kennard, herself a Mary – Mary Elizabeth – who initially followed their lead into teaching before changing careers. The Fund makes grants with a preference for helping women in the Valley and greater New Haven area to pursue their educations.

“My mother and grandmothers always valued education as a way to grow, and this Fund will help others to do that,” said Liz, pointing out that each woman was able to meet the challenges of raising children while working full time. And each believed in the importance of continuing to educate one’s self. “Education is not just a necessary a ticket to a job. It is an end in itself.”

Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America endowment fund was established in 2006. The fund has the distinction of being one of the smallest Boy Scout councils and one of the oldest. It was formed by a group of Valley business and community leaders, who understood the benefits that the scouting program could provide to the youth of the Valley.

Patricia M. Kondrath Scholarship Fund was established in 2005. Patricia Kondrath thought education was important - so much so that she instilled her strong desire for learning and knowledge in her family. After her passing, her husband, Paul, decided to honor her memory by establishing an endowed fund to provide financial assistance to students attending Lauralton Hall Academy, in Milford. The Fund gives preference to freshmen, sophomore, and junior students who participate in sports, including Patricia’s favorites: tennis, swimming, or softball, and the music programs.

Mary Fund was established in 2004. The fund was started, and is being built, by VCF Board member M. Elizabeth (Liz) Kennard to honor three women each named Mary (her grandmothers, Mary L. Powers and Mary J. Kennard, and her mother, Mary P. Kennard), and all teachers who understood the value of education and promoted it, both professionally and personally.
Funds Of The Valley Community Foundation

Ann O’Neil Memorial for Integrity Fund
Established 2003, Transferred to VCF in 2005
This Fund was established by the children of Ann O’Neil to memorialize their mother, and it supports an annual scholarship award to a student of Ansonia High School who most embodies their mother’s qualities of high moral character.

Ann O’Neil always placed a high value on integrity. She raised her five children to the highest standard of honesty, hard work, and determination. When Mrs. O’Neil passed away, her family chose to honor her memory by establishing the ‘Ann O’Neil Memorial for Integrity’ award. The Award is given to an Ansonia High School graduating senior who exhibits high integrity in his/her personal life, and is pursuing further education and/or training, or entering military service.

“We felt it was essential for us to recognize a student for effort – not necessarily for being at the top of the class,” said daughter Barbara Clifford. “We also wanted to acknowledge someone who was respected by his/her peers, as well as by faculty. These are the kinds of people our mother valued, and we wanted to focus on qualities that were important to her.”

Oak Cliff Cemetery Association Fund
Established 2006
The Oak Cliff Cemetery Association oversees three historic Valley properties: including the Olde Uptown Burying Ground (1675-Derby), one of the earliest town cemeteries in the country, as well as the Oak Cliff (1835-Derby) and Elm Street (1737-Ansonia) cemeteries.

“The association has a tremendous responsibility to carefully oversee the funds from families of departed relatives buried in our cemeteries in order to provide perpetual care and upkeep of our buildings and grounds,” said Association Director Merritt Clark. “The Cemetery Association Board felt that the Valley Community Foundation offered an ideal location for our invested funds because of their tremendous commitment to the Valley area, which is served by the Cemetery Association. VCF’s association with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, and its long standing record of investment performance and administrative service, provides us with a unique opportunity to have our funds managed locally by an organization we can truly depend on.”

Palazzi Family Fund
Established 2004
Established by Dorothy Palazzi, this Fund honors Miss Palazzi’s parents, Ildo Brando and Guerina Palazzi and her sisters, Derva A. Palazzi and Norma Palazzi Pepe, all of whom have passed away. “My mother and father were very hardworking people,” said Dorothy. “They encouraged reading and wanted all of us to do well. Education was very important to them.” Dorothy and her sisters always recalled the excitement and pride when her parents attained U.S. citizenship. “To them, America was truly the ‘Land of Opportunity,’” she said.

With that in mind, Dorothy established and endowed the Palazzi Family Fund, as a Donor Advised Fund flexible enough to provide help for educational or other purposes as the needs arise. In its first few years, the Palazzi Fund made grants to the Derby High School Drama Club, the Derby Public Library, and the Shelton and Derby Youth Service Bureaus.

“I think that if my parents had lived, they would have been thrilled to see that I did something to honor their name,” said Dorothy Palazzi, who is watching the fund grow. “Someday big things will happen with it, and we’ll end up with something great.”

Joseph A. Pagliaro, Sr. Family Fund
Established 2004
The Pagliaro family established this Fund with the many gifts given in memory of Joseph A. Pagliaro, Sr. who was the Founding Board Chair of the Valley Community Foundation. It supports various community projects and organizations as recommended to the Board by an advisory committee.

