April 2020

To our partners:

Times have changed dramatically here in Rhode Island— and around the world— since the end of 2019; we are in the midst of an unprecedented health and economic crisis. Community foundations are poised to respond in times like these, as both immediate and long-term needs present themselves.

In mid-March, we established the COVID-19 Response Fund which has deployed— and will continue to deploy— financial resources to nonprofit organizations that are on the front line of COVID-19 response for our state. We will continue to stay connected to the community and to use all of the tools at our disposal to respond with urgency, and with an eye toward our state’s collective, long-term success.

Be well.
Dear Friends,

We’re excited to share the Foundation’s 2019 Annual Report with you. On the following pages, you’ll read stories of generous donors, and incredibly dedicated, hardworking grantee partners, and you’ll read about how we’re actively engaging in civic leadership as Rhode Island’s community foundation.

You’ll also learn more about the Foundation’s 2019 results. At the end of the year, total assets stood at approximately $1.1 billion, and our investment return for the year was 18.6%, bringing our 10-year average return to 8.5%. Steady returns and year-over-year fundraising allow us to grow the Foundation’s endowment and invest more into the community. To that end, we raised $47 million in partnership with visionary and committed donors, and awarded a record $56 million in grants to over 2000 nonprofits in 2019.

The Foundation also raised a record $620,000 for our Civic Leadership Fund, an annual fund that allows us to get—and stay—inolved in the issues of the day. For example, we convened and led two long-term planning processes this past year: one focused on health in Rhode Island, and one on pre-K through 12th grade public education. You’ll read more about those in this report as well.

As we reflect on the close of a decade, we would like to express our gratitude to the generous donors, grantees, and community members who partner with the Foundation to work toward fulfillment of our mission—to meet the needs of the people of Rhode Island. And, we are excited for what the future holds—there is so much more to do, challenges and opportunities to take head-on—and we’re ready.

With warm regards,

Mary Brooks Wall, Chair

Neil D. Steinberg
President & CEO
The Rhode Island Foundation is a proactive community and philanthropic leader dedicated to meeting the needs of the people of Rhode Island.

**Mission**

**Lead.**
We have earned the trust of our donors, community leaders, and Rhode Islanders through a century of effective investments, strategic grants, and responsible decisions.

**Transform.**
We align our fundraising, grantmaking, and leadership to inspire and engage Rhode Islanders to address today’s challenges and create lasting improvements in our community.

**Inspire.**
We challenge and encourage Rhode Islanders to become active and involved in the community, to form meaningful partnerships, and to work together for the good of Rhode Island.

**Vision**
To help a city it takes a village

By Jennifer Pereira

While the Foundation has three strategic initiatives—economic security, educational success, and healthy lives—none of those exist in a vacuum. They are all interwoven in our communities and in our daily lives, with change in any one of them affecting the others. The following story illustrates how nonprofit organizations from different fields in just one part of our state are working together to improve the lives of their residents. We are proud to support their efforts.
As an AmeriCorps volunteer with the Newport Working Cities Collaborative, Ellen Pinnock worked in three Newport public schools. One advantage she had was her ability to connect with the students who were dealing with many of the same challenges she had faced while growing up.

The daughter of a Native American and Irish mother and an African American father, Ellen was raised by a single mother in public housing in what then was Tonomy Hill in Newport’s North End. Her mother had five children by the time she was nineteen, and health issues prevented her from working.

“I never really knew how poor we were and how much we were struggling,” Ellen recounts. She remembers the landlord dropping off clothes and that when the family sat down for a meal, her mother wouldn’t always eat. She understands now that there wasn’t enough food for everyone.

“The housing (Tonomy Hill) looked a lot like old military barracks. There was a lot of drug activity, and we weren’t allowed to go outside by ourselves,” Ellen says.

She continues, “School was great, and I had very good teachers who sort of took me in. They knew more about my background than I did.” But when she moved to another, now-closed elementary school in Newport, she notes, “I didn’t do well. I was the only brown kid at the school. I spent a lot of time by myself. The Boys & Girls Club became like a haven to me. I learned about things like cooking and sewing that I wouldn’t have been exposed to otherwise.”

Ellen’s family lived briefly in South Carolina, returning to Newport when Ellen should have entered tenth grade. Instead, she worked two jobs and earned a GED. She later attended Bristol Community College followed by the Community College of Rhode Island, where she earned a degree in general studies.

“Seeing what my mother went through made me want to do better and reach higher. I’m one of those people who, when someone needs something, I want to be there to help,” Ellen explains. Ellen is there not only for her daughter, Dorothy, a tenth grader at Rogers High School, but also for other Newporters who need a helping hand. She currently is coordinator for the Newport Check & Connect program which—under the direction
of FabNewport — works in the Newport Public Schools to reduce absenteeism and truancy. She also volunteers at the Women’s Resource Center and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center (MLK Center).

Executive directors at these — and other — Newport nonprofits agree with Ellen’s “it takes a village” approach to making their city a better place for all its residents. “We’re all trying to help support families in Newport and Newport County. We don’t all do the same work, but we know who does other work and does it well,” states Heather Hole Strout, executive director of the MLK Center.

Colleen Jermain, EdD, superintendent of Newport Public Schools, illustrates the point with a story. A school officer visited the home of a child who had been absent, and he found there was no food in the house. He helped the family get assistance from the MLK Center, the largest volume food pantry in Newport County. “If you don’t have food, you can’t learn,” Colleen explains.

Many Newporters rely on the island’s nonprofits to help them with basic needs that are critical to their day-to-day lives. At the same time, nonprofit leaders are addressing disparities and the need for systemic change that will provide greater — and longer lasting — benefits for these residents.

“We need to acknowledge that racism exists across every system in America,” stresses Kate Cantwell, strategic initiative director for the Newport Working Cities Collaborative, which works “to lift families out of poverty through... an integrated and efficient workforce development system.”

“Changing that requires a change in culture and climate,” explains Rhonda Mitchell, executive director, Newport Housing Authority, noting recent racial equity trainings coordinated through the Newport Health Equity Zone (HEZ). “We had uncomfortable conversations, but our commitment was unwavering. It (racial diversity) is not a threat, it’s an asset. That’s the beauty of this community.”

Such change, the leaders agree, requires not only their working together, but also authentic engagement from residents. “Trust is a really big part of this,” says Chris Gross, chief empathy officer at FabNewport. Jazmine Wray, HEZ strategy manager at the Women’s Resource Center, continues, “We’re working to lift residents’ voices and to help them get more engaged. More North End and Broadway residents are speaking out.”

A significant issue facing Newporters is that nearly half of the city’s jobs are in the hospitality industry and 30% of all jobs in the city pay less than $30,000 per year, explains Ashley Medeiros, director of Connect Greater Newport, stating “People are working, yet they can’t afford to live here. This affects children and families...and the future of Newport.”

It’s “the future of Newport” that drives these community members and requires them to address intertwined social issues, improving city residents’ opportunities for excellent health, education, and economic security.

Jennifer Pereira is the Rhode Island Foundation’s Vice President of Grant Programs.

Health, education, and economic security are connected in every way.

- Children with parents who have steady employment are more likely to have access to health care.
- Children with working parents are more engaged academically and less likely to repeat a grade or be suspended or expelled from school than children with non-working parents.
- Rhode Islanders who have achieved a Bachelor’s degree or higher have nearly double the wages compared to residents who have only completed high school.
- Between 2013 and 2017 in Rhode Island, adults with high school diplomas were three times more likely to be unemployed as those with Bachelor’s degrees or higher.

Source: 2019 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook
Its name is its mission. Protecting the health and future of Narragansett Bay and its watershed has been Save The Bay’s goal for the past 50 years. Founded by concerned citizens in 1970, the organization’s initial focus was on stopping proposed oil refineries in Jamestown and Tiverton. Through the decades, the focus has evolved and expanded—to industrial pollution in the 80s, habitat restoration in the 90s, and a major investment in education in the 2000s.

“Any organization that’s been around for 50 years needs to adapt and change. What began as a tiny advocacy group now is an organization that has—and has earned—a seat at the table where environmental issues are being discussed,” states Jonathan Stone, executive director of Save The Bay.

Jonathan credits each of the three executive directors who preceded him with helping build the organization into the environmental powerhouse it is today. “John Scanlon started it all. He was the creative instigator. Trudy Coxe was the firebrand, the rabble-rouser. And Curt Spalding transformed the organization into an institution with enduring capacity,” Jonathan believes. Both Trudy and Curt now are members of the Save The Bay board of trustees.

And Jonathan’s legacy? Smiling, he says that under his leadership, “The ship did not go down.” He explains that soon after he took over the reigns as executive director in 2009, significant federal funding—which Save The Bay relied heavily on—dried up. “We needed to reduce costs, increase program revenue, and increase philanthropy. Rhode Island Foundation played a really critical role in our evolution,” Jonathan says.
The grants from the Foundation were pivotal, and he also notes the value of Foundation capacity building workshops that he and both staff and board members attended. “We’ve never been more impactful. We’ve spent a lot of time on execution. We have an incredible group of people who are helping us: a board that is very engaged in our work and a staff of the most professional, capable, compassionate people,” Jonathan shares.

The Foundation’s support of Save The Bay goes back to the environmental group’s earliest days. Records show that the Foundation awarded a “modest grant” of $1,000 in 1972 for general support. Today, Save The Bay is in the second year of a multi-year grant for its advocacy, education, and outreach initiatives. “The funding from Rhode Island Foundation allows us to retain staff capacity and to respond to things that are hard to predict,” Jonathan adds.

Save The Bay monitors the actions of government agencies charged with protecting the environment and holds them accountable, analyzing the potential impacts of a wide range of policies and proposals. Director of Advocacy & Policy Topher Hamblett is active in the state houses of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, in the halls of Congress, and in municipalities and communities throughout the watershed.

He continues, “We’re often asked, ‘Are we done? Is the Bay clean enough?’ There are three big things we need to be concerned with. The first is climate change and the affect it’s having through rising sea levels and warmer waters. The second is that our forests are being replaced by suburbs. We need to make smart changes in our land use and real estate development. And finally, we need enforcement of existing environmental laws and the creation of a recurring funding stream for climate adaptation.”

“Environmental problems can seem overwhelming, but there are things we can do. It’s a question of whether we make it a priority. At Save The Bay, we ask ‘What can we do?’ There’s a ton we can do, and I’m very optimistic. There’s great opportunity to have an impact,” Jonathan concludes.

Indeed, it’s what Save The Bay has been doing for 50 years.

Jennifer Pereira is the Rhode Island Foundation’s Vice President of Grant Programs.

Responsive Grants snapshot
Our responsive grants program is designed to respond to the expressed needs of the community and supports organizations across the nonprofit sector — from the arts to children and families — and from housing to the environment and more.

The following is a sampling of 2019 Responsive Grant recipient organizations.

- Adoption Rhode Island
- African Alliance of Rhode Island
- Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance – AMOR
- AS220
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Northern Rhode Island
- Community MusicWorks
- DARE (Direct Action for Rights and Equality)
- Day One
- Girls Rock! Rhode Island
- HousingWorks RI at Roger Williams University
- The Nature Conservancy
- Newport Partnership for Families
- The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre
- Sojourner House
- Tomaquag Indian Memorial Museum
- Transcending Through Education Foundation
- WARM Center
- Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
"We’re here to be educated as well as to act," says Mark Mancini who, with his wife Pam (Milligan) Mancini, became a philanthropic partner of the Foundation in 2018. "We feel there are a lot of needs in the state that we aren’t aware of. I did a lot of investigating of organizations that we could work with, and I found a natural fit with the Rhode Island Foundation," Mark continues.

"The Foundation is about finding solutions, and its three primary areas of focus—education, economic security, and health—mesh well with what we’re interested in," Pam shares.

Mark and Pam grew up in Providence and both graduated from Classical High School and Rhode Island College (RIC). Pam earned a master of public administration degree from Syracuse University, while Mark continued his education at New York University where he earned a master of business administration degree.

