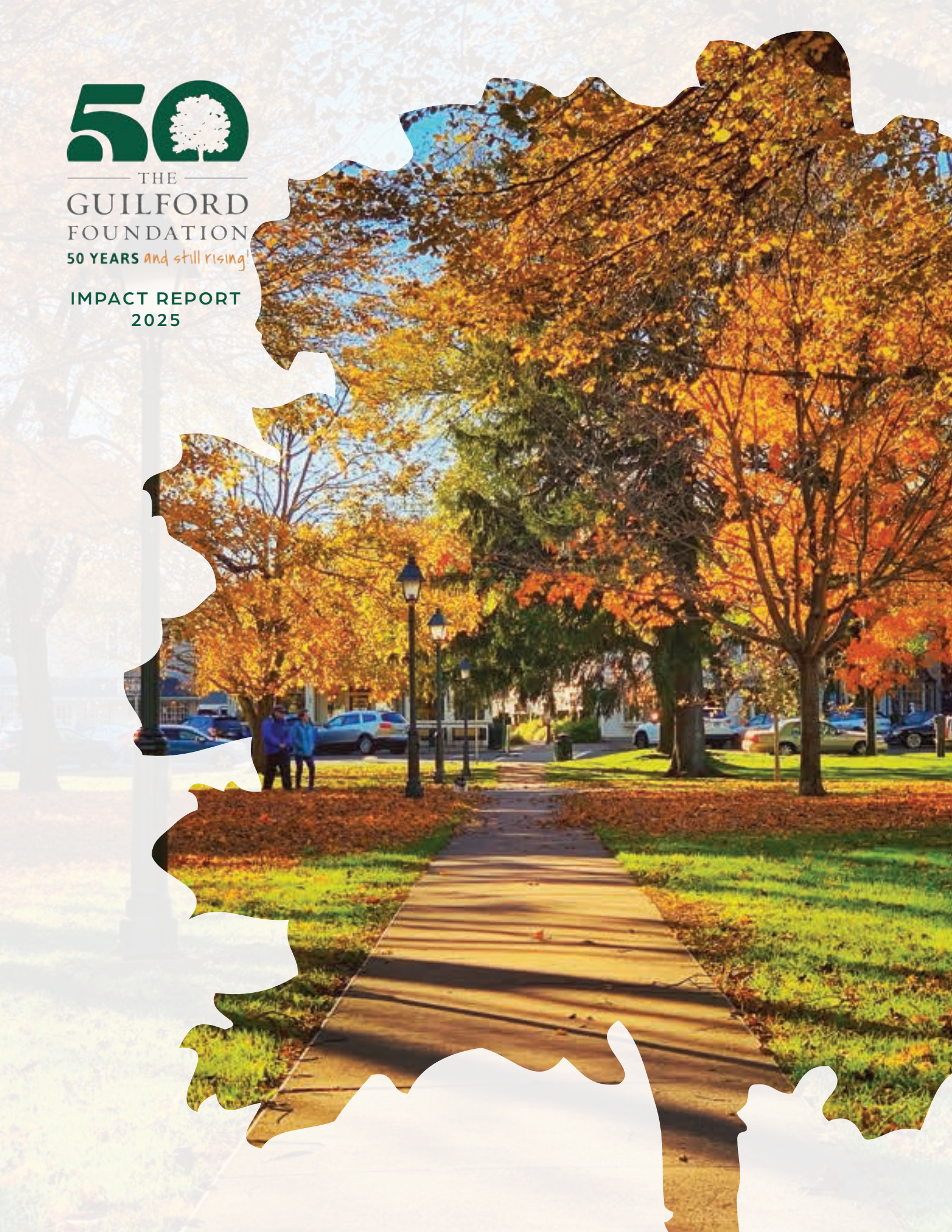




THE
GUILFORD
FOUNDATION
50 YEARS *and still rising!*

IMPACT REPORT
2025





"My mother and I agreed it was a shame that so many of the stately trees on the town Green that had been killed due to storms or disease were never replaced. I went to the selectman, who suggested that I form a group to try and do something about it, so I did".

