



The Community Fund  
of Darien

# 2023-2024\* Annual Report

\*Fiscal Year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

This past year, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our donors, The Community Fund of Darien marked our 73rd year of community philanthropy with record-breaking grant allocations exceeding \$790,500 at a time that dovetailed with the retirement announcement of our executive director, Janet King. Through an intensive, volunteer-guided vetting process, scores of neighbors carefully reviewed grant applications, conducted site visits, analyzed financial statements, and deliberated for hours to determine the most efficient and effective allocations of funds to target the community's greatest human service needs.

Thirty-six local agencies and programs received funding to improve the health and well-being of our neighbors in Darien, Norwalk, and Stamford. Additionally, The Community Fund of Darien hosts valuable programs to help our youth thrive, engage local youth in community service and philanthropy, convene local professionals and agencies to address social service priorities, and mobilize volunteers.

**Your One Donation** to The Community Fund of Darien has broad-reaching effectiveness and targeted efficiency that strengthens the fabric of our community and changes lives. Thank you for joining our mission to create the positive change we want to see for our neighborhoods and for ranking The Community Fund of Darien as one of your philanthropic priorities for the coming year!

With gratitude,

Maggie Domont  
Executive Director

Brandi Maniscalco  
Board President

# Our Mission

The Community Fund of Darien inspires people and mobilizes resources to strengthen our community.

# Our Vision

Our vision is for all community members to have the opportunity to reach their full potential as healthy, educated, and self-sufficient individuals.



# What We Do

## Life-changing Grants

The Community Fund of Darien assists our neighbors in Darien, Norwalk, and Stamford by awarding grants to carefully vetted local nonprofits that provide food, shelter, access to physical and mental healthcare, job and skills training, and youth success programs.

## Youth Programs

We provide middle and high school students with opportunities to get involved in local community service & philanthropy.

## The Volunteer Hub

We match Darien residents seeking local nonprofit volunteer opportunities with appropriate organizations.

## Human Services Planning Council

We bring together an expert forum of government, educational and nonprofit leaders, and professionals to address social service priorities in Darien.

## Thriving Youth Darien

We convene a volunteer coalition of community organizations to promote and empower youth development and mental health with the goal of reducing teen substance use.





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YOU Made An Impact This Year.  
Thank you!

**\$790,500 GRANTED**

Together, we awarded our largest grant volume in our 73-year history.

**36 NONPROFITS**

The nonprofits we support are committed to strengthening the fabric of our local community and ensuring Darien, Norwalk, and Stamford neighbors access to food, housing, physical and mental healthcare, job training, and youth success.

## KEY AREAS OF IMPACT

### BASIC NEEDS

**\$216,900**

Grants to 9 nonprofits providing food, housing, and emergency assistance.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH

**\$208,100**

Grants to 9 nonprofits providing mental and physical healthcare, 24-hour crisis intervention, and treatment programs.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**\$80,300**

Grants to 4 nonprofits providing college prep and job and skills training.

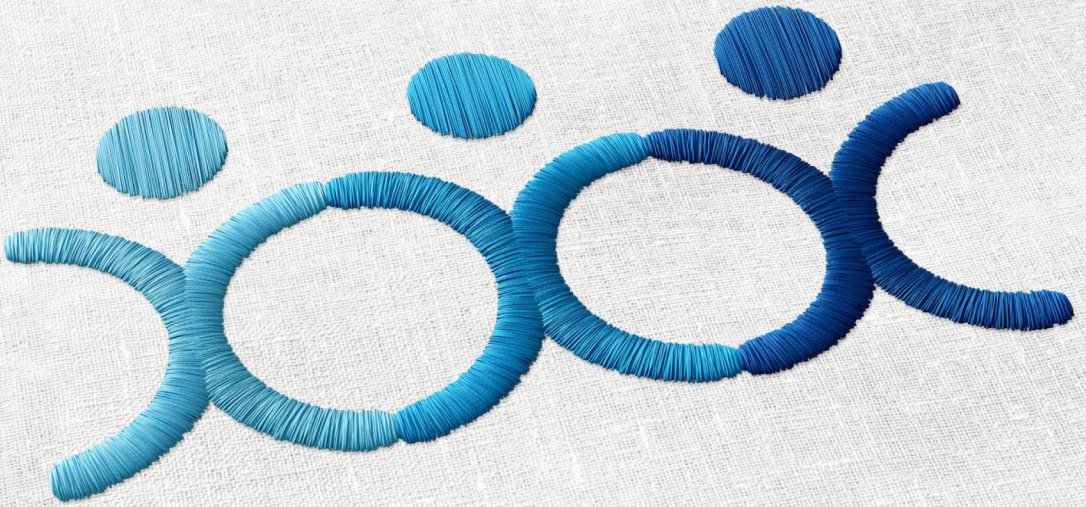
### YOUTH SUCCESS

**\$285,200**

Grants to 14 nonprofits providing after-school and summer academic and enrichment, early childhood education, and school engagement resources.







