



NWC Donors Make a Difference

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR IS just that: neighbors looking out for the well being of neighbors. Thanks to donors across the northwest corner, in the past year we've been able to provide nearly 100 small grants to keep the heat on, the car running, people in work, and families together.

The Neighbor-to-Neighbor program provides emergency assistance for local residents who are in economic distress. Small grants (generally around \$500) go to help those with overdue utilities, medical bills, short-term housing costs and transportation problems. Checks are written to the vendor (landlord, utility company, pharmacy or mechanic) on behalf of the community member in need.

If you or someone you know needs assistance in northwest Litchfield County, you should contact your town social worker to apply for emergency aid from Berkshire Taconic. *The cold is coming; it's time to replenish the well of good will. To donate to Neighbor-to-Neighbor, please visit berkshiretaconic.org or call 413.229.0370.*

Together We Make a Difference

The Northwest Corner Fund would like to thank the many generous individuals and organizations who supported our community in 2009-2010. To donate, please use the enclosed envelope, donate online at berkshiretaconic.org or call Berkshire Taconic at 413.229.0370.

Doing Good Radio

Tune in to our new radio broadcast featuring interviews with citizens doing good things in the Berkshire Taconic region on Saturdays at 5:30pm on WHDD 91.9 FM or any time at berkshiretaconic.org/news

Find Us on Facebook

Get regular updates on grants, application deadlines and community events on facebook.com/berkshiretaconic

Northwest Corner Fund

Builds stronger communities in Bantam, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Cornwall Bridge, Falls Village, Goshen, Kent, Lakeville, Lime Rock, Litchfield, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Taconic, Warren, West Cornwall and Winchester.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation was founded in Salisbury, CT in 1987. Since that time, Berkshire Taconic has distributed over \$16.5 million to benefit residents of the Northwest Corner of Connecticut through scholarships and grants for programs in the arts and education, health and human services and environmental protection. Berkshire Taconic is the community foundation for northwest Litchfield County, CT, northeast Dutchess County and Columbia County, NY, and Berkshire County, MA, building stronger communities and improving the quality of life for everyone in its region. Berkshire Taconic is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is certified in compliance with the national standards of excellence established by the Council on Foundations.

Berkshire Taconic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

7 FEBRUARY 2011
Next Deadline for The Nonprofit Learning Program
berkshiretaconic.org/nonprofits

NEWS FROM THE

Northwest Corner

November 2010

Nonprofit Learning Program Marks Sixth Anniversary



The Northwest Corner Fund sponsors The Nonprofit Learning Program (NPLP) to strengthen nonprofit managers and board members with intensive training in best practices in governance, fund development and donor communications. With a stronger managerial spine, our nonprofits are better prepared for the challenges of continuing their important services in these challenging economic times.

This year, Simone Joyaux, the program's internationally renowned consultant, worked with seven nonprofits that were selected through a rigorous and competitive process to attend the program: The Douglas Library; Kent Art Association; Norfolk Land Trust; Salisbury Family Services; Salisbury Forum; Susan B. Anthony Project; and The Winsted Health Center Foundation.

Upon the advice of previous participants, this year's program followed a new format: four group training sessions, followed by two full-day consultations with Ms. Joyaux, including one consultation with each organization's entire board and a much praised session on donor communications from consultant Tom Ahern. One executive director noted:



JOHN ATCHELY

"This was an unexpected gift in every way. The level of instruction was remarkable. While there was informality in tone, there was great purpose and intent in all aspects of the teaching and the interacting among groups."

For more information on The Nonprofit Learning Program go to berkshiretaconic.org/nonprofits

Berkshire Taconic Makes Major Investment in Northwest Corner Nonprofits

Thanks to the generosity of several anonymous donors, Berkshire Taconic has awarded \$167,500 in new grants



to a dozen Northwest Corner nonprofit organizations. These grants bring the total amount that the foundation has awarded to the region this year to \$1.1 million. Since 1987, when the foundation was founded in Salisbury, it has facilitated over \$16.5 million in donations to improve the quality of life for everyone living in the Northwest Corner.