Betty Stevens, Founder
The Guilford Foundation
1975

Photo: Steve DePino Photography

Dear Treasured Friend,

Fifty years offer a powerful moment to look back, and to look ahead. In 1975, The Guilford Foundation (TGF) began with a focused mission and a small group of dedicated community members. Over time, that mission evolved, expanding to meet emerging needs, helping seed and strengthen vital local organizations, and ultimately sharpening its focus on enriching the quality of life in Guilford. What has remained constant is the generosity of this community and the extraordinary volunteers who have guided and supported this work.

Our anniversary year reminded us of the significance of this lasting impact.

- In 2025, our endowment surpassed \$9 million, up from \$2 million just ten years ago. These donations create a permanent source of funding that gives back to Guilford not just today, but forever.
- Our valued partner, Ascend Bank, gifted a permanent home for the Foundation at 44 Boston Street.
- A group of generous donors raised more than \$230,000 to renovate the space and launch our 50th Anniversary Community Campaign.
- We set a goal of raising \$500,000 in our milestone appeal and nearly doubled it with contributions exceeding \$960,000.

While the 50th Anniversary was a year-long celebration, the Foundation's daily work continued with focus and momentum. We expanded the number of charitable and memorial funds, establishing nine new funds this year alone for donors who want to create lasting legacies. Our competitive grantmaking drew a record high of 59 applications, underscoring the needs within our town. Community investment surpassed \$420,000 through annual grants, sponsorships in partnership with Ascend Bank, Youth Advisory Group grants, donor-advised fund grants, designated charitable fund grants, and scholarships.

In addition to grantmaking, we stepped into meaningful leadership roles, partnering with nonprofit and community leaders to host workshops on economic hardship, workplace culture, and affordable housing, along with helping convene efforts around addressing those experiencing homelessness along the Shoreline.

Perhaps most importantly, this landmark year expanded our reach and deepened awareness of TGF's role in the community. That visibility and the trust behind it position us for an even stronger future.

For five decades, The Guilford Foundation has connected generosity with opportunity. The seeds planted in 1975 have grown into an enduring source of community strength. Because of you, the next 50 years will bring continued collaboration, thoughtful leadership, and meaningful investment in the people and places that make Guilford extraordinary.

Gratefully,

Liza Janssen Petra, Executive Director

Chris Hodgson, Board Chair

Cover photo: Richard Madonna



DONOR STORY

Building the Next 50 Years

Andy Eder and a group of generous donors spearheaded the building renovation.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead is often credited with the quote, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Mead’s research took her around the globe during the twentieth century, but she just as easily could have been speaking about a group of eleven thoughtful and committed supporters of The Guilford Foundation who quietly came together in December 2024 to ensure that it has a lasting home for the next 50 years and beyond.

Andy Eder doesn’t seek the spotlight, but he did, in fact, host a “small gathering” to discuss the property

donated by Ascend Bank (formerly GSB) and the need to update and adapt the building at 44 Boston Street.

“It can be difficult to raise money for capital improvements when helping the community is the priority,” Eder explains, “but we recognized the need to revitalize the building to meet the expanding demands of the Foundation, and to do it quickly.”

“We first reached out to Joan and Barry Richter and together hatched a plan to gather a dedicated group of donors who have supported TGF for years, knowing they would understand and embrace the need to renovate the building,” Eder recalls.

David Jaffe gave the first donation of \$50,000. Within 48 hours, the gathering secured the \$230,000 needed to renovate the building and expand the Foundation’s office and meeting space.

“What was amazing to me,” Eder adds, “was the feeling in that room – something I can hardly describe. These were Guilford people who truly care about Guilford and the Foundation’s role in the community. They recognize that we’re all in this together, which is what I love most about this town.”

The timing proved ideal. As TGF prepared to launch its 50th Anniversary Community Campaign in July 2025 with a goal of raising \$500,000 to honor five decades of impact and ensure a strong future, the renovation funding provided both momentum and confidence. The upgraded space allowed staff to fully utilize the building during this milestone year of celebration and growth.

“Ascend Bank’s extraordinary gift of 44 Boston Street, combined with the generosity of these 11 donors, gave our Board and staff tremendous confidence as we entered our 50th anniversary year,” said Liza Janssen Petra, Executive Director of The Guilford Foundation. “It wasn’t just an investment in a building; it was an investment in our capacity to serve this community well into the future.”



