

MAIN ST. MAIN POINTS

A Newsletter for Friends of the Main Street Community Foundation

Fall '06

The Main Street Community Foundation is a philanthropic organization designed to give both small and large donors the opportunity to make meaningful and lasting contributions to the towns of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth-Terryville, Southington and Wolcott.

The mission of the Main Street Community Foundation is to help assure the long-term well-being of the communities we serve by encouraging and promoting:

- Planned Giving
- Prudent Management of Assets
- Responsible Distribution of Funds

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MANY SHOWING OTHERS THEY CARE: Plainville Community Fund

Have you ever wondered what a small group of committed citizens can do to help a town? The answer is – a lot!

Take Plainville for example. When Dolly Chamberlin joined the Main Street Community Foundation Board in 2003, she also agreed to serve on the Foundation's Distribution Committee. As Dolly and other volunteers wrestled with the challenge of granting limited funds to great causes, Dolly took notice of how beneficial it was when a community had its own fund that town groups could turn to when they had a need or a new idea. She was particularly struck by the ability of Burlington residents to call on the James Parker Trust, which was started by a long-time Burlington resident through a bequest in his will. Because of his foresight, countless new opportunities have become available to Burlington residents.

Dolly decided to take her case for a community fund back to her hometown. She started talking to people she knew to be community leaders to convince them that they should get involved. It didn't take long before a great Founding group—Helen Bergenty, Rita Dewyea, Ken Gnazzo, Robert Lee, Peg Matteo, Bill Petit and Jim Welch—joined Dolly in this quest to start the Plainville Community Fund. In May, Jim Welch and his partner Tim Adams hosted a very successful reception for over 100 people at their restaurant, J. Timothy's Taverne, to introduce the concept of the fund. In the few months since the fund's inception, over \$35,000 in cash and pledges have arrived.

The plan is to continue to grow the fund, with the first distributions scheduled to be given out in the Spring of 2008. A local advisory council will oversee general issues related to the growth of the fund and a distribution committee of Plainville residents will work with the Main Street Board to consider requests for the endowed fund. Congratulations to the Founding group of this important Plainville effort! Please call Dolly Chamberlin at 747-2040 if you have questions or would like to make either a current or planned gift to help the community fund grow.



Taking a moment to celebrate at the kickoff reception for the Plainville Community Fund are seated: Peg Matteo, Rita Dewyea, Dolly Chamberlin and Helen Bergenty. Standing: Jim Welch, Cheryl Dumont-Smith, Robert Lee, Ken Gnazzo, Bill Petit and Tom Barnes.



Announcing the Main Street Children's Fund

The Main Street Community Foundation has created a new fund to help children in the six towns served by the Foundation. Starting with a donation from the Yarde Metals NapCar Event, the fund will provide immediate response gifts of \$100- \$200 to address the needs of children under the age of 18, with emphasis on basic needs or special opportunities. Professionals who work with a child in special circumstances can contact The Foundation office for more details. Additional contributions to this fund are welcome at any time.



We Did It!

In June, the Main Street Community Foundation received word from the National Council on Foundations that the Foundation was being recognized for having organizational and financial practices that are in accordance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. As a result, Main Street can now display the national standards seal shown here.



*Confirmed in Compliance with
National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations*

This recognition comes after an extensive review of Main Street's organizational and financial policies and procedures in order to comply with 43 separate standards addressing six key areas: mission, structure and governance, resource development, stewardship and accountability, grant making/community leadership, donor relations and communication and transparency.

Special thanks go to Jarre Betts, Bill Tracy and Wilma Hart for their hard work in putting together the necessary materials for this tremendous undertaking.

Do you know someone who should take the "purpose prize?"

At a recent national Community Foundations conference, Main Street staff members had a chance to learn more about a new grant making opportunity being provided by Civic Ventures – a privately - funded think tank generating ideas and inventing programs to help society achieve the greatest return on experience.

Civic Ventures has developed the Purpose Prize to provide awards to people over 60 who are taking on society's biggest challenges. The individuals leading Civic Ventures believe that many of today's best ideas for social change are coming from those with both the passion and experience to discover new opportunities and come up with new solutions to some of today's toughest problems. This group is also re-defining what used to be called the retirement years.

