

# TheDailyNorwalk.com

## Local Non-Profits Receive Grants

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by Joan Gaylord

First County Bank Foundation supports organizations that benefit children and families.

Photo credit: *Joan Gaylord*

Five local non-profits benefited from the largesse of the First County Bank Foundation. The Stamford-based foundation distributed \$37,500 in grants to Norwalk organizations that help children and families.

"All of us at First County Bank are really proud to help support these important Norwalk organizations," said First County Bank Foundation Vice President Katherine Harris. "They provide an important service to the people of this community and help make it a better place to live and work."

Those organizations that received grants include:

- Stepping Stones Museum for Children received \$7,500 that will be used to fund the July 29 Get Into It! Free night, a program related to financial education for parents and children.
- Human Services Council received \$10,000 to be used for the Norwalk Mentor Program that matches deserving children with positive adult role models.
- Norwalk Community College Foundation Inc. received \$5,000 to be used for the ESL Bridge to Credit Program, designed for students whose native language is not English. Its goals are to help students attain a level of proficiency in the English language that will permit them to enroll in NCC academic or career programs and/or satisfy the college's English and speech requirements.
- Norwalk Summer Youth Employment Program received \$10,000. Since 1998, the program has provided over 500 teenagers in the Norwalk area with jobs at local businesses. There three times as many of applicants as job opportunities.
- NEON Inc. received \$5,000. The grant money will help keep families in their homes and children in school. It will also allow the head-of-household to search for employment, and help the family obtain subsidies like food stamps, emergency assistance and for health care.

The First County Bank Foundation was created in 2001 to honor the bank's 150th anniversary. It distributes funds annually to nonprofit organizations that support community and economic development for children and families. To be eligible, the organization must benefit moderate or low-income families in Norwalk, Stamford, Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan or Westport.