Joseph A. Pagliaro, Sr. was a man described as the embodiment of the spirit of community service. “He wanted to see things go a certain way, so he’d work hard enough to become the president or the chairman, the ‘in-charge’ position,” said son Joseph Jr., who now (with other family members) runs the family business, Riverview Funeral Home in Shelton, and tries to keep up with his late father’s considerable volunteer and community service activities. From that vantage, Joseph Sr. was able to accomplish an incredible amount, both in the Valley and beyond, where he seemed to be everywhere, know everyone, and volunteer in many different arenas.

“He was a whirlwind, a man of action,” said his widow Ellen, of the man she married only a year before his tragic death in June 2004. “He was an incredible person, devoted to family and community, and constantly looking out for the betterment of other people.”
Family, heritage, and community have always been important to the Pepe family. Anthony Pepe and Norma Palazzi Pepe were second-generation Italian Americans. They were born and lived their lives in Derby, children of the Great Depression, graduates of Derby High School, a veteran and a young woman of World War II, and parents of baby boomers, who instilled in their children the value of education, the arts, and the importance of doing for others.

With this legacy in mind, their daughter Mary (a founding Board Member of VCF) established the donor advised Pepe Family Fund in honor of her mother, father, and brother, William, all of whom have passed away.

“This Fund ensures that the support our family has provided for all of our lives – for those things in which we most believe and we most value – will continue long after we’re gone. There is no greater gift. And so the Valley Community Foundation has the potential to have a significant and continuing impact on this region,” said Mary. Pepe, adding, “Creating this Foundation is probably the single most important thing we have ever done, and we can ever do, for our community.”

President’s Fund
Established 2006
Established by the Board of Directors in recognition of the President’s efforts and is being built as a donor advised fund. The Chief Executive Officer of the Valley Community Foundation serves as the Advisor to the Fund.

George and Beatrice Ryan Scholarship Fund
Established 2004
After leaving the service after World War II, Shelton resident George Ryan jumped with both feet into the automotive industry. Many years later, Mr. Ryan is still passionate about the career that has taken him from the gas pumps to the successful Curtiss-Ryan Honda car dealership. And now George is eager to share his passion by extending a helping hand to others who enter the field. “I always thought I should give back to the community,” said Mr. Ryan. “It has supported me, and I believe that I should support it.” In 2004, Ryan chose to do exactly that by establishing the George and Beatrice Ryan Scholarship Fund at VCF, which provides scholarships to students who are planning to study automotive administration, sales or technology.

“T’m hoping that this scholarship fund will serve as an inducement to boys and girls to consider going on to further their training and education and enter this field where there is tremendous opportunity,” said Mr. Ryan.

Sam Rifkin Memorial Fund
Established 2001, Transferred to VCF in 2005
Originally established at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven with memorial gifts donated at the time of Sam Rifkin’s death in 2001, his son, VCF Founding Board Member David Rifkin, added to the Donor Advised Fund and requested its transfer to the newly created Valley Community Foundation in 2005. The Fund has been set up to first support renovation of the Sterling Opera House in Derby, as well as to assist other Valley charities, as suggested by Dave and the Rifkin family.

“My father and mother were dedicated to helping the community and supporting philanthropic causes,” said Dave. “Being involved and giving back was his legacy.” Sam Rifkin was a charter member of the original Valley Chamber of Commerce, and a strong supporter of the Community Chest before it became the Valley United Way. Dave recalls how his father was always involved in multiple activities, both professionally and personally, and said, “If he saw there was a need, he’d try to find a way to solve it, and we are confident that VCF will permanently continue that legacy for the Valley.”
Funds Of The Valley Community Foundation

Maureen, Megan, and Katey Ryan Fund
Established 2005
Even at a young age, both Megan and Katey Ryan of Ansonia were involved in their community. As far as their father is concerned, this was the way it should be. “We all have to pass the torch and get our young people involved,” said VCF Founding Board Member Jim Ryan.

To help drive the process, Jim Ryan has started at home. In 2005, he established the Maureen, Megan, and Katey Ryan Fund, to provide scholarships based on financial need and academic merit, to assist girls from Assumption School in Ansonia to attend Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, where his wife Maureen and both of his daughters were educated.

“I wanted to get my children involved in philanthropy, as my wife and I have already done,” said Ryan. “I think philanthropy is part of our social responsibility and that this Fund will serve as a good example for them to see how it works. I’ve become convinced over the last few years that there are many opportunities to increase philanthropy in the Valley,” said Ryan. “I believe the Valley Community Foundation is a way to do that, and that it will have lasting benefits for all of our communities.”