TGF gives special honor and recognition to the donors who made the 44 Boston Street renovation possible:

Ascend Bank
 Mary Stevens & Jock Akin
 Eileen & Andrew Eder
 Kristen & Johan Eveland
 Bob Jaeger
 David & Amy Jaffe
 Delaney & Bruce Lundberg
 Martha & Terry Maguire
 Roslyn & Jerry Meyer
 Joan & Barry Richter
 Pamela & Sandy Stoddard
 Town of Guilford



Photo: TGF staff stand in front of the newly renovated office.

50 Years of Community Impact

For 50 years, The Guilford Foundation has connected generosity with opportunity, supporting projects and programs that strengthen the fabric of our community. From early beautification efforts on the Guilford Green to initiatives that preserve local history, support vulnerable residents, expand the arts, and respond to urgent needs like the COVID-19 pandemic, TGF's grants reflect the evolving priorities of Guilford. The examples that follow, two grants from each decade, illustrate the breadth of causes the Foundation has championed and the lasting impact of investing in our town.

1975: TGF Founders Tree Planting

Betty Stevens, lamenting the loss of so many trees to storms and disease, gathered friends and neighbors to revitalize the Green. Ascend Bank was the first supporter, promising \$300 and three trees to the effort. A total of 16 pear trees were planted in the fall of 1975. TGF continues this legacy through annual grants from the Elizabeth Stevens Tree Fund.



1995: Dudley Farm Education Program

With a \$10,000 grant from TGF, two Guilford High School teachers launched an immersive on-site course at Dudley Farm, bringing students to the North Guilford property each day to explore 19th-century agricultural life, local history, and the Dudley family legacy. Built in 1845, the farm remains an important historical and educational resource for the community.



1985: Guilford Preservation Alliance (GPA) Master Plan

TGF provided seed funding to GPA in 1980 and gave a \$3,500 grant to update the Master Plan for Preservation and Scenic Conservation. The plan established guidelines to protect Guilford's historical, natural, and cultural resources and continues to guide preservation efforts today.



1996: Grass Island Shack Restoration

This beloved Guilford landmark, built in 1930, had fallen into disrepair when TGF partnered with the Guilford Boat Owners Association to launch the Save Our Shack (S.O.S.) campaign. The effort raised \$10,000 to restore the structure and established a dedicated fund with TGF for its upkeep. The Foundation helped raise money again in 2017 and 2024, ensuring this iconic shoreline structure is preserved for generations.



2001: Domestic Violence Services (DVS) Counselor

TGF supported DVS of Greater New Haven in providing a free and confidential counselor in Guilford for women experiencing or fearing abuse. This grant expanded on prior TGF-supported initiatives that helped establish a safe haven for women and children (1981) and the launch of the Women & Family Life Center (1990).



Photo: Ben Kuropat

2011: Guilford Affordable Housing Initiative

Building on earlier efforts to support housing for low- and moderate-income families, TGF funded a 2011 study on affordable housing in Guilford. The study sparked important community conversations and ultimately led to the creation of the Guilford Affordable Housing Commission, which works to promote awareness and collaborate with town leaders to expand housing opportunities.

2023: Orchard House Music Program

TGF expanded the music therapy program at Orchard House, a medically supervised day program for older adults. Weekly performances by local musicians bring music, movement, and shared memories to participants, creating joyful moments of connection and engagement. Grants over the years have supported an art program, gardening, and robotic pet therapy.



2007: Guilford Interfaith Volunteers (GIV) Charlie's Closet

Charlie's Closet began as a small lending program that provided gently used medical equipment, such as walkers, wheelchairs, and canes, to community members in need. As the program grew, TGF supported the construction of a storage barn to house the expanding inventory and, years later, helped fund the winterizing of a breezeway to better support volunteers and operations.



2020: COVID-19 Response Fund

In the early days of the pandemic, TGF partnered with the Women and Family Life Center to quickly launch the COVID-19 Response Fund to support residents and nonprofits facing sudden hardship. What began as a goal to raise \$20,000 grew to nearly \$140,000, providing critical relief to healthcare workers, local families, and more than 20 struggling nonprofits.



