

BRANFORD

Community Foundation

40th Anniversary



FY2019

Impact Report

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2019





The mission of the
Branford Community Foundation

is to connect people who care with
causes that matter, for the purpose of
preserving and promoting the quality
of life in the Branford Community,
now and for generations to come.

ON THE COVER
FLORAL CHEER ON THE
GREEN BY @urbanbotanist_
Flowers donated by CT Flower Collective

AERIAL VIEW OF
THE OWENEGO BY
James Boemmels



Dear Friend of the Branford Community Foundation,

This year has been difficult in ways we could never have imagined. The Branford Community Foundation (BCF) imagined that 2020 would be full of celebrations for our 40th Anniversary. **But in March — within a few days of the shutdown — it became clear that everything had changed.**

Our neighbors needed immediate help, so we pivoted our work to focus on the crisis. In Branford's time of need we turned to you, and you rose to the occasion. As weeks turned into months and the true impact of the pandemic emerged, neighbors helped neighbors, personal shopping networks and volunteer groups were created, local businesses adapted to meet the needs of the community...and you were incredibly generous.

Your financial support for the COVID19 Response Fund made it possible for families to pay their rent bills, feed their children, and obtain Personal Protective Equipment to do their jobs safely. You made it possible for them to persevere and reaffirmed that -

Branford really does have heart!

*As of August 15, you've given more than **\$202,000** to the COVID19 Response Fund for Branford.*



That allowed BCF to provide
26 GRANTS TOTALING
\$176,235

to organizations who were not only impacted by the coronavirus, but directly responding to community members who suddenly faced joblessness, food insecurity, and health concerns. Your generosity allowed us to reserve additional funds in anticipation of the future impact of the virus during the upcoming months.

We don't know what this pandemic will look like later this year—or even tomorrow. But one thing we DO know is that you'll be there for your neighbors. And that's why we know we'll get through this. We are grateful for your generosity, and your compassion.



Heather Hackley
Chair, Board of Directors

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, matching the name Heather Hackley.



Liza Janssen Petra
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, matching the name Liza Janssen Petra.

P.S.

This is our FY2019 Impact Report (January 1 - December 31, 2019) and you'll note we haven't mentioned anything yet about the BCF efforts in 2019—those days seem like a lifetime ago. Yet the work you supported in 2019 was equally important. We hope, as you read the following pages, you'll feel proud of what you made possible last year and the impact of your gifts since the onset of the pandemic.

a big deal

How you helped provide rental and food assistance to Branford families in need.

In March 2020, as the impacts of the pandemic began hitting hardest, Branford families already stretching their budgets to make ends meet flooded Branford Counseling & Community Services (BCCS) with calls for help.

Thanks to your donations to BCF's COVID19 Response Fund for Branford, BCF was able to rush \$15,000 to BCCS to help this critical social services agency respond to Branford's needs.

BCF's quick boost of unexpected funding at a time of great need gave BCCS the ability to extend a helping hand to families worried about having enough money when the rent came due, says BCCS executive director Peter Cimino. "Because we are the social services agency for the town, we knew, when things started to shut down in mid-March, that we were going to start seeing a response from clients seeking help, as well as from other people in town as they were losing their jobs."



While many in Branford experiencing a major loss of revenue due to unemployment caused by the pandemic received an additional \$600 per week through the federal CARES Act, others were not eligible and had few places to turn for help, Cimino explains.

"Some people didn't qualify for unemployment because they were self-employed, so they were asking us for help for the rent and with food cards." Thanks to your generosity in responding to BCF's call to donate funds that would be provided to their Branford neighbors faced with hardship due to the pandemic, BCF's COVID19 Response Fund for Branford was able to expand its reach to offer grants to assist programs provided by organizations like BCCS. BCCS sought a BCF COVID19 Response Fund grant to help support the agency's food provision and rental assistance programs.

"Then, we started seeing an uptick in requests for rental assistance," says Cimino. "We have a basic needs program where we help people who qualify pay a portion of their rent. We had to reduce what we could provide to them because of the number of people we were seeing, so that we could increase the impact of the funding we could give to reach more people."

