

*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

News from the Community Foundation

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Looking Ahead to 2017: A Message from the President

As the calendar turns to 2017, I look forward to the year ahead and the continued opportunity to improve our corner of the world through philanthropy.

Last year was one of transition for the Community Foundation, and we thank you for your continued support. As we eagerly navigate the course for our future, we will continue to be passionate about improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts, and our role in supporting and celebrating the broad diversity of non-profits in our region and the great work being done to ensure that our region continues to be such a special place to live.

In 2017 the Community Foundation will focus on three overarching objectives:

- First, and most essential, is to get our house in order, making sure the quality of how we do business is guided by our value of **excellence**. We will accomplish this through thoughtful and consistent improvement and clarification of how we work with philanthropists and non-profits in our region; redesigning our website and marketing collateral; and through staff and board development.
- Increase engagement and improving our role in the community through thoughtful and effective grant-making, strategic partnerships, and compelling communications guided by our values of **local impact and accountability**. One new partnership the Community Foundation is proud to be a member of is the New Bedford Lyceum, which was recently reconstituted. The original Lyceum was the nexus of community life both intellectually and culturally in 19th Century New Bedford. Established in 1828, the Lyceum hosted many diverse lectures, concerts and performances by some of the leading minds of the nation. Read the article below for more about the Lyceum.
- Grow the organization through focused annual fundraising, and by increasing our asset base by attracting and establishing quality funds and sponsorships guided by our values of **permanence and focus**. We will continually look for philanthropists who want to work with our exceptional nonprofit community.

Within each of these objectives is a long list of goals, actions and conversations that will move each forward. And admittedly, these are broad goals, but each is critical to creating a Community Foundation that can address the myriad challenges that face our region today and will face our region in the coming years. With 20 years now in the rearview mirror, we are looking forward to 2017 and how, with your help, we will continue to strive to fulfill our mission: "to mobilize philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs for the benefit of our region".

We look forward to getting your input and feedback as we embark on this journey. Please feel free to call me at (508) 996-8253, ext. 201, or [email me](#).

Regards,



John Vasconcellos

Apply Online for Scholarships Beginning February 1



Beginning February 1, high school seniors and current college students can apply online for 27 Community Foundation scholarships by clicking a link on the Foundation's website.

Between February 1 and April 1, students can apply for these scholarships using a "common application," which they can access by clicking the "Apply for a Scholarship" link (see the book graphic above) on our [website](#).

Students can save the application as a draft and return to it. Once they submit it they will receive an email confirming their submission and instructing them to log back into Application Part 2 to see what scholarships they are eligible for, based on their responses, and any additional questions or requirements for each. **The deadline for both parts of the application is April 1.**

The Foundation also offers 21 scholarships that do not have online applications. Visit our [website](#) for descriptions and application details.

Nearly \$2.5 Million in Grants, Scholarships Awarded in 2016



Last year, more than \$450,000 in grants were awarded by Community Foundation funds to improve educational attainment in the region, including an award from the Jacobs Family Donor Advised Fund to improve software and technology at a local charter school; another from the Acushnet Foundation Fund *for Reach Out and Read* to help foster literacy in young children; and many more for science, literature, ESL and other programs

at various local schools.

But they also included a less traditional approach through a grant from the **Stephen C. Flanagan Educators Enrichment Fund to purchase a "Buddy Bench"** for a school playground in Swansea. Buddy Benches are beginning to appear on playgrounds across the country, the idea of a child who felt there should be a way for students who are shy or new to a school to easily make friends.

These are a few of the **355 grants** awarded by Community Foundation funds in 2016, **totaling more than \$2.121 million. One hundred twenty-eight scholarships totaling \$340,300 were also awarded.** Among the scholarships awarded last year was the **Gregory G. Misodoulakis Memorial Scholarship**; \$1,200 was awarded to each of three graduating seniors from

Gregory was a well-respected and gregarious member of the 2010 Apponequet Regional High School class, an honor student, athlete, student leader and dedicated volunteer who very much "lived in the moment" throughout his high school years. His family established the annual scholarship in his memory for students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the school community and who aspire to pursue a liberal arts and/or education degree.

