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Dear Friends,

As you read this letter I will be closing out my time as President and CEO of Rhode Island Foundation. It has been the honor of my professional life to have served in this position, and I am deeply grateful to each of you for your partnership and commitment to our shared mission.

As I reflect on the last 15 years spent at the Foundation, I can honestly say that each year has been better than the last. I am humbled by the work we’ve done together—through the support of generous donors, dedicated Foundation team members, our boots-on-the-ground community partners, and state leaders we have truly focused on meeting the needs of all Rhode Islanders.

When I took the helm at the Foundation in 2008 our nation was in the midst of an economic crisis, but thanks to the strength of our endowment, and your collective support, we were able to get right to work. Since that time we’ve raised nearly $700 million in funds, and have grown the Foundation’s assets by three and a half times—to $1.3 billion. We’ve also made grant awards totaling approximately $800 million over the last 15 years. And, we’ve raised the profile of the Foundation—cementing its position as the state’s largest funder of nonprofit organizations and as a critical civic leader.

The Annual Report that you are about to read recaps the year that was 2022. During the final full year of my tenure as President and CEO our team stepped up in truly remarkable ways—pulling together to emerge from a global pandemic, raising more than $75 million, and making $84 million in grants to approximately 2,400 nonprofit organizations. We remain ranked among the nation’s 20 largest community foundations by asset size, and in a year when the S&P 500 was down 18.1 percent, our endowment return was only down 10.6 percent, which ranked in the top quartile of endowments nationwide.

Most importantly, in 2022 we were laser focused on ways to aid Rhode Islanders who have been historically marginalized, and those struggling to make ends meet—by battling inequity, hunger, surging housing prices, educational gaps, behavioral health challenges, economic insecurity, and more through our grantmaking and beyond grantmaking leadership efforts.

I am so proud of our staff team, so grateful for the support of our Board, humbled by the generosity of our donors and the incredible dedication of our nonprofit partners, and I know you will feel the same as you read through this book.

One final note of thanks to our Board of Directors for their diligence in conducting the search for my successor and for their choice of such an inspired candidate in David Cicilline. I am excited to see what is next for the Foundation!

With profound gratitude,

Neil D. Steinberg,
President & CEO
Dear Friends,

2022 launched the Foundation into an exciting time of transition. While the able staff team, led by Neil, stayed focused on our fundraising, grantmaking, and leadership efforts, the Board took on the search for the Foundation’s next President and CEO.

From the outset we were focused on conducting a thorough national search that included significant community input, and generated an impressive pool of diverse candidates. With help from a renowned search firm we were able to do just that. Our next President and CEO, David Cicilline, was unanimously appointed by the Board. We are confident in his abilities, intellect, commitment to Rhode Island, and accomplishments, and believe his skills and values fit perfectly with those of the Rhode Island Foundation. In addition, David’s career-long fight for equity and equality at the local, national, and international level, and his deep relationships within Rhode Island’s communities of color are two of the many factors that led us to select him as the Foundation’s next leader.

We also recognize that without Neil’s inspired leadership over the last 15 years we would not have been in a position to recruit such a dynamic and energized candidate to lead the Foundation into the future. Neil’s impact and influence on the Foundation has allowed us to realize the true potential of our state’s community foundation—he has adeptly used all of the tools a community foundation has to meet emerging need, seize opportunity, innovate, and plan for the future. We could not be more grateful.

Times of transition can be both exciting and challenging. Please know that the Board is committed to continuity—we are stewards of a 107-year-old legacy of generosity and impact, and we take that responsibility incredibly seriously. The Foundation has flourished through more than one global pandemic, economic ups-and-downs, war time, and times of peace and prosperity—it has been a continuous source of hope and a community resource, and will continue to be so.

Thank you for your partnership with Rhode Island Foundation. As Board Chair, I am consistently impressed and humbled by the commitment of our donors and community partners and am grateful to be among you.

All the best,

G. Alan Kurose, MD, MBA, FACP
Board Chair
Mission

The Rhode Island Foundation is a proactive community and philanthropic leader dedicated to meeting the needs of the people of Rhode Island.
Vision

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.
Movement Ground Farm, Tiverton
“There is so much amazing work around food going on in the state. Everyone is busy, and all are very good at what they do. But they don’t have the opportunity to come together to talk about larger challenges and opportunities,” says Nessa Richman, network director of the Rhode Island Food Policy Council (RIFPC). “The Food Policy Council is the special sauce that brings out the piece that can only grow from collective action—that idea that we can accomplish more together than we can separately.” The Council brings together stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors to look at our state’s food systems, how it operates, and what can be done to improve it.

Having led the Council for the past five years, Nessa understands the history of the RIFPC and why it was formed 11 years ago. “A diverse group of seasoned professionals set out to integrate food access, climate, and food business with an overlay of equity and justice,” she says. “Centering equity right from the start was not by accident. What those founders did 11 years ago is still part of our mission today.”

Rhode Island Foundation has been a partner since the beginning, providing nearly one million dollars to establish and support the Council’s work over the past decade-plus.

A food system includes all the processes involved in feeding people: production, harvesting, and processing of food; food aggregation, distribution, and marketing; food consumption, and ultimately, the care and treatment of food waste.
Working to build equitable solutions to food access and nutrition

The Rhode Island Food Policy Council works with partners across our state to dismantle obstacles to healthy food access caused by poverty, systemic inequities, limited mobility, and other complexities. While the Council is not a direct provider, they support the agencies that are—from state-led organizations to community-based programs.

Rescuing Leftover Cuisine

“When we find something that takes on two or three of our priorities—such as Rescuing Leftover Cuisine (RLC)—that’s our bullseye and people generally have lots of energy for it,” says Nessa. The ten-year-old nonprofit organization is intent on ensuring that good food does not go to waste by practicing a rescue hierarchy system: first, feed it to people; if people can’t eat it, feed it to animals; if animals can’t eat it, use it for composting. RLC has reached amazing numbers in a short period of time: since 2021, more than 44,000 pounds of food has been rescued in Rhode Island, providing nearly 37,000 meals statewide.

“At the federal level, there is a tax incentive for donated food, and many states are implementing state tax incentives as well,” continued Nessa. “Galvanized around this, we put together a policy paper, invited legislators to attend a briefing, and then presented to the House Small Business Committee. Hopefully, the legislation will pass this session. Business owners will get a tax incentive, people will get what they need, and it won’t go into the landfill—it’s a win-win-win situation.”

Headquartered in New York City, RLC currently operates independent branches in eight states. Council member Dana Siles started the Massachusetts and the Rhode Island branches and currently serves as director of both.

“The work we do today to improve policy will significantly impact future generations,” says Dana. “We aim to incentivize food donation, increase liability protections for businesses that experience surplus food, and improve other food waste legislation.”

Every Friday afternoon, a RLCRI volunteer picks up food from Khipi, a unique concept kitchen that sends out a two-item global-cuisine menu every Thursday and delivers that food to its customers on the following Tuesday.

On this Friday, Khipi’s leftover Lebanese kibbeh (with side dishes) is making its way to the Providence Rescue Mission, where it will provide at least 50 meals. Khipi owner Brinda Sen, below, says the clients there look forward to her ever-changing menu of global fare.
Empowering farmers, fishers, businesses, and entrepreneurs—food business and economy

Today, there are 1,200 farms on 57,000 acres in Rhode Island. According to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Rhode Island’s agriculture and plant-based industries support over 23,000 jobs and contribute nearly $3.5 billion to the economy each year. Agriculture is among Rhode Island’s top industries, along with health services, tourism, and manufacturing. Availability of land is paramount to keeping it there—in a state that features some of the highest-priced farmland in the country.

Sweet & Salty Farm

Andrew Morley’s 33 Jersey cows would normally be grazing, but today are getting hay in the barn. “It has been so wet that they can’t go out in the fields—in the pasture they feed on natural grasses for 95% of their food. So, we move them in and out every day—you have to know when to move them to another field so that they don’t overgraze,” says Andrew. “It’s a dance with the cows and the pasture ecosystems.”

Sweet & Salty Farm currently sells eight kinds of cheese, using their own original recipes. And their grass-fed Jersey cows help them produce sweet whole milk yogurt with a golden cream top.
As a member of the Council, Andrew serves on the climate and environment working group as well as on two subgroups advocating for farm bills and land access policies.

“The Food Policy Council really reaches out on the grassroots level,” he said. “I am a farmer, a husband, and a father and what little time I have, I am giving to RIFPC as they stitch together various constituents through food policy. It pulls together people like me who are directly impacted by the food system, and they let us talk to legislators and policy-makers. With the Council’s expert guidance, we move the needle.”

**Addressing climate and environment issues through food systems**

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, one-third of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions are linked to food systems. RIFPC wants to change that by limiting food waste and organic material in landfills.

**Groundwork RI**

“We collect food scraps from residences, restaurants, and institutions across the city by bicycle and process them into a resource for the urban growers of our community,” explains Ella Kilpatrick Kotner, a 2019 Brown graduate with a degree in environmental science who serves as Harvest Cycle Program Coordinator and is an RIFPC member.
“There are like-minded people like me on the Council thinking about wasted food—composters, farmers, restaurant owners, and policy people like Nessa who help me see my role within the larger food system. The Council gives us a platform—you have to work within the system if you’re going to make a change. But you have to first gain access and the RIFPC serves as a conduit.”
Growing educated stakeholders, informed youth, and a robust food sector workforce

RIFPC works to ensure that everyone knows how to be an informed food-system member and encourages those who want to find a career in the food sector to explore the opportunities it presents. RIFPC supports teacher-training programs covering our food system, high school programs in food sector-related fields that can lead to careers, and college degree programs designed to ensure a workforce educated to meet the current and future needs of the state’s food sector businesses. The Council undertook a three-year process with RI Landscape & Nursery Association to establish an associate degree program related to food systems at Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) with potential to continue at URI. August 2022 saw the start of CCRI’s first interdisciplinary degree (business and sciences) yielding a degree in Environment, Sustainability, and Management.
CCRI Environment, Sustainability, and Management Associate Degree

“More education for people doing stuff environmentally is never a bad thing,” says Gaines Tyler, assistant professor in Biology at CCRI. “This new degree program gives me the opportunity to introduce additional curriculum for the college—so far, I have created a trees and shrubs course, a colleague has developed a biology of insects course, and another, a soil science course.”

The curriculum explores topics in land, water, and air; how humans positively and negatively impact their local and global environments; business management, entrepreneurship, innovation, and design; and includes a cooperative work experience with an employer in agriculture, sustainability, or a related field.

“The number of small farmers is blooming ‘like wildflowers in the spring’—they will need to know how to manage their soil and crop rotations, and they can learn this almost for free within our two-year program,” noted Gaines.
In Closing

With the support of many partners, including the Rhode Island Foundation, Governor Gina Raimondo in 2016 announced the hiring of the state’s (and nation’s) first director of food strategy. The goal is to work collectively with other New England states to produce 30 percent of the food consumed in the region by 2030 and increase that goal to 50 percent by 2050.

Meeting that goal would go a long way toward solving many of the state’s current food-related issues:

- The difficulty of surviving as a local farmer or fisherman
- Inadequate access to healthy food options is linked to high rates of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, disproportionately affecting minority and low-income communities
- Food insecurity, which the Rhode Island Food Bank reports affects 31 percent of Rhode Islanders
- The RI Central Landfill (which is projected to run out of space by 2040) collects tons of trash daily, 722 tons of which is food, emitting methane gasses that affect the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink
- The state’s reliance on agriculture and production from areas that will be prone to drought and harsh weather conditions as we adjust to a changing climate

The RIFPC continues to see opportunities for purposeful change in Rhode Island’s food system: how the food system impacts and is impacted by climate change; the development of an equitable, regional food economy; access to healthy food as a human right; and a robust and educated workforce that sustains our food sector economy. Capitalizing on these opportunities will require abandoning a siloed approach between agriculture, health, and environmental policies, as well as overcoming knowledge gaps, resistance from interest groups, and differing values.

Dana Siles with Rescuing Leftover Cuisine says it well: “My involvement with the RIFPC has fueled my sense of purpose, and my responsibility to be a part of the solution.”
Andrew scholarship recipients

A new scholarship fund at the Rhode Island Foundation sent nearly 90 Rhode Island students off to college with more than $470,000 in financial aid targeting local colleges and universities. Students from more than two dozen cities and towns received help from the Robert G. and Joyce Andrew College Scholarship Fund. This inaugural round of funding provides financial need based scholarships to students who pursue undergraduate study at Bryant University, Providence College, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, the University of Rhode Island, or the Community College of Rhode Island within three years of graduating from a Rhode Island high school, so many current college students are also eligible.

The Andrews made the decision to donate a portion of their estate to the Foundation almost 25 years ago. Bob passed away in 2015 at age 81; Joyce passed in 2018 at 84. By the time the details were finalized, their gift had grown to be worth $12 million, the largest gift expressly for scholarships in the Foundation’s 106-year history.
## 2022 in numbers

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<td>In scholarships awarded</td>
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<td>in grants to 2,400 organizations</td>
<td>$84M</td>
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Why is there a need to increase the number of perinatal workers of color in Rhode Island?

Doula Quatia (Q) Osorio, founder and executive director of the Urban Perinatal Education Center in Pawtucket, doesn’t hesitate in providing a straight, no chaser answer.

“Racism.”

Elaborating, the 40-year-old South Providence-raised mother added, “I am not going to sit here and sugarcoat it. This is not an ‘our’ problem. This is a ‘them’ problem, and the burden is on us to try to resolve what they created in our community.”
FOR THOSE EXPECTING, EQUITY IS VITAL

From Q’s perspective, there isn’t time to say it in a calmer, more digestible way.

“People are dying,” she said. “It’s life or death for us. It’s really hard to be the doula for someone who hired you because they don’t want to die. They are so scared, and they just want to have a good pregnancy and delivery.”

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT issued a brief earlier this year that confirms the national maternal health crisis that Rhode Island is NOT immune to. The first of several statistics (including some that are specific to Rhode Island) listed by the policy and advocacy agency further verify Q’s points:

- Nationally, compared with white women, Black women are three times more likely to die of pregnancy-related complications.
- Black women aged 35–44 years have the highest rate of risk factors, pregnancy complications, and death.

The brief continued, “Medical racism and interpersonal discrimination historically has impacted Black health and continues to impact Black birthing people today. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, 80 percent of maternal deaths are preventable, signaling that there are deaths that could have been due to poor timeliness, quality of care, or inaccuracies in listening to patients’ needs.”

The work being done by the Rhode Island Perinatal Workforce Fund grant recipients are and will further help expectant families of color make the transition from pregnancy to parenthood safely.
Issued by the Rhode Island Foundation and created in March 2022 by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC), the Fund provides valuable and timely resources to support and enhance the perinatal workforce in Rhode Island, including doulas. The Fund has a particular focus on expanding equitable and culturally congruent perinatal service to communities of color in Rhode Island.

With $375,000 total from Tufts Health Plan and United Healthcare of New England, the local recipients are:

- $200,000 to Urban Perinatal Education Center
- $85,000 to SISTA Fire
- $90,000 to Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

Each recipient is using the money to expand or focus on people of color in the prenatal workforce in different ways.

Q’s Center, for example, is using its $200,000 two-year grant to offer a range of trainings to strengthen the entire perinatal workforce. That workforce includes doulas (professionals who work with pregnant woman to provide guidance and support throughout the birthing process, labor, and post-delivery), midwives (trained medical professionals who serve as the healthcare practitioner in the absence of a doctor), lactation professionals, childbirth educators, and perinatal mental health advocates.

There are trainings planned for nearly every month in 2023, including, “Our Bodies: Restoring Black Autonomy and Joy” in April and another in August during Black Breastfeeding Week that focuses on the importance of the first food and supporting lactation professionals of color. In the summer, they are also teaming up with Movement Education Outdoors—another Rhode Island Foundation grantee—for a three-day restorative training series about mental health and boundary setting for perinatal workers.

Quatia, a doula who is in school to be a midwife, has trained 44 doulas of color in Rhode Island so far.

“We remain autonomous, judgment-free, and unbiased because we don’t work for the hospitals,” Q proudly said while explaining their critical importance, specifically for expecting families of color. “We work for the families, and we always give them the power: That is true, compassionate, patient-centered care.”
In 2017, Ditra Edwards won a $300,000 Rhode Island Innovation Fellowship from the Rhode Island Foundation to launch SISTA Fire. She and co-founder Chanravy Proeung have successfully co-created “a network of women of color and non-binary people of color to build our collective power for social, economic, and political transformation.”

The overall coalition focuses on economic empowerment, community-led action, healing, and wellness. The goal of its Doulas of Color Network is to sustain and strengthen doulas and birth workers of color.

“The [doulas] network is part of a strategy that we have to address the birth outcomes in our state,” said Edwards, who is also SISTA Fire’s director. “What we know is that healthy births go up 30 percent when there is a doula engaged in the process.”

The 18-month $85,000 grant from the Foundation helped to get this network further underway. It pays for creating monthly spaces for peer engagement and exchange, supporting advocacy efforts and training, and offering community building activities to strengthen connections.

Last summer, for example, network coordinators Latisha Michel, Keyanna Benton, and Preetilata Hashemi held a community baby shower in the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence, which is also where SISTA Fire’s office is located. It included doulas giving demonstrations and was a chance to do outreach throughout the community with businesses including at a Manton Avenue barber shop.

