

October 2009

Dear Friend of the Community Foundation,

These are extraordinary times – but you know that. In the Foundation’s 68-year history, there has never been a greater need for support of our communities– but you know that, too.

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary leadership – and that’s why we write you today. The combined challenges of economic recession, investment loss, rising unemployment, and State budget cuts have left everyone reeling. Funders everywhere are feeling the impact, as are the organizations they support. The Stock Market decline this past year has reduced the amounts all funders have available for grant making now and for the foreseeable future. While we are confident in our ability to recoup those losses, we know it will take time. We have responded by cutting our own operating expenses and refocusing our grant guidelines to meet our area’s **most pressing needs and the trusted and necessary organizations that provide them.**

Beyond that, we are working to help local nonprofits adjust to this “**New Normal**” and its hard lessons of how to “Do Less with Less” despite increasing demand. Your support of last year’s **Partners in Philanthropy Campaign made much of this possible:**

- ♣ Partnering with the American Savings Foundation, we sponsored **three training workshops** for area nonprofit staff and Board volunteers. 80+ attendees gave high marks to special workshops in May and September, which offered cost saving strategies for nonprofits. A third program on the realities of budget-cutting will be held later this fall.
- ♣ We provided **five scholarships for nonprofit directors** to attend a special summer UConn-sponsored Leadership Retreat on managing effectively for today’s challenges.
- ♣ We successfully **advocated publically** with our Governor and local Legislators for the region’s children against proposed State Budget cuts that threatened the future of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) locally, and statewide. This call for action came from our commitment to early childhood development, called “*First Years First,*” and our firm belief that such programs are critically important, proven methods for preparing children to enter Kindergarten “ready to learn.”

We continue working hard on our core mission, to make a difference in the quality of life by:

- Distributing nearly **\$1 million annually in grants & scholarships** to humanitarian, educational and arts & cultural organizations to support their work in our four towns;
- Offering local donors **easily understood charitable options** coupled with in-depth knowledge of the needs and resources in our four towns so they might connect their philanthropic instincts with meaningful action;
- **Effectively managing more than 150 funds** with a market value of more than \$26 million through a still-turbulent investment sea; and,
- **Exercising leadership on key issues** like *Nonprofit Training & Education*, with the American Savings Foundation; *Family Literacy*, with the Christine E. Moser Foundation; preparing young children to be “*Ready to Learn*” with Tunxis Community College,

Southington Board of Education, American Savings Foundation, Graustein Memorial Fund, Community Chest of New Britain & Berlin, among others.

Despite – and indeed, because of – today’s economic pressures, we believe this is an unprecedented opportunity for the Community Foundation. We are asking you to join us in leadership that looks beyond the current crisis to the new and changing face of philanthropy. Last year members of our Foundation Board and Staff contributed a median gift of \$500.00. Won’t you join them? Your support as our **Partner in Philanthropy** has never been so needed. **Your gift, as generous as you can make it, will truly make a difference!**

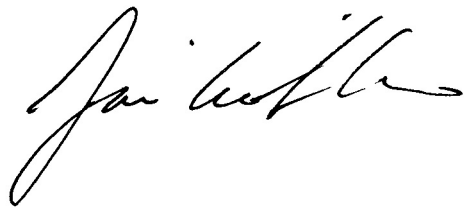
Please join us – become a Partner in Philanthropy now. As always, we want to hear from you about your personal philanthropic goals and interests. And know that with your help we will continue hearing, acting, listening and advocating for our community.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,



Gerry Amodio
Chair, Board of Directors



Jim Williamson
President

P.S. for secure on-line credit card giving, please visit our website at www.cfgnb.org. Just click on “Donate Now,” type in **PIP** in the Keyword Search box and complete the donation form.

P.P.S. While you are on our website, be sure to sign up for our ENewsletter by clicking on “e-news signup” at the top of any page.