



# NEAR & FAR AID

TARGETING POVERTY, CHANGING LIVES

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

### DEAR FRIENDS,

During the past year, the pandemic continued to impose challenges and limitations, but it also brought out the best in our community. As our grant recipients adapted by making innovative adjustments to their programs to help the children and families they serve, we are proud that Near & Far Aid was able to continue our support of those agencies and our neighbors during this global crisis.

Near & Far Aid is an all-volunteer run organization with very low operating costs, which enables us to grant out 95 cents of every net dollar raised. We fund agencies and programs in Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford and throughout Fairfield County that provide life's most basic necessities and help break the cycle of poverty. Our value to the community is clear—important funding combined with the leadership and expertise to allocate resources where they will provide the greatest impact. Our rigorous agency review process helps us to understand the areas of greatest need and deliver funding as quickly as possible.

Despite limited opportunities to host events, we were able to raise and grant over \$1.1 million to 108 local Fairfield County agencies. Additionally, we partnered with Fairfield County's Community Foundation to provide our agencies access to a network of business professionals offering pro bono assistance to help them strengthen their operations. One hundred agencies jointly sponsored by N&FA/FCCF availed themselves of this service resulting in thousands of hours of donated professional service. The true value of these services cannot be quantified. For many of our agencies, this assistance offered them a lifeline in the face of challenges imposed by the pandemic. They were able to re-focus and rebuild their operations.

We remain laser focused on our mission of fighting poverty where we live. We cannot do this meaningful work without donors and volunteers like you, who provide the vital support that makes these grants possible. We are truly grateful for your partnership and for the trust you continue to place in Near & Far Aid.

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." With this in mind, we look to the future with renewed passion and energy to fight poverty, bolstered by all of you, as together we are

### TARGETING POVERTY AND CHANGING LIVES.

With gratitude,



Missy Harmon  
Co-President, Near & Far Aid



Karen Mitchell  
Co-President, Near & Far Aid

**OUR MISSION** is to eliminate the causes and effects of poverty in Fairfield County by finding and funding programs that provide life's basic necessities and seek to make lasting change.

Near & Far Aid invests in programs that let individuals and families stabilize, connect and thrive.

We support innovations and partnerships that lay the foundations for lasting change and a hopeful future.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CRITICAL NEEDS

Food, shelter and clothing. Sadly, thousands of people in Fairfield County don't have access to these necessities. Affordable housing and food insecurity are common predicaments for many in Fairfield County where rent can account for 70% of a family's income. One in ten families struggles to put food on the table or doesn't know where their next meal is coming from.



NEAR & FAR AID GRANTS SUPPORT



EDUCATION AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

All children have a right to high-quality education, academic support and enrichment programs, regardless of zip code. That's why Near & Far Aid invests in school day, after-school and summer programs for underserved students throughout Fairfield County. Our grant support helps provide children with the resources they need, from computer access and homework assistance to nutritious snacks and physical activity. We know that education is an essential component of lifting up communities and breaking the generational cycle of poverty within families.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Near & Far Aid supports innovative approaches and partnerships that are the foundations for lasting change. Job-training programs empower those facing barriers to employment by restoring hope and offering a path that affords individuals the opportunity to provide for their family and their community. The goal is to attack systemic barriers to employment and to overcome poverty and financial insecurity by supporting job creation and skills enhancement initiatives.



# NEAR & FAR AID

TARGETING POVERTY, CHANGING LIVES

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

**For over 70 years**, Near & Far Aid has responded to the needs of the community by funding programs that provide critical resources to underserved neighbors in Fairfield County. With additional burdens borne as a result of the pandemic, our Presidents’ Council launched a new initiative, providing N&FA volunteers an opportunity to more directly give back to the community. Our generous volunteers conducted food drives, collected diapers and toiletries, re-stocked shelves and pantries and prepared bagged lunches for local shelters. Our volunteers are our most valued asset, we are grateful for their time, talent, support and commitment to serving the needs of our greater community.



## It's a family affair



## HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

In September, the President's Council ran its fall Give Back Initiative in partnership with The Center for Family Justice, whose food pantry was running dangerously low due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. Near & Far Aid board members and volunteers quickly organized a drive, filling an SUV with donations and, in just two weeks, helped restock the pantry with food, baby wipes and diapers. The Center for Family Justice, located in Bridgeport, serves to help victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking, and child abuse in Fairfield County.



