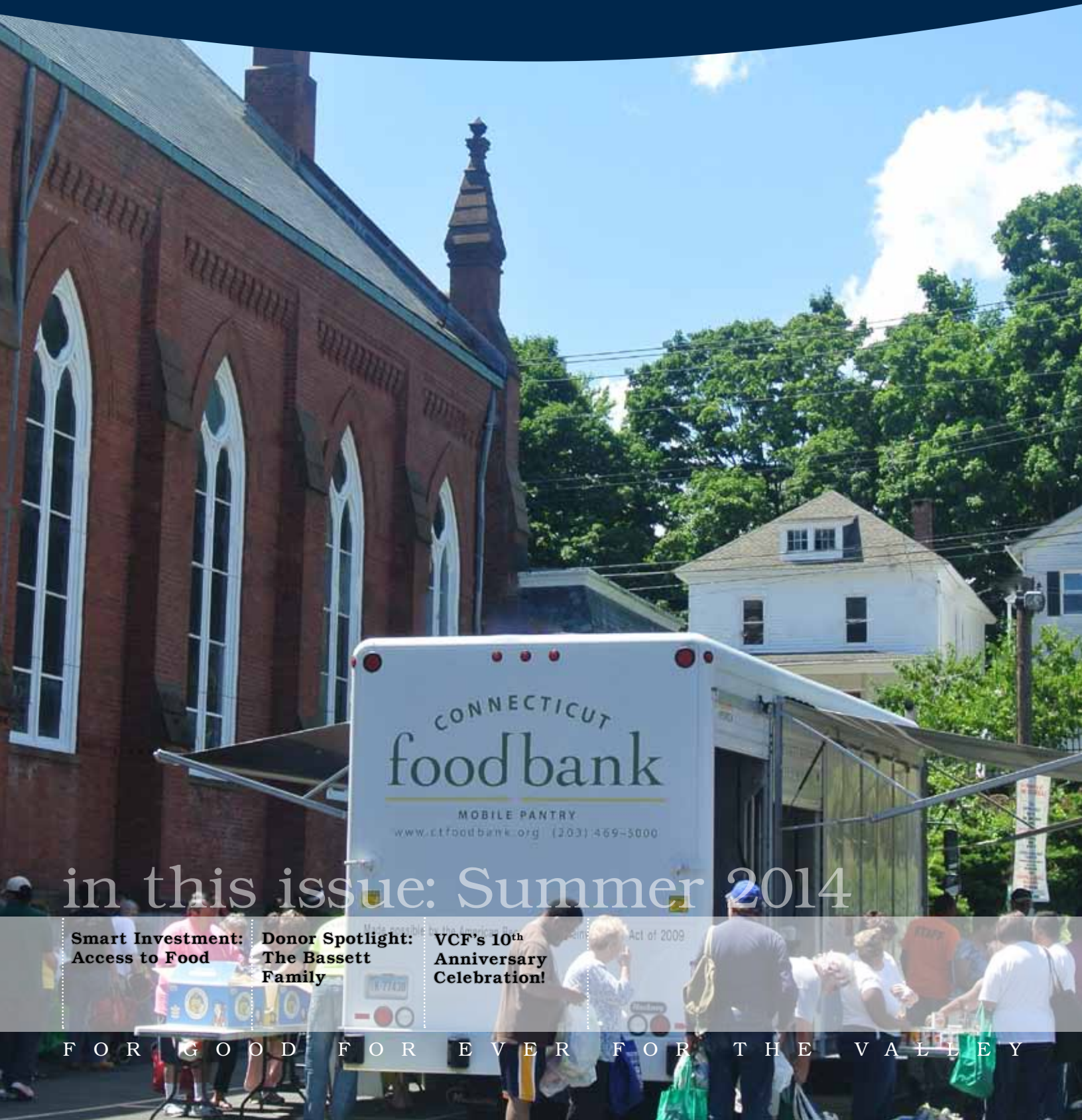


Legacy *Matters*



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The Connecticut Food Bank's Mobile Pantry distributes food once a month outside St. Mary's Church in Derby.



TEAM Inc. delivers more than 1,000 meals, and the occasional birthday cake, to homebound seniors each week.



Valley United Way Corporate Volunteer Council's Harvest House

How you can help:

Donate food, money or your time to a local food bank at one or more of these sites:

- Spooner House*
- St. Vincent De Paul*
- Salvation Army*
- Seymour/Oxford Food Pantry at Trinity Episcopal Church*
- The Kathleen Samella Memorial Food Bank at Christ Episcopal Church*

Support the Corporate Volunteer Council's food drives

Support programs that help feed seniors

Smart Investment: Access to Food

Our donors address Valley problems & solutions

More than one in seven households in the U.S. experience food insecurity,

meaning they do not always have enough money to put food on the table, according to a 2012 study by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. It's a condition that unsettles the very foundation of a healthy life.

