



# INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY



THE  
GUILFORD  
FOUNDATION  
50 YEARS *and still rising!*

IMPACT REPORT 2024





Dear Treasured Friend,

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we reflect on the Foundation’s success, built on decades of generous contributions from donors and engaged community members. The support of our mission by so many passionate individuals is why we continue to expand our community impact.

GSB set the stage for our celebratory year by announcing their generous gift of the 44 Boston Street building. For over 20 years, the bank has allowed the Foundation to use this space at no cost. We value our partnership with GSB and its continued commitment to philanthropic stewardship in our community. The building gives us permanence that supports our goal of lasting impact and reinforces our vital role in enhancing Guilford’s quality of life.

A few notable accomplishments for 2024 include:

**Community Investment**

We experienced an amazing display of generosity, distributing \$248,000 through grants, scholarships, and our partnership with GSB. Four new charitable funds were created, and we received 10 memorial donations. Our endowment reached a record \$7.9 million, which expands our impact. Since 2010, our community investment totals nearly \$2 million.

Outside our traditional grantmaking, we distributed the second half of the American Rescue Plan Act awards (\$500K) to 34 nonprofits impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We used the funding to strengthen connections with our charitable partners through in-person site visits.

**Responsive Action**


When our beloved Grass Island Red Shack was pushed off its pilings into the Sound, we quickly partnered with the Guilford Preservation Alliance to launch a Save the Shack Challenge Grant. Our combined efforts raised nearly \$20,000, serving as kick-start funding support for the repairs and relocation of this iconic building.

**Leadership**

We strive to provide resources, unite people, and advocate for support. Little Sprouts Learning Center is a great example. When North Guilford Nursery School unexpectedly closed, we collaborated with First Selectman Matt Hoey to deliver the executive director with the resources needed to ensure that quality early education remains available in North Guilford.

For fifty years, The Guilford Foundation has addressed the evolving needs of our town, driving inclusive and impactful philanthropic efforts. We are committed to continuing to serve as a hub of generosity and leadership focused on community enrichment. Here’s to 50 years and still rising!

Gratefully,

  
Liza Janssen Petra, *Executive Director*

  
Alex Sulpasso, *Board Chair*





## DONOR STORY

# It's All in the Family for the Bishops

### The sixth generation gives back with an unrestricted fund.

Every family has traditions—unique rituals and customs that are repeated and practiced regularly so that each generation absorbs them, continues them, and maybe alters them enough to leave a legacy for the next.

Farming is the tradition for which the Bishop family is most well-known. With the sixth generation of Bishops proudly carrying on and expanding their ancestors' work, another tradition is coming to the forefront—community service and philanthropy. With this in mind, the sixth-generation siblings, Sarah Bishop DellaVentura, Carrie Bishop Healy, and Ryan Bishop, started the unrestricted Bishop Family Fund within The Guilford Foundation (TGF) in 2024.

"My father worked with his cousin Jonathan. Johnathan retired just before COVID-19 and never received a proper retirement celebration. After my father retired last year, we decided to organize a retirement and success party to celebrate their time, work ethic, and dedication," explains Bishop DellaVentura, Co-CEO. "Both are not materialistic people and understand the community needs in Guilford. Establishing the fund was the perfect way for people to give a gift with meaning and lasting impact."

Bishop DellaVentura, who served on the board of TGF for six years, thought immediately of creating an unrestricted fund. It is the third fund within the TGF portfolio, started by various generations of the Bishop family. The Al & Gene Bishop Fund, honoring the fourth generation, benefits young

people seeking innovative and challenging hands-on experiences in vocational and industrial arts. The Jonathan & Nancy Bishop Fund for Musical Opportunities, started by the recent retiree and his wife, seeks to enrich young people's lives through musical experiences. As an unrestricted fund, the new Bishop Family Fund supports the overall mission of TGF and gives the board of directors flexibility in choosing how to distribute the proceeds best.

*"Our family has always been very philanthropic. Every generation has served on boards and in churches. We're proud to be involved in the community. We chose an unrestricted fund because we trust in the board of TGF. There is so much thought and care that goes into the grantmaking process. They do such amazing work."*

*- Sarah Bishop DellaVentura, Co-CEO*

*Bishop's Orchards*

Each generation has made its impact on the business of Bishops Orchards. Over more than 150 years, the farm has grown to include Pick-Your-Own, a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, a winery, a creamery, and live entertainment each weekend. The Round Up at the Register program that started during the pandemic allows customers to add less than a dollar to their purchases to benefit a different local organization monthly.

"None of us intended for this to be our path. In a way, we grew up in a glass house, which wasn't always easy," she remarks. "But as we grew older, we appreciated and understood the significance of what our family had built in this community. One by one, we all returned and feel fortunate to have this opportunity."

She and her siblings are all grateful for creating and using the Bishop Family Fund to carry on their family legacy.

*Photo: The Bishop Family celebrates its leadership transition.*





## LEADERSHIP STORY

# Something New is Growing in North Guilford!

### TGF leadership helps open the door for Little Sprouts nursery school.

North Guilford Nursery School, a beloved local institution situated at the church for nearly 75 years, unexpectedly closed in July 2024. In response, The Guilford Foundation contacted Executive Director Susan Herget to explore solutions for preserving the cherished school. Seven months later, Little Sprouts Learning Center reopened at its original location.

“Child care for children five and under is critical for local families. Guilford and the nearby shoreline towns lack sufficient options, with most schools operating long waitlists,” said TGF Executive Director Liza Janssen Petra. “The closing of NGNS

left parents, teachers, and the parish community heartbroken, with no alternatives in North Guilford.”

TGF quickly enlisted First Selectman Matt Hoey to meet with Herget and devise a plan. Launching a new nursery school involved months of navigating state and local licensing and inspection requirements. The team secured a lease with the North Guilford Congregational Church and procured pro-bono legal assistance to file for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Additionally, TGF redirected \$15,000 in grant funding from NGNS to support Little Sprouts’ startup costs.