Their careers have taken them to Washington, DC, New York City, and Hong Kong. After returning from Hong Kong in 2012, their primary residence has been New York City where Mark helped found Ergoteles Capital, an investment management firm; he currently serves as its chief operating officer.

Their roots, however, are in Rhode Island. "This is where we grew up, where we went to school, and where we have lifelong friends. Our emotional ties and history are with Rhode Island; it’s our home," Mark explains from the Barrington home they purchased from his mother.

They are staunch supporters of Rhode Island College, with Pam serving as a long-time member and current secretary of the Rhode Island College Foundation board of directors and Mark assisting with fundraising and searches for college deans. The couple established a scholarship fund at RIC in 2001.

Pam especially appreciates hands-on volunteering and philanthropy. She has volunteered for many years with the American Red Cross, serving as a disaster services volunteer, and was active in the schools when their children, now 21 and 23 years old, were younger.

"We want to get more engaged in the Rhode Island community, and we know the Foundation can help us to do that. It has a great understanding of the needs of the state and can help us have the greatest impact. The Foundation’s Civic Leadership Fund is important to me. I believe you need the opportunity to study a problem, investigate it, and look at the challenges and assumptions before you act. The Civic Leadership Fund gives the Foundation and its donors the opportunity to do that work," Mark states.

Through their donor advised fund, the Mancinis have chosen to support the Civic Leadership Fund, as well as the Fund for Rhode Island. Of the latter, Mark says, “I understand the importance of unrestricted funds which allow the Foundation to do what it thinks is best for the state. The Foundation is forward-thinking and looking for solutions to the state’s bigger challenges.”

“We want to do more than just give dollars. We want to have an impact that will give people hope and change lives. The Rhode Island Foundation will help us to become better educated and will be our guide. There’s a brilliant quote from Mr. Rogers, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ Rhode Island Foundation is one of those helpers," Pam concludes.

James S. Sanzi, JD is the Rhode Island Foundation’s Senior Vice President of Development.
Realizing a long-term vision for Rhode Island requires a plan

Better yet, two plans

By Neil D. Steinberg
It has been said that if you aren’t sure where you are going, you won’t get there. It’s true. To do our best work as a state — and to truly improve economic, health, and educational outcomes for all Rhode Islanders — we need to chart a course and stay the course as a community. At the highest levels of government and industry, we see that growing the Rhode Island economy is made a priority. That said, without improving health and educational outcomes, even a better economy will still be a fragile economy. It is time to prioritize health and pre-K to 12th grade public education, too. It is time to be bold and innovative in these two areas. Without that, too many Rhode Islanders are falling behind. As a community, we have not committed to an enduring vision and long-term plan that transcends election cycles, overcomes special-interest inertia, and is guarded and guided by doing what is right for Rhode Islanders.

That is why, over a year ago, we convened two long-term planning committees with local, senior-level experts in health and pre-K to 12th grade public education. The two groups worked independently, meeting monthly to create a long-term approach for improving the health of Rhode Islanders and for improving pre-K to 12th grade public education. Both groups sought to identify the most pressing needs and commit to state-level coordination and institutional decision-making that will address those needs over the next ten years.

Very early on in both planning processes, the health and education committees identified a similar focus — on equity. The health committee quickly turned their attention to the fact that good health isn’t only about healthcare. It’s about living in a safe place, having access to nutritious food, being supported by a caring community, and knowing that quality, affordable, physical and behavioral healthcare is readily available. And the group acknowledged that equitable access to each of those important components isn’t available to all — but it could be, especially in a state like ours. The education committee was clear from the outset that to truly improve outcomes for all Rhode Islanders we need to chart a course, and stay the course as a community — committed to high achievement and equity for students, families, and educators who are part of the public school system.

Recently, each of these groups issued a report outlining its process, vision, priorities, and strategies which members of the two committees endorsed. Our endorsement is included in that list, and the Foundation has committed $1 million to the implementation of each of the 10-year plans — $2 million in total, above and beyond our traditional grantmaking in these two sectors.

Each long-term planning committee has also convened community members around the long-term planning processes. In early December, the Long-Term Education Planning Committee welcomed over 300 parents, students, teachers, school administrators, policy makers, advocates, and education-sector leaders for an all-day brainstorming event. Called, Make It Happen: A World Class Public Education for Rhode Island, the event gave the committee and each attendee an opportunity to reflect on priorities and strategies for improving pre-K to 12th grade public education in Rhode Island, and to brainstorm tactics for making improvement a reality. After Make It Happen, the planning committee reviewed table and scribe notes from each brainstorming session and incorporated much of the feedback received into their final report. The final report is available at www.rifoundation.org/EdinRI.

Just after the release of the Long-Term Health Planning Committee’s final report, which can be found at www.rifoundation.org/HealthinRI, the group brought together 200 health-sector leaders, advocates, policy makers, and providers to a half-day convening and brainstorming session.

As each of these efforts moves beyond visioning and priority-setting and toward the work of truly improving health and educational outcomes for all Rhode Islanders, the Foundation stands ready to support and invest in the work.

As the chair of both planning committees, it’s been a privilege to work among leaders and experts in their respective fields to find potential solutions that will benefit our state. It is also an extraordinary testament to the people around each committee table — both health and education — to see how dedicated they are to finding solutions. In each group there are members who are sometimes on opposite sides of a bargaining table, or are in competition with one another — and there was no animosity, and no posturing, just two groups of dedicated professionals with their sights set on what is best for our state.

Neil D. Steinberg is the Rhode Island Foundation’s President & CEO.
The Long-term Health Planning Convening kicked off with a panel of Committee members describing their process, vision, guiding principles, goals, priorities, and strategies.
We thank those who supported our civic leadership efforts in 2019. This work creates a stronger, more vibrant community, encourages collaboration to solve important issues, seizes emerging opportunities, and funds valuable research.

Anonymous (6)
AAA Northeast Charitable Fund
Allen Family Fund
Michael K. Allio
Edward F. Almon Fund
The Grace K. and Wesley S. Alpert Charitable Foundation
Amica Companies Foundation
Applegate Fund
Peri Ann Aptaker and Robert Lieberman
Arden Engineering Constructors, LLC
Aditya Arora
Daxa Arora
BankNewport/OceanPoint Charitable Fund
Chris and Susanna Barnett
Victor & Gussie Baxt Fund
Olivier Bennett and Martha Ross Bennett
Blount Fine Foods Fund
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island Community Health Fund
BiV Charitable Fund
Karen and Leon C. Boghosian III, Esq.
Raymond and Brenda Bolster
Adrian Boney and Martha Fish
Bridge Technical Talent, LLC
Marjorie W. and George B. Bullock, Jr. Fund
Burke Bryant Family Fund
Fred and Joyce Butler
Canepari Family Fund
Canyon Partners LLC
Richard and Louise Carriere
Carter Fund
William and Jill Caskey
Elizabeth Z. Chase Fund
Chemical Company Fund
Cherry Family Fund
Choquette Family Fund
Citizens Bank of Rhode Island
Jean and Scott Cohoon
Connors and Murphy Family Fund
Cornish Associates, LP
Corrigan Financial, Inc.
Michael and Jamie Costello
Cox Communications
Donna Capello
Customers Bank
CVS Health
Peter and Anne Damon
Daugherly Family Fund
Susan Leach DelBlasso, Esq.
Wendi DeClercq
Delta Dental of Rhode Island
Richard and Carol DeRienzo
Langston Family Fund
David and Elanie DeSousa Family Fund
Diligentiam, LLC
Dimeo Construction Company
Jerrold and Amy Dorfman
Sally Dowling
Duffy & Shanley, Inc.
Charles & Nancy Dunn Family Fund
Eastern Bank and Eastern Insurance Group
Emlenfund Charitable Fund
FAP Cares Fund
Jonathan and Ruth Fain Fund
Linda Fain Family Fund in Memory of Beatrice and Archib Fain
Donald Parish Memorial Fund
Malcolm Farmer III, Esq.
Fehlman Family Fund
Carrie Bridges Felix and Robert Felix
Fidelity Investments
Douglas and Kathleen Fisher
Joseph and Roberta Finler
Patricia J. Flamang, MD and Mark Schwager, MD
Paul S. Fullett
Robert and Wendy Fournier
Mimi and Peter Freeman Fund
Gregory Gagnon
Ira S. and Anna Galikin Fund
Susan and Jim Garlington Fund
Susan Gershoff
Louis Giancola and Pamela C. High, MD
Gilbert Charitable Fund
Gail Ginnerty
Richard J. Gladney Charitable Endowment Fund
Glass Family Fund
The Honorable Maureen McKenna Goldberg
Golden Einhorn Family Fund
Leon and Barbara Goldenstein Fund
Larry Goldstein
Henry Gonsalves Family Fund
Joanne Gorman Fund
George Graboyes Leadership Fund
Gudeman Family Fund
Halliday Family Fund
Almon and Suzanne Hall Family Fund
Janet Hall
Neil and Polly Handy
The Hassensfield Family Foundation
Danielle and Michael Haston Family Fund
Hayes & Sherry Real Estate Services
Patrick O’Neill Hayes, Jr.
Hebert Family Fund
Hineckley, Allen & Snyder LLP
Larry J. and Kay P. Hirsch Charitable Fund
Barry and Kathleen Hitter Fund
The Home Loan Foundation
Honey Buzz Fund
Hope Global
The Honorable Steven S. Howitt and Pamela Teelier Howitt
Allen and Katharow Howland-Gammell Family Fund
Imperial 718 Fund
Ryan and Alison Jackson
Johnson & Wales University
Simone Joyaux and Tom Altern
Kahn, Litwin, Rena & Co., Ltd.
Daniel Kertzner
Ron Kertzner, Susan Jordan Kertzner and Elisa Kertzner in
memory of Judith Kertzner
Joseph Kirby
Hank Kniskern
Max Kohnenberg and Becky Minard
KPMG, LLP
Alan and Sharon Kurose
Bruce Lang Good Government Fund of RI
Marie Langlois
Laurans Family Fund
Eunice and Harold Levine Family
Memorial Donor Advised Fund
June Rockwell Levy Foundation
Lifespan
Carla and Maryann Lisa Family Charitable Fund
Mary Lovejoy and John Whisler
Cynthia M. Macarchuk Donor Advised Fund
Ronald K. and Kati C. Machledy Fund
Kathleen and Edward Malin
Liz Manchester
Mancini Family Fund
Robert A. Mancini and Rose Marie C. Ruffel
Mandel & Tracy, LLC
Bhikhuji Maneckji Fund
Marathana Fund
Ruth and Samuel Markoff Fund
David Matarese
McConnell Family Fund
Liz and Jack McDonald Fund
Meathane Products Corporation
Samuel M. and Ann S. Mencoff Foundation
Meridian Printing, Inc.
Terry A. Meyer Fund
Mid City Steel Corporation
Dorothy Carol Mitchell Charitable Fund
Kristen and Michael Moonan
Nicholas C. and Allison M. Moore Fund
Russell Morin Fine Catering Fund
Murphy Family Fund
Murray Family Charitable Foundation
Mutual of America
Jane S. Nelson
NetEnergy
Panda and Robert O'Brien
Pamela Boylan Ong and Warren Ong
Ken Orenstein and Barbara Feibelman
Ali Dunn Packer Memorial Fund
William and Judith Palmisciano
Lauren Paolo
Narris Family Fund
Partridge Snow & Hahn, LLP
Pawtucket Credit Union
Pearlman Charitable Fund
Linda Marie Pearson
Peter and Sheri Phillips
Dana Pickard
PKF O'Connor Davies LLP
Matthew and Stephanie Plain
Plum Pointe Wealth Management, Ltd.
Porter Braden Fund
Prime Buchholz, LLC
Residential Properties Ltd.
Rhode Island Medical Society Medical Purpose Fund
Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants
Philanthropy Fund
RI Real Estate Services LLC
Ricci Family Fund
Karen Rubin in honor of Barry Robbins
Henry and Jan Rines Fund
Arthur S. Robbins
Roberts, Carroll, Feldstein & Pepe
Ross Family Fund
Mark and Donna Ross
Edward J. & Virginia M. Routhier Foundation
Charles and Deborah Royce
Rykat Fund
George M. and Barbara H. Sage Fund
Saiten Weingrod Family Fund
Jim and Erika Sanzi
Craig and Pamela Sawin
Mary and Michael Schwartz Fund
Peggy and Henry Sharpe Fund
Deming and Jane Shermann
Paul Silver and Katherine Hapfel
Joan and Paul Soensens
Soutter Family Fund
Starkweather & Shepley Charitable Fund
Neil Steinberg and Eugenia Shao
Elaine and Kevin Stiles Fund
Strategic Retirement Partners
Shivam and Jythi Subramaniam
Kim and Howard Sutton Fund
David and Frances Syner
Anne and Michael Szostak Fund
Tambutto Family Charitable Fund
John A. and Patrice A. Tarantino
Taylor Box Company
Taylor Strong Charitable Fund
James E. Tierman Memorial Fund
The Honorable Ernest Torres and Jan Torres
Constance Kane Tucker Fund
Jerome and Mary Vascellaro
Verrecchia Family Foundation
W.B. Mason
Ashbel T. Wall and Maria DeCarvalho
Robert W. Daly and Mary B. Wall Fund
Washington Trust Charitable Foundation
The Weatherlow Foundation
Miriam Weißenbaum
Grafton H. Willey IV, CPA
Harrison and Josephine Wright
The Zennovation Fund for Rhode Island
Coleman B. Zimmerman Memorial Fund


