Community Investment
2018 Responsive Grants Awarded

The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) is pleased to announce that $1,246,250, representing the result of its 2018 Responsive Grants process. This includes support for new organizations as well as previous multi-year funding for 14 additional nonprofits. These grant dollars help to provide a reliable source of funding during a time of financial uncertainty. “The VCF Board is pleased to serve as a catalyst and partner with local nonprofit to support worthwhile missions that serve our Valley communities,” said Alan Tyma, VCF Board Chair.

Grants were awarded through VCF’s Responsive Grantmaking cycle, which is done in partnership with Valley Communities, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF). The program is funded by a generous annual grant from TCF’s Gates and other local sources of unrestricted and field of interest funds. Additionally, several of the Valley’s advised fundholders contributed from their funds to help make these grants possible. Supporting funds included: the Apple Fund, the Saviors and Linda Tiano Coppola Family Fund, the Kigware Family Fund, the Mary Hallock Fisher Foundation, the Smyle Family Fund, the Sally and Dennis Trust, the Fox Family Trust, and the Waracher Family Fund.

In addition, VCF may one of the recipients of the 2017 DiMatteo Group’s Annual Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament to support the 2018 Responsive Grantmaking cycle.

BHcare*: to support a Medication Assisted Therapy program in Ansonia and Branford to address the opioid epidemic. $70,000 (VCF); $18,750 (TCF)

Derby Historical Society: to provide general operating support to preserve, maintain, and celebrate the history of Derby. $35,000

Griffin Hospital: to support a 12-week wellness and exercise program to improve the health of individuals diagnosed with or pre-diabetes. $25,000

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County: to support the Life Prep Initiative, which will provide financial education to 12-18 year-old students. $80,000

Lincoln Senior Housing: to support the purchase and installation of an emergency generator for its 24 apartment senior living facility. $15,000

Norwalk Community College: to support A Matter of Balance, a fall prevention program for older adults in the Valley. $24,000

Rage Crisis Center of Millford, Inc.: to provide general operating support to address emotional programming and sexual assault and for comprehensive and culturally competent sexual assault victim services. $30,000 (VCF); $45,000 (TCF)

Valley Emergency Medical Services: to provide general operating support for the Valley’s citizens who may be in a medical emergency. $150,000

Wesley Heights, Inc.: to support Living Well through Technology, a new project that will provide multidisciplinary support to low-income residents with early stage dementia to maximize their abilities and quality of life. $30,000

Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center: to support the Addressing Opioid Epiphenomena in Elementary and Secondary Schools program which will improve the education and identification of students with chronic health conditions in the New Canaan, Norwalk, and Shelton public schools. $30,000

Screening Hosts Community Film
Panelists included, Imam Omer Bajwa, Director of Muslim Life in the Chapel’s Office at Yale, Rabbi Michael Farshad, Temple Emunah in Orange, and Rev. Dr. Lisa Hahnelman, Episcopal Priest serving the Diocese of Connecticut. Each have personally visited Jerusalem and shared their experiences about the Holy City with the audience.

Maine is home of the world’s three largest denominations: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. This is the Council’s first public event to bring further understanding and clarity about interfaith similarities and differences. It is the hope of the VFC that this immersive and inclusive experience will help to provide more knowledge about tolerance and understanding.

Funding support for this event was made possible by the South Central Connecticut Agency on Aging, the Valley Community Foundation, with accomodations provided by Center Stage Theatre.
Our Salutatorian: The Richard O. Belden Community Center in Shelton

Students & Teachers Use the Belden Center’s Auditorium for Music Lessons

THE RICHARD O. Belden Community Center in Shelton is a multi-use facility that serves as a civic, cultural, and recreational hub for the community. It features a large auditorium with state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, a gymnasium, a meeting room, and a community kitchen.

The auditorium is used for a variety of events, including concerts, plays, recitals, and other cultural performances. Teachers and students from surrounding schools often use the space for music lessons, rehearsals, and assemblies. The facility also hosts community events, such as lectures, workshops, and art exhibits.

The Belden Center is named in honor of Richard O. Belden, a former mayor of Shelton and a long-time advocate for civic engagement and community involvement. Belden was a strong supporter of education and the arts, and his legacy continues through the use of the facility.

The Belden Center is an important resource for students and teachers in the area, providing them with a space to develop their talents and interests. It is a symbol of the community’s commitment to education and the arts, and a testament to the enduring impact of civic-minded leaders like Richard O. Belden.