"Several years ago, these donors approached Berkshire Taconic because they wanted to support grassroots "worthy causes" that made a difference in peoples' lives," said Jennifer Dowley, president. "Like other donors with whom we work, they look to us to assess the needs of the community and advise them on where their donations will do the most good. We do the research

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and connect them to worthwhile causes that reflect their personal values and philanthropic priorities.”

The Northwest Corner grantees include organizations that address education, healthcare, poverty, families, domestic violence and housing. One highlight: \$20,000 was awarded for a new nursing training program at Northwest Connecticut Community College (NWCC). “Thanks to support from organizations such as Berkshire Taconic we’re able to fulfill a real need in our community,” said Barbara Berger, director of the Connecticut State Office of Rural Health, housed at NWCC. “Now institutions like Geer, Noble Horizons, Sharon Hospital, Winsted Health Center and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital have a significant training resource to help with their staffing needs.”

NWC Grantees

- **Canaan Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry (\$5,000)**
- **Drumm Scholarship Fund (\$5,000)**
- **Housatonic Valley Regional High School Science and Agricultural Building (\$10,000)**
- **Housatonic Youth Services Bureau (\$10,000)**
- **HousingUs (\$7,500)**
- **Kent Educational Enrichment Fund (\$30,000)**
- **Neighbor to Neighbor Fund (\$5,000)**
- **Northwest Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (\$20,000)**
- **Northwest Corner Chore Service (\$5,000)**
- **Northwest Corner Fund (\$15,000)**
- **Older Women’s League of Northwest Connecticut (\$5,000)**
- **Prime Time House (\$5,000)**
- **Salisbury Visiting Nurses Association (\$5,000)**
- **Salisbury Winter Sports Association (\$25,000)**
- **Susan B. Anthony Project (\$5,000)**
- **Visiting Nurse and Homecare Northwest (\$5,000)**
- **Women’s Support Services (\$5,000)**

Accessory Apartment Program in Full Swing in the Northwest Corner



HousingUs, an initiative of Berkshire Taconic, is stepping up with creative ways to help address the urgent need for rental housing in the Northwest Corner with its Accessory Apartment Program.

An accessory apartment (also called an in-law apartment) is a self-contained housing unit that may either be a segment of the main residence or in a separate structure such as a garage on the property of a single-family home.

Berkshire Taconic has made housing a priority because it impacts the quality of life for everyone in our region.

“Accessory apartments are an easy and immediate way to help tenants, homeowners and homebuyers,” said Jocelyn Ayer, HousingUs coordinator. “They can ease the very tight rental market for working families. They can also provide a little extra income for homeowners, which in today’s economy can really make a financial difference to members of our local community.” A critical benefit of this program is that it helps prevent teachers, emergency volunteers and others from getting priced out of the towns where they work and often grew up in.

HousingUs has published guides with step-by-step instructions and zoning regulations, specifically tailored for the towns of Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Salisbury, Sharon and Sheffield, MA. The guides are available at town halls and by visiting housingus.org.

New Education Enrichment Fund in Kent

As part of this year’s grants to Northwest Corner nonprofits, an education enrichment fund has been launched for the Kent Center School community: Kent Education Learning Foundation (KELF). KELF’s mission is to achieve educational excellence for students at Kent Center School by providing resources for innovative and creative educational projects and programs. It has received a challenge grant of \$20,000 that it needs to match with \$40,000 by the end of 2013. Meanwhile, KELF will have \$10,000 to award in grants while the endowment builds. Teachers, administrators, staff and members of the community may submit proposals for projects such as class field trips, visiting speakers, science projects, athletic or technical equipment — anything which would enhance the educational experiences of the students. KELF now joins six other education enrichment funds at Berkshire Taconic for the public schools in Region One. Visit KELF online at kelfct.org