2024: Sound Life Connections Mobile Gelato Truck

Founded by special education professionals, Sound Life Connections supports young adults with special needs after high school through vocational and life-skills programming. TGF helped fund The WAVE mobile gelato truck to provide hands-on job training and build social and communication skills. The following year, TGF continued its support with a grant for the in-town gelato café that creates an inclusive space for community connection and employment opportunities.



ANNIVERSARY STORY

A Year Worth Celebrating

Milestones, moments, and generosity marked TGF's 50th anniversary.

The golden anniversary celebration began early with the unprecedented gift of a building just as 2024 came to a close. Ascend Bank provided TGF with office space at 44 Boston Street for two decades. In recalibrating its own space needs, Ascend offered the building to TGF, creating both an opportunity and a challenge for the Foundation on the threshold of its 50th anniversary. An opportunity because the gift provides TGF a bedrock for the future. A challenge because the historic house needed some work.

Behind the scenes, Executive Director Liza Petra and longtime supporter Andy Eder gathered a few steadfast supporters who collectively committed to funding over \$230,000 worth of renovations to the historic house near the center of the Guilford Town Green. Their quick action allowed TGF to move in and focus on the milestone year's celebrations and goals in a more effective space.

Not surprisingly, the mood was festive at The Marketplace in March when board members, staff, donors, and recipients gathered to kick off the year with a history lesson and a challenge. Recalling the seven visionaries who set out in 1975 to improve the quality of life in Guilford with \$300 and three trees, the opening celebration also looked to the future, aiming to raise \$500,000 to honor 50 years.

Throughout the year, TGF continued to engage the community to support its mission. News articles about outgoing Board Chair Alex Sulpasso and incoming Board Chair Christopher Hodgson, as well as letters to the editor in the local media, reminded residents of the powerful impact of connecting generous donors with worthy causes.

September brought a whimsical reminder of TGF's mission to improve the Green when The Guilford Penguin Project's installation, dubbed "Bearly Autumn," revealed a collection of cutout bears that inspired smiles and selfies. TGF became the beneficiary when the bears were auctioned off at the end of the exhibit.

Dozens of supporters gathered in November for the 50 & Forward celebration at the Guilford Yacht Club, an evening of local food with gelato from The WAVE, lively conversation, and memorable performances by the Guilford High School Voices, Julie Fitzpatrick, Stephanie Little Brown, and Russell Kleiner with his quartet.

to honor the 50th anniversary of the Foundation's first tree planting.

As the sun set on the anniversary year, TGF exceeded its initial fundraising goal, raising more than \$960,000 to help ensure another 50 years and beyond of making a positive impact on the Guilford community.

The following day, a tree was installed on the Green



Photos: The TGF community in 2025, coming together to celebrate 50 years of impact and generosity.

Evolution of the Foundation

1975 Incorporated as **The Guilford Foundation**

1977 Advocated for Guilford to be added to the **National Historic Register**

1982 Secured historic **Leete's Island triangle** for the Land Conservation Trust

1985 Recognized for **civic development** and public spaces

1986 Partnered to plant **200 trees** in response to damage from Hurricane Gloria

1991 Membership, TGF's early funding model, surpassed **500** as giving to **named funds** steadily increased

1993 Honored founder Betty Stevens with the **Elizabeth B. Stevens Pear Tree Fund**

1993 Partnered with **local nonprofits** for discussions on social and educational challenges

1995 Received a **\$210,000 bequest from Dr. Elisabeth Adams**, prompting the creation of an **Investment Committee**

1995 Recognized by **Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven** for community leadership

2001 Hosted a **strategic planning retreat** to assess community needs and revisit mission

2004 Committed \$25,000 over five years to the **Guilford Free Library Capital Campaign**

2006 Partnered with the **Community Foundation for Greater New Haven** to manage TGF's assets

2006 Received a **record \$310,000 bequest** from Effie Good

2007 Established the **Guilford Agricultural Society Endowment**, supported by the Al & Gene Bishop Fund and Lou & Susan Weady

