Valley YMCA

With a two-year grant from VCF to provide general operating support to the Valley YMCA in 2015 and 2016, The Y served 4,106 individuals during 2017 and saw an increase in visits over 2016. New membership increased with the addition of 1,446 new families, youth, and high school students joining The Y through October 2017. The Y served 230 youth in its after school programs, 110 youth in its camp program, and 30 preschoolers and school readiness youth in programs during the 2016-2017 year. Partnerships were created with the Valley Initiative to Advance Health and Learning in Schools (VITALS) as well as Massaro Farm to develop gardens for the summer camp program. A total of 22 individuals also completed a diabetes prevention program.

Valley Emergency Medical Services (VEMS)

With a three-year grant to provide general operating support awarded in 2014, The Boys & Girls Club, in years one and two of the grant, served 2,315 youth annually. A total of 51% of its membership received free or reduced tuition. In years two and three, 350 youth members engaged in programming focused on academic success, homework assistance, and tutoring. More than 250 members participated in community service projects each year. In year one, 100% of high school seniors graduated, all of whom pursued higher education.

Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

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Sponsored Events

The following events were supported with unrestricted funds by VCF this season:

January

Ancona Dr. King Bust Community
To sponsor “Unity in the Community” Dinner & Cabaret - A Tribute to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 19th.

March

BikeT ero to sponsor Bowl-2-Benefit the Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services on March 3rd.

April

Shelton Exchange Club Foundation
To sponsor the 7th annual Charity Indoor Mi key Tournament at the LNV Boys & Girls Club on April 6th.

The Great Give® 2019 dates announced!

The annual 36-hour online giving event will be taking place May 1-2. Visit www.thegreatgivefordetails.org.

You’re Invited!

Join us on the evening of Tuesday, March 26th for our 2nd annual Tournament at the LNV Boys & Girls Club on April 6th.

Two stories participating in the community activity at the Boys & Girls Club. In pairs, youth held their painted hands together and said something that was similar between them. After letting go, they saw the paint had mixed into one color on both their hands showing that we all have more similarities than we may realize.

We would like to hear your feedback about this article, tell us if you found it helpful! Does it make you want to learn more about the grant, served between 3,000 and 5,000 organizations serving the Valley! We would love to hear from you at 203-751-0162 and let us know.

Since VCF’s original grant first awarded in 2013, VEMS has responded to more than 22,700 calls and serves the public with the state-of-the-art equipment.

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Visit www.valleyfoundation.org or call us at 203-751-0162 and let us know.

Good News About the Valley

Get Ready for The Great Give® 2019

Make sure your nonprofit is registered to participate.

Approximately $175,000 is up for grabs in matching funds and prizes, but eligible nonprofits MUST register this year. There is no cost to participate and there are plenty of free trainings available to help nonprofits succeed.

If you are a Valley Community Foundation donor advised fund holder, be sure to take advantage of special giving incentives soon to be announced.

If you’re active on social media, please share our event announcements with your friends and be on the lookout for the return of #gGTheAcorn.

The Great Give® was created by our partner in philanthropy The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and has been sponsored by the Valley Community Foundation since its inception. It’s a fun way to support nonprofits and issues that are important to you. Get ready to Get Your Give On!
In a time where cigarette smoking has been on the decline, nicotine use in tobacco products and devices more so than ever is on the rise, and the cause is e-cigarettes — which is small enough in size to fit in a purse or pocket. These devices are often used to replicate the action of smoking cigarettes, and vaping devices and e-cigarettes contain nicotine, a substance that is highly addictive and can cause severe harm.

According to the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey, 20.5% of high school students used e-cigarettes last year. The numbers for middle school are not as high, but still concerning with 4.9% of 6th grade students reported having used e-cigarettes last year. Considering these trends along with local data, the Valley community is taking action to educate and provide support.

Risks: E-cigarettes and nicotine both deliver nicotine into the body. The nicotine is absorbed into the bloodstream very rapidly, and dopamine and increases alertness but also leads to negative health side effects and the manufacturer’s nicotine is different than that found in cigarettes, many do not.

While e-cigarettes are considered to be a less harmful alternative to smoking cigarettes, they still pose an inherent health risk. Because they are not as regulated as tobacco products, the health risks associated with e-cigarettes are still unknown. It is important to be aware of the potential dangers of e-cigarettes and to avoid using them.

Prevention and Wellness at BHcare in Shelton, CT, is offering a smoking cessation program, and the community is encouraged to attend.

So what should parents consider when it comes to vaping? Here are some tips to help prevent children from following the same path Billy took.

1. Educate Yourself: Learn about the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping. The Valley Community Foundation has a designated fund at the Griffin Foundation that was established by Corey, William (Billy) Pera, and Beth Smith.

2. Support Your Children: Make sure your children know that they are not alone in this battle. Encourage them to talk to a trusted adult or a healthcare professional if they are struggling with vaping.

3. Lead by Example: Children are more likely to follow the lead of their parents and caregivers. Avoid using e-cigarettes yourself, as this can set a bad example for your children.

4. Encourage Safe and Fun Activities: Provide your children with positive activities to keep them occupied and engaged. This can help prevent them from turning to vaping as a coping mechanism.

5. Help Your Child Identify Risks: E-cigarettes can be marketed in a way that makes them seem harmless and fun. Help your child identify the risks associated with vaping and make a plan to avoid them.

6. Seek Support: If you or your child is struggling with vaping, seek support from a trusted adult or a healthcare professional. There are many resources available to help with this issue.

Together, we can work towards a future where vaping is not seen as a cool and trendy way to get high. Let’s make a change for our children and future generations.