



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY FOUNDATION NEWS

## HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

Please feel free to use the "forward to a friend" feature of this newsletter to help us spread the word about how the Fairfield County Foundation is building a legacy for our community.

## GRANT DEADLINES

The Preliminary Grant deadline for our first grant cycle of 2018 is Monday, January 8th. Please visit the [Grants page](#) on our website for more information.

## 2016 Annual Report Available



Click [here](#) to view!

## Board of Trustees:

Sheila Heath,  
*Chairman*

Penny Wasem,  
*Vice Chairman*

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*Treasurer*

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*Secretary*

Jason Baker  
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John McGraw

## A Message From the Director

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

The holiday season is upon us and, as always, we at the Foundation are full of excitement for the season and gratitude for another successful year.

We recently hosted our annual Ambassadors' Club Donor Reception. This annual event is a favorite of mine because it reminds me of what an incredibly generous group of supporters our Foundation has and kicks the holiday season off with feelings of generosity and gratitude.

This edition of the newsletter includes a few photos from our Ambassadors' Reception. Also included is important information regarding year-end giving. Be sure to have your contributions to our office by close of business on Friday, December 29th to ensure they are eligible as a charitable contribution for 2017. On-line donations will also qualify for a deduction as long as they are made by the end of the day on December 31st. We are excited to share the results from our incredibly successful 28-Hour Give and information about our scholarship application, which officially opened on December 1st.

Finally, please note that our first grant deadline for 2018 is Monday, January 8th for the preliminary application. Any interested non-profit with a potential project should contact our offices for more information.

We are so grateful for your support this holiday season, and throughout the year. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and prosperous New Year!

Amy Eyman  
Executive Director

Brian Shonk  
Kamilla Sigafos  
James Smith  
Howard Sniderman  
Gary Taylor  
Woodson Winfree

### Staff:

Amy Eyman,  
*Executive Director*

Renee Reilly,  
*Financial Officer*

Abby King,  
*Program Officer*

Stephanie Herman,  
*Administrative Assistant*



**Happy Holidays from the Foundation Staff! Pictured left to right: Abby King, Renee Reilly, Amy Eyman and Stephanie Herman.**

### Contact Information

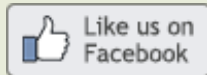
Fairfield County Foundation

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[Fairfield County Foundation](#)



## Don't Wait! Make Your Year-End Donations Now!

With tax reform likely to take affect in 2018, donors may want to consider making their charitable gifts prior to December 31, 2017.

Although the tax break for charitable contributions is one of the few deductions retained under both the Senate and House tax bills, other changes would likely reduce its usefulness. Because the standard deduction would be doubled and most other deductions would disappear under proposed reforms, fewer taxpayers would itemize in 2018, which is the only way to take advantage of the deduction for charitable contributions.

Advisors suggest giving two years' worth of donations now could ensure you get a tax break for your generosity. In addition, gifting stock this year allows you take advantage of current law (which may change with tax reform) that lets you choose which shares to donate and avoid paying taxes on large capital gains.

*(Please consult your personal advisors on all legal, tax, or financial issues related to your gift or personal matters. Nothing contained in this newsletter should be considered legal, tax, or financial advice. For information about the specific tax benefits to which you may be entitled through your charitable gifting of appreciated, or even depreciated, stock or securities, please consult your tax advisor or attorney.)*

## Scholarship Application NOW OPEN!

The scholarship application is now open for the 2018-2019 school year! The application opened a month early this year to allow students time during winter break to start their applications. Another change to the application this year is that only TWO letters of reference are required. We advise giving your references plenty of time to upload their letters online before the March 12, 2018 deadline.

Current college students as well as high school seniors are encouraged to apply. Our simple, general [application](#) will automatically narrow down the scholarships that each student is eligible for as well as suggest those that may require more

information.

We have compiled a list of [frequently asked questions](#) that we recommend students review prior to submitting their [application](#).

Don't miss out on your chance to be awarded one of over 80 scholarships given annually!



## 28-Hour Give Results are In!



We are pleased to announce that this year's 28-Hour Give event was the most successful yet, with a total of \$56,108 raised for 49 different Fairfield County Foundation funds! Add to that the \$28,000 in matching funds from the Foundation, and this year's total award to participating funds is \$84,108!

This is the 3rd largest amount raised in the nationwide Network for Good #GivingTuesday campaign, which earned the Foundation a \$500 award from the Network for Good. This award will be deposited into the Ambassadors' Fund and used to promote future #GivingTuesday events.

In addition, we are thrilled to share that we had several new donors participate this year thanks to the efforts of many of our fund holders, who used the communications toolkit we provided to help spread the word to their supporters. By working together, we are expanding our impact and positive influence throughout Fairfield County!

We are truly grateful to our donors and supporters who continue to make our annual 'Give' events such a success for the community. Way to kick off the giving season Fairfield County!

## **2017 Ambassadors' Club Donor Reception**

It was great to see so many friendly faces at this year's Ambassadors' Club and Donor Reception held on Wednesday, November 29th. We had more than 100 Donors and Ambassadors attend this lovely event! We are truly grateful for your continued support of the Foundation's many projects and programs that help us raise awareness of the importance of philanthropy in our community.





## **What is a Community Foundation?**

A community foundation is a non-profit, publicly supported, nonsectarian philanthropic institution with a long-term goal of building permanent funds established by many donors to carry out their charitable interests, and for the broad-based charitable interest of and for the residents of a defined geographic area.