



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

2024 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

TOGETHER

IN

FOR

WITH

COMMUNITY



Nikki Burnett embraces Katie Allan Zobel at EVOLVE Philanthropy legacy event



ValleyCreates artist grantee NAGO presents music at MASSMoCA/Assets for Artists Tour



Maria del Carmen Rodriguez provides sound healing to attendees of the Equity in the 413 Summit



Community Foundation Board of Trustees pose on Stearns Square for a group photo



ValleyCreates artist grantees gather to share thoughts and ideas on our local arts economy

### OUR MISSION

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts seeks to enrich the quality of life of the people of our region by:

- Encouraging philanthropy.
- Developing a perpetual, flexible endowment.
- Assessing and responding to emerging and changing needs.
- Serving as a resource, catalyst, and coordinator for charitable activities.
- Promoting efficiency in the management of charitable funds.

### OUR VISION

The Community Foundation is a catalyst for positive change in the region; engaging partners, raising flexible endowment, leveraging resources to solve problems; and contributing to the common good. We envision a Western Massachusetts that is thriving, collaborative, and generous, where there is opportunity for all.

We take an intentional, results-driven approach and see ourselves as a hub for civic engagement and as a permanent resource.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts is committed to **increasing equity and opportunity** so that all who live in our three counties have access to a satisfying quality of life.

#### Our strategy to advance this vision:

We use a portion of our resources to fund broadly to meet wide-ranging and evolving needs.

We focus and lead in areas we believe will have a significant impact on increasing equity and opportunity, utilizing all forms of capital to advance the following:

- **Charitable giving** within our three counties and by marshalling resources from beyond our region.
- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion** in workplaces and institutions, starting with our own.
- **A strong start for all children** through high-quality early education and care.
- **Accessible and more affordable post-secondary education and training**, providing pathways to completion and employment.
- **A vibrant local arts and creativity ecosystem** to support self-expression, economic vitality, and connection.

# DEAR FRIENDS,

We are thrilled to share our gratitude and optimism with you as we reflect on an incredible year of growth and achievement at the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

Your unwavering support and engagement have been the cornerstone of our success, and we are deeply thankful for the trust and commitment you have given us. Together, we have made significant strides, and we look forward to continuing this journey with your ongoing enthusiasm for the Valley and with your continued support.

This year has been marked by exciting new partnerships. We have forged meaningful collaborations that have expanded our reach and impact, allowing us to better serve our communities. These partnerships have empowered us to further embed equity within our organization and across the nonprofit community. A few highlights:

- **We secured \$500,000 from the MassMutual Foundation** to expand our Flexible Funding program which offers operating support to our nonprofit partners.

- **With \$200,000 from the Barr Foundation**, we've advanced our internal equity and our ability to serve smaller, non-traditionally structured nonprofits and community groups.
- **We joined with partners in the region to host the first Equity in the 413: Racial Equity Summit.** Over 350 professionals from across the four counties of Western MA gathered to learn ways they could advance equity in the workplace, through an event whose planning and execution modeled equity and inclusion.
- **We developed a partnership with Governor Healey's office, the United Way of Central Massachusetts and Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)** to raise and distribute over \$3.3 million to farmers in our region who were impacted by extreme rain and flooding last year.

All this while onboarding a new President and CEO as well as a new Vice President for Finance and Operations, and welcoming five new trustees and several new volunteers. Without a doubt, this wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our phenomenal staff.

In all, individuals and institutional partners from within and outside of our region invested \$25.7 million in contributions. We were able to distribute over \$16 million to hundreds of nonprofit partners, college students and artists. We are proud of what we have achieved. Your trust in us and your dedication to drive positive change and greater opportunity for our neighbors has catapulted us forward into a new chapter. Our future is bright.

As we continue to meet with donors, partners, and students during our gatherings, we encourage you to stay in partnership with us, to engage in the work of the Community Foundation in whatever way is possible for you, and to share your ideas on how we can be even better together.

With gratitude,



**Megan Burke**  
President & CEO



**Paul Murphy**  
Trustee Chair



**Karin George**  
Trustee Vice-Chair



**I have found such joy in connecting with the incredible staff of the Community Foundation of Western Mass.**

Through their leadership, like-minded stakeholders came together to successfully organize and execute the inaugural Racial Equity Summit in Western Mass, an event that provided much-needed space for open dialogue, collaboration, and reflection about how to advance racial equity in all our spaces. I am so honored to continue on this journey with CFWM.

**DEBBIE DISTEFANO**  
Chief People and Equity Officer  
Hilltown Community Health Center

*Debbie DiStefano facilitates a workshop at the Equity in the 413: WMass Racial Equity Summit*