While they agree no birth is the same, Keyanna said the network’s process of sharing their knowledge and experiences—such as debriefing tough births—helps them come up with best strategies together.
The network already has success stories. A 2021 Howard University graduate, Kayla Kinsler joined the network at the start of 2022, completing her training to become a certified perinatal doula that fall.

“It was through the connections of the network that I was able to do all that,” Kinsler said, “So I am really grateful, and I think that is an example of the impact it can make.”
The Parent Support Network of Rhode Island (PSN) operates much like its name. They work as a united, loving family that uses best practices and lived behavioral experience to empower each other and anyone else who needs support—especially families with children involved in special education, child welfare, and juvenile justice as well as adults who have experienced homelessness, mental health, and substance use challenges.

In addition, the Warwick-based organization strives to prevent abuse and neglect, reduce disparities, and progress towards universal health, wellness, and recovery. Its 18-month $90,000 grant is expanding PSN’s workforce of dual-certified community health workers of color who are peer recovery specialists with a focus on service delivery through the perinatal period.

“I was that teen mom and was treated with very little respect,” shared Brenda Alejo, PSN’s Bilingual Child and Family Program Director. “My mother didn’t speak the language and culturally, it was unacceptable to have a pregnant teen daughter. The hospital did not provide [the help needed].”

Brenda, who identifies as Latina, continued, “My son is 35 years old and it’s sad that I am 52 and still seeing the same discrimination, the same disrespect, the same disregarding of our people.”

The Network’s Healing Mother & Baby program has peer recovery specialists that work with pregnant women who are struggling with substance use to assist with recovery and reduce perinatal substance exposure.

Through the birthing process and the first year, they help the expecting family or mother find an obstetrician-gynecologist and get services and support to prepare for becoming a parent.

The grant money is specifically used to recruit and train individuals of color to become peer specialists who work with the perinatal
pregnant and parenting population. The goal is to provide 10 of these specialists with long-term, stable employment.

“We’re huge around cultural and linguistic competence and sensitivities, so everyone has to do six hours of implicit bias training right at the beginning,” Executive Director Lisa Conlan Lewis explained.

As she and the others continued, the loving family mentality made its way back into the center of why they do what they do.

She said, “It’s really about empathy and understanding and being able to meet people where they are at; it is also about understanding health equity and that we have to help each other collectively.”
RI Foundation awards nearly $500K in grants for animal welfare
WPRI
January 27, 2022

R.I. Foundation issues ‘A Christmas Carol’ donation challenge
EastBayRI
November 30, 2022

R.I. Foundation awards $105K in grants to nonprofits supporting Black community
Providence Business News and WJAR 10 Evening News
February 10, 2022
RI Foundation unveils largest grant program in its 106-year history
WPRI
Oct 6, 2022

Jonnycake Center’s Brewster receives R.I. Foundation’s 2022 Murray Prize
Providence Business News
December 23, 2022

R.I. Foundation increasing funding opportunities for nonprofits in response to inflation
Providence Business News
July 26, 2022
Honoring a life-long Rhode Islander by supporting the state he loved

Bridget Baratta, vice president of development

When Michelle Maynard’s father died in July 2022 at age 96, she was looking for a way to honor him. She read about the Fund for Rhode Island and it seemed like a good fit, so she mentioned it to her family. “What about giving money to the Rhode Island Foundation in honor of Robert?” One of the family members responded that the Foundation had done a lot of work for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that sounded to Michelle like something her dad would support. The decision was made and Robert’s obituary concluded with:

_In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes contributions in Robert’s memory to the Rhode Island Foundation’s Fund for Rhode Island._

Eight contributions were made to the Fund in memory of Robert.

Michelle shares this about her father: Robert Maynard was from West Warwick; he married Cecelia Rutkowski in his 30s, and was married for 59 years until Cecilia predeceased him in 2020. They raised their one child, Michelle, in Riverside. He was in World War II, followed by the reserves and the Korean War. Robert, a graduate of Providence College, worked at Old Stone Bank—the gold dome on South Main Street—for 40 years where he became branch manager. He had a membership at the Philharmonic. He did volunteer tax prep for AARP. “Basically, Dad had lots of interests, but one thing was for sure—he was proud to be a lifelong Rhode Islander.”

The world certainly changed during Robert’s lifetime, and the needs of Rhode Island changed with it.

Though we are small in size, our problems are sometimes large. For any one individual or family, they can seem insurmountable—unemployment, lack of affordable housing, inadequate health care, and food insecurity. That’s why the Rhode Island Foundation focuses on the levers of change that we believe will advance our three strategic priorities—improving economic, educational, and health outcomes for all Rhode Islanders.

A gift to the Fund for Rhode Island puts you in the company of thousands of donors who have entrusted the Foundation to make discretionary investments for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders. There are many ways to give. We’ll work with you, or your advisor, to determine the simplest and best way to make your philanthropic wishes a reality, offering flexibility, sound investments, expertise, permanence, and tax benefits.

“I support the Fund for Rhode Island and have for many years,” says Bhikhaji Maneckji. “I trust the Foundation to make the right choices with my gift. They have done so in the past, and I know they will continue to do so in the future. Please give to the Fund for Rhode Island.”

There will always be need, but it is impossible to know exactly what form it will take in the future and what the best approaches to meeting it may be. In order to create true transformation, we must raise up issues of equity, address the social determinants that produce disparate outcomes, and nurture a culture of civic engagement and philanthropy. No matter how, why, or how much you give, you become part of a powerful force for good in our community, supporting innovative and effective ways to forever meet emerging challenges. Join us as we work together to meet the needs of the people of Rhode Island—we’re here to help you give well.
### 2022 Donors to the Fund for Rhode Island

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Organizations of color leverage the power of collaboration

Jill Pfitzenmayer, PhD, vice president of capacity building
The childhood memories of Providence-raised James Monteiro are inundated with Black-led organizations and leaders who looked like him.

He grew up on Howell Street. From his backyard, James watched construction crews build the East Side/Mt. Hope YMCA. His street was just outside the Lippitt Hill neighborhood of predominantly Black homes and businesses that were destroyed in the 1960s via eminent domain.

The late Billy Taylor nurtured James and his friends’ passions by holding talent shows so they could flaunt their Michael Jackson “Beat It” moves and convincing the city to shut down a street so they could race the wooden go-karts they built. Later in his life, James saw Barry O’Connor Jr. running enrollment services at the Community College of Rhode Island. That was his “aha moment” to pursue his calling.

There was also the Opportunities Industrialization Center of Rhode Island (OIC) that the late Michael Van Leesten created and led, as well as the Urban League of Rhode Island and the John Hope Settlement House, among others, that were thriving then.

“Those organizations that everybody went to were Black led,” said Monteiro, now 53 years old, “and now, I don’t know what happened. If you look at the major organizations that serve our people now, for the most part, we don’t lead them anymore.”

Launched in October 2021, the Rhode Island Foundation’s capacity building for nonprofits of color program is helping 11 organizations led by Black, Hispanic or Latino, Indigenous, Asian, and multiracial people (also referred to as BIPOC) to strengthen and extend their reach. The three-year program is part of the Foundation’s $8.5 million investment—above and beyond the existing annual funding—to address racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Thirty organizations applied for the first cohort, and the selected represent a diverse group of organizations in different stages of their development. They include a Providence community center, a youth-centered travel program, women’s refugee care organization, and an Indigenous land trust.
The Reentry Campus Program (RCP), which James Monteiro is the founder and director of, was also chosen. The Providence-based nonprofit’s mission is to improve access to and completion of post-secondary education for individuals who are transitioning from the incarceration system back into their communities. In addition to creating degree pathway plans for this population, the RCP also has a mentorship program and provides critical wrap-around services, continuous support, and resources specific to their individual needs.

“I love having the support of big foundations outside of Rhode Island, but it’s entirely another thing to be supported at home,” James shared. “That means the world, especially for people of color who are working in these spaces.”

He continued, “So when you are talking about building capacity, especially for minority-led organizations, I think you have to have the support of places such as the Rhode Island Foundation.”

This program and the Foundation’s Equity Leadership Initiative (ELI)—which cultivates, mentors, and seeks access for BIPOC individuals from across sectors to build a pipeline of leaders of color in positions of influence in Rhode Island—are part of the solution to close the many equity gaps
plaguing our Ocean State. In both programs, the meetings are monthly, and the training and topics are shaped by the needs of the organizations who collaborate and give continuous feedback to program leaders.

In year one, a strategic communications planner gave a course to all the organizations and then met with each individually for an audit, with recommendations for improvement, of their current communication operations. They also had experts come in to improve fundraising efforts and strategies as well as data management and how to use data in storytelling. A retreat was also held for the organizations’ leaders to learn more about restorative/self-care practices.

Nearly all the leaders interviewed said the program gave them a rare opportunity to learn about each other’s organizations and how they could better support and collaborate with one another.

### PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- A Leadership Journey
- Mixed Magic Theatre and Cultural Events
- Mount Hope Community Center
- Movement Education Outdoors
- Movement Ground Farm
- Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust
- Reentry Campus Program
- Sankofa Community Connection
- Sunrise Forever Inc
- Women’s Refugee Care
- Youth in Action
A cohort like this, organizations of color, has never been formed by the Foundation, so it in itself, was inspiring,” said Joann “Jo” Ayuso, founder and executive director of Movement Education Outdoors (MEO).

Movement Education Outdoors, also one of the 11 chosen, started in 2018 to work with youth and community organizations from Providence, Woonsocket, Central Falls, and Pawtucket to offer transformative outdoor experiences year-round—with the premise that all youths should have equitable chances to be in and enjoy outdoor activities. The activities include hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, water and air quality testing, and mindfulness and movement practices.

The 11 to 13-year-old youths are also stewards of an urban garden (formerly Sidewalk Ends Farm) in the West End neighborhood of Providence. The gardeners practice organic and no-till farming as well as learn food justice education, Black and Indigenous mutual aid, and community building from guest educators and mentors of color.
Last summer, MEO youths also learned from another cohort organization, Mixed Magic Theatre (led by founders Bernadet and Ricardo Pitts-Wiley), who, for a long time, were among the few caretakers of Black art in Rhode Island. The husband and wife duo have been nationally recognized artists for more than four decades. They started the theater company in 2000.

The MEO kids started by finding and learning about plants on Narragansett, Pokanoket, Nipmuc, and Wampanoag land, and then used the plants to make dye for costumes. Mixed Magic then taught them about poetry and small performances that they performed to their families at the conclusion of the program two weeks later.

It is unlikely that the collaboration would have happened without the Foundation's capacity building program. Collaboration, Ayuso believes, makes organizations stronger. It was one of the benefits she pointed out about the program, which is currently in its second (of three) years. Another was how clarifying the strategic communications audit was.

In addition, the unrestricted grant money—each organization receives $30,000 per year for each of the three years—allowed MEO to increase the work hours of operations manager Jordan Schmolka from quarter to half time.
Monteiro used the funds to purchase tablets for their participants’ schooling, which relieves the staff from having to print out 100 textbooks. The money was also used to help with strategic planning for RCP’s board.

Mixed Magic made critical safety changes—such as glass partitions in the musicians’ area to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the theater as well as allowed the Pitts-Wileys to supplement box office revenue to maintain its Pawtucket space and continue to build more literate and arts-active communities.

“The lack of arts programs in schools is taking a severe toll on us,” Ricardo said while reminiscing about all the talent they used to get from Hope High School and others.

“Those kids were our pool and that wasn’t sustained,” added Bernadet.

The program, they collectively said, also gave them the breathing room and opportunity to re-evaluate their operations and incorporate new ways to cater to more generations—such as by having a bigger presence and more marketing on social media to attract younger audiences.

“We have to re-invent the living theater experience to be an experience where you have to be there to fully appreciate what we’re doing,” Ricardo said. “Even football—there are people who would rather watch the game on TV than be at the game.”

They don’t have all the answers on how to grow further, but having the other cohort members bounce ideas off certainly helps. Ayuso said years two and three of the program can possibly take a deep dive into one matter each organization is struggling with and help them overcome it.

One thing is certain: this won’t be the last cohort of nonprofits of color that will benefit from this program. All of Rhode Island grows stronger with their longevity.
Civic leadership in action

Neil D. Steinberg, president & CEO

More than a decade ago we launched the Civic Leadership Fund, an annual fund at the Foundation that gives us the flexibility to react in real-time. We use the Fund to seize emerging opportunities and to test out innovative ways to solve community challenges, without tapping into our grantmaking resources.

I’ve had the privilege of leading the Foundation through some extraordinary efforts—many of which were funded thanks to the generous donors to our Civic Leadership Fund. Convenings like Together RI, where we travelled around the state in 2018 and again in 2022 to engage Rhode Islanders in conversation about Rhode Island’s strengths, opportunities, and challenges. And, leading the ‘Make it Happen’ efforts aimed at spurring on economic development as the state rebounded from the 2008 economic crisis, and again in 2021—gathering community input and pulling experts together—to offer ideas and strategies for consideration as state leaders determined how to allocate Rhode Island’s $1.1 billion share of discretionary American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Together RI 2022

Between July and November more than 525 Rhode Islanders gathered at 12 venues for a family-style meal and conversation as part of our Together RI initiative. The discussions, moderated by Foundation team members, had participants chatting about Rhode Island’s strengths, opportunities, and challenges.

In hosting Together RI we were able to talk with folks from throughout the state—inspiring civic and civil dialogue among Rhode Islanders—to find out if the work we’re doing at the Foundation aligns with what participants are experiencing day-to-day, and what they believe to be true about the Ocean State.

For example, participants noted that they are challenged by the cost and availability of housing, struggles with inflation and the cost of living overall, access to high quality public education and education gaps, health and behavioral health concerns, and attracting and retaining young people. All issues that we are taking on via our strategic initiatives—healthy lives, economic security, and educational success—and that we tackle in our leadership efforts.

We also heard some inspiring response about the State’s greatest strengths. Here are the top five:

Our small size
A point of pride, and our greatest strength

Diversity
The people who call Rhode Island home represent diverse cultures, races, ethnicities, traditions, and values
The talented and kind people within communities
Participants value their close networks, generous neighbors, and the willingness of people to come together to support each other

Narragansett Bay and 400 miles of coastline
Our unique location along the coast, beautiful beaches, and our maritime history are all strengths

Rhode Island’s 13 colleges and universities
Cited as providing high quality and diverse educational options, drawing more people to the state, and keeping young Rhode Islanders in-state

Civic leadership is about listening and learning, and initiatives like Together RI give us the opportunity to do both. When it comes to Rhode Islanders’ opinions and experiences, we’re all ears – we’re also more than willing to share what we learn with elected and appointed leaders, so that their decision-making is well informed.

Make It Happen: Investing for Rhode Island’s Future
In 2021, after passage of the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we launched Make It Happen: Investing for Rhode Island’s Future. The six-month long project was completed in partnership with the Economic Progress Institute, the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, and the Foundation’s Make It Happen Steering Committee. By combining rigorous policy analysis, public, and stakeholder input we developed a set of spending recommendations for state leaders to consider as they decided how to allocate the $1.1 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds that Rhode Island received from ARPA.

Many of our recommendations were incorporated into the State’s spending plans, and we continue to monitor progress. The Governor and the General Assembly also turned to the Foundation to assist directly with allocation of $20 million in APRA funds. With the funding we established the Rhode Island ARPA Support Grants program to assist Rhode Island-based nonprofits negatively impacted by COVID-19 that deliver services to address food insecurity, housing issues and homelessness, and behavioral health needs.

We launched the program in October 2022 and within six months provided grants ranging in size from $2,500 to $150,000, to over 240 nonprofit organizations. Every dollar of the $20 million allocated to the Foundation went to providing relief to community organizations that stepped up during one of the most challenging times in our State’s history.

The success of the Rhode Island ARPA Support Grants program is a full circle moment for the Foundation’s civic leadership efforts. Thanks to the generous support of our Civic Leadership Fund donors, we were able to lead the Make It Happen effort. That work inspired state leaders to invest in many of the priorities identified, and to leverage our community knowledge and grantmaking expertise to directly support community organizations that stepped up during the pandemic.

Civic leadership is a linchpin of our strategy because we know that philanthropy alone cannot move the needle on the most pressing challenges facing our state. However, as a neutral arbiter and nonpartisan convener, community foundations can provide both the qualitative and quantitative data needed to influence policy and systems change—and that is how we move the needle.
2022 Civic Leadership Fund Donors

We thank those who supported our civic leadership efforts in 2022. This work creates a stronger, more vibrant community, encourages collaboration to solve important issues, seizes emerging opportunities, and funds valuable research.

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Legacy donor stories

We honor members of the 1916 Society who recently passed away. Following are some of their stories.
Mary and Alda Almeida Fund

“If they were not at home, they were at church,” says Jack Santos of his cousins, Mary S. and Alda J. Almeida, two inseparable, devoted sisters, about their dedication to St. Elizabeth Church in Bristol, Rhode Island. Both sisters gave much of their time to the church, with Alda becoming a Eucharistic minister in her later years, travelling to parishioners to offer communion.