When N&FA heard that the Community Kitchen at the Gillespie Center was in need of bagged lunches, all hands were on deck! Over 250 lunches were prepared by the families of our volunteers with a little bit of extra love sprinkled in with hand-drawn cards. The Gillespie Center is an emergency homeless shelter in downtown Westport operated by Homes with Hope.



# NEAR & FAR AID

TARGETING POVERTY, CHANGING LIVES

**TOTAL FUNDS GRANTED  
IN 2020-2021  
\$1,109,000**

**GRANTS  
\$1,088,500**

**COVID RELIEF FUNDS  
\$10,500**

**SPECIAL GIFTS  
\$10,000**

Near & Far Aid impacts thousands of people through our grants to agencies that work to eliminate the causes and effects of poverty. We focus on Fairfield County, and partnerships that foster lasting change and a hopeful future.

The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on socially vulnerable communities. The agencies we support, though stretched thin, have pivoted to create new programs in response to increased needs. They are providing food, housing, education, child and elder care, and a social safety net for families throughout Fairfield County. We are encouraged and inspired by the collective commitment of our non-profit partners to rebuild a stronger community.

- Achievement First
- Adam J. Lewis Academy
- All Our Kin
- Americares Free Clinics
- Arts for Learning Connecticut
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of SW CT
- Boys & Girls Club of Stamford
- Boys & Girls Village
- Bridge Academy
- Bridge House
- Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders
- Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust
- Bridgeport Public Education Fund
- Bridgeport Rescue Mission
- Building One Community
- Cardinal Shehan Center
- Career Resources
- Caroline House
- Carver Foundation of Norwalk
- Center for Children’s Advocacy
- Child Advocates of SW Connecticut
- Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut
- Children in Placement
- CLASP Homes – Westport
- Community Resources for Justice - Family ReEntry
- Connect Us
- Connecticut Association for Human Services
- Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants
- Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport – Capitol Ave.
- Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport – FOOD ACCESS
- CT Students for a Dream
- Danbury Grassroots Academy
- Diaper Bank of Connecticut
- Domestic Violence Crisis Center
- Domus Kids
- ElderHouse
- Emerge – Stratford
- Family & Children’s Agency

## 2020 - 2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Family & Children’s Aid
- Family Centers
- Food Rescue US
- Future 5
- Great Oaks Charter School – Bridgeport
- Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County
- Hall Neighborhood House
- Healing Tree Economic Development - King’s Pantry
- HELP for Kids - Exchange Club Parenting Skills Center
- HomeFront
- Homes With Hope
- Horizons at New Canaan Country School
- Horizons at Sacred Heart University
- Horizons at Greens Farms Academy
- Housatonic Community College Foundation
- Human Services Council - Appleby Health Centers
- Human Services Council - Children’s Connection
- Inspirica
- INTEMPO
- Jewish Family Services Greenwich
- Jewish Senior Services
  - Center for Elder Abuse Prevention – Bridgeport
- Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County
- KEYS
- Kids In Crisis
- Laurel House
- Lawyers for Children America
- Liberation Programs
- LifeBridge Community Services
- Malta House
- McGivney Community Center
- Mental Health Services at Bridgeport Hospital
- Mercy Learning Center of Bridgeport
- Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center
- New Beginnings Family Academy
- New Reach
- Norma Pfriem Breast Center
- Norwalk Community College Foundation

- Norwalk Housing Foundation
- Norwalk/Stamford Grassroots Tennis & Education
- Nourish Bridgeport
- Open Doors
- Operation Hope
- Pacific House
- Person to Person
- Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
- Renewal House
- Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership
- Sacred Heart University’s Discovery
  - Science Center and Planetarium
- Saint Joseph Parenting Center
- Shepherds
- SoundWaters
- Stamford Peace Youth Foundation
- Stamford Public Education Foundation
- Sterling House Community Center
- The Bridge to Independence &
  - Career Opportunities
- Teach For America Connecticut
- The Center for Family Justice
- The Child and Family Guidance Center
- The Daniel Trust Foundation
- The Rowan Center
- The Tiny Miracles Foundation
- The Women’s Center of Greater Danbury
- Thomas Merton Center
- Urban Impact of Blackrock
- Wakeman Boys & Girls Club
- Women’s Mentoring Network
- WorkPlace
- YMCA Central CT Coast Camp Hi-Rock
- YMCA Central CT Coast - Bridgeport YMCA
- YWCA Greenwich - Emergency Shelter for
  - Victims of Domestic Violence