(cont)

Thanks to you, BCF's COVID19 Response Fund for Branford came to the rescue on April 20, providing BCCS with a \$15,000 grant. Because a local church had recently gifted BCCS with the equivalent of \$20,000 in grocery gift cards to help those experiencing food insecurity during the pandemic, BCCS was able to pivot its strategy for the best use of the BCF grant. The agency put a major portion of BCF's COVID19 Response Fund for Branford where it was needed most: to help meet Branford residents' rising requests for rent relief assistance, says Cimino.

As the person who distributes those funds to the families, BCCS Social Services Coordinator Mike Randi got to see, firsthand, the gratitude expressed by many for the assistance arriving thanks to BCF's COVID19 Response Fund grant.

“We were able to keep a number of people current on their rent,” says Randi. **“That’s a big deal.”** “They were happy that they were able to get some relief,” adds a grateful Cimino.

And BCF is grateful to people who care enough to do something for their neighbors when they need help.

People like you.



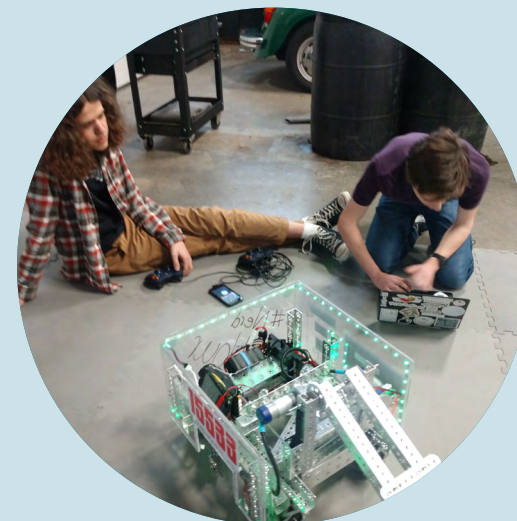
“Tony has gotten a great deal of joy from reading the nostalgia books with his volunteer, Lisa. Tony’s son says he is grateful to know we are there to engage his father during the day when he has to be at work.”

*—Janine Fay, President / CEO,
VNA Community Healthcare and Hospice*



“COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the arts. The children at Tabor Arts were especially disappointed to postpone their production of Beauty and the Beast. Were it not for the support from the Branford Community Foundation, Tabor Arts would not have been able to make payroll. Thankfully our community stands strong! The show will go on with the help of the Branford Community Foundation.”

—Sean Jeffery, Chairman, Tabor Arts Branford



“The grant allowed for us to further discover how capable each one of us was as an engineer, programmer, designer, and more.”

*—Julian Dilauro, Junior,
Branford Public Schools Robotics Team*

it was a blessing

How you kept Branford Early Learning Center's doors open during COVID19

At a time when Diane Papacoda was worried about covering costs and helping to keep Branford Early Learning Center (BELC) staff and families afloat, your generosity came to the rescue. Thanks to you, a \$10,000 grant from the BCF COVID19 Response Fund for Branford arrived like a miracle.

“It was absolutely needed. This \$10,000 was a godsend,” says Papacoda.

As Branford's only non-profit childcare center, award-winning BELC supports families of working parents by providing affordable childcare and early educational experiences. Among BELC's 2019-20 enrollment of 64 children, almost 75 percent of families are at or below the poverty level. When COVID19 closed all schools in the state in mid-March, the intent at the time was to reopen buildings two weeks later.



“We had to lay off teachers so they could collect unemployment, which was only 60 percent of their pay. I also paid their insurance, because we didn't think it was going to be for so long. We didn't want our teachers to suffer or give anything up. But we also didn't think we would have to sustain those costs for more than two weeks,” says Papacoda.

As the pandemic shut-down lengthened from weeks into months, BELC scrambled to bring in supplemental financial assistance from federal and state programs to help cover costs, while also working to help BELC families as needs began to arise. BELC tied in with Feed Branford Kids to help provide weekend student meals and snacks to go, and worked with Community Dining Room's Diaper Bank to procure packages of diapers for BELC families in need.

“Our school was accessible every day for something. We set up a store for free clothes, food, sheets or shoes, whatever the families needed for their kids,” says Papacoda. If BCF had not notified Papacoda of the opportunity to apply for a BCF COVID19 Response Fund grant, she says she may not have known that BCF had been working

(cont)

to generate community contributions to fuel an emergency fund to support Branford organizations like BELC during the pandemic.

