See Page 8 - 9 for information about our work during COVID-19

CFGNB Board Member Janis Jerman volunteering at an assembly line to create face shields for first responders
Last year at this time, I wrote to you in this Year in Review publication and noted that the world had changed suddenly as we were forced to pivot and address the needs of our community in the midst of a pandemic. When we asked, many of you contributed to our COVID-19 or Civic Leadership Funds and for that generous support, we are grateful.

Beyond our initial drive in 2020 to produce 22,000 face shields for medical staff and first responders when PPE was scarce, we shifted resources and began providing tens of thousands of dollars in emergency COVID-19 grants to nonprofits and school districts to help them weather the storm and continue on, often assisting the most vulnerable in our communities. Our staff established a rotation of remote and in-office work to keep each other safe. Our committees and board met virtually and in an unprecedented way. They reviewed the grant recommendations and the aid flowed out weekly for months.

“...Without your support, the hard work that was set in motion pre-COVID would have come to a halt. Because of you, LVCC has been able to continue to provide instruction, assistance, and encouragement to members of our adult literacy community.” – Ron Sheffer, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Central CT

We also had a responsibility to ensure that our ongoing Community Response Grants, Scholarships, Sponsorships, and Community Initiatives continued to respond to the needs of the communities we serve. I’m proud to say that our team of staff and volunteers excelled, the programs continued, contributions to our funds were strong, and nine new funds or scholarships were established during the year.

“...Your generous contribution will allow us to expand access to inpatient care and create a first of its kind program in a space specifically designed for the needs of families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder.” – Lynn Ricci, President & CEO, Hospital for Special Care

Our organization was able to do all of this because of its strong foundation of eighty years serving the Greater New Britain area communities and connecting donors who care with causes that matter.

During these challenging times, if you can, join us in responding to our community needs with a gift to our Civic Leadership Fund or to our COVID-19 Initiatives Fund online at www.cfgnb.org or by using the enclosed envelope we would be most appreciative.

Sincerely,

David J. Obredzinski

Building Funds That Make A Difference

The Maria and Mark Bernacki Family Fund
COVID-19 Initiatives Fund (a temporary fund to aid nonprofits during the pandemic)
Vic and Betty Fumiatti Fund for the Boys & Girls Club of New Britain
Anna Sielawko Engineering Scholarship Fund
Harriet Stanley Designated Fund for CCNBB
Georgina Thomson Designated Fund for CCNBB
Mary Whittlesy Designated Fund for CCNBB
...and two anonymous future scholarship funds!

To learn more about establishing your own fund during your lifetime or with an estate gift, contact us at info@cfgnb.org to request one of our Fund Booklets or to have a conversation with our Foundation staff.

Champion Awards

In 2019, the Foundation created the Champion Awards to celebrate and recognize individuals, businesses, organizations, civic groups, and others who have supported the activities of the Foundation in a manner that allowed it to fulfill its mission even more effectively and efficiently, thus savings us money we could then dedicate to the community. The Foundation wishes to recognize those who have helped it make an even greater impact in the communities it serves while helping it be an even better steward of its resources.

The 2020 recipients of this award were:

Andrea Tarantino of Napcon Communications of Southington, for his long-standing exceptional technical support of our web sites for CFGNB and CCNBB and for a severely discounted rate throughout our relationship.

5 Churches Brewing of New Britain for generous support of space, time and energy to our 2019 Giving Brewsday event and support of The Buzz and Young Philanthropy initiatives in the area.

Jason Howey of OKAY Industries of New Britain for long-standing support with gifts at a leadership level in the Civic Leadership Fund and for establishing and leading the effort for the New Britain Manufacturing Academy Fund.

Our Impact by the Numbers

$53,668,406 = The value of our Foundation’s long-term investments as of December 31, 2020

$80,985 = Gifts made to our Civic Leadership Fund annual appeal in 2020 by individuals and businesses - Thank you! These gifts allow us to respond to the community’s areas of greatest need.

93 = Number of scholarships awarded amounting to $79,316 in aid to students for higher education - our highest annual total.

$222,900 = COVID-19 Emergency Grants allocated to support local organizations serving the residents of Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, and Southington and also to respond to community needs for the most vulnerable during the pandemic.

$531,061 = Community Response grants, Community Initiatives grants, and Community Sponsorships awarded throughout Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, and Southington.

More than $1.8 million = In 2020, the total amount of grants, scholarships, and sponsorships our foundation and its donor advised and designated funds provided to our community and to other nonprofits operating in communities our donors are connected to throughout the United States.
Our Initiatives

Capacity Building for Nonprofits

The COVID-19 pandemic changed how CFGNB conducted business for most of 2020. The Capacity Building program was no exception, forcing us to shift our response to the situation facing our nonprofit partners in ways that were relevant and impactful. Fortunately, we were successful in providing agencies with valuable programming and resources. Workshops, webinars and the Executive Director Forum went virtual and focused on helping organizations to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic successfully. Surveys after each session indicated that they were relevant, informative and offered actionable solutions.