Since the economic downturn in 2008, many people who were once middle class are now struggling to afford enough groceries to consistently keep their families fed.

The growing need has prompted businesses, individuals, and social service providers throughout the Valley to commit to ensuring that no one, especially our children and seniors, goes hungry.

The Valley-wide effort to fight food insecurity received widespread attention in 2005 with the Harvest House project. Participants in the United Way's Corporate Volunteer Council came together to construct a small temporary house along the Shelton Riverwalk and filled it with food donations from area companies. The food drive netted more than 12,000 pounds of food to feed thousands of families!

"When the receiving agencies arrived to pick up the food, the mood was reverent," said Valley United Way Volunteer Center Director Patricia Tarasovic. "People were in silence walking through; it was overwhelming how much food was in this house."

While Harvest House has since continued every other year and the Volunteer Council conducts monthly food drives, the need in the community has remained. The food that stocked Harvest House V in 2013, for example, lasted on food pantry shelves for only five weeks.

Just one year earlier, the demand for food was so high that the shelves of every food bank in the Valley were cleaned out. The crisis prompted Prudential Annuities to step in with a \$12,000 grant that was matched by the Valley Community Foundation, Valley United Way, and a private donor to replenish the food supplies.

Prudential Annuities continued its support here in the Valley by giving a grant to the Valley United Way to study food insecurity. The Valley Council for Health and Human Services created the Food Security Task Force, co-chaired by Tarasovic and TEAM Vice President David Morgan. The task force brings area food pantries

around the table to identify the community need, the capacity of the agencies and the problems with accessing food.

"Everyone coming together will make the system better," said Valley United Way President & COO Jack Walsh.

One of the first actions of the task force has been the Valley Hunger Study, which is due to be released in August. Having the agencies around the table to discuss what does and does not work has already yielded new collaborations that are strengthening the system.

"This has never been done before. How could we have anything but a positive outcome?" said Tarasovic. The task force has also connected with other organizations that have food components to their programs. Now that school is out for the summer, many kids who relied on free breakfast and lunch are at risk of going hungry. Several of the region's public schools and the Derby Public Library are now offering free lunches each week during the summer months.

"It is in Connecticut's best interest to ensure that children have adequate nutrition during the summer, so they stay healthy, active and return to school in the fall ready to learn," said Lucy Nolan, Executive Director of End Hunger Connecticut.

Food insecurity is also an issue for our seniors and is associated with a number of diseases as well as other negative health consequences, according to Feeding America. Food insecure seniors are 60% more likely to experience depression and are 53% more likely to have a heart attack.

TEAM combats the challenges faced by Valley seniors by providing Meals on Wheels (MOW) as well as food to Community Café sites and three of the Valley senior centers. In 2013, TEAM served 58,000 meals to 367 homebound seniors, a 10% increase for the previous year.

"We try to help them remain independent in the homes. We also provide wellness checks. Sometimes, we are the only ones that they may see," said TEAM Vice President Diane Stroman.

"It's very important for us to remember that food insecurity effects so many different groups throughout our Valley community," said Tarasovic. "The more we can learn about the factors which contribute to hunger in the Valley, the better we will be able to collaborate to provide support and service where it is needed the most."

Donor Spotlight: *The Bassett Family* *A Valley Legacy Carried through the Generations*



The Bassett family at the VCF 10th Anniversary Celebration: (left to right) William C. Bassett, Elizabeth DePaolo, Judy Bassett, VCF Board member Lynne Bassett Perry, and William H. Bassett.

In 1947, the Valley businessman William E. Bassett developed

a sleek little fingernail clipper for a line of manicure items produced by his small machine shop. Customers loved it, and the clipper went on to become the iconic item of the TRIM product line, which grew to more than 150 products and propelled the company to become one of the most successful in the Valley.

As the W.E. Bassett Company grew, it also gave back. Throughout its 70-year history, the company and the Bassett family were strong supporters of nonprofits throughout the Valley. The founder and his brother, Harry Bassett, who also ran the company, passed their shared commitment to the Valley's social causes on to the next generation of Bassetts.

Shortly after a California company acquired W.E. Bassett in 2011, the sad news arrived that the Shelton headquarters would close. While the company's long commitment to the Valley had ended, the Bassett family's would not. Bill Bassett, son of the founder and Chairman, along with his wife Judy and their children Lynne Perry, Betsy DePaolo and Bill (W.H.), decided to ensure that their legacy of philanthropy would live on through the Bassett Family Fund at the Valley Community Foundation.