“We knew about Branford Community Foundation, because for the past two years, we’ve applied for and received enrichment grants,” says Papacoda. BCF has awarded BELC two \$5,000 enrichment grants to cover the annual cost of bringing in soccer, music, yoga and dance teachers to provide activities and performance experiences in those areas to all children at the school, regardless of family income.

In late March, BCF contacted Papacoda with news that the generosity of the Branford community to the COVID19 Response Fund for Branford provided an opportunity to apply for a grant. BELC applied, hoping for \$5,000, and was overwhelmed when the call arrived notifying of the \$10,000 award. “That’s about the operational cost of running BELC for an entire week,” says Papacoda. “If I could have reached through the phone and kissed them, I would have! That goes a long way towards keeping us open. It’s just amazing. We reopened on June 29th and what that grant did was give us an extra week,” she says.

“That money not only paid our teachers; I had money left which I didn’t have to take out of our budget. We were able to sponsor families -- some of them lost their apartments, some of them didn’t have money to pay for food. And just ordering the supplies we need to keep everyone safe in the building is so expensive. So that grant was really remarkable. I was able to let kids come back, I was able to feed kids and help support our staff. It was such a blessing, because I didn’t have to worry.”



Thanks to you, *kids could safely return for enrichment and learning, parents could go back to work, and BELC employees could return to service.*



Why donate now?

Nancy: “The economic pain people are feeling with this pandemic is stunning, especially those who are already on the economic edge. For some people being out-of-work just means a vacation needs to be postponed, but for many others it means struggling to pay rent or a car payment, and wondering how they are going to feed their family. Can you imagine how desperate those parents feel and how easily a few dollars can help put them back on track?”

Tom: “People don’t have to be unemployed to be struggling. A little while back, I came across a woman near the train station who was looking at her disabled car because the wheel had broken loose. She was in tears because she needed the car to get to the train to go to work, but couldn’t afford the simple \$100 fix. These are the people who need a helping hand, and there are many of them in our community.”

Nancy & Tom Patton relocated to Branford five years ago after raising their family in Guilford. Tom is a healthcare executive, and Nancy is a retired attorney. Their daughter Emily works at Saint Martin de Porres Academy, a middle school for underprivileged children in New Haven, and son Mitchell will begin working with a consulting company in Boston this fall. This past spring, the Patton family provided a significant donation to the Branford Community Foundation’s call for help in response to COVID-19.

We asked if they’d tell us why, and this is what they said...

Why give so much at one time?

Nancy: “This economic disruption and health crisis is unique in our lifetime and absolutely unprecedented, so we feel that our giving should also be unprecedented. Because Tom and I are able to, we think now is a good time to ‘pull forward’ future years of giving and put the dollars to work now. We have great hope for the future and an economic and health recovery in the next few years, but we have to get through this first!”

(cont)

Why give to the BCF COVID-19 Response Fund for Branford?

Tom: “Giving to the Branford Community Foundation as an umbrella operation was a very logical choice for us for a number of reasons. First, we wanted to keep our giving local. It’s our neighbors and church members, the people we see at the supermarket, at the gas station, and on the Green who are hurting. It’s nice to know help is going to those we know and see every day. Second, BCF works closely with various local charities and organizations that really have the pulse of the com-

munity. They reach out, often proactively, to find those in need who may not even know help is available. Third, the BCF’s separate operating fund covers their overhead, so we know that 100% of our donation to their endowment fund goes directly to helping those in need.”

Nancy: “Plus, we completely trust Liza Janssen Petra, the BCF Board, and its staff to allocate the funds towards the highest need and the largest impact here in Branford.”

Thanks to the generosity of the Patton Family, along with so many others with similar concern for the Branford community, we have been able to make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors when they needed it most.



We are so incredibly grateful.

“Camp Hazen gives kids a fantastic screen-free outdoor experience that builds confidence, empathy, leadership and lifts spirits!”

— Parent of a Camper



“It makes me know that learning about music, instruments, sportsmanship, self - regulation and being part of a team is what helps to make a child whole and to encourage them to be compassionate, adventurous and happy to be part of a group. It warms my heart to know we can provide these enrichment programs thanks to the Branford Community Foundation.”

