

# Community Matters

## Doing Good in Your Community



Fostering youth and education is always at the forefront of discussions, locally and nationwide. Putting those discussions into action with visible results is trickier. Here are some examples of the incredible work being done in Guilford - thanks to the hard work of these dedicated organizations and support of the Guilford Foundation's (TGF) \$27,000 in grants to them in 2022.

### Community Nursery School (CNS) -

Through TGF funding, CNS established a Nature School that takes place entirely outside. Children create field guides, chart maps, explore salt marshes, hike trails, etc. Currently, the programs are for toddlers, threes, fours, and kindergarten. A gear closet funded through a TGF grant allows children to borrow waterproof and wind proof clothing. Reducing the financial impact on families is critical to the program's success. "Learning what makes our surroundings unique gives children a deeper appreciation of this world around them," says Director Rachel Daniels. For example, finding a balloon trapped in a salt march led to switching to paper lanterns for a stepping up ceremony.

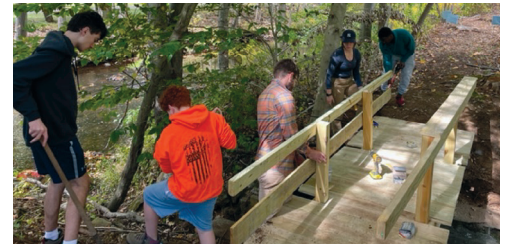


### Guilford Center for Children (GCC) -

GCC provides children 3-5 with an early education program. TGF's grant helps with tuition assistance supporting families that need full day preschool but cannot afford the cost. Funds have also enabled a sensory garden that fosters learning. To date, 24 Guilford residents have felt the positive impact of this program. "Families are put at ease when they hear that GCC is able to provide money through the grant received from TGF," says Director Lisa Jones. For example, one family recently receiving tuition assistance is a single working mom with two children. She would be unable to work if her younger daughter wasn't at GCC.



new again. We would spend time with our parents picking out new shoes, new clothes, and new school supplies together," says Donna Falcone. "Through the Back to School program, we were hopefully able to provide the same experience to Guilford families without having to feel the financial pressure of back to school costs."



### Guilford Social Services Back to School Program (GSS) -

Costs are always increasing, and many Guilford families struggle with the dollars associated with children going back to school. TGF's grant helps the GSS Back to School Program expenses, like haircuts, shoes, backpacks, lunch boxes, and school supplies. In 2022, donor generosity allowed GSS to add gift cards to supplement shoe and clothing costs.

"As a child I always looked forward to back to school as that was the time to start something

### Guilford Center for Children (GCC) - Before and After School Care Program

This GCC program provides families with much needed safe, supervised childcare services. The goal is to offer financial assistance to any family in need with partial and full tuition assistance. The program has impacted over 300 Guilford residents to date. TGF funding in 2022 allowed two families to send children to the program part time on a regular weekly basis. It allowed the parents of both families to work. The words from a single parent who received GCC assistance are moving: "If not for

a before care scholarship, I would be out of a job as a single parent... My family thrives because of your charitable hearts, and I thank you so much more than words can tell. We are truly blessed to be part of this community."

**Benincasa Community Scholars to Workers Program** - The grant from TGF funds the program's "farm classroom." While young people are very much interested in sustainability and food justice, there are few opportunities to learn practical skills or observe local food systems. "Putting a rake, a shovel, a seed in a young person's hands introduces them to the cycle of growing food in our bioregion," says co-founder Karen Gargamelli-McCreight. This creates a sense of understanding of the true costs of our agricultural system and gratitude for the slow process of growing food. The program bridges the gap between scholar and worker. Tangible results include a bridge over the outlet from the pond to the West River created by youngsters, making a trail accessible to people of all ages and ability.