Norman K. and Janet N. Santa Fund
Established 2007
Originally from Stratford, the Santa family moved to Shelton in 1956 and have made the Valley their home ever since. Norman Santa comes from a family of five, and knows that there are many students of all ages throughout the Valley who would like to improve themselves. That’s why he and his wife Janet have established the Norman K. and Janet N. Santa Fund with the Valley Community Foundation.

“There is a great need for skilled workers today,” said Mr. Santa. “Electricians, plumbers, people who work with their hands. The Santa Fund is geared to helping them to achieve their goals by providing scholarship assistance to local technical school graduates.”

Mr. Santa is thrilled to be working with VCF because it has such a great amount of potential. “The Valley is a great and very positive community,” said Mr. Santa. “I’m glad to be able to help those who are pursuing non-traditional options to keep it growing stronger, both now and in the future.”

Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Community Fund
Established 2005
This Fund was established by Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible for general charitable purposes as decided by the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Fund
Established 2005
This Fund was established by Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible as a donor advised fund to support their various community activities and as a means to involve their children in philanthropy.

Dorothy E. and Kenneth E. Schaible Fund for the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley
Established 2005
Ken and Dotty Schaible know first hand the value of a community foundation. After serving seven years as a Director of the Community Foundation for the Greater New Haven, Ken was one of the Founding Board Members of VCF. Established as a part of VCF’s first Endowment Challenge Program, this Designated Fund directly benefits the Valley Boys and Girls Club.

“When you establish a Fund, you’re not giving to the Foundation, but giving through it - directly back to the community,” said Mr. Schaible. “There are so many choices for giving – there is something for everyone. Your name doesn’t have to be ‘Rockefeller’ or ‘Ford’ – everyone can participate in making the Valley an even stronger and better place to live. It’s all about creating something that will truly make a difference through the future. Community Foundations are flexible vehicles for donors and their families to leave lasting legacies.”

Julian A. Taylor Scholarship Fund
Established 2005
Reverend Dr. Julian A. Taylor always had his life’s mission in mind: to reach young African Americans and encourage them to pursue their education and lifelong learning. “He pushed people to do what they may have thought they couldn’t, but what he believed they could,” said Lily Douglas, who with Dr. Taylor’s prodding, started college after age 30 and graduated shortly thereafter in 1957.

The Fund was established in 1981 by his parishioners and other Valley supporters. They wanted to honor Rev. Taylor, a lifelong scholar, Macedonia’s Pastor for 42 years, community activist, and civil rights leader, who started an NAACP chapter.
in the 1940’s. The Fund is designed to recognize African-American students in grades three through 11 as “J.A.T. scholars.” It also awards a $5000 scholarship annually to the graduating African-American Ansonia High School student with the highest grade point average.

“We know that by entrusting this Fund to the Valley Community Foundation, Dr. Taylor’s legacy will continue to motivate and aid young scholars in Ansonia, affecting our great-grandchildren’s generation and beyond,” said Evelyn Lindsey, Chairperson of the Fund Committee.

Torbi-Saldamarco Family Fund
Established 2006
Dorothy Torbi Saldamarco always wanted to pay special tribute to her father, Lorenzo Torbi, an orphan who immigrated from Italy to Derby at the age of 17 and was raised by foster parents. Mrs. Saldamarco’s husband Frank knew about his wife’s wish to insure the family name and legacy, and as a birthday present for his wife, surprised her with the gift establishing the Torbi-Saldamarco Family Fund at VCF.

“The Foundation was the perfect place for us to establish this Fund, which now preserves her family’s name since she is the last of the family line,” said Mr. Saldamarco. “There was no better way to celebrate her birthday than to make this dream become a reality for her.”

Perhaps Frank’s note announcing the Fund says it best: “Happy Birthday, Dorothy Torbi Saldamarco. In honor of your birthday, a Fund in the Torbi family name has been established at the Valley Community Foundation. This Fund will not only commemorate your family, but continue to enrich the Valley communities for generations to come.”

In its first year of grantmaking, the Fund did exactly that, by providing full funding for the grant request of the St. Vincent DePaul Food bank.

John Tyma Fund
Established 2005
John Tyma lived an ordinary life extraordinarily. He touched many within his sphere. John would listen, really listen, and he would help. For that reason, his only son, Alan Tyma, a VCF Founding Board Member, established this Fund. It honors a man who quit school in his senior year to care for his mother and siblings after his father’s death; a World War II veteran, who worked so hard all his life to make sure his family always did well before his own early death at 48; and who knew the value of education and community involvement.

