



Working to benefit the community of Westbrook and its residents

## KEEPING THE WESTBROOK BEAT



Photo courtesy of the Westbrook Historical Society

Since 1910, the Westbrook Drum Corps has been keeping the beat for this small coastal community, amorously playing the songs of the past, while marching forward. To aid in this endeavor the Westbrook Foundation recently awarded the Corps a grant, to be used for the purchase of new uniforms, new instruments, and for the repair of old instruments and uniforms.

“For years now we have had a ‘to do list’ so to speak, and there were several things on that list that needed attention,” explains Deb Hamm, a fourteen year veteran of the group. “Several of our instruments were in declining condition, we needed new uniforms and we needed to get some repairs done to many of our instruments. The generous grant from the Westbrook Foundation has allowed us to cross off just about everything from our ‘to do list’ and move forward.”

The funds were used to purchase two brand new uniforms from a specialized Revolutionary Era tailor in Florida. Each uniform purchased included a regimental coat, vest, and hat. The funds also went to purchase three new fifes, one new snare drum, and allowed the corps to make repairs to several existing fifes, snare, and base drums.

Currently there are 17 members in the corps, which has been a mainstay in town for the past 107 years. Locals set their calendars each year, for the fourth Saturday in August, to get ready for the small town to explode with music as the annual Muster takes place, attracting up to forty other corps from throughout New England to the seaside destination.

“I love being part of the corps,” says Deb. “There is a great family atmosphere and performing the music gives me a sense of patriotism for our country, reminding us about our history.” She encourages others to join the group, which meets weekly on Tuesday evenings in the lower level of the Historical Society building.

“We are so appreciative for the Westbrook Foundation and all that they have done for us and all that they do for entire town of Westbrook. This grant has allowed us to update our equipment and keep ourselves relevant. Now we are all caught up with what we needed to do. We all have the same uniforms and we will not have to service our instruments for a good long time. Thank you Westbrook Foundation!”



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# FROM THE CO-CHAIRMEN

I moved to Westbrook with my husband, Fred, and children in 1976 when our first child was two years old. I knew I would love it here as I had visited Westbrook in the summers when I was a teen. When our two-year-old daughter charmed Art Carney one day in the Food Center (no longer in existence), I started to feel we “belonged” and I knew we were here to stay. Both of our children went through the Westbrook School System and we always felt their education was excellent.

In 1994 I became the Probate Judge for Westbrook and continued in that position for sixteen years until I retired when the system was consolidated in 2010. The years I spent as Judge of Probate gave me an even deeper connection with the town and its people.

When I was asked to join the Board of The Westbrook Foundation, Inc. in 2011, I felt truly honored to be part of a group of people dedicated to providing scholarships and grants to better the lives of the people of Westbrook.

As a Co-Chair of the Board, I hope to work with Brian to add to the contributions of those chairpersons who have gone before.

Sincerely,



Connie Vogell

My wife, Alice, my three children, and I moved to Westbrook in 1973 after several years of commuting from New Haven, where we lived, to be closer to my teaching position in Old Saybrook.

I taught Social Studies in Old Saybrook High School for twenty-six years, and was Dean of Students for two years, until my retirement. Our three children attended the Westbrook school system.

In 1974, the Democratic Party asked me to run for the Westbrook Planning Commission. I served for twelve years on the Planning Commission, and served, as well, as the Planning Board's representative to the Inland Wetlands Commission for several years.

I was honored when I was invited to become a Director of the Westbrook Foundation's Scholarship Committee. I am serving now as co-chair of the Westbrook Foundation, along with Connie Vogell. We plan to contribute to the Westbrook Foundation to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,



Brian M. O'Connor

# The Westbrook Foundation, Inc.

*Established 1984*

## A Contribution to the Future

An individual or an organization who makes a gift or bequest to The Westbrook Foundation can be assured that they have made a contribution which will benefit future generations.

For more information about The Westbrook Foundation, go to [www.westbrookfoundation.org](http://www.westbrookfoundation.org).

## Flexibility in Giving

**CASH:** An outright cash gift to The Westbrook Foundation qualifies for Federal Income Tax deductions in the year of the gift.

**SECURITIES:** Stocks and Bonds that have increased in value may be given to The Westbrook Foundation. The donor receives a tax deduction for the value of the gift at market value, and avoids capital gains taxes.

