Welcome

No two days are alike at the Community Foundation of New Jersey. One day we are corralling support for an emergency food pantry after a natural disaster halfway around the world, the next we are helping a family think creatively about their philanthropic legacy closer to home. What is constant throughout is the creativity and drive of our fundholders, who inspire our work of making philanthropic goals a reality.

These philanthropic goals vary, too, from supporting one’s alma mater to sending a student’s science project to the International Space Center.

Thanks to the generosity and ingenuity of our more than 1,100 fundholders, the Community Foundation of New Jersey is thinking bigger and more boldly than ever before, including on projects of our own: like addressing New Jersey’s significant racial wealth gap, working to strengthen the safety net for New Jersey’s uninsured children, and expanding the way New Jersey tracks population health and well-being.

New Jersey is a special place, with enormous potential, intractable challenges, and extraordinary people who want to make a positive difference in their communities and far beyond. We are proud to share this snapshot of recent accomplishments and profiles of the fundholders driving our work forward.

Sincerely,

Tamara Linde
Chair

Hans Dekker
President
2022-2023

Snapshot

1,160 fundholders
7,350 philanthropic gifts

$39k in grants from Mercer County legacy funds to support a local, place-based grantmaking initiative

$790m in current assets

$65m in New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund grants

$250k to support ongoing coaching and training related to Adverse Childhood Experiences via Foundation for Educational Administration

$70k to increase access to mental health support via NJ Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists

$161k to support Housing Stability Project at Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

$250k New Jersey Tutoring Corps benefiting 500 students across 10 counties

$250k to support ongoing coaching and training related to Adverse Childhood Experiences via Foundation for Educational Administration

TCNJ
$153m
in gifts

57
new funds created

$50k
to launch the Schumann Field Trip Fund at CFNJ

$1.5m
in scholarships
to help 276 students achieve their educational dreams

Helped launch Safe Babies Court Team to close gaps in services for children facing family separation

$250k
in general operating grants from CFNJ to NJ Institute for Social Justice, New Jersey Policy Perspective, Advocates for Children of New Jersey

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation planning grant to CFNJ & CFSJ to co-design & re-envision NJHI

$300k
CFNJ & CFSJ partnership to support workforce development programming grants in three communities

$54k
in grants from Monmouth County legacy funds to support local, place-based grantmaking initiatives

A look back at gifts into the Community Foundation, grants out to charitable causes, and new high-impact partnerships.
Our grantmaking approach

The Community Foundation of New Jersey considers regularly how we as an organization and civic community leader can effect lasting change that leads to greater equity. To that end, our discretionary grantmaking is informed by many of the below criteria and grounded in the associated values.

Criteria

We seek to support initiatives that...

— Pilot a good idea and have a realistic path toward broader uptake.
— Have an achievable public policy objective.
— Promote a public systems fix that CFNJ and partners have the tools/standing to influence.
— Reach a New Jersey community or group of people who are not being served or have historically been underserved.
— Leverage other private or public resources.

Values

The work we support is...

— Community-driven, with input that comes from the community and takes into account the expressed needs and plans of the community.
— Equity-informed, directly addressing racial, economic and/or social inequity in New Jersey.
— Diversely-led, drawing from a greater diversity of organizations that people of color, different ages, and perspectives lead and/or serve, and that may or may not have proven track records but show promise in future work.
— Broad-based, serving more than one community.
— Inclusive and equitable.
Join us in driving impact

Open a fund
Families and businesses leverage the Community Foundation’s resources and expertise toward achieving lasting change in our state and beyond. Our work is in furtherance of our fundholders’ explicit or evolving goals, with an eye towards simplifying the process of giving and amplifying the impact of that giving. We are with you from inspiration to results.

Create a legacy
Many fundholders and other members of our community designate the Community Foundation as the beneficiary of their philanthropic funds. In so doing, they signal the trust that they place in the Community Foundation’s ability to implement their charitable interests in perpetuity and to identify the very best ways to steward their philanthropic legacies.

Join our work
The Community Foundation welcomes fundholders and other community members to actively participate in our work. We believe that connecting donors’ philanthropic interests to critical imperatives in the state and pooling their dollars with our own allows us to have a greater impact on issues that matter.

What we’ve learned
The challenges people and communities in New Jersey face are, sadly, too many. And while individual fundholders and many other philanthropic New Jerseyans respond with compassion and generosity, the responses can sometimes feel small in comparison.

