

Our mission is to mobilize philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs for the benefit of our region.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Southeastern Massachusetts

Impact Update: Winter 2018

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Message from the President

"Our Community. Your Foundation." This is a phrase we at the Community Foundation have adopted as a window into how we view ourselves and who we aspire to be. It is a promise to you--our stakeholders--to be unwavering in our commitment to grow philanthropy in our region to benefit the people and causes that we hold dear.

In this, our inaugural **Impact Update**, we offer a platform to share with you the outcomes of our work and the unique opportunity we have to partner with you to make a difference by matching resources with needs to create efficient and effective philanthropy.

One of these opportunities is the new and exciting Creative Commonwealth initiative. Last summer, the Community Foundation received a grant from the Boston-based Barr Foundation to engage in intensive community conversations with many of you about expanding the potential of arts and culture in Fall River and New Bedford.

Using your feedback, we put together a plan designed to elevate new voices and expand opportunities for inclusive and innovative ideas in the Fall River and New Bedford arts communities. The Barr Foundation responded by offering to be our partner in this effort, together with four of our sister community foundations from around the state: the Creative Commonwealth initiative. And, they awarded your Community Foundation a two-year \$500,000

grant to help make it happen. We will continue to need your help to make our vision a reality, and we look forward to sharing our challenges and successes with you in the coming weeks and months.

Also, as we stand in the throes of a New England winter, we are squarely focused on the promise of spring because, for our dedicated volunteers and staff, it is the start of scholarship season. Without question, it is one of our favorite times of year because of the ability of our young scholars to inspire us with their academic accomplishments, focus on the future, and their incredible resiliency as they pursue the one thing that can never be taken away and always appreciates in value, a quality education.

Our role, in partnering with you, is to remove the financial barriers that impede progress towards their goals. Thanks to donors like David Ferreira, we have over 60 different scholarships available today that deliver more than \$450,000 in tuition assistance each year for scholars like John Owens, and we are proud to share David and John's stories with you in this issue.

Regards,



John Vasconcellos

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Launching the Creative Commonwealth Initiative



Participants at a July 2017 Community Conversation at the Narrows Center for the Performing Arts in Fall River

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts and The Barr Foundation, a private foundation based in Boston, recently announced the launch of Creative

Commonwealth, a partnership between Barr, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts and four other Massachusetts community foundations. This new initiative is rooted in the belief that investments in arts and creativity build thriving communities, and it aims to promote the vital leadership role community foundations can play to advance the arts.

Creative Commonwealth will pave the way for community foundations to deepen and grow support for artists and cultural organizations. Along with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, the community foundations partnering with Barr on this effort are: Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Essex County Community Foundation and Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts has been awarded \$500,000 over 24 months to pilot ideas that emerged from a planning process the Foundation undertook in 2017, with funding from Barr to identify opportunities, needs, and priorities. The Community Foundation's effort will work to:

- Increase access and artistic expression in New Bedford and Fall River, with a focus on underserved, youth, culturally diverse, and immigrant populations.
- Improve collaboration and build capacity in our collective creative community using a model that can be replicated throughout the region.
- Grow and diversify philanthropic investment in arts and culture.

"Arts and culture have the power to tell our stories, to enhance the quality of our lives--as we live them and as we want to live them. Our region will benefit from participating in the Creative Commonwealth as we seek to elevate new voices and expand opportunities for inclusive and innovative ideas," said John Vasconcellos, president of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

"In 2016, Barr expanded the scope of its Arts & Creativity program to a statewide focus," said Jim Canales, president and trustee of the Barr Foundation. "This shift necessitates our identifying many partners across the Commonwealth with deep knowledge and relationships in various communities. Through Creative Commonwealth, we aim to deepen our partnership with community foundations in Massachusetts, who each bring that knowledge, along with the trust of their donors and communities, to expand support for arts and creativity."

Although Massachusetts has thousands of artists and cultural organizations, philanthropic support is unevenly distributed. Creative Commonwealth aims to address this challenge by increasing local arts and culture funding networks across the state, making the entire sector more sustainable, equitable and accessible.

"Massachusetts is full of creative talent and cultural assets that have the power to bring communities together. Yet, access to funding can be uneven based on geography," said San San Wong, director of arts & creativity at the Barr Foundation. "Community foundations are important civic leadership institutions, with the potential to bridge that gap, connecting donors who want to make meaningful investments in the places they care about, and strengthening the capacity of artists and organizations whose work enlivens communities."

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Albert F. Carr Scholarship Fund Award Winner John Owens



John Owens (pictured with his mom Fatima Andrade) just wants to make people's lives easier. And if he can save the planet in the process, well that's a good thing, too. A 2017 recipient of an award from the Albert F. Carr Scholarship Fund, John is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering at the University of Connecticut with deep interests in renewable energy and aeronautics.

A member of the National Society of Black Engineers, Engineering Ambassadors Presentation Team, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, John has always had a love of finding out how the products and machines in our lives work to support our needs, and his mom Fatima--herself an engineer--fed that desire in him from an early age, leading John to become a Carr Scholar.