2020 - 2021 FINANCIALS + GRANT ALLOCATIONS

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Contributions	\$322,627
Sponsorships	\$210,860
Event Income	\$454,453
Investment Income, net of fees	\$21,342
In-Kind Services	\$1,500

Total Revenue & Support \$1,010,782

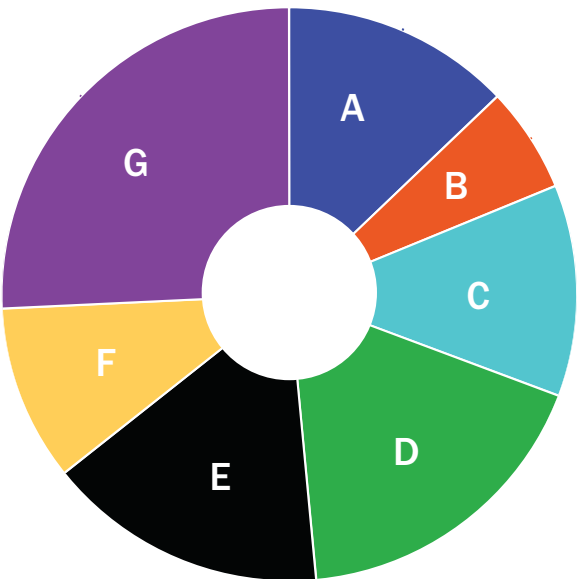
DIRECT EXPENSES

Grants to Charity	\$1,109,000
Events	\$136,132
Operating	\$45,175

Total Direct Expenses \$1,290,307

Change in Net Assets from Operations	(\$279,756)
Net Assets Beginning of the Year	\$1,657,659
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,377,903

2021-22 Granting Pool Reserve	\$1,040,000
Special Gift Reserve	\$10,000
Net Unrestricted Reserves	\$327,903



GRANT ALLOCATIONS BY AREA OF NEED

A. Adult Education & Job Training	13%	\$139,500
B. Aid to Adults in Crisis	6%	\$68,500
C. Aid to Children	12%	\$128,000
D. Aid to Families at Risk	18%	\$190,500
E. Aid to the Homeless	16%	\$170,000
F. Community Health Services	10%	\$110,000
G. Education for Children	26%	\$282,000

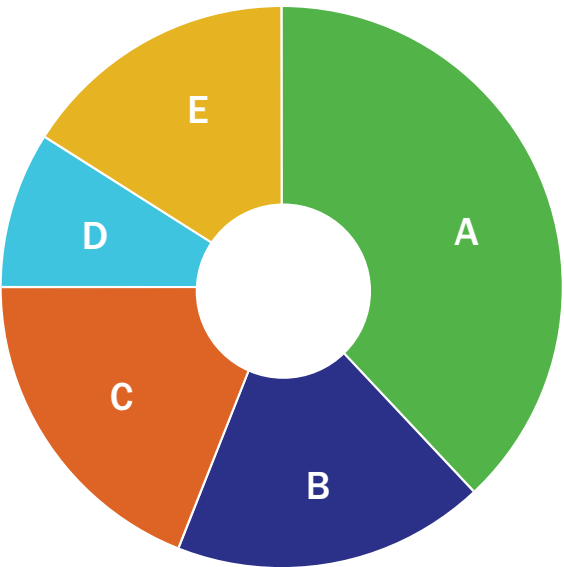
TOTAL: \$1,088,500

GRANT ALLOCATIONS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

A. Bridgeport	38%	\$417,500
B. Norwalk	18%	\$199,000
C. Stamford	19%	\$204,000
D. Upper Fairfield County	9%	\$97,500
E. Lower Fairfield County	16%	\$170,500

TOTAL: \$1,088,500

An additional \$10,000 was granted as special gifts and \$10,500 in COVID relief.