2011 Formed the **Youth Advisory Group** with GHS Interact Club to cultivate young philanthropists

2011 Hired TGF's **first professional staff**, a part-time Executive Director

2011 Introduced the **Acorn Fund**, allowing donors five years to reach a \$10,000 minimum

2011 Established a **Board of Corporators, now called Ambassadors**, of local leaders to expand community engagement

2015 Signed an **MOU with the Branford Community Foundation** to share costs and encourage regional collaboration

2016 Co-led **nonprofit training and support programs** with the Shoreline Chamber and Branford Community Foundation

2020 Launched a **COVID Response Fund** that distributed **nearly \$140,000**

2021 Received a **\$1 million bequest** from Susan & Lou Weady, largest in TGF's history

2022 Created the **Legacy Circle** to honor planned giving donors

2022 Partnered with **Ascend Bank (formerly GSB)** to distribute **\$30,000 in annual sponsorships**

2022 Appointed by the **Town of Guilford** to manage **\$1 million in ARPA funding** for local nonprofits

2024 Gifted **44 Boston Street** from Ascend Bank as a permanent home for TGF

2024 Welcomed the **Guilford Fund for Education (GFFE)** as a donor-advised fund managed by TGF

Leadership & Legacy

In 1975, a group of forward-looking neighbors led by Elizabeth "Betty" Stevens established the Guilford Foundation to preserve the beauty of our town green by planting trees. Their advocacy expanded to include many diverse causes that truly enrich the quality of life in our remarkable town.

A special thanks to those who founded TGF:

- Larry Appleton
- David Dudley
- Hugh Jones
- John Leffngwell
- Stanley Page
- Betty Stevens
- Tom Wuerth



The Leaders Who Helped Guilford Grow

We thank the past presidents (1975-2016) and board chairs (2017-2026) whose leadership guided The Guilford Foundation for 50 years. Supported by generations of dedicated board members, they together created a lasting legacy of community impact.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1975-1976 Elizabeth "Betty" Stevens | 1999-2001 Suzanne Lee | 2015-2017 James Mancini |
| 1976-1980 Hugh McK. Jones | 2001-2003 Charles A. O'Malley | 2017-2019 Kyle Eagleson |
| 1980-1984 Virgil W. McDaniel | 2003-2005 Jean M. Handley | 2019-2022 Peter Barrett |
| 1984-1988 John T. Dillon | 2005-2007 William "Bo" Huhn | 2022-2024 Linda Weber |
| 1988-1990 Ann D. Erda | 2007-2009 Norma Ginz | 2024-2025 Alexander Sulpasso |
| 1990-1993 David D. Dudley | 2009-2011 Timothy P. Geelan | 2025-2026 Christopher Hodgson |
| 1993-1997 John T. Dillon | 2011-2013 John J. Crawford | |
| 1997-1999 Frank J. Ifkovic, Jr. | 2013-2015 Tom Pinchbeck | |

50 Years and Still Rising

Over five decades, The Guilford Foundation has grown in scope, resources, and reach—strengthening our community and positioning us for the future.

	1975	1985	1995	2005	2015	2025
Asset Growth	\$8,500	\$44,000	\$458,000	\$730,000	\$2,000,000	\$9,000,000
Grant Growth	\$3,000	\$19,000	\$30,000	\$18,000	\$74,000	\$420,000
Fund Growth	1	6	11	15	33	87

Early Investments Grow into Lasting Results

Over the years, we have helped plant the seeds for many organizations and initiatives that continue to serve our community today.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Guilford-Madison Service Bureau (1977) | Women & Family Life Center (1990) | Schiller Shoreline Institute for Lifelong Learning (2008) |
| Guilford Center for Children after-school program (1978) | Guilford Food Bank (1994) | Guilford Performing Arts Festival-GreenStage Guilford (2017) |
| Shoreline Arts Alliance (1980) | Guilford Youth Mentoring (2000) | Guilford Witness Stones Project (2018) |
| Guilford Preservation Alliance (1980) | Guilford Youth & Family Services Community Resource Center (2002) | Sound Life Connections and The WAVE (2024) |
| Baldwin Middle School Outdoor Education Center (1981) | Guilford Fund for Education (2006) | Little Sprouts Learning Center (2025) |
| Guilford Interfaith Volunteers Meals on Wheels (1986) | Guilford DAY Developmental Assets for Youth (2007) | |

Voices from The Guilford Foundation



“As President, it became clear that to serve as Guilford’s hub for philanthropy and address community needs in meaningful, lasting ways, we needed to grow.”