Rhode Island Foundation gives emergency grants to food banks

Aim of all-day brainstorming session: Make R.I. schools ‘world class’

Grants available to local groups for 2020 Census outreach

R.I. Foundation distributes $385K in grants to projects in 26 communities

Connect Greater Newport awarded $50,000 to support regional economic development

RI Foundation offers more than $2 million in college scholarships

Cranston Library wins grant to launch racial equity initiative

Town touts new tools for treating childhood trauma

Rhode Island Foundation otorga Clinica Esperanza USD 300,000 para brindar atención a los inmigrantes hispanos

Newport slavery memorial gets boost from Rhode Island Foundation

Farm to freedom: Rhode Island Training School’s farming program gives teens new skills

Schools receiving grants for ‘innovative learning’
“We wanted the stability, support, and investment know-how of the Foundation. Its reputation is priceless. Why wouldn’t we go with the best?”

— Deb Tanner
Southern Rhode Island Volunteers Fund

<table>
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<th>2019 results</th>
<th>$1.1B Total Foundation assets</th>
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Total grantmaking
Nonprofit organizations
Grants Foundation directed
Grants donor directed

2019 results

Total Foundation assets
New funds established
Total funds raised

$1.1B
55
$47M

$2.4M
$620K

$56M
2,000+

28%
72%
We honor members of the 1916 Society who recently passed away. Following are some of their stories.

Legacy donor stories

"We both love Jamestown, its farms, the surrounding ocean, the people, sailing, golf, tennis, paddle tennis, the ocean smells, and wonderful walking," Milton and Julia Bickford stated in a 2009 interview with the Foundation.

The Bickfords have both since died, Milton in 2010 (age 78) and Julia in 2019 (age 88), but their love for Jamestown continues through their three daughters who are advisors to this fund established through the elder Bickford’s estate plan.

"Jamestown is a special place to all of us. It was important to our parents, and now to us, to keep Jamestown simple and non-commercial," sisters Pamela Corsi and Shelley Koch agree.

"It’s about the beauty of the ocean, farms, nature, and community of the island. Jamestown is like Newport’s little cousin without the shops and cruise ships," Pamela and Shelley now live in Massachusetts, but the Bickford’s third daughter, Suzanne Bickford, still resides in Jamestown where she raised her three children.

The Bickfords spent summers on Jamestown for several decades becoming year-round residents upon Milton’s retirement in 1989. Milton had successfully grown a small family printing business into a national success, National Bickford Foremost, and was a well-known leader in the Providence business community. He was also an art lover, collector, and an expert in American Impressionism.

The beauty of Jamestown reminded him of the paintings he loved. In an interview with the Foundation, he stated, "It’s just so beautiful here. We don’t want to see things change here that shouldn’t." Julia’s Providence Journal obituary summed up their love of the island: "Jay (Julia) and Skip (Milton) considered living on the ocean in Jamestown to be paradise."

The elder Bickfords made only one request of their daughters as they recommend grants from this fund: that grants benefit Jamestown organizations. As they explained, "We’ve always supported the many charitable organizations on the Island, but now with the establishment of the Bickford Family Charitable Remainder Trust, we will be able to do so to a far greater degree."

Pamela recalls, "Our parents were active volunteers, encouraged volunteer work, and especially supported education and the arts."
“I love animals, particularly dogs,” Harry Doran stated in a 2004 interview with the Foundation. His animal companion at that time was Gus, a ten-year-old German shepherd. “I think the trick with dogs is that you have to give them a lot of love. Animals enrich our lives, but there’s so much cruelty to them,” he shared.

Harry died in 2006, but through a charitable remainder trust he established at the Foundation, he will forever be helping in the fight against animal cruelty. The terms of the trust were that after 15 years it would begin to benefit the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA), which “is charged with the sole purpose of protecting animal life in all situations that might endanger them.”

Harry L. Doran SPCA Endowment Fund

Born in Nyack, NY in 1922, Harry attended the American Institute of Banking and worked in that field, as well as construction, before joining the Air Force at age 20. He attended navigator school and served during World War II as a navigator, bombardier, and meteorologist. He vividly recalled when his B-24 was shot down over Germany. He and two other survivors were captured by the Germans; Harry spent nearly a year as a prisoner of war.

After his release and return to the States, he reconnected with Marion, his future wife whom he had met at a dance when he was 18. Of their big band era courtship, Harry shared, “We had a good romance. We loved to dance, and we’d dance all night.”

The couple married and moved to Rhode Island where he joined the state’s then-booming jewelry business. He worked at Jaeckel until 1950 when he started his own sales and manufacturing businesses. He operated Jewel Supply and Automatic Products in Providence until his retirement at age 66. “I really enjoyed being in business, but it’s completely changed. That’s why I got out. I used to do business on a handshake,” he recalled.

Although Harry and Marion both have died, the Doran name will forever be associated with the RISPCA and “helping those who cannot speak for themselves.”

James S. and Marjorie W. Hart Fund

Marjorie Hart retired as director of public relations for the American Lung Association in Rhode Island in 1977, after more than 40 years with the organization. Now, through a pooled income fund she established at the Foundation and designated to benefit the American Lung Association in Rhode Island, her commitment to the local Association will continue forever.

In a 1999 interview with the Foundation, Marjorie shared that she became active when a friend “harpooned me” to volunteer for what at the time was the TB Association. She later joined the staff and, through the years, served as acting director and as director of public relations, the latter for 21 years. After her retirement, she remained an active volunteer and an enlightened advocate.

Marjorie explained, “The major enemy is smoking. The (Association’s) campaign is winning, slowly. Their slogan is ‘If you can’t breathe, nothing else matters,’ and you have to agree with that.”

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Born in Chicago, Marjorie grew up in Cleveland and attended the University of Michigan. She returned to Cleveland after graduation and obtained a job with the Cleveland Plain-Dealer, beginning a long career in communications.

During World War II, she joined the Office of War Information and was stationed in London. It was there that she met her future husband, James, who also worked for the Office of War Information.

The couple returned to the States following the war, settling first in New York City where they both worked for a now-closed public relations agency.

They later relocated to Rhode Island where James had, prior to World War II, been chief political reporter for the Providence Journal-Bulletin, as well as executive secretary to Gov. William H. Vanderbilt. James died in 1969.

In Rhode Island, Marjorie began her long involvement with what became the Lung Association. “As TB was conquered, we began to focus on other things,” she said, noting specifically the Lung Association’s expansion to include prevention of all respiratory disease, including emphysema, asthma, and other chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

Marjorie died in 2006 at the age of 92.
Joseph E. Kochhan Fund

Two organizations that were important to the late Joseph Kochhan, The First Baptist Church in Wickford and Hillsdale College, now are benefitting from his estate planning as designated recipients of a pooled income fund he established at the Rhode Island Foundation.

The church, which Joe and his wife, Charline, were members of for many years, also is benefitting from a fund Joe established earlier to honor his mother, the Susie Brown Kochhan Memorial Music Fund. In a 2000 interview with the Foundation, Joe explained, “I thought this might be a nice thing to do. In a small church such as the one I attend there’s never quite enough money to do special music programs.”

His support for Hillsdale College is based on it being privately funded. He explained, “Hillsdale College is a fine old liberal arts college in Michigan which prides itself in never accepting any federal money or grants and does not allow its students to receive any federal money, Pell grants, GI Bill money, loans, etc. Instead, it provides liberal scholarships from funds provided by friends of the college who share the belief that the federal government has no place in controlling the private education establishment.”

Born in Providence, Joe graduated from Classical High School and Northeastern University, the latter with a degree in business administration and accounting. He worked in the bus manufacturing business in Philadelphia, as well as with the former Nicholson File Company, before beginning a 40-year tenure with Brown and Sharpe during which he worked in their finance, sales, marketing, and international relations departments. A veteran, he served in the Navy during both World War II and the Korean War.

An active community member, Joe hosted radio shows at WRIU and through In-Sight Radio, was a driver for FISH (Friends in Service to Humanity), was active in the North Kingstown Rotary Club, and served on several boards, including South County Hospital. He was the founding president of Baptist Camps of RI, president of the Baptist Home of RI, and a member of the board of the American Baptist Churches of RI.
1916 Society Members

We thank and recognize the members of our 1916 Society, individuals who have informed us of their plans to leave a legacy through a bequest or other future gift to the Foundation. Members listed as of 12/31/19. New members are in red.

Anonymous (56)

Michael & Roberta Hazen Aaronson
Noreen Ackerman
Ross and Renate Aker
William & Amabel Allen
William R. & Marlies H. Allen
Patty & Melvin Alperin
Berndt W. Anderson
Judith L. Anderson & Marcia Blair
Peri Ann Aptaker & Robert A. Lieberman
Jason E. Archambault
Stephen P. Archambault
Barbara & Doug Ashby
James & Karin Aukerman
Marilyn Baker
Michael and Wendy Baker
Gloria Barlow
Macy G. Barry
Robert L.G. & Ruth L. Batchelor
Patricia A. and John M. Biasuzzi
Susan Marsh Blackburn
Raymond & Brenda Bolster, II
David E. and Kara K. Borah
Robert E. & Ann M. Borah
Ellen Borden
Karen S. Borger
Rud and Laurie Bosman
Sandra C. Bristol-Irving
Lee and Christine Brooks
Gian Brosco
Jane Ann Brown
Jeffrey A. Brown & Barbara Horowitz Brown
James Buttrick
Steve J. Cammaus
Paul C. & Patricia B. Carlson
Richard F. Carolan
Robert J. and Mary Ann Greer Chase
Paul and Elizabeth Choquette
Howard P. and Nancy Fisher Chudacoff
The Honorable David N. Cicilline
Mary H. Clark
Mary L. Clark
Marcia Clayton & William A. Maloney
John W. and Lillian Clegg
Sidney Clifford Jr.
Joi Cohen and Andrea Toon
Richard A. and Lois H. Cole
Reverend and Mrs. Thomas Conboy, Jr.
Robert B. & Ann F. Conner
Gib and Diane Conover
Sheria Cooley, Esq. and Mark J. Fagan, MD
Timothy Corr
Michael Costello
Marianna L. Crawford
Michael & Kelly Cummings
Anthony & Christine D’Acchioli
Christine E. Dalhin
Joanne M. Daly
Peter N. and Anne Damon
Bill and Tracy Daugherty
Karen A. Dave and Garrison A. Hull
John C. Davis
Joseph and Gloria Dawson
John G. & Elizabeth A. De Primo
Andrea B. Decof
Helen Deines
Anthony & Grace Del Vecchio
Gilda L. Delmonico
Charles Denby II, M.D.
James DeRenta
David and Elaine DeSousa
Donna L. Dexter
Yanni & Dianna DiFebbo
Gianpiero & Leslie P. DiManna
Stian Dimock
Dorothy F. Donnelly, Ph.D.
David G. Doran, Jr.
Maura A. Dowling
David A. Duffy
John R. Duhamel
Neil G. Dunay and R. Darrell McIntire
Wayne K. & Bernice C. Durkee
John L. Dyer
Marilyn G. Eames
Violet and Frank Eldof
Catherine English
Linda Fain
Donald and Maia Farah
Stephen Feinstein
Steven R. Feza and Kathe A. Jaret
Sanford M. & Beverly A. Fern
Heather and Ronald Florence
Diane Fogarty
Sarah F. Fogarty
Denisa W. Forget
James A. and Beverly A. Forte
Robert and Wendy Fournier
Becky and Charlie Francis
Mary Frappier
Mr. & Mrs. Peter B. Freeman
Richard and Joanne Friday
Fredric C. Friedman, Ed.D.
Thomas E. Furey
Jane Fusco
The Schwaner family has been involved with Boys and Girls Clubs since 1956 when Walter S. Schwaner, Sr. was active in the formation of what was then the Cumberland Boys Club. He served as president of the Club in 1969 and 1970 and was, according to a 2014 article in the Valley Breeze, “instrumental” in the building of the Club’s swimming pool.

