



N E W S R E L E A S E

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Community Foundation Announces New Officers and Leaders

The Middlesex County Community Foundation is proud to announce its 2009 officers, four new Board members and three new Directors Emeriti. Newly elected to serve on the board is Richard Tomc of Middletown will serve on the Finance & Investment Committee. Mr. Tomc has been in private law practice in Middletown since 1978, focusing on business and estate planning. He has served as Middletown Corporation Counsel and Town Attorney for Cromwell and East Hampton.

Judith deGroff Schoonmaker of Essex, who will serve on the Development/Communication Committee, is an active volunteer and community leader and has been involved with the Durham and Middletown Garden Clubs, the Women's Board of the Northern Middlesex YMCA, the Middletown Preservation Trust, the Middlesex County Medical Alliance and the Middlesex United Way. She is also an active participant in pet therapy programs.

Mark Richards of Clinton, who serves on the Grants Committee, is the co-owner of Preferred Foam Products, Inc., a manufacturer of urethane foam systems, located in Clinton. Mr. Richards presently serves as a Trustee of the Essex Savings Bank and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Clinton Country Club. He has served as an elected official as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Clinton for over twenty years.

These four individuals will bring a wealth of talent to the Board as the Community Foundation continues to provide grants and training to the nonprofit organizations in Middlesex County.

David M. Royston, Principal of Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, is now serving as board chair. An Old Saybrook resident, Royston has served on the Board since 2004 and served as Chairman of the Grants Committee for the past two years.

Other leaders include: Marcia Kalayjian of Durham and Anita Ford Saunders of Middletown will continue to serve as vice chairs. Kalayjian serves on the Foundation's Development/Communications Committee and Grants Committees and chairs the Nominating Committee. Ford Saunders co-chairs the Development/Communications Committee and assists with marketing and public relations efforts. Susan Peters of East Hampton will serve as treasurer; and Ralph H. Shaw II of Middletown continues as secretary.

Other Committee Chairs were announced as Thomas Kannam of Durham, Finance and Investment Committee chair; John Biddiscombe of Durham, Grants Committee chair; and David Preston of Lyme and Anita Ford Saunders, Development/Communications Committee co-chair.

Four Honored as Director Emeriti

In December, the Board of Directors honored long time Board members Robert Kirkpatrick, Jr. of Middletown, Sari Rosenbaum of Portland, Willard McRae of Middletown and Patrick Crowley of Lyme by electing them Directors Emeriti. They were given this honor because of their extraordinary service and dedication to the Community Foundation over many years.

The Middlesex County Community Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Middlesex County. Its two-fold mission: to work with charitably-minded individuals and organizations to build permanent endowments and other charitable funds; and to support local nonprofit organizations through effective grantmaking to address community needs. Since its founding in 1997, the Community Foundation has provided more than \$1.1 million in grants to more than 150 organizations for the arts, cultural and heritage programs, educational activities, environmental improvements, and for health and human services. For more information call 347-0025, email info@MiddlesexCountyCF.org or visit the website: www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org.