**BEQUEST:** Bequests of cash, securities or property may be made to The Westbrook Foundation either as a specific sum or as a percentage of the donor's estate.

**MEMORIAL GIFTS:** A gift to The Westbrook Foundation is a meaningful way to honor a special person or create a memorial to a loved one.

### LIFE INSURANCE/CHARITABLE GIFT

**ANNUITIES:** Donors may name The Westbrook Foundation as a beneficiary of life insurance policies. In the case of annuities, donor may choose to retain income during his or her lifetime.

**CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST:** A donor may designate The Westbrook Foundation as the beneficiary of this type of trust and still receive income during his or her lifetime. Donor receives tax deduction in the year the trust is established, and reduces estate taxes.



# THE WAR IS OVER BUT THE HISTORY REMAINS

The small town of Westbrook is steeped in rich history. No one knows that better than the members of the Westbrook Historical Society; for years they have toiled diligently treasuring, preserving, and passing on that history. One recent way the Society has kept true to their mission and brought history into the modern day spotlight is by leading the cause to erect the beautiful new bronze and stone Civil War Memorial, which lists 65 names of Westbrook residents who fought proudly in the Civil War or Great Rebellion and helped to shape the history of the United States.

"I knew there were Civil War soldiers that were not recognized, so I felt we should begin to find a way to identify them and memorialize them," explains President of the Westbrook Historical Society, Catherine Neidlinger Doane. "A list of names was compiled over several years because it was very difficult to determine who they all were and where they were enlisted, but we got it together."

With funds from a generous grant awarded by the Westbrook Foundation, the Historical Society was able to have a beautiful memorial constructed with all the names engraved into the monument. Last summer a beautiful dedication ceremony was held to honor the memorial, which is now an interegral part of the town green.

"The Westbrook Foundation has always been a godsend for us," says Catherine gratefully. "It has done so much for us over the years and we are so incredibly lucky, as a community, to have a Foundation like this in our small town."

She adds, "I knew Barbara Spencer and I know she would be so proud that the Westbrook Foundation upholds her mission and her belief of connecting Westbrook residents together and caring for our town."

## Westbrook's Civil War Soldiers

Fought for the Union All, But One, 1861-1865

Honored here through the efforts of the Westbrook Historical Society Funded by the Westbrook Foundation

Boone, Christopher W.	Hayden, Edgar Elias
Burdick, Leroy S.	Hayden, Theodore
Bushnell, Charles H.	Hill, Albert M.
Bushnell, Edwin W.	Holoday, William U.
Bushnell, Frederick G.	Hyde, Joel, W.
Bushnell, Frederick M.	Kelsey, Alson
Bushnell, John B.	Kelsey, Frederick W.
Bushnell, William A.	Kingsley, Carroll E.
Bushnell, William G.	Kirtland, George
Bushnell, William Richard	Knowles, Oscar F.
Butler, James A.	Latue, Charles
Chadwick, John H.	McVee, Charles
Chapman, Alvin	Platt, George H.
Chapman, Carlos	Platt, Newell H.
Chapman, Charles H.	Platt, Samuel S.
Chapman, David C.	Post, Richard K.
Chapman, George W.	Post, William J.
Chapman, Henry C.	Spencer, James M.
Chapman, Jedediah C.	Spencer, Theodore N.
Chapman, Roderic P.	Stannard, Asa B.
Chapman, Samuel H.	Stannard, Charles B.
Chapman, Stanley L.	Stannard, Ezra
Chittenden, Newton H.	Stannard, Hamlin
Chittenden, Richard H.	Stannard, Joseph E.
Crandall, Orrin	Stannard, William M.
Creegan, William	Stevens, Horace B.
Denison, Charles	Stevens, John B.
Dibble, Alfred H.	Stevens, Joseph D.
Doane, Andrew C.	Wright, Benjamin
Doane, Orrin E.	Wright, Joseph Clark
Fox, David	Wright, Sereno
Grumley, William R.	

## For Further Information

An individual contemplating a gift to the Foundation should seek the advice of his or her attorney.