The daughters of Portuguese immigrants, Mary and Alda’s spirit of devotion also extended to one another. They lived together all their lives, were family-oriented, and loved to travel, visiting many countries all over the world. Alda, a career bookkeeper, and Mary, who worked at the Naval War College, also welcomed and entertained many dignitaries who travelled to the States from Portugal. Mary cooked, Alda baked and took care of maintaining the outside of their family home. When Mary became ill, Alda lovingly cared for her sister until Mary’s passing in 2011. When Alda, herself, began to experience poor health, Jack became her faithful caregiver.

Described by Jack as “sharp as a tack, and twice as pointed,” Alda, was very careful with the sisters’ resources, possessed a mischievous humor, and a philanthropic nature. Both women were discriminating about the organizations they contributed to, wanting to be sure their support actually met charitable needs.

In 2010, Mary and Alda came to the Foundation and began their legacy through a charitable gift annuity. After Mary’s passing, Alda continued to contribute, opening two additional annuities, and including the Foundation in her estate plan. The result of the Almeida sisters’ lifelong hard work and generosity is the Mary and Alda Almeida Fund, established after Alda’s recent passing.

This designated fund will support Bristol’s St. Elizabeth Church in perpetuity, the place of worship so meaningful to Alda and Mary. The Fund will also ensure that their legacy of care and devotion lives on.
Reverend Thomas F. Conboy Jr. and Lois B. Conboy Charitable Fund

In a 2009 interview, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Conboy told us they felt a responsibility "to steward God's blessings."

Lois (Dormire) Conboy was born in Dayton, PA, and grew up in Apollo, PA., the fourth of five children. "My mother and father were very frugal," she recalled. In fourth grade, she began taking piano lessons for 75¢ per lesson, a significant expense for her family at that time—it proved to be her introduction to a lifelong love of music.

Following high school, she enrolled at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, planning to major in music and pursue a ministry of music career. But her education was put on hold after her sophomore year when she married Thomas Conboy, then a student at Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh.

Born in Pittsburgh, Rev. Conboy attended the University of Pittsburgh, and then seminary, working at a drugstore, for Gulf Oil Company, and in construction "including work on Pittsburgh's Three River Park" to help pay for his education.

Rev. Conboy was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 1956, two years following the couple's marriage. They initially served a small, rural church in western Pennsylvania and, through the years, served several other churches in Pennsylvania.

In 1972, a friend encouraged them to pursue the pastorship of two recently merged Presbyterian congregations in Central Falls and Cumberland. “I've always felt that the Lord led me to where he wanted me to serve," Rev. Conboy said of what became a 25-year tenure at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Cumberland.

As her husband continued his career in the church, Mrs. Conboy continued hers in public schools—teaching music in Cumberland for 25 years. "Everything I've done has been a joy," she said contentedly.

Rev. Conboy was a long-time member of the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Cumberland-Lincoln, and a trustee at the Cumberland Public Library for more than 30 years.

Mrs. Conboy was active with the Providence Preservation Society; both Conboys ushered at the Providence Performing Arts Center, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Trinity Repertory Theatre, and Rhode Island College; and were active in the governance of the Presbyterian Church on the national, regional, and local levels. They were also active supporters of church missions, participating in trips to China, Alaska, and the Middle East. Their personal travel included at least two trips each year to Minnesota where son Tom works in sales and marketing. He and his wife Karen, a graduate of Providence College, have two sons, Thomas, IV, and Kevin.

Rev. Conboy explained the couple's feelings about their estate planning through both the Presbyterian Foundation and The Rhode Island Foundation: "We felt that it was an opportunity to witness to people about the possibilities of remembering the Boys & Girls Club and the Cumberland Public Library in their estates."
Albert and Ilse Schaler established two permanent endowments that reflect two different aspects of their long, oftentimes difficult, yet very successful lives. The first, the Albert & Ilse Schaler Fund, was funded through a charitable gift annuity and will provide general operating support to two organizations that provide basic needs for Rhode Islanders: the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and Amos House.

The second, the Ilse & Albert Schaler Fund, is funded through a bequest and recognizes the couple's appreciation for culture. Mrs. Schaler, an accomplished artist and music teacher, recalled how her parents emphasized the arts when she was growing up in war-torn Germany in the 1940s. This fund will support the Coleman Center for Creative Studies at the Newport Art Museum and music education for both adults and children, as well as health care for Rhode Islanders.

Albert Schaler was born in Munich in 1924. Although his parents never left their homeland, Mr. Schaler and his sister immigrated to England in 1939 where their mother's brother lived, and in 1940, he moved to New York City where he obtained his high school diploma and attended a school for machinists.

"Then, I accidentally went into the jewelry business," he told us in a 2006 interview. He answered an ad in the New York Times for a "lathe hand" at a factory on West 45th Street, where he apprenticed with an elderly Hungarian goldsmith.

In 1945, he took a job with a costume jewelry manufacturer based in Rhode Island that had a repair shop in New York. That same year, when the chief designer moved from New York to Rhode Island, Mr. Schaler came with him.

He continued to work numerous jobs wherever the work took him. During this time, he met his future wife, Ilse Spilling, through mutual friends. Born in Nuremberg, Germany, her early education there included an emphasis on art, music, and drama. She emigrated to the United States in 1950 and pursued the arts, earning a certificate in teaching early music from the American Recorders Society.

In 1957, with a small inheritance, Mr. Schaler opened his own company in Cranston, A.M. Schaler, Inc., which supplied castings for jewelry makers. Three years later, the Schalers married. As her husband was growing his business, Mrs. Schaler started an early music group in Providence and gave private music lessons, mostly on the recorder, to individuals interested in medieval and Renaissance music.

After nearly 20 years running A.M. Schaler, Mr. Schaler sold the company in 1976. Already a board member of the Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America (MJSA), he was asked the following year by the organization to start a school for people wishing to enter the business. After a few detours, Mr. Schaler began working at B.A. Ballou, an East Providence-based company where he was in charge of jewelry manufacturing; he retired in 1989, remaining with the company as a consultant and director until 2004, just shy of his 80th birthday.

Another important aspect of the Schalers' life was their involvement in the Jewish community. Mr. Schaler served on the board of Temple Beth El in Providence and they were members of Touro Synagogue in Newport.

The endowments they have created at the Foundation will help Rhode Islanders both with the necessities of life and with participation in the arts. It's a fitting legacy for Albert and Ilse Schaler.
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 12/31/22. Members who wish to remain anonymous are not listed. New members are in red.

- Michael and Roberta Hazen Aaronson
- Noreen Ackerman
- Candy Adriance
- Ross and Renate Aker
- William and Amabel Allen
- William R. and Marlies H. Allen
- Patty and Melvin Alperin
- Berndt W. Anderson
- Judith L. Anderson and Marcia Blair
- Benzel Ankrah
- Peri Ann Aptaker and Robert A. Lieberman
- Jason E. Archambault
- Stephen P. Archambault
- Barbara and Doug Ashby
- James and Karin Aukerman
- Marilyn Baker
- Michael and Wendy Baker
- Lockett F. Ballard Jr.
- Gloria Barlow
- Mary G. Barry
- Robert L.G. and Ruth L. Batchelor
- Ralph and Laura Belleville
- Patricia A. and John M. Biasuzzi
- Raymond and Brenda Bolster, II
- David E. and Kara K. Borah
- Robert E. and Ann M. Borah
- Ellen Borden
- Karen S. Borger
- Ruud and Laurie Bosman
- Tracy Breton
- Sandra C. Bristol-Irvine
- Lee and Christine Brooks
- Gian Brosco
- Jane Ann Brown
- Jeffrey A. Brown and Barbara Horovitz Brown
- James Buttrick
- Richard M. and Ida C. Cabral
- Steve J. Caminis
- Paul C. and Patricia B. Carlson
- Julie Casey and Chris Holm
- Annie T. Castelnovo-McMullen and William M. McMullen
- Sara E. Chadwick
- 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 and William A. Maloney
John W. and Lillian Clegg
Joel Cohen and Andrea Toon
Richard A. and Lois H. Cole
Robert B. and Ann F. Conner
Gib and Diane Conover

**Kathryn G. Converse**
Sheila Cooley, Esq. and Mark J. Fagan, MD
Peter B. Corbridge and Cynthia Y. Corbridge
Timothy Corr
Michael Costello
Marianna L. Crawford
Michael and Kelly Cummings
Anthony and Christine D'Acchioli
Christine E. Dahlin
Joanne M. Daly
Peter S. and Anne Damon
Bill and Tracy Daugherty
Karen A. Davie and Garrison A. Hull
John C. Davis
Joseph H. Dawson
John G. and Elizabeth A. De Primo
Andrea B. Decof
Helen Deines
Anthony and Grace Del Vecchio

H. Chris Der Vartanian
Gilda L. Delmonico
Charles Denby II, M.D.
James DeRentis
David and Elaine DeSousa
Donna L. Dexter
Yanny and Dianna DiFebbo
Giampiero and Leslie P. DiManna
Stan Dimock
Maura A. Dowling
David A. Duffy
John R. Duhamel
Neil G. Dunay and R. Darrell McIntire
Wayne K. and Bernice C. Durfee
John L. Dyer
Marilyn G. Eanet
Violet and Frank Eklof
Catherine English
Linda Fain
Donald and Maia Farish
Stephen Feinstein
Steven R. Fera and Kathe A. Jaret
Sanford M. and Beverly A. Fern
Elizabeth and Paul Fitzgerald
Heather and Ronald Florence
Diane Fogarty
Sarah F. Fogarty
Dennis W. Forget
James A. and Beverly A. Forte
Gwendolyn Fortes
Robert and Wendy Fournier
Becky and Charlie Francis
Mary Frappier
Mr. and Mrs. Peter B. Freeman
Richard and Joanne Friday
Fredric C. Friedman, Ed.D.
Jeffrey F. Fuller
Thomas E. Furey
Jane Fusco
Thomas and Leslie Gardner
Susan Garlington
Peter and Judy Garreffi
Henry and Nancy Gauthier
Vera I. Gierke
Gayle L. Gifford and Jonathan W. Howard
Arlene Golden Gilbert
Jodi L. Glass and Ruth E. Horton
Richard M.C. Glenn III and Mary Goodyear Glenn
Carol Golden and Stuart Einhorn
Eleanor J. Goldstein
Christine L. Gonsalves
Susan F. Gonsalves
Donna Marie Goodrich
Geoffrey Gordon
Robert J. Gormley
Gary and Charleen Gosselin
Richard and Ellen Gower
Meghan Grady and Eric P.W. Hall
Joya Weld Granbery-Hoyt
John Greichen, Jr. and Patricia Greichen
Mary Grinavic
Suzanne Oringel Goldman Grossman
Hope R. Gustafson
Kathleen Hagan
Stephen A. Haire
John E. and Janet S. Hall
Ann-Marie Harrington
Jamie Harrower
Janet Hartman
David F. Haskell and Karen R. Haskell
Donald P. Hayden
Karin and Angus Hebb
Tim and Kim Hebert
Eric and Sarah Hertfelder
David and Carol Hevey
Larry J. and Kay P. Hirsch
Barry and Kathleen Hittner
Justin and Linda Holden
Elizabeth Holochwost
Lynne E. Hoppin-Fazzi
Jonathan and Pamela Houston
Pamela Tesler Howitt and The Honorable Steven S. Howitt
Kinnaird Howland
Meghan Hughes and Kimball Mayer
Phyllis M. Huston
Lise Iwon
Linda Jacobson and James Myers
Elaine Jacques
Warren and Janet Hayden Jagger
C. Peter Jencks
Mary M. Jennings
Elaine Jewer
Maureen and Roger Johanson
Carl G. and Kathryn A. Johnson
Dr. Larry A. and Cheryl M. Johnson
V. Rolf Johnson
Victoria Johnson
Betty Anne Johnston
Constance B.E. and Richard B. Jordan
Kevin E. Jordan, Ph.D.
Simone P. Joyaux and Tom Ahern
Drs. Jeffrey S. and Basha Kaplan
Stephanie Tower Keating
William D. and Dione D. Kenyon
Henry P. Kniskern
Harold J. Kushner
The Honorable James R. Langevin
Marie Langlois and John Loerke
Sally Lapides
Ernest and Elaine M. LaTorre
Patricia Lawlor, Ph.D.
Margaret Nussbaum Lederer and Bertram M. Lederer
Margaret Goddard Leeson
Kurt A. Lenzen
Stephen V. and Bettina H. Letcher
Patricia and Curtis Ley
Constance Lima and Dwight N. McNeill
Carolyn G. Longolucco
Dr. Deirdre V. Lovecky
Griselda F. Lyman and Duncan White
James and Diane Lynch
Brian and Kathleen MacLean
William and Susan Macy
Susan Maden
Edward and Kathleen Costello Malin
Eunice Malkarian
Raymond B. Malm
Bhikhaji M. Maneckji
Philip and Donna Mangione
Barbara Margolis
Alita C. Marks

Kathleen F. Marra and Dr. Michael D. McCarten

Robert and Deborah Marro

Louise S. Mauzer Groton

Scott McAskill

Gail E. McCann and Stanley Lukasiewicz

Lynda V. McCoy

Norman E. and Dorothy R. McCulloch

Linda McGoldrick

Kathleen McKeough

William Lynn McKinney and Ronald D. Margolin

Vera Bidwell McMillin

Cornelia M. McSheehy

Robert J. Meehan

Debra Meunier

Terry A. Meyer

Gladys Miller

John W. Miller, Jr. and Emily Henderson Miller

Dorothy Carol Mitchell

Edward G. and Susan L. Montagna

Heidi Keller Moon

Peter L. Moreau

Edward and Pamela Morschauser

Sandra Moyer

Ruth K. Mullen

Arthur Murphy

David and Marylu Nadeau

Richard F. Nagele and Sarah F. Bliven

Dr. Martin C. Nager and Dr. Denise Shapiro

Jane S. Nelson

Bernard and Doris Nemtzow

Robert C. Nyman

Linda A. Ohsberg

Judith Oliveira

Ruth Oppenheim

Chad Orlowski and Carol Masson

Robert and Lidia Oster

Sandra Oster

Joseph W. Pailthorpe

Elizabeth S. Palter, Ph.D.

Normand R. Parenteau

Joseph Pari and Richard Davia

Thomas and Erma Wood Peirce

Robert Pella

Ruth and Leonard Perfido

Carol A. Peterson

Richard and Margaret Philpott

Michael Pierce

Wells M. Pile and Marguerite Ofria Pile

Stacie L. and Angelo R. Pizzi, Jr.

Richard and Patricia Plotkin

Garry and Virginia Plunkett
Mary Ann Podolak
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred K. Potter, II
T’Sey-Haye M. Preaster
Robert H. and Rebecca A. Preston
Joanne Quinn
Paul and Tina Racine
Robert and Melisa Radoccia
Donna-Jean Rainville
Anthony J. Raponi
Ralph and Letty Raponi
Walter Reed
P.E. Gay and Leslie Alan Regenbogen
Steven E. and Beverly Reinert
Nicholas E. and Rebecca Reynolds
Russell and Carla Ricci
Derwent Jean Riding
Robert A. and Marcia S. Riesman
John and Liliana Risica
James R. Risko
Pablo and Diane Rodriguez
Joanne J. Rongo
Herman H. Rose
Barbara A. Rosen
Geraldine J. Roszkowski
Alan R. Rote, MD
John Rotondo, Jr.

James Rubovits
Janice M. Ruggieri and Kathy S. Lerner
The Honorable Deborah Ruggiero
Josephine Ruggiero and Helmut Reinhardt
Stephen A. Santos and Susan L. Moskowitz
Erika and Jim Sanzi
Donna and Michael M. Scalzi III
Barry and Elizabeth Schiller
Kenneth and Sheryl Schongold
Paul and Barbara Schurman
Michael E. and Mary Schwartz
MaryAnn Scott
Arthur J. Sepe, Jr.
Marjorie Simmons
Kathleen A. Simons
Robert and Cynthia Sinclair
George and M. Patricia Sisson
Robert H. Sloan, Jr. and Catherine B. Sloan
Eric and Peggy Smith
Holly Snyder
Mary Ann Sorrentino
Raymond Soucy and Nancy Thompson
Lillian Sparfven
James L. Spears
Richard F. Staples, Jr. and Elizabeth B. Staples
Dennis E. Stark
New fund Stories
At Aldersbridge, we look at unmet needs in the community and meet them,” says CEO Richard Gamache, who has worked in elder care for 41 years. “Like the Rhode Island Foundation in its 100 plus years, we serve the underserved. Because of our roots and our values, we know we have a responsibility to our earth and its people.”

Formerly operated as United Methodist Elder Care, Aldersbridge Communities—currently comprised of four facilities providing assisted and independent living, long-term care, skilled nursing, and rehabilitation—is now in its 51st year of providing such services in Rhode Island. In 2018, they rebranded as Aldersbridge, keeping its connection to Aldersgate in England where the Methodist movement started in 1738.

“Aldersbridge cares for people who have been turned down at other facilities,” noted Rick. “People with low and moderate income, and people who might otherwise be homeless.” They are the state’s largest assisted living provider for Medicaid recipients.

He acknowledges that the past two years have been difficult as COVID-19 hit the population they serve especially hard. “They have also been personally and professionally fulfilling for me and for our staff,” says Rick. “True character is revealed during times of turmoil and distress.” In April, 2020, when their first two cases appeared, he called the staff together to let them know that Aldersbridge would not mandate that anyone take care of the individuals. However, he was asking for volunteers. “All hands went up—it truly renewed my sense of purpose.”