Five will win prizes of \$100,000 each, the rest will win \$10,000 each and the opportunity to expand their community work and take breakthrough ideas to scale.

If you know of someone who might fit this category, why not think about nominating them? Self nominations are also welcome. For more information on this opportunity, contact the Foundation office at 583-6363 or visit these two websites: www.leadwithexperience.org and www.civicventures.org.



People of Vision...

The Southington Community Services Funds

At the time Janet Mellon began her job as Director of Southington Community Services in 2000, she knew there would be challenges. What she could not have envisioned were the countless individuals who have stepped forward along the way to assist her in her work. Some of the youngest and most vibrant volunteers are introduced here since they have taken their caring hearts to another level of giving by helping Janet to establish two new permanent funds at Main Street.

The “Inside Rebecca’s Backpack” Fund

When ten year old Rebecca Michlin approached Janet Mellon six years ago it was for community service work to complete the necessary requirements for one of her Girl Scout Silver Award badges. That first year, Rebecca helped Janet coordinate the back- to- school backpack program so Southington kids in need would have a good start each September. Six years later, sixteen year old Rebecca not only runs the Southington “Smart Street” back-to-school program, she has decided to raise the money for a permanently-endowed fund that will help those same kids as they struggle to pay for post-secondary education. This help will be focused on gifts from the fund to purchase books and other supplies. The unique twist to these funds is that eligible Southington students will not have to compete with one another if they meet the criteria. Congratulations, Rebecca. That’s what you call a “win-win” situation.



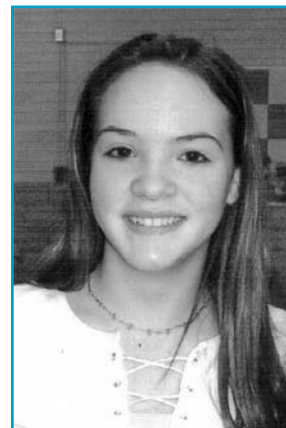
REBECCA MICHLIN

The Promise for Kristen Fund



Sisters (left to right): Katie Sima, Abby & Emily Wadman

A tragic death can either break hearts apart or bind them together forever. Three sisters Katie Sima (18), Emily (12) and Abby Wadman (9), have chosen to use the tragic death of their friend Kristen Warner in 2004 as the impetus to help other teens in their hometown of Southington. The fund they have created will provide assistance to youth in the town who need help to attend their proms. Scores of businesses and individuals have already stepped forward to assist with items that will be needed. Emily has also designed a line of jewelry, sweatshirts and car



KRISTEN WARNER

magnets to help build a permanent endowment so that the fund can go on long after their involvement stops. The design is of an angel holding four hearts that are intertwined —those of the three sisters and Kristen. For more information on how to support these efforts, please call the Foundation office 583-6363 or Southington Community Services at 276-6271.



GRANTS IN ACTION

The Technical Education Fund

The Technical Education Fund was created by Bristol residents Bill and Jean Johnson in 2005, to support projects that enhance the quality and reputation of area technical education, as well as to support students interested in the field. As a result of collaboration between the Main Street Community Foundation, the Central CT Chambers of Commerce and the Technical Education Center, a series of luncheon discussions is now being held. Top performing students in each field of study will be invited to attend these meetings with company representatives in their industry to create positive dialogue between students and companies. Kudos to both Bristol Tech Ed Principal Gil Traverso and the Johnsons for their hard work to begin this new initiative.



Bristol Tech Ed faculty, local business participants and students start a dialogue at the first luncheon discussion on October 10th.

Please remember to support the work of the Main Street Community Foundation as you do your 2006 year-end giving.



The Wheeler Clinic

The Main Street Community Foundation was proud to join in a celebration with its nominee, the Wheeler Clinic, this summer as they received a \$100,000 grant check from the Connecticut Health Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA) to complete the expansion of their Childrens' outpatient services program. At the grand opening, pictured to the right, MSCF Program Director Jarre Betts stands with CHEFA official Kimberly Fontaine as she presents the check to Wheeler Clinic Executive Director David Berkowitz and Susan Walkama, Director of Childrens' Outpatient Services. For more information on 2007 CHEFA grant opportunities, call the Foundation office at 860-583-6363.



Find us on the world wide web at www.mainstreetfoundation.org