



Working to benefit the community of Westbrook and its residents

2021 BY THE NUMBERS: WESTBROOK FOUNDATION  
AWARDED \$170,900 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CLASS OF 2021,  
\$251,833.19 IN GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Last June, the Westbrook Foundation awarded scholarships totaling \$170,900 to members of the Westbrook High School Class (WHS) of 2021 to support their post-secondary educational pursuits. The Foundation also awarded \$7,000 in Messerschmidt Scholarships to Westbrook residents currently enrolled in college and graduate school.

The following members of the WHS Class of 2021 received the Foundation's most competitive scholarships, totaling \$115,000:

- **Marguerite Bartlett:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Leadership Award and Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award
- **Cierra Brundage:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award and Elliot A. Spencer Memorial Scholarship
- **Michael Cox:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Academic Achievement Award
- **Colin Heilmann:** Henry Ortner, Jr. Memorial Scholarship and Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award
- **Lauren Horne:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award

- **Kiley McCarthy:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Academic Achievement Award
- **Jesse McGannon:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award and Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Academic Achievement Award
- **Jack Naccarato:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award
- **Daniel Ruppenicker:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award
- **Karen Sicha:** Henry Ortner, Jr. Memorial Scholarship and Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award
- **Luca Troop:** Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Good Citizen Award

GRANTS

In 2021, the Westbrook Foundation awarded \$251,833.19 in grants to 20 organizations during its fall and spring grant cycles.

- **Bare Necessities:** \$6,000 to purchase diapers for Westbrook families in need.

(Continued inside)

WESTBROOK FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Back row, from left: Chair Paul Winch, Mike Engels, Treasurer Lawrence Lariviere; middle row, from left: Grants Committee Chair An-Ming Truxes, Kathleen Cietanno, Scholarship Committee Chair Joan Angelini, Tiffini Hovey; front row: Sid Holbrook  
Missing from photo: Secretary Jeff Dickey

Local Postal Customer



# FROM THE CHAIR



In 2021, the Westbrook Foundation invested more than \$420,000 in the community. Primary beneficiaries were graduating seniors at

Westbrook High School and locally based nonprofit organizations. Since 1984, the Foundation has actively supported students pursuing college degrees and groups like Westbrook Little League that give young people the chance to play baseball and softball here in town.

The Foundation is made up of nine members who serve without compensation and share a commitment to be part of Westbrook's success and to ensure that the needs of all its residents, regardless of economic status, are met. We provide yearly funding to Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries and grants to the Westbrook Congregational Church and many other organizations that provide services to residents.

Looking ahead to 2022, we plan to spend more than \$500,000 in grants and scholarships. The Foundation is also investing monies to become easier to do business with. Specifically, we have entered a software services contract to move our grants application process online. We hope to move the scholarship application process to the same platform in 2023.

Thank you for your continued support and please visit us on the web at [westbrookfoundation.org](http://westbrookfoundation.org) for more information.

Sincerely,  
Paul Winch



## 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 that will benefit future generations.

For more information about The Westbrook Foundation, visit [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. Please note that the Westbrook Foundation can only accept checks made out to "Westbrook Foundation, Inc." If you wish to support a specific scholarship fund, please reference that fund in the check's memo line. The Westbrook Foundation is not able to accept cash donations or postal money orders.

### LIFE INSURANCE/CHARITABLE GIFT

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

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



SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS (Continued)

- **Camp Hazen:** \$5,000 to provide financial assistance to children from Westbrook to attend Camp Hazen YMCA (spring grant cycle); \$6,000 to renovate the camp's skate park (fall cycle).
- **Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.:** \$5,000 for the installation of a generator to prevent disruption of Meals on Wheels service.
- **First Congregational Church of Westbrook:** \$30,000 to upgrade the church kitchen.
- **Friends of the Westbrook Public Library:** \$7,000 to purchase enhancements for the new Lew Daniels Technology Center.
- **High Hopes Therapeutic Riding:** \$5,000 to provide financial assistance to Westbrook residents with special needs to participate in equine-assisted activities.
- **Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, Inc.:** \$4,000 to provide work-readiness programming, mock interviews, and career panels for Westbrook High School students.
- **Junior Colonial Fife & Drum Corps of Westbrook:** \$3,000 to provide continuing education to its members.
- **Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore, Inc.:** \$1,700 to support the tutor training program.
- **Old Saybrook Rotary:** \$1,600 to purchase and distribute Thanksgiving meals to homebound Westbrook senior citizens.
- **Safe Harbor, Inc.:** \$23,631 to support facility improvements.
- **SARAH, Inc.:** \$5,000 to provide equestrian therapy at High Hopes for Westbrook adults with intellectual and/or development disabilities.
- **Shoreline Wrestling Academy:** \$5,200 to start a wrestling program for Westbrook youth.
- **Valley Shore YMCA:** \$50,000 to support the Y's outdoor and exterior renovation (spring grant cycle); \$8,250 to provide free swim lessons to Westbrook youth (fall cycle).
- **Town of Westbrook – Department of Public Works:** \$40,000 to support the installation of a third pickleball court, gravel parking area, and pathway at Fiske/Magna Lane.
- **Town of Westbrook — Resident Trooper Office:** \$8,500 to purchase a marine thermal camera to enhance the ability of the new Westbrook marine boat to navigate obstacles and locate items in the water during the day and night.
- **Town of Westbrook – Westbrook Senior Center:** \$5,352.19 to purchase equipment needed to meet CT Reopen guidelines during the COVID pandemic.
- **Westbrook Historical Society:** \$18,100 to finalize restoration of broken and leaning gravestones in Westbrook's Lower Cemetery.
- **Westbrook Little League:** \$10,800 to fund essential equipment and scoreboard repair at Ted Lane Field.
- **Westbrook Tree Lighting Committee:** \$2,700 to replace town's holiday banners.