COMMUNITY PARTNER



# OUR IMPACT

SCHOLARSHIPS & LOANS

**\$2.1 million**



GRANTS

**\$14.2 million**



TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS

**\$16.3 million**

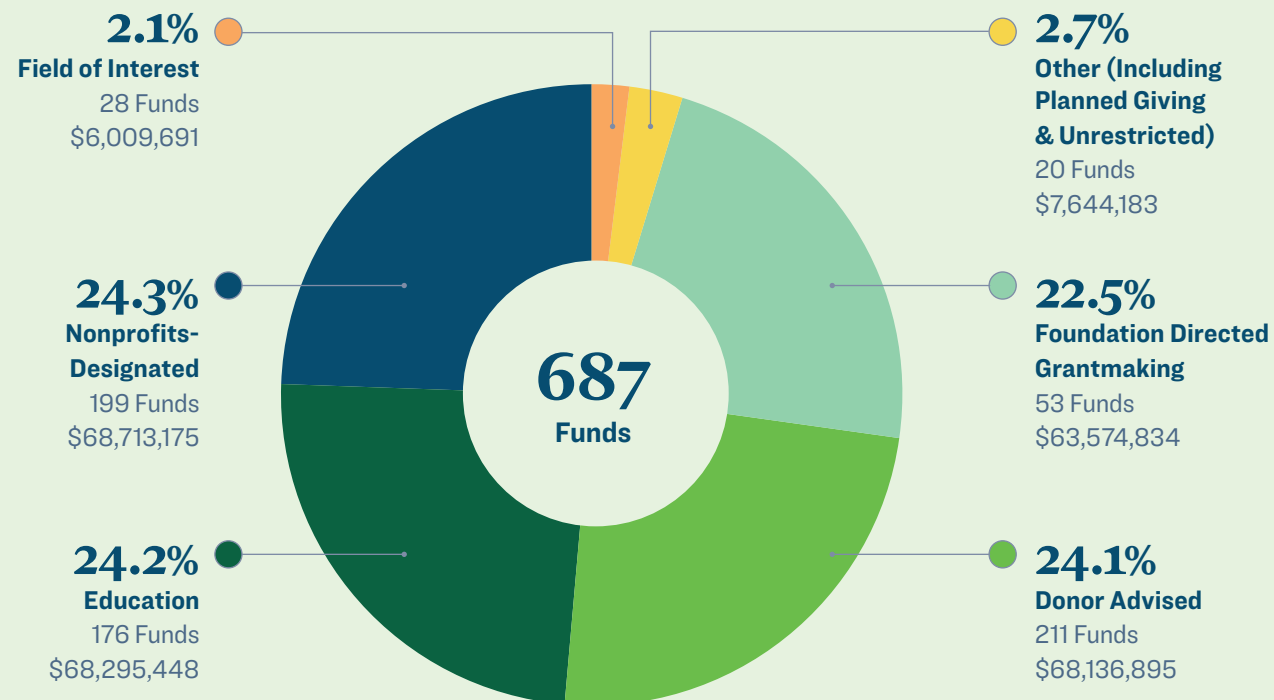
TOTAL ASSETS

**\$282.4 million**

GROSS CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

**\$25.7 million**

## ASSETS BY FUND PURPOSE



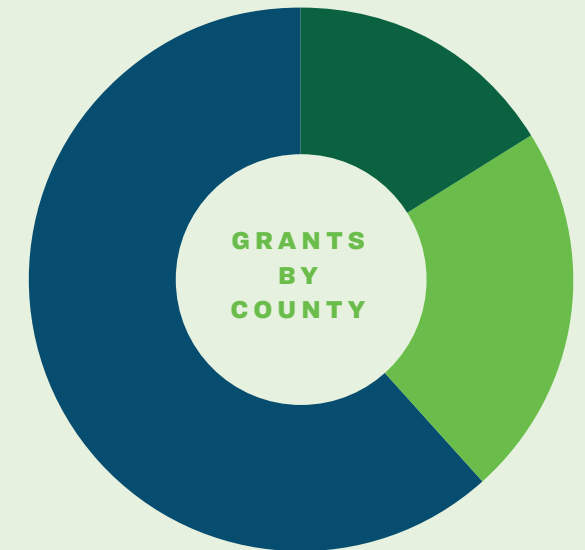
## OUR FUNDS AT WORK: TOTAL GRANTMAKING

Donor Advised	\$7,683,264
Agency Advised	\$965,269
Donor Designated	\$1,834,051
Foundation Directed	\$3,685,507

**\$14,168,091**

TOTAL GRANTS

## FOUNDATION DIRECTED GRANTMAKING



## COMMUNITY PARTNER



Progress is often achieved through collective efforts and a shared purpose.

Our partnership with the Community Foundation has been key this year, as it allows us to expand access to the MassMutual Foundation's resources, guided by our shared priorities and the insights from the community. By working together, we are better equipped to meet the most pressing financial needs of local residents and make a meaningful difference.



DENNIS DUQUETTE  
President & CEO  
MassMutual Foundation



MC, poet, and multilingual performer Vox Sambou performs at Bombyx for pre-festival celebration.



A VIBRANT LOCAL ARTS & CREATIVITY ECOSYSTEM

# Setting the Stage for All

## Bombyx Puts Arts and Equity on Center Stage in Western Massachusetts

A century and a half since its founding, a Florence, Massachusetts church now hums with renewed purpose. Once a hub for abolitionist debate and social reform, this 160-year-old church embodies the region’s legacy of activism and community engagement. Today, the 13,000-square-foot building is a testament to inclusivity, housing a preschool, a Christian congregation, and a Jewish synagogue—alongside its newest addition, the Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity. Born at the height of the pandemic, Bombyx has transformed this historic space into a vibrant venue for music, theater, visual arts, and community gatherings. The center now hosts artists from around the world, honoring the site’s past while shaping Western Massachusetts’ cultural future.

Cassandra Holden took on the role of executive director in 2021, bringing with her decades of experience in public art and the music industry. Her first challenge was transforming the historic church into a safe, state-of-the-art performance venue. A crucial \$30,000 Flexible Funding grant from the Community Foundation in 2022 enabled renovations of the stage and installation of a modern sound system. A second grant awarded the following year paved the way for a fire suppression system and allowed Bombyx to reach a significant milestone: providing sustainable funding for the project’s management. Bombyx’s diverse programming reflects its commitment to equity and community, values

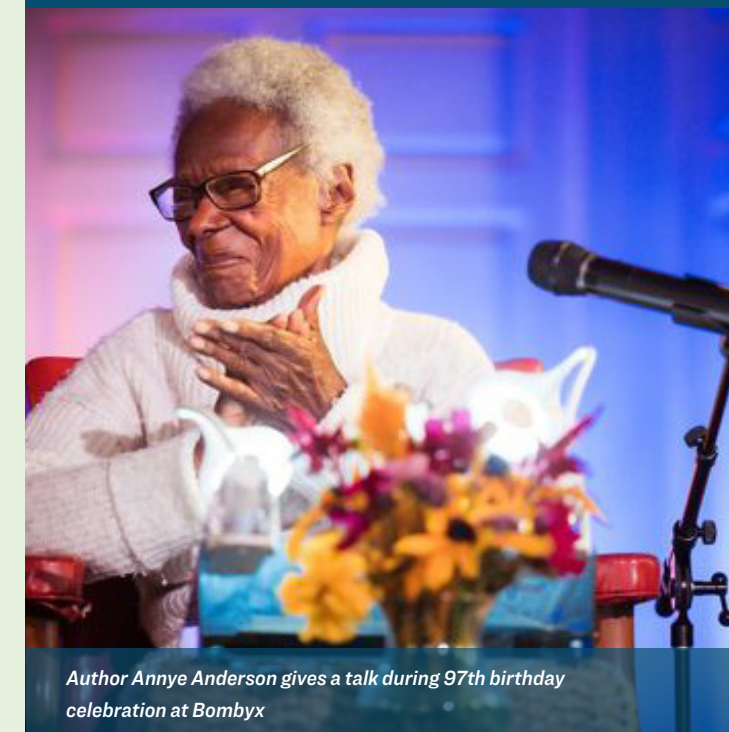
reflected in the site’s history. Events have ranged from lectures by Native American scholars to Arabic music ensembles, as well as a re-creation of a 150-year-old concert program originally performed in the same building. Today, Bombyx welcomes local and international artists, as well as independent producers collaborating on multidisciplinary works. “Maintaining the connection to history was very important,” says Cassandra. “Our goal was to create a nurturing ecosystem that supports, and is supported by, the community, continuing this building’s 160-year legacy as a multifunctional space.”

