2021 Year in Review

Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

Where Good Begins in Berlin, New Britain, Plainville & Southington

Over 80 Years of Connecting Donors Who Care With Causes That Matter

860.229.6018 | www.cfgnb.org
This year’s message from me will be brief as I let the information and photographs in this Year in Review publication tell our 2021 story. It is a strong story, one of visibility, relevance and impact in the communities we serve and beyond.

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

“…Your support during the COVID-19 pandemic has been critical, helping us cover unexpected expenses and creating a sense of normalcy for our clients, so that we can continue providing safety and essential services for victims and their children.”

- Barbara Damon, Executive Director of the Prudence Crandall Center – August 2021

During these challenging times, if you can join us in responding to our community needs with a gift to our Civic Leadership or Natural Disaster Response Funds at www.cfgnb.org or by using the enclosed envelope we would be most appreciative.

Sincerely,
David J. Obedzinski

Building Funds That Make A Difference
As our Community Foundation grows, it is able to provide more grants, scholarships, sponsorships, and more guidance for donors and the nonprofits that serve the communities we live and work in.

- Festa Italiana Scholarship Fund
- Friends of the Southington Public Library Fund
- Robert and Lauretta Hopko Memorial Fund
- Julian R. Judge, Sr. Memorial Fund
- Christopher Maerz Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Manon-Lu Christ Fund
- NBHS Hurricane Spirit Fund
- New Britain Youth Leads Fund
- ParaDYM Academy Orison/Asfaw Endowment Fund
- Quistberg - NBHS Hurricane Spirit Fund

Thank you to all of our current Fund Representatives who have generously contributed to their existing funds during the last year. We are pleased to announce the following new funds that were established with our Foundation during 2021.

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.

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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 2021 recipients of this award were:

- Acme Monaco and Rebecca Karabin-Ahem for consistent and generous support of the Civic Leadership Fund, for allowing her IT specialist to provide advice on technology upgrades, and especially for logistical support of our reusable bag project in storing and transporting thousands of bags.
- Mark and Maria Bernacki for long-standing support of CFGNB in providing discounted printed materials from Sir Speedy when they owned it, for consistent and generous support of the CLF and Catalyst, and for sponsoring various projects such as the Chamber reception hosted at our Foundation Center a few years ago.
- Paulette Fox for volunteering, as a Catalyst member, to secure a donated appropriate outdoor space that could hold the September Catalyst meeting during the Pandemic. She secured a fantastic arrangement with Tunics Country Club and the event was very successful and safe.
- Jerome Home for its long-standing generosity in providing donated space and refreshments repeatedly for board and staff retreats and workshops connected to our programs.
- Schaller Auto and Art Schaller for their donation of the use of their digital billboard for several weeks during Census 2020 efforts to remind residents to respond. This amounted to thousands of dollars of donated visibility by everyone driving along Route 9.

Our Impact by the Numbers

$59,577,777 = The value of our Foundation’s long-term investments as of December 31, 2021

$71,542 = Gifts made to our Civic Leadership Fund annual appeal in 2021 by individuals and businesses – Thank you! These gifts allow us to respond to the community’s areas of greatest need.

98 = Number of scholarships awarded amounting to $300,439 in aid to students for higher education – our highest annual total.

$663,430 = Community Response grants, Community Initiatives grants, and Community Sponsorships awarded throughout Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, and Southington.

More than $15 million = In 2021, 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 Capacity Building initiative offers nonprofit staff and board members trainings, workshops, and additional resources designed to help them strengthen their operations and address the increasingly difficult challenge of sustaining programs and services during lean fiscal times.

In 2021, two workshops focused on fundraising and working with donors were held via Zoom with 32 participants registered. A training on how to use the Foundation Directory Online helped 41 participants to use this powerful online resource that contains information on more than 225,000+ grant makers.

COVID-19 Mini Grants totaling $39,550 supported twenty-seven organizations. These grants helped local organizations make modifications, purchases, changes or improvements that supported operations or program delivery because of the pandemic.

The 2023 CFGNB Executive Director’s Forum continued from 2020 and provided a safe place for those in that role to discuss challenges, network, identify and share resources, and be part of a group with others in a similar role. The Forum continued into 2021 and in a survey, participants ranked the value of the group at a 4.5 on a 5-point scale. They cited many benefits including having a peer group to share and address similar challenges with; receiving resource materials on very relevant topics and having a safe place to connect with other ED’s, share concerns and ask for insights.

“The most significant benefit of the ED Forum has been the opportunity to network, support, and collaborate with other executive directors. I really value having a peer group to share and address similar challenges with, especially during the pandemic.”

- Ron Sheffer, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut

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.

