

YOUR COMMUNITY UPDATE *Spring 2020*

RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCY: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FAIRFIELD COUNTY

James Baldwin, the American novelist, essayist, and playwright, wrote “Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.” While Baldwin wrote figuratively of “masks” in the struggle against racism, his belief in the possibility of love, even in a time of tremendous strife, seems relevant today.

In a region that already has the highest income inequality in the nation, the COVID-19 pandemic risks significant widening of disparities in education, employment, housing, and health. Acting on the frontlines of Fairfield County, many local nonprofit service providers often operate on shoestring budgets. Even with the generosity of volunteers, they were consistently overwhelmed by skyrocketing need for

their vital services prior to this crisis. Now, for many of these organizations, the ability to survive and continue to serve our region’s most vulnerable residents is in question.

While government has offered some financial support for people and businesses, the need has far outpaced the response. Mental health, household violence, and economic collapse are closing in on many families and will increase if the economy hasn’t recovered before emergency supports run out.

Yet, as the impact of COVID-19 unfolds, it becomes increasingly obvious that our lives are bound together — from Greenwich to Bridgeport, Danbury to Darien, Norwalk to Newtown, and across Fairfield County’s 23 towns and cities.

Indeed, there is reason for hope.

We launched the Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund on March 18 to help minimize the local social and economic consequences of this global pandemic. Two matching challenge grants from anonymous donors — one at \$100,000 and a second at \$500,000 — have provided powerful incentives for giving. And the Community Foundation’s donor-advised fundholders have directed an additional \$2.6 million in grants during the same period. We’ve been humbled and heartened by our community’s response. Our work to support current and long-term needs will continue in the months ahead.

Inside, you’ll learn how Fairfield County residents and nonprofits have and will continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; the power of community philanthropy in a time of crisis; an easy way to unlock the joy of giving by converting a private foundation to a Donor Advised Fund; and how a planned gift will carry forward one donor’s legacy of supporting disadvantaged youth.

When it is safe to remove our literal masks in public, and that time will surely come, the collective and transformative power of love Baldwin professed — love of each other and of our community — will be key to moving forward and living without fear.

We are proud to be your neighbors and to be YOUR community foundation.

Learn more and donate at:
[FCCFoundation.org/
Covid19ResiliencyFund](https://www.fccfoundation.org/Covid19ResiliencyFund)

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COVID-19 RESILIENCY FUND

DOLLARS DONATED: \$2,231,155

GRANTS DEPLOYED: \$1,359,500

NUMBER OF NONPROFITS RECEIVING FUNDS: 98

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTS: \$4,000,000

GRANTS BY FUNDED IMPACT AREAS
45% MENTAL OR PHYSICAL HEALTH
22% EMPLOYMENT OR ECONOMIC SECURITY
17% HOUSING
15% EDUCATION

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COVID-19 NONPROFIT & COMMUNITY NEEDS

GLOBAL PANDEMIC, LOCAL IMPACT: HOW COVID-19 IS SHAPING NEEDS IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY



by Mendi Blue-Paca,
CHIEF COMMUNITY IMPACT
OFFICER

The COVID-19 pandemic has created both unprecedented immediate needs and anticipated long-term challenges for nonprofit and community-based organizations and Fairfield County residents, with frontline direct service providers acutely impacted. Based on conversations our Community Impact team has had with nonprofits, community leaders, and residents to assess these dynamic challenges, we are focused on addressing needs with an emphasis on 1) housing, economic and food security; 2) education and children and youth services; and 3) mental and physical health.

Local nonprofits identify these basic needs as among their most urgent challenges:

Food. Job loss or reduced work has left many unable to meet basic needs like rent or food, even after federal stimulus and expanded unemployment benefits. At the same time, food pantries face decreased access to volunteers and increased costs as they adjust service delivery to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Housing. Despite relief measures, there is a projected spike in the need for loss mitigation counseling for homeowners in the coming months, and renters can

face eviction when courts reopen. The homeless have nowhere to go as social distancing reduces bed capacity at shelters and libraries and eateries close. People who are homeless also have nowhere to self-isolate. And vulnerable, low-income groups, particularly immigrants, often live in overcrowded conditions that increase the risk of virus spread.

Childcare. With schools closed, women and girls who serve as primary caretakers (and may also be employed full-time) face increased responsibilities. Many childcare providers are in need of cleaning supplies, thermometers to screen children, and food to run their programs. And as non-essential workers keep children home, providers may be at risk of closing. This could negatively impact women's economic security by reducing the capacity of an already strained childcare system.

We are proud to be part of a community foundation sector that mobilized quickly to help philanthropists respond to this crisis. As needs and priorities shift as we transition from response to recovery, we remain committed to working as a partner to maximize your impact. Your generous response is a vital force to both help local nonprofits meet critical and evolving needs, and to inspire others to give.

Your generosity is helping frontline Fairfield County nonprofits meet the critical and evolving needs caused by COVID-19. Learn more at: [FCCFoundation.org/Covid19ResiliencyFund](https://www.fccfoundation.org/Covid19ResiliencyFund)

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ABOUT THE POWER OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY IN A CRISIS?

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS ARE CENTRAL TO THE RESPONSE.

Of the 530 different response funds launched nationwide since the COVID-19 crisis, 373 were housed at community foundations.

CHALLENGE GRANTS MATTER.

Many donors to our COVID-19 Resiliency Fund remarked that they were incentivized to give, even at small levels, because of two generous challenge grants we received.