Cassandra envisions Bombyx not just as a live-performance venue, but as an incubator for artists, providing rehearsal space, actively cultivating talent, and sparking interdisciplinary collaborations. Through initiatives like grant-writing workshops and other support services, Bombyx serves as a resource for established and emerging artists alike as they navigate the region’s creative economy. In this spirit, Bombyx hosted the Community Foundation’s annual ValleyCreates gathering in spring 2024. This event brought together over 60 ValleyCreates artist grantees and a dozen of these artists showcased their work and shared best practices as working artists. “For artists working in studios at their home, or even just a corner of their living room, it’s not always easy to connect with their peers,” Cassandra says. “The ValleyCreates gathering offered artists the opportunity to connect across disciplines.”

As Bombyx continues to grow and evolve, its partnership with the Community Foundation remains a crucial element of its success. Together, we are working to create an interconnected arts community in Western Massachusetts that supports artists, engages audiences, and preserves the rich cultural heritage of the region. As Cassandra explains, “The Community Foundation supports us, and we in turn support and incubate artists.” This symbiotic relationship between Bombyx, the Community Foundation, and local artists ensures a vibrant and diverse arts ecosystem in Western Massachusetts for years to come.

“  
The Community Foundation supports us, and we in turn support and incubate artists.

CASSANDRA HOLDEN  
Executive Director, Bombyx



Author Anye Anderson gives a talk during 97th birthday celebration at Bombyx

### FLEXIBLE FUNDING IN 2023

\$2.3 million in grants to

96 nonprofit organizations

Across Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties



Youth creating at The Remake Festival at LaunchSpace—a day packed with learning, creating, and celebrating Earth Day!

EDUCATION & ECONOMIC MOBILITY

# Crafting Community

## LaunchSpace Creates a Path to the Creative Economy

Driving by the empty factory buildings scattered throughout Orange, Massachusetts, Brianna Drohen and her colleague, Alec McLeod, asked, “What could we build here that would make a difference for our neighbors, their children, and the entire community?” Their answer was LaunchSpace, a thriving makerspace, educational center, and entrepreneurial incubator.

In just a few years, the LaunchSpace team transformed the 13,000-square-foot vacant industrial property into a collaborative makerspace with equipment for woodworking, fiber arts, pottery, 3D printing, and much more. “We’re like a gym for artists,” explains Brianna, LaunchSpace’s cofounder and CEO. “Our members get trained on the equipment they want to use, and our day-to-day operations are run by an amazing community of volunteer stewards.”

LaunchSpace’s core offering, the Creative Sector Pathway Program (CSPP), provides young adults aged 16-24 with hands-on experience and real-world training. Guided by mentors, artisans, and entrepreneurs, participants develop educational pathways and skills they can bring into the creative

economy. “A young person could come to our program at 16 and be running an independent, financially stable business by 20,” explains Brianna.

LaunchSpace recruits from a wide pool of young people in Western Massachusetts, including those who are homeschooled, attending local schools, or referred by social service agencies and the judicial system. Participants often find the program’s hands-on approach more effective than traditional classroom settings. “Many students, and I was one of them, aren’t able to succeed in the classroom,” Brianna acknowledges. “Our program is about self-discovery through exploration and giving students the agency to succeed.” Each student enrolled in CSPP also gets a full membership to the makerspace, where they put their creativity to use and learn new skills.

Shortly after opening the makerspace in Orange, LaunchSpace was invited to repurpose an empty school in nearby Athol. They proposed a community food hub with food-service training, community

gardens, business incubation, and nutrition programs. “The idea is to create an entire ecosystem dedicated to revitalizing the community,” says Brianna. “And we’re trying to break down as many barriers as possible, from on-site childcare to transportation.”

A 2023 Flexible Funding grant from the Community Foundation proved crucial for LaunchSpace’s long-term success. “That grant was invaluable because we’re growing at such a fast pace,” Brianna explains. “Unrestricted funds allow us to make quick decisions without losing our momentum.”

For Brianna, LaunchSpace is more than just a collaborative makerspace, or even an entrepreneurial incubator—it’s a way of stitching her community together. “When a youth in our program connects with one of our senior adult entrepreneurs, and then they run into each other in the grocery store and have a conversation, that’s true community development,” she says.

“  
The idea is to create an entire ecosystem dedicated to revitalizing the community.

BRIANNA DROHEN  
Co-Founder and CEO, LaunchSpace

# Building a Bridge Between Cultures



Juan Falcon poses with board volunteers during the New England Latino Festival Media Tour

## Hispanic-American Library Brings Multicultural Literacy to Hampden County

After emigrating from Puerto Rico to the United States as a child, Juan Falcon struggled to find his identity in a new culture. “I didn’t know where I fit in. I spoke English in school, Spanish at home, and had no information about the place I came from,” he recalls. “Was there such a thing as a Puerto Rican patriot or role model? I had no idea.”