Diane Pappacoda, Branford Early Learning Center



“With the help of Care Coordination, the child and his family have a good team to stand behind them on their continuous journey.”

— Cara Manzari, Lead Care Coordinator, Clifford Beers Clinic, speaking of a 7 year old Branford boy on the Autism Spectrum



2019 Financials

The Branford Community Foundation (BCF) is honored to hold the generous philanthropic wishes of our donors. We are grateful for your trust in our work to preserve and promote the quality of life in the Branford Community; now, and for generations to come.

Key Financial Indicators

BCF assets grew to a record \$2.57 million in assets in the fiscal year that ended December 31, 2019, reflecting strong donations and investments income that allowed BCF to invest \$119,421 in grants, scholarships and leadership initiatives to the community.

Contributions totaled \$157,131. Total income was \$522,113 thanks to investment income, which is subject to short-term fluctuations in value but is managed to generate long-term gains.

| As of December 31 | 2019 | 2018 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Assets | \$2,568,664 | \$2,272,070 |
| Total Contributions | \$157,131 | \$190,234 |
| Total Grants | \$119,421 | \$111,790 |

These assets represent the philanthropy of the Branford community, and we are careful to ensure these assets are invested wisely. Our Finance Committee works with the professionals at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to preserve and grow our en-

dowment. BCF’s individual funds are pooled together and invested in a diversified portfolio.

Key financial Indicators are extracted from annual financial statements. A copy of our 990 is available upon request.

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- Francis Walsh
- Martha Walsh

- Liza Janssen Petra, Executive Director
- Jennifer Mullett, Foundation Coordinator
- Robin Wolek, Bookkeeper

2019 by the numbers

YOU DELIVERED

600
BOOKS

to children through
Read to Grow



YOU SUPPORTED

14
HOUSEHOLDS

in Branford with food,
supplies, litter & vet
services through Tail to
Paw Animal Support



YOU MADE IT
POSSIBLE FOR

34

Branford Patients

with terminal illness to receive
support and small gifts through
VNA Community Healthcare
and Hospice



YOU HELPED

31 athletes

with Special Olympics CT
receive new basketballs,
volleyball nets, travel bags,
& covered registration costs



YOU PROVIDED

1200 meals to
over 170 children

each week school was
in session through Feed
Branford Kids' weekend
backpack program



YOU ENSURED

7 Branford residents
would be remembered
through the Orchard
House's "Lest We Forget"
Oral History Project



YOU MADE IT
POSSIBLE FOR

10 Literacy Volunteers
of Greater New Haven

to tutor **165**
Branford students



YOU PROVIDED

57 children

a year of dance, yoga and
music instruction at Branford
Early Learning Center



YOU HELPED

Legacy Theatre present
4 performances for over

1000 people
on the Branford Green



Branford has heart 



2019 Grant Awards

The Branford Community Foundation (BCF) is pleased to announce that it committed \$119,421 for initiatives and organizations serving Branford in 2019. This reflects 18 grants made through our competitive grant making (complete list below), 31 scholarship awards, 4 grants from designated funds for local organizations, and investments in BCF-driven leadership initiatives.

\$700 Branford Compassion Club to support the neutering of cats in Branford.

\$1,000 Camp Hazen to support financial aid to campers from Branford.

\$1,000 Special Olympics CT to purchase new equipment (and replace outdated/broken equipment) as well as cover the cost of certifying (new) and re-certifying (existing) coaches.

\$1,100 Tail to Paw Animal Support to support residents who are struggling to maintain healthy pets.

\$1,200 Project Graduation to support an all-night event for graduates to keep them safe and entertained on graduation night.

\$2,000 Branford Public Schools to support the expansion of a Robotics Team to include students at Walsh Middle School.

\$2,000 Read to Grow to support the Books for Kids Program in Branford, which plans to distribute 1,600 books to over 400 Branford children.

\$2,000 VNA Community Healthcare to support Hospice programming by providing Branford Patients and families services and experiences not covered by Medicare.