*Timothy P. Geelan,
TGF Ambassador &
Former President*

“When I was invited to become a co-signer, I was president of the Guilford Jaycees. At the time, I had no idea it would grow into the strong organization it is today. I couldn’t be prouder.”

Larry Appleton, Founder



“Since 1975, our partnership with TGF has reflected a shared commitment to Guilford’s future. From leadership and annual sponsorship support to a permanent charitable fund and the gift of 44 Boston Street, we’re proud to stand beside an organization that keeps us deeply connected to the community we serve.”

*Shalonta Ford,
SVP, Director of Community
Engagement, Ascend Bank*



“It is impressive that the Town of Guilford trusted the Foundation to distribute the American Rescue Plan Act funds because of its deep knowledge, proven reputation, and rigorous process. Distributing \$1 million to local non-profits has a significant impact.”

Roger Joyce, TGF Ambassador & Former Board Treasurer

“COVID presented the foundation with an opportunity to pivot, raising money to disburse for immediate financial relief. Within 6 months, the community donated nearly \$140,000 to the COVID-19 Response Fund, helping many families and nonprofits that struggled to operate.”

Linda Weber, TGF Ambassador & Former Board Chair

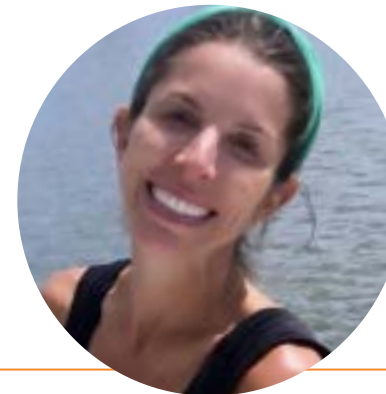


“I love the phrase ‘charity starts at home.’ The Foundation’s named charitable funds comprise the endowment. Year-over-year, the principal is invested and grows, ensuring that local nonprofits are supported forever.”

*James Mancini, TGF Ambassador
& Former Board Chair*

“The real success and beauty of the Foundation’s work is in the small day-to-day magic that happens through our grantmaking and sponsorships.”

*Maggie Moffet,
TGF Board Member*



“TGF helped us get our start in the community in 1978 and has been supporting us ever since. A part of their current support provides scholarships for Guilford families.”

*Annemarie Holly,
Executive Director,
Guilford Center for Children*



“Whether it’s providing emergency funding to bring the GHS Snack bar to code or keeping an early education program in North Guilford after an unexpected shutdown, TGF is always ready to respond and help the community.”

*Matt Hoey, First Selectman,
Town of Guilford*

“The foundation gave us \$20,000 in 2017, at the start of our organization’s formation. It was an important gesture of faith and belief in what we could do. I can honestly say, we wouldn’t exist without TGF.”

Peter Hawes, Executive Director, GreenStage Guilford



“The Foundation’s impact shows up in many ways. Effie Good was a lifelong Guilford resident who led a quiet and simple life. Upon her death in 2007, she made the foundation’s largest donation at the time, believing in TGF’s work and the impact of local philanthropy.”

Betsy Gribble, TGF Ambassador & Former Board Member



GRANT AWARDS

In 2025, The Guilford Foundation (TGF) invested \$421,027 in the community through its competitive grantmaking, sponsorships in partnership with Ascend Bank, Youth Advisory Group grants, donor-advised fund grants, designated charitable fund grants, and scholarships.

\$121,100 Annual Competitive Grant Awards

Arts, Culture & Heritage

- \$3,500 Guilford Art Center to support general operating expenses.
- \$4,000 Guilford Performing Arts Festival, Inc. to support the GreenStage Guilford Festival.
- \$1,500 Neighborhood Music School to support Making Music with Mentors.
- \$1,000 Starship Dance Theater & Company to support general operating expenses.
- \$1,500 Guilford Keeping Society to support repairs to the Thomas Griswold House Museum.

Basic Needs

- \$3,000 Community Dining Room, Inc. to offset operating costs and food costs.
- \$4,900 Guilford Affordable Housing Commission to support public outreach and engagement.
- \$5,000 Guilford Social Services to support the holiday meal baskets for families experiencing financial hardships.

