

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW



# TOGETHER WE THRIVE

## The journey to giving back

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**My mother came from a poor country in South America to pursue the American dream. She worked tirelessly to provide me with an education, while a support system of friends and mentors guided my journey. Through their helping hands, I was able to achieve in school, thrive in the workplace, and fulfill both my mother's dreams and my own. Today, the work we're doing through Fairfield County's Community Foundation is this same story—multiplied by thousands.**

”

**Juanita T. James**

Dear Friend,

If we've learned one thing from life and from history, it's that we must stand together to prosper. We're honored to put this principle to work through Fairfield County's Community Foundation, as we bring together passionate people and key resources to create lasting change in our county.

Your support is what allows us to work together on transformative solutions that strengthen and enrich our communities, and help people achieve their dreams and improve their lives. By building a strong foundation for prosperity and stability, we're securing a brighter future for all Fairfield County residents. Thanks to your generosity, we're making a measurable difference.

This year, your investment in our work created a ripple effect of change and growth throughout the region. Just over \$13 million was awarded to help sustain and grow 736 nonprofit organizations. College became a reality for 369 deserving students through \$521,000 in scholarships. We launched a series of forums bringing together business leaders, educators, nonprofit leaders and young adults to have honest dialogue about problems and brainstorm solutions for getting our youth on the path to success and independence by the age of 25. This and so much more was only made possible because of you.

Our *Year in Review* report shares a look at some of the powerful ways you've given back to Fairfield County. Thank you for helping our communities grow. With your support, the Community Foundation's motto is truly realized: "Together we thrive."

**Juanita T. James**  
President & CEO

**Lizanne Galbreath**  
Chair, Board of Directors

# TOGETHER, WE'RE...

Offering women and girls pathways to economic security that benefit both this generation, and the next.

## Fund for Women & Girls

Fairfield County is home to one of the highest costs of living in the nation, and the country's largest gender wage gap. Women in our region earn 72 cents for every dollar men earn. The gap is widest for women of color—and the challenge greatest for the 21,800 households headed by women raising children under 18.

You are part of the solution. Your generosity this year helped put women and their families on the path to success by launching the Family Economic Security Program at Housatonic Community College. Starting with 30 students, the program will grow exponentially over four years to provide 400 low- and middle-income students with coaching, job skill trainings, benefit screenings, scholarships and group workshops. By building this network of support, you're helping women to achieve goals like earning a college degree, finding a job that pays family-sustaining wages, and becoming a successful role model for their children.



Hundreds of professionals, mentors, parents and teens are learning how to better empower women and girls to achieve their full potential.

[fccfoundation.org/fwg](http://fccfoundation.org/fwg)

"Our facilitators don't simply dispense advice. Through Girls Circle, they create a safe and accepting space for young women to find wisdom within themselves and from their peers. Valuing *every girl's voice is an act of empowerment. Girls Circle teaches both myself and the remarkable girls that I am privileged to work with how to be strong in the face of complex challenges.*"

**Charlotte Poth**, Prevention Educator

The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis  
Counseling and Education



# TOGETHER, WE'RE...

Creating safe communities with affordable housing, so children and families can prosper.



Today, more than 52,000 families in Fairfield County can't afford the rent for a two-bedroom apartment. Living in public housing can mean raising a family in a neighborhood full of violence and poverty—making the path to education and economic security much more challenging.

## Fairfield County Funders' Collaborative for Affordable Housing

For nine years, we've pooled our resources to work collaboratively with fellow donors to address the lack of affordable housing in the region. In total, 3.5 million dollars has been awarded to nonprofit housing developers, resulting in 886 units of affordable housing.

**360** families from one Bridgeport public housing community—1,180 residents in all—have transformed their neighborhood with an urban farm, pre-K program and a revitalized community center.

[fccfoundation.org/housing](http://fccfoundation.org/housing)

## PT Partners

Your generous giving is increasing the community safety, housing stability and economic security for the PT Barnum public housing community in Bridgeport. By supporting this model community development program, you're helping to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and create a blueprint for the future.



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## Supporting young adults at the intersection of education and jobs, helping them to thrive by age 25.

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### Thrive by 25

Young people are eager to gain workforce experience and secure a meaningful job. They face considerable obstacles in Fairfield County, where 1 in 8 are unemployed—the 15th highest rate in the nation. Your visionary support is helping to secure our future and our economic stability through a pilot program called Pathways to Careers Fairfield County, scheduled to launch next year. This network of internships and workforce development programming will help give Fairfield County youth the opportunity to develop marketable job skills and discover their path to a meaningful career by age 25, no matter their family income, school district or zip code.