Juan turned to literature, scouring local libraries for information about Puerto Rican history and a culture he could proudly claim as his own. “I wanted to study Latin American perspectives, but a lot of the books I found were obsolete, or in libraries too far for me to travel,” he says. Recognizing this gap in accessible information, Juan founded the Hispanic-American Library in 1999 with a modest collection of books housed within Springfield’s Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Despite ongoing challenges in securing a permanent home, the library has expanded its collection over the years and, more significantly, its reach in the community. This growth has allowed the Hispanic-American Library to become what Juan had always envisioned: a bridge between cultures and generations.

Today, the Hispanic-American Library is a vibrant cultural hub, making Latino and Hispanic heritage accessible through diverse programming and events. A cornerstone of its calendar is the annual El Grito de Lares commemoration, which honors the 1868 Puerto Rican rebellion against Spanish colonizers and educates visitors about the legacy of Hispanic activism. With a particular emphasis on youth engagement, the library’s programs promote lifelong reading while connecting young people to their cultural roots. Its monthly authors series introduces readers to multicultural voices from across New England. In a recent hands-on initiative, the library’s staff led young people in researching and recreating traditional Puerto Rican attire for Springfield’s annual Puerto Rican Parade.

Despite serving hundreds of young people throughout its 25-year history, financial constraints have made it difficult for the library to maintain consistent programming. A turning point came when the library received Flexible Funding grants from the Community Foundation in 2022 and 2023.

These unrestricted funds breathed new life into the library’s initiatives, facilitating ongoing youth programming, guest speakers, and field trips to cultural centers. Juan highlights the tangible impact of this support: “We have a very tight budget, so this type of flexible funding allows us to be creative when opportunities come up,” he says. The Community Foundation also provided financial support for the 2023 New England Latino Festival, celebrating Latin American culture through art, dance, and music.

For more than two decades, the Hispanic-American Library has provided Western Massachusetts’ Latino and Hispanic communities with what Juan once desperately sought—a pathway to cultural identity. As Juan reflects on the library’s impact, he sees beyond individual benefits: “By helping kids learn about Latin American culture, we’re developing the next generation of community leaders,” he says. “That starts when we invest in and empower our young people.” In this way, Juan’s personal journey has come full circle, from a young man searching for his roots to a community leader helping others find theirs.

## The Community Foundation’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion:

We will advance equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the region’s three counties, including our workplaces and institutions by prioritizing racial equity in all facets of our work.

We have chosen racial equity specifically because of the pervasiveness of racism in interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships and interactions, institutions, and systems in our region and in our country throughout our history. We believe that working toward dismantling systems of racial inequality provides a framework for dismantling all other forms of oppression.

We commit to:

- **Combating** prejudice and discrimination by making intentional and equitable choices
- **Prioritizing** racial equity intentionally and continually in our policies, practices, systems, and structures
- **Promoting** social justice by amplifying the voices of our marginalized and underrepresented community members
- **Fostering** trust by increasing transparency and accessibility
- **Expanding** shared decision-making

We hope that you will join us in this work to make our communities more equitable and just.



EQUITY &amp; OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

# A Sharper Focus on Her Truest Self

## Michelle Falcón Fontáñez Finds Empowerment Through Art

Michelle Falcón Fontáñez grew up hearing what she couldn't be. Now, she's using her art to redefine those limitations, not just for herself, but for her entire community. As a first-generation Boricua raised by Puerto Rican parents in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Michelle felt constrained by the limited expectations others had for her future. "I did not feel supported," she admits. "Where I grew up, there was a lot of stigma around people of color, and the belief that our options in life were very limited."

Determined to defy stereotypes, Michelle discovered her passion for storytelling at a young age. Following high school, she attended

Hampshire College, where a video production class inspired her to make short films as personal projects. "I started to share my voice through storytelling, dismantling stereotypes and showing the true stories of my community," she explains. She continued exploring artistic mediums as a graduate student at Emerson College.

Armed with new skills and a maturing passion, Michelle set out to turn her art into a career. Following her time at Emerson, she launched a wedding photography business that she balanced with her true calling: photography and filmmaking that amplified underrepresented voices. A 2020 ValleyCreates Capacity grant from the Community Foundation proved transformative, connecting her

with fellow artists through workshops and coaching. "Getting that grant gave me the confidence to feel that, yes, I can do this full-time," she says. "And because the workshops were all facilitated by artists, they knew exactly what I was going through and pushed me to create a plan."

Michelle used her newfound confidence to explore photography projects with a social justice focus. In 2022, she secured a ValleyCreates Project Evolution grant to explore a pressing issue in Puerto Rico. "At the time, there was a huge increase in femicides on the island, and I wanted to create work that unraveled that issue," she recalls. "The ValleyCreates grant gave me the time I needed to conduct research and allow my project to take shape." Her research revealed deep-rooted issues stemming from Puerto Rico's colonial past, prompting a shift from photography to documentary filmmaking. "The story that needs to be told is very complex; it involves a culture of machismo, the mindset of colonialism, and women in abusive patterns," Michelle explains. As her understanding deepened, Michelle's project evolved into "Las Queremos Vivas" ("We Want Them Alive"), a feature documentary now in preproduction.

Empowered by her ValleyCreates cohort, Michelle found the confidence to become a full-time artist telling stories that empower her community. Her new entrepreneurial focus led her to an unexpected client: the Community Foundation itself. "For the Community Foundation to receive more funds and create more impact, we need to tell the stories of why this program works—so I pitched them," she says. Michelle proposed a video series that showcased ValleyCreates participants in their working environment, discussing their craft and the obstacles they overcame as artists. The resulting "ValleyCreates In the Studios" series, launched in 2024, challenged her imposter syndrome head-on. "When I was young, I didn't get the support I needed as an artist. But this project proved that others saw the value in my storytelling skills," she says. "Especially as a woman of color in this industry, it confirmed to me that I am producing good work; I am on the right path."