The Foundation has a subscription to the Foundation Directory Online (FDO), a powerful resource that contains information on more than 225,000+ grant makers. Due to the devastating impact of the pandemic, we were able to make it available remotely throughout 2020 so nonprofit organizations could conduct searches from their location.

Catalyst Giving Circle

This long-standing giving circle is comprised of a group of community-minded citizens interested in improving the quality of life in Greater New Britain. Members contribute $250 (or $50 for first-time members) and gather three times a year to learn about a member-chosen issue facing the community, and to consider funding requests from charitable organizations addressing the need. The year concludes with a grant award of up to $12,500.

In 2020, the Catalyst membership changed its original topic due to the pandemic. Due to the devastating impact on arts and cultural organizations, the membership awarded grants to help five organizations adapt their business model and practices in order to continue successful operations during the health crisis.

Our sincere thanks to the Catalyst members who contribute and participate annually. The first meeting in 2021 will be held remotely and will take place in June.

Young Philanthropy

Aligned with our mission of inspiring philanthropy, we recognize the need to educate younger generations about the value of contributing one’s time, talent and treasure to support charitable organizations in their community as well as through innovative social networking opportunities. The Foundation staff leads the board and committees of The Buzz, Greater New Britain’s Young Professionals’ network, which seeks to connect career-minded individuals who give back while cultivating a stronger sense of community. Even with the added challenge of navigating around COVID-19, we have found unique ways to offer social activities and engage folks such as establishing a partnership with the other young professionals groups around the state and launching a new limited-edition CFGNB collaboration beer with Five Churches Brewing for ‘Giving Brewsday,' our annual Giving Tuesday celebration.

Degree Completion Initiative

Beginning in 2019, CFGNB established a set-aside of undesignated funds to begin a pilot program with CCSU to help good students who just needed some financial assistance to complete their degrees. In following years, additional grants to this initiative will be made from the James G. Williamson Education Assistance Fund, a growing fund named in memory of former Foundation President Jim Williamson who was a strong proponent of helping students complete their educational pursuits.

Last year, following guidance by CCSU President and CFGNB Board Member Zulma Torro, and after researching information from CCSU’s task force, we decided to offer our scholarship to students in their junior or senior years who owed less than $2,500 and were in good academic standing. In the second year of this program, the Foundation was able to assist eight students pay their balance and ultimately complete their education.

CFGNB looks forward to continuing to make an impact on the students and future workers of our community. If you would like to support this initiative, please make a gift to the James G. Williamson Education Assistance Fund at the Foundation.

2020 Census Work

In 2020, the Community Foundation added a temporary project to support marketing efforts to encourage residents of our four towns to respond to the 2020 Census. Due to the historical gaps in the submission of census data by urban area residents and some rural areas, it was important to support this effort in Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, and Southington. An accurate count provides lawmakers and public officials what they need to determine the distribution of $10 billion in federal dollars for education, health, transportation, housing, and other programs for the next ten years. Grants to support marketing efforts were made to our local communities to ensure participation in the census.

Disaster Response

The Greater New Britain Disaster Response Fund was established in 2019 and makes resources available to local government community service departments and crisis coordinators to meet the basic needs of residents from New Britain, Berlin, Plainville and Southington who are displaced from their homes for an extended period of time due to a natural disaster.

In 2020, four grants totaling just over $2,700 were awarded to support the needs of families and individuals who suffered loss due to apartment fires. Two additional grants were made from this Fund when Puerto Rico suffered a earthquake early in 2020. Local New Britain area residents with close ties to family and friends in Puerto Rico asked if the CFGNB would accept donations to support the impacted residents, similar to when the Hurricane Maria Puerto Rico Relief Fund was established in 2017.

"I always look on the bright side of things, but since this pandemic has begun I am not sure how I am going to be able to pay for school in the fall for my final semesters. This offer could not have arrived at a better time and it gives me hope that I can receive some help with my academic ventures. I am dedicated to achieving excellent grades as a student here at Central Connecticut State University and graduating as a top student in my field of study." - Ryan, 2020 Recipient
Our Foundation’s Impact

In The Communities We Serve

In the Town of Plainville

$288,693 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community.
5 students earned scholarships totaling $6,817.
multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $1,500.

In the Town of Southington

$396,225 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community.
16 students earned scholarships totaling $23,400.
multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $2,975.
the Foundation served as the fiscal agent for the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington (ECCS), providing financial administrative services and support as needed.

Across All Cities and Towns We Serve

$276,958 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community.
16 students earned scholarships totaling $22,480.
multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $500.

$520,223 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community.
39 students earned scholarships totaling $140,322.
multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $7,260.

