

January, February, March 2010

# Quarterly Update

## Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

### Message from the President, April 2010

As Tolstoy so wonderfully wrote about the coming of spring, "Everything is drenched in hope." Although times remain difficult for nonprofits that depend on public dollars and individual giving, the recession, like our last cold winter, is slowly loosening its grip. The Foundation continues to help our nonprofits negotiate these unstable times with many professional development opportunities.

Meanwhile, things here are moving at their usual brisk pace with \$1.7 million flowing out our doors—to nonprofits to continue their good work; to students to help cover the cost of college; and to artists, giving them some unencumbered time to work. We continue to be amazed at the generous spirits that reside within our communities.

There's always more to do and we are here to help get the good work done.

Stay in touch and enjoy a wonderful spring and the optimism that accompanies its warmth.

With warm wishes, [Jennifer Dowley](#)

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TO VIEW YOUR UPDATED  
FUND STATEMENTS**

### HousingUs Campaign



As part of our ongoing mission to bring regional resources to bear on important issues, Berkshire Taconic and Winterhouse Institute (Falls Village, CT) launched the HousingUs public awareness campaign in April—and brought the pressing issue of our region's housing challenges straight to the doorsteps of thousands of

community members.

HousingUs has developed several action steps including guides to create accessory apartments, sources of affordable housing. These guides are available at [housingus.org](http://housingus.org) and describe the process of how to secure permission for, design, build and find a tenant for an apartment in one's home, barn or garage.

The housing challenge is a pressing issue on the agendas of most towns in our region. Berkshire Taconic's goal is to deepen the public conversation and set the stage for us to work together to keep our communities healthy—with reasonably priced housing options for people of all ages, talents and backgrounds.

The HousingUs awareness campaign was underwritten by a grant from SAPPI paper. We encourage you to learn more at [housingus.org](http://housingus.org)

### SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: MAY 1

Apply to one of over 20 scholarship funds

[Learn more »](#)

### BERKSHIRE TACONIC IS MOVING!

Mid-June marks the date for the move to our permanent home in Sheffield, MA

[Read more »](#)

### SPRING SEMINARS

Don't miss the final two seminars

[Register »](#)

## Grants Awarded for International Community Service



Every year, Berkshire Taconic supports young adults following their passion for helping others abroad. India, Senegal, Ecuador, Palestine, Haiti and Costa Rica are among the countries where local youth will perform community service this year, thanks to grants from the Alice and Richard Henriquez Fund/Youth World Awareness Program.

Three students and three nonprofit organizations received grants totaling \$8,820 from the program which supports travel and humanitarian work in foreign countries by young people ages 14-22. One grant recipient, Holley Tierney, 20, of Falls Village, CT spent six months teaching English at a school in the village of Ramnagar in southern India, and plans a permanent move there in October to continue her work. She will volunteer with an exchange program that places volunteers in homes for the elderly and disabled, schools and orphanages. Among her

future aspirations are raising money to buy land on which to build a safe home for battered women and broadening her work in education.

Luke Sisto, 15, of North Adams, MA will attend a twenty day high school program in Senegal with Walking Tree Travel. Students will dig wells and build fences alongside Peace Corps volunteers and assist with public health education. Mickaela Grimaldi, 14, of Salisbury, CT will channel her love of animals to travel to the Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador to assist with reforestation and animal rehabilitation.

Groups which also received grants were Bard College's Palestinian Language & Thinking program, COTY Center's Haiti Plunge and Church on the Hill's Service Project Costa Rica.

We invite you to [support future young travelers](#) by making a donation to the Youth World Awareness Program.

[Read more](#) about the Alice and Richard Henriquez Fund/Youth World Awareness Program.

## Investment Returns as of March 31, 2010

	Q1 2010	1-YEAR RETURN	3-YEAR RETURN	5-YEAR RETURN
MANAGED POOL*	3.5	36.5	1.2	5.3
INCOME POOL	2.5	13.9	8.3	N/A
MONEY MARKET	0.0	0.1	2.1	N/A
SRI POOL	4.1	25.8	0.7	2.6
S & P 500	5.4	49.7	-4.2	1.9

\*As of March 31, 2010, the asset mix was: 1.2% cash, 16.0% fixed income, 20.0% domestic equities, 28.5% international equities, 27.6% alternatives and 6.7% real assets. Managed pool performance updated monthly.

Our strategies of remaining fully diversified and choosing to work with top quartile managers worldwide keeps our managed pool performing extremely well. You can track monthly returns on our [website](#)

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## Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

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*Moving forward by giving back. Your gift will make a difference—please consider donating [online](#)*