This mailer was prepared as reference material, and further information, including copies of the Certificate of Incorporation and the By Laws of the Foundation may be obtained from:

The Westbrook Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 528  
Westbrook, Connecticut 06498

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Beverly Schirmeier  
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Richard Westbrook

**In 2016, the Westbrook Foundation awarded a total of \$155,948.43 in grants to community programs and projects.**

The following scholarships are awarded to Westbrook residents each year. Help to increase these scholarships by contributing to the fund principal of your choice:

- Calderari-Hoxsie-Schubert-Steinson Memorial
- Josephine S. Crump Scholarship
- Dorothy C. Hoyt Scholarship
- Manstan/Nolf Memorial Industrial Arts
- Herbert A. Muller Jr. Memorial
- Henry Ortner Memorial
- Elliot A. Spencer Scholarship
- Raymond L. Wilson Scholarship
- Westbrook Grange #123 Scholarship
- Ellen S. Murphy Scholarship
- Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarships
- Pat Mazeau and Myrtie Gareau Scholarship
- Messerschmidt Fund
- Brandon E. Norman Memorial
- Marie Patrice Mazeau Scholarship
- Dan Nuhn Scholarship
- Shoreline Amateur Radio Club Scholarship
- Joanne Marino-Murray Memorial Scholarship
- Eileen M. Daily Scholarship
- Tom O'Dell Scholarship
- Nicholas P. Tragakes Scholarship

I am considering making a contribution to The Westbrook Foundation and wish to be contacted by a Director of the Foundation to discuss it.

My contribution is enclosed and I would like it to be applied to the fund principal for the following existing Scholarship.

Enclosed please find my company's matching gift form.

I would prefer my gift to remain anonymous.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Become a partner in philanthropy through annual giving. Please make checks payable to The Westbrook Foundation, Inc. All gifts are tax-deductible.*

\* Deceased

## COMMUNITY PLAY

Bringing fond childhood memories to the residents of his hometown community, Justin Heilmann decided that he wanted his Eagle Scout Project to be the addition of a community bocce court in Westbrook.

“I have great memories of playing bocce with my family when I was younger,” says Justin, who felt that there needed to be more community based recreational opportunities available in town, so he set out on a quest to make his vision a reality.

“Bocce is a great game. It’s easy to learn and people of all ages and physical abilities can play it together,” says Justin, who made a great case for his Eagle Scout Project choice.

With the help of Westbrook Park and Recreation Director, Rich Annino, and a \$3,000 grant from the Westbrook Foundation, Justin was on his way.

“This entire project took about a year to plan and only five days to actually build,” explains Justin, who is extremely proud of the new court located conveniently behind the Mulvey Municipal Center.

“Even though the upkeep of the courts is the responsibility of the town’s Park and Recreation Department now, I check on it often to make sure there is nothing that needs doing there, and just about every time I have gone by, there have been people using it, which makes me very happy,” says Justin. “This past summer I even saw a Wedding Party using it for fun, that made me feel good.”

He adds, “I am very grateful to the Westbrook Foundation for the grant they gave me, without those funds this project would never have happened. Having a Foundation in town like the Westbrook Foundation is a great thing, it allows the community to expand and do new projects that benefit everyone!”



## THE WESTBROOK FOUNDATION AND THE YMCA

A mainstay of the town of Westbrook’s landscape has been the Westbrook YMCA, and a stalwart supporter of this community based organization has been the Westbrook Foundation. Working hand and hand with one another, these two organizations have made a huge difference in the quality of life within the small town community, bringing Barbara Spencer’s original mission of doing good for the residents of Westbrook to fruition.

Over the past ten years, the Westbrook Foundation has awarded more than \$25,000 in grant monies to the YMCA, which has enabled the non-profit to introduce thousands of children to the joy of swimming for the first time, to provide a safe haven, fun and exciting childcare programs to children of working parents, to support classes to help seniors and adults stay healthy and active, to provide outdoor education and recreation for children, and to connect members of the community with one another in one centralized location.

In 1998, the Westbrook Foundation provided a leadership gift of \$100,000 to the Y’s Capital Campaign. Since the project’s completion in 2002, the Y has served more than 4,000 families in Westbrook and beyond. Again in 2014/15, the Foundation awarded the Y with two separate grants totaling \$7,500 for the physical infrastructure of the community garden. Since its creation, the bountiful garden has provided more than 6,000 pounds of produce to those most in need throughout the community. Most recently the Y received \$2,500 from the Westbrook Foundation for its Daisy Ingraham Elementary School YMCA after school program.

“The Westbrook Foundation’s support over the years has been greatly appreciated and has helped to ensure that the Y’s important services are provided regardless of ability to pay,” says Chris Pallatto, YMCA Executive Director. “We are grateful for the generous

support of the Westbrook Foundation. Their support enables us to bring our visions to life and serve all residents in our community, regardless of their ability to pay. We look forward to continually working with the Foundation in the future to bring even more programs to the Westbrook community.”