Because of your generosity, over 64,500 neighbors will receive support through a network of 36 local nonprofits that received grants from The Community Fund of Darien.

**27,875**

people experiencing food insecurity will be provided meals and groceries.

**737**

community members experiencing homelessness will be provided shelter.

**4,903**

underserved students will receive academic support.

**2,576**

underserved students will be provided weekend meals.

**1,887**

seniors in our community will receive financial assistance.

**2,195**

children and teens will be provided mental health services.

**2,868**

underserved students will receive medical and dental services.

**965**

local residents will be given employment opportunities.

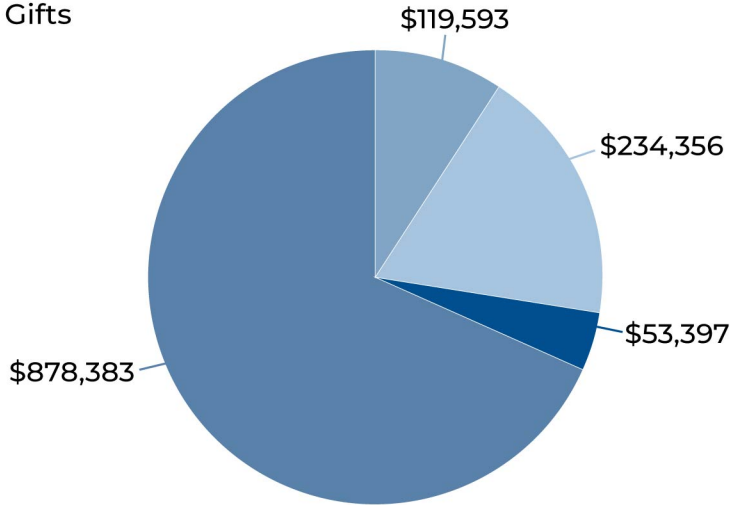
**3,620**

domestic violence victims will receive 24 hour intervention, counseling, and safe housing.

# Revenues

- Donor & Business Gifts
- Special Events
- Grants Received
- Other Income

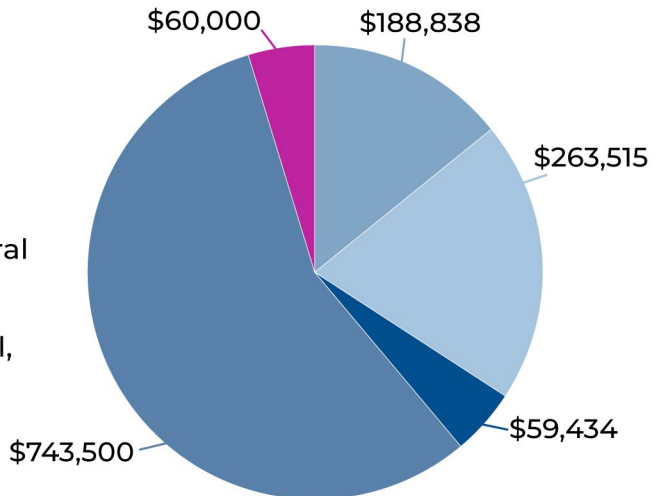
Total: \$1,285,728



# Expenses

- Community Grants
- Community Initiatives
- Fundraising
- Management and General
- TeenTalk Campaign for Middlesex Middle School, Darien

Total: \$1,315,287





# Programs to Engage Darien Youth

## Youth Give Back (7th & 8th grade)

Students learn about human service needs in the surrounding community by volunteering at local nonprofit organizations including Person to Person, Darien Nature Center, At Home In Darien, Waveny Lifecare Network, Open Doors Shelter, and Fairgate Farm.

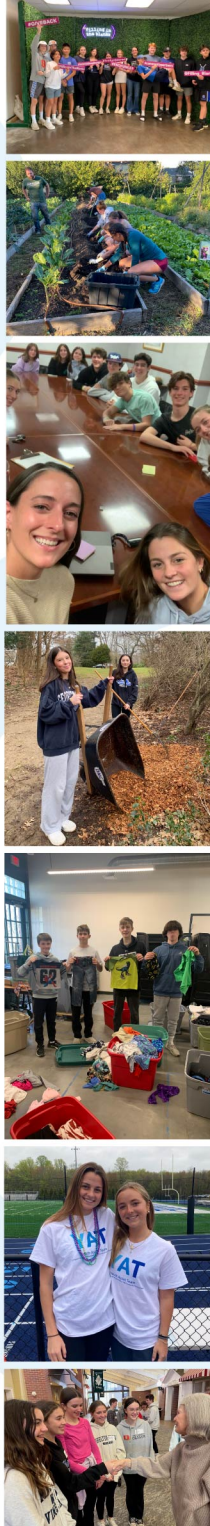
## Freshman Community Group (9th grade)

Students participate in mental health-related activities facilitated by a licensed clinical social worker and engage in meaningful discussions about the transition to high school, including stress management, friendship and substance use. Students also learn about local human service needs and volunteer at local nonprofit organizations.

