



Fall/Winter 2010

## **PARTNERING FOR A CURE**

**C**DKL5. A rare disease with no apparent cause, no cure, and a very clinical name.

Yet, for Middlesex County and its surrounding neighbors, this disease has a very personal and lovely face – Avery Rose Leopoldino of Westbrook.

Avery is two years old and has been diagnosed with this extremely rare disease. At the age of 6 weeks, she began experiencing frequent seizures and was originally diagnosed with epilepsy. Upon learning from doctors that Avery did not have epilepsy but a very rare genetic disease with no known cure, Avery's parents, Mark and Kristin, had to take a long pause and start over at the beginning, researching the diagnosis and making many decisions.

Bill's Seafood in Westbrook took up the cause this summer to bring attention to this disorder and to aid in the support

of research. With the help of friends, a lemonade stand was erected outside the restaurant and featured Avery's photo. During the month of July, Pepsi donated the lemonade and proceeds from the sales were donated for CDKL5 research.

Mark and Kristin partnered with Middlesex County Community Foundation, creating Avery's Fund, a donor advised fund which supports the research into the cause and a cure for CDKL5. Donations may be made to aid in the awareness and research of CDKL5 at Middlesex County Community Foundation. Checks should be made payable to MCCF Avery's Fund.



### **According to [cdkl5.com](http://cdkl5.com):**

CDKL5 is a rare X-linked genetic disorder that results in early onset, difficult to control seizures, and severe neuro-developmental impairment. There are fewer than 200 cases worldwide, however, more and more children are being diagnosed as awareness of CDKL5 spreads.

Most children affected by CDKL5 suffer from seizures that begin in the first few months of life. Most cannot walk, talk or feed themselves, and many are confined to wheelchairs, dependent on others for everything. Many also suffer with scoliosis, visual impairment, sensory issues and various gastrointestinal difficulties.

### **DONOR ADVISED FUND**

An Unendowed Donor Advised Fund allows you to make tax deductible donations in one or more years, while you decide where your contribution can best meet your charitable objectives in subsequent years. This type of fund also allows distribution of the principal. Community Foundation staff can provide information to help your distribution decision-making if you wish. Donor Advised Fund distribution recommendations are approved by the Board of Directors to maintain IRS compliance for the tax advantages received when making gifts.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Well, you did it again. You just continue to amaze the county with what you make possible through your Community Foundation. You all should be very proud of yourselves!

Let me explain. Middlesex County Community Foundation represents YOU - local people giving locally to make an impact on the lives of others in our region - not just for today, but forever.

Every day we watch you encourage and motivate your family and friends to get involved; to have a positive impact; to be a philanthropist. You give of your time, talents, energy and financial support to help MCCF fulfill its mission: "to improve the quality of life for all in our region".

BECAUSE OF YOU, yes, BECAUSE OF YOU, your Community Foundation has been selected as Connecticut's Outstanding Foundation of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). The award is presented jointly by the AFP Connecticut and AFP Fairfield Chapters. It honors a foundation that demonstrates commitment through financial support and through encouragement and motivation of others to take leadership roles in philanthropy and community involvement.

We are thrilled to humbly accept this honor - on YOUR behalf - and extend our thanks and gratitude for what you make possible through MCCF.

On that note, take a bow and enjoy a round of applause!

Best regards,

Cynthia H. Clegg

## MCCF WELCOMES A NEW FACE



We are thrilled to welcome **Betty Ardolino** as the Director of Finance at MCCF. Betty has over 25 years in banking. She retired from Liberty Bank where she was Assistant Comptroller.

Betty and her husband Richard have 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

Welcome, Betty!!! We are thrilled to have you on the MCCF team!



**Henry Apostoleris**  
with **Tom Briggs**,  
*Community Music School Jazz Ensemble Director*

## NAMED FUND HONORING YOUR LOVED ONES

You may choose to name a fund to honor your loved one or to keep the memory and legacy of someone special alive! That's what friends of Carolyn Greenleaf did. Grants from each fund are attributed to the Fund by name. Individual funds are listed each year in the Community Foundation's annual report.



## A LEGACY OF MUSIC BENEFITS A SAXOPHONIST

The Carolyn Greenleaf Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the winner of the Fall 2010 Carolyn R. Greenleaf Memorial Scholarship. This music scholarship is awarded to a high school student in Middlesex County based on proven excellence in musicianship. This semester's candidates demonstrated an extremely high level of competency, making the committee's task a difficult one. The winner is Henry Apostoleris, a senior at Nathan Hale Ray High School in Moodus, who will use the scholarship to pay the tuition at Community Music School, Centerbrook.

Henry has received the Excellence in Jazz Band Award from his band director Rose-Marie Evans. He also plays lead alto sax in the Community Music School Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Tom Briggs. He has studied sax with Russ Becker of the Community Music School. Henry is the founder and sax player for Soulstice, a jazz/funk band that plays at many school and charity events.

Henry has many talents in addition to his musical activities. He has organized fundraising and charity events for his school and church, has served on his Student Council and has been selected to participate in a special UCONN business program. Henry is an award-winning orator and knows how to play a great round of soccer for Hale Ray.