The 2021 Catalyst Fund had its highest membership in history with 81 paid units and over 100 participants. The June meeting was virtual but the September meeting took place in person at Tunnis Pavilion and the November meeting took place at Shuttle Meadow Country Club. A social event in October at Coles Road Brewing in Berlin was a resounding success. The topic for 2021 was Community Gardens and the award went to New Britain Roots to launch the Community Seed Library in Berlin, New Britain, Plainville and Southington.

Our sincere thanks to the Catalyst members who contribute and participate annually.

To learn more or to join Catalyst contact Joeline Wruck at jwruck@cfgnb.org or (860) 229-6018 x307.

Degree Completion Initiative

In 2019, the Community Foundation established the Degree Completion Initiative to help college students in their junior or senior years, experiencing financial challenges, pay for some or all of their tuition and fees so they could continue their studies. After two successful years, the Foundation increased the initiative to $12,000. Over the past three years, in partnership with Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), the Degree Completion Initiative has provided support to twenty-two students.

The Williamson Education Assistance Fund was established with the passing of former Foundation President James Williamson and the Julian R. Judge Memorial Fund, established by his wife, Natasha, to honor his legacy, will both make annual distributions to the Degree Completion Initiative to provide further support to students finishing their degrees.

“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 semester. 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

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 2021, four grant awards of $2,455 from the Greater New Britain Disaster Response Fund helped families in New Britain and Plainville who suffered loss due to apartment fires.

Mallory Depréy and Omar McCrow from the Community Services Department, City of New Britain and Joeline Wruck from the CFGNB at a fundraiser for the Disaster Response Fund, hosted by My Wife Didn’t Cook in New Britain.

Young Philanthropy

In an effort to continue our mission of inspiring philanthropy, we work 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 ‘Youth Professionals’ network, which seeks to connect career-minded individuals who give back while cultivating a stronger sense of community. We’ve created unique ways to offer social activities and engage folks during COVID-19, such as maintaining a partnership with the other young professionals groups around the state. Additionally, we brought back the CFGNB and Five Churches Brewing “Give Back Brew” collaboration beer for our Giving Tuesday celebration, Giving Brewsday.

Young Philanthropists attend Giving Brewsday at Five Churches Brewing.
Our Foundation’s Impact

In the City of New Britain . . .
- $503,975 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community
- 33 students earned scholarships totaling $130,950
- multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $13,140

In the Town of Berlin . . .
- $166,475 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community
- 18 students earned scholarships totaling $61,630
- multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $700

In the Town of Plainville . . .
- $171,180 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community
- 6 students earned scholarships totaling $43,700
- multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $1,000

In the Town of Southington . . .
- $276,475 Community Response and Community Initiative grants supported the community
- 11 students earned scholarships totaling $15,950
- multiple nonprofit events benefited from community sponsorship awards totaling $7,975

- 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

- About $110,000 in grants directed by fund representatives from their donor-advised funds to nonprofit groups in our service area and beyond.
- In 2021, the Foundation’s scholarship program awarded $323,265 to students in our service area, and continued the Degree Completion Initiative to help students finish their education with financial support.
- In 2021, we saw our long-term portfolio grow by 11%, bringing total investments to $59,577,328 and total assets to $81,043,793.
- In 2021, the CFGNB granted $3,500 in sponsorship grants to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community, including two sponsorships towards Juneteenth celebrations.
2021 Grant Funding Overview

- 38 grants
- 37 grantees
- $501,000 of funding
- 2 new grantees
- The average grant amount in 2021 was $13,148

2021 Community & Economic Development

- Arts & Culture: 26%
- Health & Human Services: 35%
- Community & Economic Development: 7%
- Education: 32%

2020 Community & Economic Development

- Arts & Culture: 4%
- Health & Human Services: 54%
- Community & Economic Development: 15%
- Education: 27%

2021 Highlights

Bread for Life Partnership

In 2021, the Community Initiatives Committee (CIC) supported a new community initiative in Southington by becoming a partner with Bread for Life (BFL). A $10,000 award supported year one of a new and innovative social enterprise that will diversify the organization’s funding stream and provide transitional training and employment to BFL clients. The first venture is a micro-enterprise of bee keeping and honey production. This partnership and an annual funding commitment is expected to continue through 2024.

The Foundation also partnered with Bread for Life in early 2021 to create cooking videos in order to share new recipes and bring joy to those at home during the pandemic. Dave and Kaylah both participated by sharing their favorite recipes which can be found on Bread for Life's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwrIyRv9c8av/x7uH9Q.

Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce Award

The CFGNB owes many thanks to the Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the Foundation as the Nonprofit of the Year in 2020. Staff were honored to be able to attend one of our first in-person events to be presented the award in June 2021.