**To see Michelle's "ValleyCreates In the Studios" series, go to [youtube.com/@communityfoundationofwmass](https://youtube.com/@communityfoundationofwmass)**



ValleyCreates artist grantee Michelle Falcón Fontáñez

### COMMUNITY PARTNER

“

## In 2017, the Barr Foundation began the Creative Commonwealth Initiative

investing initially in five (now eight) community foundations as partners to strengthen resources for local arts ecosystems across the state. We selected the Community Foundation of Western MA as one of our original partners, recognizing its role as a cornerstone institution in its region. In partnering with community foundations, we benefit from their local knowledge, relationships, and credibility to help infuse arts and creativity into civic life throughout the Commonwealth.

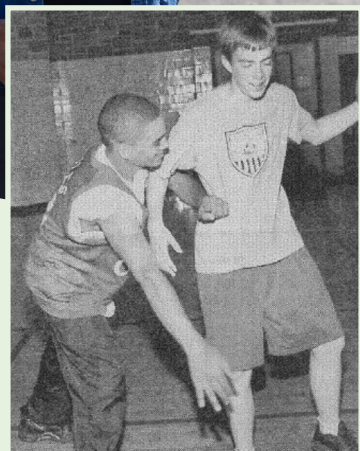


**JIM CANALES**  
President  
Barr Foundation





Top: Conor Bevan offers Jeff Markham Jr. a tour of the Holyoke Y



Bottom: Young Conor at the Holyoke Y

EDUCATION & ECONOMIC MOBILITY

# A Kind of Homecoming

## Conor Bevan's Journey of Service Brings Him Back to Hampden County

For Conor Bevan, stepping into his new role at the Greater Holyoke YMCA wasn't just a job change — it was a homecoming nearly 35 years in the making.

Although Conor was hired as CEO in spring 2024, he was far from new to the YMCA's downtown facility. As a child growing up in Holyoke, the Pine Street facility became Conor's second home, a safe haven when his single mother was at work.

"There was a great group of senior citizens at the Y who would watch me, read to me, teach me how to play checkers, and overall it was an incredibly welcoming place" he recalls. "But in reality, the Y was a lifeline for my family. It gave me a safe place to be so my mom could go to work and pay our bills." Over time, Conor went from a passive visitor to active in sports leagues, volunteering within programs, and making healthy friendships with staff and other youth. "Because of my experiences here, I developed a love for volunteerism and community service," he explains.

When Conor set his sights on a college education, the economic realities of a single-parent household hit hard. Even with generous scholarships covering nearly all of his tuition, the incidental expenses of higher ed hardly seemed incidental. "You can get the very best financial aid package, but there are still so many barriers," he says. "I needed a laptop for class; how was I going to afford that? I didn't even have the funds to take a train back and forth to school."

Inspired by his mother's tenacity, Conor searched for every scholarship he could find—a search that brought him to the Community Foundation. The Foundation awarded him two \$1,000 scholarships, which defrayed the cost of books and helped him buy his first laptop. Defying the financial odds, he was college bound.

Conor never forgot the support he'd received from the Holyoke YMCA as a young man, and set a long-term goal of giving back. He earned a master's degree in nonprofit management and served in leadership positions with several regional nonprofits. And in the spring of 2024, opportunity knocked — the organization that had given him so much was looking for a new CEO. With a job offer in hand, Conor Bevan was ready to come home.

In 2023, the Community Foundation awarded the YMCA a \$30,000 Flexible Funding grant to renovate its afterschool space, crucial for the 138-year-old facility. "We're the epicenter of health and wellness for the people of Greater Holyoke. More than half of our members are people of color and greater than 80 percent of the youth we serve are low-income kids, just like I was," he says. "I'm so grateful that the Community Foundation has the bandwidth to support what we offer at the Y, because our work here is not just life changing—it's life saving."

SCHOLARSHIPS & LOANS

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

1,137

AVERAGE AMOUNT

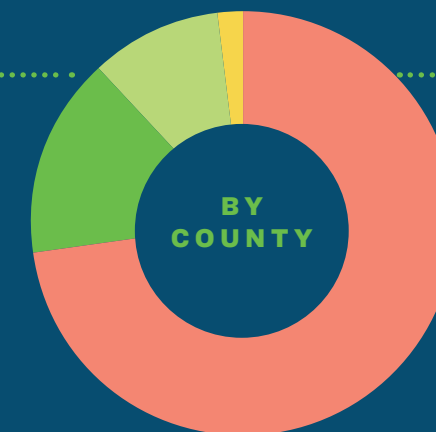
\$1,811

STUDENTS AWARDED

781

314 BIPOC recipients

260 First generation recipients



**\$1,414,567**  
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

INTEREST-FREE LOANS

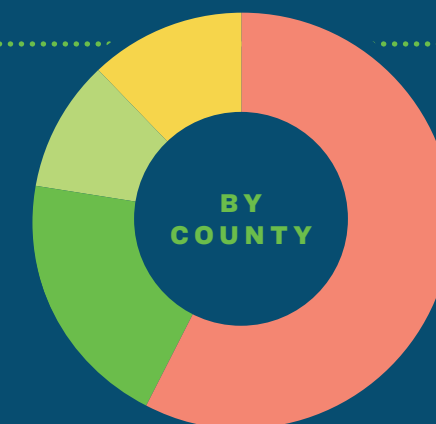
LOANS AWARDED

241

131 BIPOC recipients

125 Finish line recipients (juniors/seniors)

47 First generation recipients



**You can get the very best financial aid package, but there are still so many barriers.**

CONOR BEVAN  
Chief Executive Officer, Greater Holyoke YMCA

**\$723,000**  
TOTAL LOANS AWARDED

Unaudited financial information; more detailed financial information available on our website.

\* Includes Hartford, Berkshire, and Suffolk counties.



CHARITABLE GIVING: TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, TIES

Patricia Crutchfield

# This Is Who I Am.

## Patricia Crutchfield Uses Art and Volunteerism to Champion Communities

When Patricia Crutchfield’s father gifted her a Kodak Brownie camera years ago, he also instilled in her the drive to tell a community’s story through art. “My father followed a long tradition in the African American community of recording our family, friends, and their neighborhoods,” she recalls. “That was his soul.”

Following in her father’s footsteps, Patricia has spent a lifetime photographing her friends and neighbors, allowing the lens to reveal their most authentic selves. “I learned that photography can challenge stereotypes,” she says. “A good photo says, ‘Actually, this is who I am.’”

