



Greater Together
Community Funds

Greater Together Community Funds

4th Quarter 2024 Town Hall





Agenda for our time together

1. WELCOME
2. 2024 AT A GLANCE
3. HFPG CENTENNIAL UPDATES
4. GTCF PROGRAM UPDATES
5. CELEBRATING ASHLEY
6. LOOKING INTO 2025
7. NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING!

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

197 Grants
awarded
in 2024

Total of **\$733,488**
awarded in 2024

Over
700 individual
volunteers
engaged since
the beginning of
the program

642 Grants
awarded since
the beginning
of the program.

Total of **\$2,434,755**
awarded since
beginning of
program.

Gift us with a story about your 2024 accomplishments

Folks received money to address serious needs.... Food, heat, etc.

Jen

We had the largest number of applications to date for Farmington!

Emily Kaliney

We had our first reception including all grantees since 2021. It was wonderful hearing presentations from some of the projects and discussion our accomplishments in Somers.

Kathy Schiessl

Helped out food banks in Newington

I have seen lawn signs in my town proclaiming they received a grant.

Doretta

The Hartford committee had the most applications ever, with 23 eligible for funding. We chose 11 organizations to receive grants. Their programs covered a range of needs in Hartford, a successful outcome.

David Barrett

Hosted our 3rd grantee reception and adjusted the format of our event agenda to allow grantees to speak to the audience and share about their funded projects. Post event survey feedback showed that was the best part of the event!

Haleigh (Avon)

Seeing all the grant recommendations coming in! So many organizations new to the Foundation

Lucas from GTCF team

Supported a diaper bank run by young people.

Debbie

We added 7 new members. Granted out to 5 nonprofits to meet community needs. Avon, Bloomfield, Hartford and West Hartford co-chairs meet virtually for the first time.

Mike Fournier - West Hartford

After a small number of grants in our first cycle, we received 27 grant requests on our second cycle!

Tricia

We began running articles in the local paper each month, highlighting one grantee and the work of the Board.

Fred Sweitzer

We added new members to our committee.

Trish - Bolton

We held a volunteer recruitment event and was able to add 4 adults and 2 high school members

Ceil Donahue

Our team came together to really think about the needs of our town and was able to help adults and kids with food, heat, learning. Etc

Megan

NWP was able to purchase a portable planetarium to meet the needs of so many children and families in Windsor.

Di

awarded \$ 24,500 to 15 organizations
Completed a needs analysis for our town
Developed a subcommittee (workgroup) structure
Established common communication language and updated our website

Laura Amenta

I am new to the committee.

We have been doing big check presentations which provide an opportunity to learn more about grantees and use of grant funds.

Dave Santis

Granby's first committee finally kicked off and we're closing in on sharing our first RFP...celebrating we have an awesome committee of talented members!

Kendra

I love the range of grants -- from goat yoga to new EMS specialized equipment to community conversations for inclusion and diversity!

Provided the largest number of grant awards in 2024 (12)

Sharon Maloney, Tolland

I think the Enfield Committee's awards with the most significant impact were to warming shelters and food banks.

Wendy Osada - Enfield

Added amazing new committee members with new ideas and they are very invested in our community of Bloomfield

Hayden

At our 1st award reception, the youngest awardee was 10, a young lady that requested funds for a Friendship bench for her school playground. That was an over the top feeling!

Cheryl

Andover: gave our largest awards to date, knowing that we have ongoing long term support

Bill Penn

East Hartford has received about 19 applications at the last minute currently under review by committee

Wendy Whitt/East Hartford

We did significant work in reaching out to new school based applicants in order to draw in youth centered programming centered on mental health.

Stephen Haynes, MSW

Added new committee members. Including students.

Kim

Who made your year special? Shout out a fellow committee member!

Merry! She is her name!!!

Jen

Tracy Wu Fastenberg - former co-chair. Great leader and always kept our group on task!

Mike Fournier - West Hartford

We met with Nancy parent, the director of community services in Farmington. She gave our group a great presentation on demographics and needs of our town.