$279,316 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community.
39 students earned scholarships totaling $140,322.
multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $7,260.

Year in Review 2020

In Berlin...

$276,958 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community.
16 students earned scholarships totaling $22,480.
multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $500.

In New Britain...

$288,693 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community.
5 students earned scholarships totaling $6,817.
multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $1,500.

About $10,600 in grants directed by fund representatives from their donor-advised funds to nonprofit groups in our service area and beyond.
In 2020, the Foundation’s scholarship program awarded $279,316 to students in our service area, and continued the Degree Completion Initiative to help students finish their education with financial support.
Foundation staff created the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to ensure CFGNB policies and procedures are adaptive and consistent with the standards we hold ourselves to.

For the first time in 2020, our Catalyst Giving Circle made multiple grants to address the needs of nonprofit arts organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
In 2020, we saw our long-term portfolio grow by 12.2%, bringing total investments to $53,668,406 and total assets to $55,154,831.
Our Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic

When the pandemic disrupted communities in March of 2020, we immediately responded by working with local businesses and schools to lead an effort that raised more than $50,000 within days, an amount that enabled a volunteer production line to produce 22,000 face shields in three weeks when personal protective equipment was scarce or too expensive. As a result, we were able to provide face shields to healthcare workers, first responders, nursing home staff, clinics, school staff, nonprofits, health department staff, and even to registrars of voters for their volunteers to use for primaries during voting season.

During the first quarter of 2020, the Foundation established the COVID-19 Initiatives Fund to create multiple funding options for local organizations serving the residents of Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, and Southington allowing them to apply for emergency assistance. The Foundation considered grant requests for technology costs and technical support, or training to help re-design nonprofit programs for online delivery or remote work. Grants could also help pay for marketing, communications, fundraising support, professional services to help with financial planning, social media assistance or funding to produce a video for fundraising or marketing. By the end of the year, over $222,000 of COVID-19 related grants were awarded to local nonprofits helping them survive during the year and continue to provide services, often to the most vulnerable in our communities.

The Catalyst Giving Circle changed their previously chosen topic to focus on mid-size arts organizations affected by COVID-19. The impact of the pandemic on arts and cultural organizations has been devastating and millions of dollars have been lost in revenue from events, programs, and fundraising. Catalyst focused on helping organizations to adapt their business models and practices in order to continue successful operations in the current climate. In all, the Giving Circle awarded five grants that totaled $11,864 to arts organizations serving our four-town community.

In March, the Foundation made a grant of $5,000 to the United Way of Northeastern and Central Connecticut’s Neighbors in Need Emergency Assistance Fund which helped members of the community during the government shutdown by providing healthy food, rental, and utility assistance. We understand that in times like these, nonprofit collaboration is key to the success of our communities and the people within them.

Fundled by the Capacity Building Initiative, the Foundation hosted a series of webinars over a five-week period facilitated by Sharon Danosky of Danosky & Associates. In total, 40 organizations participated and gained insight to survival tactics during the uncertain times and the input we received was that many of these groups felt better prepared for 2021 and the continuing pandemic challenges.

In the Fall, 20 organizations participated in a two-part training facilitated by Susan Shroma, MLS, Senior Librarian to Network Engagement Manager- Northeast of Candid, Inc, aimed at helping nonprofits learn how to use the Foundation Directory Online. The Directory was made available free online so nonprofits could maintain access to a powerful resource that contains information on more than 225,000 grant makers.

For questions on COVID-19 emergency funding, please contact Joeline Wruck at jwruck@cfgnb.org or Kaylah Milligan at kaylah@cfgnb.org. To make a gift to the COVID-19 Initiatives Fund, visit www.cfgnb.org/donate-now or mail your check, made payable to CFGNB, to CFGNB, 74 Vine Street, New Britain, CT 06052 and write COVID-19 Fund in the memo portion.

"We are so deeply grateful to the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain for the generous grant award of $10,000 in support of funding to off-set increased program and facility expense and revenue losses related to the COVID-19 health crisis. Your valued support will allow us to continue our 24/7 services through the crisis in order to meet the needs of the victims and children we serve in all of our essential programs. “ – Barbara Damon, Executive Director of Prudence Crandall Center

2020 Grant Funding Overview

- 55 grants in 2020
  - 33 grants in 2019 (increase of 22 grants)
- 50 grantees in 2020
  - 33 grantees in 2019 (increase of 17)
- $504,100 of funding in 2020
  - $455,328 of funding in 2019 (increase of $48,772)

2020 Grant Funding by Interest Area

- Health and Human Services 54%
- Arts and Culture 16%
- Community and Economic Development 15%
- Education 4%
- Other 4%
Thank you to Stanley Black & Decker for their generosity and leadership as a Presenting Sponsor of our Civic Leadership Fund Annual Appeal.

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