

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2022



Breaking ground on Community & Wellness' North Canaan Health Center. Pictured (left to right): Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health & Wellness; Maria Horn, State Representative for Connecticut's 64th Assembly; and Nancy Heaton, President & CEO of Foundation for Community Health.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

This past year was an exciting period of learning and growth for Foundation for Community Health. In 2022, the second year of our **strategic plan**, we continued to develop and revise our grantmaking approach, while deepening our partnership with community to improve the conditions that influence health. Already we have learned so much – what nonprofits in our region need from funders, how we can amplify the work of our neighboring foundations and grantee partners, ways we can show up as a community partner, and the factors that further a collaborative effort.

But grantmaking is only one piece of what we do to improve the conditions that influence health.

Continued

In 2022, I had the honor and privilege of serving on the State of Connecticut's Certificate of Needs (CON) Task Force. Established in 2022 by the Connecticut state budget, the 16-member CON Task Force was directed to study and make recommendations to the Office of Health Strategy to improve the state's CON process, a critical regulatory process between the state and healthcare providers that are seeking to make major changes, including mergers, the creation of new facilities, and the discontinuation of services.

It was also in 2022 that, after years of expressing our support, and encouraging other community members to do the same, Connecticut's Bonding Commission approved \$3M towards the construction of a health center in North Canaan, operated by Community Health & Wellness of Greater Torrington. Concerned about the lack of primary and behavioral health care in the northwest corner, FCH has worked in close partnership with Community Health & Wellness for many years in support of the creation of the North Canaan Health Center – including granting over \$1.38 million, to date, in flexible funding to make the health center a reality.

While seemingly separate, both initiatives are emblematic of the foundation's vision in which all aspects of our community support the conditions that influence health. Neither initiative was new to the foundation or myself, but what was new was the momentum felt in 2022, no doubt the result of countless advocates, stakeholders, and organizations. As a result, the Connecticut legislature has recommendations to consider, recommendations that would shape the way in which CON requests are reviewed by the state, and northwest Connecticut will have a new health center.

Nancy

Building Trusting Relationships

We've long recognized that true, long-term impact requires developing trust-based partnerships with grantees. Since the adoption of our strategic framework in 2021, and commitment to trust-based philanthropy, we've worked to strengthen our relationships with our grantee partners and center our evaluation efforts on our effectiveness in building trusting relationships. Results from our **2022 Grantee Perception Survey** show that overall FCH staff have developed healthy relationships with our grantee partners. One area that needs improvement? Transparency. In the coming year, we plan to share more information about our policies, lessons learned, and how we make decisions.

Grantee Partners Report Trusting Relationships with FCH Staff*



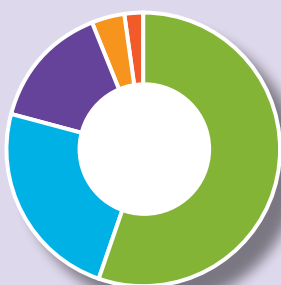
**Proportion of respondents who reported they "strongly agree" FCH staff demonstrated this during the grant funding period.*

"FCH stands out as a leader in understanding the needs, challenges and recognizing strengths of nonprofit work. They engage as true partners."

FCH GRANTEE PARTNER,
2022 GRANTEE PERCEPTION SURVEY

Grants

In 2022, we distributed over \$1M in grant funds to 33 organizations.



| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----|
| Strengthen Organizations | \$ 588K | 56% |
| Sustaining Priorities | \$ 251K | 24% |
| Improve Community Assets | \$ 159K | 15% |
| Support Local Decision-making | \$ 40K | 4% |
| Other | \$ 9K | 1% |

Grantee Partner Highlights

18 Grantee partners served CT residents

5 Grantee partners served CT & NY residents

10 Grantee partners served NY residents

53% of grant funds went to New York based organizations

Building Buy-in for Affordable Housing: Two Regional Affordable Housing Efforts Work to Strengthen Community Engagement

In our region, efforts to preserve and create affordable housing are largely led by volunteers through town-dedicated housing trusts, nonprofits, and town-sponsored planning commissions and boards. Partnering with two regional housing organizations: Hudson River Housing and the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, we saw an opportunity to bolster the efforts of our town-led affordable housing efforts and further community engagement in this important work.

To date, eleven affordable housing community engagement projects have been launched in Dutchess and Litchfield counties. Projects were conceived, organized, and facilitated by town-led affordable housing initiatives, projects included an affordable housing expo, a public art series, and the creation of a short film. At the end of the funded period, we asked each affordable housing initiative how the mini-grant program influenced their work, all survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that their involvement in the mini-grant program:



- **Enhanced their efforts to preserve and/or create affordable housing**



- **Deepened their engagement with the broader community**



- **Increased their confidence with engaging the broader community**



Image from the film *Housing Our Neighbors*

Falls Village Community Development Corporation (FVCDC) was one of seven grantees based in northwest Connecticut. In 2022 FVCDC used their grant to produce a short film, *Housing Our Neighbors* with Director Yonah Sadeh, a resident of Falls Village. The 25-minute film includes 24 interviews and highlights how the lack of affordable housing is impacting the community and economy.