Photo courtesy of the YMCA

## WHERE THEY ARE NOW

### MEREDITH CRAWFORD

Excelling in academics throughout her high school career, Westbrook native Meredith Crawford has gone on to accomplish great things in her professional career. She graduated from Westbrook High School in 1998 and with the help of a scholarship from the Westbrook Foundation, went on to pursue her love of the written word at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English with a concentration in American Studies. Graduating in 2002, still thirsty for more knowledge, she received Kenyon's Henry G. Dalton Fellowship award to pursue graduate study in American Studies. She went on to attend The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she earned a Master of Arts in American Studies in 2005.

Drawing on her experience serving as a Student Associate to the Kenyon Review literary publication in college, when Meredith returned home to Connecticut, she got busy right away and secured a position pursuing her passion and began

work at Shore Publishing Newspapers, where she worked for nine years, serving in various editorial roles, ultimately that of Deputy Editor. During her time at Shore, Meredith was held in high esteem by her colleagues who leaned on her often for her editorial precision and innovative ideas, especially in the well known Living Section of the community based newspaper.

Setting her sights on the pursuit of a more challenging career, in the summer of 2015, Meredith took a position with the Communications Department at the Yale School of Management as Associate Director for Editorial & Design.

"I love working at such a vibrant institution and I enjoy the access it provides to all of the cultural and education opportunities Yale has to offer," explains Meredith with enthusiasm. "My responsibilities include editing my colleagues' work, writing print and web content, covering speaker events for the web audience, contributing to the digital

and print projects of the department and its constituents, and managing project workflow."

Thankful to the Westbrook Foundation and the scholarship she received Meredith says, "I was honored to receive a Westbrook Foundation scholarship upon graduation from WHS in 1998. The award was helpful in defraying the huge costs associated with pursuing higher education, in particular the cost of textbooks each semester. More than that, what I found most invaluable was what the scholarship symbolized and served to remind me of: it was an extension of the unfailing support of the Westbrook community that I had felt throughout my youth in Westbrook, and which cemented the foundation upon which I launched my undergraduate and graduate pursuits, and ultimately my career. For that, I will forever be grateful to the Westbrook Foundation and the community."



## ON THEIR WAY

### AMY SPARACO



A freshman at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, Amy Sparaco's infectious exuberance is palatable. Completely excited to be in the midst of her freshman year of college at her first choice school, Amy is taking the reins of her college career and moving forward with verve and purpose. Already achieving a place on the Dean's List for her first two semesters and hopes of getting on the President's List in the future, to say Amy is thriving in her higher educational pursuits would be an understatement.

However, making it to the doorstep of Bryant University wasn't always the path she knew she was going to take. Although it was her first choice school, Amy thought, due to financial restraints, she may have to go to another school, however with two scholarships awarded to her through the Westbrook Foundation, Amy's dream came true.

"I really can't even explain how honored I

am to have received two such prestigious scholarships through the Westbrook Foundation, I appreciate them more than anything," says a very happy Amy. "I want to say thank you so much Westbrook Foundation. You have made my dream come true!"

Amy says that receiving the scholarship has also made her work even harder at school.

"It makes me want to do better, because I am working for something bigger than myself," she explains.

Taking on a full plate of academic challenges, as well as extra curriculum activities, Amy is getting the most out of her college experience and already looking to the future.

"I want to be an accountant when I graduate," says Amy. "I took accounting and personal finance at Westbrook High School and I really enjoyed it, so that is my major."

Furthering her passion, Amy has become a member of the Accounting Association at Bryant, as well as the Student Alumnae Association and she recently joined the Delta Zeta Sorority.

"I really enjoyed community involvement and service in high school and being part of these different organizations at college has helped me get back into that, as well as participating in philanthropy opportunities, all while building my resume for the future," says Amy.

"I would encourage all Westbrook High School seniors to apply for a Westbrook Foundation Scholarship, there are so many to choose from, there is something for everyone out there and every bit of financial aid, whether you or your parents are paying for school, is extremely helpful. Sometimes it makes the difference between going to your first choice school or not."

In 2016, the Westbrook Foundation funded a total of \$88,000.00 in scholarships to Westbrook residents seeking higher education.