His son, Walter S. Schwaner, Jr., continued in his father’s footsteps, serving as president and trustee of the re-named Boys & Girls Club of Cumberland-Lincoln, as well as a coach in the baseball league.

Although both father and son have since died — Walter Sr. in 1969 and Walter Jr. in 2019 — the Schwaner family name will forever be associated with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northern RI (BGCNRI), which was formed in 2018 with the merger of the Boys & Girls Club of Cumberland-Lincoln and the Boys and Girls Club of Woonsocket.

The Club and Schwaner family have, since shortly after Walter Sr.’s death, awarded the Walter S. Schwaner Sr. Memorial Scholarship to members of the Club. The establishment of this endowment assures that Walter Sr.’s legacy will continue in perpetuity.

Gary Rebelo, chief executive officer of BGCNRI, explains, “The money was sitting in a bank account earning zero interest. Eventually (through the awarding of annual scholarships), it would go away. Putting the money in a fund at the Foundation will continue Walter Schwaner, Sr.’s legacy indefinitely. The Rhode Island Foundation does so much for so many, and it’s great to be part of that.”

He continues, “My goal is to reinvigorate the scholarship and to get more applicants. Every Club member who’s graduating from high school and going on to college should apply for the scholarship.”

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Northern Rhode Island “exists to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.” This scholarship fund is one of many ways the Club works to fulfill its mission.
Krista Weller Burns Scholarship Fund for the Arts

A bright light! Those are the words that Evelyn Weller says capture the essence of their daughter, Krista Weller Burns, who died in 2010 at the age of 36. “We’re honoring her request to be remembered with joy. She had a bold passion for life and believed she could help create a better world,” Evelyn explains.

Krista’s early efforts to create a better world were through politics, graduating from George Washington University with a degree in political science. At the age of 24, Krista was elected to the Exeter town council and worked on significant local and state political campaigns and initiatives.

Her career took a dramatic turn when, Evelyn explains, “She finally could no longer contain her passion to follow her artistic dreams.” Krista’s dad, Jeff, continues, “She packed her bags and moved to New York City to pursue a career in performance and screenwriting.”

Her parents share that Krista was driven to succeed in the arts and had to work full time to support her dream, despite her diagnosis of cancer. “She believed she could make an impact through her art, that she could create joy by helping and inspiring others. Krista was kind-hearted and giving,” Evelyn shares.

Following Krista’s passing, Evelyn and Jeff, along with her siblings, Scott and Amber, established the Krista Weller Burns Foundation to provide scholarships to support budding artists. Fundraising includes a garden on the family farm in Exeter where they grow and sell sunflowers. “Sunflowers are bright lights, like Krista, bold and beautiful, spreading joy and creating smiles,” Jeff reflects.

To date, Krista’s Foundation has awarded 55 scholarships to Rhode Island seniors. “We love that Krista’s dream in the arts is reflected in the dreams of other talented young people. We’re passing the torch to keep her memory and the arts alive,” Evelyn says.

“Like a sunflower, Krista’s desire to make the world a better place will live on,” Jeff concludes.

Children’s Shelter of Blackstone Valley Fund

For nearly 40 years, the Pawtucket-based Children’s Shelter of Blackstone Valley provided emergency shelter for children up to 12 years of age. “We always tried to provide a safe, homelike environment. Most of the children were victims of abuse, but some just had unlucky situations,” states Daniel Andrews, president of the Shelter’s board of directors.

He shares the story of one young girl who was placed at the eight-bed shelter. Her mother had died when the girl was five and her grandmother just two years later. With no other family, she was placed at the Shelter. “There were so many heartbreaking stories,” Daniel relates.

“We had a great staff, including clinicians and social workers. We were funded by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and the board raised money to buy extra things for the children,” Daniel says. But as DCYF moved to placing children in foster homes rather than shelters, the agency ended its contract with the Shelter in late 2017. “We’d had an unblemished record since 1979,” Daniel notes proudly.

He says the board considered donating its assets, largely from the sale of the Shelter, to local organizations with similar missions. But after hearing a Foundation staff member speak at a Pawtucket Lions Club meeting, he took the idea of partnering with the Foundation back to the Shelter’s board members.

“We agreed it sounded interesting. We embraced the idea for the money to grow and to be used for the benefit of children forever. We like that continuity and that the goals of the shelter will continue to be fulfilled. We always served the most vulnerable children,” Daniel explains.

In keeping with the Shelter’s mission, this field of interest fund will be used for the support of children under the age of thirteen.

“Of his chance encounter with the Foundation, Daniel says, “It was that exposure; it opened my eyes. The Rhode Island Foundation is a very reputable foundation, has community leaders on its board, and has great ethics. The trust we have in the Foundation made starting this fund a very easy decision for us.”
Founded in 1906, the Classical Association of New England (CANE) is the third oldest Classics organization in the country, according to Ruth Breindel, a 35-year CANE member and its current treasurer. The Association’s mission statement indicates its purpose is “to foster the study of the classical world through the association’s many activities and resources.”

Ruth explains that on a practical level, “We try to keep the teaching of Latin alive in the schools. It’s always been considered an elite language, but it’s really not. To me, the reason to take Latin is that it’s fun. You get a view into a world that no longer exists. It’s a window to the past that’s still relevant today,” states Ruth, who taught Latin and Greek at Moses Brown School for 30 years prior to her retirement in 2015.

She notes that students who take Latin earn among the highest SAT scores, while acknowledging it’s unknown whether studying the language leads to higher scores or whether students who are most apt to receive higher scores also are those most likely to study Latin.

The Association’s approximately 450 members, representing all six New England states, are active and retired college, high school, and middle school teachers, as well as graduate and undergraduate students. The Association sponsors the CANE Summer Institute which in 2020 will be held at Brown University, workshops, its annual meeting, and an annual writing contest for middle school, high school, and college students. CANE also awards scholarships both for teachers and students, provides funding for educational travel and research, and honors individuals for distinguished service to the organization and to the Classics in New England.

“We’re doing a good job at what we do, and it’s an important job. We’re trying to do more outreach,” Ruth says, citing a library program they organized and the possibility of a lecture series.

Noting she was aware of the Rhode Island Foundation through her involvement with the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association, Ruth says, “By creating an endowment fund at the Foundation, CANE members know our money will be protected and preserved.”

Now, with the establishment of the Coach PZs Scholarship Fund, they will provide assistance to EPHS graduating seniors with the costs of higher education. The Coach PZs (as their athletes know them) Scholarship will be awarded annually to students who have demonstrated excellence as student athletes.

“We want to honor students who competently balance academics, athletics, community service, and personal affairs with strong work ethic, persistence, and intellectual integrity,” Angelo explains.

A native of New Jersey, Stacie earned her bachelor’s degree in general business administration from the University of Rhode Island. A three-season varsity athlete – soccer, basketball, and track -- she coaches varsity girls’ soccer and varsity girls’ lacrosse.

A Rhode Island native, Angelo earned an undergraduate degree in business management from Providence College and master’s degrees in criminal justice from Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA, and in education from Johnson & Wales University. He teaches in EPHS’s special services department and coaches (or has coached) varsity boys’ lacrosse, varsity girls’ soccer, varsity football, freshmen boys’ basketball, and middle school boys’ basketball.

“He is loud, animated, passionate, and he goes beyond what you’re expected to do as a coach,” says his wife Stacie. Angelo returns the compliment by adding, “Stacie is the mom to many young ladies. They turn to her for life advice just as much as athletics.”

Angelo learned about the Rhode Island Foundation through his lawyer. “Before that, the thought of having a scholarship fund never occurred to me at all,” he says of what now will be a fitting tribute for two long-time East Providence educators/coaches.
“He was in practice for 40 years and took care of generations of families,” shares Bettina Crisafulli of her husband, Frederick S. Crisafulli, MD, who died in 2019 at the age of 76. She adds: “He helped thousands of Rhode Islanders and cherished every moment of it.”

Through this scholarship fund, established by his family, friends, and former patients, Dr. Crisafulli’s legacy of caring for others will continue in perpetuity. Designated for the Rhode Island College Foundation, the fund will benefit qualified RIC students studying Italian and/or those pursuing a career as a medical professional.

Born and raised in New York, Dr. Crisafulli was a graduate of NYU Medical School. As he and two colleagues completed their residencies, they decided to go into practice together. “They got out a map and picked out cities on the East coast where they thought they might like to practice,” Bettina recalls, noting they contacted physicians they knew at The Miriam Hospital and were encouraged to visit.

The young doctors were sold on Rhode Island, completed fellowships at The Miriam, and went into practice together. It was the beginning of Dr. Crisafulli’s 40-year career, from which he retired in 2013.

A clinical professor at Brown University, Dr. Crisafulli’s many professional achievements included serving as president of the medical staff at The Miriam and of Health Care Review.

“He was not only a physician, he was a healer. He had a thirst for knowledge. Italian became one of the loves of his life and he studied it for 25 years. He truly was a Renaissance man. He knew so much about everything. He had a great sense of humor, was a talented musician, and loved his family. He was the most genuine, thoughtful, interactive person you could ever meet. People would always stop by our house to ask for his advice,” Bettina says.

She concludes, “Our lifelong friend, David Hirsch (former Foundation board member and chair) told us about the Foundation. This really is the perfect thing for Fred. If this helps even one student a year, it’s a wonderful legacy.”

Frederick S. Crisafulli MD Scholarship Fund

“This really is the perfect thing for Fred. If this helps even one student a year, it's a wonderful legacy.”

—Bettina Crisafulli
Frederick S. Crisafulli MD Scholarship Fund
“I come from a family with a strong commitment to social justice, philanthropy, and community,” states Deborah DeBare. That commitment is a way of life for Deb, who has dedicated her career to social justice issues and to community service. Now, through this donor advised fund, philanthropy becomes a continuation of her life work.

Born and raised in New York City, Deb came to Rhode Island as a student at Brown University. She majored in American Civilization with a focus on women’s studies and U.S. race relations, and became involved in feminist activism. Taking a year off from her studies, she volunteered with the National Organization for Women on its work toward ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Although the effort was not successful, it was a learning experience for Deb. “I learned about the power of grassroots organizing,” she explains. She returned to Brown to complete her studies, while also volunteering at Sojourner House, which works to end domestic and sexual violence. Her work there as the office manager made her aware of where she wanted to focus her energies. “You have to be open to what your passion is and explore different things. I felt my strength was in management and policy work.”