Little Sprouts opened its doors on March 3, 2025. The interior of the old parish hall has been freshly painted and rearranged to accommodate 31 children — a number based on mandated square



footage and staffing ratios. Dedicated classrooms for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds are filled with books, art supplies, colorful displays, sensory experiences, and imaginative play areas. Noting that the building is over 100 years old, Herget says the worn wood floors and odd nooks and crannies give the space a quintessential New England charm, “like a Hallmark preschool movie.”

“I have 30 years of experience and worked in rural and urban settings. Guilford is different, everyone is a cheerleader for one another,” she remarked, expressing gratitude for the support from Liza and The Guilford Foundation, Matt Hoey, the town, parents, and the broader community. “We’re proud to bring a quality preschool program back to North Guilford.”

The goals for Little Sprouts Learning Center align with what Herget knows to be the importance of early years education: allowing curiosity and creativity to flourish; encouraging independence

and self-confidence; fostering cooperation and friendship; developing a respect and love for nature; supporting physical, academic, social-emotional and language development; and creating a lifelong love of learning. Little Sprouts will offer its preschool program during the regular school year, as well as summer camp and enrichment programs.

*“Our educational philosophy is to provide a safe and nurturing environment to foster a love of learning and the natural world. Parents are welcome; we have an open-door policy for families. We know that it is a great privilege when a parent trusts you with their children.”*

*- Susan Herget, Executive Director  
Little Sprouts Learning Center*





## PARTNER STORY

# The Best Anniversary Gift

## GSB gives TGF permanence with building.

Guilford Savings Bank (GSB) may be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2025, but they gave The Guilford Foundation (TGF) a gift to remember. Just as 2024 drew to a close, the bank, a literal and figurative cornerstone of the Guilford community, transferred ownership of the historic building at 44 Boston St. to the foundation.

Located just behind the main branch of GSB on Park Street, the Greek Revival house was built in 1844 by William Weld and was once the home of Charles Landon and family. Now, it is converted office space and has been home to TGF for nearly 20 years. The shared parking lot between the two buildings is just the tip of the iceberg regarding the alliance of GSB and TGF.

GSB has a long history of philanthropy and community support. In 2013, the community bank established endowment funds at TGF and three other nearby foundations. In 2023, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, GSB also committed to funding \$30,000 in grant and sponsorship requests through the four foundations. In addition, GSB employees volunteer countless hours to local nonprofits.

GSB CEO Timothy Geelan explained, “Philanthropy and giving back is what we do. This donation ensures that The Guilford Foundation has the permanent resources to continue their outstanding work in helping Guilford grow and thrive.”

The Guilford Foundation, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025, welcomed the permanent home when GSB made the offer.

“It was perfect timing in terms of our growth, to be given a permanent footprint on this charming New England street just steps from the Green,” says TGF Executive Director Liza Janssen Petra. “It is an incredible gesture of confidence and generosity, another extension of our connection with GSB, and a sign that our partnership will continue long into the future.”

*"GSB was founded in Guilford, and for nearly 150 years, our guiding principles and core values as a community bank have been grounded in serving our neighbors and giving back to our community."*

*- Timothy Geelan, CEO  
Guilford Savings Bank*

*Pictured (left to right): Liza Janssen Petra, Executive Director, TGF; Alex Sulpasso, EVP, Client Experience Officer, GSB and Board Chair; The Guilford Foundation; Shalonta Ford, SVP, Director of Community Relations & DEI; GSB; Kyle Eagleson, President & Chief Operating Officer, GSB; Tim Geelan, Chief Executive Officer, GSB.*







## GRANTEE STORY

# A Partnership with a Solid Foundation

### GFFE and TGF join forces to support educational innovation.

Aside from noble missions that benefit the local community, The Guilford Foundation (TGF) and the Guilford Fund for Education (GFFE) share a linked past. TGF, the epicenter of local philanthropy for over 50 years, awarded seed money to start the Guilford Fund for Education nearly 20 years ago to support its focus on education and enrichment for children.

This past year, GFFE officially partnered with TGF as a donor-advised fund managed administratively by TGF. GFFE continues to maintain autonomy over its grantmaking and fundraising. The fund is a part of the TGF endowment, which investment professionals at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven manage.

With its volunteer board of directors and low operating costs, it organizes fundraising and community-building events. The famously fun Spelling Bee for Adults draws cleverly named squads wearing colorful team shirts and creative accessories for an evening of competitive wordplay. A more serious spelling bee for children and the BeeBall youth basketball tournament are also held.

Established in 2006, The Guilford Fund for Education recently distributed its 200th grant. In total, the organization has awarded \$660,000 to teachers and students.

“We work together with Guilford Public Schools. All the grant applications come through the assistant superintendent of schools,” explains Jennifer Scoggin, co-chairman with Meg Teape of the GFFE board of directors. “The grants are for projects that align with the curriculum. We want our teachers to be innovative, but the discretionary budget of any school district is very small.”

The board selects grants based on a rubric that rates applications based on innovation, sustainability, and community impact. Many of the grant projects have been incorporated into the school budget and curriculum, including the Maker Spaces at each elementary school, the Witness Stones Project at Adams Middle School, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma program offered at Guilford High School.

There are also mini-grants (less than \$1,000) for smaller projects, grants for students who need funds to complete their Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment, and scholarships for some graduating seniors.

Among Scoggin’s favorite grants is one given to A.W. Cox music teacher Russell Kleiner to start a steel drum band, the Howlers Ensemble. The grant purchased all the instruments and music stands for the upper elementary students to perform at events around town. It’s a win-win that allows

students to perform for a wider audience, and the community sees first-hand talent developing within the public school system.

GFFE is also the driving force behind the STAR Awards. Parents and students can recognize individual educators twice yearly — during the holiday season and Teacher Appreciation Week. The awards are for teachers, coaches, administrators, or support staff who have personally impacted a student.

The partnership with TGF will allow GFFE to focus on its mission and increase its impact exponentially.