Emily Kaliney

Tricia Snodgrass has held the group together as we went through significant transition as many community members left without notice. In Windsor. Great leader.

Di

Chris Traczyk

As a retired funding officer for a bank foundation, her skillset has been key in a range of ways

Stephen Haynes, MSW

Karen Hartenstein, as a new committee member, she was very responsive to my emails and encouraged my many questions to keep coming...

Niya Solomon-East Hartford

Melissa keeps our group organized and is kind enough to host us - which promotes connection within our group. What a great team.

Trish - Bolton

We had Steve R and Steve L both made personal, on-site visits to prospective grantees to help our team better understand their needs.

Ben - Simsbury

Big shout out to Ashley for all your help and wonderful presentation at the Somers reception!!!

Kathy Schiessl

Betty in Marlborough - our committee member numbers dwindled down to only a few and Betty was always present and available for meetings and was a big help in member recruitment.

Debbie- Marlborough

Ed DePeau created our banners that are in the library and town halls recognizing all grantees

Kathy Schiessl

Karen Hartenstein from the foundation has been wonderful helping the Windsor Locks Community fund group stay organized and answering all of the questions to our many new committee members

Scott Nolan

Suzanne and Marianella: co-chairs keep our Andover program on task and helping us grow in membership and grant awards

Bill Penn

We miss our former chair Bambi. Didn't realize how much she did to keep us organized.

Debbie

Melissa, for an awesome partner-in-crime in event planning and new friendship

Kendra

All of the hard-working dedicated Committee members.

Karen

Kendra Hennig has been integral and amazing google docs for our first RFP, Application, Marketing, and Event plan. Plus she is great at recognizing individuals' strengths and where to let them shine!

Melissa

Thanks to Karen Hartenstein for her continued support and availability to answer questions!

Debbie

Meredith Johnson for amazing leadership and helping with a seamless transition of leadership of committee members and our previous secretary/ now President Kelly Trainor with guidance

Hayden

Shout out to ASHLEY. You continued to help us get through continued communication glitches with HFPG. You and your grounded listening and consistent calmness will be missed, friend.

Stephen Haynes, MSW

For me, two. Kyra Brown organized a fabulous 1st awardee reception. Lara Langer kept the committee running smoothly.

David Barrett

Panya, one of our high school aged committee members, who emceed our most recent grantee reception and did an incredible job!!

Haleigh (Avon)

I'm so thankful for Tasha and Di for their continued commitment in keeping our committee afloat after so many other members stopped participating

Tricia

Greg D. really was a good leader and answered many questions for new people

Steve R. Wanted to know more about a group and went for a site visit to help us all learn more
Megan

David Barrett is indispensable and I couldn't run the committee without him!

Lara, Hartford

All of our East Windsor committee members are special!

Kim

Cory Bowie - A Bloomfield committee member who always steps up to fill in the gaps whether it be locating a meeting space, or supporting media

Meredith

Kathy Randall organized and taught grant workshops to educate our nonprofits on how to fill out. Grant application.

Ceil Donahue

Kudos to Carol, Heather & Jerry for keeping the committee on track all year and recruiting new members

Sharon Maloney, Tolland

Kendra Hennig creating thorough and awesome google docs for our first ever RFP, Application, Marketing and kickoff event plan. Plus she has a knack for recognizing each committee members' strengths and finds ways for them to shine!

Melissa

2024 in one word!





HFPG Centennial Updates

Greater Together Community Funds

Celebration Events

January 15

Farmington Gardens

- Avon
- Canton
- Farmington
- Simsbury
- West Hartford

January 29

Elicit Brewing, Manchester

- East Granby
- Enfield
- Granby
- Somers
- Suffield
- Windsor Locks

February 5

Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, Wethersfield

- Bloomfield
- Hartford
- Newington
- Rocky Hill
- Wethersfield
- Windsor

February 26

Brignole Vineyards, East Granby

- East Windsor
- Ellington
- Manchester
- South Windsor
- Tolland
- Vernon

March 5

The Glastonbury Boathouse

- Andover
- Bolton
- East Hartford
- Glastonbury
- Hebron
- Marlborough

Celebration Events – Wednesdays @5:30pm

2025

Save the Dates!