She returned to school, earning a master’s degree in management of human services from Brandeis University. She worked as a policy specialist at the Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, as executive director of the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County, and as executive director of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the latter for 22 years. In 2018, she joined the National Network to End Domestic Violence as senior deputy director. As part of her work, Deb conducts trainings on how one’s work is part of their legacy. This fund is another element of Deb’s legacy. “This fund can continue my vision, and inspire Mariana (her daughter) and her generation to work toward equality for all people.”

John Lyman Dyer established this fund, designated for the Cranston Public Library Association, “to honor the uncle I never knew.” Of his Uncle Norman who died tragically at the age of 11, John relates, “Norman very much enjoyed sporting activities. On January 30, 1924 he left the house about 9 a.m. to go skating. He did not return that afternoon, and his parents began to worry. After speaking with some of Norman’s friends, his father contacted the police. Norman was seen up to 1 p.m. on Spectacle Pond, Cranston. He was wearing a brown cap, blue coat, black stockings, tan shoes, bluish grey striped blouse, and had skates.

“Norman made two fatal mistakes that day: skating on thin ice where there had recently been an ice cutting operation and skating alone,” John states, explaining that in that era companies cut ice from ponds and stored it in ice houses, insulated with sawdust or hay, for use during the summer months. It is believed that Norman fell into one of those holes in the ice.

John continues, “Police later found a polo (hockey) stick with initials N.D. carved on it. The stick was found on the ice at the east bank of the pond. The next day, the police dragged the pond for several hours before the body was recovered.”

Norman was survived by his parents, George and Annie, and his brothers George and Raymond, the latter being John’s father.

“This loss is felt today by me and is the reason for the Rhode Island Foundation fund in his name,” John explains. “I was thinking about what I could do for the City of Cranston (where members of the Dyer family have lived since John’s great-grandfather emigrated from England to the United States in 1871). I thought of the library because of the enjoyment I get reading nonfiction. I love to learn about what I do not yet know especially historical events and biographies. I hope Norman would have been pleased with this remembrance in his name. I do not want this young boy to be forgotten.”
Wrestling played an important role throughout Bill Fullaway’s life. “He felt wrestling kept him out of trouble when he was young. His parents were very young and divorced when he was seven; he moved around a lot and was starting to hang out with the wrong crowd. He needed structure and found it through wrestling in school,” explains Marilyn Bok, his mother-in-law.

As an adult, Bill became the wrestling coach who mentored youth and helped them stay on track for a productive life. For the four years prior to his untimely death in June of 2019 at age 55, Bill was active with Beat the Streets Providence, “a local nonprofit committed to inspiring urban youth for success in school and life through the vehicle of co-educational wrestling.”

The after-school program, Marilyn states, “was fulfilling a need for Bill to give back, as well as for the kids. He felt he could make a difference.”

A tribute to Bill on the Beat the Streets’ website reads, in part, “Bill was a long time coach of Esek Hopkins Middle School and close member of our Beat the Streets Providence family...His motto, ‘Just because you come from a difficult environment does not mean you must stay there,’ can resonate with many of us...He related to our students personally and saw a young version of himself in each one.”

Marilyn shares that Bill also was passionate about sailing and his family, which included his wife Eileen and their three daughters, Jordyn, Adeline, and Gwyneth. He regularly volunteered as a coach and team manager for many soccer and lacrosse teams in which his daughters participated.

Of this permanent endowment, designated for Beat the Streets Providence, Marilyn explains, “We wanted to do something for Bill and for his favorite charity. I started and ran a small community foundation in northern Pennsylvania, so I know the value of a fund and what it can do for an organization over the years. I like to think long term.”

Indeed, this fund will forever link Bill Fullaway’s name with the organization to which he gave so much.

Greta & Mac Esprit Fund

“We’re very concerned for people who have experienced blatant discrimination. GLBTQ people are often marginalized, ostracized, and verbally and physically attacked. We see the Rhode Island Foundation’s Equity Action as a strong entity that can fund projects to address these concerns and work to create a more inclusive environment for GLBTQ people,” state Greta Cohen and Maryanne (Mac) Cunningham to explain the fund they established to support the grantmaking of the Equity Action Fund.

Mac’s background is in student affairs, specifically staff development, as well as in counseling and finance. She has worked and taught finance and real estate courses at numerous colleges and universities, including the University of Rhode Island. Mac coached an award-winning women’s basketball team at Dickinson College and continued her coaching of the women’s team at URI. She and Greta created Esprit Enterprises, a real estate partnership, through which they have managed more than 25 low-income rental units for adults for over a quarter of a century. Mac also lectures throughout New England on personal finance, retirement planning, and identity theft, and has developed and maintains her own personal financial planning company.

Greta was a professor of sport sociology and women’s studies at the University of Rhode Island. During her 36-year tenure, she also coached the women’s fencing team and was the artistic director for the URI Dance Company. Her research, publications, and lectures throughout the U.S. earned her numerous awards and inductions into multiple halls of fame. She enjoys extensive backpacking, climbing, kayaking, Master Gardener projects, and her work as a landscape designer.

Greta and Mac volunteer for Waterfire Providence, the Jonnycake Center, the South County Balloon Festival, and the Adopt-a-Plot program in South Kingstown.

Greta learned about the Foundation as chair of the board of trustees for the Master Gardener Foundation when it established an organization endowment. In 2015, Greta and Mac established their first fund at the Foundation. The Greta & Mac Fund is donor advised. Through it, they support projects dealing with the environment, girls and women’s sports, and children with special needs. With this new fund, they explain, “We’re comfortable that the money will address the concerns we have for the GLBTQ communities.”

William “Bill” Fullaway Family Fund

Greta and Mac volunteer for Waterfire Providence, the Jonnycake Center, the South County Balloon Festival, and the Adopt-a-Plot program in South Kingstown.

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“There was no other place we wanted to go. With the Foundation, we get both credibility and enormous resources.”

— Jonathan Houston, Neil J. Houston, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund

Neil J. Houston, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund

Throughout his career, Neil J. Houston, Jr. advocated for criminal justice reform. With the establishment of this organization endowment by the Justice Assistance, his name will forever be associated with that advocacy work.

Born in Rhode Island, Neil was a 1963 graduate of LaSalle Academy and a 1967 graduate of Harvard University. A stand-out athlete at both institutions, he played two years of professional baseball with the Detroit Tigers, before returning to Boston to begin his work as a justice reformer.

At the time of his untimely death in 1987, Neil was president of two Boston-based organizations, the Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation, which funds reforms of the criminal justice system, and the Frederick E. Weber Charities Corp., a nonprofit that helps individuals in need.

“Neil was always someone who was a high achiever. He accomplished more in 15 years than what most people could accomplish in multiple lifetimes,” states Jonathan Houston, president & CEO of Justice Assistance, noting that his older brother founded the nation’s first mediation program, the first day reporting center, and the first facility to house incarcerated, pregnant inmates.

“It was my brother who felt I belonged in this field and really got me into it,” Jonathan relates. “And for Justice Assistance’s first 10 years, he was a very involved, unpaid consultant. He wrote our training program which we still follow to this day.”

Justice Assistance initiated an annual award in 1981 to honor individuals who have demonstrated dedication, service, and citizen contributions to the criminal justice profession and the public interest. In 1988, the year following Neil’s death, it was renamed the Neil J. Houston, Jr. Memorial Award.

On the occasion of Neil’s 50th Harvard class reunion, Jonathan sent a letter to his brother’s former classmates to gain support for this permanent endowment. “We were stunned by the response, and what was even better were the notes I received,” Jonathan shares.

Of the decision to establish the endowment at the Foundation, Jonathan states, “There was no other place we wanted to go. With the Foundation, we get both credibility and enormous resources.”
Inspire, encourage, teach.

“Mike was an airport rat,” Paula Keefe recalls fondly of her son whose untimely death at 35 followed a lifetime filled with a passion for flying.

As a child, Michael went with his family to North Central State Airport and T.F. Green Airport to watch planes land and take off. At 12, he told his parents he was interested in flying. “Everything Mike did, he was all in and was serious about. He had an entrepreneurial spirit and was mature beyond his years,” Paula shares.

Michael started flying at 14 and, on his sixteenth birthday, made his first solo flight. As a teenager, he was a member of the Rhode Island Civil Air Patrol, began annual attendance at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, and graduated from the National Civil Air Patrol’s Blue Beret Program.

By the time he graduated from Cumberland High School in 2002, Michael was a certified flight instructor. He continued his education at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL, graduating in three years with a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical science.

His professional career included positions in sales, flight operations, and flight instruction with Cirrus Aircraft and later with Aerista. He also was president of Kavu Enterprises, LLC, providing flight instruction and piloting services.

“He’s work afforded him the luxury of seeing a lot of this country, and he made so many good friends. Yet, it was always family first with Mike,” Paula explains, noting her adventurous son’s interests also included skiing, water sports, rock climbing, mountain biking, and cycling.

She says that her experience with the Rhode Island Foundation with her late husband’s fund led her to partner with the Foundation to continue Michael’s legacy. This fund is designated for the EAA Aviation Foundation Inc. for scholarships for student participants in aviation camp.

“One of Mike’s colleagues at Aerista had attended the aviation camp and said it changed his life. He knew after the camp that he wanted to become a pilot. We hope some of the campers who receive scholarships also will be inspired, will persevere, and will make contributions to aviation,” Paula concludes.

Dan and Beth Ann McQuade recently established a donor advised fund at the Rhode Island Foundation as they seek to become more involved in the Rhode Island community.

They raised their four daughters in the Barrington schools and now Maggie, Tricia, Grace, and Ginny are all in their twenties and college graduates. “We are incredibly blessed to have four healthy daughters, who are strong and independent,” states Beth Ann. “Yet we know there are many parents who are equally ambitious for their own children. These parents want the same things we wanted for our children and unfortunately they are facing really difficult life circumstances, she adds.

Dan was born in Brooklyn, NY. He earned his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and his MBA from Fordham University. Dan began his career with Tishman Construction Corporation where he worked his way up to chief executive. Dan has overseen the construction of many large construction projects around the world, including the rebuilding of the World Trade Center in New York.

Beth Ann was raised in Barrington. A graduate of Barrington High School, she earned a bachelor of arts degree from Providence College and a master of science from Rhode Island College. Beth Ann’s professional background is in healthcare public relations. She has worked as a consultant for healthcare facilities throughout New England and in New York. When her daughters were born she established McQuade Consulting, a public relations/marketing firm.

Dan is a member of the board of directors for both the US Green Building Council and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Beth Ann is on the board of directors of the Ronald McDonald House in New York.

Dan and Beth Ann have been married 30 years. They divide their time between New York and Rhode Island. “Yet we always consider Rhode Island to be our home,” says Dan.
Newport County Development Council Fund

As the Newport County Chamber of Commerce prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2020, its board of directors and staff are looking to the future as well as the past. “We asked ourselves, ‘What can we do to ensure we’re around for another 100 years?’ An endowment is a step in that direction. All the stars kind of aligned,” explains Erin Donovan-Boyle, executive director of the Chamber and of its 501(c)(3) arm, the Newport County Development Council (NCDC).

The alignment of stars involved securing funding to establish the organization endowment, a feat that was accomplished with proceeds of the sale of the Chamber’s former building. “We already were heavily involved with the renovation of the former Sheffield School, and it just made sense that our offices would be there,” Erin says, noting that they were the first tenant of the building on Broadway in Newport’s north end.

The renovation by NCDC, in partnership with the City of Newport and the Economic Development Foundation of Rhode Island, resulted in Innovate Newport, which is promoted as a technology incubator and co-work facility. Innovate Newport is well-aligned with NCDC’s mission to assist the Chamber “in identifying, developing, operating, funding, and supporting projects that stimulate commerce and trade in Newport County.”