That brings the total of grants, program support and scholarships awarded since 1995 to well over \$25 million. Grants were awarded in other categories last year as well:



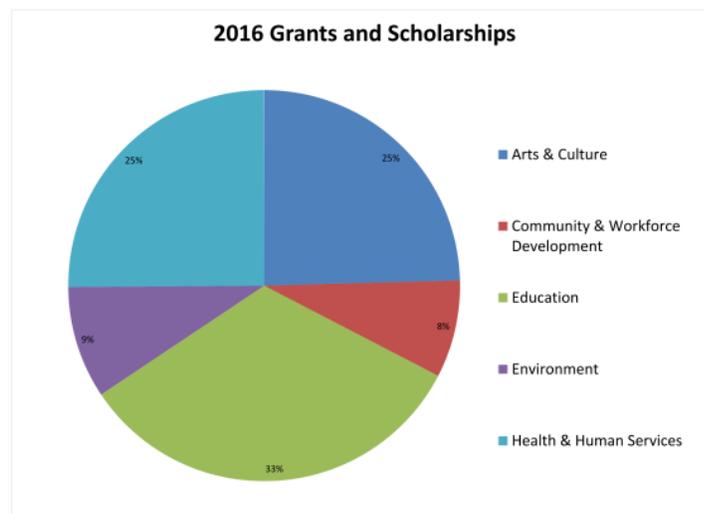
Arts & Culture: Support for local cultural institutions such as the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, the New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks!, and the Zeiterion Theatre, as well as to Culture Park for its Shakespeare for Kids program.

Community & Workforce Development: Multiple grants were awarded to women participating in the Women's Fund LifeWork project as savings incentives and savings matches for completion of the program. The LifeWork Project assists low-income women, predominantly single mother heads of household, to achieve self-sufficiency in five areas: family/housing stability, well-being, education & training, financial management, and employment and career management.



Health & Human Services: Grants from the James Arnold Fund supported a local Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry, while our BankFive Foundation Fund awarded a grant to furnish a veterans' housing facility in Dartmouth;

Protecting our environment: The Southeastern Mass. Environmental Education Alliance (SEEAL) awarded mini-grants to support the good work of the Buzzards Bay Coalition, Mass. Audubon Allens Pond Wildlife Refuge, and the Westport River Watershed Alliance, among others.



Available Grants

- Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for up to \$100,000 in workforce development and family literacy grants from the **Polaroid and Acushnet Foundation Funds** are available through the Community Foundation. Applications are due no later than **February 15, 2017**, and should be submitted both electronically and hard copies by mail to: [Kristen Irvin](#), CFSEMA, 30 Cornell Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. [Read the RFP](#)

[Download the application](#)

- The **MacGregor Fiske Fund** will be seeking applications beginning on March 1 for the \$1,000 stipend awarded annually to recognize a promising journalist who is relatively new to the field. The award was established by Mary McCann in memory of her late husband MacGregor Fiske, a lifelong newspaper man. It is intended to encourage journalists to persevere in the profession, and to honor the contributions of journalists to sustaining an informed society. Applications are due April 1; visit [our website](#) for more details.

Visit our website for [other grant opportunities](#), including Environmental Education Grants from the [Captain Planet Foundation](#), Environmental Grants from [Patagonia](#), and Creativity Connects grants from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).



Community Foundation, Partners to Bring Bob Woodward to the Zeiterion

A centuries-old New Bedford tradition of learning through intellectual debate has been revived with the rebirth of the **New Bedford Lyceum**, a partnership of community organizations including the Community Foundation.

In its first event, the **New Bedford Lyceum** will bring journalist and author **Bob Woodward to the Zeiterion Theatre at 8 pm on April 1**. Mr. Woodward, known for his book "All the President's Men," will give a talk on **The Age of The American Presidency**. He will discuss how the power of the executive branch has morphed and broadened over the years, how it has changed, and - 70 days into the Trump administration - how it is likely to change during Trump's presidency.

Besides the Community Foundation, Lyceum Partners include the City of New Bedford; Leadership Southcoast; NewBedford Area Chamber of Commerce; New Bedford Whaling Museum; Southcoast Media Group; Unger LeBlanc Strategic Communications; and The Zeiterion Theatre, Inc.