In addition to awarding **\$1.2 million** to 63 local nonprofits serving youth in Fairfield County, we formed a new partnership with JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Our Piece of the Pie to launch Pathways to Careers Fairfield County in 2016.

[fccfoundation.org/thriveby25](http://fccfoundation.org/thriveby25)



# TOGETHER, WE'RE...

Creating an environment where the arts can flourish and inspire growth and change in every neighborhood.



With your help, we awarded **\$175,000** to 14 nonprofits that are making the arts accessible to thousands in our communities.

[fccfoundation.org/arts](http://fccfoundation.org/arts)

This year, **710** staff members and volunteers from 374 nonprofits improved their operating, financial, fundraising and leadership skills through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence's trainings.

[fccfoundation.org/cne](http://fccfoundation.org/cne)

## The Arts

To spark change, we first need to touch the spirit—through words, song, images and story. You're helping us to do just that by making art and culture more accessible to everyone in Fairfield County. You're also driving vitality and economic development in our region by fostering an environment where thousands of people of all ages can experience the performing and visual arts, explore different art forms, and discover the array of cultural traditions that connect us deeply to our communities.

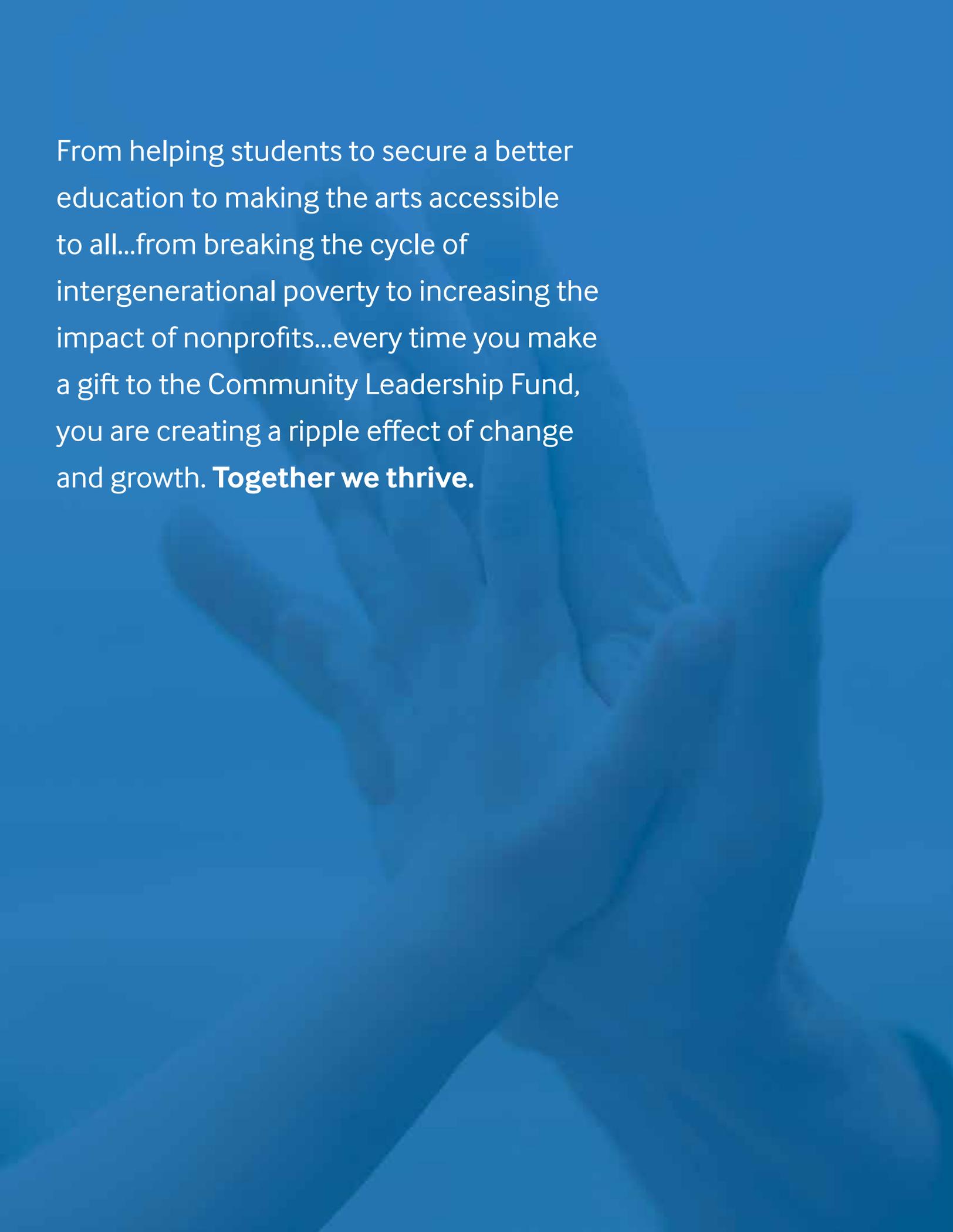
## Strengthening Fairfield County's nonprofits to increase their impact.