In recent years, Patricia has focused her artistic vision on the nonprofit organizations that enrich Western Massachusetts, offering

her photography at no cost to promote their missions. “I can’t offer much monetarily, but I can offer my art,” she explains.

Her work with Springfield’s Gardening The Community, an organization focused on food justice, resonated with photographer Robert Floyd and led to a 2020 exhibition at his Southampton gallery. To offset the material cost of the exhibit, Patricia applied for a ValleyCreates grant from the Community Foundation. The grant she received did more than just fund her exhibition—it opened a new way for Patricia to give back and honor her father’s legacy. Impressed by the Community Foundation’s work, she volunteered to serve on its Distribution Committee, reviewing grant applications and guiding donated funds to the region’s most effective local projects.

Patricia’s work with the Distribution Committee has given her renewed hope and inspiration. “There’s a tremendous amount of energy and love that comes through with the grant requests we consider,” she says of Western Massachusetts’ network of nonprofits. “These organizations know the community. They know how to make life easier for kids in our cities and hill towns, for example, and it’s such a privilege to cheer them on.”

Patricia also donates her time to review scholarship and grant applications for students and organizations in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties.

Just as Patricia uses photography to empower others, she recognizes a similar commitment in the Community Foundation and the organizations it supports. “I see a group of diverse people doing what is best for the community,” she says. “And the impact of that work is visible to all.”

“ I learned that photography can challenge stereotypes. A good photo says, ‘Actually, this is who I am.’ ”

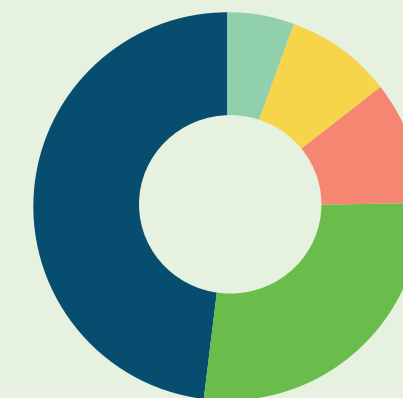
PATRICIA CRUTCHFIELD  
Education & Distribution Committee Member

### DONORS BY COUNTY

Hampshire	262
Hampden	293
Franklin	82
Outside Area (in MA)	61
Outside MA	150

**848**  
TOTAL DONORS

### CONTRIBUTIONS BY COUNTY



<b>47.8%</b> Franklin County \$12,317,101	<b>27.4%</b> Hampden \$7,039,087
<b>10.1%</b> Outside Area (in MA) \$2,607,962	<b>8.9%</b> Hampshire \$2,282,809
<b>5.8%</b> Outside MA \$1,498,703	

**\$25,745,662**  
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Unaudited financial information; more detailed financial information available on our website.



Director of Philanthropic Operations Keith McKittrick and Donor Services Associate Marty Bongfeldt attend EVOLVE Philanthropy event



Development Officer Maria del Carmen Rodriguez chats with Community Foundation supporters during Springfield Mural Tour.