Albert F. Carr was a New Bedford native and 1943 graduate of New Bedford High School who moved to Baltimore after graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1948. Although he lived in Baltimore for 57 years until his death in 2005 at age 79, Mr. Carr still spoke of Massachusetts as home and recalled his high school alma mater with great affection.

Mr. Carr left a legacy that relays his fondness for his hometown and high school: a scholarship fund for New Bedford High School graduating seniors who wish to attend MIT or who will pursue an engineering degree at a four-year college or university.

Just as John credits his mom for his interest in engineering, he credits the staff at New Bedford High School's Gear-Up program for encouraging him to apply for a Carr Scholarship which has been pivotal for him to be able to chase his dreams. *"It's very simple,"* John explained, *"without a scholarship from the Community Foundation and it's Albert F. Carr Scholarship Fund, I would not be able to attend UConn. With this scholarship, I get to be in an incredible engineering program and I can focus on school, not on how the tuition bill is going to get paid."*



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The Francis S. Ferreira Scholarship Fund



Francis S. Ferreira (pictured) was passionate about technology and engineering, but he was even more passionate about the importance of getting a college education. Francis found that his son, David, came by that same love of technology naturally, but he left nothing to chance when it came to instilling in David the understanding that getting a college degree was non-negotiable.

"My dad could do just about anything in the technology field and he worked in the industry for many years, but he always told me that his lack of a college degree held him back and limited his opportunities, and he was adamant that I get that piece of paper, regardless of what I wanted to do as a career." said David Ferreira, founding donor of the fund.

"I decided that creating the Francis S. Ferreira Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation was a great way to honor his memory and help people learn more about him. He was a New Bedford Voc-Tech graduate, he loved the school and gave a lot of his time and expertise on their Advisory Board. That's why his scholarship fund will help graduating seniors and recent graduates of Voke pursue technology and engineering degrees. I wanted a way to help kids and keep my dad close to me, and the Community Foundation has helped me to do just that."



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For Impact: A Look at Scholarships

For Scholars

In 2018 more than 60 scholarship funds administered by the Community Foundation will award over \$450,000 in tuition assistance to students from throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. Scholarships are available for high school seniors accepted to two or four year colleges, as well as adults pursuing advanced degrees to enhance their professional careers. The deadline for all applicants to complete submission requirements is April 1.

"The Community Foundation is pleased to help increase the opportunities for students in Southeastern Massachusetts to pursue a higher education, and to make the process easier along the way," said President John Vasconcellos. "With rising tuition costs, it is more and more difficult for students and their families to pay for a college education. We hope that many students throughout our region will check out our website and apply for these scholarships."

Improving educational attainment in the region has been a top priority of Community Foundation grant-making. The Community Foundation's grant making has supported expanding early literacy programs, advocacy programs to increase educational attainment, support of STEM programs and adult education, as well as scholarships for students to pursue higher education.

To learn more about scholarship opportunities, contact Holly Stickles:

Holly Stickles, Grants & Scholarships Associate, hstickles@cfsema.org, 508-996-8253 ext. 202



For Donors

Through a Scholarship Fund, you can support students in their pursuit of higher education in a way that is personal, purposeful, and rewarding.

A Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation allows you to play an active role in your philanthropy, and easily manage your giving without the hassles of running a private foundation. The Community Foundation handles all the investment, legal and administrative work, as well as the entirety of the scholarship application, award and payment process, while you set the criteria for the awarding of scholarships and, if desired, be directly involved in their selection.

How Does a Community Foundation Scholarship Compare to a Private/Family Foundation?		
Your Administrative Responsibilities & Expenses		
	Community Foundation	Private/Family Foundation
Federal requirement for distribution of funds	None	5% annually
Donor designates future uses of funds	When fund is established	When Foundation is established
Time length to establish	Within 24 hours	Several months
Anonymity	Full or partial anonymity as desired, on each scholarship award	None – filings are public info, the Web
Incorporation, tax status, audit, filings	None – we do all administrative work	You are personally responsible
Directors, officers, insurance	None – we do all administrative work	You are personally responsible
Evaluation of Scholarship applicants & award selection	We are the experts in local scholarship awards. Partner with us as much as you want in the process.	You are personally responsible
Verification of scholarship eligibility & award payment	None – we do all administrative work	You are personally responsible
Relationships to scholarship recipients	As you wish, we hold large events and intimate meetings for our scholars and donors	Your responsibility
Relationships to other donors	As you wish: we offer many formal and informal opportunities each year	Your responsibility
Service fees	Used to support our services to donors, scholars, and community initiatives	None

To learn more about founding a scholarship, contact John Vasconcellos or Ethan Kehoe:

John Vasconcellos, President, jvasconcellos@cfsema.org, 508-996-8253 ext. 201

Ethan Kehoe, Director of Development, ekehoe@cfsema.org, 508-996-8253 ext. 216

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