Aldersbridge recently started an organizational endowment at the Foundation, a process that was a long time in the making according to Rick. Their relationship with the Foundation is two-pronged: their development team has received grant funding in the past, and a long-time trustee endorsed starting an endowment fund at the Foundation as a way of facilitating planned giving.

“It gives us tremendous peace of mind to know that our endowment will be managed by the Rhode Island Foundation,” says Rick. Their endowment will be invested in socially responsive funds, and Rick hopes to grow the assets. “We have been reaching out to the underserved for 51 years and want to continue for at least another 51.”
Robert Paul Arrigan Memorial Scholarship Fund

Robert Paul Arrigan, Fran and Fred’s nephew, was an only child, the son of Fred’s brother. “He was so bright, and an extraordinarily cheerful child,” says Fran. “He was enthusiastic about everything he took on—tennis, roller skating, and sailing—especially sailing.”

Bobby grew up on Longwood Ave. in Providence. He insisted on going to Classical High School because it was academically strong. He ran track there—"ran like a gazelle," says Fran—and served as president of student council. “He was always coming up with stories; if you were stuck in an elevator, you would want to be stuck with him. He would come up with some kind of engineering idea to get out or just keep you amused.”

Georgetown’s pre-med program was Bobby’s top college choice—he was a B+, A- student and he wanted to be a doctor. He was captain of Georgetown’s sailing team and every spring they have a regatta in his honor. And the sailing center at URI, where Bobby learned to sail, has been named after him.

The summer after his first year at Georgetown, Bobby worked as a road construction flagman. “On 295, he was hit. A lovely nurse that stopped at the accident scene told us he passed instantly.”

The scholarship fund in Bobby’s memory was actually started by Bobby’s father, the Honorable Robert F. Arrigan, Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Workers’ Compensation Court, 37 years ago, in 1985 right after Bobby died. “The school has always picked someone who has contributed to the school, not just high academics, but someone who loves the Classical community, as Bobby would have wanted it.” When Judge Arrigan died in 2013, Fran and Fred did not want the Classical award to end.

“We know we won’t be around forever, so we need to make arrangements for its continuation.” In settling Bobby’s mother’s estate, one of the lawyers mentioned the Rhode Island Foundation. “I had heard of it but didn’t realize that they did special things like this. It was the answer to a prayer.”

“We wonder what Bobby would have become—I’m sure it would have been something amazing. He died in June, a month before his 19th birthday,” continues Fran. “It’s hard to talk about him but he will be remembered through this Fund. You don’t know who it helps but he’s like a drop of water that sends ripples out.”
Robert H. Brown Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

“I still wanted him to be out there,” says Kathy Brown of establishing a memorial fund for her late husband Bobby. “He was such a charitable person—he would feel good about someone benefiting from something in his name.” She talks of Bobby’s positive experience at Bishop Hendricken, where he excelled in academics, hockey, baseball, and wrestling.

Always in learning mode, Bobby earned his first Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Rhode Island, his second Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Roger Williams University, and his Master of Science in Administration of Justice from Salve Regina University. “But he always saw Bishop Hendricken as an important part of his upbringing, making him into who and what he was. Now he will be giving other young men that same opportunity,” says Kathy.

Born and raised in Cranston, Bobby served with the Cranston Police Department for 21 years, retiring as Detective Captain. After his retirement from the police department, he served as an Inspector in private corrections and then as an Inspector for the State of Rhode Island Department of Corrections’ Investigations Unit. In each capacity, he was regarded for his poise and unparalleled work ethic, as one who was undeterred by the tough stuff. “Bobby’s strong internal code always led him to navigate the righteous, compassionate, and just path, even if not always the easiest,” says Kathy.

Kathy, married to Bobby for 32 years, recalls that Bobby always had something to offer, whether it was with family and friends, at a work meeting, passing on the street, or standing in line for coffee. “Anyone could become the beneficiary of his sparkle and his thoughtfulness.”

In Bobby’s memory, Kathy created a website. On it, she says the following, in part, about the scholarship fund: The fund will generate and present a scholarship every year, commencing in 2023, to a student at his alma mater Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, Rhode Island. The decision was made to establish Bobby’s memorial scholarship with the Rhode Island Foundation for two reasons:

1) Investment with the Rhode Island Foundation will maximize the growth potential of the scholarship fund; and

2) The scholarship will create a lasting legacy in Bobby’s name. In other words – Bobby’s scholarship will be here forever.

“I want his story and his name to continue and I want it to be forever—this fund will make it happen.”
Described by her daughter Emily Moore as upbeat, animated, with an engaging smile, the late Ruth Church was a woman devoted to her family and her community. Ruth was born in New York and moved to Providence in 1955, where she and her husband, Russell, raised Emily and her brother, Kenneth, and where Ruth became a real estate broker, one of the first women agents on the East Side, with a successful career lasting 40 years. Ruth majored in English at Antioch College and had a life-long love of reading and literature, as well as many friends. Said Emily of her mother, “It seemed as if she knew all the houses on the East Side and all the people who lived in those houses, too.”

On both a personal and professional level, the role of community held great meaning for Ruth. Whether finding just the right home for the right person, gathering with her walking, hiking and book clubs, or frequenting local libraries, Ruth was very proud of Providence and had “nothing but positive things to say about Rhode Island, the arts, and the renaissance taking place in Rhode Island.”

Emily, who has worked in the non-profit sector for many years, was inspired by the work of community foundations, recognizing them as “an important vehicle in the community to do important work,” and decided with her brother to partner with the Foundation to honor their mother and their mother’s love for Rhode Island, its people, and natural beauty.

The Ruth Church Memorial Fund will support the work of the Rhode Island Foundation’s Community Grants program, designed to enliven neighborhoods and outdoor spaces. Emily and Kenneth were also drawn to supporting a dynamic, evolving program focused on building community relationships, like those that were such an essential part of Ruth’s life, and now, legacy.

“Even though community grants are about physical spaces, they are also about bringing communities together in new ways,” Emily explains. “My brother and I are proud that, in a small way, our mother will continue to be a part of enhancing community and life in Rhode Island.”
Fiftieth reunions celebrate a lifetime of friendships and achievements. When Cranston High School East's Class of 1972 began thinking about its big event, the planning committee decided to take on a challenge that would preserve the spirit of their class forever.

Jeff Renzi and Gordon Fraser were naturals to get the ball rolling. Jeff had created an endowment at his college alma mater Northeastern and Gordon Fraser spent his career in college fundraising. They turned to the Rhode Island Foundation because it had a proven model.

“We thought, ‘why don’t we throw this in the ring and see if anybody nibbles and thinks this is a good thing.’ Post-pandemic, people have been stretched financially. We didn’t know if it would resonate with anyone, but oh my goodness, people thanked us for getting it going,” says Gordon.

Now future grads will receive scholarships to attend public two- and four-year colleges; private two- and four-year colleges; technical training schools and institutes; and schools of vocational training to support costs related to such education.

“We thought, ‘why don’t we throw this in the ring and see if anybody nibbles and thinks this is a good thing.’ Post-pandemic, people have been stretched financially. We didn’t know if it would resonate with anyone, but oh my goodness, people thanked us for getting it going,” says Gordon.

That’s the whole point. It doesn’t matter whether it’s $25, $50, $100, $1,000. It all goes in the pot. And that’s how endowments grow over time. Money makes money,” says Gordon. “Cranston has changed. It is more diverse. I think everybody wants to help the next generation to keep the city strong and to give others opportunities that we inherited.”

Gordon and Jeff say growing up when they did made supporting the scholarship fund a natural for the Class of 1972. There was a commitment of giving back to the community that stemmed from the late 1960s and early 1970s. This was reflective of going beyond the initial goal of the scholarship fund.

“Our scholarships will not only make the students feel more secure in pursuing education, but sometimes it will be what flips the switch. They’ll say, ‘Oh, I can do this,”’ explains Gordon. “Money generates hope and education generates positive futures in the lives of students.”

The duo got busy reaching out to alumni via the class Facebook page, which has about 250 members. Everyone jumped at the idea of creating a lasting tribute to their class.
Elaine Dickstein Community Library Fund for the Community Libraries of Providence

Elaine (Laikin) Dickstein was an ardent supporter of the community library system. She believed everyone should have access to a place that held far more than books and have a sense of belonging by owning a library card and checking out whatever they wanted for free. She saw the library as a place of gathering filled with words, ideas, wonder, and possibilities. She felt there was no better example of something that a community did right.

Elaine moved to Providence in the mid 1990’s and became a regular at the Providence Community library. She volunteered at the library’s book fair and was a “ringer” at the annual limerick contest. She was an avid puzzler, a proud member of the me/I grammar police, a lover of words and wit, and never without candy in her pocketbook. She had a special talent for engaging kids in learning through crafts and word games, activities that always involved lots of snack breaks.

Elaine strongly believed that all children inherently want to learn and should have access to whatever they need to meet their unique learning styles. She recognized that the community library could provide many of these resources in a safe environment where kids could eagerly come and explore. She also recognized that in order for the community library system to flourish, it required involvement and support by the members of the community it serves.

Elaine’s family chose to honor her memory by creating a fund to benefit the nine neighborhood branches of the Providence Community Library. The fund aims to enrich out-of-school time programming by providing educational materials, refreshments, and other creative resources. The intent is to enhance access to programs that allow children to explore the world through books, write a clever limerick, engage in crafts, or have an after-school snack. Its mission is to help ensure that the library is a safe and joyous place, and that all children experience the library as the heart of their community.
West Providence Historical Society
Flexible Endowment Fund

When Cheryl and Jeff Faria first came to visit the East Providence Historical Society, located in the beautifully restored 1750 John Hunt House, their intent was to learn more about Cheryl's tenth great grandfather, Stephen Payne. When they discovered that Stephen had built the first dam on the property in 1643, 'the rest is history' explains Cheryl, as she and her husband, “two Massachusetts residents with their historic hearts in Rhode Island,” began their over twenty-year association of volunteerism and service to the Society.

Founded in 1967 and occupying 44 acres in the Hunt’s Mills section of Rumford, the Society is dedicated to preserving the heritage and history of the City of East Providence. “It’s our goal to enrich and educate the residents of East Providence and the surrounding communities about the City’s history through excellent museum experiences and quality educational programs that are relevant and accessible to everyone,” says Jeff, who now acts as Co-President of the organization, alongside Cheryl.

Located at the beginning of the Blackstone National Heritage Corridor, the Society maintains the John Hunt House Museum and Education Center, and provides free historic tours, monthly open houses, and educational programs for adults and children. Giving new life to the gardens surrounding the museum, the Society recently created the Hunt's Mills Community Gardens, the first community garden in the City of East Providence, designed to provide garden plots to groups interested in planting their own food. Funded in part by a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, the garden has 26 raised beds. Seeds, garden advice, and workshops are also available during the growing season.

Seeking to secure the financial future of the all-volunteer Society, Cheryl and Jeff looked to the Foundation. “We are a small organization that was hanging by our bootstraps, looking for a way to maintain a more regular income,” says Jeff. Working with the Foundation was “the visionary thing to do, and the annual draw will allow us to offset costs and hire our first paid employee.”

Additional goals for the endowment fund include restoration work for other historic structures, establishing a café in the original Pump House, and a Welcome Center for guests. Jeff, Cheryl, and a committed group of volunteers are also pursuing their dream of rebuilding the 1640’s mill that once stood on the property, grinding flour for local bakeries, and further connecting the East Providence community to its historic past.
Roger Englander Trust

“He kept it a secret from me for a long time,” says Carmela Geer, Executive Director of the Edward King House Senior Center, referring to Roger Englander, a reserved and gentle patron of the Senior Center for many years. “He never sought attention, you had to dig in to find out who he was.”

Roger, in fact, had two secrets. First, that he was an Emmy Award-winning producer and director of the acclaimed CBS musical television program, Young People’s Concerts, in collaboration with Leonard Bernstein. And second, that he planned on leaving a generous legacy gift for the support and sustainability of the Edward King House Senior Center, a place that meant so much to him.

Located in Newport, the Senior Center has been meeting the needs of the community for over 50 years. Through classes, programming, performances, and club activities for seniors, they offer older adults the ability to remain active, stay informed, and combat feelings of isolation. Roger, a frequent visitor to the Senior Center, loved to drop by Carmela’s office to chat about city politics, literacy, art and culture, as well as the importance of connection with others.

When Roger passed away, the Edward King House Senior Center had “no way of knowing that he had left this amazing gift that allowed us to create our first ever permanent endowment in his name,” explains Carmela. By establishing an organizational endowment fund with the Rhode Island Foundation, the Senior Center receives ‘the best of both worlds’ – the buffer to sustain general operating costs, for which many grants are not available, and a way to securely maintain principal. “It was not a hard sell to our Board of Directors that this was the appropriate path to take with the Foundation.”

The new fund also helps maintain what Carmela describes as “the atmosphere of yes” at the Edward King House Senior Center – the ability to say ‘yes’ to projects, concepts, and ideas, like the recently constructed Black Box Theatre, soon to be named “Camera 3” in honor of Roger and the backstage camera concept he pioneered. “Roger’s legacy allows us to leave a legacy,” says Carmela—one of caring, advocacy and sustainability. “Everything I know about being an advocate for older adults, I learned from Roger.”
Friends of the Exeter Public Library Endowment Fund

As of March 1999, the Town of Exeter had no full-service public library. Although the Town's original free library moved from home to home for many years until finding a more permanent home in a room of the Town Hall, it was cram-packed, and relied on the honor system, with a sign out sheet to borrow books during Town Hall business hours.

In order to raise community awareness about the benefit and value of a public library, Helen Douglas, along with several enthusiastic residents, founded the Friends of the Exeter Public Library, a non-profit organization committed to the growth and development of a public library in the town. Over the next five and a half years, Helen, now Friends President, and her new board members worked tirelessly to gain support. Funds were raised through mailings and phone campaigns, book and bake sales, and advocacy for their cause at the Town's Financial meetings, seeking budget approval to build a new library.

As a result of the Friends’ dedicated efforts, the Exeter Public Library became a reality, and opening day ceremonies were held on September 25, 2004. The group purchased the library’s initial box of Cooperative Libraries Automated Network library cards, and has provided continued support to supplement programs, materials, and resources for the library over the last 18 years, most recently receiving the Rhode Island Library Association’s Meritorious Friends of the Library award for their outstanding contributions to quality library service. The group also conducts fund raising activities for the development of programs to improve library services, seeking gifts, endowments, bequests, and grants for the benefit of the library and its patrons.

With a strong desire to maintain financial support for the library in perpetuity, the Friends turned to the Rhode Island Foundation. Both Helen and David Zannelli, the organization’s Treasurer, learned a great deal from their informational meeting with the Foundation and appreciated the lower entry point into the organizational endowment fund. Says David, “This fund is a way that we can set ourselves up to keep going...a safe and secure place for our money that will support the library when we are no longer here.”
Nursing was very personal to her, not just a job. She lived up to her oath in every way, which translated into her volunteer work and personal life,” says Robert Greene of his late wife, Catherine. Bob, a career naval officer, came to Newport for training where he met Kay, then a nurse at Newport Hospital. After a five-year long-distance courtship, Bob convinced her “that this could work,” and they were married in 1967.

Kay, educated in the Newport public school system, graduated in 1944 from the Rhode Island Hospital Training School for Nurses, then volunteered for service in the Army Nurse Corps. A veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, Kay served for ten years, spending thirteen months in Korea treating the wounded. The couple also traveled extensively, both stateside and abroad, and were stationed in Japan for three years. “Through our travels, we learned about poverty and starvation, and it made us determined to help people,” explains Bob. “So many people out there have a tough life, and we counted our blessings every single day.”

After Kay passed, Bob came to the Foundation through a professional advisor with the goal of creating a fund to assist the elderly with homecare costs and to train palliative caregivers. The Catherine M. and Robert F. Greene Charitable Fund, a field of interest fund, was then established, supporting healthcare for the elderly with a preference for at-home care. Bob is especially grateful for the flexibility offered by the fund to assist across a wide spectrum of organizations associated with elderly and palliative care.

Through the work of this fund, the Greene’s collective legacy of service and care lives on. “There is nothing like first-hand experience to drive you to action,” says Bob. “Kay was my tutor and the finest person I ever met in my life.”
We feel we are fortunate to help others make their way” says John Greichen when asked about why he and his wife Pat established the Greichen Family Scholarship Fund, a designated scholarship fund for the support of graduating seniors at Rogers High School in Newport, Rhode Island.

John, a Newport native and a Rogers High alum, attended the University of Rhode Island, where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Electronic Engineering and a Master’s degree in Finance and Marketing. That’s when he met his wife Pat, a graduate of CCRI. They married and moved to the Boston area, where John worked as an engineer. Pat worked in retail, then took some time away to raise their two daughters, later expanding her career to include interior design. John went on to work in marketing, management and consulting, eventually retiring in 2020.

The Greichens moved back to Newport six years ago, where they built a house in the backyard of John’s 91-year-old parents in order to look after them. “We live a stone’s throw from Rogers High ... when there are no leaves on the trees, we can see the track,” says John.