Also a major project of the NCDC, Erin shares, is Connect Greater Newport, another of the Chamber’s economic development programs that is focused on the growth of existing Newport businesses and in attracting new business to the area.

“Memorials that have been established have been wonderful support for the Nursing Foundation. We have a long history of people providing support,” explains Mary Louise Palm, the Nursing Foundation’s treasurer.

“The endowment will support our efforts to increase community and economic development for the greater Newport region which includes the nine communities of Newport County and Bristol County. And it just made sense for us to partner with the Rhode Island Foundation. Our missions are so aligned, and working with another nonprofit makes sense to us,” Erin explains.

As they look to the future, Erin says of the endowment, “It’s an absolute needed asset for the community. It will enable the Chamber to have a reliable source of funding for valuable programming, impacting members and the community in perpetuity.”

Parkhurst Fund

Gertrude H. Parkhurst dedicated her life to nursing, serving for more than 10 years in the United States Army Nurse Corps during the Korean War, at an Army hospital in Germany, and at hospitals around the United States, including in Rhode Island at The Miriam Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital, the latter from which she retired.

Her commitment to the nursing profession did not end with her retirement. Gertrude, who died in February of 2019 at age 93, left a bequest to the Nursing Foundation of Rhode Island. The Nursing Foundation, which “promotes nursing in charitable, educational, and scientific ways,” used the funds to establish this permanent endowment in Gertrude’s name.

In a letter advising the Nursing Foundation of the bequest, Gertrude’s family (her sister, Jane Richards, and her nieces and nephews) wrote, “Trudy was a hard-working and well-educated woman. She devoted her career to caring for others as a nurse and nursing administrator... She generously supported medical research and issues to make the world of health care a better place.”

Jeanne Sherman, vice president of the Nursing Foundation, recalls, “Gertrude was a very quiet person, but she and Doris Berry (whom she served with at The Miriam Hospital) were troopers in promoting nursing and nursing education.”

Jeanne Sherman, vice president of the Nursing Foundation, recalls, “Gertrude was a very quiet person, but she and Doris Berry (whom she served with at The Miriam Hospital) were troopers in promoting nursing and nursing education.”

Born in Portsmouth, NH, Gertrude was a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Yale University School of Nursing, and Boston University School of Nursing, the latter where she earned a master’s degree in nursing administration.

“Memorials that have been established have been wonderful support for the Nursing Foundation. We have a long history of people providing support,” explains Mary Louise Palm, the Nursing Foundation’s treasurer.

Of their decision to establish the fund at the Rhode Island Foundation, Trudy Mulvey, immediate past president, states, “We felt because you have helped us so much (through administration of the Myriam Stettler, RN Nursing Scholarship Fund which also is designated for the Nursing Foundation) that any more money we might get, we’d give to the Foundation. We’re nursing experts, not financial experts. We want to reap the returns the Foundation is able to obtain.”
Rita A. Pratt devoted her life to the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual development of young people,” shares Donna D’Aloia, the fund’s creator. As the director of pastoral services for 35 years at St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket, “she created a positive and welcoming environment that invited students to face their personal challenges by understanding and developing a clear understanding of their values.”

“She was an educator who led by example,” Donna explains, adding, “Keenly aware that anyone who had direct contact with students was indeed an educator, leader, and mentor for our future generations, she knew too well that constantly giving of oneself without continued growth and development could lead to the crisis we see today.”

The Rita A. Pratt Memorial Fund honors Rita’s memory, and the plans for its granting include organizations and programs that will support personal and professional development of educators.

Nestled on Providence’s historic College Hill and overlooking the First Baptist Church in Providence is the Providence Art Club. The green door of the Club House – one of four buildings that also house studios and galleries – provides a welcoming entry for members and non-members alike. “When you enter through the green door, you feel such calm and warmth. Artists and patrons alike feel at home here,” states Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Club president.

“Our galleries are open to the public, and there’s always someone here who will give you a tour,” continues Dan Mechnig, former Club president.

Founded in 1880 to exist “for art culture,” the Providence Art Club is the oldest art club in the country founded by men and women, with six of the 16 founding members being women, according to Gail Ginnetty, chair of the Club’s development committee.

Now boasting more than 600 members, about half of whom are artists and half patrons, the Club offers a variety of classes and social activities, including dinners and lectures, to its members. “The majority of classes are painting; however, also offered are art history, photography, printmaking, and more. Classes are taught by Club artist members and artists from across the country,” Nancy shares.

She continues, “We also provide community outreach. More than 60 people attended a recent breakfast and tour of the Club. People were amazed. They live right around the corner, but just then learned that this historic gem has so much to offer culturally.”

The Club is celebrating its 140th anniversary this year with many events open to the public. “We want the community to know more about us,” Nancy explains, noting that planned exhibitions, receptions, and a series of family activities focus on the theme, “Art, Education, and Learning.”

Of this endowment, she says, “With everything the Art Club currently is doing, it’s just time. The Foundation is a well-respected, recognized institution that will help assure the Club’s perpetuity.”

Dan notes, “You have people with the expertise to handle the endowment. There’s a real comfort level with the membership of our partnering with the Foundation.”
Providence Lions Club members proudly state that they have been "serving the community of Providence since 1961." One of their longtime acts of service has been the awarding of an annual scholarship to a graduating Providence high school senior. Of the scholarship’s origin, Luis DelRío, a Club member, states, "Members just thought it was a good thing to do, and in keeping with what Lionism is all about".

In 2019, members thought it a good idea to transfer their funds from a low interest bearing account to the Rhode Island Foundation. Luis notes he, along with fellow Lion Michael Reyes, became familiar with the Foundation as members of the advisory committee for the Sergeant Cornel Young Jr. Scholarship Fund. He explains, “Members said, ‘Why not explore if the Rhode Island Foundation will administer the funds? The Foundation is doing good work with the Cornel Young Fund. Perhaps they can help us, too.’”

Earle Scharff, Club president, continues, “We want to honor the scholarship winners, and we want this scholarship to continue in perpetuity. We thought this (establishing the Fund at the Foundation) was a good way to do it.”

The Providence Lions Club is one of 47,000 Clubs worldwide; one of 32 in Rhode Island. All are “on a mission to serve.”

“Services for the blind and visually-impaired are our number one charity, but Lions has taken on many causes. The latest is diabetes,” Luis says, with Earle adding, “We help with the environment. We help with hunger, including delivering food baskets at Thanksgiving. We’ve given major support to the Ronald McDonald House. Our motto is ‘Where there’s a need, there’s a Lion’.”

The need for scholarship assistance for Providence students to attend higher education is something the Providence Lions Club has helped to fulfill for almost 30 years. With this Fund, designated for the Providence School Department, they will continue to support graduating seniors “who have displayed outstanding achievement in academics, extracurricular/employment activities, and community service.”

“We have a lot of fun, and we like to think we make a difference,” Luis says. Scholarships from the Fund should indeed make a difference to its student recipients and their families.

“We want this scholarship to continue in perpetuity. We thought this (establishing the Fund at the Foundation) was a good way to do it.”

—Earle Scharff, Providence Lions Scholarship Fund
We’re Rhode Islanders. This will always be our home, and if there’s something we can do to help people have a better life, we want to do it,” says Donna Ross of her and her husband Mark’s decision to establish an endowment at the Foundation.

“I’ve read very good things about the Foundation and the funds it has dispensed to worthy nonprofits through the years,” Mark continues.

The Ross name is well-known in Rhode Island — and beyond — as the first half of Rhode Island-based Ross-Simons. The company was founded in 1952 by Mark’s father, Sidney Ross, and Phil Simons. From one jewelry store on Westminster Street in Providence, the company has grown to include not only brick and mortar stores, but also robust catalog and online sales.

Mark is a graduate of Cranston High School East (CHSE), the University of Rhode Island (URI), and the University of Michigan, the latter where he earned an MBA. He worked for one year for Proctor & Gamble before joining the family business in 1967. He also served six years with the Rhode Island Air National Guard following his return to Rhode Island.

Ross-Simons isn’t just where Mark built a 35-year career; it’s also where he met his future wife. A graduate of Cranston High School West and what today is the Community College of Rhode Island, Donna earned a degree in social work at Florida International University. After returning to Rhode Island and while looking for a position in her field, Donna began working at Ross-Simons.

The couple later married and had two sons, Jared and Seth. The Ross’ are active in the community, especially with organizations for which Mark serves or has served on the board, including St. Andrew’s School, URI Hillel, Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. The couple also established scholarships at both CHSE and URI.

“We just feel that giving back is what we’re supposed to do. It’s the way we were raised,” Mark concludes.

Alan R. Rote, MD Fund

Alan Rote, MD, had a 40-year career as a urologist. Now retired, he has created a living legacy for helping people in need and preserving birds and our environment.

Raised in Boston and Brockton, Alan graduated from Harvard College and SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. His surgery and urology residency was completed at Boston City Hospital and Lahey Clinic. He also completed two years of service with the U.S. Navy.

After 12 years in a solo urology practice in Brattleboro VT, where his two children were raised, Alan came to Rhode Island in 1990 to join Rhode Island Group Health Association, which evolved into Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. “Practicing in the HMO environment was a very effective way to deliver quality and economical care to my patients,” Alan shares. He completed his urology career in 2016 after 12 years with Lahey Clinic.

He explains that the Alan R. Rote, MD Fund was created to “help combat the tragedy of hungry, homeless, and under-educated people in a country as rich as ours. The Rhode Island Community Food Bank and the United Way of Rhode Island are doing wonderful work to help remedy these problems.” Alan’s interests in birding, bird photography, and the environment led him to select the Audubon Society of Rhode Island for its mission “...to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitat through conservation, education and advocacy for the benefit of people and all living things.”
This organization endowment, established by the International Organization Development Association (IODA), honors the late Saul A. Silverman, a marriage and family therapist for more than 40 years.

A native of Haverhill, MA, Saul earned a degree from Harvard Law School and practiced law for several years before pursuing a keen interest in counseling and change. He earned a doctorate in marriage and family studies at Florida State University following his attendance at the first T-Group. He then developed a group practice, Silverman & Associates Inc., which initially was in Massachusetts, then expanded to include offices in New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Saul also developed a special model for Family Life Education at the University of Rhode Island’s Cooperative Extension Program.

“Dad was very active in Rhode island, both working directly with clients and in training therapists and change agents in the state,” explains one of his sons, Marc, a member and former president of IODA. He shares that his father developed several “universal principles for change agents” including his overall summation which was to: “Enhance my dignity and yours through rational process and dialogue.”

Marc explains, “My Dad followed his passion to become a healer and change agent. He was an avid believer that change started with one’s self and that there was nothing as helpful as good feedback.”

Saul served as an informal advisor to IODA, a professional organization of organization development (OD) practitioners and students.

Michelle de Bruyn, IODA president and an Endowment Committee member from South Africa, notes that the organization includes members from more than 50 countries and “is somewhere we all connect, exchange ideas, and learn from each other.”

Of this endowment, Michelle relates, “We want to recognize people who are working in the field of OD, who are developing new theories and innovative tools that create change and have a meaningful impact on conflict resolution.”

Marc shares, “The Foundation is a perfect home for our endowment. It unites a recognition of Saul’s innovative work in Rhode Island with the Rhode Island Foundation’s clear success in handling endowments and improving community.”

Winston Churchill once said, ‘We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.’ That quote stuck with me and I believe it’s true,” Arthur Solomon says of his motivation to give back to the community.

Born and raised in New Haven, CT, Art first came to Providence as a student at Brown University. His studies later took him to Trinity College and finally Harvard University, the latter where he earned a Ph.D. in economics.

Among his career highlights, Art was a tenured professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and held executive positions with the Berkshire Group, Fannie Mae, Drexel Burnham Lambert, and Lazard Freres before co-founding the DSF Group, a real estate development and investment firm with offices in Boston and Washington, DC, in 2000.