Megan Burke shares her reflections during Trustee meeting

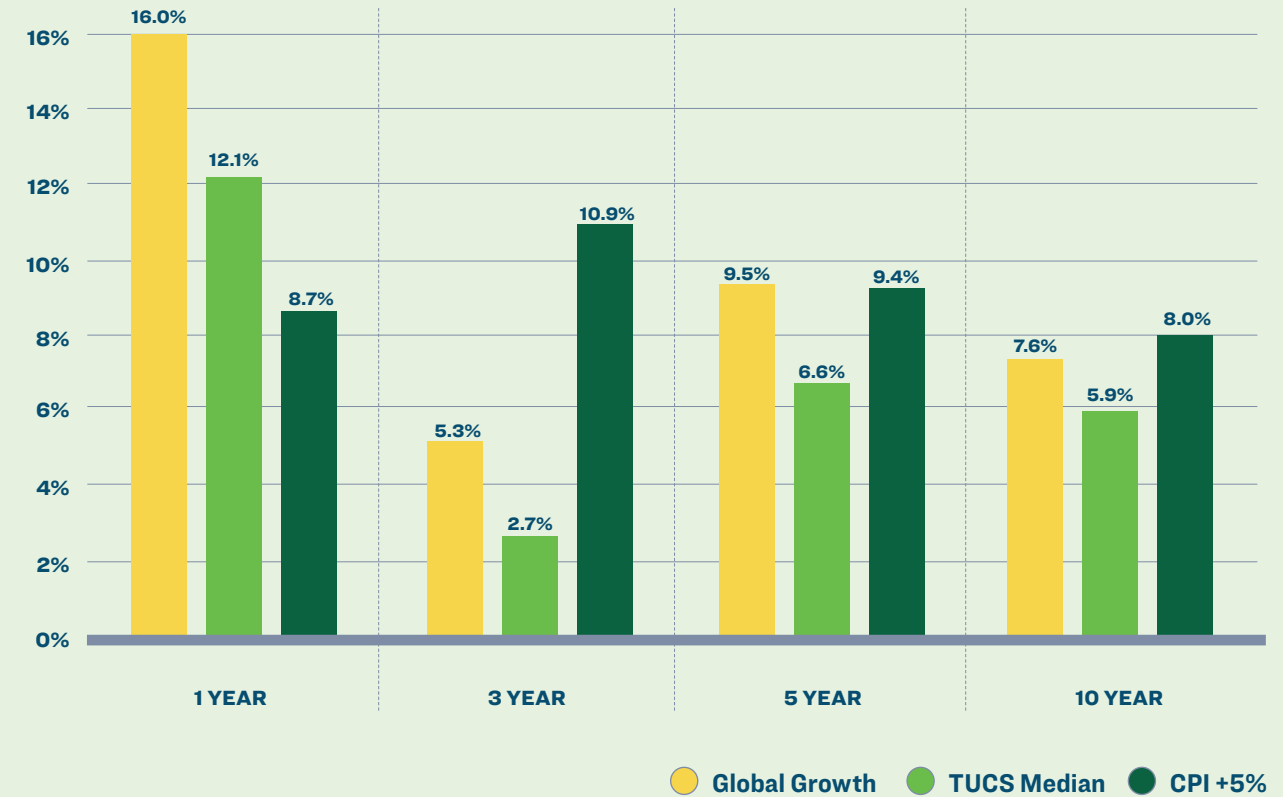


Staff pose for a picture during staff retreat

## INVESTMENTS

As of March 31, 2024

### COMPARISON OF RETURNS FOR GLOBAL GROWTH PORTFOLIO



### INVESTMENT COMMENTARY

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts had an investment portfolio valued at over \$250 million at the end of fiscal year 2024. Returns of the largest investment pool are noted in the table above. The overall investment objective of the Investment Committee and the Trustees is to manage the portfolio to maximize return while managing a prudent level of risk over a long-term investment horizon. Donors have established funds with CFWM to make grants into perpetuity, so in managing the pool of assets, the Investment Committee is focused on (1) preservation of principal,

(2) growth to keep pace with inflation, and (3) the generation of income for grantmaking and to cover expenses. By design, the portfolio is highly diversified with broad exposure to the capital markets—with roughly a 30% allocation to bonds for income needs and to provide ballast or stability in the portfolio and roughly 70% allocated to equities for long-term growth. This asset allocation strategy is executed utilizing an expansive group of low-cost, passive index funds. The portfolio is monitored by an investment advisor as well as a dedicated group of volunteers with extensive investment experience.

Unaudited financial information; more detailed financial information available on our website.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

As of March 31, 2024

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Cash and money market funds	\$11,155,973	\$11,104,423
Investments	\$263,067,785	\$219,733,637
Assets held under charitable trusts	\$2,434,134	\$2,178,313
Receivables	\$150	\$387,158
Loans receivable, net	\$2,979,749	\$3,126,068
Contributions receivable	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Prepaid expenses	\$172,924	\$76,888
Property and equipment, net	\$63,510	\$87,681
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$282,374,225</b>	<b>\$239,194,168</b>

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$283,351	\$236,622
Grants payable	\$23,100	\$87,900
Liabilities under unitrust agreements	\$1,062,812	\$1,040,234
Agency funds	\$26,304,989	\$22,360,256
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$27,674,252</b>	<b>\$23,725,012</b>

<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Without donor restrictions <i>Undesignated</i>	\$76,360,697	\$61,833,642
Without donor restrictions <i>Board designated</i>	\$2,300,910	\$1,813,412
With donor restrictions	\$176,038,366	\$151,822,102
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$254,699,973</b>	<b>\$215,469,156</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$282,374,225</b>	<b>\$239,194,168</b>

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

As of March 31, 2024

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	\$282,374,225	\$239,194,168
<b>Operating expenses</b>	\$4,705,494	\$4,275,976
<b>Operating expenses as a percentage of total assets</b>	1.7%	1.8%
<b>Contributions</b>	\$25,745,662	\$13,526,852
<b>Grants</b> <i>(including scholarships &amp; agency fund grants)</i>	\$15,582,659	\$18,044,887
<b>Loans</b>	\$723,000	\$729,000
<b>Total distributions</b>	\$16,305,659	\$18,773,887



**With Appreciation To Our Donors**

Please visit [communityfoundation.org/ar2024](https://communityfoundation.org/ar2024) for lists of our volunteers, Legacy Society, donors, and funds. We are grateful to the wonderful contributors who care so deeply about our communities.

**COMMUNITY PARTNER**



The Lieutenant Governor and I traveled around the state last summer and heard directly from farmers about the devastation that rains and flooding have had on their livelihoods. This Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Fund provided tremendous relief – both emotional and financial – to those farmers as they worked to revitalize their crops and get their operations back on track.

**We are grateful to all the donors who have contributed.**

We are proud of Team Massachusetts for coming together to help one another quickly and compassionately. This response would not have been possible without true collaboration, including the contribution from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts which worked to make sure that farmers in their region received relief in a way that worked for them.



**GOVERNOR MAURA HEALEY**



Sally Griggs speaks with Charlie D'Amour during our Lasting Leadership Luncheon

# Create Your Legacy, Support Your Community

We want to help you turn your passion into meaningful action.

Establish a charitable fund with the Community Foundation to support the causes closest to your heart and uplift your community. Reach out to us, and together we can explore a variety of flexible giving options that allow you to create a lasting, positive impact in our region. Whether your heart lies in the arts, the environment, education, fostering inclusivity in our community, or making a difference globally, we're here to help you achieve your charitable vision. Let's make a difference together.

## Give now or after your lifetime.

You can reach Joanna S. Ballantine, Vice President for Philanthropic Services or Nigel Greaves, Director of Development at 413-732-2858 or [giving@communityfoundation.org](mailto:giving@communityfoundation.org).



# IN MEMORIAM



Wilmot (Wil) Hastings

In July 2023, we lost a gem in our community with the passing of Wilmot Hastings. Wil, as he was known to his friends and community, loved natural beauty, and the people and poetry of Western Massachusetts. He worked to support arts and culture, land conservation, historic preservation, and social services to pay forward this appreciation. Originally from Swampscott, Wil built a business, raised a family, and lived his later years between Northampton and Cummington, MA. He was one part of a legendary team alongside his wife Joan Hastings, who predeceased him in 2010. The Hilltown Land Trust, West Cummington Church, and the Women's Fund of Western MA are some of the remarkable organizations shepherded by the Hastings. Their work was largely unpublicized, illustrating their quiet and steady generosity.

Wil worked with the Community Foundation to create sizeable bequests for nonprofits in the Valley as a lasting legacy. The impact of these donations will have a ripple effect as they are put to use to support these beloved partners, making the region such a special place to live.



Teresa A. Harris

We lost a beloved volunteer, professor, and philanthropist with the passing of Teresa Harris in November 2023. Teresa received numerous honors from nearby educational institutions and non-profits. As a field advisor for students at UConn, Springfield College, and Yeshiva University, she ensured that those individuals were ready to take on challenging careers as social workers. She was born in Niagara Falls, NY before her family moved to Springfield, MA. She graduated from Cathedral High School, Elms College, and Springfield College.