Pat and John opened this fund to aid Rogers High School students, understanding the financial challenges surrounding a college education. They put their own two daughters through college, but friends of their daughters “ended up with significant debt along the way.” Seeing the results of their philanthropy has also been rewarding. The Greichens recently attended a Rogers High honors ceremony, where John presented the first scholarship to a student attending URI, majoring in chemistry with a goal of becoming a pediatrician. Pat fondly recalls the look on the young lady’s face, when she realized that the scholarship was for her.

The Greichens also continue to give back to the community as volunteers at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and Sail Newport. They partnered with the Rhode Island Foundation because they felt strongly about giving an annual scholarship and welcomed the streamlined, efficient service that the Foundation offers. Pat and John have also named the Foundation in their estate plans to further benefit the fund, and are now members of the Foundation’s 1916 Society.
Hope Library Ruth Obenauf Memorial Fund & Hope Library Doris Trott Memorial Fund

“Not the same old shhhh...” is the motto of the Hope Library, located in the heart of historic Hope Village. Cora Morrigan, Library Director, explains, “Libraries are often thought of as an elitist, intellectual club, but our library is anything but stodgy.” Cora’s goal since stepping into her role in February 2022, has been to foster and promote the library as a lively, active, place of discovery focused on the community and its patrons. To that end, she and her staff have created a friendly, welcoming space, a “community living room,” offering a number of free services, from the latest books, audio and eBooks to public internet access and educational programs for all ages. “You can’t get through the doors without someone greeting you; it’s a place where everybody really does know your name.”

Two of the patrons well known to the library and staff were Doris Trott and Ruth Obenauf, who left legacy gifts to the organization. Doris loved gardens, cooking, painting, architecture, nature, textiles and travel, and the fund established in Doris’ name will be used to purchase books about these subjects, sharing her many and varied interests with others. Ruth was a frequent visitor and beloved by the staff who remember her as “all in for every bake sale and event.” Ruth’s passion was crafting and proceeds from her endowment fund support craft books, supplies, and craft programming. “These women left their thumbprints on their library and community, and we are so grateful to them for making the things they loved available to all.”

When Cora began her directorship, she wanted to protect Hope Library from future financial instability. Historically, their only source of funding was government aid and private donations, leaving the library in a precarious situation during economic downturns. Through the establishment of these two memorial endowments at the Foundation, Cora has been able to ensure greater financial security for the organization. “Rather than sitting in a checking account, the library can now grow this investment through the Foundation’s expert management of funds and use the interest in the future...the Foundation does so much good for the people of Rhode Island, and we want to buy into that with our money; our shared missions are community forward, and we serve everyone.”
Jamestown Community Food Pantry Fund

“Do you want cheese or cold cuts? There's yogurt.

And there are fresh herbs on the bottom there.

Here, have a few tomatoes and some garlic.”

This kind of dialogue is common at the Pantry which operates under the “client choice” model. This model has been proven to reduce waste as families are more likely to eat foods that they choose and know how to prepare—chicken, meats, fish, and hot dogs, as well as breads, dry and canned goods. Fresh fruits and vegetables come from local farms and gardens, including from the Jamestown Community Farm.

They are committed to distributing as much nutritious food as possible—meats, milk, cheese, eggs and other fresh items so that children, families, and the elderly can get the nutrition they need to live healthy, productive lives.

“We don’t participate in the state food bank so it allows us to be more flexible. Volunteers do the shopping, filling the shelves with what our community needs and wants,” says Deb Nordstrom, co-manager and president of the board.

Elizabeth Bentley started using the pantry during COVID-19. “I had lost three jobs—I work in restaurants right on the island—during the pandemic everything shut down and I just couldn’t keep up.” Elizabeth, 45, has three daughters, two—ages 9 and 17—still living at home. “The pantry is so well-stocked. I have a daughter who is lactose intolerant and they even stock lactose-free products for us.”

The Jamestown Community Food Pantry serves individuals, families, the young, and the elderly throughout the Jamestown community. As an all-volunteer organization—including management, planning, fundraising, and outreach—all donations and contributions are dedicated to supporting the ongoing operations.

"The Jamestown Community Food Pantry has long admired the important work of the Rhode Island Foundation,” says Board Member Sally Schott. “We have reached a point in our organization's existence where we are on solid footing and able to serve the needs of our community today while planning for the future. We felt it critical to take steps now to maximize the benefit of generous donations and ensure ongoing support for Jamestown residents in need.”
Cheryl M. (Iacchei) Johnson Scholarship Fund

This is Cheryl’s second fund with the Foundation. She and her brother Joseph had initiated the Iacchei and Cotoia Memorial Scholarship Fund for graduates of North Providence High School honoring their parents, aunt, and uncle. So, it was natural that she would turn to the Foundation when she started thinking about ways to give back during her lifetime. Her new fund supports scholarships for students pursuing degrees in special education and related services at Rhode Island College.

“I graduated from RIC in 1968 and received an excellent education. I always wanted to pursue a career in special education and Rhode Island College was one of the best places to do that,” she says.

Cheryl started teaching in Coventry, educating children with behavior disorders. She was awarded a fellowship at RIC and pursued her master’s degree. After teaching another year in Woonsocket, she accepted positions with the Department of Defense.

Cheryl taught for two years in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and three years in Kaiserslautern, Germany, providing special education to children of military families. Returning to Rhode Island, she held the position of educational diagnostician at the O’Rourke Children’s Center on the RIC campus.

For most of her career, Cheryl worked for the Cranston School Department, initially as a resource teacher for students with learning disabilities at Park View Junior High School. Post-graduate studies led to her appointment as Director of Special Education, the position she held until her retirement in December 2002.

“Oh throughout my career I had many rewarding experiences. I was inspired hearing about former students, learning about their accomplishments thanks to the support of special educators and knowing that they weren’t defined by their disabilities,” she remembers.

Retirement was not the end of her career. Cheryl held administrative positions at West Bay Collaborative, the Met School, and the Wolf School. Officially retiring in 2017 after 49 years, she now plans to continue her passion for ballroom dance, travel, and volunteer work.

“You will always have children who require specialized instruction. My hope is that this fund encourages students to pursue a career in special education and to make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities,” she explains.
Soul of 1971 Scholarship Fund-Johnston High School

Harold Hemberger, chief organizer of the quinquennial class reunions of Johnston High School’s Class of 1971, found himself approaching the Soul of ’71’s 50th.

Last September, he had budgeted $500 for them to award a scholarship—the money kept coming in. “I put it out on our Facebook group suggesting that maybe we could do something much bigger.” Ultimately, eight thousand came in and he decided he needed a way to manage this. “One of the things I researched was the Rhode Island Foundation—I knew they did this type of thing and it was important to keep the money in Rhode Island. The only catch was that we needed $10,000 to initiate this. So I went back to Facebook, and we ended up with $13K and change by the time I sent the check to the Foundation.”

Harold has gathered five classmates to meet by Zoom three times a year to sustain an income stream for the fund. Pleased that their first scholarship recipient was a first-generation college student, they think that is something to target. A second target area has been trade schools: “we had a number of kids from my class who went to trade school, and today there is still a big demand but the skills aren’t out there. I attended honors night and there are scholarships being granted for lots of reasons—fifty awards but only two or three for trade or technical schools.”

The guidance department will take the initiative, put the word out there, and will choose the recipient. Harold has since asked other classes to contribute if they are so inclined—they will be recognized when scholarships are awarded but the name will remain the Soul of ’71—it has always been this class’s nickname. “They don’t have to go through the process we did so this is the way they can participate with an existing fund.”

Harold spent his career at the YMCA—from a lifeguard to the CEO of the Smithfield YMCA. He knows planned giving and doesn’t have a problem asking people for money. “If you have a worthy cause, it will be supported. “It has also gelled the class: we now have a long-term goal. In the past, the long-term goal was always the next reunion. Now the goal is funding this so that when we are gone, the money will still be there.” The Class of 1971 is the first class in the history of the Johnston School Department to establish a scholarship which will be sustained in perpetuity. “It’s been a very positive experience for the entire class.”
Exceptional teacher, passionate Rhode Islander, multi-dimensional, dynamic visionary, gourmet cook, decorator, party planner, green thumb gardener, political activist and analyst, voracious reader, outstanding writer, mentor, and public speaker with flair, wit and style, compassionately committed to giving . . . her whole essence was an exclamation point!” replies Scott Wolf when asked to describe his late wife, Joyce Pietras Krabach.

Born in Connecticut, but a Rhode Islander from the age of five, Joyce possessed a love of reading, learning, and teaching, beginning her career at the age of 14 with a part-time job at the Olneyville Branch of the Providence Public Library. A graduate of Hope High School and the University of Bridgeport, she earned her master’s degree in early childhood education at Rhode Island College, in preparation for her nearly 40-year career as an award-winning early childhood educator, principal, professor, and teaching advisor. A strong proponent of experiential learning rather than drill and rote, Joyce believed that children’s fates were often sealed by the quality of their early exposure to reading and writing.

Committed to promoting Joyce’s “righteous values, her priorities and her legacy for her, for me, and for the well-being of our state,” Scott opened the Joyce P. Krabach Olneyville Library Children’s Literacy Fund to support children’s literacy programming at the Olneyville Library. Joyce saw the library as a space to assist children and their parents, promoting education and, with that, opportunity, for all. The fund reflects Joyce’s dedication to her profession and her community. A public policy consultant, pollster, veteran gubernatorial staffer, congressional candidate, and

currently, executive director of Grow Smart Rhode Island, Scott has long had an association with the Foundation. A donor-adviced fundholder for over 20 years, he shares “the Rhode Island Foundation has become an extended part of the Wolf family.”

When asked about his philanthropy, Scott refers to the tenet of ‘Tikkun Olam’ (‘Repair of the World’) in the Jewish faith, a personal and social responsibility to act to improve the world. This value echoes through Joyce’s life and legacy, and Scott’s continuing service and generosity. Says Scott, “There is no excuse for passivity–even with modest resources. Be a giver of talent, time, and treasure in your community.”
“L
kely, we have had few major problems in our
lives, and we feel it’s important to help those less
fortunate,” say Stephen and Bettina Letcher about
what motivated them to establish the Letcher
Family Fund.

Steve, a graduate of Trinity College and Brown
University, is a retired physics professor at the
University of Rhode Island (URI), while Tina, who
earned a B.A. at Mount Holyoke College and a Ph.D. at
URI, is a poet, former editor of the Northeast Journal,
and long-time writing and ESL instructor at the Rhode
Island Maximum Security Prison and at URI.

The Letchers originally established a donor-advised
fund with the Foundation in 2008 to support their
many interests, but over time, made the decision
to create a designated fund to provide long-term
assistance to specific organizations meaningful to them.
South Kingstown Land Trust, the Jonnycake Center for
Hope, and the Kingston Congregational Church are a
few of the community groups that receive assistance.
Scholarships for young people studying science at
South Kingstown High School and those already at
URI are supported by the Letcher Family Fund, as well
as Beautiful Day, a Providence-based nonprofit whose
mission it is to assist refugees in adjusting to life in
America by offering paid, on-the-job training
and education.

Rather than working with each organization individually,
Steve and Tina appreciate the ability to have their
grants made through the Foundation, “a ‘one-stop shop’
and a reliable organization that can do it all.” Steve, a
founding board member of the Kingston Chamber
Music Festival, learned of the benefits of working with
the Foundation as the Festival’s treasurer. The Letchers
are also members of The 1916 Society, a group of
generous Rhode Islanders who have included the
Rhode Island Foundation in their estate plan.

Steve and Tina conclude, “It’s good to be in a
community where people can help each other.”

Letcher Family Fund
The Newport Yacht Club was founded by a group of working-class people in 1894 as a ‘blue-collar’ yacht club,” says Joan Bartram, president of the Newport Yacht Club Endowment Fund. “As generations went on, the families became more prosperous so that now we have as many Teslas and Porsches as any other yacht club in the state.”

The Club has always had a community focus—the members have always assisted people in the community. “We had a “soup to the docks” program where we would deliver soup to the fisherman; community activities including the Christmas boat parade and an art exhibit for school children.”

The Newport Yacht Club Endowment Fund started in 2003 to provide marine education; if you were a high school senior in Newport County, you were eligible to apply for this scholarship—we sent students to the Maine and Massachusetts Maritime Academies, to URI, to IYRS (International Yacht Restoration School). There is also a smaller fund—the Dawson-Pike Fund—that provides scholarship money for the junior adventure camp sailing program, which is open to students in the Newport schools who qualify for free breakfast.

Joan, who grew up sailing on Narragansett Bay, says that sailing programs have made the sport more accessible to those who cannot afford to own a boat. “It gives kids an opportunity to experience a totally different activity in a totally different environment while building the skills to solve problems—it lifts them out of their normal surroundings. Sailing gives the kids confidence, even if they don’t become lifelong sailors.”

Money to support the fund has been raised at events such as golf tournaments, dinners and auctions, and through memorials and bequests. “By 2020, we had an amount that the Committee did not feel comfortable managing. We wanted to find a way to keep the scholarship going into perpetuity and we wanted to find a better mechanism for promoting and awarding scholarships.”

Joan, as a lifelong librarian and a member of the Colonial Dames—an organization with a fund at the Foundation—says that the Rhode Island Foundation was a natural fit. “Another board member and our accountant gave the Foundation high recommendations so that was all it took. You guys don’t know what a great reputation you have!”
North Kingstown Food Pantry
Endowment Fund

The North Kingstown Food Pantry “was not much bigger than a closet” at the North Kingstown Methodist Church, when Kimberly Page, attorney, professor, and church member with a desire to help, started volunteering over ten years ago.

As community need for the pantry began to outgrow its space, a committee of civic leaders came together to establish a board and located a new and larger home for the pantry in the Town’s historic “Little Red Schoolhouse,” built in 1867 and in need of major repairs. An agreement was reached with Town leaders to lease the building for $1 per year, provided appropriate renovations were made. The extensive repairs were completed, made possible through generous donations of funds and services by the community, and in 2013, the pantry opened the doors to its new space.

Now serving over 600 households a month, the pantry provides healthy food and personal care items with only two requirements: be a resident of North Kingstown, and state that you have need. There is no income disclosure, and clients receive a week’s worth of groceries each month. In addition, every Thursday is Farm Fresh Produce Day. “Sandwiches, fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers are distributed on Produce Day . . . we get over a hundred cars lined up and down the street,” says Kim, now Board President, describing the overwhelming response to the pantry’s programs.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kim and her board began a review of how they could best steward the pantry’s resources. Although their assets were invested, they sought more clarity and direction for their funds. At the suggestion of a board member, Kim learned of the Rhode Island Foundation. She did her research, and concluded that, by partnering with the Foundation, “we wouldn't have to manage the endowment and will get the expertise we need to grow our resources . . . making a better investment with a plan that is aligned.”

For Kim, her all-volunteer board, and one paid staff member, the security associated with an organizational endowment built for the long-term is invaluable. “When we were at the church, we would often have bare shelves in the summertime when donations lessened. Knowing we have money put away gives us a sense of peace,” she explains, “and we won’t come upon a day that we can’t feed the people of North Kingstown.”
North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund

Formed in 1970, the volunteer, nonprofit organization is headquartered at the Memorial Town Building. Initially, it focused on acquiring artifacts and restoring two of the town’s historic buildings; the Forestdale School and a Grange building now called Heritage Hall, which the group rents for family events. With more than 150 dues-paying members, the group has expanded its scope of work. “So, arts and culture, artifacts, historic cemeteries, native stone features, history, natural resources; we consider all of that part of our mission now,” says President Rich Keene.

The association sponsors numerous events and preservation activities. Events include a Heritage Fair, Spooky Spirits Night with free hayrides, and a Gala. Other activities include a new website, a Facebook page, monthly newsletters, monthly Heritage Nights, and weekend tours. Besides maintaining the three buildings, volunteers restore and maintain many of the 65 historic cemeteries in town. Some also locate and document native ceremonial stone features. Others maintain the growing collection of artifacts in the archives or apply for grants.

The town partnered with the organization from the very beginning. In addition to leasing Forestdale School and the Memorial Town Building to the NSHA, it maintains the grounds and provides grants to restore and maintain its buildings as well as fund some preservation activities. “We do what we can for the community. We try to be value-added. People see us do good things, and they support us,” Rich explains.

Next up is a joint project with the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council to create a greenway running from Providence to the river headwaters in North Smithfield. The trail would give the public access to the historic Nipsachuck battlefields where natives and colonial militias fought two battles during King Phillip’s War in 1675 and 1676. The organization conducts battlefield tours for North Smithfield High School students as well as the public.

“I think most people support historic preservation when given the opportunity. We’ve lost a tremendous amount of our heritage over the years,” says Rich. ”Once it’s gone, it’s gone forever. You can never get that back.”

Rich first came to the Rhode Island Foundation after he became president of the organization. He wanted to learn more about managing nonprofits and began taking the Foundation’s capacity-building workshops. The more he learned, the more he felt creating an endowment was the way to go.
Olivia Passaretti Memorial Scholarship Fund

Olivia Rose Passaretti was a kind, caring, compassionate daughter, sister, athlete, advocate, and friend. A dynamic, effervescent personality who loved her family, karate, softball, music, making TikTok videos, and trying new sports like field hockey and cross country, Olivia’s life was tragically taken by a reckless driver with a long criminal record on New Year’s Eve, at the age of 17. Described by her mother, Janine, as wise beyond her years, with “a true smile . . . a smile that lit up a room,” Olivia participated in many sports as a student athlete, but winning the game was never more important than caring for others. While she was playing in goal during a field hockey game, Janine recalls, an opposing player was hit by a ball, and Olivia left the goal open to help, surrendering a score, but demonstrating the true meaning of sportsmanship. “That was the way Olivia was,” explains her mom.