More than 650,000 people in New Jersey face hunger every day. New Jersey is home to more than 100,000 opportunity youth - young people ages 16 to 24 who are not in school or working.

New Jersey’s foster care system creates disproportionately negative outcomes for families of color. Black children are 13% of the population under the age of 18 in New Jersey, yet 42% of the children taken from their families. New Jersey’s racial wealth gap is nearly double that of the national gap: white New Jersey families’ median net wealth is $322,500 compared to Black New Jersey families’ $17,700. New Jersey predicts a shortage of 11,400 nurses by 2030, the third highest in the nation.

These are hard, intractable challenges not solved by a single grant or even many grants. They require collective action aimed at systems change. The Community Foundation of New Jersey is dedicated to challenging broken systems, funding interventions that really work, and supporting equitable systems reform that puts people first. We not only use the resources left to the Foundation by past generations of New Jerseyans, but also invite our fundholders to join us in this work. New Jersey is blessed with great wealth and ample philanthropic resources. Working together, we can achieve great things for our communities.
Giving in action
“As a novice organization, we needed to establish an infrastructure and support structure to be as effective as possible,” recalls Kathy Cummins of the decision to house the Somerset Hills Community Health Foundation (SHCHF) at the Community Foundation.

What preceded this decision was Atlantic Health’s merger with the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills. By partnering with the Community Foundation to create a donor advised fund, SHCHF has been able to continue the mission to address acute and chronic health and care concerns in Morris and Somerset counties.

Cummins and the members of the Board fund projects and programs that promote a special emphasis on supporting seniors living in environments most appropriate for the individual, from in-home care to outpatient facilities along with scholarships to support students at local colleges in order to increase availability of healthcare workers.

“Institutional preservation

We had a vision for promoting better health with a focus on the seniors in our community, and the Community Foundation gave us the organization and structure to execute it.”
In Focus: Great Companions Fund

One Community Foundation fundholder certainly embraced this philosophy and, through a heartfelt bequest made ten years ago, has helped others experience the happiness animals can bring to the lives of people across the Garden State. The fundholder’s tireless devotion to animals will continue in perpetuity through a bequest in her will to establish the Great Companions Fund, an endowed fund that provides grants to causes and organizations that care for and work with companion animals and wildlife across the state.

As a close friend of the donor said, “This person’s great passion was always animals. Truly, she had a magic touch with them, and thankfully, the Community Foundation’s efforts will continue this good work.”

Legacy

For more than 40 years, the Community Foundation has stewarded giving in line with donors’ intent, implementing philanthropic legacies of all shapes and sizes. Active fundholders and those who leave bequests are assured that their philanthropic legacies will last for years or even generations.

This is part of what motivated Svetlana Stalin – yes, that Stalin – to create a fund at the Community Foundation of New Jersey. The daughter of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, Svetlana defected to the United States in 1967, denounced her father’s brutal legacy, and ultimately settled in Princeton, New Jersey. Along the way, she developed a deep and personal concern for new immigrants to the United States, especially those in New Jersey. Her Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation is active to this day and focuses squarely on easing immigrants’ transition to a new life. Svetlana Stalin could hardly predict the twists and turns of America’s immigration debate over the decades, but the Community Foundation has faithfully honored her philanthropic intent throughout, using the fund to provide English language education and even expand STEM education for new immigrants.

Similarly motivated was Austin Hooey, a longtime Chatham resident and one of the first female financial analysts on Wall Street. As part of her will, Hooey left $1.2 million to the Community Foundation for a permanent scholarship endowment for Chatham High School students.
Joel and Shelley Siegel wanted to do more with their philanthropy. And so the Siegel Family Scholarship, a full-scale scholarship fund managed day to day by the Community Foundation, was born.

"The big thing was, my wife and I had been talking for a while about broader charitable goals," says Siegel. "We decided to set up this scholarship fund and the team was helpful in structuring it in such a way that we could see firsthand the impact we were having on young people."

The Siegel Family Scholarship gives out a minimum of four scholarships per year and sticks with the selected scholars for the full four years. The scholarship places special emphasis on students recommended by nonprofit organizations that the Siegel family has long supported. "It’s something we will fund so that it exists long beyond us," says Siegel.

“My heart pours out to thank you for working with me to make this dream possible, especially as a first-generation Latina scholar.”