“We are fortunate to have grown as an all-volunteer organization. It says a lot about the spirit of the people of Guilford,” Scoggin says. The GFFE hopes to continue the tradition of the last 20 years while expanding the concept of education to the larger community and diversifying its support.

*“It was important for us to retain our autonomy and our mission,” Scoggin says, “but we are already benefitting from the experience and reach of TGF. They ensure that our organization is sustainable by helping streamline the back-office processes. They’ve been very generous with their time and expertise.”*

*- Jennifer Scoggin, Co-Chair  
Guilford Fund for Education*

*Photo: Community Nursery School children share maple syrup made from the GFFE sugar shack grant.*



# 2024 by the Numbers

DOROTHY WHITFIELD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

200 fourth graders

visited the house for  
Early Guilford days

GUILFORD GARDEN CLUB

12 trees

planted to beautify the  
Guilford Green.

GUILFORD  
A BETTER CHANCE

4 students

leveraged academic and  
college preparatory support.

GUILFORD AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

8,000 visitors

shopped for local goods at  
the Farmers Market.

SYD'S BOOK SHACK

3 students

hired to gain in-store  
vocational skills training.

CLIFFORD BEERS  
COMMUNITY CARES

51 youth

utilized outpatient mental  
health programs.

SOUNDVIEW FAMILY YMCA

24 cancer  
survivors

participated in LIVESTRONG  
wellness program.

WOMAN & FAMILY  
LIFE CENTER

135 women

served by the Guided  
Assistance Program.

GUILFORD  
SOCIAL SERVICES

378 neighbors

received food-filled  
baskets at Thanksgiving.

GUILFORD YOUTH  
MENTORING

20 relationships

formed between mentors  
and students.

SHORELINE VILLAGE CT

4 seniors

became members for  
resources to help age at  
home.

GUILFORD ART CENTER

4,000 residents

tapped their creativity  
through arts education  
programming.



GRANT AWARDS

In 2024, The Guilford Foundation (TGF) invested in the community through its grantmaking, sponsorships in partnership with Guilford Savings Bank (GSB), Youth Advisory Group grants, and designated charitable fund grants and scholarships.

**\$1,000 Covenant to Care for Children, Inc.** to provide basic essential goods for Guilford children.

**\$1,200 Guilford Garden Club** to support the planting of trees in Guilford.

**\$1,500 Camp Hazen YMCA** to provide financial assistance to Guilford campers.

**\$1,500 Move to Heal** to support programming for adults recovering from addiction.

**\$1,500 Neighborhood Music School** to support tuition assistance to Guilford students.

**\$1,500 Recovery Move** to support programming for at-risk teens and young adults.

**\$1,500 Shoreline Arts Alliance** to support a student Leadership Development Initiative.

**\$1,500 Starship Dance Theater & Company** to support community arts and culture outreach.

**\$1,500 The New Haven HomeOwnership Center** to support homebuyer education and foreclosure prevention services for Guilford residents.

**\$2,000 Guilford Agricultural Society** for enhancements to the Farmers Market Program.

**\$2,000 Guilford Youth Mentoring** to support mentor recruitment and training.

**\$2,000 Jordan Porco Foundation** to support mental health programming for the transition from high school for Guilford students.

**\$2,000 Schiller Shoreline Institute for Lifelong Learning** to support upgraded technology.

**\$2,100 Orchard House Medical Adult Day Center** to support the ‘Healthy Aging through Creative Arts’ program.

**\$2,500 APK Charities Corporation** to support Guilford veterans through the Direct Assistance Program.

**\$2,500 Benincasa Community, Inc.** to extend the growing season to benefit Guilford food pantries and increase student volunteer opportunities at the farm.

**\$2,500 BHcare, Inc.** to support the children’s welcoming center at the new BHcare facility.

**\$2,500 Guilford Keeping Society** to fund repairs to the recently acquired Clapboard Hill School House.

**\$2,500 Guilford Social Services** to support the Back-to-School Program, which provides Guilford children with funds for school supplies.

**\$2,500 Guilford Social Services** to support holiday meal baskets for households experiencing financial hardships.

**\$2,500 Legacy Theatre** to enhance the Mainstage performance season.

**\$2,500 Soundview Family YMCA** to support the Livestrong Program for cancer survivors.

**\$2,500 SYD'S Book Shack & Boutique** to support employees gaining vocational training.

**\$3,000 ALEX, Inc** to support operating expenses.

**\$3,000 Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc.** for clinical services, case management and care coordination for Guilford children and youth.

**\$3,000 Guilford A Better Chance** to support operating expenses.

**\$3,000 Guilford Performing Arts Festival, Inc.** to support GreenStage Guilford capacity building.

**\$3,000 SARAH Foundation** to support the operation of Gavin & Friends.

**\$3,000 Special Olympics Connecticut** to support the athletes and volunteers of the Central Shoreline local program.

**\$3,000 The Connecticut Hospice, Inc.** to support an informational campaign for Guilford residents about dementia care.

**\$3,000 The Cove Center for Grieving Children** to provide support services to grieving families.

**\$3,000 The Dorothy Whitfield Historical Society** to support Early Guilford Days for local 4th grade students.

**\$3,500 Community Dining Room, Inc.** to offset operating expenses and rising food costs.

**\$3,500 Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, Inc.** to provide economic empowerment programming for Guilford High School students.

**\$3,500 Sound Life Connections Inc** to expand vocational training with a gelato truck.

**\$4,000 Before and After School Care Program** to support tuition assistance.

**\$4,000 Guilford Art Center** to support general operating expenses.

**\$4,000 Shoreline Village CT** to support member recruitment efforts through community outreach.

**\$5,000 Community Nursery School** to provide tuition assistance for Guilford families.

**\$5,000 Guilford Center for Children** to provide tuition assistance for Guilford families.

**\$5,000 Little Sprouts Learning Center** to support general operating expenses.

**\$8,000 Women & Family Life Center** to support the Guided Assistance Program (GAP).

**\$11,570 TGF Leadership Initiatives**, includes a matching grant program with Guilford Preservation Alliance to support the “Save the Shack” fundraising campaign.