To honor Olivia’s memory, Janine sought to establish a scholarship fund and was directed to the Foundation by East Greenwich High School, where Olivia was a student. The Olivia Passaretti Memorial Scholarship Fund for student athletes at East Greenwich High School was created for students pursuing post-secondary education who display sportsmanship, both on and off the field.

Janine also wanted to ensure that the scholarship criteria addressed the qualities of “the whole person . . . the way you win and the way you lose,” and be open to students who attend trade schools and other forms of advanced education, as well as those pursuing four-year degrees. “When kids are growing up, you try as hard as you can, you do your best. It’s not just about the ‘A’. It was never about the grade, it was about the effort,” says Janine regarding her approach to raising Olivia and her sisters, Jacqueline and Victoria. “Loving your children for who they are . . . to feel accepted and loved” was the message strongly emphasized in the Passaretti home.

“Be You” was the motto embraced by Olivia during her brief but inspiring life, modeling encouragement and acceptance for everyone she encountered. Through this scholarship fund, the values so meaningful to Olivia live on, supporting fellow athletes and helping students pursuing varied fields of study find their way. For Janine, the fund is also a way to keep her daughter’s light shining. “I just can’t stop,” she says. “I will continue to be Olivia’s voice.”
“Marvin made people feel special,” says Kath Connolly, a longtime friend of Marvin Ronning, who died suddenly in November 2022 after a career devoted to Rhode Island’s non-profit sector.

Marvin came to New England in the late 1980s to work at the Dartmouth Children’s Museum. At the time, Kath was working at what would become the Providence Children’s Museum. “We connected,” she said. “We shared adventures, a quirky sense of humor, and a commitment to civic life. He became family.”

Since 2010, Marvin had been a senior administrator at the Rhode Island Free Clinic where he built partnerships with every higher education institution in the state to ensure the most vulnerable people had the highest quality care. He built a dental facility, grew the AmeriCorps program, and guided the clinic through the pandemic. “When COVID happened, he showed up every day with a determination to support patients, a smile, and his bow tie,” she said. “It was a frightening time, and he worked extremely hard to ensure that people were cared for.”

Throughout his career, Marvin was committed to the transformative power of education. At Big Picture Company he supported a national network of innovative public schools, and at his death he was Board Chair of The Learning Community, a K-8 school in Central Falls. He advanced environmental education through work with the Sloop Providence, Herreshoff Marine Museum, and by helping Save the Bay plan and build a new marine science center in Providence. He served on boards and committees at dozens of organizations including New Urban Arts, Social Enterprise Greenhouse, and the United Way, and lectured at RI College, URI, Roger Williams, and Brown.

Born with a rare heart condition, Marvin was intent on making every day as magical as possible. “Whether it was an average Saturday or a moment of need, he showed up enthusiastically and offered his enthusiasm to others,” Kath said. “He was magnetic.”

Marvin died a few weeks before a long-awaited trip to Morocco to mark his 60th birthday, but his friends took his ashes on one last adventure.

“He was so generous—not because he had wealth, but because he understood that what we have—emotionally and practically—is better shared. That's what it means to live in community,” Kath said. “By creating an endowed fund at the Rhode Island Foundation, we can honor his spirit in perpetuity. It is a small way to keep Marvin’s generosity with us.”

Marvin Ronning Fund
“I visited a close friend in Watch Hill and fell in love with the area,” says Charles “Chuck” Royce. A Brown University graduate, Royce has had a home in town since the late-’80s. Though his main home is in Greenwich, CT, Royce is considered a local in Westerly.

For decades, Royce has been involved in historic preservation and economic development. In 2019, he was inducted into the RI Heritage Hall of Fame in recognition of his restoration of the Ocean House resort, the Weekapaug Inn, and other major landmarks in his adopted town of Westerly, RI. “I felt like something was about to be lost for the community,” says Royce of his decision to buy Ocean House, and although the hotel, built in 1868, proved unsalvageable, it was rebuilt with as much fidelity to the original as possible.

Preservation has always been a motivator for Royce and his wife Deborah, an actress and novelist. Early on, they worked through the Westerly Land Trust to acquire prominent downtown buildings with an eye on revitalization. The Royces have supported every project that has contributed to the revival of downtown Westerly in the past decade, including saving the historic Knickerbocker Cafe music hall by turning it into a nonprofit music education center and helping bring back the shuttered 1926 United Theatre and the former Montgomery Ward building next door.

Chuck and Deborah also bought Avondale Farm, property adjacent to the Westerly Land Trust Preserve, saving it from development and instead restoring the existing house and barn.

The Westerly Education Center, a collaboration of five colleges and universities offering general education to graduate level classes, is another of Royce’s projects. “Basically, I enjoy doing things that I can touch and feel,” says Royce. “My interest is in bringing people together, creating a space for a community to come together. Everything we’ve done is mixed in with a community purpose, helping small communities thrive.”

The Charles M. Royce Fund, created at the Rhode Island Foundation because of Royce’s confidence in the Foundation’s leadership and mission, will ensure that the Royces’ commitment to Westerly and to the state continues for decades to come.
Ric Saborio Memorial Scholarship Fund

Ric was talented—he could dance, he could juggle, ride a unicycle—but he couldn’t sing, and he realized that he couldn’t make it in musical theater as he had hoped,” said Gail Saborio, his wife of 33 years. “I was always a teacher. One day he said ‘I want to do what you do—I want to love my job as much as you do.’ They took their entire savings and he went to Lesley College and got a dual masters degree in regular ed and special education. He never looked back. But the theater thing also stayed—there’s no better stage than a classroom, and for 13 years, an East Greenwich classroom was Ric’s stage.

When he was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2013, Ric had to give up everything he loved. “We took Ric’s three favorite things: education, theater, and travel, and incorporated them into this memorial fund, which will benefit an East Greenwich student every year.”

“Ric wasn’t the smartest, he wasn’t the tallest, he wasn’t the richest, but he was the coolest—he was the Fonzie. And people gravitate towards you when you’re cool. By choosing these three criteria, we’re hoping to encompass different types. I don’t want to pick the best—the high achieving student wins a lot of the awards.”

Gail thought it would just be a one-shot deal—one scholarship of $1000. “When I started getting emails with donations of hundreds of dollars, I realized that this was big—I think this could be a scholarship at the Rhode Island Foundation.” When she discovered the minimum was $10,000, she thought they would never reach that. A childhood friend came through and made up the difference.

“I just want him to not be forgotten, including by people who never knew him. I want them to know that this remarkable person walked this earth. It’s like the Say Their Names movement—there’s something to that—I want people to say his name.

“I feel blessed—isn’t it the best feeling ever to love and be loved? That’s what I wish for everyone. He was so amazing—the “sunshine on my shoulders.”

Played at the memorial service for Ric in January 2022, “Sunshine on my Shoulders” by John Denver—Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy
Sunshine in my eyes can make me cry
Sunshine on the water looks so lovely
Sunshine almost always makes me high
“Educate a girl, change the world,” has always been a guiding principle for Cynthia Simmons, a self-made, successful business owner, lover of sailing, and mentor to many women, with whom she shares her expertise, experience, and friendship.

A native Rhode Islander from the Fox Point section of Providence, Cynthia was a visionary at a young age, when she began working as a financial consultant in the 1970’s, designing investment plans in a male-dominated industry. She soon started her own business, C.A. Simmons & Associates, forming a pension plan and profit-sharing consultancy, investing in real estate, and becoming a regular speaker and advisor for the American Management Association. Alongside her remarkable achievements, Cynthia also makes it her ‘business’ to help others. With an incredible willingness to try, extreme generosity and an independent spirit, she believes strongly in giving back, in appreciation of the success and many mentors she has had in her career.

In keeping with her entrepreneurial spirit and to assist young women with empowerment, education and opportunities for a better future, Cynthia established the Cynthia A. Simmons Fund, a donor-advised fund at the Rhode Island Foundation. Having the freedom and flexibility to support many different types of groups that are working with young women and the knowledge of reputable organizations that the Foundation can provide, along with potential opportunities for co-funding, were important considerations in making her investment.

The Foundation’s reputation as a well-known, financially solid, and dependable organization brings Cynthia peace of mind, allowing her to continue her support for young women, now and in the future, assisting in building a legacy, like so much of her life and work, of her own unique design.
Nursing has been part of Lillian “Penny” Sparfven’s life for more than 65 years. Her love for nursing began as a student at Warwick Veterans High School, when she began volunteering at Rhode Island Hospital and working at the former Jane Brown Hospital. After high school, she graduated from the former St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in 1960 and went straight into the profession.

She worked as a visiting nurse and at nursing homes and hospitals until her retirement in 2005. She continues to be active in the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association and the Nursing Foundation of Rhode Island.

“I just like improving the health of patients. I loved bedside nursing,” she says. “Nurses are a great part of patient care. We have more time to spend at the bedside.”

Nursing runs deep in her family. Her mother, Ethel Thompson Ferrara, and her aunt, Helen Geary, followed Penny into the profession, graduating from the former Rhode Island School of Practical Nursing in the mid-1960s as Licensed Practical Nurses. Her mother spent 24 years helping residents of the same nursing home in Warwick.

“In addition to her work, my mother’s activities were many, among them serving on the Board of Directors of the Warwick Historical Society and local senior centers. She also enjoyed traveling,” Penny remembers.

Penny was introduced to the Rhode Island Foundation when she began serving on its Nursing Scholarship Committee, which awards aid on behalf of many funds like Penny’s at the Foundation.

“I always came to meetings. So, I saw how their finances were being handled and I thought that would be a good place for me, too,” Penny explains. “My mother loved nursing as much as I did. I figured creating a fund at the Foundation would be a good way to honor her. I am passionate about helping others to also be part of the nursing profession.”

“I believe this fund will provide scholarships for nursing students and meet my goal while we continue to encourage young adults to further their education into nursing.”
In February 2003, people all over Rhode Island were coping with news of the deadliest fire in state history. One hundred lives were taken. Many more were injured in the blaze. For years afterwards, survivors and the families of survivors and victims worked to ensure people would never forget that tragic night. In 2017, their dream came to fruition. The Station Fire Memorial Park was dedicated on the hallowed ground off Cowesett Avenue in West Warwick where so many lost so much.

The Station Fire Memorial Foundation watches over the park. Gina Russo, president of the organization, lost her fiancé, Fred Crisostomi, in the blaze and was severely burned herself. She has spent the years since the park opened thinking about its future. Families and survivors maintain the park now, but Gina was looking ahead to the time when there might not be anyone who could step up anymore. That’s why the group created a permanent fund at the Rhode Island Foundation that will ensure there will be the resources to maintain the grounds forever.

"The years I have spent wondering what I will do with this park. I knew I wouldn’t live forever," says Gina. "It’s so important to me. I have two sons. They are very proud of that park, but they have their own lives. While I’m walking this earth. I wanted to make sure that it will always look like it does today.”

The one-acre park includes a courtyard, gardens and granite monuments with the names and birthdays of every victim. A series of granite steps that commemorate clergy, state leaders, volunteers and caregivers, first responders, friends, families and survivors lead to an open-roofed memorial. Inside are the names of everyone who perished in the tragedy.

Jody King, another member of the Station Fire Memorial Foundation, lost his brother Tracy. He’s one of the group of families and survivors who has been taking care of the site.

"It’s been 20 years of my life. I lost my best friend in that fire. I could count on Tracy for almost everything. He was a military cop, veteran, good kid. I had a real special brother. There were 99 other special people, too. Now those 100 will never be forgotten," he says.
Virginia R. Urquhart Scholarship Fund

As secretary at North Kingstown High School to the two assistant principals who dealt with discipline, Bob Urquhart’s wife Ginny dealt with troubled kids who came from troubled homes; she knew every one of them and they knew that Mrs. Urquhart always had a desk drawer full of goodies. “She was someone who cared about them and would listen to them,” says Bob Urquhart of his wife of 50 years, who died in January 2022. After 20 years at the NKHS, her illness forced her to quit.

“She made me go to every graduation—one year, the valedictorian said ‘If it wasn’t for Mrs. Urquhart, I wouldn’t be standing here.' They even gave her a special award that year—everyone knew Nana Ginny, and they adored her.”

At the start of every school year, she would pick two young women, take them out to lunch, then take them shopping for fall school clothes (with permission from the administration as well as parents). “That’s the kind of woman she was. She was a surprise every day, and I loved that about her.”

“Ginny will be remembered for her generosity, kindness, hugs, and advice, whether you asked for it or not! One day, I woke up and knew what I wanted to do for her. I was familiar with the good work the Rhode Island Foundation does and always read their annual reports.” Bob worked at Brown and Sharpe where a colleague’s family started a memorial fund at Rhode Island Foundation; he saw it in the annual report and was inspired—“I said I like that idea—it’s so her.”

“I contacted the Foundation and we created the Virginia R. Urquhart Scholarship Fund.” Starting 2023, the fund will provide two $1,000 scholarships for North Kingstown High School graduates especially those going to a technical school or other job-based training. Ginny knew that college was not right for everyone. Bob remembers that many of his Brown and Sharpe coworkers had not even graduated high school, much less college. “Yet they were passionate about what they did and proud of their work.

“I announced the scholarship program at her memorial service and our friends thought it was perfect. This scholarship fund will be Ginny’s legacy, to recognize her personal contribution to the students of ‘her school’. Her quiet involvement in so many young people’s lives will now be recognized by the community.”
Dr. Joseph Chazan, a nephrologist (specialist in treating kidney disease) and founder of Nephrology Associates in Rhode Island, was introduced to an art collectors club in 1973. “I had never been to an art museum but my wife and I joined a group of people who were interested in the arts and artists,” says Dr. Chazan. “As members, we traveled to galleries in NYC, met a number of Rhode Island artists, and one thing led to another.

“I was impressed with artists when I met them—they are highly motivated, highly principled, swimming upstream and fighting a system,” adds Dr. Chazan. “I had had the same experience in medicine trying to establish dialysis clinics so I found an affinity with artists.”

He became an avid supporter of the arts: Every dialysis clinic—of which there are 12 in his association—was bedecked with art by local artists. “I think it would be nice if there were many more professionals who adorn their offices with local art instead of posters and prints. There are very few galleries showing local art because there are not enough people buying it.

Dr. Chazan launched NetWorks Rhode Island, a visual arts project, in 2008. Partnering with Umberto Crenca, at that time artistic director of AS220, Chazan proposed to document and promote the diverse arts community in Rhode Island through profiles of individual artists and their work. Seventeen profiles were produced that first year. During each subsequent year through 2016, additional profiles were produced, eventually forming an archive of 113 video and photographic profiles supplemented by museum and gallery exhibits, printed catalogs, and panel discussions. Waterfire Providence has now taken on the job of creating a permanent online resource of this work.

“As I was closing out my career, I decided it was appropriate to establish this Visual Arts Fund”—Chazan has recently retired from private practice. Daniel (Kertzner) has been a good friend and I know the Foundation does very good work. (Chazan and his late wife established a fund for the Wheeler School at the Foundation in 1978.)

“I’m basically a doctor—I have been a physician for 62 years. I care about people, and artists are just a reflection and a continuation of that—it’s patient care, doing the right thing. I am not an art connoisseur; I have to like the artist—if I like the artist as a person, I like their work.”
Walter A. Brown and Christine E. Ryan, both formerly full-time faculty members at Brown Medical School, are at the Rhode Island Foundation today “because we had some unexpected assets” says Walter, a semi-retired psychiatrist and professor emeritus. “We talked for a couple of years about doing something with the funds—Chris knew more about the Foundation than I did and encouraged me to participate.”

“It's always hard to figure out who and what to give to,” says Christine, a retired research faculty who worked at Butler and Rhode Island Hospitals. “I said let's keep talking to the Foundation—they know what they are doing and there's no pressure.”

“I am a first generation American,” says Walter. “This is a great country but given all the resources, I find it very troublesome that people can't afford healthcare, don't have enough money to feed their families, and cannot find a decent place to live.” Walter thinks it is the role of the government rather than private philanthropy to help. “But it's not happening when left to the government.”

Meaningful goals and evidenced-based outcomes are important to Walter and Christine. After meeting with Zach Nieder, the Foundation’s senior strategic initiative officer for health care, they partnered with the Foundation to co-fund a Lifespan initiative that will put doctors on the streets. “The program is a good match with our interests,” says Walter. Street Medicine aligns with our work both in access to primary care and in harm reduction—it facilitates the direct provision of health care to the unsheltered homeless. Homeless men and women have life spans nearly 30 years shorter than their housed counterparts and less than 10% have a primary care clinician.

“The Rhode Island Foundation can work faster than the normal bureaucracy,” says Christine. “They can redirect funds as needed and they keep the bigger picture in focus. They have a ‘let's get it done approach’ to finding out what works and what doesn't.”

Walter and Christine make their home in Tiverton, where Christine has been involved with the Tiverton Land Trust, Town Council, and Library. Walter teaches at Brown, does research and a good deal of writing, and is an amateur musician, playing clarinet in the Rhode Island Wind Ensemble.