2009—2010 Litchfield County Grants

Over \$1.1 million in the past year has been granted by Berkshire Taconic funds to these northwest Litchfield County organizations:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st Century Fund Aglet Theatre Company American Mural Project Artists for Artists Arts Alive @KCS Arts Fund For Region One Berkshire Litchfield Environmental Council Canaan Child Care Center Canaan Community Trust Canaan Family Center Chore Service CMHA/Northwest Center for Family Services and Mental Health Cornwall Association Cornwall Chronicle Cornwall Consolidated School Cornwall Library Association Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Creative Hands Crescendo David M. Hunt Memorial Library Education Connection Elm Watch Fund EXTRAS After School Programs Falls Village Community and Cultural Center Falls Village Day Care Center Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department & Ambulance Service Friends of Beckley Furnace Geer Adult Day Center Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life Greenwoods Counseling Referrals Gunn Memorial Library Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut Health Care Auxiliary for the Tri-State Region Hospice of Northwest Connecticut/UMH Hotchkiss Library of Sharon Hotchkiss School Housatonic Audubon Society Housatonic Child Care Center Housatonic Valley Association Housatonic Valley Regional High School Housatonic Youth Service Bureau Indian Mountain School Jane Lloyd Fund Kent Historical Society Lake Wononscopomuc Association Lee Kellogg School/Canaan Board of Education Little Guild of St. Francis for Welfare of Animals Neighbor-to-Neighbor in the NW Corner Music Mountain New Milford Hospital Noble Horizons North Canaan Community Network North Canaan Congregational Church Northwest Connecticut Older Women’s League Northwest Connecticut Arts Council Northwest Connecticut Community College Northwest Connecticut YMCA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Corner Fuel Bank Older Women’s League/OWL’s Kitchen Prime Time House Project Troubador Region One Arts Fund Region One Athletic Fund Salisbury Association Salisbury Band Salisbury Central School Education Enrichment Fund Salisbury Congregational Church Salisbury Family Services Salisbury Housing Trust Salisbury Rotary Club Foundation Salisbury School Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service Salisbury Winter Sports Association Science and Technology Center Building Fund Scoville Memorial Library Sharon Audubon Center Sharon Center School Sharon Center School Millennium Technology Fund Sharon Center School PTO Sharon Day Care Center Sharon Fire Department Sharon Historical Society Sharon Land Trust Shepaug Student Project Foundation South Kent School SPARC St. Bernard’s Church St. John’s Episcopal Church Steep Rock Arts Association Susan B. Anthony Project The Canaan Foundation The Geer Foundation The Great Mountain Forest Corporation The Gunner The Historic Sharon Burying Ground The Last Post The Northwest Music Association The Salisbury Forum Town of Kent Town of Salisbury Town of Sharon Tri State Center for the Arts Tri-Arts Sharon Playhouse United Way of Northwest Connecticut Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area VNA Northwest Washington Ambulance Association Washington Community Fund Weantinog Heritage Land Trust West Cornwall Village Improvement Association Winchester Youth Service Bureau Women’s Support Services |
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Berkshire Taconic values the good work of The Foundation for Community Health which makes an enormous contribution to the health and well being of Northwest Corner residents. FCH is a supporting organization of Berkshire Taconic. Visit at fchealth.org

Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA)

Eighty five years ago, a Norwegian immigrant, John Satre, showed the residents of his new hometown Salisbury the magic of ski jumping by flying off a barn roof. Ski jumping was born at what is now known as Satre Hill in Salisbury. Since then hundreds of area residents have learned to jump and ski—both downhill and cross country.

This year SWSA has two major events: the annual Eastern Ski Jumping Championships (February 11-13) and the 2011 U.S. Junior Olympics (February 22-27). 70 young athletes are coming from all over the country for the first U.S. Junior Olympics in Salisbury. Skiers, along with their coaches and families will fill our hotels, restaurants and shops as they compete on the ski jumps in Salisbury and cross country at Mohawk Mountain in Cornwall. In order to host this remarkable event (and continue hosting it every 5 years hence), SWSA needs to completely rebuild the ski jumps.

A campaign to raise \$750,000 to cover the costs of construction is underway. SWSA has created a fund at Berkshire Taconic to help. To date, \$550,000 has been raised. If you would like to contribute go to jumpfest.org and click “Donate to SWSA” and it will take you to Berkshire Taconic’s online donation page.

Congratulations to a hearty group of dedicated volunteers who are making all of this happen!