New Britain Herald Reader’s Poll

Thank you so much to all of our supporters who voted us Best Nonprofit in the New Britain Herald Reader’s Poll for the third year in a row!

Southington Public Library

Our foundation has been proud to be the stewards of two funds for the benefit of the Southington Public Library. The first being an endowment that annually provides funding for programs at the library. The second being a capital fund that the library established more than 10 years ago in anticipation of future renovations or the construction of a new library for the town of Southington. In 2021, the library was ready to put forward a referendum for the residents of Southington to vote on for a new library and our Foundation was happy to be supportive of that referendum. Several staff members volunteered and assisted the planning by advertising, spreading information about the project, and participating in vote information sessions that helped to educate the community about what a new library would mean for the residents of Southington. The referendum was successful, and the funds in the library’s capital fund will be used to furnishings and equipment that will be needed inside once the project is completed.

Concept for the new Southington Public Library
2021 Donor Listing

Contributors of $1,000+
Acme-McCaw Corporation
Cynthia A. Henderson
An Anonymous Donor
The Benevolence Community Impact Fund
Jan Blackburn
Susan and William Butler
Joe & Kay Calhanese Foundation
Len and Maureen Carlson
Chen-Eiley Family Foundation
Marian Chayes
Peter and Marcelyn Clarke
Community Chest of New Britain and Berlin, Inc.
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy
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Ericson, Scudder & Mangan, P.C.
Festa Italiana Committee
Fiducient Advisors, LLC
Alberto and Kelly Gagliardi-Dziegus
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Christopher Godfrey
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Meghan Kindelan
Phyllis and Ed Kindelan
Patrick and Sandi Lee
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Francis and Patricia Maerz
Main Street Community Foundation
Mayors' TrophyCharitable Golf Tournament
Michael McCarthy and Eileen Fava
Thomas J. McCormick
Andrew Mense
Sarah Merchant
Mesrobo Financial Administrative Corp
New Britain-Berlin Rotary Club
New Britain Community Services Department
David and Linda Obedzinski
OKAY Industries
Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain
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Jana P. Plachacz
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United Way of Central and Northeast Connecticut
Brian D. Williams
Paula and Leonard Zielinski
Contributors of $100 to $499
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Lars Andersen
An Anonymous Donor
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Gary R. Battiston
The Beach Family
Jay Berardi and Heather Carreiro
Deveria Berry
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Sharone and Peter Bowers
Boys & Girls Club of New Britain, Inc.
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Gary and Maureen Brunett
Dennis and Charlene Buden
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Carlson Funeral Home
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James Congdon
Consolidated School District of New Britain
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Lions Club of New Britain
Literacy Volunteers of Central CT, Inc.
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Terry Gomez-Lombardi
Sylvia Wilson Lucas
Maureen Lyons
Barbara R. Mackey
Bari R. Marks
Sarah Marks
James and Melinda Martin
Gerald and Olivia Martinchek
Acme-McCaw Corporation
Hunter Mathena
Matus Family Dentistry
Dr. Erin Theis
Kaylah J. Milligan
Pastor Thomas Mills
Shannon & Kingsley
Merida
My Wife Didn’t Cook
Napcon Communications
Andrew Clark
New Britain Downtown District
New Britain Municipal Employees CSA
New Britain ROOTS, Inc.
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Bobb and June O’leary
William J. Ostachuk
Out-of-Home Network, LLC
Karen Pafiago, Eric Cops & Sons
Arthur and Karen Palmuni
Lucian and Helen Pavlak
Peace, Love, Rock & Roll
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YWCA of New Britain
Rahida S. Zajic, Lisa Zegzal
Giselle Ziegler and Ryan Knudson

Thank you to Stanley Black & Decker for their generosity and leadership as a Presenting Sponsor of our Civic Leadership Fund Annual Appeal

2021 Year in Review

Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

Members of the Beehive Society have ensured the well-being of our community for years to come through establishment of a future gift in a bequest, trust, life insurance, or gift of another asset. For more information about how to leave your legacy, contact Kaylah Milligan at 860.228.6018, ext. 305 or kaylah@cfgnb.org.

The Strategy Group
Dominic DeMaula
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Giselle Ziegler and Ryan Knudson

We have made every effort to correctly list our donors in their appropriate categories. If you notice something you believe needs to be corrected please contact Kimberly Duncan at 860.228.6018 or kduncan@cfgnb.org.

2021 Year in Review
Thank you to everyone who selected the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain as a charity benefitting from your purchases with Amazon Smile in 2021. Purchases from which we received a percentage from Amazon exceeded $17,500. Thank you.