“If you want to give money away, it's not always easy to find an organization that you are comfortable with,” says Walter. “Rhode Island Foundation is that comfortable organization.”
“Preservation starts with passion but you need nuts and bolts to support it,” says Eileen Collins, president of the Warren Preservation Society (WPS). “Warren didn’t see itself as a Benefit Street but newcomers could see the town through a different lens—they saw historic properties just waiting to be restored.”

A 1974 survey by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission identified the most significant historic properties in Warren, establishing the historic district. There was no wealthy part of town—many large homes on Main Street had already been demolished. It was a working-class town split by rail tracks. With the survey, things started happening. WPS began as a voluntary group to keep Walgreens from demolishing four historic buildings on Main Street.

The location of Warren has influenced its development from the beginning of colonial history. For a community almost completely dependent upon maritime commerce, the opening of the American Revolution threatened ruin, but Warren recovered. By the mid-19th century, textile manufacturing had been introduced into Warren, accelerated by the introduction of steam power. In 1847, the Warren Manufacturing Company constructed its first stone mill on the north end of Water Street to make sheeting and shirting—the textile industry dominated Warren’s economy well into the twentieth century.

Kristin MacDonald, the only paid WPS staff, is currently involved in blocking a proposal on Water St. A developer wants to tear down existing houses to build a 5-story 21-unit apartment building with some affordable housing. “It’s very modern and large in comparison to the rest of the town—Warren is built to a certain scale, with retail and housing intermixed. It’s a dilemma given the need for affordable housing,” says Kristin.

WPS has supported two oral history projects: The Warren Mill Project focuses on the people who built the textile industry. The Middle Passage Project, documents the role African-Americans played in the building of Warren. “We have members who are so interested in delving into history; we get new people interested and involved.”

In 1998, WPS bought and slowly but totally restored the 1808 Samuel Randall House; in 2019, with the restoration complete, they returned it to private ownership. The proceeds of the sale will fund future projects. “We wanted to do something wise with the money—it was a lot for our small organization to manage,” says Eileen. “Our Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation will benefit WPS and Warren far into the future.”
What Cheer Flower Farm Capital Fund

The inspiration for the What Cheer Flower Farm grew from the seeds of kindness. Anne Hills Holland, Board President and Co-Founder explains, “A few of us had small personal cutting gardens...like all gardens in August, we had too many flowers. Rather than watch them fade, we started making and giving away bouquets to elderly neighbors, and the outpouring of joy and gratitude was overwhelming.” Anne, moved by the emotional reactions and lovely, long letters she received in response, continued to seek out and gift flowers to the elderly, hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, food pantries, youth centers, and to anyone in need of healing.

Five years ago, in order to give away a steady, year-round supply of bouquets across the state, Anne co-founded the What Cheer Flower Farm. Some of the Farm’s flowers come by way of ‘rescue,’ gathering and repurposing unsold stems from local floral retailers and wholesalers, keeping them from landfills. However, the larger portion of blooms are grown on the Farm’s own land in Olneyville, a designated environmental justice neighborhood in Providence. In pursuit of their purpose to spread solace, joy, and healing through flowers, the Farm acquired the land at half price, but with the acreage came a 70,000 square foot derelict factory building. With the help of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Farm is in the process of demolishing the “big scary building,” and remediating the land to eliminate and cap dangerous materials from former metals manufacturing.

The goal for the What Cheer Flower Farm Capital Fund is to assist with remediation and rebuilding, making way for an additional two acres of flower fields, a larger capacity processing center, with more space for people to make bouquets and create flower-based art, community gardens to serve local residents, and a Floral Academy, to offer paid apprenticeships and retail management classes for those seeking floral careers. When asked why What Cheer chose to partner with the Foundation, Anne replies “We are both statewide organizations who help Rhode Islanders...we all support each other in Rhode Island.”

Today, the Farm grows, rescues, and gives away 100,000 flowers a year in collaboration with community partners, and the positive ripple effects are exponential. Says Anne of What Cheer’s mission “Flowers are healing. Giving someone a bouquet acknowledges their worth. It says ‘You matter. You deserve beauty. You are cared for.’ It feels good to provide joy.”
Deborah Wiley’s roots in Little Compton go back 100 years, when her parents became “summer residents.” She has been going to the town’s Brownell Library since she was a little girl. That’s why she decided to create a way to support the library long-term.

“As a little girl I went into the library. It was sort of a stoic place. I’ve also watched over the years how the library has changed and become a community center. I have lived in Little Compton since I was one year old. I’m very attached to the community and have watched as it has provided more programs for the year-round residents,” says Deborah.

She was familiar with the Rhode Island Foundation because of her service on the boards of the Sakonnet Lighthouse and the local chapter of the National Society for Colonials Dames, both of which have funds here; and her seat on the board of The Nature Conservancy, which receives grant support.

“The library doesn’t have any source of investment and I wanted to make a lump sum endowment. I could have set up my own fund for them, but it just seemed easier for me and the library to have the Foundation do that work,” Deborah explains.

The Brownell Library, built in 1929, was bequeathed to the people of Little Compton by another local philanthropist, Pardon Brownell in 1921. Today it offers much more than it did when Deborah first started going there as a child. Patrons can check out bird watching and beachcombing kits, get passes to local museums and historical sites, and research family genealogy. There is even an Orion Starblast 4.5 Equatorial Reflector Telescope that patrons can borrow.

“The library has made some terrific moves. There are still people, even in Little Compton, who don't have a computer. You can go to the library and use them. People who don't have access to the internet can park outside the library and use its WIFI. There are so many services and resources that people need, that a library can provide,” she says.
After several attempts at connecting for an interview with Rob Wilson, we finally settled on Wednesday, September 28. Shortly past 10 a.m., I reached him on his cell phone. He was hunkering down in Naples, Florida as Hurricane Ian hammered the city. When asked what the situation looked like, he said he couldn’t see anything—”I am trying to stay safe in the bathroom—but it sounds like a train is going by—I still have cell phone service so let’s talk.” The same steady, take-it-as-it comes attitude is reflected in everything that Rob does, including in his philanthropy.

Rob, born and raised in Rhode Island, has worked in high tech software sales for much of his career. He was always committed to philanthropic work through his church, mostly with Project Outreach, the largest food pantry in the state of Rhode Island, reaching more than 500 families a month living in and near the Washington Park neighborhood of Providence. Rob served on the board, fundraising however and whenever necessary. This is how he connected with the Rhode Island Foundation—writing grants for Project Outreach. Successful grants as the Foundation supported them for many years.

“My wife and I have had a very blessed life. After meeting with Daniel Kertzner (a senior philanthropic advisor at the Foundation), the question I asked myself was ‘Do I want to do more good in this world?’”

There are people we need to take care of in our extended family. I have a niece with mental health issues; there has been a lot of trauma in my family. I also have dealt with mental health issues since I was young and felt afraid, alone, abnormal and unable to find help. I want to help those in similar situations as I was in.”

Over the years, Rob has developed an extensive network of friends and acquaintances; he decided to start telling his story, to build awareness, to dispel the stigma of mental health.

In his current job, Rob works with Medicaid members and nonprofit agencies providing care to people with mental health issues and disabilities—he basically sells to health plan companies that confront the social determinants of health. “I love it because it allows me to continue working and still do good philanthropic work. I had become somewhat jaded by the world I was in until I became aware of this company.”

With help from the Rhode Island Foundation, their goal is to make the fund grow and to do whatever they can. “You know somebody like this—you may not know it but you do. I hope I can save just one person who won’t have to go through what I did.”
Board of Directors

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.

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*Board listing is current as of 12.31.22
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Carmen Greene
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*Staff listing is current as of 3.15.23*
Funds

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.
**Funds List**

**Funds established in 2022 are in red. Donors who wish to remain anonymous are not listed. Those with a * have a story in this book.**

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Block Island Conservancy

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Block Island Medical Center Endowment Fund (2008)

Blount Fine Foods Fund (2014)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island Community Health Fund (2005)

Raymond J. and Brenda B. Bolster Community Fund (2005)

George H. Bond and Mary K. Bond Fund (2016)

Bonnet-Eymard Family Fund (2007)

Daniel R. Borah Fund (2005)

Emilie Luiza Borda Charitable Fund (2008)

Borden Lyon Family Fund (2018)


The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center
Supported by: The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center / H. Alan & Ellie Frank Fund (2014); The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center Fund (2015); Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance of The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center Endowment Fund (2017); Fred, Gertrude and Henry Regenstein Library Fund of The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center (2017); Touro Fraternal Association of The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center Endowment Fund (2017); and Dr. Howard S. Lampal Memorial Education Fund of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center (2018)

Bosman Family Fund (2012)

Bosworth Fund (1999)


Family of Eugene M. Boutiette Fund (1979)

Michael A. Bova Memorial Scholarship Fund (2006)

Bowen Haven Fund (2009)

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Boys & Girls Club of Newport County Fund (2002)


Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket
Supported by: Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket (2002); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Brian Agin Memorial Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Allen P. Barker Memorial Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/A. Henry Soar Memorial Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Crown Collision Centers ASAP Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/John J. McMahon Memorial Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Andrew Dimant Memorial Scholarship Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Arthur & Mary Kaufman Fund Est. in Loving Memory of James T. Boylan (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Dennis M. Lynch Memorial Basketball Tournament Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Mike Pappas Athletic Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Anthony & Lisa Ruddy Fund (2004); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/The Collette Vacations Endowment for Baseball (2005); Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/Joseph T. McHale Fund for Literacy (2005); and Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket/William B. Macaulay Endowment For the Arts (2005)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence
Supported by: Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence Operational Fund (2014); Robert P. Brooks President's Scholarship Endowment for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence (2016); Solomon A. Solomon College Education Endowment for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence (2016); Raymond A. DeCesare Food Endowment Fund (2021); Ian N. Muir Aquatics Endowment Fund for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence (2021); Lisa Bisaccia and Robert Naparstek, M.D. Performing Arts Endowment Fund (2021); Armand E. Sabitoni/New England Laborers' Education and Workforce Development Fund (2021); and Anthony R. Leone Educational Programs Fund (2022)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick Fund (2017)

Bradford Family Fund (2018)


Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island Fund (2014)


Alma Brewster Fund (1978)

Brickle Group Charitable Fund (2014)

Roberta H. Bridenbaugh Fund (1996)

Harriet M. Briggs Memorial Fund (1978)

Brightman Hill Fund (2017)

Bristol Children’s Home Fund (1967)

Bristol Female Charitable Society Fund (2003)

Bristol Historical & Preservation Society Helene L. Tessler Fund (2009)
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CCRI Foundation Fund (2018)
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Supported by: Alice Hall Allen, Class of 1935 Scholarship Fund (2017); Vincent D. Morgera Memorial Scholarship Fund (2018); and Farnum Memorial Scholarship Fund (2021)
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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)

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Supported by: Alice Codding Endowment Fund for Cumberland Public Library (2011); Cumberland Grange Endowment Fund for Cumberland Public Library (2011); and Cumberland Library Endowment Fund (2013)

Lillian Cumming Streetscape Fund (1988)
Marquise d'Andigne Fund (1932) 
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Rob DeBlois Professional Development Fund (2020) 
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Delta Dental of Rhode Island Fund (2005) 
Beatrice S. Demers Fund (2007) 
Laurence DeMorino Fund (2019) 
Frieda Dengal Fund (2013) 
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Densmore Scholarship Fund (1993) 
Thomas DePetrillo and Carol Keefe Fund (2013) 
DeRabbanan 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. Shuster (1991) 
Claudia and Mary Howe DeWolf Fund (1991) 
Olive B. DeWolf Fund in Memory of Paul Churchill DeWolf (1990) 
Jeremiah Dexter Family Fund (1998) 
Dibble Memorial Fund (1990) 
**Elaine Dickstein Community Library Fund (2022)** * 
Dr. Bruno DiClemente Scholarship Fund (2001) 
Dimock Fund (2013) 
Gabrielle Dinsmore Heart & Hope Fund (2017) 
Gabrielle Dinsmore Fund in Support of the Pediatric Heart Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital (2017) 
Directors' Fund (2000) 
Iona Dobbins Art Fund (2000) 
Iona Blake Dobbins Scholarship Fund for the Visual Arts (2013) 
Edgar M. Docherty Memorial Fund (2001) 
James Donaldson Scholarship Fund (2014) 
Dr. Dorothy F. Donnelly Ph.D. Endowment Fund (2021) 
Sylvia G. Donnelly Fund (1988) 
Harry L. Doran SPCA Endowment Fund (2019) 
Dorcas Place Partners for Learning Fund (1999) 
Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island Fund Supported by: Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island Fund (2015) and Pauline and Samuel Friedman Fund (2020) 
Kenneth J. and Hannah E. Dorney Fund (2016) 
Elizabeth M. Drapala Memorial Scholarship Fund (2002) 
Frosty Drew Nature Center Fund (1985) 
Gregory Dubuc Memorial Scholarship Fund (2008)
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Kathryn Johnson Fund (2014)
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Pawtucket Public Library
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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)
Robert Rohm Art Scholarship Fund (2021)
Rose and Aaron Roitman Fund (1982)
Aaron Roitman Fund for Chamber Music (1982)

Marvin Ronning Fund (2022) *
Rooks Family Fund (2015)
Herman H. Rose Civic, Cultural and Media Access Fund (1986)
Rosenberg and Koborn Fund (2001)
Ross Family Fund (2019)
Alan R. Rote, MD Fund (2019)

Charles M. Royce Fund (2022) *
Ruggiero/Reinhardt Family Fund (2009)
Dr. Joseph L.C. and Mary P. Ruisi Fund (1999)
Tom Russell Scholarship Fund (1989)
Barbara Flinker Ruttenberg Fund (2018)
Rykat Fund (2013)

Ric Saborio Memorial Scholarship Fund (2022) *
Saul B. Saila Fellowship Fund (2007)
Saint Elizabeth Community Fund for Quality Eldercare in RI (2017)

S. Stephen's Church Music Fund (1999)
Friends of Sakonnet Lighthouse Fund (1985)
Marissa Salabert Memorial Scholarship Fund (2014)
Salten Weingrod Family Fund (2007)
Andrew & Frances Salvadore Scholarship Fund (1989)
Michael A. Salvadore and A. Doris Salvadore Scholarship Fund (2013)
Samaritans Fund (2006)
San Miguel School
Supported by: Brother Lawrence Goyette, FSC Scholarship Fund (2011) and San Miguel School Endowment Fund (2010)
Juanita Sanchez Community Fund (1992)
Bridget Sanetti Memorial Scholarship Fund (2003)
Sapinsley Family Foundation (1970)
Nancy Sarah Fund for Women (2006)
Francis B. Sargent MD Fund (1995)
Sargent Rehabilitation Center Fund (2016)
Jacqueline Gage Sarles Memorial Fund (1968)
Clare Sartori and Art Stein Fund (2012)
Deputy Assistant Chief Anthony V. Sauro Award Endowment Fund (1991)
Savage and Luther Family Fund (1998)
George and Naomi Sawyer Memorial Fund (1991)
Monica P. and William T. Sawyer Fund (2014)
Dr. Edmund A. Sayer Fund (1987)
Minna Schachter Fund (2008)