### Center for Nonprofit Excellence

There are 3,162 nonprofits working to solve the most difficult issues facing Fairfield County's communities. As demand for services rises, many of these organizations struggle with limited resources, budget cuts and inadequate infrastructures. Your support is increasing local nonprofits' ability to foster change and growth by giving these organizations the skills and knowledge to build capacity and make a greater impact.

"FCCF's Center for Nonprofit Excellence is, without doubt, one of the most professional and effective services of its kind in Fairfield County. You are always at the head of the curve in terms of best practices. Virtually all nonprofits in the county rely on or benefit from the expertise you bring to the table."

**Nancy Coughlin**, Executive Director  
Neighbor to Neighbor



From helping students to secure a better education to making the arts accessible to all...from breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty to increasing the impact of nonprofits...every time you make a gift to the Community Leadership Fund, you are creating a ripple effect of change and growth. **Together we thrive.**

# GIVING DAY

Connecting neighbors and nonprofits to make a difference through Fairfield County's Giving Day.



## Giving Day

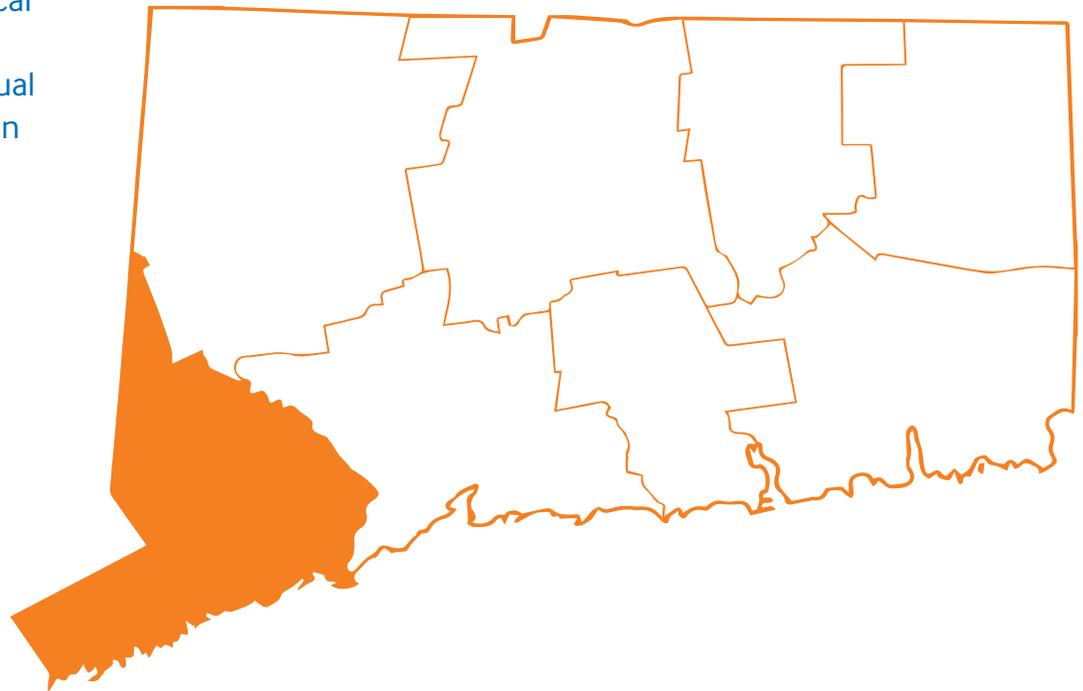
Today more than ever, our local nonprofits need funding to fuel their work. And when you give, you want to know that you're making a difference in your own backyard. We're honored to help meet both these needs by spearheading Fairfield County's Giving Day, the region's biggest philanthropic event of the year. With your continued support, March 10, 2016, is poised to make an even bigger impact.

Thanks to you, on March 15, 2015, we raised more than

**\$1 million**

in 24 hours to support local nonprofits—an increase of more than 40% in annual participation and donation revenue.

