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First County Bank Foundation Grants \$277,000 to Stamford Nonprofits

STAMFORD, Conn., Aug. 11, 2014 – First County Bank Foundation is pleased to announce that it recently awarded 35 Stamford-based nonprofit groups a total of \$277,000 in grants to support these organizations with their mission to provide needed services in local communities.

“Unfortunately there are so many people and families in this area who are in need. Businesses and individuals should partner to support our community so all members of society can have at least their basic requirements met,” said Karen Kelly, vice president of First County Bank Foundation. “The Foundation is proud to support these worthy charitable organizations which provide essential services to improve the lives of people in the local communities they serve.”

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Photo caption: **Bob Granata**, president and COO of First County Bank and **Marc E. Jaffe**, interim executive director of Childcare Learning Center.

Since its inception in 2001, the First County Bank Foundation has awarded individual grants worth over \$6 million. The following Stamford-based nonprofit organizations received First County Bank Foundation grants in 2014:

AmeriCares Free Clinic	\$5,000	Free quality affordable health care to low income uninsured residents of greater Norwalk. They see about 800 patients.
ARI	\$7,500	Individualized Home Supports/Emergency Fund Program (formerly the Supported Living Services/Emergency Fund Program). Primary purpose is to assist individuals residing in our supported living program so they may be assured that their basic needs for food clothing and shelter are met.
Boys & Girls Club of Stamford, Inc.	\$10,000	Seven week summer camp. 285-300 youth. 6-15 yrs. of age. Education enrichment in a.m. Recreation in the p.m.
Catholic Charities of Fairfield County/New Covenant House of Hospitality	\$5,000	New Covenant House of Hospitality to strengthen its ability to deliver three important services to needy and vulnerable men, women and children in Stamford.
Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education, The	\$5,000	Strengthening our community through sexual assault crisis counseling, advocacy and education program.
Child Guidance Center of Southern CT	\$12,000	Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS) Provide immediate mental health assessment and crisis stabilization services for children and adolescents experiencing serious psychiatric symptoms and severe reactions to traumatic event.

Childcare Learning Centers	\$15,000	Teacher Education Initiative (TEI). Make available opportunities for teachers to enhance their skill set.
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	\$5,000	Safe House and Housing Advocacy. Largest provider of emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence in the state of CT, sheltering over 20% of victims, including children, seeking a safe haven across the state.
Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, The	\$10,000	Crisis Parent Aide general operating fund. Program's clients are referred because of abuse or neglect. Meets weekly with the family for 2-6 hours or more over the course of 4 to 6 months.
Ferguson Library	\$12,000	Make Way for Makerspace: Bringing Makerspace Technology for Tweens and Teens @ the Ferguson Library
Food Bank, The	\$15,000	To help pay for part of the cost of repaving the driveway/parking lot.
Future Five	\$1,500	College Prep Workshop. General operational support for the weekly programs, specifically our College Prep Workshop which currently has 44 enrolled seniors.
HomeFront	\$5,000	Housing Rehabilitation Program. Keep low-income neighbors in their homes with an improved quality of life.
Housing Development Fund	\$15,000	First Time Homebuyer program. Support for the counseling component.
Inspirica	\$10,000	General Operations. Support residential and non-residential programs.
Jewish Family Services of Stamford	\$5,000	Family Support Services/Case Management
Laurel House	\$5,000	IT Equipment - Server. Replace outdated software, expand our computer infrastructure, increase memory and disk space, and create a more secure technological environment for the next 5 years.
Mill River Collaborative	\$20,000	Grant money used to develop the Mill River Park and area.
Neighbors Link Stamford	\$5,000	Expanding Opportunities for Low and Moderate Income Immigrants
New Neighborhoods, Inc.	\$15,000	Tenant Advocacy Program (TAP) for residents at the Atlantic and Belltown, two NNI developed, owned and managed properties for low and moderate income seniors and disabled in Stamford, CT
Rebuilding Together Fairfield County	\$5,000	Rehab homes and nonprofit facilities. Need funding for 3 -5 additional homeowner projects. All volunteer organization.
Saint Joseph Parenting Center	\$3,000	20 week parenting program, Spanish. Strengthen families through parent education in an attempt to prevent child abuse and neglect.
Salvation Army, The	\$5,000	Back to School Back Pack Program. Purchase backpacks for low income students when they return to school. Other supplies as well.
Senior Services of Stamford	\$10,000	Senior Medical Transportation Program.
Shelter for the Homeless	\$10,000	Emergency Shelter Services. Infrastructure upgrades – for replacement & upgrade of the computer server and for replacement and upgrade of the phone system.

Soldier Socks	\$2,500	Will be split between 3 programs: purchase personal hygienic items to ship to military units in Afghanistan, to our Veterans College Grant Foundation and for research for skeletal suit
SoundWaters	\$10,000	Camp SoundWaters. Learn science via a variety of learning activities along the coastline and on the open waters of Holly Pond and LI Sound.
Stamford Center for the Arts	\$5,000	Triple Threat Performer Intensive (TTF). Summer program provides skills, training and performance opportunities in dance, drama and voice to all children in the community.
Stamford Emergency Medical Services	\$10,000	Stryker Power-Load. Support the ambulance cot throughout the loading and unloading process.
Stamford Jewish Community Center	\$7,500	Hand in Hand Summer Camp Program. An engaging and inclusive summer camp experience for 3rd-8th graders with a variety of challenges.
Stamford Public Education Foundation	\$3,000	Stamford Mentoring Program. Partners college and corporate volunteers for weekly one on one mentoring sessions with students in grades 6 - 8 and biweekly mentoring sessions for those in 9 -11.
Stamford Senior Center	\$3,000	Health and Wellness Promotion Program. Designed to help older adults to better manage their health conditions.
Starfish Connection Inc.	\$2,500	Enrichment Programing. Funds to help pay the costs of support and enrichment for 40+ Starfish children.
Technology Solutions for Non Profits	\$2,500	Needs assessment and hosted services migration. Grant will fund for assessment and the first year of subscription and migration costs.
United Way of Western CT - Stamford	\$15,000	Grant money is used for various Stamford programs.

To be eligible for First County Bank Foundation grants, organizations must have nonprofit tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; be located in Stamford, Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk or Westport; have community support; address community needs; have measurable outcomes; and demonstrate fiscal and administrative responsibility. Special consideration is given to those agencies or programs benefiting low to moderate income populations.

About First County Bank Foundation

Established in 2001 in honor of the Bank's 150th anniversary, First County Bank Foundation was created to distribute funds annually to nonprofit organizations that support community and economic development for children and families. As a mutual bank without shareholders, First County Bank considers contributions made by the foundation a means of paying dividends back to the local communities it serves.

About First County Bank

First County Bank, headquartered in Stamford, Conn. for more than 160 years, is an independent mutual community bank with 15 branches in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk and Westport offering deposit products, mortgages, trust and investment services, business banking services, mobile and online banking. First County Bank has more than 220 employees and assets in excess of \$1.3 billion. For additional information, please visit www.firstcountybank.com. Become a fan by clicking "Like" on the bank's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/firstcountybank>. Follow it on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/firstcountybank> or look for First County Bank on LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/company/920207>.

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