The New Bedford Lyceum Society was the nexus of community life both intellectually and culturally in nineteenth century New Bedford. Established in 1828, the Lyceum Society's programming tackled the most profound topics and social challenges of the day, and presented some of the leading minds of the nation and beyond.



For more about the Lyceum or to purchase tickets for Mr. Woodward's talk, visit the Zeiterion Theatre [website](#).

New Bedford Receives Mass. Cultural Council 2017 Commonwealth Award



New Bedford has been awarded the **Massachusetts Cultural Council's prestigious Commonwealth Award in the "Creative Community"** category, given to a city, town, or organization that has demonstrated the central role of arts and culture in building healthier, more vital, livable communities.

New Bedford received the award for providing sustained leadership, funding, and infrastructure to the places where art and culture are presented, and where artists live and work, providing a model for cities everywhere.

"Just 20 years ago, New Bedford had what could only be described as a deserted downtown with only small pockets of cultural activity," said AHA! Director Lee Heald, who nominated the City. "The publicized vision of New Bedford started to change when Richard Florida named New Bedford the 7th most artistic city in America in 2011-the only small city designated. The city's secret was out."

Read more about the [Commonwealth Awards](#).

In other AHA! news:

- **Mass. Development's Transformative Development Initiative (TDI)** gave a shout out to AHA! for sponsoring the **holiday Shop & Stroll**, which featured wine and craft beer tastings, live music and an artisan trunk show. The event also highlighted six retailers in New Bedford that opened just in time for the holidays. [Read more](#)
- **The February 9 AHA! Night, History, Herstory, and OurStory**, will include a **community conversations project**. A series of dinners - each led by a facilitator - will be held at downtown restaurants, and each Our Story dinner conversation will be an open dialogue about the future of New Bedford. The hope is to find ways to build our community and increase the quality of life for all residents, while specifically attracting and retaining young people. CFSEMA President John Vasconcellos will be one of the facilitators. [Apply for a seat at the table](#)



The Women's Fund: Looking Back on a Year of Accomplishments, Looking Forward to 2017

The Women's Fund is excited to start 2017 with growing energy and leadership to help all women in our region move to self-sufficiency.

The work of building women's leadership and addressing income inequality are critical local and national issues that the Women's Fund will continue to push hard on.

In 2016, the Fund made a difference for women by:

- **Continuing the LifeWork Project**, and expanding the pilot to a full five-year program supporting 25 women to set and accomplish goals on the path to economic independence.
- Training and taking 150 people to the MA State House for **Women's Advocacy Day**.
- **Convening Action for Women of Southeastern MA (AWSM)** and leading regional advocacy for the successful, strongest-in-the-nation Equal Pay law.
- **Launching phase 2 of the Task Force on Pathways for Women to a Living Wage**, with working groups creating specific local action plans to improve key conditions for women: our Economic Blueprint for Women. In 2017 the Women's Fund will begin implementing the Economic Blueprint for Women, transforming opportunity in our region.



SouthCoast folks celebrated Gov. Charlie Baker's signing of a landmark equal pay bill at the State House on Monday afternoon. COURTESY PHOTO



Upcoming



- **JANUARY 21:** The Women's Fund is one of several local groups promoting participation in the **Women's March** in Washington, D.C. or a Sister March in Boston and more than 600 other cities worldwide.
- **FEBRUARY 9: AHA! Night** from 5 to 9 pm in downtown New Bedford. This month's theme is **History, HerStory, OurStory**.



• **MARCH 9: AHA! Night** from 5 to 9 pm in downtown New Bedford. This month's theme is **All Sewn Up**.

• **MARCH: Women's Leadership Breakfast**, UMass Dartmouth, details to be announced.

- **APRIL 1: New Bedford Lyceum presents Bob Woodward** on THE AGE OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY, 8 pm at the Zeiterion Theatre,



• **APRIL 1: Stand Up for Women Comedy Night**, to benefit the Women's Fund 7pm-10pm, Grand Ballroom, Seaport Inn & Marina, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven, [Get Tickets](#)

• **MAY 14: Women's Fund Mother's Day- Tiara 5K Run/Walk**. [To register](#)

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