# NEAR & FAR AID

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## 2021 SUMMER FETE

A benefit to raise critical funds for 2021 - 22 grants was held on Wednesday, June 2nd at Shorehaven County Club in Norwalk. Friends and supporters were delighted to gather in an outdoor tent enjoying cocktails, light fare, and the gift of being together. The evening was capped with a signature Mitchell's fashion show, premium live auction, and paddle raise.

Despite the limitations of a much smaller guest list due to Covid restrictions, the Summer Fete was a spectacular success helping us raise the funds needed to support our community. We are so grateful to our sponsors and supporters who attended both in person, and remotely, for their incredible generosity and unwavering commitment to our mission.



Kim Ambrose, Elise Stone, Dale Najarian, Suzanne Gorab



Amy LoPresti, Nancy Kmetz, Dana Ian, Mindee Blanco



Jaclyn + Justin Picarillo, Kristi + Chris Montanaro



Nancy Gault, Bob Mitchell, Michelle Clark, Gary Johnson, Barb Johnson, Katie Clark Fortunato, Ed Stern, Amy Stern



Kat + Tim Powers, Francesco + Meri-Leigh Daniele



Diana Bowes, KK Streator, Lizzy + Karen Mitchell



Caroline Kopp, James And Suzanne Jesse, Michael and Jasmine Rothbard, Merav + Hank Diamond



David Perdue, Pavel Chernyshov, Anastasia Gorgutsa + Kelly Scinto



Simonne + Wayne Hewett, Suni + Tina Munshani



NEAR & FAR AID  
TARGETING POVERTY, CHANGING LIVES

2021 GOLF CLASSIC



It was a spectacular, sunny September day on the greens at the prestigious Country Club of Fairfield for our annual Golf Classic. Thank you to our title sponsor, Fairfield County Bank, for their continued support and community partnership.



Rob Russo, David Perdue + Michael Weatherly



Niko Koutouvides of NFL Alumni CT Chapter + guests



Craig Tagen, Russell Beitman, Scott Serels + Walter Mattera



Tim Carr, Chris Raveis, Jonathan Moffly + Ray Cashen



Golf Co-Chairs Samira Cwanek + Lindsay Muldoon



# NEAR & FAR AID

## TARGETING POVERTY, CHANGING LIVES

We are grateful to our donors whose contributions help fund over \$1 million in grants annually to local agencies offering services in support of our mission.

### FOUNDER'S CIRCLE \$25,000+

Georgia + Charlie Adams  
Diana Bowes + James Torrey  
Suzanne + James Jesse  
Danielle + David Perdue

### CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE \$15,000 - \$24,999

Barbara + Ron Amone  
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### CHAMPION'S CIRCLE \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Martha + Dwight Gesswein  
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Nancy Gilliland  
Sandra + John Goldwater  
Rebecca Grossman  
Scott Hapgood  
Lauren + John Healy  
Andrew Herr  
Sheila F. Keenan

“Over the last 20 years, we have been amazed by the passion, empathy and dedication that members of Near & Far Aid demonstrate as they combat poverty head-on.”

“Our family is committed to giving back and Near & Far Aid helps us reach Fairfield County's very best agencies and programs serving the poor, in all areas of need.”

Corinne Keller  
Kieran Kennedy  
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Curt Knox  
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### MATCHING GIFTS

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Prudential Financial Inc.  
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\*Donations reflect all cash contributions made from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and include Annual Appeal, Directed Giving, event sponsorships, and tax-deductible portion of event tickets.

If we inadvertently failed to include you on a list where you belong or have misspelled your name, we apologize. Please contact us at [donate@nearandfaraid.org](mailto:donate@nearandfaraid.org) so that we may correct our records.



2020 - 2021 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Near & Far Aid enjoys the generous support of local business leaders whose sponsorship helps underwrite the cost of our events. Together we seek to ensure that donor dollars raised can directly benefit those in need in our greater community. We value this important partnership and are grateful for the continued support.

TOGETHER WE ARE TARGETING POVERTY,  
CHANGING LIVES.



Andrew Mitchell-Namdar + Bob Mitchell

TITLE SPONSORS

\$25,000+

Fairfield County Bank  
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Mitchells of Westport

Modern Dermatology

NY Yankees

Henry C. Reid & Sons Jewelers

Rob Russo

Super Duper Weenie

Trade Winds Aviation

Verge Creative Group

Vide

Yes Network

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for information or visit our website:  
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