[FCGives.org](http://FCGives.org)

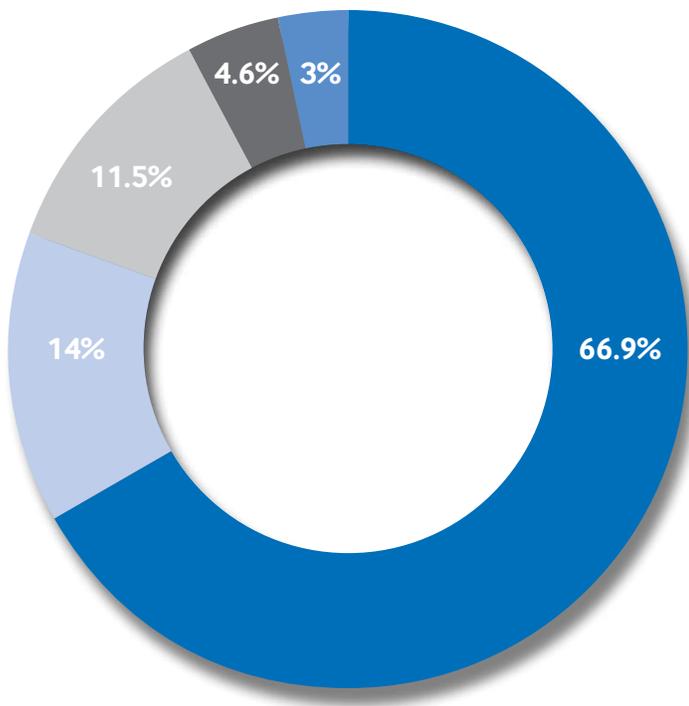


# GRANTS

FY15 JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

**\$13 million**

in grants by  
charitable  
fund type



|   |                   |        |
|---|-------------------|--------|
|    | Donor Advised     | \$8.7m |
|    | Discretionary     | \$1.8m |
|    | Field of Interest | \$1.5m |
|   | Scholarship       | \$.6m  |
|  | Donor Designated  | \$.4m  |

**\$3,356,430** Funding awarded through our competitive grantmaking process to Fairfield County nonprofit programming, focused on:



Arts and Culture



Housing &  
Economic  
Security



Fund for  
Women & Girls



Education  
and Youth  
Development



Strengthening  
Nonprofits



Environment

# 2015 FINANCES

FY15 JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

## Giving through partnership

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To feel completely comfortable with a financial partner is a great blessing. Fairfield County's Community Foundation has earned my trust again and again with their local expertise and spot-on counsel.

My relationship with the Community Foundation goes beyond a partnership. There's a true understanding of my goals, and a true desire to bring them to life in ways I could not have imagined.

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**Eleanor Harrison Smith**  
Donor Advised Fundholder

|  | FY2015               | FY2014               |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                            |                      |                      |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents                | \$241,121            | \$417,802            |
| Contributions and Other Receivables      | 2,221,137            | 2,303,285            |
| Investments                              | 186,587,978          | 178,338,117          |
| Other Assets                             | 200,837              | 215,207              |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                      | <b>\$189,251,073</b> | <b>\$181,274,411</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>        |                      |                      |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                       |                      |                      |
| Accounts Payable                         | \$170,594            | \$177,450            |
| Grants Payable and Other Liabilities     | 11,176,535           | 10,689,826           |
| Other Liabilities                        | 104,720              | 138,316              |
| Net Assets                               | 177,799,224          | 170,268,819          |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>  | <b>\$189,251,073</b> | <b>\$181,274,411</b> |
| <b>Revenues</b>                          |                      |                      |
| Contributions and Gifts to Funds         | \$19,963,451         | \$14,194,003         |
| Investment Income, Net of Expenses       | 4,812,769            | 21,571,166           |
| Program Service and Other Revenue        | 213,288              | 101,301              |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                     | <b>\$24,989,508</b>  | <b>\$35,866,470</b>  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                          |                      |                      |
| Grants*                                  | \$13,111,167         | \$10,986,992         |
| Grant Services and Community Initiatives | 1,799,992            | 1,255,984            |
| Philanthropic Advisory Services          | 749,580              | 833,264              |
| Management and Administration            | 1,020,888            | 866,309              |
| Fundraising                              | 777,476              | 766,368              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                    | <b>\$17,459,103</b>  | <b>\$14,708,917</b>  |
| <b>Change in Net Assets</b>              | <b>\$7,530,405</b>   | <b>\$21,157,553</b>  |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                        |                      |                      |
| Beginning of Year                        | \$170,268,819        | \$149,111,266        |
| End of Year                              | \$177,799,224        | \$170,268,819        |

\*Does not include activity from agency funds

For a complete copy of the Fairfield County's Community Foundation's audited financial statements, go to FCCF's website at FCCFoundation.org or contact the Controller's Office at 203.750.3200. To view a copy of FCCF's tax return (IRS Form 990), visit guidestar.org, or contact the foundation.