Important Program

Announcement (on ZOOM)

Tuesday, January 7

Centennial Kick-Off Event

Thursday, April 10

Arts Announcement

Early Fall

Centennial Gala

Friday, December 5



GTCF Program Updates

2024 Program Enhancements

- **Thanks to your feedback:**
 1. Implemented opportunities to come together
 2. Conducted first-ever “Volunteer Input Survey”
 3. Hosted learning opportunities via community cafes.
 4. Centralized GTCF materials & resources
- **Internally, improved collaboration with Foundation Depts.:**
 - New tech helpdesk, Google Workspace Tools
 - Better financial processes
 - Engagement with our Learning and Eval. Team
 - Strategic conversations with our Comms. team

- *2024 Program Enhancements*
- *Updated GTCF Webpages*
- *Online Volunteer Application*
- *Application Process*
- *Volunteer Handbook*
- *Next Steps*



Updated GTCF Webpages

1. Public page to learn about the GTCF Program:

- www.hfpg.org/communityfunds

2. Page for interested volunteers:

- www.hfpg.org/gtcfvolunteer

3. Resources page for current volunteers:

- www.hfpg.org/gtcfresources

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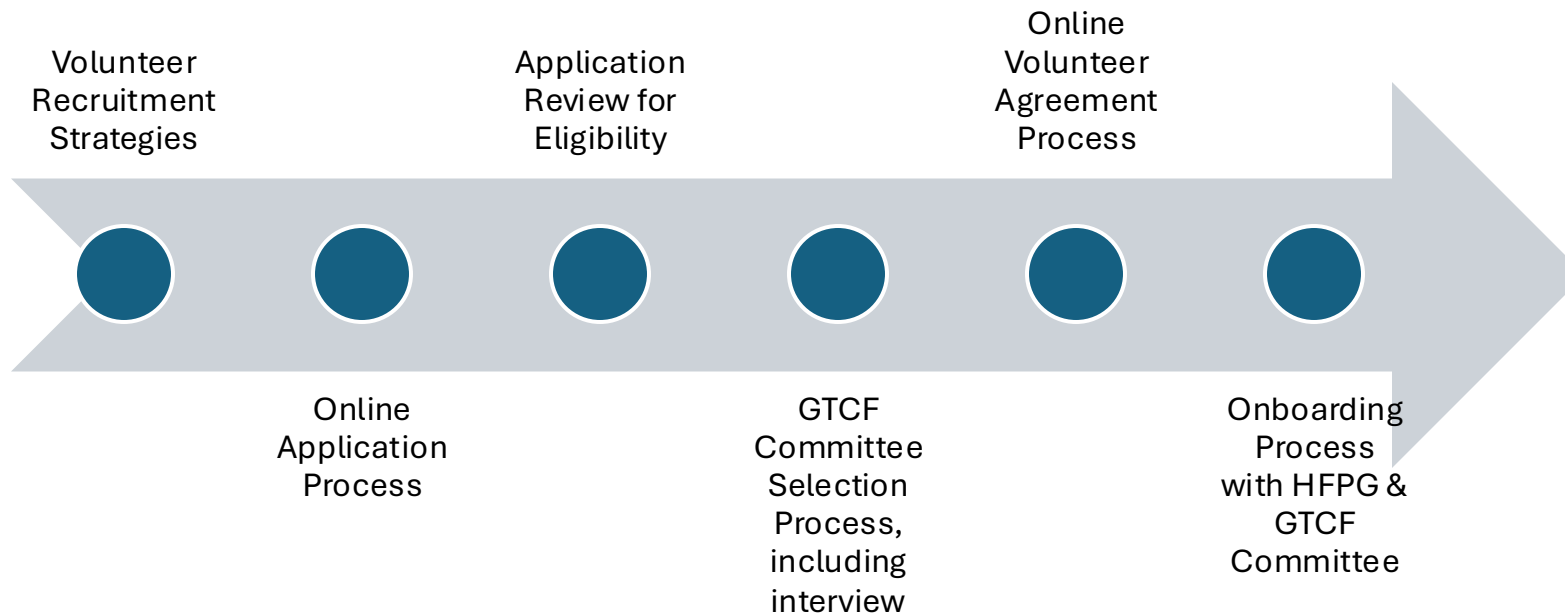
New – Online GTCF Volunteer Application