**\$14,000 Youth Advisory Group** grants to ALEX, Inc, Before and After School Care Program, GCC, Community Dining Room, Inc., Community Nursery School, Guilford Center for Children, Guilford Free Library, Guilford Social Services, SARAH Foundation, Shoreline Arts Alliance, The Guilford Fair Parade, and Women & Family Life Center

**\$14,923 Youth Advisory Group Guilford Institute** grants for Guilford High School programs and initiatives.

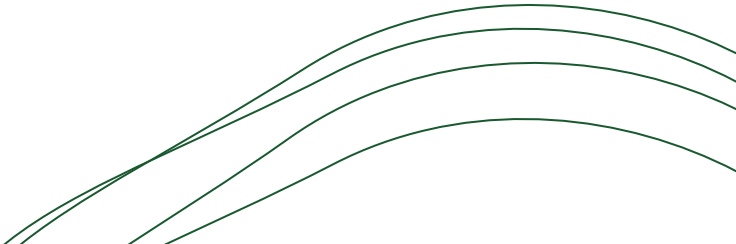
**\$56,134 Designated Grants** supporting the following organizations: Guilford A Better Chance, Guilford Agricultural Society, Guilford Art Center, Guilford Community Fund, Guilford Free Library, Guilford Interfaith Volunteers, Guilford Preservation Alliance, Guilford Social Services, The Guilford Foundation, Shoreline Village CT, St. George Church Food Pantry, Women & Family Life Center

**\$95,500 Scholarships** to 35 graduates of Guilford High School and 1 graduate from the Sound School.

21 Sponsorships to 20 organizations (\$30,000)

APK Charities Corporation  
Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc.  
Community Dining Room, Inc.  
Community Nursery School  
Friends of the Guilford Free Library  
Guilford A Better Chance  
Guilford Art Center  
Guilford PorchFest  
Legacy Theatre  
North Guilford Congregational Church  
Project graduation  
Roots 4 Relief  
SARAH Foundation  
Shoreline Arts Alliance  
Shoreline Village CT  
Soundview Family YMCA  
St George Men’s group  
The Guilford Fair Parade  
GHS Theater Arts Parents Support (TAPS)  
Women & Family Life Center

Competitive Grants are awarded to qualified nonprofit and government agencies serving the town of Guilford. For more information and the application form, visit our website: [www.guilfordfoundation.org](http://www.guilfordfoundation.org).





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Guilford Foundation (TGF) is pleased to present its Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2024. TGF awarded nearly \$900,000 in grants, sponsorships, leadership initiatives, and scholarships during our fiscal year that ended December 31, 2023.

Surpassing last year’s high-water mark, this was the highest total ever awarded by the Foundation. It includes TGF’s traditional grantmaking as well as the second \$500,000 tranche in grants made on behalf of the Town of Guilford’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation to area nonprofits whose work and services impact the Guilford community. While the ARPA impact is significant, it is also worth noting that the traditional grantmaking total was the largest amount ever awarded by the Foundation.

	FY2024	FY2023* (audited)
Total Assets	\$7,898,934	\$6,584,711
Total Contributions	\$650,632	\$440,236
ARPA Funding Received & Distributed	\$500,000	\$500,000
Number of Donations	602	613
Grants & Sponsorships	\$396,739	\$331,836

*\*2023 reflects an 11-month period as TGF transitioned to a new Fiscal Year End (FYE). FYE changed to the twelve months ending December 31. Previous fiscal years ended January 31.*

The overall amount of our contributions was up in 2024, thanks to big-hearted contributions to renovate our new building and the creation of four new legacy funds. *Your generosity and trust enable us to be a bold, courageous, and enduring partner in philanthropy.*

Our investment portfolio closed the fiscal year (Dec. 31, 2024) with \$7.89MM, up nearly 20% from the end of our prior fiscal year and representing a new high-water mark for the Foundation’s portfolio. That said, early signs suggest a challenging year for investments in 2025. While market dynamics inherently involve ups and downs, our Finance Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to a long-term strategy that will sustain our ability to serve our community for future generations. It focuses on preserving and growing the value of the assets entrusted to the Foundation to ensure the long-term sustainability of our impact.

The Foundation works with the investment professionals at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (CFGNH), who manage our endowment. We are confident in our team. TGF’s individual funds are pooled and invested in a globally diversified portfolio across stocks, bonds, alternative investments such as hedge funds, private equity, and private real assets.

As we look ahead, our Strategic Plan will take us through the Foundation’s 50th anniversary in 2025. The Finance pillar of this plan focuses on sustaining our organizational strength and maintaining our commitment to our operations, staff, and board governance. Prudent management and investment of our resources will allow us to grow and deepen our existing work while creating new opportunities to impact lives here.

2025 Board of Directors

- Alexander Sulpasso, *Chair*
- John Hyman, *Vice Chair*
- Kristin Vander Wiede, *Treasurer*
- Ashley Fernandez, *Secretary*
- Sarah Blanton
- Stephanie Little Brown
- Wesley Cain
- Linda Fan
- Betsy Gribble
- Stephen Hegedus
- Chris Hodgson
- Judith Meyers
- Maggie Moffett
- Nathan Scoggin
- Stacy Errante Votto

Ambassadors

- Barbara Angle
- Peter Barrett
- Jeffrey Beatty
- Sarah Bishop DellaVentura
- Maryann Bracken
- David Davison
- Connie Dickinson
- Kyle Eagleson
- Andrew Eder
- Pamela Ellman

Christine Fappiano

- Tony Fappiano
- Dan Fisher
- Timothy Geelan
- Joe Goldberg
- Robert Hartmann
- Richard Hersh
- Allen Jacobs
- Roger Joyce
- Mary Jo Kestner
- Wendy Kravitz
- Kate Lee
- Delaney Lundberg
- James Mancini
- Rick Mayer
- Robert McCoole
- Michael McNiff
- Michael Mikolay
- Matthew Peterson
- Tom Pinchbeck
- Sandra Ruoff
- Meghan Scanlon
- Edward Seibert
- Brendan Smith
- Pam Stoddard
- Jan Walzer
- Linda Weber
- Kathleen White



LEGACY CIRCLE

We’re grateful for these enlightened donors who want to secure a strong future for our community through thoughtful philanthropy. The Guilford Foundation’s Legacy Circle allows us to recognize our members’ generosity now with the hope of encouraging others to plan a gift for the future.