Laisha Perez, Recipient of the Siegel Family Scholarship and Rutgers University graduate
The pandemic showed that New Jersey is a state filled with fighters who care deeply for their neighbors. In good times and bad, we show up and support one another; this is just what Jersey does.

*Tammy Murphy*

New Jersey’s First Lady
Corporate

From small businesses to major corporations, New Jersey’s companies have played an invaluable role in our state’s philanthropic heritage. These businesses drive change at the community level, proactively partner with effective nonprofits, and keep a close eye on results throughout.

The Community Foundation of New Jersey works with businesses large and small to help set up and/or manage affiliated philanthropy programs. Services run the gamut from grantmaking support to financial compliance. And the audiences are just as broad, from a company’s own employees to the communities in which they live and work.

The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey proudly supports the Newark Summer Youth Employment program, hosted at CFNJ. Beyond this partnership, Horizon regularly refers nonprofits to CFNJ and shares information and opportunities for collaboration.

CFNJ manages the grantmaking process for several Johnson & Johnson Operating Companies. CFNJ collaborates with the operating companies-designated business managers, taking into account J&J’s credo and pillars of support, to award grants to nonprofits in the communities where their employees work, live and volunteer.

Prudential has recently partnered with CFNJ for many projects, most recently to administer and distribute micro-grants toward projects or programs in Newark that will support neighborhood beautification, increase resident access to opportunity, and enhance quality of life.

ShopRite’s Partners In Caring program, a community-based, hunger-fighting initiative, is housed at CFNJ, and awards $3.1 million a year in grants to nearly 200 soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, senior citizen centers, and other organizations that are on the front lines of fighting hunger.

The PSEG Employee Crisis Fund provides short-term, emergency support to PSEG employees or eligible dependents who are experiencing a financial hardship resulting from a sudden, severe, overwhelming and unexpected event that is beyond their control.
Christy Bisgrove Del Colliano doesn’t do anything halfway.

Whether it’s hungry families or disabled children, when Christy finds a cause she cares about, she puts her whole heart and mind into the work.

That means leading the feasibility study for Paterson-based Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children’s capital campaign to provide more educational and social service programs for women and children in the Paterson area. That means starting an emergency fund for families with children experiencing hematology issues, including paying a family’s utility bills while they focus on their child’s health. That means starting her own challenge grant for Massachusetts General Hospital to support a new chair in pediatric psychopharmacology.

“I really believe the dirt on my hands has to be equal to the green on the tree,” says Christy, who is so inspired to achieve impact she plans to go back to school to earn a master’s degree in philanthropy. After exploring private foundation options, Christy ultimately opened a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation, the McKinley Place Family Foundation, through which she manages an active philanthropic portfolio.

“The collaborative nature of the Community Foundation and its staff was the critical piece,” says Del Colliano. “The team have been incredible champions for the philanthropic goals I want to achieve, and there is no doubt that we accomplish more working together.”

With a donor advised fund, Christy was able to get more proverbial “dirt” on her hands, including in-person site visits, detailed interviews with potential grant recipients, and a full body of research to make informed giving decisions. Christy’s philanthropy is today making a meaningful difference in the causes and communities she cares about most. It is our privilege to help steward Christy Bisgrove Del Colliano’s inspired giving.
Camden is the largest food desert in New Jersey, according to the state Economic Development Authority (NJEDA). The Camden Food Fund (CFF), led by the Community Foundation of South Jersey (CFSJ), will make capital available to Camden-based entrepreneurs who are addressing gaps in the food ecosystem. The Fund will be designed and governed by a group of 18 community advisors whose understanding of Camden strengthens their ability to direct resources in a way that maximizes impact.

CFSJ is implementing the following activities currently with a goal of launching the Fund in late 2023:

- Provide education in impact investing to the Fund’s Community Advisory Board and lead the board through a design process to develop an investment policy.
- Facilitate a fund design process using a pilot model to refine the strategy. The pilot model will be leveraged to implement a campaign to raise $3.5M that will be loaned and granted through the Camden Food Fund.
- Run an accelerator program for Camden-based entrepreneurs or community-based organizations working in the food ecosystem to prepare them to launch or scale their businesses or initiatives.

The Community Foundation of New Jersey, providing critical support and philanthropic leadership throughout South Jersey.
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The Community Foundation of New Jersey’s team of philanthropic professionals.

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