The scholarship will pay the tuition for a semester of half hour lessons.

The Carolyn R. Greenleaf Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2007 by a group of Carolyn Greenleaf's friends to honor her dedication to music and education and to keep Carolyn's legacy alive.

**SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE DOING GREAT THINGS!**

*Thank you! GRACIAS! Ura! Dank u!*

To find just the right word to thank the Community Foundation's generous supporters is often perplexing ... so we decided to just express how we really feel and say "THANK YOU!" We believe you can never say it enough, so we are taking this opportunity to salute – and thank – our sponsors and benefactors – for their belief in the Community Foundation and the work we do.

We encourage all our fellow residents to applaud and support our local businesses who give so much in so many ways. So "Bravo" and "Gracias" to all who made MCCF's busy summer and fall fun, exciting and rewarding.

**Went to a Garden Party to Applaud Good Works, Great People, Great Friends**

The annual **Grantee Reception** was held at Cynthia and Randy Clegg's home on **July 22nd**. Nineteen grantee organizations joined MCCF Board members, Grants Committee volunteers and friends of the Community Foundation to celebrate good people doing great things in Middlesex County. MCCF is truly appreciative of **Liberty Bank Foundation's** continued support of the Community Foundation and our grantees ... and all Middlesex County nonprofit organizations.

**A Magical Evening ... Indeed!**

What can be better than 150 of your closest friends enjoying the beautiful vistas of the Connecticut River aboard the Becky Thatcher followed by a lively production of CARNIVAL! at Goodspeed Opera House? September 15th proved to be **A Magical Evening!** thanks to the generous support of **Essex Savings Bank** and **Essex Financial Services, The Clark Group, Middlesex Hospital, Pratt & Whitney, and Chamard Vineyards**. Special Thanks also goes to Essex Printing, Events Magazine, Boppers Entertainment, and our auction donors.



*Cynthia Clegg, Dyanne Rafal, Moira Martin with the center piece on the Becky Thatcher*

**Nonprofit Resource Center Continues to Help Local Nonprofits Succeed ... with the help of some Great Corporate Friends!**

One of the goals of MCCF is to offer no-cost or low-cost training to our nonprofit friends throughout Middlesex County. This is achieved through the **Nonprofit Resource Center** and the many professionals who aid us in offering programs for the **Morning Musings programs**. **Citizens Bank** provided operational support for the Morning Musings series in 2010.

**Chuck Loring's** "Groupies" enjoyed a full day board governance and fundraising workshop at Middlesex Community College on October 8th. Ninety senior staff and board members from 21 nonprofit organizations spent an intensive day with Chuck thanks to the generosity of **TDBank**.

MCCF's Nonprofit Resource Center also provides access to the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) webinar series, providing nationally known experts who offer ideas, tips and assistance on navigating the various aspects of fundraising in the nonprofit sphere. We are thankful for **TDBank's** support as a sponsor for the 2010 series.

**Convening and Learning ... Truly the Purpose of these Parties**

MCCF continues to seek out interesting people doing important work for the Middlesex County community and beyond. We invite these special individuals to offer insight into their work and to convene around important topics and issues which affect us all. We are thankful to Professor **Elvin Lim** and **Professor Gary Yohe**, both of Wesleyan University, for offering insightful dialogue at our **Party with a Purpose** programs. Thanks to **Wadsworth Mansion at Long Hill Estates** for hosting Professor Lim when he spoke on the first year of President Obama's presidency and on the status of Women In Politics; **Essex Meadows** was generous in hosting Professor Yohe who talked about the Climate Change debate; and **Chamard Vineyards** for sharing the fruits of Middlesex County's own special vineyard.







Guests followed along intently as Professor Gary Yohe discussed "The Six Americas"

Professor Gary Yohe talks climate change



A Magical Evening! Disembarking the Becky Thatcher for Goodspeed Opera House

Anne-Marie Cannata (NEAR/Buttontwood Tree) with Michael Perl (CT-MOM)



Chuck Loring and Cynthia Clegg send a big Thank You to TDBank



Dave Royston (MCCF Board Chair) and Matt Pugliese (Oddfellows Playhouse)



Bob Westgate (FISH), Marcia Kalayjian (MCCF Board member), Debbie Richards, Mark Richards (MCCF Board member)



Kristie Barber (Region II Regional Mental Health Board) signs the TD Bank thank you page at Chuck Loring's workshop

Cynthia Clegg and Sue Murphy, Liberty Bank Foundation



Enjoying a beautiful evening at the Cleggs



Ai-Leen Lim, visiting from Hong Kong, joined MCCF to cheer her brother, Professor Elvin Lim



Jean Caron, Jane Harris and Kate Gillespie enjoy a Party for MCCF Fund for Women & Girls

Lyn May and Claire Matthews talking with Joyce Kirkpatrick and friends at Wadsworth Mansion

