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More of the Best of the Valley

November 15, 2017

Fundraiser in Shelton to benefit TEAM, Wesley Village

SHELTON – The 14th Annual TEAM Festival of Trees and Wesley Village Holiday Market will be held on Nov. 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wesley Village Senior Living Campus at 580 Long Hill Ave.

Both days include activities for the whole family, including the viewing of beautifully decorated themed trees and wreaths donated by area businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Participants may buy raffle tickets for the chance to win any of the donated trees.

All drawings will be held on Sunday, November 19th at the close of the event.

The event also features a Holiday Vendor Market, with nearly 50 vendors offering a variety of unique gifts and handmade crafts.

A photographer will be taking photos with Santa from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. both days. Throughout both days, there will also be a holiday bake sale and a variety of refreshments available from local food trucks.



Parking and shuttle service will be available at Long Hill Elementary School, with handicapped parking available at Wesley Village. Please use the main entrance at Wesley Heights Assisted Living Community for this event.

For more information, please contact Silvia Paytas at TEAM, Inc. at 203-736-5420x202.



Valley Community Foundation Awards \$881,000 in Single and Multi-Year Grants



DERBY - The Valley Community Foundation (VCF) has announced that \$881,000 has been awarded to 11 organizations through the Responsive Grants process for 2017.

This is the largest multi-year grant commitment in VCF's history.

This distribution reflects a commitment by the VCF Board to provide support to organizations serving the Valley. Many of these local nonprofits are currently challenged by both state and federal budget crises.

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The grant making cycle is done with its partner in philanthropy, *The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven* (TCF). The program is funded by a generous annual grant from TCF's Gates and field of interest funds, as well as VCF's unrestricted and field of interest funds.

Additionally, some of VCF's donor advised fundholders contributed from their funds to help make these grants possible.

The funds included support from the [*Agape Fund*](#), the [*Salvatore and Linda Tiano Coppola Family Fund*](#), the [*Mary Fund*](#), the [*Sally and Dominick Thomas Fund*](#), the [*John Tyma Fund*](#), the [*Warichar Family Fund*](#), and the [*John and Laura Zaprzalka Family Fund*](#).



"We are proud to serve as a continued source of stability for these organizations that are providing key services to those in need," said Alan Tyma, VCF Board Chair.

The following is a list of the 2017 VCF Responsive Grant recipients:

- [**Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley**](#): \$120,000 to provide general operating support for cultural, recreational, physical, and educational programs to Valley youth.
- [**Central Connecticut Coast Central Connecticut Coast YMCA**](#): \$90,000 to provide general operating support for the Valley YMCA programming that builds healthy spirit, mind, and body for Valley residents.
- [**Griffin Hospital**](#): \$25,000 to support the update of radiation oncology equipment at the Center for Cancer Care.
- [**Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America**](#): \$ 100,000 to provide general operating support for scouting programs for Valley youth.
- [**Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven**](#): \$60,000 to provide general operating support for adult literacy tutoring in Greater New Haven and the Valley.
- [**Massaro Community Farm, Inc.**](#): \$60,000 to provide general operating support to this historic farm by providing fresh produce to the needy, and building the community through farm-based education and events.
- [**Online Journalism Project, Inc.**](#): \$120,000 to provide general operating support for The Valley Independent Sentinel.
- [**Salvation Army, Greater Valley Corps**](#): \$60,000 to support the Emergency Assistance program which includes a Food Pantry, Thanksgiving food distribution, clothing and furniture vouchers, and rental and utility assistance.
- [**Shelton Economic Development Corporation**](#): \$10,000 to provide general operating support to advance the economic development of the City of Shelton.
- [**Shelton Historical Society, Inc.**](#): \$34,000 to provide general operating support for the preservation of items of Shelton's history, educational programming and the maintenance of a museum and its collections.
- [**TEAM, Inc.**](#): \$160,000 to continue their mission of strengthening the community by educating, supporting and empowering individuals and families.
- [**Valley Council for Health and Human Services**](#): \$42,000 to support the establishment of a Valley Food Bank Network that raises awareness of food insecurity in the Valley; to implement best practices amongst food pantries; and enhance services/outcomes for individuals accessing these pantries. The Valley United Way is acting as the fiscal sponsor.