## FY15 in Review

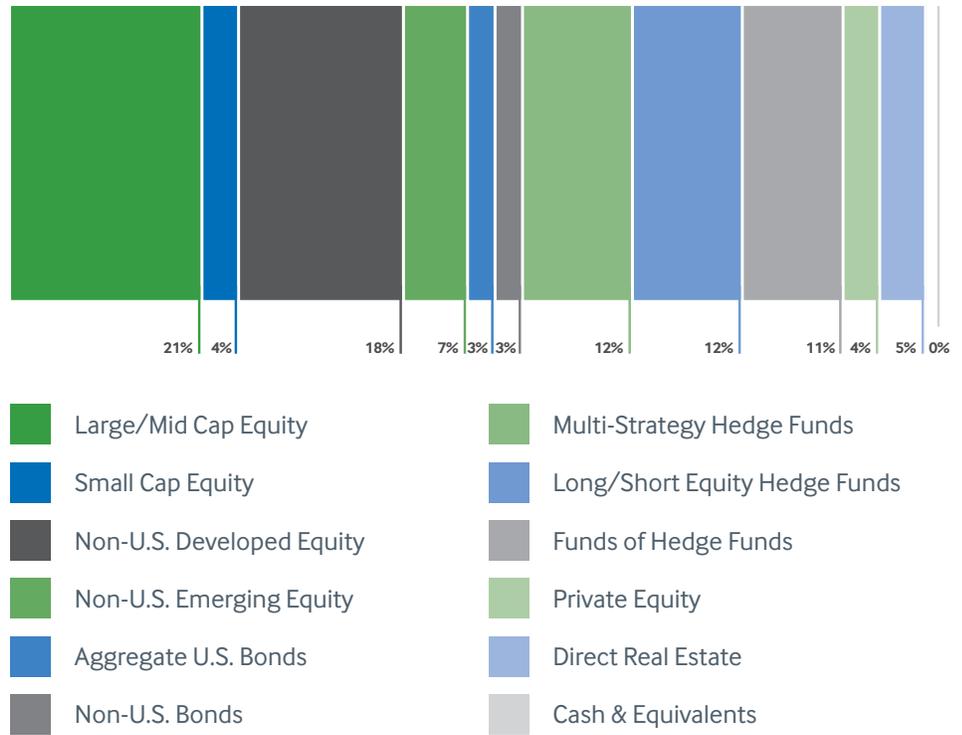
**\$13** million in grants awarded (with scholarships)

**\$20** million in contributions

**\$224,933** in value of volunteer time

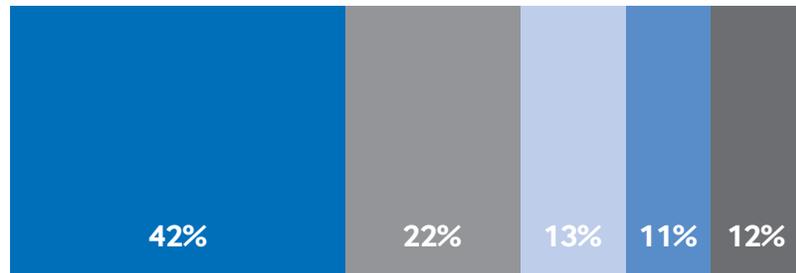
**\$177.8** million in net assets

## Asset Allocation



## Net Assets by Fund Type

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Donor Advised     | \$75.2m |
| Field of Interest | \$39.4m |
| Discretionary     | \$23.7m |
| Donor Designated  | \$19m   |
| Scholarship       | \$20.5m |



As a trusted nonprofit partner and thought leader, we bring together community organizers, business experts and philanthropists to solve our region's challenges. Our goal is to create a vital and inclusive community, where every individual has the opportunity to thrive. Learn how you can support this work and give back in your community at [FCCFoundation.org](http://FCCFoundation.org).



**Fairfield County's  
Community Foundation**

383 Main Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06851

P: 203.750.3200  
F: 203.750.3232

[FCCFoundation.org](http://FCCFoundation.org)