\$2,500 Community Dining Room to support nutritious meal programs, including daily lunch, Saturday breakfast, Tuesday family dinner (including Tuesday night dinners on the Branford Green in the summer), and Wednesday & Friday take-out dinner.

\$3,000 Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven to support volunteer tutors to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) to adult learners in partnership with Branford ERACE.

\$2,500 Tabor Arts Branford to support capital improvements to the main stage.

\$3,500 Clifford Beers Guidance Clinic for intensive case management & care coordination services for children & families living in Branford who are experiencing behavioral health disorders.

\$3,500 Women and Family Life Center to support the expansion of financial one-on-one consults program in Branford.

\$3,533 Designated Grants to local organizations.

\$4,000 Orchard House to support the “Lest We Forget” initiative, an oral history program designed to capture the stories and memories of aging adults with memory loss.

\$5,000 Branford Early Learning Center to offset the costs of enrichment programs throughout the year to children from low-income families.

\$5,000 Feed Branford Kids to support the weekend backpack food program.

\$5,000 Legacy Theatre to support a professional production of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream performed free of charge on the Branford Green.

\$6,675 Sponsorship of local events and organizations.

\$1,963 Leadership Initiatives, including the Shoreline Nonprofit Conference & Awards Celebration, technical assistance grants, and GiveGreater incentive.

\$25,000 James Blackstone Memorial Library Capital Campaign to encourage smaller donations from community members to support their critical renovation (\$100,000 over four years).

\$37,250 Branford High School Scholarships to 31 Branford High School graduates pursuing higher education.

Competitive grants are awarded to qualified nonprofit and government agencies serving the town of Branford. For more information and the application form, go to our website: www.branfordcommunityfoundation.org.



Donors

We extend our deepest gratitude to the following individuals, businesses, and foundations who made financial contributions to the Branford Community Foundation from January 1 to December 31, 2019.

\$10,000 & Up

Guilford Savings Bank
Anne & Creighton Hooker
Jeanette & Robert Mobeck
Annetta & Louis Potts
Catherine & John Seibyl
Jan Walzer & David Etzel
Celia & Robert Wheeler

\$5,000 to \$9,999

American Polyfilm, Inc.
& The Cassella Family
Carole Brown
Polly A. & Alan S. Fitz
Harriet Potts & James Rosco
Karen & Ryan Torello

\$2,000 to \$4,999

Anonymous
Rita Berkson & Randy Reinhold
Stephanie & Len Farber
Jean & Joe Farricielli
Heather & Joseph Hackley
Melodie Lane & Curtis O'Connor
Virginia Page
Progressive Business Solutions

\$1,000 to \$1,999

Elizabeth Alcorn
Marilyn & Victor Cassella
Deborah & Donald Conklin

Marcia & Ron Delfini
Stephanie Donegan & William Dietz
Fusco Corporation
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Maureen & Peter Herbert
Rachel Lampert & Richard Goodwin
Martha & Terry Maguire
Robert Reynolds
Colin Sheehan
Laurie & Bill Van Wilgen

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Elise & Logan Reed
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Alicia & Jeff Torello

\$250 to \$499

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Stephan Ariyan

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F. Vining Bigelow
Wanda Bubriski
Campus Customs
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Green & Sklarz
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Meg Kilgore
Martha Link Walsh
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Trisha Morris & Jonathan Katz
Michael Paz
Andrea Schieckel & Jonathan Clark
Joe Schiffer
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Travelers Indemnity Company
Lesley Ursini

\$100 to \$249

Albert Acabbo
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Jennifer Alexander

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Anne Anderson
Juliette & David Andrews
Patricia Andriole
Carol & Ernest Asprelli
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Rita Trayner
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Terry & Jeff Valette
Janet Vaill Day
Thea & Ed Wassmer
Jay Webb
Debbie & Leo Whelan
Rhoda Winik
Jackie Wolff & Michael Hopkins
Helen Wong & Frazier Bronson
Christine Wood & Alan Forman
Judith & Peter Young
Keith Zeitlin
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Up to \$99

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Susan Aube
Irene Ayres
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Patricia Murphy
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We worked carefully to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this list. We apologize for any mistakes, and ask that you contact Liza Janssen Petra at 203-444-4898 or lpetra@branfordcommunityfoundation.org to correct any inconsistencies.

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