"The Bassett family felt strongly that the nonprofits that supported the Valley over the years deserved more than a thank you and goodbye," Bill Bassett said at VCF's recent 10th Anniversary Celebration, where he was recognized for his lifelong commitment to the Valley with the presentation of the first Joseph A. Pagliaro, Sr. Philanthropic Award.

"The [Bassett Family] Fund will continue the philanthropy of the Bassett Company and our family for years to come."

Bassett's uncle, Harry Bassett, was well known in the family for instilling a belief in corporate responsibility to the community because it was local people who had helped make the company's success possible.

More than 30 years ago, Harry Bassett started the first Valley Foundation with S.P. (Fuzzy) Francini. Their vision was to provide for Valley nonprofits in perpetuity. Unfortunately, the idea did not catch on and the fund that was set up never went beyond their initial donation.

So when Bill Bassett was approached ten years ago by Joe Pagliaro, Sr. to help form the new Valley Community Foundation, Bassett said he had no hesitation.

"The Bassett family felt strongly that the nonprofits that supported the Valley over the years deserved more than a thank you and a goodbye."

- Bill Bassett

"I was all in because this would honor Harry's vision and I always felt that a foundation centered on Valley needs would be a tremendous community asset," Bassett said.

In addition to being a founding VCF Board member, Bassett for many years served as Chairman of BHcare, formerly the Birmingham Group, and is still on the Board. In addition, he served on many Valley nonprofit Boards including: Valley United Way, Valley Chamber of Commerce, Valley Substance Abuse Action Council, Shelton Economic Development Corporation, Hewitt Memorial Hospital and Connecticut Trails Girl Scouts.

In its short history, the Bassett Family Fund has given more than \$400,000 to 90 Valley organizations.

The Great Give® 2014 Another— Great Success!

Thanks to donor support, matching grants and prizes, \$192,000 was distributed to nonprofits located in the Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton as a result of The Great Give® 2014 on May 6th and 7th.

In addition, Center Stage Theatre of Shelton won a \$15,000 Grand Prize, one of the largest awards provided by our affiliate The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, for the most money raised by a nonprofit!

The Valley Community Foundation provided \$25,000 in matching and prize funds to encourage giving by people who live and/or work in the Valley. These funds were further augmented by grants and prizes provided by VCF donor advised funds.

Thank you to everyone who participated this year! Read about final results at thegreatgive.org and check the website often to find out details about The Great Give® 2015!

VCF Sponsored Events

Throughout the year, The Valley Community Foundation awards sponsorship grants ranging from \$250 - \$2,500 to support a variety of fabulous community events.

Visit valleyfoundation.org to see our list of sponsored events and learn how you can apply for a sponsorship grant from VCF.



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WWW.VALLEYFOUNDATION.ORG



Good News About the Valley



Left to right: Jimmy Tickey, Valley United Way President Jack Walsh, VCF Board member Joseph Pagliaro, Jr., Janice Sheehy and former VCF Board member David Grant.



A group shot of Valley Community Foundation's past and present leadership at the 10th Anniversary Celebration.



Left to right: VCF Board member Liz Kennard, VCF's first President Angela G. Powers and former VCF Board member Mary Pepe.

Celebrating 10 Years of Community Effort

On June 4th, VCF held its 10th anniversary celebration at the Il Palio restaurant in Shelton. The event was a wonderful culmination of ten years of work in the Valley. VCF has truly evolved into a real family over the past decade.

There was much to celebrate! In the Foundation's first year, seven funds totaling \$750,000 were established and \$2,000 was awarded out to nonprofits. And now at the ten year mark, VCF has 128 funds with assets of \$17.5M and last year over \$1.3M in grants was awarded to support Valley nonprofits.

The evening's Mistress of Ceremonies, VCF Board member Liz Kennard, did a wonderful job recapping VCF's growth over the past ten years; Will Ginsberg, President and CEO of our affiliate The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, highlighted our valued partnership; and former VCF Board member Mary Pepe wrapped it up by reminding us just how important VCF has been, is and will be to the Valley.

By all accounts, the high point of the event was the Pagliaro family's presentation of the Joseph A. Pagliaro, Sr. Philanthropy Award to Bill Bassett and his family. The words spoken by both families moved many to tears as they recalled the contributions Joe, Sr. made to the Valley and of his passing almost ten years to the day.

We could not be more excited about what the next ten years will bring!
You can see pictures of the celebration at valleyfoundation.org.