Legacy Circle Members

- Mary Stevens & Jock Akin
- Sylvia & Laurence Appleton
- Jane & Charles “Gene” Bishop
- Lawrence Dowler
- Christine & Anthony Fappiano
- Cindy & Joe Goldberg
- Judith Meyers & Richard Hersh
- Merri & John Hyman
- Allen Jacobs
- Connie & Roger Joyce
- Kate & William Lee
- Gwendolyn Gunn & Norman Marshall
- Michele Martin
- Joe Nugent

Through the Legacy Circle, donors demonstrate their long-term commitment to the Foundation’s mission. Members pledge to include TGF in their estate planning. The planned gift may be designated unrestricted or directed to a field of interest or specific charitable organization. The donation provides favorable tax advantages for the estate while helping the Foundation’s important work continue for generations to come.

Join the Legacy Circle by contacting Executive Director Liza Janssen Petra by emailing [lpetra@guilfordfoundation.org](mailto:lpetra@guilfordfoundation.org) or by calling (203) 640-4049.

Photo: 2024-2025 TGF Board of Directors





## LIST OF DONORS

*We extend our deepest gratitude to the following individuals, businesses & foundations who made financial contributions to The Guilford Foundation from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024*

### **\$10,000 AND UP**

Anonymous  
Nancy & Jonathan Bishop  
Lawrence Dowler  
Kristen & Johan Eveland  
Jeffrey Feingold  
Cindy & Joe Goldberg  
GSB  
Guilford Fund for Education  
Merri & John Hyman  
Robert Jaeger  
Amy & David Jaffe  
Connie & Roger Joyce  
David Knapp  
Delaney & W. Bruce Lundberg  
Roslyn Meyer  
Regmark Foundation, Inc.  
Joan & Barry Richter  
Susan Salice  
Jennifer & Nathan Scoggin  
Stoddard Family Foundation  
Jan Walzer & David Etzel  
Mary Whittemore  
John Wieland

### **\$5,000 TO \$9,999**

Breakwater Books  
Carlyn Clement &  
Christopher Kaufman  
Connie & Peter Dickinson  
Pamela & Jonathan Ellman  
Ann & Daniel Fisher  
Judith Meyers & Richard Hersh  
Mary Stevens & Jock Akin  
White Mountains

### **\$2,000 TO \$4,999**

Barbara & Chip Angle  
Anthony Balderose  
Alex & Skippy Banker  
Karen & Terry Bergantino  
Debbie & Keith Bishop  
Barbara Bishop

Bishop's Orchards  
Layna & Peter Cain  
Steven Downing  
Brian Durant  
Joe Evans  
Linda Fan & Preston Sprenkle  
Stephen Goldschmidt  
Douglas Jaffe  
Jolly Precast, LLC  
Wendy Kravitz  
Kate & William Lee  
Recovery Move

### **\$1,000 TO \$1,999**

Arthur Murray Dance Center  
of Guilford  
Charles Austin  
Stuart Baldwin & Matt Casper  
Kimberly Bishop & Scott VanPatten  
Maryann & Michael Bracken  
Will Brierley  
Collier Community Foundation  
Community Foundation for  
Greater New Haven  
Karen & Robert Davidson  
Emily & David Davison  
Patricia DeChiara &  
James Goodridge  
Eileen & Andrew Eder  
Melissa & Timothy Geelan  
Garth Greimann  
Betsy Gribble & Doug Baldwin  
Gwendolyn Gunn &  
Norman Marshall  
Lynn & Kenneth Horton  
John Parese  
Mary Jo Kestner & Russ Campaigne  
Killingworth Cranberries  
Marc Knapp  
Karla Lindquist & Alex Sulpasso  
Carol & Robert Lyons  
William Maley  
Mathnasium of Guilford

Renee & Bruce McIntyre  
Elisa & David Milano  
Laura Page  
Julie Paquette & Derek Steinbacher  
Diane & Guido Petra  
Elizabeth & Stanton Robison  
Mary Scheimann & Whit Iglehart  
Solange & Ralph Schipani  
Karen Scialabba  
Sandra & Parry Spahr  
Robin Spath  
Annamma & James Spudich  
United Way of Greater New Haven  
Wendy Walden  
Linda & Jeffrey Weber  
Mara & Rich Weissmann  
Kathleen White  
Kathleen & Chris Zane

### **\$500 TO \$999**

Anonymous  
Melanie Barocas & Rick Mayer  
Jean & Peter Barrett  
Pamela & Stephen Besse  
Jane & Charles Bishop  
Nona Bloomer  
Clarity Software Solutions  
Jen & John Cruet  
Anne Elsaid  
Edward Engberg  
Carrie & Lou Federici  
Ashley & Salvatore Fernandez  
Ariadna Forray &  
Christopher Sankey  
Allison & Josh Geballe  
Nathalie & Stephen Hegedus  
Kathleen & Paul Hermes  
Kaaren Janssen  
Jolly Holiday Vacations  
Kerry Schutz Photography  
James Kohn  
Barbara Koski  
Stephanie Lennon

Paul Looney  
Elizabeth & Watson Lowery  
Alice & J Thomas Macy  
Martha & Terry Maguire  
The Marketplace at Guilford  
Food Center  
Cindy & Robert McNamara  
Jennifer & Michael McNiff  
Robert Monte  
Susan & George Morriss  
Kari & Eric Mull  
Joe Nugent  
George Page  
John Parese  
Michelle & Carmen Pascarella  
Helen Pedersen- Keiser &  
Robert Keiser  
Emelinda & Gerard Sanacora  
Sheela Sheno  
Susan & Peter Tattersall  
United Way of Central &  
Notheastern Connecticut  
Marianne & Robert Valley  
Kristin & Chris Vander Wiede  
Noreen & Charles Wolleben