He moved back to Providence in 2005. “Coming back to Rhode Island, I saw what an incredible job Rhode Island Foundation does for the state. I’m very impressed with the Foundation’s overall strategy and support of economic development, education, and health care.”

Now a member of the Foundation’s impact investment committee, he continues, “I see firsthand the dedication, intelligence, and commitment of the staff.”

Art is active with Trinity Rep, where he currently is vice-chair of the board of trustees, and with the Lifelong Learning Institute at Florida Atlantic University, where he is vice president of the advisory board. He and his wife, Sally Lapides, are avid supporters of numerous Rhode Island nonprofit organizations.

Among his passions is baseball. He currently owns the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, and his three adult children own the Hartford Yard Goats. Of the Double-A teams, he explains, “It’s affordable family entertainment, and it’s fun.” It also provides another way for Art to give back to the community; the Fisher Cats Foundation (of which Art is chairman of the board) supports hundreds of nonprofits, with a focus on the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock and annually provides a dozen college scholarships.

This newly-established Solomon Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation will allow Art to continue his long-standing belief in “making a life by what he gives.”
They deliver meals to seniors, assist with trail maintenance, mentor students, and serve as docents. These are just a few of the activities performed by some 600 volunteers with Southern Rhode Island Volunteers (SRIV).

Founded in 1980 as Seniors Helping Others, SRIV now serves the southern third of Rhode Island in its mission “to enhance lives by inspiring, creating, and supporting a lifelong culture of service through our volunteer members and affiliates across Southern Rhode Island.”

Deb Tanner, SRIV’s executive director, explains, “We are about volunteerism for all ages. Volunteers can make a difference in someone’s life. We help people who are in some way challenged and somehow, some way try to make their lives better.”

Through its independent aging services program, volunteers help seniors to age well and as independently as possible for as long as possible. “Access is the most critical issue facing seniors in southern Rhode Island,” Deb states, adding “We provide transportation to places that provide basic health needs like doctor’s offices and food pantries.”

SRIV welcomes volunteers of any age, from children to seniors, and places them according to personal interests with any of its 55 nonprofit community partners. It also manages the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Washington County and operates a disaster preparedness program.

“Helping one individual has far-reaching effects for an entire community. When SRIV responds to an individual’s need, the entire community benefits,” Deb shares.

SRIV volunteers provide more than 80,000 service hours annually, including at the organization’s Charlestown office. Its entire paid staff consists of one full-time and two part-time employees.

The organization received the funds to establish this endowment from an anonymous Washington County entity. “It (the gift) gave us money to place with the Rhode Island Foundation, to start a rainy day fund, and to pay our bills,” Deb says.

Partnering with the Foundation, she says, “was a no-brainer. We wanted the stability, support, and investment know-how of the Foundation. We’ve participated in trainings there and have a connection to the Foundation. Its reputation is priceless. Why wouldn’t we go with the best?”

Wakefield Rotary Charitable Foundation Fund

In fulfilling its mission of providing service to others, the Wakefield Rotary Charitable Foundation (WRCF) assists the Wakefield Rotary Club in its support of both local and international causes that range from food banks to scholarships and from resources for the socio-economically disadvantaged to the eradication of polio around the world.

“Our Wakefield Rotary Club has been a major contributor to a lot of South County organizations, and there are many local nonprofit entities that we’ve been supporting for a number of years,” states Chris vanHemelrijck, chair of WRCF’s trustees.

The 45-member Club, founded in 1957 as part of the now more than one million-member Rotary International, includes career professionals, business owners, and community leaders. Each supports the Rotary tagline “Service Above Self” and its role as a charitable and service organization.

Club members raise funds largely through special events including the annual Narragansett Art Festival, which the Club has sponsored since 1982. With the cancellation of the annual South County Balloon Festival, Chris shares they have “a couple new projects in the planning stage.”

Since establishing the Wakefield Rotary Charitable Foundation in 1997, the Club has supported the Rotary International Foundation and its worldwide humanitarian work through the charitable foundation. With this new organization endowment at the Rhode Island Foundation, the Club hopes to increase its charitable contributions in South Kingstown and Narragansett, while continuing to support the Rotary International Foundation.

“We are growing our funds at this point,” Chris explains, noting that the Club’s local contributions provide scholarships to students and enhance services provided by area nonprofits including Easter Seals, Habitat for Humanity, the Domestic Violence Resource Center, and the Jonnycake Center.

Of their decision to establish this endowment at the Rhode Island Foundation, Lorraine Horton, former trustees’ chair, explains, “We were impressed with the history and track record of the Rhode Island Foundation. We believe in the mission and that putting our money with the Rhode Island Foundation will make it go a little further, making the community a better place. The hope is to grow the fund and thereby further support the Club in its charitable giving.”
Our volunteer board of directors is responsible for overseeing the Foundation’s mission and strategic direction, safeguarding our financial health and sustainability, and setting organizational policies. Directors are chosen for their community leadership and knowledge.
The following is a list of the component funds of the Rhode Island Foundation. To learn about creating your own charitable fund, contact the development department at (401) 274-4564.
Anthony and Attila E. Caran Fund (2007)
Donald and Suzanne Carcieri Fund (1998)
Patricia B. and Paul C. Carlson Fund (1994)
Carpenter Fund (1927)
Ginger, Sheila and Susie Carr Fund (2013)
Richard N. Carr Memorial Scholarship Fund (1996)
Virginia Carson Memorial Scholarship (2009)
Marion M. Carstens Fund in Memory of Janice E. Mutty (2002)
Carter Fund (2011)
Carter Fellowship for Entrepreneurial Innovation (2011)
Carter Spark Grants Fund (2013)
Carter Roger Williams Initiative Fund (2015)
Carter Roger Williams Scholarship Fund (2017)
John Carter III Fund (2017)
Florence P. Case Fund (1967)
Cataract Fire Company #2 Scholarship Fund (1974)
Samuel M. Cate Fund (2001)
Allison N. Cathro Fund (1997)
CCRI Foundation Fund (2018)
City of Central Falls Fund (2013)
Elizabeth Z. Chace Fund (2016)
Margaret Chace Scholarship Fund (1999)
Charles V. Chapin Fellowship Fund (1968)
Roger B. Chapman Scholarship Fund (2007)
Holly Charette Scholarship Fund (2007)
Anne Elizabeth Chase Fund (1976)
Lillian Chason Memorial Fund (2010)
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Chazan Fund for the Wheeler School (1978)
Chemical Company Fund (2012)
Cherry Family Fund (2018)
Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry Fund (2013)
Samuel J. and Esther Chester Arts Fund (2013)
Children's Friend Fund (2014)
Children's Shelter of Blackstone Valley Fund (2019)
Choquette Family Fund (1995)
Carl W. Christiansen Scholarship Fund (1974)
Howard P. Chadadoc and Nancy Fisher Chadadoc Fund (2017)
Church House Fund (1958)
Moffie G. and Catherine F. Carroll Memorial Scholarship Fund (2005)
Antonio Cirino Memorial Fund (1987)
Civic Leadership Fund (2011)
Harriet A. F. Clifton Fund (1990)
Samuel J. and Esther Chester Arts Fund (2013)
Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry Fund (2013)
John & Lillian Clegg Charitable Fund (2017)
Clean Competition Fund (2011)
John & Lillian Clegg Charitable Fund (2017)
Edward F. Clement Memorial Fund (1999)
Clover Fund (2012)
Daniel Brian Cohen Scholarship Fund (2007)
Cohen-Toon Fund (2012)
College Crusade of Rhode Island Supported by: College Crusade Believe Fund (2014) and College Crusade Legacy Fund (2014)
Arnold B. and Madelyn Collins Fund (2000)
Charles A. Collins Fund (1991)
Nina H. Congdon Fund (1976)
Congdon Fund for the Benefit of Grace Church in Providence (2003)
Conley Family Charitable Fund (2015)
Conrad-Nestor-Walsh Scholarship Fund (2008)
Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Endowment (2007)
Constant Memorial Fund (1999)
Classical Enrichment Fund (2019)
Classical High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund (1991)
Clean Competition Fund (2011)
John & Lillian Clegg Charitable Fund (2017)
Edward F. Clement Memorial Fund (1999)
Clover Fund (2012)
Daniel Brian Cohen Scholarship Fund (2007)
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Congdon Fund for the Benefit of Grace Church in Providence (2003)
Conley Family Charitable Fund (2015)
Conrad-Nestor-Walsh Scholarship Fund (2008)
Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Endowment (2007)
Constant Memorial Fund (1999)
Michael E. and Lida M. Contillo Scholarship Fund (2018)
Charles Nourse Cook and Mary C. Cook Fund (1938)
Christiane Corbat Art and Healing Fund (2006)
John & Lori Anne Corkishley Fund (1996)
John & Lori Anne Corkishley Memorial Garden Fund (2005)
Corliss Fund (1991)
Corning Glass Works Scholarship Fund (1974)
Camillo & Luigia Costello Family Scholarship Fund (2016)
Michael & Anita Costello Scholarship Fund (2016)
Leroy P. Cox Trust (1992)
Cox Charities Northeast Fund (2009)
Horace and Reverend E. Naoms Craig Scholarship Fund (2000)
Mary Lou Cranford Fund (2006)
Cranston Historical Society Endowment Fund (2013)
Frederick S. Crisanufil MD Scholarship Fund (2019)
Crossroads Rhode Island Supported by: Howard G. Sutton Endowment for Crossroads Rhode Island (2011) and Anne Nolan Endowment for Crossroads Rhode Island (2015)
Mary C. Crowell Fund (1976)
James P. Crowley, Sr. Football Scholarship Fund (2013)
John Michael Crowley Memorial Scholarship Fund (2012)
Paul Cuffee School Supported by: Paul Cuffee School/Rosalind C. Wiggins Fund (2008) and David Burnham Maritime Fund for Paul Cuffee School (2014)
Helena Cullen and Anita Cinq-Mars Fund (2006)
Cumberland Land Trust Greenways Endowment Fund (2008)
Cumberland Public Library Supported by: Alice Coddington Endowment Fund for Cumberland Public Library (2011); Cumberland Greene Endowment Fund for Cumberland Public Library (2011) and Cumberland Library Endowment Fund (2013)
Lillian Cumming Streetscape Fund (1988)
Marquise d'Andigne Fund (1932)
Sister Angela Daniels & Reverend Daniel Trainer Fund for the Geoscia Center (2014)
Viola M. Dacolli Fund (2010)
Daugherty Family Fund (2019)
William N. and Dorothy Q. Davis Fund (2003)
Walter L. and Edna N. Davol Fund (1993)
DeAngelis Family Fund (1978)
DeBare Family Fund (2019)
James Philip Derek Fund (1987)
Margaret Derek Fund (1987)
Allene deKetelee Fund (1953)
Delmonico Family Fund (2011)
Julius and Lena DePapa Memorial Fund (2014)
Delta Dental of Rhode Island Fund (2005)
Beatrice S. Demers Fund (2007)
Laurence DeMortino Fund (2019)
Frieda Dengal Fund (2013)
Giovanni deNicola & Dora DeAmicis Memorial Fund (2003)
DeNure Scholarship Fund (1993)
Thomas DePetrisillo and Carol Keefe Fund (2013)
DeRibbanan Fund (1989)
Clementina DeRocco Memorial Fund (1985)
David and Elaine DeSousa Family Fund (2006)
Developmentally Disabled and Retarded Special Needs Fund in Memory of Louise A. Schuster (1991)
Claudia and Mary Howe DeWolf Fund (1991)
Oliver B. DeWolf Fund in Memory of Paul Churchill DeWolf (1990)
Jeremiah Deuter Family Fund (1998)
Dibblie Memorial Fund (1990)
Dr. Bruno DeClemente Scholarship Fund (2001)
Dimock Fund (2013)
Gabrielle Denaumore Heart & Hope Fund (2017)
Gabrielle Denaumore Fund in Support of the Pediatric Heart Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital (2017)
Directors' Fund (2000)
Iona Dobbin's Art Fund (2000)
Iona Blake Dobbin's Scholarship Fund for the Visual Arts (2013)
Edgar M. Dockerty Memorial Fund (2001)
Charles Donaldson Scholarship Fund (2014)
Sylvia G. Donnelly Fund (1988)
Harry L. Doran SPICA Endowment Fund (2019)
Constance Dorcas Place Partners for Learning Fund (1999)
Dorcus International Institute of Rhode Island Fund (2015)
Kenneth J. and Hannah E. Dorney Fund (2016)
Elizabeth M. Droppala Memorial Scholarship Fund (2002)
Frosty Drew Nature Center Fund (1985)
Gregory Dubis Memorial Scholarship Fund (2008)
Sheila A. Duffy Fund (1997)
Edward Leon Duhamel Scholarship Fund (1991)
John Richard Duhamel Fund for Animals (2017)
Charles and Nancy Dunn Family Fund (2011)
Dutch Island Lighthouse Endowment Fund (2011)
Norman S. Dyer Memorial Fund (2019)
East Bay Food Pantry & Thrift Shop Endowment Fund (2018)
East Side Branch YMCA Fund (2018)
Grace M. Eastwood Fund for North Kingstown Free Library (2007)
J.D. Edsal Scholarship Fund (1981)
Michael G. Ehlerich, M.D. Fund for Orthopedic Research (2018)
Nancy Hand Ehlerich Fund for the Arts (2015)
Priscilla B. & Henry P. Elderidge Fund (1990)
Priscilla Bateson Elderidge '40 - Middlebury College Fund (1997)
Elmwood Church-Congregational Christian Fund (1955)
Emmanuel Church Supported by: Rosam Fund for Emmanuel Church (2013) and Brown Fund for Emmanuel Church (2013)
Emblazon Charitable Fund (2012)
English-Speaking Union Boston Branch Educational Endowment (2007)
ETCO, Inc. Fund (1988)
Evangelista Family Fund (2008)
Le Foyer Endowment Fund (2015)
Charles P. Lee Memorial Fund (2012)
Barbara M. Leonard Fund (1986)
Dominick J. Lepore Memorial Fund (2009)
Irving M. and Pauline L. Leven Fund (2001)
Essence and Harold Levine Family Memorial Donor Advised Fund (2018)
Essence and Harold Levine Family Memorial Unrestricted Fund (2018)
David R. Levesque Fund (2017)
Irving H. Levin Fund (2007)
Frederick N. and Carol J. Levering Fund (2003)
Dai Levinson HI Fund (2014)
Sarah and Harold Libby Scholarship Fund of the Chopin Club (2011)
Mario M. Libutti Memorial Fund (2008)
LIFEcycle Endowment Fund (2012)
Alice Gertrude Lotthrop Lincoln Fund (1959)
Marjorie H. and Clinton J. Lind Memorial Fund (2001)
Linden Place Endowment Fund (2003)
Frederick Lipsett Memorial Fund (2006)
Frederick Lipsett Endowment for the Woonasquatucket River Watershed (2005)
Lippitt Hill Tutorial Founders Fund (1988)
Lucy Lipsett Fund (1961)
Mary Ann Lipsett Memorial Fund (2007)
Lewis P. and Edna D. Lipsett Fund (2013)
Arthur H. and Martha B. Lisle Fund (1968)
Little Compton Playground Fund (1988)
Little Compton United Congregational Church Fund (1981)
Little Compton United Congregational Church Fund (2007)
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Stanley & Martha Livingston Fund (1997)
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Mary K. and Norman A. MacColl Fund (1967)
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Gloria McDonald Fund for St. Mary's Church (2003)
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Nassau Memorial Fund (2019)


