

# Good People Great Things

SPRING 2006



A Foundation grant gave eager Chester Elementary School students a chance to participate in a pilot ecology discovery program at Camp Hazen YMCA.

NANCY DIONNE/VALLEY COURIER

[ BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ]

The Middlesex County Community Foundation thrives on the efforts of dozens of volunteers. The past year has seen the departure of a faithful and valued advocate, and the arrival of four new board members.

Middletown resident **Jane Stokes McMillan** helped launch the Foundation in 1997. During her eight years on the board of directors, she made lasting contributions to the organization's success by securing generous commitments from a variety of individuals and organizations and by helping to build awareness of the mission and work of the Foundation...

(continued inside)



Anita Ford Saunders



Thomas J. Pastorello



**Jane Stokes McMillan**  
*Director Emeritus*



Thomas P. Kannam



Janice Atkeson

*"I feel fortunate to be able to work with the Foundation as it becomes a catalyst in Middlesex County."* ANITA FORD SAUNDERS

[ A LEGACY OF VOLUNTEERS, CONTINUED FROM FRONT ]

...McMillan's greatest undertaking was securing a \$650,000 bequest from Elizabeth Swaim, Rare Book Librarian at Wesleyan. At Swaim's request, the Foundation established a program that teaches students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades to play stringed musical instruments. Starting with thirty youngsters in 2004, the program now has sixty participants.



Ruth Montgomery, Volunteer Extraordinaire, has helped make the Swaim String Program a great success.

Upon her retirement from the Foundation board in December 2005, McMillan became the first person named director emeritus. She received a plaque *"In Recognition of Extraordinary Commitment, Leadership and Generosity."* The board and staff acknowledged her as, among other things, "Fund Raiser and Foundation Promoter Extraordinaire." While the Foundation will miss McMillan and her varied and generous contributions, the board has enthusiastically elected four new members, who bring a wide array of talents and interests, and a passion for community service.

**Anita Ford Saunders** has more than 25 years experience in communications for corporations and non-profit organizations, including community foundations.

Most recently she founded Anita Ford Saunders Communication.

Saunders, who lives in Middletown, began serving on the Foundation's Fund Development Committee in 2005. "Community foundations are unique in that they understand the community as a whole and the potential for every citizen to make a difference," she said.

As executive vice president and chief financial officer of Liberty Bank and president of its foundation, **Thomas J. Pastorello** offers a depth of financial understanding that will help the Community Foundation grow and prosper.

A resident of East Hampton, Pastorello said he joined the board because "I enjoy giving back to the community that's been so wonderful to me. I have seen firsthand the improvement to our community that the Liberty Bank Foundation has made. I'm extremely proud of that. And I hope I can contribute somehow to the success of this fine organization."

*"Nothing has pleased me more than to see my client's dream—the Swaim String Program—become a reality and in the process help the Foundation proceed from the germ of an idea to a strong force for good in the community."*

JANE STOKES MCMILLAN

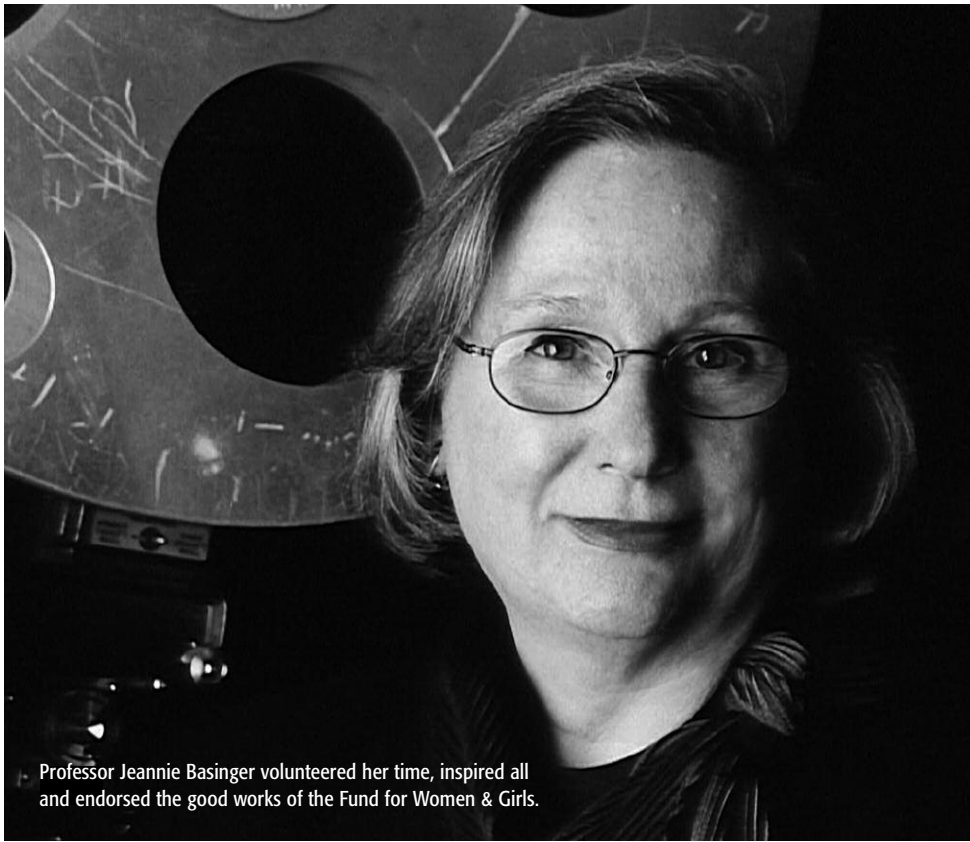
**Thomas P. Kannam** brings unparalleled financial expertise to the board. As Vice President and Chief Investment Officer for Wesleyan University, he manages the school's \$560 million endowment fund and has redesigned the school's investment policy and portfolio strategy.