CORPORATIONS THAT OFFER MATCHING GIFTS INCENTIVIZE EMPLOYEE GIVING.

Corporate giving programs responded to the COVID-19 crisis quickly, and with large amounts of philanthropic dollars.

Source: Candid/Foundation Center

THANKS TO OUR FOUNDING FUND PARTNERS

The Community Foundation thanks a cross-section of generous fundholders, individuals, corporations, and private foundations who have each contributed a minimum of \$25,000 to the Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund.

Anne S. Leonhardt Fund
Anonymous Fundholders and Donors
Bank of America
Bridgewater Associates
Buckeye Fund
CNG, SCG, UI – Part of the AVANGRID Family
Dan Levinson
Diane and Andreas Halvorsen
Don Kendall
Eversource
Fairfield County's Community Foundation
Board of Directors
Henkel North America
Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation
Impact Fairfield County/Generation Impact
JPMorgan Chase & Co
John Mayer's Back To You Fund
Judy and Tony Evnin
NBC Sports Group
O'Herron Family Foundation
People's United Community Foundation
Perrin Fund for Youth Voice
Pitney Bowes
Ritter Family Foundation
Social Venture Partners Connecticut
Target Corporation
The Koskoff Fund
The Wescustogo Foundation
Tudor Foundation
Wells Fargo



Converting a private foundation to a Donor Advised Fund at Fairfield County's Community Foundation frees up families to focus on the joy of giving, while ensuring their legacy of generosity is carried on for future generations.

WHY CONVERT A PRIVATE FOUNDATION? IT'S ABOUT FOCUSING ON WHAT MATTERS



Q&A with Joseph Collin,
**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
& PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES**

Fairfield County is home to hundreds of private foundations. But for philanthropists who would prefer to focus on making an impact rather than administering paperwork, converting to a Donor Advised Fund can be a rewarding option. Our Director of Development & Philanthropic Services explains why.

How do a private foundation and a Donor Advised Fund differ?

A private foundation is an independent entity governed by a board that handles its own investments, grant awards and tax filings. A Donor Advised Fund at Fairfield County's Community Foundation is a component fund of the Foundation and covered by our tax exempt status, with several investment

options including maintaining your current financial advisor, and administration managed through our staff.

What are some key benefits of converting to a Donor Advised Fund?

Donors who convert a private foundation to a Donor Advised Fund can continue to recommend grants and involve future generations of family members in giving. So it can offer all the joy of philanthropy, while shifting the daily administrative work to FCCF. There may also be some additional tax benefits.

How does the conversion process work?

Once a conversion is approved by a private foundation's board, a new Donor Advised Fund can be established with the foundation transferring assets to FCCF.

We guide families and board members through all required steps, and work with them closely to ensure the conversion process is seamless for both them and existing grantees.

What is the most common reason you see foundations convert to a Donor Advised Fund?

Often, a single person does nearly all the work of running a private foundation. So we frequently hear from philanthropists who recognize that they need someone to carry their work into the future. It's our pleasure and purpose to fill that need.

Learn more about establishing a Donor Advised Fund:
[FCCFoundation.org/DAF](https://www.fccfoundation.org/DAF)

WHY CHOOSE A DONOR ADVISED FUND AT FCCF?

Converting your private foundation to a Donor Advised Fund at Fairfield County's Community Foundation offers multiple benefits, including:

- Administration of all paperwork
- Expert investment strategies
- Community grantmaking expertise
- Potential tax advantages
- Ability to contribute non-cash assets
- Ability to make anonymous gifts
- Continuity for your charitable work

Call us today at (203) 750-3200 to learn more.

A VISIONARY PHILANTHROPIST CRAFTS A GIFT TO SERVE FUTURE GENERATIONS

Though he had no children of his own, Richard E. Smith spent much of his life caring for Stamford's young people. As a donor and board member of DOMUS, a longstanding nonprofit partner of Fairfield County's Community Foundation, he worked tirelessly to create opportunity for disadvantaged youth.

And as a new member of FCCF's Future Society, a group of philanthropists that is creating lasting change through planned gifts to FCCF, Richard's spirit of giving will continue to shape brighter futures for generations to come. Upon his passing in April 2019, the

Richard E. Smith Fund of Youth and Family at FCCF was established through his estate to support at-risk disadvantaged youth in Fairfield County.

Richard's attorney, Lois Anderson, worked with him to recommend a vehicle for giving that designates a preference for a limited charitable purpose, rather than a specific organization. By opting to establish a Field of Interest Fund, Richard could express his wish to support Fairfield County nonprofits helping disadvantaged youth – and gain peace of mind from the knowledge that FCCF will serve as a neutral

party to guide and adapt the fund's grantmaking over time.

"These youths are truly the hope of the future," wrote Richard. "I observed first-hand how powerful this transformation can be for some teenager who never dreamed it possible. If the small amount I leave for advancing this purpose saves lives that would otherwise be lost, then that shall be my legacy."

As visionary philanthropists, your generous planned gifts make an impact for future generations. Thank you! Learn more at FCCFoundation.org/Future



By creating a Field of Interest fund through his estate, FCCF Future Society member Richard Smith's gift will transform the lives of disadvantaged youth for generations to come.

GET CONNECTED. GET INSPIRED. MAKE AN IMPACT!

Stay connected with Fairfield County's Community Foundation! Join our email list to get the latest news and follow us on our social channels. Plus, be sure to subscribe to our new podcast series. Each episode brings you voices and stories from people making a difference across our region.

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