



Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation Report

FALL 2021

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

CVEF Board and Committee Members

Executive Committee

Nancy Earls, President
Tina Gossner, Vice President
Liz Conroy, Treasurer
Merrill Adams, Secretary

Members at Large

Becky Anderson
Betsy White Booz
Bill Hall
Maggie Peterson
Claudia Rovelli

Ex-Officio

Laura Francis

Committee Members

Martin Anderson
John Biddiscombe
Denise Brennan
Aggie Cahill
Anne Doyle
Sharon Griffin
Tom Hennick
Patti Holden
Jen Huddleston
Gary Johnson
Anne Levine
Karen Meiman
Christine Michaud
Nancy Senick
Mary Elizabeth Taylor

Supporting
lifelong learning
in Durham and
Middlefield.

ANNUAL APPEAL

Dear Friends of CVEF,

Winston Churchill once said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." If we are to believe Mr. Churchill, then all of us must be nearing the height of perfection! We have all had to pivot, adapt, twist, turn and sometimes somersault!

Organizations, like individuals, must do the same, continually renewing and redefining themselves. With that in mind, the CVEF Board met this fall for an introspective look at our organization, where we have been, where we are going, and our impact on the community.

We welcomed our two newest board members, Claudia Rovelli and Bill Hall. They have already contributed their insights and ideas to move us forward. We also agreed on some minor changes to our mission statement, which now reads:

Our mission is to promote excellence, innovation and creativity for the communities and to encourage lifelong learning in Durham and Middlefield by awarding grants and supporting programs.

We reflected on how our efforts could be more impactful and reach more people in the community. Watch for the revival of our popular Talk of the Towns in March 2022. Join us for the Howard Kelley Community Service Award reception in May. Tune in to our Coginchaug Trailblazers online video series to be inspired by CRHS grads forging interesting paths in life. Finally, come and meet our old and new grant recipients next fall as we gather to celebrate their

innovative programs. We look forward to your attendance and participation!

Looking to the future, we hope to recruit additional members to our standing committees. Finally, we will continue to forge partnerships with local organizations sharing our idea of community.



Everyone Outside, a CVEF grantee, celebrates on Oct. 3

For you, our loyal donors, we are grateful and humbled by your support, encouragement, and offers of assistance. Your donations, no matter how small, allow us to continue the work of building community, encouraging learning and helping engage more fully in the lives of our friends and neighbors.

On behalf of our Board and Committee members, thank you to each of you. Volunteer work takes a commitment of time and energy. You keep us motivated and enthused. You are appreciated.

With best wishes,

Nancy Earls
Nancy Earls, President, CVEF

2021 CVEF GRANTS

- **Slavery in Our Community, Eagle Scout Project:** Acknowledges contributions of slaves and abolitionists from our towns.
- **Witness Stones Project, Strong School:** Student volunteers learn how to access and understand primary and secondary sources in tracing an enslaved person from our towns.
- **Paper Prototypes, Memorial School:** Students are inspired to be imaginative and creative in their problem solving by using a Cricut machine to make paper prototypes of their ideas.
- **Statistical Evaluation of Employment Training, CRHS:** Probability and Stats students partner with African Initiative for Rural Development in Kenya to analyze data of success rates of AIRD programs and make recommendations based on findings.
- **Open Mic Initiative, Strong School:** Monthly open mic nights. Local participants will be invited to share any creative art.
- **Conscious Kids Reading Kits, Levi Coe Library:** The Children's Room will create reading kits that introduce pre-K and elementary children to a variety of socially conscious topics.

- **Snowshoe Squad, Memorial School:** Purchase 12 sets of snowshoes and create Snowshoe Club, with students snowshoeing during recess and taking the equipment home for vacations and weekends.
- **DIY Durham, Durham Public Library:** Monthly DIY Take and Make Kits. Thirty kits will be distributed monthly featuring a variety of arts and crafts projects.



- **Stamping Kits, Levi Coe Library:** Stamping kits, centered around holiday and greeting cards, will be made available for check-out.
- **Community Conversations About Race, Middlefield-Durham Racial Justice Team:** Monthly conversations about race will continue to be held in cooperation with the Levi Coe and Durham Public libraries.