### **\$250 TO \$499**

Nancy & Ronald Bailey  
Mary & Roger Barnes  
Maureen & Michael Belden  
Ursula Brewster & Mark Gahm  
Brodeur & Company, CPAS  
Joann & Richard Carson  
Barbara Caruso  
Shan & Ronald Cyr  
Daniel & Sheili Gardiner  
Bonnie Garmisa & Tom Pinchbeck  
Lisa Gray & Alan Organschi  
Elizabeth & Nicholas Hadley  
Lynne & Henry Healy  
Elise Hergan  
Riley Hickey  
Janine & Chris Hodgson  
Yvette & Richard Howard  
Anne & Edward Huguenel  
Deirdre & Robert Jacob  
Jones Family Farm Fund  
Katherine & Richard Kahan  
Eve Karasik  
Noemi & Theodore Kearns  
Marie Landry & Peter Aronson  
Theodore Langevin

Patricia & Lawrence Leete  
Wanda & Horace Little  
Kathy & Gary MacElhiney  
Amy McCauley  
Merck Company Foundation  
Patty Ann & Ed Meyer  
Joe Mislinski  
John Mitzelfelt  
Maggie Moffett & Tom Ferrell  
Charles & Marjorie O'Malley  
Liza & Noel Petra  
Mary Jane Potter  
Tyler L. Rigg Memorial Foundation  
Michele & William Rosa  
Joan & Ralph Schoemann  
Larry Schwartz  
Gail & Roy Smith  
Stuart & Alan Soffer  
Robert Stanko  
Elsa Stone & Steven Wolfson  
Ann Street & Ted Zuse  
Patricia Sullivan  
Naomi Taylor  
Elissa & Aaron Tessler  
Lynne Tirrell & Timothy Sperry  
Whittlesey  
Francis Wilson  
Ann & John Zaaier  
Clint Zeidenberg

### **\$100 TO \$249**

Anne Aghajanian  
Jennifer Alexander  
Anonymous  
Jodi & Todd Arnold  
Mike & Tricia Ayles  
Denise Baer  
William Bailey  
Linda Balestracci  
Patricia & Lawrence Bee  
Shauvan & Edward Bennett  
Meg & Christopher Brodeur  
Kathleen & Alan Brooks  
Mairi Bryan  
Bonnie Burr  
Jeffrey Burt  
Cindy & George Caligan  
Pamela Carley & Lawrence Zukoff  
Helen & David Carlson  
Martha Carlson  
Beth Chapman  
Alice Chen

Ellen Cordes & Henry Haskell  
Bill & Jeanne Crowley  
Joseph DeFrancesco  
Megan & Gregory DePetris  
John Dillon  
Xenophon Dimopoulos  
Chip Dorwin  
Christine & Louis Drago  
Sharon & Michael Durham  
Ellen & Michael Ebert  
Steven Errante  
Ada Fan & Peter Warsaw  
Kristy Faulkner  
Nadia Fernandez  
Richard Forest & Valerie Kilmartin  
Anna & Erik Forselius  
Frank's Package Store  
Carol & Hod French  
Paul Genovese  
Sarah Gerritz  
Nancy Gibson  
Laura & Adam Gilbert  
Anne & Jeffrey Godsey  
The Granercy Company LLC  
Lisa Greif  
Guilford Racquet & Swim Club  
Greg & Shelley Gullette  
Thomas Haar  
Peter Halley  
Jane & Thomas Hanson  
Laura & Robert Hartmann  
Allan Hatta  
Caroline Herrick & Theodore Sands  
Jason Hoagland  
Alexander Hoffman  
Amy Hopkins  
Wendy & Frank Ifkovic  
Steve Jacobs  
Sheila & Harry Juniver  
Susan Kashaf & Christopher Ruser  
Christopher Katucki  
Martine Keating  
Clare & James Keefe  
Suzanne Kelley  
James Kenefick  
Barbara Kiesel  
Judith & Vaughn Knowles  
Pam & Gary Knowles  
Clare & James Landon  
Chris Larson  
Sandra Levesque  
Teen Lisien



Brittney Losee  
Lindalea Ludwick  
Guilford Garden Club  
Spencer MacKenzie  
Josephine Marchetti  
Cynthia & Leonard Matejek  
Paula & Gregory McCarthy  
Jamie & Tom McCauley  
Margaret McDonald  
Sue & Brian McGlone  
Joanne McLeod  
Mary Jane Minkin & Steven Pincus  
Maria Miranda  
Richard Misenti  
Judy & George Motel  
Jennifer & Craig Mullett  
Gail & Eugene O'Leary  
Jennifer Paczkowski  
H. Logan Page  
Ann & Stephen Page  
Melissa & Andrew Page  
Page Hardware & Appliance  
Company  
Gail & Michael Pappas  
Deborah & Charlie Peluse  
Whitney & Matt Peterson  
Amanda & Brendon Pluck  
Point32Health  
Barbara & Tom Puffer  
Karen & Richard Quercia  
Kathleen Reilly  
Barbara & Roger Richard  
Barbara Riley  
Harriet & Ken Rosen  
Rachel Rosenthal  
Richard Rubin  
Ornella Rullo  
Sandra Ruoff  
Barbara & Victor Russo  
Nancy Ruther  
Amy Schiess  
Hilke & Werner Schirmer  
Sally Scoggin  
Sheri Scully & Jon Rubin  
Joan Shrewsbury  
Sarah Shrewsbury  
Heather Sibley  
J. Philip Smyth  
Stephanie Spangler &  
Robert Shulman  
Amy & Mark Steffen