- **Centralized online application will support us by:**
 1. Building active directory of volunteers
 2. Better track volunteer engagement
 3. Streamline process across the 29 towns



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GTCF Application Process



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Hartford Foundation

FOR PUBLIC GIVING

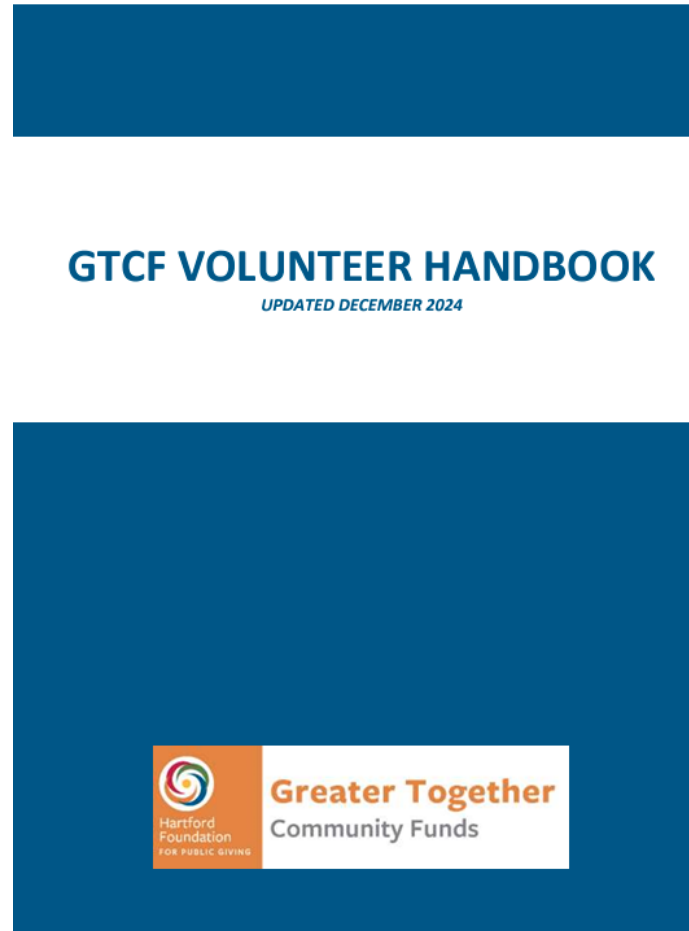
Together for good.™

New – GTCF Volunteer Handbook

Access the GTCF Volunteer Handbook [Here](#).

Read through the handbook thoroughly and refer to it whenever you have questions or need guidance.

If you need further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to your GTCF committee's staff liaison.



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Next Steps

- **For GTCF Staff Team:**

1. Send all GTCF Volunteers links and follow up materials.
2. Share with GTCF Volunteers Memo about the revised application process.
3. Be available to answer any questions.

- **For GTCF Committee Members:**

1. Fill out GTCF online application here by January 31, 2025.
2. Review GTCF Volunteer Handbook.
3. Once you receive new annual online volunteer agreement, please sign.

- *2024 Program Enhancements*
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Celebrating Ashley!



Share your appreciations for Ashley!

Thank you for ALL that you have done, Ashley!

Ashley, we will miss you so much and wish you all the best. Gods blessings to you and your family.

Always able to thread the needle between community and the Foundation. Always available (how does she do that?!). Virtuosity can be defined and understood by one's work appearing to be simple/easy when it is not (at all). Ashley never let us see the sweat. If she was a musician, we would say she has CHOPS. We love you madly, Ashley!