The Fund provides a way to insure that people who “need a lift to the next stage,” as son Alan puts it, can have a chance. “So many, like my father, feel it’s important to be involved in community and give their time, effort, and expertise,” said Alan. “For those who want to give something more, we’ve created this long-term vehicle to which they can donate that will live long after they do and keep on promoting the best for their community.”

Valley United Way Heritage Fund
Established 1993, Transferred to VCF in 2006
Nearly 15 years ago, the Valley United Way recognized the value of creating an endowment through the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. “We were truly ahead of our time in creating the Heritage Fund,” said Valley United Way Executive Director Jack Walsh. “At the time, we looked to CPGNH to provide us with long term investment support, administration, and management to assist us in maintaining our charitable assets in perpetuity.”

In 2006, the United Way transferred its “Heritage Fund” to the Valley Community Foundation. “VCF has done an outstanding job by building a strong financial base to make additional monies available for community grant making,” said Mr. Walsh. “It was only natural for us to bring our funds back into the Valley, allowing us flexibility in the distribution of our assets, and the ability to assist VCF in building philanthropy right here in the Valley. We look forward to continuing to develop this relationship and this Fund in the coming years.”

The Fund was established as a means to honor and memorialize Bar Association members or other members of the legal profession and will support grants, awards, and/or scholarships as recommended to the Board by an advisory committee.

It has been supplemented by the generous gift of a challenge grant by Selma Yudkin in memory of her husband, Harold B. Yudkin, who passed away in 2004 after being a Bar Association member since 1937.

However, it was ultimately the 2005 death of Ansonia lawyer and Bar Association member Bill Tuccio which served as the impetus for the creation of the Fund through the VCF.

Additional monies have been given to commemorate deceased family members, and to honor significant events in the lives of other Association members.

Valley Bar Association Memorial and Commemorative Fund
Established 2004
The Valley Bar Association, a voluntary association of local, practicing attorneys, has been in existence for over 75 years, with many members spanning two, and in some cases three, generations. Many families and members have continued a tradition of service to their respective clients, and through their ties together as attorneys, have supported many various charitable endeavors in the Valley throughout the years.

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**Funds Of The Valley Community Foundation**

**Peter J. Vartelas Invest in Youth Fund for the Valley YMCA**
*Established 2006*

After growing up in the Valley during the Great Depression, Peter Vartelas created the “Invest in Youth Fund” at the Valley YMCA in 1987. Income from the Fund pays the membership fees for children whose families cannot afford them. “Through Mr. Vartelas’ generosity, more than 2,000 children have now benefited from the Fund,” said Valley YMCA Executive Director Suzanne Reilly. “His gifts have helped us to serve the community in so many special ways. We are pleased to honor his memory by bringing his Fund to VCF.”

“Peter was so happy to have created this Fund,” said his wife Tekla Vartelas. “He said that life had been good to him through his business and other endeavors. This was his way of giving back to the community, and helping to bring kids into the Y. He was so generous to us all, with a keen sense of humor and wit that kept us all smiling. He was always there for us and his beloved Valley. We will be forever proud to be his family, and will do all that we can to continue to support the Peter Vartelas Invest in Youth Fund.”

**Vartelas-Stamos Fund**
*Established 2006*

This Fund is established by the Vartelas and Stamos families in honor of the memory of their beloved parents and grandparents, John Vartelas and Paraskeve Vonetes Vartelas. Talking about the Fund that he, his father, siblings, aunt, uncles and numerous cousins continue to build, Greg Stamos says, “We want to remember and honor the sacrifices made by our grandparents, two Greek immigrants who over a century ago established a new home together in the Valley, and to perpetuate their legacy of selflessness, compassion, and concern for others.”

The Vartelas-Stamos Family Fund is composed of four component sub-funds. The heart and soul of the Fund, however, is the largest component sub-fund, the Agape Fund, named for the Greek word for love and charity towards others, which will support general philanthropic purposes with special emphasis on providing assistance to those most in need, including in particular those facing obstacles presented by virtue of the immigrant experience. Such emphasis truly honors the legacy of John and Paraskeve.

**Angelina M. and Valentina V. Vitali Fund**
*Established 2007*

Valentina Vitali had a deep love for the Valley. Along with her sister Angelina, Valentina was born and raised in Derby by Italian immigrant parents Augusto and Marcella Vitali. While Val went to work for many years in Washington D.C., Angie became the outstanding Biology (and later Vice Principal) of Derby High School, both girls’ alma mater. Valentina wanted to honor Angie in some way, and first discussed with their cousin, Dorothy Saldamarco, the possibility of creating a Fund through the Community Foundation that would forever remember the Vitali name in the Valley. Mrs. Saldamarco and her husband Frank had already established a VCF Fund themselves.