Teresa demonstrated her deep commitment to her community through her valued participation as a member of the Community Foundation's Distribution and Education Committees and many years of service as a grant reviewer. In her desire to continue caring for the community she loved, she established a fund at the Community Foundation to address the community's most pressing needs, so that she could continue to share her love of the community beyond her lifetime. Teresa took great pride in being recognized as a member of our Legacy Society.

## TRUSTEES

As of August 2024



Paul Murphy, Chair  
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY



Karin L. George, Vice Chair  
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY



Tara Brewster  
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY



Nikki Burnett  
HAMPDEN COUNTY



Charlie D'Amour  
HAMPDEN COUNTY



John Davis  
FRANKLIN COUNTY



Linda Dunlavy  
FRANKLIN COUNTY



Mauricia Geissler  
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY



Magdalena Gomez  
HAMPDEN COUNTY



Gillian Hinkson  
HAMPDEN COUNTY



Mark A. Keroack  
HAMPDEN COUNTY



Becky Packard  
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY



Michelle Schutt  
FRANKLIN COUNTY



Payton Shubrick  
HAMPDEN COUNTY



Doug A. Theobald  
HAMPDEN COUNTY



Gregory S. Thomas  
HAMPDEN COUNTY



Aaron Vega  
HAMPDEN COUNTY

## EMERITUS TRUSTEES

George Arwady

Dana R. Barrows\*

Sanford A. Belden\*

Helen D. Blake

Kenneth Boutin

Bruce Brown

Robert S. Carroll\*

Robert Cohn

Mary Beth A. Cooper

Ruth Constantine

Peter J. Daboul\*

Stephen A. Davis\*

Kerry Dietz

Dianne Fuller Doherty

Alfred L. Griggs\*

Harold Grinspoon

Lester L. Halpern

Willie L. Hill Jr.

Orlando Isaza

Amy Jamrog

Carol A. Leary\*

Ellen Brout Lindsey

Sonia M. Nieto

David E. Pinsky

Robert Pura

Irene Rodriguez-Martin

Elizabeth D. Scheibel\*

Mary Ellen Scott

Elizabeth H. Sillin\*

Richard B. Steele Jr.

Ralph S. Tate\*

Peggy Woods

Angela Wright

\* Trustee Chair Emeritus

## STAFF

Amanda Alves  
Administrative Assistant

Joanna S. Ballantine  
Vice President for  
Philanthropic Services

Marty Bongfeldt  
Donor Services Associate

Nicole Bourdon  
Senior Program Officer  
for ValleyCreates

Megan Burke  
President and CEO

Didi de Almeida  
Accounting Manager

Margaret Everett  
Grants Administrator

Murielle Gatewood  
Program Advisor for  
Scholarships and Loans

Nigel Greaves  
Director of Development

Sarah Guerin  
Executive Assistant for  
Community Impact and  
Philanthropic Services

Shannon Gurek  
Vice President for Finance  
and Operations

Denise Hurst  
Vice President for Community  
Impact and Partnerships

Breyonna Jones  
Education Program Associate

Nancy LaFlamme  
Senior Accountant

Meredith Lewis  
Senior Director of Community  
Impact and Partnerships

Jeffery Markham Jr.  
Senior Program Officer  
for Equity

Keith McKittrick  
Director of Philanthropic  
Operations

Jennifer R. McNeill, Ed.D  
Senior Program Officer for  
Education and Economic Mobility

Michaela Mendygral  
Marketing Coordinator

Emma Mesa-Melendez  
Director of Communications

Malachy Percy-Campbell  
Data Specialist

Maria del Carmen Rodriguez  
Development Officer

Adriana Sanchez Dominicci  
Advanced Data Specialist

MC Silver  
Executive Assistant  
for Operations

Jared Stickle  
Program Officer for Scholarships

Ann Tweedy  
Fund Administration  
Associate

Briana Wales-Thaxton  
Vice President for People  
and Culture

David Williams  
Accountant

## COMMITTEES

### AUDIT & FINANCE

Doug A. Theobald, *Chair*

Charles D'Amour

Mark A. Keroack

Mary-Anne S. Stearns

Tristan Ta

Ashley Travis

### DISTRIBUTION

Nikki Burnett, *Chair*

Patricia Crutchfield

Mariana DeLobato

Linda Desmarais

Christopher Fager

Brooks Fitch

Norma Friedman, *Co-Chair*

Jamie Manning

Andrea Monson

Devin Sheehan

Payton Shubrick

Francia Wisnewski

### EDUCATION

Apelila Joseph, *Chair*

Susan Crim

Kerry Dietz

Katie Fretwell

Gillian Hinkson

Thea E. Katsounakis, *Emerita*

Becky Packard

Craig Reed

Azanda Seymour

### EXECUTIVE

Paul Murphy, *Chair*

Nikki Burnett

Mauricia Geissler

Karin George

Doug A. Theobald

Gregory Thomas

### INVESTMENT

Mauricia A. Geissler, *Chair*

Dylan Korpita

Mary Jo Maydew

Ralph S. Tate

Doug A. Theobald

### PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES

Gregory Thomas, *Chair*

Xiomara DeLobato

Jessica Holloway

Terrell Joyner

Kari Diamond Kayiatos

Sarah Lapolice

Amie Miarecki

Robyn Newhouse

Lillian Ortiz

Kathryn Wakefield

### COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Linda Dunlavy, *Chair*

Nikki Burnett

Karin George

Gillian Hinkson

Paul Murphy


Liz Sillin


Aaron Vega



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

## JOIN US

**FACEBOOK:**  
 @CommunityFoundationWMass

**INSTAGRAM:**  
 @CommunityFoundationWMass

**THREADS:**  
 @CommunityFoundationWMass

**LINKEDIN:**  
 Community Foundation of  
Western Massachusetts

**SIGN UP FOR MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTERS:**  
 [communityfoundation.org/mail](https://communityfoundation.org/mail)



## Join us today in supporting our Annual Fund Campaign.

Your contribution fuels our mission and allows us to ensure an abundant future for all people in our region. Partner with us to support the change our community envisions.