## Youth Asset Team (10th-12th grade)

Students meet to discuss topics relevant to mental health and substance use, engage in activities facilitated by a licensed professional counselor, and participate activities related to mental health and substance use prevention. For example, 'You Are Not Alone' Mural and Out of the Darkness Walk.

148 Students  
428 Hours Volunteered





# Youth Community Fund (YCF) Grants

## Youth Community Fund - 10th-12th Grade

Students learn about philanthropy and the role of nonprofits in our community. Participants engage in a variety of volunteer projects at different local nonprofit organizations. The YCF students review grant applications, conduct site visits at the nonprofits, and collectively agree on how to allocate available funds.

## YCF Awarded \$15,500 to 15 Local Nonprofits this Year.

Abilis	\$1,000
Boys and Girls Club of Stamford	\$1,000
Building One Community	\$1,400
Children's Learning Centers	\$1,200
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	\$1,200
Filling In the Blanks	\$750
Future 5	\$1,400
Inspirica	\$750
Kids In Crisis	\$500
Liberations	\$1,400
New Covenant Center	\$1,200
Open Doors	\$1,200
Person to Person	\$1,000
Saint Joseph Parenting Center	\$500
The Rowan Center	\$1,000



# TeenTalk Campaign for Middlesex Middle School, Darien

The Community Fund of Darien with the Darien Public Schools and Darien Health Department, set a goal to address the need for mental health support for the youth in the Darien community by placing a TeenTalk Mental Health Counselor at Middlesex Middle School. To achieve this, The Community Fund of Darien committed \$30,000, and the Darien Health Department contributed \$40,000. However, an additional \$30,000 was still needed to make the TeenTalk program a reality.

To secure the placement of a TeenTalk mental health counselor at Middlesex Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year, The Community Fund of Darien launched a public fundraising campaign to raise the remaining \$30,000 to establish this vital program.

The campaign was overwhelmingly successful. In just 10 days, with generous donations from individuals and local businesses, \$30,000 was raised! Together, our town rallied to reach a goal of \$100,000 to place the counselor in the middle school for the current school year.



## TeenTalk program to expand to middle school

Community Fund raising \$30K for new counselor

By Mollie Hersh  
STAFF WRITER

DARIEN — Following a successful first year at the high school, the counseling program TeenTalk will be expanded to Darien's middle school students in time for the upcoming school



**A TeenTalk Mental Health Counselor at Middlesex Middle School Would:**

- Offer Darien middle school students 24/7 confidential one-on-one and group counseling.
- Help reach students struggling with mental health concerns.

Please consider investing in our youth with a donation to the TeenTalk Initiative.

# Fundraising Events

## 2023 Darien Road Race & Family Fun Day



**\$47,767 Raised    350 Runners & Spectators**

The Community Fund of Darien hosted its 43rd annual *Darien Road Race & Family Fun Day* on Sunday, September 17th, 2023 at Pear Tree Point Beach in Darien. The event featured two timed races: the 1.5-mile Fun Run and the 5-mile Race. A community tradition, this year's event was enjoyed by over 350 enthusiastic runners, spectators, and kids who helped raise \$47,767 in support of local nonprofit organizations that provide neighbors in Stamford, Norwalk, and Darien access to basic needs, including food and shelter, physical and mental healthcare, job training, and youth success programs.



"This was our first race together - a beautiful route, so much community support, spending time outside with my kids, what could be better?!"  
- Samantha D.



# Fundraising Events

## 2023 Designed to Dine Charity Luncheon

### Designed to Dine



\$186,588 Raised

300 Guests

30 Designers

The Community Fund of Darien hosted its second annual *Designed to Dine* benefit luncheon on Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 at Wee Burn Country Club. The event drew a sold-out crowd of 300 luncheon attendees who were inspired by the 30 unique tablescapes created by local designers. \$186,588 in proceeds from the luncheon support The Community Fund of Darien's mission to provide neighbors in Stamford, Norwalk, and Darien access to food, shelter, physical and mental healthcare, job training, and youth success programs.



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