- **Goatscaping, Brewster School:** Goats will clear school property of invasive species, and programs about the purpose and benefits of goatscaping will be sponsored.
- **Durham-Middlefield Residential Composting Pilot, Coginchaug Area Transition (CAT):** Families participate in a composting project through DMIAAB. The goal is to decrease transfer costs and to help green our communities.
- **Distance Theater, Phase II:** Following up last year, for a second production of a live musical by local youth.
- **Flexible Seating, Brewster School:** Providing options for kindergardeners who learn better with chairs that rock, stools that can move and standing desks.
- **Creative Mindfulness Kits, DMYFS:** DMYFS will create and distribute arts kits with themes such as kindness, affirmation, de-stressing, journaling and gratitude.
- **Complete Streets Durham:** An education and safety campaign will be launched, designed to enhance walkability and safety on a planned pedestrian loop.



Jen Huddleston and her husband Matt.
Photo by Anyta Vizard

Our 2020 **Howard Kelley Community Service Award** went to Middlefield resident **Jen Huddleston**. She was honored for the key role she played in establishing The Giving Garden, located behind Middlefield's Community Center. The garden, now ending its third season – besides being a lovely spot – provides fresh produce to those in need in the community. It is an all-volunteer effort that has become an important resource for Durham and Middlefield. Due to Covid restrictions last year, the "official" reception honoring Jen was held this year, on October 16, fittingly in the Giving Garden.



Nominate Someone you Know for the Howard Kelley Award
CVEF is always looking for nominations for the Howard Kelley Community Service Award. For more information and nominating guidelines, please visit coginchaugvef.org/howard-kelley-award

Community Donations, July 2020 - June 2021

Diamond (\$1,000 and above)

George Eames IV
Daryl and Renee Edwards*
Suman Ravuri and Sarah Downs
Martha and Randall Luther

Platinum (\$500-\$999)

Richard and Merrill Adams*
Jay and Liz Conroy*
Mark and Tina Gossner*

Gold (\$250-\$499)

Martin and Becky Anderson*
Michael and Catherine Bisceglia*
Robert and Betsy White Booz*
Ralph and Katharine Chase*
Ron Claveloux*
Marc and Dina D'Amato*
John and Nancy Ferrero
Larry and Anne Levine*
David Miner and Penny Robiner*
William Peddle
Robert and Maggie Peterson*
Andrew and Mary Elizabeth Taylor

Jonathon Best and Peggy Carey*
Casey Cordes and Kary Strickland
John and Suzanne DeMeo
Jack and Anne Doyle
Nancy Earls*
Jonathan Field
David and Christine Foster
Thomas and Nancy Hennick*
David Heer
Etzie Heyl*
Rubin Hirsch and Leslie Bulion*
John and Pam Hogarth
Marilyn and Robert Horn*
Mathew and Jennifer Huddleston
Norman Jason*
Gary Johnson*
Brad and Lori Jubelirer*
Renee Kelley*
Bill Kowalski and Aggie Cahill
Ken and Maureen Hamilton***
Edward and Pamela Lang*
Maya and Stephen Liss
Fran Ludwig*
William and Lorrie Martin*
Andy and Karen Meiman*
Stefan and Susan Michael
Robert and Diane Moore*
Robert and Anne Mueller*
Ann Parsons*
Gary and Penny Sawicki*
Durward Seible and Lori Martin*
Lars and Julie Selberg
Martha Stone**
David Zemelsky

Bronze (Up to \$100)

Sarah Atwell
Susan Abbe*
Jon and Gwen Brayshaw*
William and Susan Breck*
Judy Camp*



Open Mic Initiative at Strong School

Bronwyn Commins
Charlie and Sally Doe
William and Jill Gaffey*
Tim Gastler
John and Jackie Hastings*
Robin and Terry Heath
Patti and Ed Holden
Clay and Simone Howe*
Edward and Peggy Manjuck*
Julia McCutchen
Lainey and Robert Melvin
Christine Michaud and Matt Taber
Rusty and Pat Murawski*
Network for Good
Joanne Nytch
Scott and Jen Penney*
Frank and Lucy Petrella
Rob and Doreen Raney
Claudia Rovelli
Bruce and Shirley Schmottlach
Austin and Phyllis Sheridan*
Lynn and Martha Temple*
Robert and Susan VanDerzee*
Barbara Wallach
David and Jan Wenzel*



Distance Theater

Silver (\$100-\$249)

Ed Bailey
Joseph and Bernadette Basiel*
John Biddiscombe and Gail Gorton*
Jason and Tracey Camassar

Business and Community Organization Partners, 2020/2021

Gold (\$250-\$499)

Chapman Manufacturing*
Durham Fair Foundation*
Durham Manufacturing Company*
Indian Springs - Tee to Green Cafe
Tenthorey Consulting, LLC*

Silver (\$100-\$249)

Brenna Zettergren Memorial
Foundation*

Durham Democratic Town Committee*
Glazer Dental
Lino's*
Middlefield Lions Club*
RDDK Insurance
Middlesex Dental Associates:
Anthony J. Onofreo and
Pamela A. Moore-Onofreo*
William Raveis Real Estate & Home
Services

Bronze (Up to \$100)

Dean Autoworks, Inc*
L & I Refrigeration, Inc.*
Middlefield Democratic Town
Committee*
RLI Electric

* 5 years or more of giving

** In honor of Nancy Earls' leadership

*** In honor of Dr. Serino

DONOR PROFILE

Durham resident **Etzie Heyl**, a founder and CVEF donor since 2008 says the answer to “Why do you donate?” is clear. “I believe in what CVEF is doing; it’s as simple as that.” And that’s been her mantra from the beginning. “I knew the people who were pulling the organization together, and I admired them and supported their goal (of lifelong learning).”

Her commitment to education is not surprising. A Durham resident for 62 years, Etzie and her husband, Peter (who passed away in 2011), raised their three children here, all the way through the public school system. She was a Board of Education member for 18 years, the last 10 as BOE Chair.

Etzie points out it was her friendship with former Durham resident Norm Jason, another long-time CVEF donor who passed away



earlier this year, that helped broaden her interest in education. As a professional involved in the private school community (locally, Norm was head of the Independent Day School from 1979-1985), he added a new dimension to her thinking.

Reflecting on her “status” as a senior citizen, Etzie notes the list of organizations she donates to is now shrinking a bit. But CVEF will remain on it. “CVEF gets the community more involved, and it brings people together.”

Mark Your Calendar!

Our In-Person Events Will Be Back In 2022!

MARCH – Talk of the Towns, featuring four interesting and diverse speakers from our community

MAY – The Howard Kelley Community Service Award Reception, honoring both our 2021 and 2022 recipients

NOVEMBER – 2022 Grants Reception, celebrating grantees past and present in a “gala” event

Our online activities continue to be available.

Trailblazers – Videos of CRHS graduates and their post-high school journeys.

Speaking of Fun – Fun projects and great features.

News and Notes – Our quarterly electronic newsletter.

Follow CVEF on Facebook and Twitter. Bookmark our website.

CVEF Board Update

From our newest board members . . .

“After becoming a CVEF grant recipient and joining several CVEF committees, I learned much more about CVEF’s philanthropic works in the community. It was an easy “yes” for me when I was asked to join the Board. Their mission of lifelong learning and a love for community really hit home for me.”

—CLAUDIA RIVOLI

“As a former grant recipient I’ve seen the impact CVEF has made in Durham and Middlefield firsthand. As a new board member I’m excited to be a part of the mission to help bring the community together through creative projects and ideas both in and out of the classroom.”

—BILL HALL



CVEF Board members (l-r): Nancy Earls, Liz Conroy, Tina Gossner, Betsy White Booz, Becky Anderson, Merrill Adams, Claudia Rovelli, Maggie Peterson, Bill Hall

Photo by Martin Anderson

Online donations are easy.

Go to www.coginchaugvef.org and click on



@cvefct



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