



GUILFORD FOUNDATION

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SPRING 2017

2016: Your Support Made History

THANK YOU! Thanks to your generosity and a sharp turnaround in investment income, the Guilford Foundation grew to a record \$2.48 million in assets in the fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 2017. Please read on to see an overview of our work in 2016—we couldn't have done it without you!

Invested over \$96,000 into the community through 36 grants (ranging from \$250 to \$5,000) and **13 scholarships and prizes** to Guilford High School Graduating Seniors. That compares with total grants of \$74,000 in the fiscal year ended January 2016 and \$90,600 in fiscal 2015.

Completed the Guilford Foundation's **40th Anniversary Fund Drive** with over \$150,000 in new gifts. This is a direct reflection of the generous community spirit that pervades Guilford. The purpose of the drive was to generate significant income during our 40th year and create a meaningful addition to our endowed funds.

Six new funds established

1. Former Board member Mary Jo Kestner and her husband Russell Campaigne established the **Campaigne-Kestner Architects Fund** in honor of the 15th anniversary of their local firm.
2. **Guilford Art Center**, which created a permanent legacy fund to support their organization.
3. The former board of the Guilford Institute established the **Guilford Institute Fund** to support special projects at Guilford High School that fall outside the school budget.
4. **Bob and Pat Jaeger** established a field of interest fund.
5. Longtime resident and activist **David W. Knapp** created an unrestricted fund.
6. Board President Jim Mancini and his wife Liz created the **Mancini Family Fund** as an unrestricted fund (see inside for more details).

Challenge grant to the "Save Our Shack" Eagle Scout Project encouraged donations to John Markowski's efforts up to \$10,000, and ensures that a permanent legacy fund will exist to support maintenance of the Grass Island shack forever. This builds on work over the years by many community members, most significantly that of Richard Werle and his friends and family in the 1990s. The Guilford Foundation looks forward to finalizing this fund in 2017.

Implemented a **professional development program for non-profit organizations** called the Shoreline Nonprofit Workshop Series serving the Guilford community through a partnership with the Branford Community Foundation, the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce's Nonprofit Council, and the Guilford Savings Bank. The program included eight two-hour training sessions (four held in Guilford, four held in Branford), and each session averaged 42 people representing 26 organizations.

Moved forward to address Guilford's **affordable housing gap**. Outcomes included reinvigorating Guilford Interfaith Housing to serve as a local, independent advocate; supporting the Town of Guilford's application to the State of Connecticut Department and implementation of a grant to identify and analyze potential land parcels that can support and identify multifamily housing; and committed over \$30,000 in grants to support local organizations address the issue.

These achievements are only made possible thanks to the work of our volunteer Board of Directors, our volunteer corporators, and—importantly—the support of the community.

\$96,000 Invested into the community



Eagle Scout John Markowski led this initiative to restore the beloved shack on Grass Island, and The Guilford Foundation supported his efforts with a \$10,000 challenge grant and the creation of a permanent endowment for the cause.



The Guilford Foundation was pleased to give a grant to the SARAH Foundation to support recreational programming.



Foundation Chair Establishes Legacy Fund

Jim and Liz Mancini established the Mancini Family Fund at the Guilford Foundation in 2016 to ensure that resources will always be available to help those in our community with basic needs. The fund is unrestricted, meaning it can be used to address any community issue, but the Mancinis have expressed preference for organizations that support our neighbors who are struggling.

“Our wishes are that grants from our fund go toward basic needs, such as families with disability or someone having trouble paying the rent,” says Jim Mancini, who has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors since 2015.

Mancini said a specific example “might be for Social Services in town to be able to use it for a family that has a severely disabled child and maybe they need a night out,” he explained. “They may need someone with higher skills to babysit, when they just need a break.”

Mancini said he and his wife feel very committed to the causes that will benefit from their fund. “We established the fund to support what’s dear to us, which is something we’ve been involved with for quite a few years now in town, helping those with needs,” he added.

The Mancini Fund was started as an “Acorn Fund,” a Foundation initiative that allows interested donors five years to reach the \$10,000 minimum required for establishing a permanent endowment fund. It will continue to grow with donations made by the Mancini family and any other members of the community who wish to support it.

The family started the fund with a \$5,000 donation. When the fund reaches \$10,000 it will be a matured and ready for disbursements. “It gives you time to get up to \$10,000, rather than having to write a \$10,000 check all at once,” explained Mancini. “We wanted to do it over time.”

