





vBCF Mission

To invest in the quality of life and quality of place of Aquidneck Island and surrounding communities

Cover Photo: Evelyn Ansel



2016 was a year of transition for the van Beuren Charitable Foundation. The Board and staff completed the strategic plan and finalized a new strategic framework, which was adopted in November and publicly announced in 2017. The strategic framework aligns the van Beuren family’s philanthropic goals with community aspirations and is guided by our tenets of family engagement, effectiveness and community involvement. While our mission to “Invest in the quality of place and quality of life on Aquidneck Island and surrounding communities” remains constant, our focus has evolved from “qualifying activities” to “defining the outcomes we seek”: Healthy Lifestyles, Strong Starts, Community Prosperity and Excellence in the Commons. We hope that our new strategic framework will encourage the increased connectivity that is developing in the community, and acknowledges that community vitality is augmented by the beneficial interplay between health, education, the economy, and built and natural environments.

A focus on outcomes will require a more iterative process of learning from the work to continuously improve and refine our grant making. As part of this annual report we convened three clusters of grantees working on shared community goals and asked them to talk about the community benefit they strive to deliver, and the lessons learned that inform future work. **LESSONS FROM THE COMMUNITY** on the next few pages lift up those perspectives.

The \$5.5 million of grant funds we invested locally in 2016 inspired our planning process and reaffirmed the importance of being a community partner. Our community is hard at work taking on the challenges that will lead to children having a strong start in life, residents experiencing health throughout their lives, economic opportunity for residents and enterprises, and inspirational institutions and landscapes. As the reader looks over the list of grants later in this annual report it is interesting to note the number of compelling undertakings that, like our cover picture, connect our marine culture with the future economy – 5 grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million.

It continues to be both a pleasure and honor for the board and staff to partner with the community as we work to achieve a shared future.



Archbold D. van Beuren
Chair



Elizabeth R. Lynn
Executive Director

August 11, 2017



“The more we take the students out into the community, the more contacts we make, the more incredible things happen for individual kids who really didn’t think they had very many options.”

Nancy Noonan, *Teacher*
The Newport Project
Newport Public Schools

LESSONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

From school to career: finding a path, embracing the journey.

Community Aspiration *Cultivating healthy individuals and communities through education.*

Critical to the community's youth getting a healthy start on adult life is ensuring that they have access to a distinctly personal combination of self-knowledge, self-help, mentorship, quality education and practical skills. Achieving this aim has many dimensions. Traditional educational outlets will evolve to adapt to the unique needs of the individuals they serve. Alternative paths will broaden to accommodate all, e.g. high school education leading to higher education, or directly to career; or alternative education leading to the cultivation of insight, competence and skill.

The Foundation has invested almost \$2 million over the past few years in support of initiatives that help young people to move through their educational process successfully and to see themselves in a career that fits them, and allows them to grow and thrive in Rhode Island. From these funded projects, we are learning that:

- There is innovation taking place in school to career paths. These include programs that focus on self-examination, expression and creativity; intensive and personal college preparation; fast track high school/college degree blend career track programs; experiential trade-oriented learning, and more. The bold opportunity is to create an easy on-ramp where families and students can easily understand and can choose the option that best suits them.
- Another key is to raise the expectations for students, constructively push their limits, and help them take responsibility for what's next in their lives.
- The real transformation is accepting that not all learners are the same, and collaborating across sectors to create education systems and programs that fit diverse needs. There is powerful impact arising from non-traditional programs, with students flourishing through experiential and independent learning.
- Mentorship is invaluable, especially in creating real-world exposure that truly changes the game for many students, and providing continuity and guidance at key decision points.

Food, specifically shared meals, are at the heart of family and community. A thriving community places emphasis on making sure all members of that community have access to healthy food.

Marilyn Warren, *Executive Director*
Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center

“We are seeing the start of a real local food movement here and we must start looking at food on a much more local basis. One of the things that means is we need more farmers and farmer infrastructure.”