Thank you, Ash! You are much appreciated in Hartford. Xo Lara

Best wishes to you and all of your future endeavors. We appreciate your hard work in this team.

Ash:
You've been a wonderful colleague: always positive, with boundless enthusiasm and full of ideas... Thank you, thank you, thank you! Brad

Thank you for your generosity with your wisdom and your genuine care for all of the communities that you have touched... keep being amazing in your future endeavors.

So thankful for Ashley. She always comes through for whatever we need in Glastonbury

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING ASH!

Ashley has been so helpful to our committee! We will miss her! And we wish you well, Ash!

We will miss you

Thank you for everything!!

Thanks for all your hard work!

Thanks for helping the town committees award \$2.4 million dollars in grants since the program inception!!

Ash you are awesome!! You are very supportive and have helped Somers with any and all questions we have had. You will be missed so much.

we will miss your humor and light Ash! Thank you for being you!!

Congratulations!!! So excited for you and your family.

👏👏👏👏 on your new incoming 🥰. Yayyyy!

I've learned so much from you. Thank you. You will be missed!

We love you ash! Thank you for facilitating hard conversations and giving us so much Joy!

Thank you so much, Ash! You have always been an excellent resource for me and our committee. So grateful our paths crossed and hope they will continue to in the future. Best wishes to you and your family in the future!

What an amazing grounding calming presence you bring! Best of luck!

Best of luck to you! Thanks for all you've done.

You go gurl! 🙌🙌🙌 on your professional growth. Congrats for the difference you made.

Best wishes on your next chapter

The BEST colleague ever! The experience will be forever changed for me.

Thank you for being able to motivate, mediate and congratulate our committee members during this process while you were "lifing". Stay in Fortitude 😊

You deserve to have the time with your family and I am so happy for you . Congratulations on the achievements you have accomplished and the ways you have impacted so many communities. Celebrate your success as you enjoy the time with your family.



Looking ahead to 2025

Looking Ahead to 2025!

**Centennial
Celebrations
in Q1 2025!**

**HFPG Greater
Together
Event in April!**

**GTCF Learning
Opportunities**

**\$850
Admin Fund**

**Getting
Familiar with
new GTCF
tools**



What are you looking forward to the most in 2025?

Spending time with my grandchildren.

Wendy Osada - Enfield

Supporting more wonderful community projects!

Scott Nolan

Peace

Karen

Hopefully awarding grants to new organizations

Kathy Schiessl

The January announcement.

Trish - Bolton

New members, new energy, new ideas!!

Fred Sweitzer

Yummy foods at all of the centennial celebrations!

Lucas from GTCF team

Our hope is to make a even greater impact in our community

Laura Amenta

new beginnings

Kendra

Ash's baby's arrival!

Dianne

Grants, cycling, peace.

Bill Penn

Unity in the community

Meredith

The opportunity of truly helping someone in need within the community

Hayden

A blank slate. A true fresh start. Beginning my family closer together.

Di

New challenges and a time to celebrate our award winners. As well as a trip to Portugal!

Emily Kaliney

Daughter graduating college, son getting his license, time for my family

Jen

January announcements!!

Megan

connection

Kendra

Completing another grant cycle. It's so fulfilling to be able to give away money!

Debbie

Continuing our community impact! Spreading the word about our committee!

Mike Fournier - West Hartford

Continuing this important and exciting work with all of you.

Karen

We welcomed 3!new members last month who will be a terrific addition to our community, we are excited to continue this work with their perspectives

Tricia

Finding more common ground addressing issues and solutions that we can share and be a more peaceful year.

Ira Yellen

Lots more community celebrations

Kathy Schiessl

the Centennial festivities and helping our communities!

Sharon Maloney, Tolland



THANK YOU!

For Questions and Feedback, contact your GTCF Liaison:

- Ashley Coleman at Acoleman@hfpg.org
- Karen Hartenstein at KHartenstein@hfpg.org