In addition to serving as Chair of the Guilford Foundation, Mancini is a member of the St. George Men’s Group. He understands the needs of the various nonprofit groups working to make Guilford a better place to live for everyone.

“The nonprofits are all out there and they’re doing their thing, but one of the things they need most is money,” he said. “They need financial support in order to keep doing what they’re doing.”



Jim and Liz Mancini

As a Guilford native, Mancini feels fortunate to have grown up in a town that takes care of each other. “I think it’s nice that the community will get together to help one another,” he said. “What I like about the fund is that it’ll continue to be perpetual year after year, even when we’re gone, helping to make Guilford a better place to live.”



A recovering red tailed hawk at “A Place Called Hope.” The Guilford Foundation provided a grant for their new hawk aviary.



The Guilford Foundation Ambassador Andrew Eder, Chair Jim Mancini, Guilford Art Center Executive Director Maureen Belden, and The Guilford Foundation Executive Director Liza Janssen Petra celebrate the establishment of a permanent endowment fund for the Guilford Art Center.



Seals caught on the The Guilford Foundation-funded “tern cam” located on Faulkner’s Island.

\$25,000 Challenge Grant to the Women and Family Life Center

On March 7, 2016, the Women & Family Life Center (Center) officially announced its \$500,000 *Open Door* campaign to improve the Center's building and expand programming to continue to meet the community's needs. The Guilford Foundation is partnering with the Center to energize local support by offering to match every donation to the campaign under \$1,000, up to \$25,000.

The purpose of this 25th anniversary capital campaign is to grow the Center's capacity to serve struggling women and families along the Connecticut shoreline. "Every day someone calls or knocks on our door desperate for answers to financial, legal, and emotional hurdles that have no easy solutions. Many do not qualify for social services, yet they are not able to make ends meet or overcome an unexpected hurdle," says Peggy Britt, Executive Director.



Staff and Board members of the Guilford Foundation and the Women & Family Life Center during the announcement of the \$25,000 Challenge Grant.

"The Center is often the first open door to women facing domestic violence, divorce, and families facing financial hardships. The need for our services has increased significantly- especially in the last eight years," said Meghan Forgione, co-chair of the Women & Family Life Center's Board of Directors and an Ambassador of the Guilford Foundation.

The campaign funds will be used to refurbish the Center and expand services. The Center's clients deserve a safe, warm and inviting space. Expanded services will allow the Center's staff to serve more people in need, more efficiently.

Meghan Forgione and Dorota Xeller, Board of Director Co-Chairs, encourage the community to help celebrate the Center's 25 years of serving our neighbors in need by contributing to the campaign. "We believe that one person, one act, no matter how small, can change the course of a life forever. Our shoreline communities are so fortunate to have this special place and we all benefit when we give a helping hand to those in need." said Xeller.

The Guilford Foundation will match every gift up to \$1,000 from community members, up to \$25,000. The purpose of this challenge grant is to energize individuals to support the Center and its work to increase its capacity to serve struggling women and families along the Connecticut shoreline.

"We are thrilled to help the Center kick off the public phase of this campaign," says Board Chair James Mancini. "We feel that it is important to encourage as many people as possible to support their work, and to remind the community that you don't have to be a Bill Gates or an Oprah Winfrey to be a philanthropist. You just have to care enough to send a contribution of any size-- and the Guilford Foundation will match any gift of \$1,000 or under."

To learn more about the services the Center offers, please visit www.womenandfamilylife.org. For more information about the campaign and to learn how donating to the campaign can change a life forever, please visit <https://www.womenandfamilylife.org/donate/open-door-capital-campaign/> or call Executive Director, Peggy Britt at (203) 458-6699.

\$25,000 Matching donations up to:

How to Give

Contact Liza Janssen Petra, Executive Director, at lizapetra@gmail.com for more information.

Create a personal legacy in Guilford by establishing a named fund, for yourself, your family, or a loved one. The minimum amount required to establish a fund is \$10,000. To help reach your philanthropic goals, we offer an "Acorn Fund" option, which allows interested donors 5 years to reach the \$10,000 minimum.

If you are not ready to create a charitable fund but want to contribute to our efforts to enrich the quality of life in Guilford, provide a direct donation of any amount at any time to one of our existing charitable funds.

Finally, consider a gift to our operating fund, which allows us to maintain our visibility in the community; provide leadership around community issues; raise new dollars to invest back into the organizations that serve Guilford; and provide excellent stewardship for our existing funds.

Gifts can be accepted from cash, stock or other assets; bequests; or planning a future gift through your IRA or insurance policy.

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