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TGHS ‘82 Renee Tetreault Newell ’91 Scholarship Fund (2001)


Frederick J. & Ruth P. Newman Fund (2005)


Newport County Development Council Fund (2019)

Newport County Fund (2002)

Supported by: Anne and Peter Damon Fund for Newport County (2005), John and Holly Collins Fund for Newport County (2008), Ellen S. Murphy Memorial Fund (2008), NSG Education Fund in Memory of Ellen S. Murphy (2008), and Dominick J. Lepore Memorial Fund (2009)


Newport Restaurant Group Fund (1983)

Albert E. and Florence W. Newton Fund (1973)

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Irene Nicholas Fund (2007)

William Nicholas Scholarship Fund (1999)

Emily Nicholson Fund (1997)

Emily Nicholson Designated Fund (2014)

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Christine A. Nowak Fund for the Blackstone Valley Historical Society (2012)
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Helen Walker Raleigh Youth Fund (2006)
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Ragoni Funds
Includes: Eleuterio, Anna, and Mary Ragoni Memorial Fund (2009); Ralph and Letty Ragoni Fund (2010); Frank J. Ragoni Memorial Fund (2011); Ralph and Letty Ragoni Fund for Meals on Wheels-RI (2015); Frank A. Spino Memorial Fund (2016); Letty A. Spino) Ragoni Memorial Fund (2017); Ralph and Letty Ragoni Charitable Fund (2017); Ralph and Letty Ragoni Tribute Fund (2017), and Ralph and Letty Ragoni Legacy Fund (2018)
Raven Fund (1999)
RIW Group, Inc. Minority Scholarship Fund for Communications (2000)
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John H. Reardon, Jr. Fund (2012)
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Lindsay T. Reed Fund for the East Side/Mt. Hope YMCA (2009)
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Rhode Island Advertising Club Fund (1979)
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Rhode Island Charitiess Trust (1991)
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Alice Williams Roe-Grenier Fund (2015)
Roger Williams Baptist Church Endowment Fund (2012)
Roger Williams Chair in Thomistic Philosophy Fund (1988)
Roger Williams Park Fund (2015)
Roger Williams Park Zoo Endowment Fund (1986)
Friends of Rogers Free Library Endowment Fund (2009)
Friends of Rogers Free Library Children's Endowment Fund (1987)
Rogers High School Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund (2011)
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Aaron Roitman Fund for Chamber Music (1982)
Rookos Family Fund (2015)
Herman H. Rose Civic, Cultural and Media Access Fund (1986)
Rosenberg and Koborn Fund (2001)
Ross Family Fund (2019)
Alain R. Rote, MD Fund (2019)
Ruggiero/Reinhardt Family Fund (2009)
South County Museum Fund (1996) and South County Museum Rhode Island Red Endowment Fund (2004)
South Kingstown Education Foundation Fund (2003)

Southern Rhode Island Volunteers Fund (2019)
• Southside Charter School Fund (2016)
• Soutter Family Fund (2013)

Virginia and Thomas Soutter Fund for Dorcas Place (2010)
Spartina Fund (2007)

Mary C. Speare Charitable Fund (2017)
James L. Spears Charitable Fund (2005)
St. Martin’s Church Endowed Pledges Fund (2015)
Madeline Standish Fund (2010)
Staples Family Fund (1986)
Dennis E. Stark and Robert F. Amarantez Fund (2000)
Starbucks & Shepley Charitable Fund (2010)
Station Nightfitch Fire Children’s Scholarship Fund (2004)

Henry A. Stearns Fund (1977)
Cameron Duke Stebbins Memorial Fund (2001)
Shirley Steere, Battey-Campbell Memorial, and Book Endowment Fund (2013)
Steinberg-Shao Family Fund (2008)

Doris Stephens Marposa Fund (2014)
Myriam Stettler, RN Nursing Scholarship Fund (2018)
Ronald G. Stevens and Patricia E. Moore Fund (2013)
Frank M. Stewart Fund (2012)
Frank M. Stewart Fund (2012)
Bruce and Marjorie Sundin Scholarship Fund (1990)
Kim and Howard Sutton Fund (2015)

Helen E. Swanson Fund (2003)
Jeffrey L. Swanson Memorial Scholarship (2016)
Miss Swinburne Fund (2002)
Anne and Michael Szostak Fund (2009)
Richard W. Szumita Memorial Scholarship Fund (2001)
Hope and Roland Talbot Fund (1979)

Tamburro Family Charitable Fund (2015)
David D. Tarapalo Scholarship Fund (2006)

C. George Taylor Fund (1999)
Taylor Strong Charitable Fund (2017)

Arthur L. Teal, Sr. Scholarship Fund (2018)


Ted Fund (2013)

Rupert C. Thompson Fund (1987)(2)

Hope L. Thornton Fund (2001)
Thorp Family Scholarship Fund (2006)
Tides Family Services Endowment Fund (2017)
James E. Tierman Memorial Fund (2005)
Albert Harris Tillinghast Fund (1949)

Tiverton Land Trust Fund (2000)
Tiverton Library Endowment Fund (2017)

Clinton and Mary Tompkinson Memorial Fund (2010)
Peter and Sunny Toulmin Fund (1986)
Lilly C. Tow Fund (2015)
Geraldine Tower Education Fund (2002)
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Christopher Townsend-Child and Family Services of Newport County Fund (2007)
Christopher Townsend-Newport Public Library Fund (2007)
Agnes Meade Tramonti Memorial Scholarship Fund (1998)


Raymond H. Trott Scholarship Fund (1980)
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Constance Kane Tucker Fund (2015)


UBS Rhode Island Fund (2004)

Universal Homes, Inc. Fund (1978)


Van Houten and Margaret Lippatt Van Houten Fund (1991)

Louis J. Van Orden Fund (1990)
Margaret Hanley Van Orden Fund (2007)
Margaret Hanley Van Orden Scholarship Fund (2007)

Dr. Stanley Van Wagner Memorial Scholarship Fund (1987)
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Dominique Velociter Founder’s Endowment Fund (2014)

Venua Fund (1988)

Veterans Memorial Auditorium Endowment Fund (2014)
William A. Viall Fund (1939)

Scott F. Viera Scholarship Fund (2017)

Vinny Animal Welfare Fund (2009)
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<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Alice Viola Fund</td>
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<td>Frederick &amp; Rosamond von Steinwehr Fund</td>
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<td>and Janice Pierce Drifano Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy Davis Zimmering and the Zimmering Family Memorial Fund</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coleman B. Zimmerman Memorial Fund</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zitella Gallo Fund</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly and John Zwetchkenbaum Family Fund</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supporting Organizations**

Subsidiary public charities benefitting from the Foundation's community knowledge and professional investment and philanthropic services.

- Dowcity Partnership, Inc. (2000)
- Haffenreffer Family Fund (1987)
- Jewish Federation Foundation (2018)
- June Rockwell Levy Foundation (2011)
- Rhode Island Charities Trust (1991)
To better our communities and our state requires more than good intentions. It requires good vision, strategy, and discipline. The Foundation deploys prudent, long-term financial strategies to have the most impact today while preserving and growing our endowment for the future.

**Investments**

The Foundation’s investments are managed by a committee of directors and community members with expertise in the field, along with the support of an investment consultant and the Foundation’s chief financial officer. The investment committee establishes the investment policy, selects investment managers, and monitors performance. For long-term growth and to help minimize volatility, the funds are broadly diversified across asset classes, investment styles, and economies.

For long-term growth and to help minimize volatility, the funds are broadly diversified across asset classes, investment styles, and economies. Our scale allows us access to some of the top-performing investment managers in the country, and we set high performance standards for those managers. Our long-term endowment returns consistently rank us in the top quartile compared to our community foundation peers.

**Investment performance net of fees:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of 12/31/19

**Spending Policy**

Our spending policy ensures that our endowment continues to grow even as we continue to meet the needs of the day for the people of Rhode Island. The spending policy of 5.5% and 5.75% (including our support fee) calculated over a sixteen-quarter trailing average, allows us to provide a predictable stream of grants to organizations that serve our community, while maintaining a prudent rate of endowment growth. The spending policy is reviewed annually by the Foundation’s board of directors.

**Financial Statements**

A summary of the financial statements is shown on the following page. The financial information contained in this report is unaudited and summarized. Audited financial statements, once issued, are available on our website at www.rifoundation.org.