James Sullivan  
Brenda & Anthony Suraci  
Virginia Syombathy  
Meg Teape  
Linda & Lee Titus  
Tracy Tomaselli  
Margaret Tringali  
Nikki Tsoukanelis  
Patty Turner & Thomas Jensen  
Howard Tuttle  
Janie Umbricht & Karen Voos,  
Carleton Voos, Paul Mohor  
Judith & Stephen Vance  
Anne & Kevin Waehner  
Linda Waldman & Howard Sommer  
Dorothy & Glenn Weston-Murphy  
Ulrika & John Wettlaufer  
Sandy & Richard Whelan  
Karen & Rick Wies  
Leah Winner  
Robert Yaro  
  
**UP TO \$99**  
Barbara & Roger Adams  
Treeny Ahmed  
Allison Alkire & Roslyn Rubinstein  
Sylvia & Laurence Appleton  
Juliet & Brett Avelin  
Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Andrea Bodin  
Tanya Bovee  
Gloria Bradley  
H. Benjamin Bullard  
Jean Burns & Pamela Conrad  
Robin & Rob Charney  
Lindsey Christiani  
Janet Cizek  
John & Nancy Cooney  
Lisa Costello  
John D'Agostino  
Cynthia & David Damer  
John DellaVentura  
Amy DeMarseilles  
Marianne & Ronald DeMartino  
Dunbar United Church  
Anna Dwyer  
Gloria & William Earls  
Susan & Barry Egan  
Tara Fappiano  
Shelli Farhadian  
Lora Flanagan

Sue & Timothy Flood  
Denise Foley  
Kristine Ford  
Eleanor Frohlich  
Bonnie Gahm  
Elizabeth Getrost  
Amanda Gill  
Karen & Phil Goldberg  
Mitch Goldblatt  
Amy Goldfarb  
Karen Grimmell & William Joughin  
Heather Hackley  
Judy & Peter Haley  
Diane Hall  
Carmela & Robert Harris  
Sheila & John Haverkamp  
Lindsay Hendrix  
Hill and Dale Candle Company  
Michelle Hufner  
Marcia & Robert Jacoby  
Janet Kazdan  
Patricia Klindienst  
Dody & Mitch Knight  
Leslie & Harlan Krumholz  
Kathy LeBlanc  
Catherine Leonardi-Genera  
Mark Lewis  
Ninette & Philip Long  
Carolyn Marlowe  
Rebecca Martins  
Theresa & Rick Maynard  
Judith McCabe  
Janet & Charlie McClure  
Bonnie McHale & Jonathan Silbert  
Joan & Thomas McNeil  
Kris Mercuri  
Carolyn Milazzo & Stephen Murphy  
Christiana Mills  
Eileen & Alan Moss  
Debra & John Muro  
Greg O'Hara  
Peter & Bobbe Otis  
Amy & Timothy Paris  
Elizabeth Pasioka  
Bonnie Penders  
Emily Perillo  
Brigid Pfeifer  
Maria & Brian Phelps  
Joanne Phillips  
Maryann Pillartz  
Joan Quinn

Jeff Reilly  
Mary & Ron Repetti  
Catherine Rice  
Rose Robinson  
Robert Rosa  
Judith & Thomas Salemme  
Ashley Sanchez  
Sandra Saucier  
NiCole Schlagheck  
Monsignor Gerard Schmidt  
Tammy Scoggin  
Abigail Scott  
Winifred & Edward Seibert  
Susan Shackford  
Alfonzo Sirica  
Susan & Walter Spigelman  
Nancy & Paul Sullivan  
Courtney Summa-Barbour  
Kathleen & David Summerlin  
Jennifer Sylvia  
Amelia Tarantino  
Joan & Robert Theve  
Nancy & David Valley  
Alma & Russell Waldo  
Nancy Wardell  
Martin Weiss  
Steve West  
Sara & Joseph Woolston  
Alyson & Jeff Zeitlin  
Yuancheng Zhou  
Erez Zohar  
Pamela Zucaro &  
Louis Monaco

**TGF is honored to have received  
gifts in memory of:**

Andrew Amarante  
Richard Beatty  
Kent Bloomer  
Prof. Marcia Colish  
Caitlin Coyne  
Suzanne T. Lee  
Norm LeMay  
Trent Liseo  
Brian Robinson  
Janice Teft

**2024-2025  
Youth Advisory Group**

Scarlet Earls  
Mary Gahm  
Nathaniel Greif  
Samantha Iglesias  
Liza Irwin  
Abby Li  
Lyra Monaco  
Huiying Muhs  
Elizabeth Reale  
Charlotte Rebhun  
Lily Scoggin  
Pierson Shlagheck  
Emelia Votto

**Liza Janssen Petra**, TGF Executive  
Director & YAG Advisor  
**Stephanie Little Brown**, TGF Board  
Member & YAG Liaison  
**Sandy Ruoff**, TGF Ambassador, YAG  
Advisor & Guilford Rotarian

**Foundation Staff**

**Liza Janssen Petra**, Executive Director  
**Jennifer Mullett**, Program Director  
**Amy Paris**, Administrative Assistant  
**Pam Miller**, Communications Specialist  
**Kelly Hurley**, Bookkeeper

*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) 640-4049  
or [lpetra@guilfordfoundation.org](mailto:lpetra@guilfordfoundation.org) to correct  
any inconsistencies.*



2024-2025 Youth Advisory Group





GRANTEE STORY

Catch the W.A.V.E (Work, Advocate, Value & Empower)

Sound Life Connections uses gelato cart for vocational training.

With more than a half-century of combined experience working in special education, Tara Beatty and Keri Climie know and love the population of young people with disabilities that they have watched grow from elementary school through the Guilford High School Transition Academy for 18- to 22-year-olds. A few years ago, they began considering what those burgeoning adults need to thrive in the larger community, and they founded Sound Life Connections, Inc.