"I joined the board because I am aware of all of the great work the Foundation supports," Durham resident Kannam said. "I hope to help the Foundation increase its endowment with my portfolio management skills in order to expand the organization's grant-making activity in the county."

**Janice Atkeson** of Essex contributes acute business strategic planning and management skills, which she developed during her years of work in marketing, sales, finance, and operations.

Atkeson said she joined the Foundation board because of the Fund for Women & Girls. "Concern for women and helping them realize their tremendous, but frequently unsung, contribution to all segments of society is a passion. My interest in the Foundation and the Fund for Women & Girls is to enable more females to have more positive personal lives and to make a difference to those about them."

Atkeson's contributions to the Fund for Women & Girls are helping to drive the success of that mostly all-volunteer portion of the Foundation.



Professor Jeannie Basinger volunteered her time, inspired all and endorsed the good works of the Fund for Women & Girls.

## STARS SHINE AT THE FUND FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Because of the commitment of volunteers such as Sari Rosenbaum and Janice Atkeson and the leadership of Nan Zimmer, the Fund for Women & Girls has continued to grow since its inception four years ago. The energy and dedication of 20 members made the signature fund-raising event for 2005 a resounding success.

The evening featured “Stardom Then and Now,” a talk by Wesleyan Professor Jeanine Basinger about the women of Hollywood. Basinger explained how actresses could be both empowered and subjugated by the star system.

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The event raised more than \$18,000—\$10,000 for the Fund and \$8,000 for grants to such organizations as the Children’s Home of Cromwell, Community Health Center and the Girl Scouts Connecticut Trails Council.

Thelma Ball Freeland, who chairs the Fund’s grants committee, said the group

wanted to raise awareness of the needs of the county’s female residents. “The grants committee volunteers are all deeply committed to the Fund’s mission, which seeks to empower women and girls to reach their potential,” she said. “We hope that our support for a variety of programs that meet this goal will encourage non-profit agencies to increase their focus on innovative programming for women and girls of all ages.”

Such innovation is benefiting a group of young women who are working in the community as part of a residential treatment program at the Children’s Home

of Cromwell. Chief Executive Officer Dr. David Jacobsen said, “This grant will allow the girls at Potter’s House to get the ‘real world’ experience they need to be successful members of society by teaching them valuable life skills, such as how to manage money, appropriate work behavior and interview skills.”

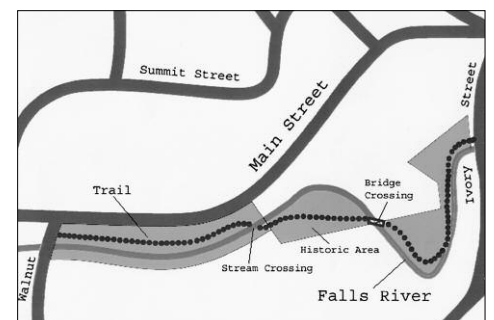
## GRANTS SUPPORT VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

The dedicated volunteers of the Essex Land Conservation Trust are working to bring The Millrace and the Falls River in Ivoryton out of obscurity. With a Foundation grant, the land trust is designing a new linear park, complete with trails, benches and educational signs. Those markers and amenities will highlight the property’s earlier history as part of the Comstock-Cheney ivory factory. Land trust volunteers will clear the debris and build the trails to create the area’s newest open space.

This effort is one of 41 grants to organizations that will be receiving a record-breaking \$103,000 in 2006.

Other volunteer-driven grants have been awarded to include:

- ▶ The Middlesex Coalition for Children whose volunteer members strive to meet the needs of the county’s 35,000 children, with a focus on the 7 percent who fall below the poverty line and the 24 percent below the state’s self-sufficiency standards.
- ▶ The Essex Art Association where volunteers will hang an open show in celebration of its 60th anniversary.
- ▶ FISH (Friends in Service Here) whose volunteer drivers offer free transportation to medical appointments.
- ▶ Nutmeg Big Brothers and Sisters which relies on volunteers to mentor at-risk and disadvantaged youth.
- ▶ Arbor Garden Club of Clinton whose members will plant an 18th and 19th century replica garden that will supply produce to feed the less fortunate.
- ▶ See a full list of 2005/2006 grants on our website: [www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org).



Millrace and Falls River trail program in Ivoryton, as part of the Essex Land Conservation Trust.

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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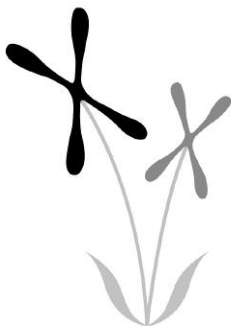
Learn more about us at our updated website!

[www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org)

NATIONAL SILVER WEBSITE AWARD WINNER:

2006 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program for Excellence in Communications

The Middlesex County Community Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Middlesex County. Our mission is to work with charitably-minded individuals and organizations to build permanent endowments and other charitable funds, and to support local non-profit organizations through effective grantmaking to address community needs.



THE FUND FOR  
**Women  
& girls**

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

##### Sunday May 14—Mother's Day

Consider honoring the favorite women in your life with a memorial or honorary gift to the Fund for Women & Girls. You can designate where to send an announcement of your gift.

##### Swaim String Student Performances

April 8—All City Music Festival at  
Wesleyan Ice Rink, 6pm  
May 22—Spring String Concert at  
Middletown High School, 7pm

##### Fall Competitive Grantmaking Schedule

September 1—RFP Posted on Website  
September 27—Letters of Intent Due  
October 25—Grants Committee Seeks Proposals  
November 15—Requested Proposals Due  
December 20—Board Approves Grants  
December 29—Organizations Notified

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