# ARF! Fund Has Three New Faces

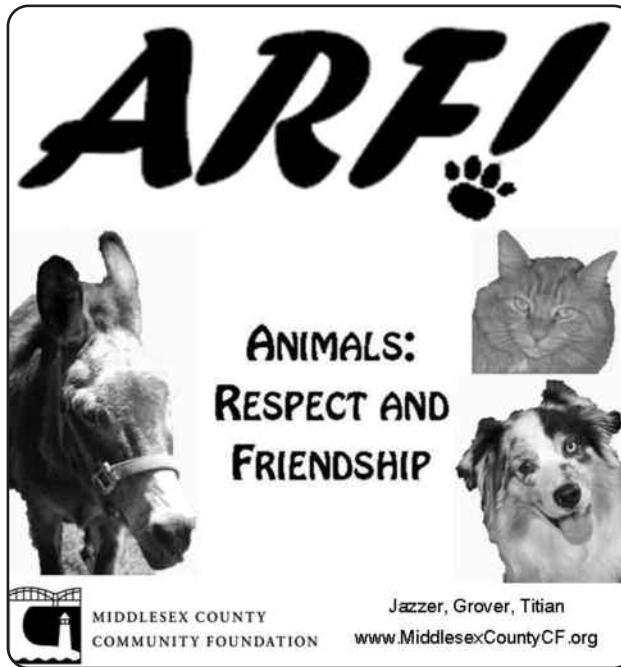
The howls, yowls, meows and bellows echoed round Middlesex County Thursday, August 26, 2010, when Cynthia Clegg, MCCF, and Bill Berloni, Theatrical Animals, announced the winners of the ARF! Animals: Respect and Friendship Fund mascot contest.

Animal lovers and supporters joined the Community Foundation at the Centerbrook Meeting House for a super summer celebration. Bill Berloni, renowned animal trainer and animal welfare activist autographed his newest book, *BROADWAY TAILS*, chatted with party-goers, and was joined by Mikey, the number one Sandy dog from ANNIE, on stage to discuss the importance of supporting, caring and aiding those who work with and for animals.

The event culminated with the announcement of the new mascots for the ARF! Fund for 2010-2011. From twelve wonderful submissions, the judges chose three – Titian, an Australian Shepherd; Grover, a Maine Coon mix cat; and Jazzer, a donkey. They will be featured on the ARF! Fund logo throughout the next year. The Fund mascots were presented with gift bags, autographed copies of Berloni's book, and a photograph of the new logo.

There are no losers in this contest, though. The remaining nine contestants (eight dogs and a cat) will also be faces of the fund for the next year as well. Their stories will be featured in upcoming newsletters and e-blasts as well as on the Community Foundation's ARF! Fund page.

The Community Foundation is extremely grateful to the Centerbrook



Meeting House for opening its doors to this special event; and to Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center for providing samples of its newest product Vista Vittles (snacks for dogs) and donating the gift bag presented to Titian. MCCF is also thankful to the many members of the community who provided much-needed donations of dog and cat food as part of the ticket price for the event. These donations were delivered to the Valley Shore Animal Welfare League in Westbrook,



*Bill Berloni with Bear, one of his many talented pals*

one of the many organizations working in the Middlesex County area to provide short-term safe harbor to animals seeking new homes.

A warm, wonderful thank you goes to Bill Berloni for celebrating this fun evening with MCCF and the Middlesex County community. His hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to animals truly are an example of Good People Doing Great Things!

The Community Foundation is enormously appreciative of the donors who made the ARF! Animals: Respect and Friendship Fund possible. Their generosity is making a difference today -- and in the future -- for organizations serving animals and their human companions throughout Middlesex County.

To learn more about the Middlesex County Community Foundation; to read all about the mascots and the ARF! Animals: Respect and Friendship Fund; and to subscribe to the e-news, visit [www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org).

## FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

A Field of Interest Fund may meet your objectives if you wish to support a specific purpose, geographic area or charitable goal. Gifts to these funds may specify broad areas such as the arts, education, the environment, health care or services to a specific town or region. Gifts to a specific area or field of interest give the Board of Directors discretion to select organizations that can most effectively achieve your charitable interests.

**ARF!** **MEOW!** **ARF!** **TWEET!** **ARF!**





MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*The Community Foundation has a safe, easy way for you to donate by credit card. Just go to our website [www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org) and click on:*

**Make A Donation**

The Community is where we work, where we play, where we raise our children, where we call home. Now, more than ever your donation will have a tremendous impact on the quality of life in Middlesex County.

Donate to our

**LIVE LOCAL  
GIVE LOCAL FUND!**

100% of the proceeds will be donated to our area nonprofits.



A Legacy Supports Our Community and Fulfills Your Philanthropic Wishes

There are several ways to ensure a bright future for Middlesex County:

- When preparing a will, include a gift for the charity or charities that have made a difference in your life
- Donate a specific dollar amount or percentage of your assets, including stocks, bonds, CDs or other property
- Name your favorite charity as the beneficiary of an IRA or pension plan or life insurance policy
- Honor deserving friends and remember loved ones with a memorial gift

Middlesex County Community Foundation welcomes conversations with good people who want to leave a legacy. Call us at 860-347-0025. There's no end to the good you can do!

