WE ARE MAKING AN IMPACT IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY!

At Impact Fairfield County (Impact FFC), our mission is to empower women engaged in local philanthropy through deeper knowledge and active participation in grantmaking. We unite women by pooling membership funds to provide large, transformational grants to local nonprofits.

- In 2021, 246 women from Fairfield County joined as members (a 71% retention rate over 2020); awarded 14 scholarship members. 140+ women participate in the grant application review process each year.
- In 5 years, Impact FFC awarded over $1 million of grant funding to nonprofit organizations throughout Fairfield County, including eight $100,000 Impact FFC grants.
- Each $100,000 Impact FFC Grantee has implemented a transformational and sustainable program serving an unmet need in Fairfield County.
- In 2020, Impact FFC provided one 5-Year Anniversary Core Mission Grant of $50,000 to strengthen organizational capacity. After successful pilot, Impact FFC implemented Core Mission Grants in 2021.

OUR GRANTEES:

ALL OUR KIN  allourkin.org
Grant Awarded: $100,000 in 2020
Danbury, CT

Project Funded: Expand supply and quality of affordable family childcare in Danbury. Program will provide professional development for educators and support additional providers to obtain licensure to create additional childcare spaces.

- 93% of childcare programs supported by All Our Kin have remained open during the COVID pandemic which has threatened to permanently close many childcare facilities (compared to national average of less than 50%). All Our Kin has provided business and financial support to educators, including direct relief to 54 educators in Danbury and to 546 educators in total.
- To date, AOK has provided virtual training to 22 Danbury educators to help navigate operating safely and preserving sustainability of their programs. 13 Danbury educators are enrolled in AOK’s Business Series, a proprietary 10-week, 30-hour series designed to support educators as small business owners.
- Due to virtual trainings, AOK has delayed opening a Danbury office until summer 2021.

CAREER RESOURCES INC  careerresources.org
Grant Awarded: $100,000 in 2020
Bridgeport, CT

Project Funded: Entry Point Staffing. Temporary staffing agency will provide returning citizens with intensive work-readiness skills, access to work experience, and ability to earn wages. Program will provide a support network that aims to lead to permanent employment and reduced recidivism.

- CRI hired a program director in August 2020 and a program associate in October 2020. They have engaged with over 20 employers and have successfully placed 3 clients. 15 clients have completed Strive work-readiness program.
Contacting potential employers virtually and placing in-person employees has been a significant challenge to the launch of the program. New contacts with business groups, such as the CT Business and Industry Association which has over 1,000 members, and new relationships with large local employers should enable multiple placements in the coming months.

BUILDING ONE COMMUNITY building1community.org

Grant Awarded: $50,000 in 2020; (5 Year Anniversary Grant)
Stamford, CT

Project Funded: Staff Development and Coaching. BIC will develop a 24-month leadership program to sustain a culture of learning and professional development and cultivate strong internal leadership through coaching, classes, mentorship and projects. Program will allow B1C to increase employee retention and enhance diversity of its leadership staff.

In summer 2020, B1C launched Leadership Academy comprised of monthly staff trainings and individual manager coaching. Topics included Organizational Values, Essential Management Skills and Leading Group meetings. 83% of staff have attended the trainings and 100% reported that they were helpful. Since July 1, 97% of staff has been retained. Funding also went to technology courses in Microsoft Office 365 which were well received and immediately implemented. In 2021, B1C will also implement race equity trainings.

Organization-wide it is apparent B1C is the place for local immigrants to turn to for help. During the onset of the pandemic, the organization received nearly 230 calls a day (and is still averaging over 100 calls/day). B1C has helped to provide food, file for unemployment, gain access to health services and covid testing, and connect people who have tested positive to healthcare and quarantine facilities. B1C has worked to provide clients and their children with technology training and online access.

KIDS IN CRISIS kidsincrisis.org

Grant Awarded: $100,000 in 2019
Greenwich, CT

Project Funded: KidTalk counselor provides mental health support at the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich. KidTalk offers “boots on the ground” crisis prevention by meeting hundreds of kids in their daily environment; the counselor also connects families to new external resources.

SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:

- KidTalk counselors (renamed by the BGCG children as the “ClubTalk” Counselor) have seen 170 kids since program inception. 30% of the kids have had family members also meet with the counselor.
- KidTalk Counselor pivoted during Covid to meet with small groups and parents remotely. BGCG operating at 1/3 capacity and walk-in appointments no longer allowed. Counselor still saw 63 additional children since July-December 2020. 44 of these children have been seen at least 8 times.
- 89% of kids have demonstrated an improvement in coping skills and identifying emotions as measured by a “feelings thermometer”. The club reports a significant reduction in disruptive episodes.
- Counselor has provided the additional benefit of training BGCG staff in youth mental health and has empowered staff to directly manage behavioral issues. Working with counselor on staff development has created a positive cultural change.
- KIC has recently hired third ClubTalk counselor who is a full-time, bilingual Masters-level social worker with higher salary than previous part-time counselors in effort to reduce turnover in the position.
THE CENTER FOR FAMILY JUSTICE  centerforfamilyjustice.org
Grant Awarded: $100,000 in 2019
Bridgeport, CT

Project Funded: Pro Bono Civil Legal Center for Victims of Domestic Violence. Legal staff provides victims of domestic violence in Greater Bridgeport with free legal representation in civil court on matters related to restraining orders, divorce, division of marital assets and child custody/child support. Direct legal representation dramatically increases victims' successful outcomes, which in many cases is the difference between economic and physical safety, and continued victimization.

SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:
• Since inception in September 2019, the Legal Center has served 112 clients, providing 942 hours of legal counsel, valued at $345,000 in legal fees. The program has 2 full-time attorneys, plus interns from Quinnipiac University, and is operating at full capacity.
• COVID pandemic has increased demand for services. Call volume to hotline has increased by more than 30% and more than ½ are from people reaching out for the first time. Organization-wide services increased 18% in July-Sept vs April-June.
• CFJ has surpassed every metric developed at the onset of the grant. They had forecast serving 80 clients in 18 mos, they are at 112. In addition, 82% clients feel safe (vs. 60% benchmark); 69% report improved financial security (vs 45% benchmark); 75% have had legal proceedings resolved in their favor (vs 55% benchmark), 63% clients receiving wrap around services at CFJ.
• CFJ is actively seeking funding to continue the pro bono legal center

STAMFORD PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION  spefct.org
Grant Awarded: $100,000 in 2018
Stamford, CT

Project Funded: Ready. Set. Shine! Program provided Stamford children quality summer preschool to ease transition to Kindergarten. Program targeted children and families who are disconnected from the Stamford Public School (SPS) and those who had no prior preschool experience.

SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:
• In the summers of 2018 and 2019, 136 students attended 5-week summer classes to prepare for entering Kindergarten. Participants represented nearly 25% of the students who entered a SPS Kindergarten class without a pre-k experience. Nearly 30% spoke a language other than English at home.
• Students showed significant gains in following classroom routines and decreased anxiety about entering school. Only 5% of entering students were at or above benchmark assessment; at mid-year of Kindergarten 37% of students were proficient.
• 100% of parents reported that the Program “helped to decrease any anxiety that my child and/or myself may have had about my child starting Kindergarten this year.”

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING WORKS  shworks.org
Grant Awarded: $100,000 in 2018
Bridgeport, CT

Project Funded: Vehicle for Change, a Mobile Van to Address Youth Homelessness. SHW’s mobile van transforms the way youth and young adults are identified and engaged so they can receive needed services to avert the catastrophic effects of homelessness. The outreach van removes barriers to services such as transportation, limited phone access, shame in asking for help and navigating a complex system. The van served 62 youth in 2019-20 with 36 youth housed as a direct result of services received on the van. It was highlighted in a request to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development as an innovative response to youth homelessness, helping to secure a $3million grant to combat youth homelessness in Fairfield County.
THE ROWAN CENTER thecenter-ct.org

Grant Awarded: $100,000 in 2017
Stamford, CT

Project Funded: Lower Fairfield Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program. The Safe Program was a coordinated effort between The Rowan Center and Greenwich and Norwalk Hospitals to provide timely, trauma-informed sexual assault forensic exams to victims of sexual violence. The program helped serve as a catalyst to establish a new CT state law, requiring all SAFE nurses to be trained by Office of Victim Services.

INSPIRICA inspiricact.org

Grant Awarded: $100,000 in 2016
Stamford, CT

Project Funded: Early Childhood and Parenting Program combined crucial early childhood development for homeless children and essential parenting skills classes for their parents; and served 113 homeless children and 122 parents over the two-year grant period. Children who were not within range developmentally upon entry into the program or at any time thereafter subsequently move to within range.