It began with an informal summer life skills program - just some cooking lessons and a bit of social interaction. But as they listened to parents describing the end of the public school programming as a cliff, they envisioned something greater. Today, Sound Life Connections is an inclusive community with a Central Perk vibe and a well-used karaoke machine. They continue with life skills and social skills training, as well as advocacy training for families, social interaction for their clients combined with respite time for caregivers, and, most recently, vocational training in the form of a mobile gelato cart.

Photo: Founders Tara Beatty and Keri Clime inside their mobile gelato cart.

In 2024, The Guilford Foundation awarded Sound Life Connections a \$12,500 grant to purchase and equip the cart, which debuted at the St. George’s Italian Festival.

“The community was incredibly supportive,” Climie says. They note that local businesses like Heritage Collision and Minuteman Electric donated their services to help refurbish the cart that they purchased. “It really restores your faith in the world,” Beatty adds.

Dubbed the WAVE (Work, Advocate, Value, Empower), the mobile cart allows clients to work and learn. They practice communicating effectively with customers, operating the register, adhering to health codes, and more. In addition to the Italian Festival, the cart made appearances at Guilford Youth Football’s Friday Night Lights kickoff, Syd’s Book Shack, and a few other events before being stored for the winter.

Beatty and Climie hope the mobile cart will lead to a more permanent shop within their cozy space on Whitfield Street. Their clients’ and families’ needs, interests, and skills shape their evolving vision. But one thing is for certain: it will be fun.

2024 LIST OF THE GUILFORD FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds

**Unrestricted Funds:** Addresses ever-changing community needs, including unanticipated future needs.

- Bishop Family Fund (NEW)
- Natalie & Lenny Feingold and Beth Tenenbaum Family Fund (NEW)
- Guilford General Trustees Fund
- Effie Good Fund
- David W. Knapp Fund
- Eleanor Little Fund
- Mancini Family Fund
- Virgil & Elizabeth McDaniel Fund
- Stanley H. Page Fund
- Joan & Barry Richter Fund

**Designated Funds:** Earmarked for a specific nonprofit organization or purpose, such as a local welfare fund, library or art center.

- Joe & Nancy Arnold Fund to support the Guilford ABC Program
- Jane H. Berger Fund
- Robert Blake Memorial Fund for the Benefit of Guilford ABC
- Catardi Family “Loaves and Fishes” Fund
- The Delaney Fund
- Grass Island Fund
- Guilford ABC College Education Fund
- Guilford Art Center Endowment Fund
- Guilford Interfaith Volunteers Endowment Fund
- Guilford Keeping Society Endowment Fund
- Guilford Youth Mentoring Education Fund
- Norma & Arthur Hall Fund
- John and Merri Hyman Fund for Sustainable Operations (NEW)
- Patricia W. Jaeger Fund
- Amy D. Jaffe Fund for the benefit of the Emergency Discretionary Fund at WFLC
- Liz Jones Fund for Art
- Saint George Knights of Columbus Fund for Children in Need
- Bill & Kate Lee Family Fund to Support the Guilford Community Fund

- Guilford Foundation Operating Fund
- Barbara Pine Memorial Fund for the Benefit of Guilford ABC
- Jane Rudner Fund for the Benefit of Shoreline Village CT
- Lou & Susan Weady Fund
- Women & Family Life Center Agency Endowment

**Donor Advised Funds:** Allows donors to actively manage use of their gift.

- APK Charities Corp Endowment Fund
- Chris & Carl Balestracci, Jr. Community Fencing Fund
- Elizabeth “Betsy” Goodspeed Frederick Fund (NEW)
- Guilford Bell Curve Charitable Fund
- Jonathan & Nancy Bishop Fund for Musical Opportunities for Youth (NEW)
- Paul Dostie KARE Fund
- Jared Eliot Philanthropic Fund
- Fappiano Family Fund for Special Needs
- Guilford Fund for Education (NEW)
- Guilford Interact Student Advisory Fund
- Gustave & Carol L. Sirot Fund
- Ethan Miller Song Fund

**Field of Interest Funds:** Focuses on an area of donor interest, such as youth, education, individuals with special needs, disabilities, or the environment (to name a few). TGF then awards grants to community-serving organizations that make a difference in that field.

- Elisabeth Adams Fund
- Michael B. & Maryann Bracken Family Fund
- Campaigne Kestner Architects Fund
- The Children’s Fund
- Helen E. Downing Outdoor Education Fund
- Corky Fisher Educational Fund
- Thomas M. Ginz Fund for Children
- Joe & Cindy Goldberg Family Children’s Opportunity Fund
- Guilford Institute Fund

- Guilford Interfaith Housing Fund
- The Guilford Savings Bank Charitable Fund
- Gunn-Marshall Performing Arts Diversity Fund
- Livia Jacobs Seashore Fund
- Janet Poss Women & Girls Fund
- Elizabeth Stevens Tree Fund
- Rex Prescott Walden Fund

**Scholarship Funds:** Donor designates the award parameters while the high school counseling department manages the application process and candidate recommendations.

- Carl A. Balestracci, Jr. Humanitarian Fund
- Karen & Terry Bergantino Educational Fund
- Al & Gene Bishop Fund for Vocational and Industrial Arts
- Richard Brooks Memorial Fund for Vocational Technology
- Stuart D. Burt Fund
- Maureen Cyr Caruso Scholarship Fund
- Richard Hersh & Judith Meyers Scholarship Fund
- B. Joan Hickey & Dennis F. Hickey Scholarship Fund
- Jaffe Scholarship Fund
- Stephen A. Looney Fund
- Barbara Nugent Scholarship Fund
- Jake Penman Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Ralph Schipani Memorial Fund
- Elizabeth “Lizzie” Schwanfelder Fund
- James P. Scialabba Scholarship Fund
- Kyle E. Smith Scholarship Fund
- Alison Varian Memorial Scholarship
- Jesse E. Whittemore Jr. Scholarship Fund (NEW)





Gavin & Friends' clients enjoy the day support program designed for those with developmental disabilities.



THE  
GUILFORD  
FOUNDATION  
50 YEARS and still rising!

Thank you.

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