Chuck Allott, *Executive Director*
Aquidneck Land Trust



Sustainable, healthy food: from harvest to home

Community Aspiration *Nurturing thriving families and a thriving environment.*

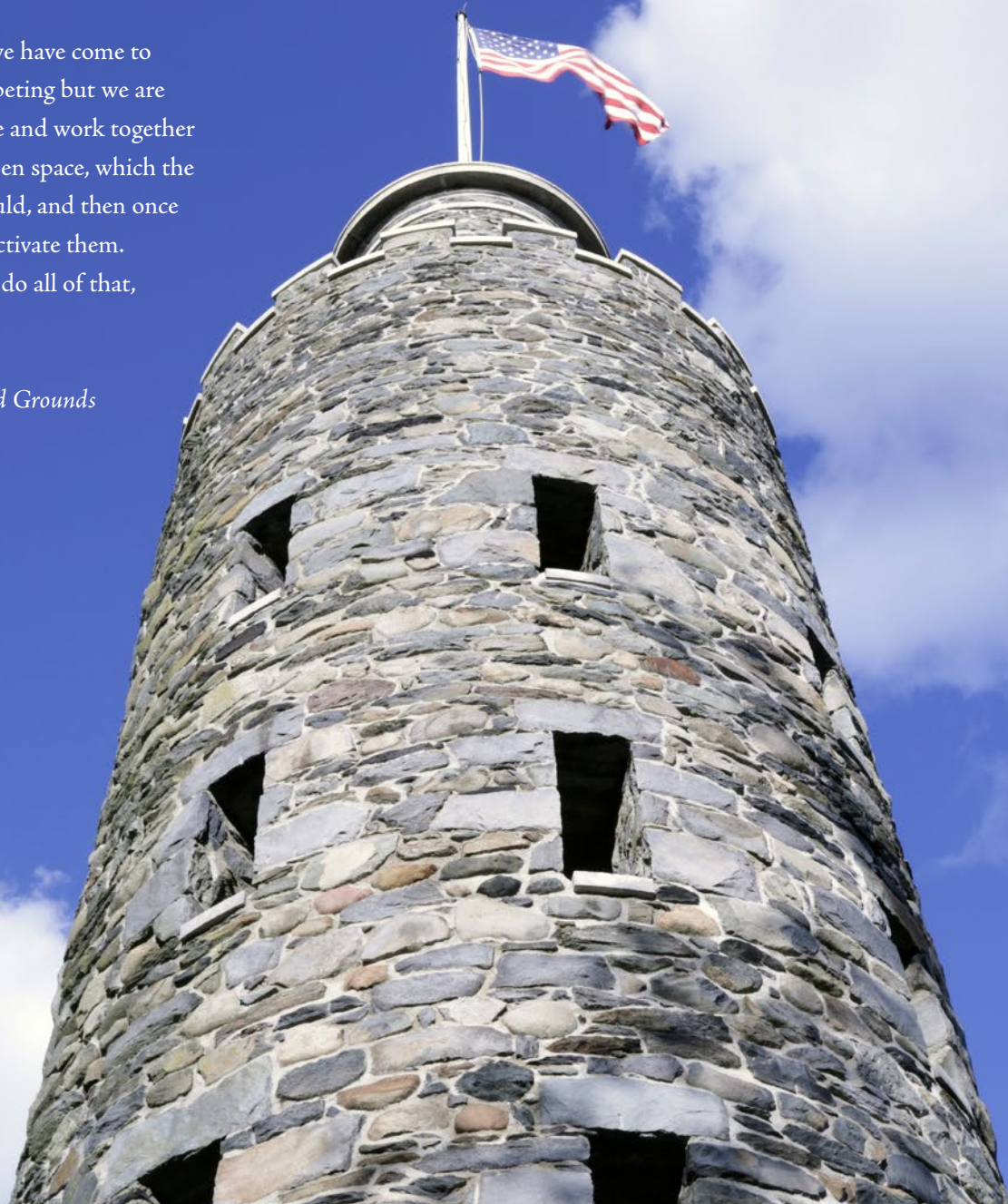
Healthy food fuels healthy living. It's young people ready to learn because they are not hungry; working families putting balanced meals on the table; and the homebound and elderly eating well on a fixed income. Food also provides economic opportunity for those families who farm, those who fish and those who manufacture and prepare it. Food also requires that we protect our environment. In addition, it is a great connector, bringing together families, cultures and communities. Without food, we would starve, not just physically, but economically and culturally as well. Everyone has a part to play in ensuring that they, and their neighbors, have the food system needed to live the lives they want.

The Foundation has focused \$2 million in funding over the past years on initiatives that help create a food safety net for those with limited resources; reduce the financial vulnerability of farming and threats to open land; and to cultivate mutually beneficial connections that will result in a sustainable food system, so all may thrive. Here is what we have learned:

- We need to help the current and next generation of people who want to farm and fish, which will benefit our communities. We are in danger of losing many local food sources: land is expensive, and in short supply and those who fish and farm are aging out.
- Many residents still live without access to healthy food. Community Food Pantries, Food Banks and Farmers Markets provide a near-term safety net. Long term, the sustainable path forward includes more economic opportunity and poverty alleviation.
- Innovative programs are creating careers in food preparation, entrepreneurship, and ethnic food distribution.
- For our community to be healthy and sustainable, our food sources must be, too. Heightened collaboration can lead us toward a food ecosystem where natural resources are protected, local fishing and farming are economically viable, and the barriers to healthy food access for all are eliminated.
- Food and culture are intertwined. Valuing a sustainable, local land and sea food supply, and celebrating diversity in food will accelerate our collective food security.
- Funding with a focus on the people, programs, and policy that comprise our food ecosystem holds great promise for cultivating a thriving future for people and place.

Through our partnerships we have come to understand we are not competing but we are looking for ways to integrate and work together to acquire new parks and open space, which the Master Plan tells us we should, and then once acquired work together to activate them. None of us can individually do all of that, but together we can.

Scott Wheeler, *Buildings and Grounds*
Supervisor/Tree Warden
City of Newport



LESSONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Place matters: open space opens doors to opportunity

Community Aspiration *Shaping the landscape for healthy work, life, and play.*

Open space is fundamental to the health of individuals and communities. It helps to preserve our environment. It provides for personal refuge and recreation. It's an accessible venue for formal and informal social connection. And, it causes us to think about achieving balance between development and nature. Positive open space planning encourages access for all, and balances a diversity of public interests. Collaboration is essential, and public interest and engagement make a difference. The well-being of people and place are intertwined, thus creating a vibrant, livable open space for all.

The Foundation has granted \$2.5 million over the past years on supporting initiatives that foster collaboration and cooperation in open space planning and protection. We have learned that:

- In our distinctive and predominantly island environment, there is a notable environmental fragility that makes us vulnerable. Various sectors of the community have forged new partnerships to help ensure a sustainable future.
- Our natural environment and our economy are tightly integrated. There is important work underway to balance the need for economic growth, with the need for open space and environmental protection. Newport County can become a model for resilient, sustainable development.
- Newport County's open spaces, natural environment, designations such as Arboretum City, and an up to date Open Space Master Plan are key assets. They attract new residents, new investment, and new business. And, they encourage healthy lifestyles.
- Public resources are always stretched, yet public stewardship of environmental resources is vital. Existing and emerging public-private partnerships hold great promise of increasing stewardship and maintaining our environment.
- Ultimately protecting and promoting open space is about protecting and promoting the health of everyone. Our physical health and emotional well-being are nurtured by open spaces. And, open spaces create the context for convening, connection and community. Where we live, work and play are all made better through open space.

2016 Newport County Grants Program



2016 Newport County Grants Program

All Saints Academy <i>to support the Newport County Community Lab School</i>	\$98,773	East Bay Community Action Program <i>for Middletown COZ - Out of School Time Programs</i>	\$18,525
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission <i>toward One Island Community: Building Partnerships for Shared Solutions</i>	\$235,600	Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital <i>for the Rhode Island Child Psychiatry Access Project</i>	\$63,000
Aquidneck Land Trust <i>to support park planning</i>	\$75,000	FabNewport <i>for support Make With Code 2.0: Creating Ongoing Learning and Evaluative Processes</i>	\$68,919
Aquidneck Land Trust <i>for general operations and assistance to operationalize the strategic plan</i>	\$84,200	Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities <i>to support the Northeast Funders' Network</i>	\$5,000
Aquidneck Land Trust <i>for the Merritt Neighborhood fund</i>	\$50,000	Grow Smart Rhode Island <i>for general operating support</i>	\$50,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ocean State <i>to support community-based mentoring in Newport County</i>	\$10,000	Herreshoff Marine Museum/America's Cup Hall of Fame <i>to support the Herreshoff powered vessel/navy exhibit</i>	\$25,000
Boys Clubs & Girls Clubs of Newport County <i>for the Summer Learning Initiative: Reading Reaps Rewards</i>	\$23,400	International Yacht Restoration School <i>to support the Campaign for the Future of IYRS</i>	\$670,000
Boys Clubs & Girls Clubs of Newport County <i>for general support of education programs</i>	\$35,000	Island Moving Company <i>for the Math into Movement program</i>	\$10,000
Boys Clubs & Girls Clubs of Newport County <i>for the Working Cities city-wide planning effort</i>	\$5,000	La Farge Heritage Foundation of Newport <i>to develop a sustainable plan for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Newport Congregational Church</i>	\$40,000
Company of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum <i>for security, technology and data collection enhancements</i>	\$200,000	Lucy's Hearth <i>for general operations</i>	\$40,000
Conservation Law Foundation <i>to support a Legal Services Food Hub in Rhode Island over two years</i>	\$100,000	Lucy's Hearth <i>for building maintenance</i>	\$150,000
East Bay Community Action Program <i>for Baby Steps: Early Education</i>	\$10,000		

2016 Newport County Grants Program

Maritime Cybersecurity Center <i>for the development of the RI Undersea Technology Innovation Center</i>	\$75,000	Preservation Society of Newport County <i>to support the collaborative project, Historic Preservation: An Overlooked Economic Driver</i>	\$50,000
Martin Luther King Community Center <i>for general operating support</i>	\$35,000	Preserve Rhode Island <i>for Keeping History Above Water conference scholarship support</i>	\$12,345
Meals on Wheels of RI <i>for the Home Delivered Program in Newport County</i>	\$12,500	Reach Out and Read Rhode Island <i>to support the Reach Out and Read early literacy program in Newport County</i>	\$6,000
Middletown Public Schools <i>to support the collaborative project Empowering Digital Learning Leaders: A Cross-Pollination of Ideas</i>	\$107,890	Rhode Island College <i>to support the Beyond Coding: Integrating Computer Science into STEAM project</i>	\$75,000
Middletown Tree Association <i>for the Tree Maintenance Program and Planting Incentive programs</i>	\$8,000	Rhode Island Community Food Bank Association <i>to support food acquisition and additional funding for Newport County food pantries</i>	\$80,000
Newport County Community Mental Health Center <i>to support the Chronic Early Absenteeism/Truancy Reduction Initiative</i>	\$70,116	Rhode Island Kids Count <i>to support the Newport Campaign for Grade-Level Reading in Newport</i>	\$45,000
Newport County Young Men's Christian Association <i>to expand the Prescribe the Y program to Portsmouth</i>	\$15,000	Rhode Island School of Design <i>for augmented reality for adaptive reuse studio in collaboration with Newport Restoration Foundation</i>	\$56,328
Newport Historical Society <i>for two-year support of the "Lost and Found" cataloging project</i>	\$100,000	Robert Potter League for Animals <i>over 18 months for general support and executive transition</i>	\$55,000
Newport Music Festival <i>to support the Newport Music Festival</i>	\$15,000	Robert Potter League for Animals <i>for building maintenance and the Training, Leadership, Coaching (TLC) Fund</i>	\$55,000
Newport Music Festival <i>to support sustainability planning and staffing and support for the 2017 Newport Music Festival</i>	\$95,000	Sail Newport <i>to support the Campaign for Blue Space</i>	\$500,000
Newport Tree Society <i>for planning assistance and operating support</i>	\$50,000	Sail to Prevail <i>for the Adaptive Sailing program</i>	\$25,000
NewportFILM <i>for newportFILM SPORTS</i>	\$38,000		

2016 Newport County Grants Program

Sailors for the Sea <i>for the Kids Environmental Lesson Plans (KELP) in Action program in Newport County</i>	\$22,630	United Baptist Church <i>for the window replacement project</i>	\$50,000
Saint Clare Home <i>to support the Rehabilitation/Physical Therapy Center</i>	\$400,000	University of Rhode Island Foundation <i>for the Narragansett Bay Special Area Management Plan public engagement process</i>	\$50,000
Save the Bay <i>to support the Aquidneck Island agenda</i>	\$35,000	University of Rhode Island Foundation <i>for second year funding to expand the URI-College of Pharmacy and Visiting Nurse Services Partnership</i>	\$78,519
Social Venture Partners Rhode Island <i>for operating support and increased development capacity at Bike Newport</i>	\$85,000	Visiting Nurse Services of Newport & Bristol Counties <i>to pilot a collaborative professional development project with Newport County Community Mental Health Center</i>	\$11,593
St. Paul's United Methodist Church <i>to support Phase V of the master plan, the restoration of the external steeple and church front</i>	\$150,000	Visiting Nurse Services of Newport & Bristol Counties <i>to support the Palliative Care and Maternal Health programs in 2016</i>	\$25,000
The Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences <i>to support the Newport SMILE Program</i>	\$33,100	Women's Resource Center <i>for counseling services of underinsured and uninsured clients</i>	\$25,000
Third Sector New England <i>for the Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) marketing grants program and for an impact evaluation</i>	\$89,000	Women's Resource Center <i>to support the Healthcare Equity Innovations Project: Addressing Barriers to Healthcare</i>	\$20,000
Third Sector New England <i>for support of Rhode Island Land Trust Council general operations</i>	\$15,000	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution <i>for research to increase knowledge of changing Rhode Island fisheries in collaboration with the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation</i>	\$118,343
Tiverton School Department <i>for the skillful teaching of engineering design practices at elementary schools</i>	\$32,681	Total	\$4,994,462
Town of Portsmouth - Portsmouth School Department <i>for Digital Media Mecca for Teaching and Learning at the Portsmouth Middle School</i>	\$40,000	Capacity Grants	\$17,078
Town of Portsmouth Rhode Island <i>for a new dog park at Melville Park</i>	\$65,000	Other	\$520,500
		Grand Total	\$5,532,040

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

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Increasing the Capacity of Grantees

The van Beuren Charitable Foundation provides resources to help grantee organizations and collaborations navigate change and manage growth. Since 2009, vBCF has funded capacity building in areas of financial management, human resources, governance, and leadership coaching through a mix of training sessions and grants. In 2016, vBCF sent out a survey focused on grantees' views on their organization's overall sustainability. Key findings from the survey on finances, fundraising, business planning, risk-management and governance informed our capacity building offerings in 2016 and beyond.

Coaching Grants Program

In 2016, four organizations received grants for coaching their leaders to help them gain new knowledge or skills, in turn, leveraging higher organizational performance.

Training and Leadership Speaker Series

For its third Nonprofit Leadership lecture, vBCF welcomed Steve Zimmerman of Spectrum Nonprofit Services and co-author of *The Sustainability Mindset* to speak about sustainability. Steve shared the Matrix Map tool with the audience that plots out program including level of intended impact against cost of program to help inform strategy and resource allocation.

The Foundation also partnered again with BankNewport to bring Fiscal Management Associates back to our area - at the request of previous training participants - to provide a "reunion" refresher and new information on strengthening financial planning practices and building reporting dashboards to strengthen financial monitoring.

How To Apply



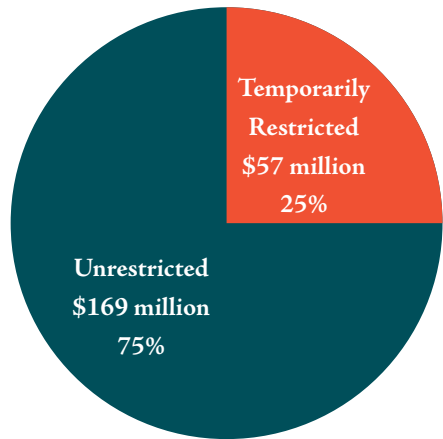
The Foundation's Board of Directors typically meets each year in November and May to consider compelling grant proposals. The application deadlines are February 15 and June 1 or the next business day if the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday.

All grant proposals must be submitted using vBCF's online application system. For more information on the Foundation's [giving priorities](#) and [how to apply](#) for a grant, please visit vBCF's website or click the underlined links.

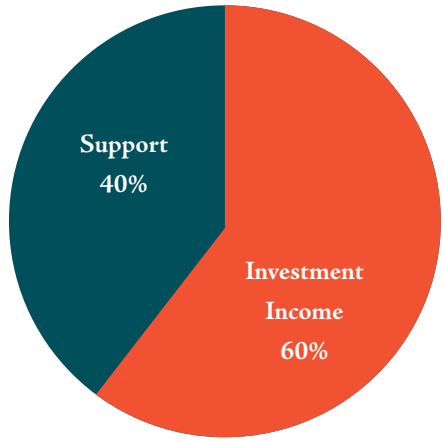
vBCF Financials

As of December 31, 2016

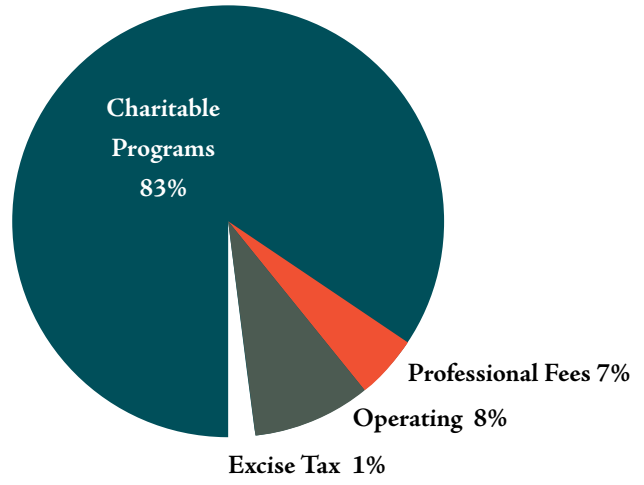
Net Assets \$227,155,375



Revenues & Support \$22,193,372



Expenditures \$8,406,991

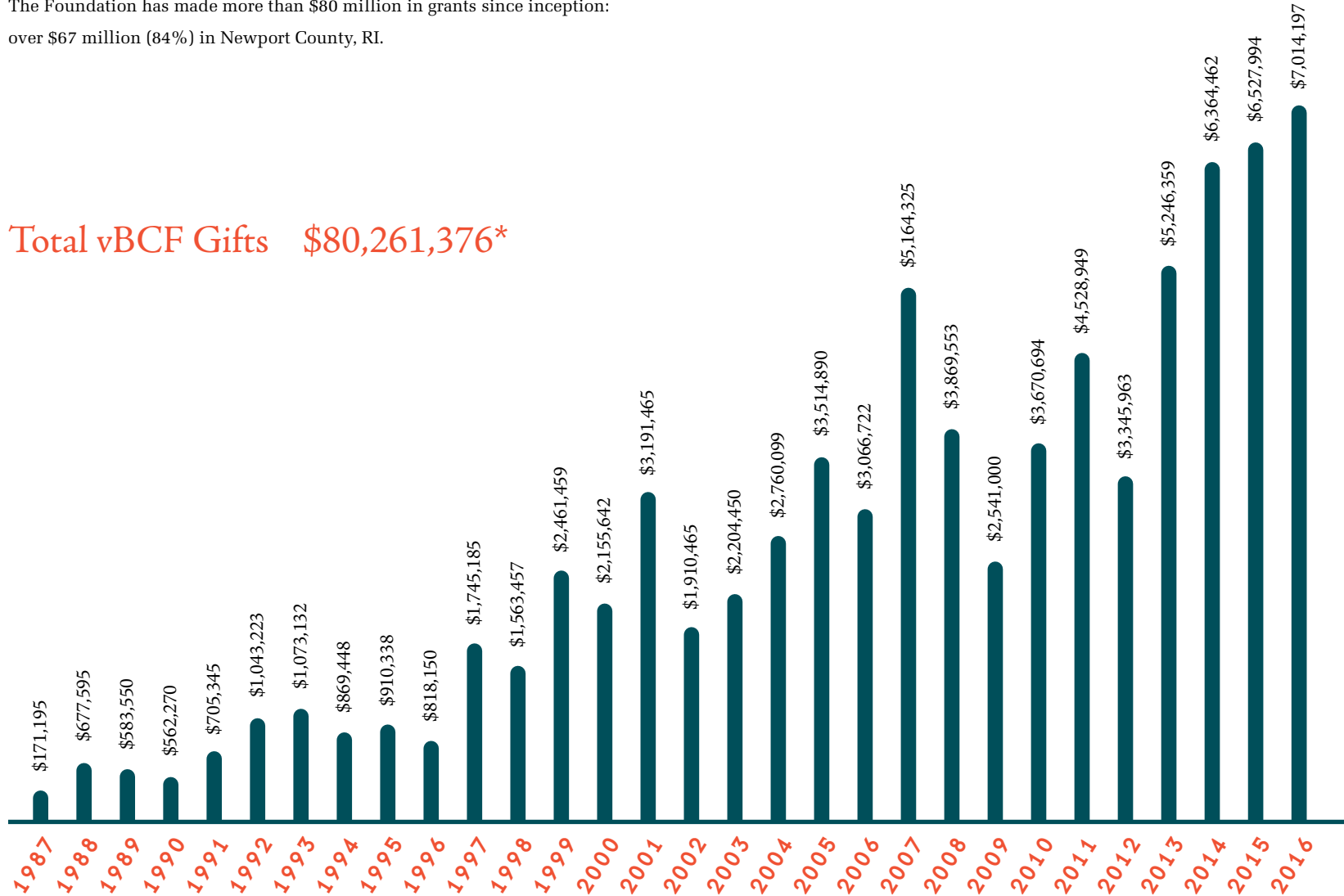


Financial information is unaudited - vBCF's 2016 audit was not completed at the time this report was issued.

vBCF Grant History

The Foundation has made more than \$80 million in grants since inception:
 over \$67 million (84%) in Newport County, RI.

Total vBCF Gifts \$80,261,376*



*totals include Newport County Grants and Discretionary programs

2016 Board of Directors

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- Andrea van Beuren, Vice Chair
- Stephen L. Glascock, Treasurer
- Barbara van Beuren
- Helene B. van Beuren
- Roger E. Kass

Non-voting Officers

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- Elizabeth R. Lynn, Assistant Treasurer
- Kim L. Dame, Assistant Secretary

Staff

- Elizabeth R. Lynn, Executive Director
- Deborah S. Linnell, Program Officer
- Kim L. Dame, Grants & Business Manager
- Lisa A. Cadwalader, Grants & Admin. Assistant