Albert and Ilse Schaler Fund (2022) *
Ilse and Albert Schaler Fund (2022) *
Willard and Marjorie Scheibe Designated Fund (2009)
Willard and Marjorie Scheibe Nursing Scholarship Fund (2010)
Schmieding Orlando Patient – Focused Nursing Fund (2005)
Cantor Schneider Memorial Scholarship Fund (2014)
Ron Schoepfer Memorial Fund (2010)
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<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Mary and Michael Schwartz Fund</td>
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<td>Scituate Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Scone Fund</td>
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<td>Roger G. Scott Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>R. Gordon and Patricia C. Scott Fund</td>
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<td>MaryAnn Scott Charitable Fund</td>
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<td>Gertrude P. Scruggs Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>Seaberg-Sleicher Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>Benjamin Seabury Fund</td>
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<td>Seekonk Land Conservation Trust Fund</td>
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<td>Otto and Gertrude K. Seidner Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Seng Fund (2022)</strong></td>
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<td>Anthony J. Serio Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Lance Corporal Matthew K. Serio Football Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Serve Rhode Island Fund for the Volunteer Center of RI</td>
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<td>Dr. Sarkis M. and Mrs. Mary A. Shaghalian Fund</td>
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<td>Doctors Shapiro and Nager Pets in Need Fund</td>
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<td>Eve Widgoff Shapiro Fund</td>
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<td>Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Providence Neighborhood Planting Program Fund</td>
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<td>Peggy and Henry Sharpe Fund</td>
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<td>William H. Sheehan and Sandra A. Behar Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>Phebe McAlpine Shepard Fund in Memory of John Shepard II, Edward B. and Phebe W. McAlpine</td>
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<td>Edwin F. Sherman Jr. Fund for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>Edwin F. Sherman Jr. Fund for YMCA of Greater Providence</td>
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<td>Cass and Sam Shoppell, Jr. Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>Janet E. Shuster Special Education Fund</td>
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<td>Ilon Sillman/Sara Andrews Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Silver Family Fund</td>
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<td>Silver-Haspel Family Fund</td>
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<td>Saul A. Silverman Endowment Fund of IODA</td>
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<td>Simchi-Levi Charitable Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Cynthia A. Simmons Fund (2022)</strong></td>
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<td>Aline J. Simoens Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>Peter H. Simoens Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>Godfrey B. Simonds Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>Walter Simpson Fund</td>
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<td>Sinclair Family Fund</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Hope Singsen and Edward L. Singsen Fund</td>
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<td>Theodore R. Sizer Fund for Education Reform</td>
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<td>Abby M. B. Slade Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>Robert H. and Catherine B. Sloan Charitable Fund</td>
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<td>Eugenia Smetisko Fund</td>
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<td>Charles Stuart Smith Fund</td>
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<td>Dorothy Hackney Smith Fund</td>
<td>1980</td>
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<td>Ellen and Harry Smith Fund</td>
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<td>Eric and Peggy Smith Family Fund</td>
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George E. Smith Fund (1964)
Jack & Patricia Smith Fund (2002)
John W. Smith Fund (1981)
Friends of Smithfield Rotary Scholarship Fund (2004)
Smith’s Castle Fund (1998)
Andrew H. Snyder Dream Fund (2020)
Dianne B. Snyder Memorial Fund (2002)
Socio-Economic Development Center for Southeast Asians Endowment Fund (2001)
Edith B. Soule Fund (1999)
Lewis D. Sorrentino Fund (2004)
Lily and Catello Sorrentino Memorial Scholarship Fund (1978)
Edith B. Soule Fund (1999)
South County Ambulance and Rescue Corps Fund (2002)
South County Art Association
Supported by: South County Art Association Founder’s Fund (2016) and South County Art Association Fund (2016)
South County Garden Club of Rhode Island
Supported by: South County Garden Club of RI/Margaret Dunbar Fund (2004) and South County Garden Club of RI Susan B. Wilson Fund (2010)
South County Habitat for Humanity
Supported by: South County Habitat for Humanity Endowment Fund (2012) and Lou Raymond Building Endowment Fund (2018)
South County Health Medical Staff Scholarship Fund (2018)
South County Museum
Supported by: South County Museum Endowment 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 Elementary Charter School Fund (2016)
Soutter Family Fund (2013)
Virginia and Thomas Soutter Fund for Dorcas Place (2010)
Lillian Sparfven & Ethel Ferrara Fund (2022) *
Spartina Fund (2007)
Mary C. Speare Charitable Fund (2017)
James L. Spears Charitable Fund (2005)
St. Martin's Church Endowed Pledges Fund (2015)
Lillian Sparfven & Ethel Ferrara Fund (2022) *
Madeline Standish Fund (2010)
Staples Family Fund (1986)
Star of the Sea Fund (2020)
Starkweather & Shepley Charitable Fund (2010)
Station Fire Memorial Foundation Endowment Fund (2022) *
Staples Family Fund (1986)
Shirley Steere, Battey-Campbell Memorial, and Book Endowment Fund (2013)
Steinberg-Shao Family Fund (2021)
Steinberg-Shao Family Unrestricted Fund (2008)
Doris Stephens Mariposa Fund (2014)
Myriam Stettler, RN Nursing Scholarship Fund (2018)
Ronald G. Stevens and Patricia E. Moore Fund (2013)
Frank M. Stewart Fund (2012)
William Laverne Stillman and Elizabeth C. Stillman (Class of ’33) Scholarship Fund (2008)
Stone Bridge Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship Fund (1991)
Stonehouse Mountain Family Fund (2017)
Henry A. Street Fund (1956)
Sylvia Street Fund in Memory of Ruth Ely (1981)
John O. Strom, MD Memorial Fund (2008)
Mary Lou Strong Fund (2018)
William J. and Judith D. Struck Fund (2005)
Sturges Fund for Grace Church (2008)
Suglia Family Fund (2016)
Sullivan Family Fund (1996)
Jeff Sullivan Hope Fund (2020)
Bruce and Marjorie Sundlun Scholarship Fund (1990)
Surti Family Scholarship Fund (2020)
Kim and Howard Sutton Fund (2015)
Helen E. Swanson Fund (2003)
Jeffrey L. Swanson Memorial Scholarship (2016)
Karen M. Swanson Memorial Scholarship Fund (2020)
Miss Swinburne Fund (2002)
Anne and Michael Szostak Fund (2009)
Richard W. Szumita Memorial Scholarship Fund (2001)
Hope and Roland Talbot Fund (1979)
Hope and Roland Talbot Scholarship Fund (2021)
Helen E. Talcott Fund (1930)
Tamburro Family Charitable Fund (2015)
David D. Tarnapol Scholarship Fund (2006)
David L. Taton Family Vocational/Technical Scholarship Fund (2020)

C. George Taylor Fund (1999)
Taylor Strong Charitable Fund (2017)
Arthur L. Teal, Sr. Scholarship Fund (2018)
Test Fund (2013)
Rupert C. Thompson Fund (1987) (2)
Hope L. Thornton Fund (2001)
Thorp Family Scholarship Fund (2006)
Kerri Lynn (Estrada) Thurber Memorial Fund (2021)
Tides Family Services Endowment Fund (2017)
James E. Tiernan 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)
Touro Synagogue Supported by: Touro Synagogue Foundation Educational Initiatives Fund (2020) and Touro Synagogue Foundation Campus Improvements & Preservation Fund (2020)
Lilly C. Tow Fund (2015)
Geraldine Tower Education Fund (2002)
Town Dock Charitable Fund (2017)
Town Fair Tire Foundation Rhode Island Scholarship Fund (2021)
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)
Troy Fund (1979)

Trudeau Center Fund (2021)
Constance Kane Tucker Fund (2015)
Sarah Peabody Turnbaugh and William A. Turnbaugh Family Fund (2020)


UBS Rhode Island Fund (2004)
United Way of Rhode Island

United Welfare Committee Fund (1982)

Universal Homes, Inc. Fund (1978)

Urban Education Fund (2021)

Urban League of Rhode Island
Supported by: B. Jae Clanton Scholarship Fund of the Urban League of Rhode Island (1990); Andrew Bell Scholarship Fund (2004); and Urban League of Rhode Island Scholarship Fund (2004)

Virginia R. Urquhart Scholarship (2022) *

Anne Utter Fund for the Performing Arts (2006)
Jessie G. Valleau Fund (1967)

Valley Breeze Scholarship Fund (2017)
Valley Resources Fund in honor of Charles Goss, Eleanor McMahon, & Melvin Alperin (1993)

Willard Boullette Van Houten and Margaret Lippiatt 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)

Richard Vangermeersch Fund (2013)

Doctor Domenic A. Vavala Charitable Fund (2006)

Vax Gives Back Fund (2021)

Dominique Velociter Founder’s Endowment Fund (2014)

Venard Fund (1988)

Veterans Memorial Auditorium Endowment Fund (2014)

William A. Viall Fund (1939)

Scott F. Viera Memorial Fund (2017)


Vinny Animal Welfare Fund (2009)

Alice Viola Fund (1998)

Visual Arts Fund (2022) *

VNA of Rhode Island Legacy Fund (2021)

Vogel, Califano, Dimase, Iannuccilli Fund (2001)

Nondas Hurst Voll Scholarship Fund (2006)

Volunteer Services for Animals

Frederick & Rosamond von Steinwehr Fund (1998)

Evelyn Pierce Vories Fund (1983)

Irene Vose Fund (2006)

Ralph C. and Joyce L. Vossler Fund (2013)

W.H.S. Alumni Scholarship Fund (2014)
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<th>Funds List</th>
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<td>WAB Family Fund (2022) *</td>
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<td>Wadleigh Family Fund (2005)</td>
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<td>Waite-Menson Fund (2007)</td>
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<td>Wakefield Rotary Charitable Foundation Fund (2019)</td>
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<td>Mattie A. Walcott Fund (1999)</td>
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<td>Elayne Walker-Cabral Medical Scholarship Endowment (2018)</td>
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<td>John and Mary Wall Fund for Grace Church (1990)</td>
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<td>John and Mary Wall Fund for Rhode Island Hospital (2010)</td>
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<td>John and Mary Wall Fund for the Rhode Island Historical Society (2010)</td>
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<td>John and Mary Wall Fund for the United Way (1985)</td>
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<td>Robert W. Daly and Mary B. (Polly) Wall Fund (2010)</td>
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<td>Kevin B. Walsh Memorial Scholarship Fund (2005)</td>
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<td>Lily Walsh Fund (2001)</td>
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<td>M. Martha Walsh Fund (1997)</td>
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<td>Alice Ward Fund (1991)</td>
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<td>Julia P. Ward Fund (1966)</td>
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<td>Marjorie A. Ward Fund (2005)</td>
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<td>Simon W. Wardwell Fund (1978)</td>
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<td>William D. &amp; Margaret H. Warner Scholarship Fund (2021)</td>
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<td>Warren Preservation Society Fund (2022) *</td>
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<td>Lucy M. Warren Fund (1947)</td>
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<td>Warwick Public Library Supported by: Warwick Public Library Endowment Fund (1999); Janice Percie DiFranco Fund (2019); and Pia DeConcilis Endowment (2020)</td>
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<td>Washington County Veterans Council Endowment Fund (2013)</td>
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<td>Martha W. Watt Fund (1973)</td>
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<td>Webb Moscovitch Family Fund (2005)</td>
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<td>Robert and Vicki Weisman Family Fund (2012)</td>
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<td>Herbert J. Wells Fund (1970)</td>
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<td>weR1 Rhode Island Fund (2020)</td>
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<td>Harold B. Werner Fund (2008)</td>
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<td>Harold B. Werner Scholarship Fund (2009)</td>
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<td>David and Ellie Greenhalgh Scholarship Fund for West Bay Christian Academy (2021)</td>
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<td>Westerly Cancer Fund (2006)</td>
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<td>Westerly Lions Club Scholarship Fund (2005)</td>
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<td>Miriam Weyker Thanatological Fund (1989)</td>
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<td>What Cheer Flower Farm Capital Fund (2022) *</td>
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<td>Mark Wheeler Scholarship Fund (2017)</td>
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<td>Nancy Whit Fund (2022)</td>
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<td>Erskine N. White, Jr. and Eileen Lutz White Fund (2017)</td>
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<td>Maureen A. and Christopher D. White Memorial Fund (2001)</td>
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<td>Frederick B. Wilcox Endowment Fund (2016)</td>
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<td>Mary E. Wilcox Fund (2007)</td>
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<td>Virginia A. Wilcox Fund (1990)</td>
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Wildlife Conservation Fund (1966)

Deborah E. Wiley Fund (2022) *

Willett Free Library Endowment Fund (2016)

Joanna Pozzi Williams Scholarship Fund (2016)

Margaret H. Williamson Fund (2013)

Rob and Susan Wilson Mental Health Fund (2022) *


Leonarda S. Winiarski Fund (2005)

Gertrude L. Wolf “Class of 1902” Fund (1987)


Women Ending Hunger Fund (2006)

Women’s Fund of Rhode Island (2000)

Helen Wood Memorial Fund for Langworthy Public Library (2009)

Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund (2010)

Mrs. Kenneth F. Wood Fund (1935)

Woodcock Charitable Fund (2000)

Michael J. Woods Fund (2009)

Mabel M. Woodward Fund (1946)

Mabel M. Woodward Fund (1963)

Marilynne Graboys Wool Scholarship Fund (2000)

Christi K. Work Family Fund (2022)

Work Urquhart Charitable Fund (2012)

World War II Memorial Fund (2018)

John J. and Eleanor Q. Wrenn Memorial Fund (2001)

James and Kate Wright Family Fund (2020)

Kit Wright Fund for Jamestown (1979)

Ora E. Wry Fund (2007)

Alan Edgar Wurdeman Scholarship Fund (2014)

Harrison Yaghjian Fund (2000)

Harry Yaghjian Trust Fund (1997)

Dr. James J. Yashar Charitable Family Fund (2007)

Judge Marjorie Yashar Charitable Fund (2008)

Carol Hudson Young Fund (2015)

Sergeant Cornel Young Jr. Scholarship Fund (2000)

James A. Young Fund (1974)

Jason Ellis Young Memorial Fund (2008)

Mary A. Young Fund (1990)

Mary A. Young Cancer Fund (2005)

Young Voices Endowment Fund (2016)

YWCA Rhode Island
Supported by: YWCA of Northern Rhode Island Endowment Fund (1990) and YWCA Rhode Island Gini Duarte Memorial Scholarship Fund (2012)

Eunice and Rubin Zeidman Fund (2015)

Laura Mason Zeisler Fund (1997)

Dorothy Davis Zimmering and the Zimmering Family Memorial Fund (1989)

Coleman B. Zimmerman Memorial Fund (1993)


Kimberly and John Zwetchkenbaum Family Fund (2007)

Supporting Organizations

Subsidiary public charities benefiting from the Foundation’s community knowledge and professional investment and philanthropic services.

Downcity Partnership, Inc. (2000)

Haffenreffer Family Fund (1987)

Jewish Federation Foundation (2018)

June Rockwell Levy Foundation (2011)

Rhode Island Charities Trust (1991)
Financials

Generous Rhode Islanders have entrusted their philanthropy to the Rhode Island Foundation for more than a century.

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.

As a reflection of the Foundation’s commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, the Investment Committee recently amended its policies to make the following clear: We believe that effectively accessing and managing diverse talent—inclusive of varied backgrounds, age, experience, race, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, and culture—leads to improved outcomes. The Foundation expects investment managers and other third party providers to respect and reflect the priority we place on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access.

Investment performance net of fees*:

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<th>Years</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>-10.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
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</table>

*As of 12/31/2022

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 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.
### Selected Financial Information

Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021. Full financial statements are available upon request. Form 990s are available at www.rifoundation.org.

#### Consolidated Statements of Financial Position  
**Unaudited 2022** | **2021**
---|---
**ASSETS:**
Cash | 418,844 | 1,043,820
Investments, at fair value | 1,264,372,963 | 1,454,731,089
Other assets | 15,807,018 | 20,320,010
Other receivables | 4,727,668 | 5,747,565
Fixed assets, net | 2,676,685 | 3,564,307
Notes receivable | 3,148,180 | 5,260,356
**Total Assets** | **1,291,151,358** | **1,490,667,147**

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:

**Liabilities:**
Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 3,726,533 | 2,860,799
Grants payable | 4,255,788 | 3,852,294
Charitable trusts | 4,326,430 | 6,311,692
Agency endowment funds | 123,349,191 | 130,007,670
**Total Liabilities** | **135,657,942** | **143,032,455**

**NET ASSETS:**
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<th><strong>2022</strong></th>
<th><strong>2021</strong></th>
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<td>Net assets appropriated</td>
<td>78,668,474</td>
<td>70,702,133</td>
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<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>13,882,057</td>
<td>12,938,407</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Grants and Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>92,550,531</strong></td>
<td><strong>83,640,540</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>(192,359,962)</td>
<td>122,628,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in value of investments held in trust</td>
<td>(1,121,190)</td>
<td>905,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(192,141,276)</td>
<td>224,652,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</td>
<td>1,347,634,692</td>
<td>1,122,982,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, End of Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,155,493,416</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,347,634,692</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Consolidated Statements of Activities  
**Unaudited 2022** | **2021**
---|---
**REVENUE:**
Contributions and grant revenue | 59,269,078 | 86,904,628 |
Net investment return | 31,414,110 | 96,125,121 |
Royalties and other income | 3,207,219 | 1,729,546 |
**Total Revenue** | **93,890,407** | **184,759,295**

**GRANTS AND EXPENSES:**
Net grants appropriated | 78,668,474 | 70,702,133 |
Administrative expenses | 13,882,057 | 12,938,407 |
**Total Grants and Expenses** | **92,550,531** | **83,640,540** |
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments | (192,359,962) | 122,628,667 |
Change in value of investments held in trust | (1,121,190) | 905,118 |
Change in Net Assets | (192,141,276) | 224,652,540 |
Net Assets, Beginning of Year | 1,347,634,692 | 1,122,982,152 |
**Net Assets, End of Year** | **1,155,493,416** | **1,347,634,692**

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**Selected Financial Information**

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

Unaudited 2022 | 2021
---|---
**ASSETS:**
Cash | 418,844 | 1,043,820
Investments, at fair value | 1,264,372,963 | 1,454,731,089
Other assets | 15,807,018 | 20,320,010
Other receivables | 4,727,668 | 5,747,565
Fixed assets, net | 2,676,685 | 3,564,307
Notes receivable | 3,148,180 | 5,260,356
**Total Assets** | **1,291,151,358** | **1,490,667,147**

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:**

**Liabilities:**
Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 3,726,533 | 2,860,799
Grants payable | 4,255,788 | 3,852,294
Charitable trusts | 4,326,430 | 6,311,692
Agency endowment funds | 123,349,191 | 130,007,670
**Total Liabilities** | **135,657,942** | **143,032,455**

**NET ASSETS:**
Net assets appropriated | 78,668,474 | 70,702,133 |
Administrative expenses | 13,882,057 | 12,938,407 |
**Total Grants and Expenses** | **92,550,531** | **83,640,540** |
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments | (192,359,962) | 122,628,667 |
Change in value of investments held in trust | (1,121,190) | 905,118 |
Change in Net Assets | (192,141,276) | 224,652,540 |
Net Assets, Beginning of Year | 1,347,634,692 | 1,122,982,152 |
**Net Assets, End of Year** | **1,155,493,416** | **1,347,634,692**
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED