



# Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation Report

FALL 2020

VOLUME 10 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  
Colleen Darnell  
Maggie Peterson

### Ex-Officio

Laura Francis  
Kathryn Serino

### Committee Members

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



## ANNUAL APPEAL

### Dear Friends of CVEF,

Warm greetings from the Board of Directors and Committee members of CVEF.

In spite of the difficulties this pandemic continues to cast over our lives, CVEF remains committed to our communities and our mission of fostering lifelong learning. In that spirit, we have been active and look forward to initiating several new programs and opportunities.

As you read through our Annual Appeal newsletter, you will have a glimpse of what we have been doing. Our annual and very popular Talk of the Towns has morphed into something new and unique this year called Coginchaug Trailblazers. CRHS alumni were invited to talk about the interesting careers they have chosen and how they arrived there. You can view these inspiring videos at [coginchaugvef.org](http://coginchaugvef.org).

We also ventured into new territory and submitted a grant proposal to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Even though we don't yet know the outcome of our effort, we are in the process of implementing components of the project on our own. This includes establishing an online Parent Resource Bank to assist and support families as they navigate the pressures of home, school and work. Watch for it on our website at [coginchaugvef.org](http://coginchaugvef.org). Lifelong learning at its best!

Lastly, we continue to thank and express our gratitude to our

educators in District 13 who have been called upon to accomplish extraordinary feats. There are others in our community, too, who continue to work to keep us engaged, safe and optimistic. We thank all of them.



We at CVEF, like all of you, are meeting challenges and finding creative ways to thrive. We are confident that we will all emerge from this stronger and better than ever.

Please join us in our efforts by donating what you can this year so that we can continue to do our important work for you, our neighbors and friends. It is our honor and privilege, as always, to serve you.

Stay well,

Nancy Earls, President, CVEF

## 2020 CVEF GRANTS

- **Levi E. Coe Library, Indoor Family Fun:** Popular board games such as giant checkers, giant jenga and rubber horseshoes are available for check out.
- **Janice Baker, Creative Community For Women:** Expressive art. Workshops relieve stress, foster self-expression and build connection.
- **Durham Public Library, Building Community Through Virtual Reality:** This new gaming system allows participants to connect and experience new places through video games and armchair traveling, individually or through large group participation.
- **Claudia and Gage Rovelli, Math Tutoring For 7th Grade Students:** This repeat of last summer's program is a 6-week math tutoring program. The tutoring is offered free of charge by an all-volunteer team of CRHS students.
- **Susan Michael, Renewing Native Ecosystems:** Local ecosystems are victim to invasive plant, insect and worms. This project includes education, removal and replanting. Residents learn how to identify invasive species and native replacements. Brewster School's Wolf Tree Trail and Field Ecosystems is being remediated.

- **Durham/Middlefield Youth and Family Services, Early Childhood Council (ECC):** The ECC promotes, supports and provides community-wide efforts and resources for children ages birth-8 in Durham and Middlefield.
- **Jen Huddleston, The Giving Garden Honeybee Hives:** The addition of honeybee hives offers an opportunity to practice beekeeping. Participants can better understand the importance of pollinators and perhaps choose to have their own honeybees.



- **Thomas Kannam and Heather McCutchen, Distance Theatre:** Helping young adults find ways to create theatre throughout social distancing. Working as a summer program, performances presented online.
- **William and Christine Foster, Washington Trail Revitalization**



*Project:* This Eagle Scout Project has revitalized the George Washington Trail in Durham and Wallingford. It educates residents about Washington's travels through town. Trail markers are restored and an educational website created.

- **Strong School & Everyone Outside, Memorial School Guided Recess:** This project offers 3rd-5th graders the use of the natural surroundings of Memorial School for exploration and play through guided recess. Mentors, with teacher consultation, help students appropriately interact on the fields and in the woods.
- **Kalmia Garden Chamber Music, Educational Outreach:** Kalmia Garden Chamber Music and Arts Foundation plans to create an outreach program at Strong School and CRHS. A chamber music concert will be followed by students having their own performances, coached by the same professional musicians.



Renee Kelley, Bruce Villwock and their family.  
Photo by Martin Anderson

Our 2019 **Howard Kelley Community Service Award** went to Middlefield resident **Bruce Villwock**. He was honored for his lifetime of service to the Boy Scouts and the town of Middlefield. As noted by previous awardee Robin Heath, friends with Bruce for over 32 years, "Bruce has touched all of us through his efforts by being a model citizen...in ways we don't even know, and he has touched future generations in ways that are yet to be seen."



**Nominate Someone you Know for the Howard Kelley Award**  
CVEF is continually looking for nominations for the Howard Kelley Community Service Award, which is presented annually. For more information, nominating guidelines and how to nominate, please visit [coginchaugvef.org/howard-kelley-award](http://coginchaugvef.org/howard-kelley-award)

# Community Donations, July 2019 - June 2020

## Diamond (\$1,000 and above)

George Eames IV  
Daryl and Renee Edwards\*  
Suman Ravuri and Sarah Downs  
Lynn and Martha Temple\*

## Platinum (\$500-\$999)

Richard and Merrill Adams\*  
Jay and Liz Conroy\*  
Mark and Tina Gossner\*  
Martha and Randall Luther

## Gold (\$250-\$499)

Martin and Becky Anderson\*  
Ralph and Katharine Chase\*  
Marc and Dina D'Amato\*  
Larry and Anne Levine\*  
Andy and Karen Meiman\*  
Andrew and Mary Elizabeth Taylor