“It’s a great idea, and can help so many people here in the Valley,” said Mrs. Saldamarco. “She must have thought it was too, and worked with her attorneys to remember the Foundation in her Will.” In doing so, Miss Vitali became the first person to have left a bequest to the VCF. Her gift will establish the Angelina M. and Valentina V. Vitali Fund, which supports a broad range of local needs.

“Val came from a family that was raised to save,” said Mrs. Saldamarco. “But it’s also important to use your money to benefit others who can really use it. Val Vitali was fortunate to have had the resources to keep her family’s name alive and to help the Valley for years to come.”

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 597 Fund**
*Established 2006*

This Fund was established by the Board of the VFV Post 597. Peter Pagliaro of Derby joined with his late brother-in-law John Boland of Ansonia, former Ansonia School Board Chair and Adjutant of Post 597, and its 100 members to establish a designated Fund for the Ansonia High School Band. Pagliaro, a former saxophone-playing high school student, said the Post wanted to “keep a little bit of music playing in the Valley.”

“The decision to support the Ansonia High School Band was unanimous,” said Mr. Pagliaro. “Our members kept asking each other, ‘What has happened to music in the Valley towns? What can we do to bring it back?’ This was one way we could offer on-going support to a worthwhile cause.”

Pagliaro and others are excited for the future of music in the Valley with the help of this Fund. “Grants from our Fund will be used to defray the costs of uniforms, maintain equipment, and rent instruments,” he said. “No one ever thinks about the band – they’re not like athletic programs where people are always giving money. I’ll always remember how great it was for someone to give money so we could get new uniforms when I was in the band.”
Joseph and Pauline Warichar Fund
Established 2006
This Fund was established by Donald and Joseph Warichar to honor their parents and currently supports scholarships to Derby High School graduates planning to pursue his/her education at an accredited college or university studying in the fields of nursing, pharmacology, or agriculture.

“Back in the early 90’s, we promised our mother that we’d start a scholarship Fund,” said Joseph Warichar, Jr. “We always intended to do something like this, and now we have the time and opportunity to work with the VCF to make this happen.”

His brother Donald agreed. “We grew up in Derby, went to school there, lived there, and feel we owe something to the community,” he said. “This will start the process.”

“Our mother sacrificed tremendously for all of us to get where we are today,” Donald Warichar continued. “This Fund allows us to honor both of our parents for building a tradition of reading and learning in our family. We love to encourage others to learn, and this Fund will do just that.”

Women in Networking Fund
Established 2006
The Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce’s Women in Networking (WIN) group was founded in 2002 by successful businesswomen in the Valley. In 2003, WIN members learned that there were no grant programs in the area available for women-owned businesses and, therefore, voted to use funds available in their treasury to establish the Women in Networking Grant program, which provides assistance to women entrepreneurs 18 years or older in the Greater Valley area.

With the establishment of a permanent endowed fund at the Valley Community Foundation, they have insured that funds will be available for women-owned businesses in the Valley forever.

“We had been having conversations with the VCF for quite some time,” said former WIN Chair Cara Mocarski. “We wanted to ensure that the program would continue to outreach to women, and foster the entrepreneurial spirit in the Valley. Giving back to the community is so important to all of us – and the Foundation provided a great vehicle for us to achieve our goals for prosperity.”

Selma L. and Harold B. Yudkin Fund
Established 2006
This Fund was established and endowed by Selma L. Yudkin in memory of her husband, Harold B. Yudkin, and will support students and organizations in Derby, and throughout the Valley community.

Harold was a unique and energetic man, who lived and was actively involved throughout his entire life in his beloved home town. He loved his family, his friends, his co-workers, and his chosen profession of law, which he successfully practiced with distinction for more than 60 years.

Upon Harold’s passing in 2004, Selma established the Harold B. Yudkin Fund at the Valley Community Foundation to insure that his tradition of generosity and dedication to his community would continue for years to come. In appreciation for Selma’s unmatched generosity to many Valley’s charitable causes, in 2007 the VCF Board unanimously voted to add her name to the Fund she had created in her husband’s memory.

“There was no one else like Harold,” said Selma 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.”
Our sincere appreciation to the following individuals who provided items for the cover of this report:

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We need Valley memorabilia to be used in future Annual Reports. If you have items which you would allow us to borrow and photograph (everything will be returned), please contact us at 203-225-0880 or by email csullivan@valleyfoundation.org.