One of Hudson Valley Food System Coalition's learning sessions on the Farm Bill in early 2023. Photo provided by Sarah Salem.

Local Food for Everyone: Flexible and Project Funds Support Two Coalitions in New York

One of our strategies as a funder is to strengthen the connectivity of collaborative efforts in our region. Coalition work is important - our most persistent and challenging problems have never been solved by a single person or organization. Coalitions and networks contribute to the resiliency of the social sector that serves our community and can shape the conditions that influence health when involved in systems change and advocacy.

Two coalitions FCH partnered with in 2022 are working to improve access to local food by changing the ways in which our current local food system operates. Each coalition is leveraging funding from FCH in different ways. The Tri-Corner Nutrition Security Coalition is leveraging

a program restricted grant from FCH to complement a planning grant it received from the USDA's Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program to produce a feasibility study for a fair food pricing and local food distribution initiative. FCH's general operating support to the Hudson Valley Food System Coalition (HVFSC) will enable the coalition to incorporate as a 501(c)3 and participate in a collaborative research project, a critical endeavor that will enable HVFSC to understand its role to advocate and win policy that supports a more just food system.



Financials

| | December 31, 2022 (unaudited) | December 31, 2021 (audited) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Total Assets | \$ 36,012,553 | \$ 43,002,454 |
| FCH Owned Assets | 26,347,309 | 30,491,856 |
| External Trusts* | 7,275,490 | 9,607,073 |
| Donor Advised Funds** | 2,389,755 | 2,903,525 |
| Total Expenses | 1,760,196 | 1,718,011 |
| Grants Awarded*** | 1,053,741 | 1,019,946 |
| Program Expenses | 491,847 | 468,873 |
| Administration Expenses | 214,608 | 229,192 |

* FCH receives annual distribution from two externally held trusts.

** FCH has two donor advised funds held by the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

***Grants awarded includes grants made from FCH Owned Assets and Donor Advised Funds.

12 organizations Received Inflation-Based Grants

Due to the nature of their work and sources of income, nonprofits are especially vulnerable to the effects of inflation. Understanding the effects of inflation on the organizations we partner with, FCH made grants to 12 of our existing grantee partners to help offset the burden of inflation.

Nearly half of FCH's grantee partners were small nonprofits¹

Small nonprofits are critical to our rural region, but they also face unique challenges because of their size. It is a priority of FCH to support the resiliency of these organizations through flexible funding.

¹ In 2022 42% of our grantee partners had an annual operating budget at or under \$500,000.

Board and Staff

FCH would like to thank (left to right) **Lara Hanson Barrett**, **Josh Ginsberg**, and **Edith Greenwood** for their service on our Board of Directors. Edie, Josh, and Lara's service on our board ended in 2022.



Board of Directors

Miriam Tannen, *Chair*
Karen Garrity, *Vice Chair*
Thomas Quinn, *Treasurer*
Ceely Ackerman, *Secretary*

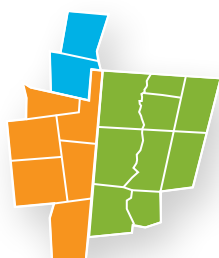
Christian Allyn
Lara Hanson Barrett
Katty Brennan
Dr. John Charde
Dr. Joshua Ginsberg
Edith Greenwood
Peter Halle
Felicia Jones
Hila Richardson
Rev. AJ Stack
Dr. Mustafa Ugurlu
Jane Waters

Staff

Cathy Glasner, *Office & Grants Manager*
Nancy Heaton, *President & CEO*
Gertrude O'Sullivan, *Director of Communications & Special Programs*
Natashea Winters, *Senior Program & Evaluation Officer*

Our Community

Foundation for Community Health serves a small region where northwest Connecticut and the Greater Harlem Valley meet. Over **52,000** people call this region home. Since 2003, we have invested over **\$19 million** to improve the health and well-being of our community.



Columbia County, New York

Litchfield County, Connecticut

Dutchess County, New York

Foundation for Community Health (FCH) is a private, nonprofit philanthropy dedicated to improving the health and well-being of people living in the northern Litchfield Hills of Connecticut and the greater Harlem Valley of New York, through grantmaking, advocacy, and community leadership. FCH was initially funded from the net assets of the sale and conversion of Sharon Hospital in 2003 and is a supporting organization of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, and Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.



478 Cornwall Bridge Rd Sharon, CT 06069
Phone: (860) 364-5157
Fax: (860) 364-6097
www.fchealth.org