## Silver (\$100-\$249)

Joseph and Bernadette Basiel  
Robert and Betsy White Booz\*  
Matthew Berry and Nancy Senick  
Jonathon Best and Peggy Carey\*  
John Biddiscombe and Gail Gorton\*  
Ron Claveloux\*  
Nancy Earls\*  
Richard and Jane Eriksen\*

David and Christine Foster  
Tim Gastler  
Michael and Susan Good\*  
Thomas and Nancy Hennick\*  
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\*  
Edward and Pamela Lang\*  
Maya Liss  
Fran Ludwig\*  
William and Lorrie Martin\*  
Andrew and Lucy Meigs\*  
David Miner and Penny Robiner\*  
Robert and Diane Moore\*  
Robert and Anne Mueller\*  
William Peddle  
Robert and Maggie Peterson\*  
Deborah and Robert Proctor  
Durward Seible and Lori Martin\*  
Austin and Phyllis Sheridan\*  
Martha Stone\*\*

Jonathon Swift and Anne Cassady

## Bronze (Up to \$100)

Susan Abbe\*  
Sarah Atwell  
William and Susan Breck\*  
Judy Camp\*  
Ronald and Shelley Capozzi  
Casey Cordes and Kary Strickland  
William and Jill Gaffey  
Christine Geraci  
John and Jackie Hastings  
Clay and Simone Howe\*  
Edward and Peggy Manjuck\*  
Lainey Melvin  
Stefan and Susan Michael  
Christine Michaud and Matt Taber  
Rusty and Pat Murawski\*  
Scott and Jen Penney  
Frank and Lucy Petrella  
Alan and Nancy Winship-Poole  
Claudia Rovelli  
Mark Stephens and Gail Christie\*  
Robert and Susan VanDerzee\*  
David and Jan Wenzel\*  
Network for Good

\* 5 years or more of giving

\*\* In honor of Nancy Earls

# Business and Community Organization Partners, 2019/2020

## Diamond (\$1,000 and above)

Peach Pit Foundation\*

## Platinum (\$500 - \$999)

Country Flower Farms\*

## Gold (\$250-\$499)

Chapman Manufacturing\*  
Durham Fair Foundation\*  
Durham Manufacturing Company  
Durham-Middlefield Exchange Club\*

Indian Springs - Tee to Green Cafe  
Tenthorey Consulting, LLC

## Silver (\$100-\$249)

Brenna Zettergren Memorial  
Foundation\*  
Durham Democratic Town Committee\*  
F.F. Brewster Elementary School  
Maggie Peterson Design  
Middlefield Democratic Town  
Committee

## Bronze (Up to \$100)

Dean Autoworks, Inc\*  
Glazer Dental  
Independent Day School  
L & I Refrigeration, Inc.\*  
Larkin's Run\*  
Lino's\*  
RLI Electric

\* 5 years or more of giving

## 'Unity in Community' – CVEF Supports RSD 13

On Wednesday, October 14, CVEF surprised each and every employee of the school district with a bright blue t-shirt. With a simple, yet heartfelt, message, "Unity in Community" on the front and "We've got your back" on the other side, both acknowledging that carrying on and educating in the "new normal" of Covid 19 continues to be a challenge for RSD 13, but they are not alone. A total of 375 shirts were personally handed out.



# DONOR PROFILE

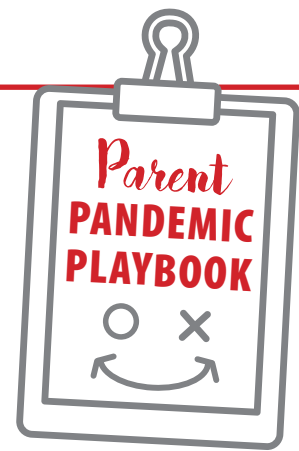
Former Durham resident, **Renee Edwards**, lived in town for over 20 years before she headed to Saint Croix and New Jersey, where she now splits her time. But, she still remains a longtime and annual CVEF donor. "The CVEF mission and the passion of the founders and volunteers inspired me to get involved...while I cannot roll-up my sleeves and work side-by-side anymore, I continue to support in ways I can do from afar."

Renee, who actually served as CVEF president, remains impressed "with the education foundation's energy and creativity to translate their mission into value for the community" through programs, grants, community outreach and more. "CVEF is now an integral part of Durham and Middlefield," she observes.



When asked what advice she would offer to encourage others to get involved and donate, she responded that folks merely need to "experience the richness of the ways CVEF is involved in the community."

As far as where CVEF can grow in the future? "There are always themes that are worthy of consideration for deep-dive discussions or forums to cultivate awareness and understanding. When matched with education, generational and community objectives, CVEF...could bring to the center the themes of our day."



## Help is on the Way!

If you are a parent, during this time of Covid, you might be expected to fill multiple roles - a productive worker, a teacher, a counselor, a mediator, a motivator, a technology guru, a time management expert and more! We at CVEF know and understand, and we want to help. We are in the process of setting up an online Parent Resource Bank to make your daily life just a bit easier. Our goal is to make this site user friendly so that you can find what you need easily and quickly. Stay tuned for how and where to access this family friendly resource. In the meantime, deep breaths.



Attention parents, grandparents, teachers, students, alumni! If you missed the Live Premiere of our innovative program entitled Coginchaug Trailblazers, it's not too late! You can find it on our CVEF website [www.coginchaugvef.org](http://www.coginchaugvef.org). Watch 11 CRHS graduates describe the interesting and good work they are doing in the world and

the paths, often not straight, that brought them there. These young adults and their stories about following their dreams and passions will inspire and fill you with a sense of hope. Help us to spread the good word by sharing with your network of friends and family. Lifelong learning at its best!



Online donations are easy. Go to [www.coginchaugvef.org](http://www.coginchaugvef.org) and click on



@cvefct



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