Children and Youth

- \$2,000 Traveling Toys, Inc. to support the expansion of the Toy Lending Library for Children and Teens at the Guilford Free Library.
- \$2,300 Guilford Youth Mentoring to support general operating expenses and an awareness building campaign.
- \$2,500 Camp Hazen YMCA to provide financial assistance to Guilford campers.
- \$2,500 Guilford Social Services to support the Back-to-School Program, which provides Guilford children with funds for school supplies.
- \$2,500 American Legion Darrow-Rebuzini Post 48 to support youth programs through Guilford Public Schools.
- \$3,500 Baldwin Middle School PTO to support the Baldwin Playground Project.

Civic Engagement

- \$1,500 Guilford Community Television to support general operating expenses.

Education

- \$2,500 Community Nursery School to support a new school building.
- \$4,600 Guilford Center for Children Before and After School Care Program, to provide tuition assistance for Guilford families.
- \$5,000 Guilford A Better Chance to support general operating expenses.
- \$7,500 Guilford Center for Children Early Education Program, to provide tuition assistance for Guilford families.
- \$8,000 Little Sprouts Learning Center to support general operating expenses.

Environment

- \$2,500 Guilford Garden Club to support the planting of trees in Guilford.
- \$3,000 Connecticut Forest and Park Association to support the Menunkatuck Pathways Preservation Initiative.
- \$3,200 Save the Sound to support shoreline restoration at Chittenden Park.

Human Services

- \$1,500 SYD'S Book Shack & Boutique to support general operating expenses.
- \$2,500 SARAH Foundation to support Gavin and Friends general operating expenses.
- \$2,800 The Connecticut Hospice, Inc. to purchase Visiting Nurse carry bags for home visits in Guilford.
- \$4,000 Special Olympics Connecticut to support the athletes and volunteers of the Central Shoreline local program.
- \$5,000 APK Charities Corporation to support the APK Charities & Guilford Social Services Veteran Direct Assistance Program.
- \$7,500 Women & Family Life Center to support the Guided Assistance Program (GAP).

Seniors

- \$1,300 Orchard House Medical Adult Day Center to support a Robotic Pet Therapy for Dementia program.

- \$2,500 Shoreline Village CT to support general operating expenses.
- \$4,000 Guilford Housing Authority to support accessibility through the installation of Handicap Ramps.

Wellness & Mental Health

- \$1,500 Soundview Family YMCA to support the Livestrong at the Y Program.
- \$1,500 Soundview Family YMCA to support the Parkinson's Wellness Program.
- \$4,500 The Cove Center for Grieving Children to provide support services for grieving children.
- \$5,000 Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc. for clinical services, case management and care coordination for Guilford children and youth.

\$13,200 Youth Advisory Group Grants

to ALEX, Inc, Before and After School Care Program, GCC, Community Dining Room, Inc., Guilford Center for Children, Guilford High School Multicultural Festival, Guilford Keeping Society, Guilford Social Services, SARAH Foundation Gavin and Friends, Pilgrim Fellowship

\$16,495 Youth Advisory Group Guilford Institute Grants

supporting the following Guilford High School programs and initiatives: new Swim and Dive Board at Soundview YMCA, Guilford Rowing equipment, Ethics Bowl registration and GHS Concession Stand renovation.

\$32,000 Donor Advised Grants

to support Stand Up Speak Out, the Trisha Brown Dance Company, Community Nursery School Capital Campaign, Guilford Community Garden and Sound Life Connections: The WAVE.

\$37,916 Guilford Fund for Education Grants

to support programs in the Guilford Public Schools.

\$62,670 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.

\$106,400 Scholarship Awards to 39 graduates from Guilford High School and 2 graduates from the Sound School.

\$30,470 Sponsorship Awards

to 27

- organizations:
- ALEX, Inc
 - Community Nursery School
 - Guilford Art Center
 - Guilford Interfaith Volunteers
 - Guilford Keeping Society
 - Guilford Performing Arts Festival, Inc.
 - Guilford Youth Mentoring
 - Indaba Action Team
 - Knights of Columbus Council #3928
 - Legacy Theatre
 - North Guilford Congregational Church
 - Parks and Recreation, Town of Guilford
 - Paul Dostie KARE Foundation
 - Project Graduation
 - Rotary Club of Guilford
 - SARAH Foundation
 - Shoreline Arts Alliance
 - Sound Life Connections Inc
 - Soundview Family YMCA
 - St George Men's Group
 - The Connecticut Hospice, Inc.
 - The Dorothy Whitfield Historical Society
 - The Dudley Foundation/The Dudley Farm Museum
 - The Ethan Miller Song Foundation
 - The Guilford Fair Parade
 - Theater Arts Parents Support (TAPS)
 - Women & Family Life Center



Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

The Guilford Foundation is pleased to share our financial highlights for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. This past year was marked by extraordinary generosity. Gifts, grants, and new funds reached record levels as our community came together to celebrate TGF’s 50th anniversary and the impact it has made in Guilford. None of this happens without you, our donors, partners, grantees, and volunteers, and we are deeply grateful for the journey we share.

Putting Resources to Work

In FY 2025, TGF awarded **\$421,027 in grants and sponsorships**, the most distributed from our own endowment in the Foundation’s history.* These grants support nonprofits doing vital work across education, human services, the arts, conservation, and more. Sponsorships, made through our partnership with Ascend Bank, help ensure that community events and programs remain accessible and vibrant. Whether it’s a scholarship that opens a door or a grant that helps a local organization expand its reach, we are proud to see these dollars at work in our community.

The Generosity of Our Donors

2025 was a remarkable year. Total contributions received in FY 2025 reached **\$673,003**, reflecting ongoing support from individuals, families, nonprofits, and corporate partners who trust TGF to steward their gifts thoughtfully and effectively. This figure

does not include the early gifts received at the end of 2024 to renovate our new home at **44 Boston Street**. Including those contributions, gifts related to our 50th anniversary totaled **\$940,312**, an extraordinary show of community support for this milestone year.

A Strong and Steady Portfolio

As of December 31, 2025, total assets stand at **\$9,075,636**, a new high-water mark for TGF, reflecting both the growth of our endowment and the addition of our building in 2024. Our endowment is managed by professionals at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and invested in a globally diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds, alternative investments, and private assets. Guided by our Finance Committee, we remain focused on long-term stewardship, ensuring the Foundation continues to serve Guilford for generations to come. While markets naturally rise and fall, we remain confident in our strategy and partners, and are committed to steady, thoughtful growth.

Your generosity, engagement, and support are the backbone of our shared success. We deeply value the trust you place in the Foundation.

**Our overall distributions into the Guilford community were only higher during 2023 & 2024 when we were asked by the Town of Guilford to distribute American Rescue Act Funding totaling \$1M over the two years.*

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Hodgson, *Chair*
 John Hyman, *Vice Chair*
 Kristin Vander Wiede, *Treasurer*
 Ashley Fernandez, *Secretary*
 Sarah Blanton
 Stephanie Little Brown
 Wesley Cain
 Kristopher Cricchi

Linda Fan
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 Maggie Moffett
 Julie Paquette
 NiCole Schlagheck
 Nathan Scoggin
 Stacy Errante Votto



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 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
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Marc “Chris” Leete Knapp
 Wendy Kravitz
 Kate Lee
 Delaney Lundberg
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 Rick Mayer
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 Michael McNiff
 Michael Mikolay
 Matthew Peterson
 Tom Pinchbeck
 Sandra Ruoff
 Meghan Scanlon
 Edward Seibert
 Brendan Smith
 Pam Stoddard
 Alexander Sulpasso
 Jan Walzer
 Linda Weber
 Kathleen White

STAFF

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

LEGACY CIRCLE

We’re grateful for these forward-thinking 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

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	FY2025	FY2024*	FY2023**
Total Assets	\$9,075,636	\$7,898,934	\$6,584,711
Total Contributions	\$673,003	\$650,632	\$440,236
ARPA Funding Received & Distributed	–	\$500,000	\$500,000
Grants & Sponsorships	\$421,027	\$396,739	\$331,836

* FY 2023 reflects the period ending December 31, 2023 (previously, fiscal years ended January 31).

** FY 2024 contributions include the gift of the \$530,000 building from Ascend Bank.

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We worked carefully to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this list and we apologize for any mistakes. Please contact Liza Janssen Petra at (203) 640-4049 or lpetra@guilfordfoundation.org to correct any inconsistencies.



Photo: 2025-2026 Youth Advisory Group

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Photo: Baldwin Middle School students enjoy their new playground.



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