The following scholarships are awarded to Westbrook residents each year. Full descriptions of each scholarship can be found online at [www.westbrookfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.westbrookfoundation.org/scholarships). Help to increase these scholarships by contributing to the fund principal of your choice:

- Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarships
- Brandon E. Norman Memorial Scholarship
- Calderari-Hoxsie-Schubert-Steinson Veteran's Memorial Scholarship
- Dan Nuhn Memorial Scholarship
- Dorothy Christopher Hoyt Scholarship
- Eileen M. Daily Scholarship
- Ellen S. Murphy Scholarship
- Elliot A. Spencer Memorial Scholarship
- Henry Ortner, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- Herbert A. Muller, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- Josephine S. Crump Scholarship
- Krysta Brielle Morant Memorial Scholarship
- Lew Daniels Scholarship
- Marie Mazeau Scholarship
- Manstan-Nolf Memorial Technology Education Scholarship
- Messerschmidt Scholarship
- Nicholas P. Tragakes Scholarship
- Patricia Mazeau and Myrtie Gareau Scholarship
- Raymond L. Wilson Scholarship

- Shoreline Amateur Radio Club Scholarship
- Tom ODell Scholarship
- Westbrook Education Association Daisy Ingraham Scholarship
- Westbrook Education Association Peter M. D'Errico Scholarship
- Westbrook Education Association Scholarship
- Westbrook Grange #123 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.

For Further Information

An individual contemplating a gift to the Foundation should seek the advice of their attorney.

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

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

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# HELPING TO BEAUTIFY WESTBROOK'S TOWN CENTER

*The Foundation supported the Garden Club's 60th anniversary Meadow Walk project with three separate grants totaling \$47,563.*

For many nonprofit organizations, simply reaching their 60th anniversary is reason enough to celebrate. The Westbrook Garden Club had extra cause during its milestone year when it was awarded the Federated Garden Club of Connecticut President's Award for Civic Development for 2021. The award recognized WGC's "Meadow Walk," a 1/4-acre garden featuring native plants, in the Tom O'Dell Memorial Open Space area between the town post office and Oxford Academy. The project was the culmination of several years of work, supported by the Westbrook Foundation.

"This is a prestigious award, and we could not have accomplished this without the help of the Foundation" and town volunteers, said WGC Co-President Carolyn Fish.

The Westbrook Foundation provided three grants that enabled WGC to enhance and maintain the 7,200-square-foot open space area on Boston Post Road. The first grant, for \$15,565 in the fall of 2018, supported the establishment of a pollinator garden. With these funds, the club cleared invasive plants and added more than 1,100 native and near-native plants.

The Foundation's early support of the project was "a catalyst for other financial and in-kind community support for the project," WGC said at the time,



*Members of the Westbrook Foundation and the Westbrook Garden Club celebrate the opening of the Meadow Walk in the Tom O'Dell Memorial Open Space area on September 15, 2021.*

adding that the pollinator garden attracted and continues to attract many community members—not only humans, but bees, birds, and butterflies—to the area's adjacent trails.

In the fall of 2019, the Foundation provided a \$24,773 grant to enable WGC to further enhance the garden, this time with a boundary to define it, two park benches, and trash receptacles. The funds also went toward nurturing the plants so that they could become self-sufficient.

The final grant from the Westbrook Foundation, in the fall of 2020, for \$7,225, was used by WGC to develop a five-year maintenance plan for the Meadow Walk, as well as to refresh pathways, add and care for plants, and purchase entrance signage

with plant identification labels.

"The Meadow Walk enhances our town center by providing a beautiful entrance to the Tom O'Dell Open Space," said Co-President Rachel McNellis. "It also provides a demonstration garden of native plants that sustain pollinators, and it's become integrated in the garden club we're working on for Daisy Ingraham Elementary School."

For the Garden Club, the Meadow Walk is not just a physical location—it's the result of community collaboration, just as it will continue to promote it.

Said McNellis, "We want to thank the Westbrook Foundation for its ongoing support of the Garden Club to improve Westbrook's town center and to encourage community cooperation."

# ENABLING A STRONG REBUILDING SEASON FOR WESTBROOK LITTLE LEAGUE

*During its spring 2021 grants cycle the Westbrook Foundation awarded WLL \$10,800 for much-needed new equipment.*

For Westbrook Little League (WLL), the 2021 season was one marked by skyrocketing registrations, the fielding of not one but four softball teams after many years' absence, and—to cap it all off—a AAA Shoreline Championship title for one of its participating teams. But, 2021 was also a year of unprecedented challenges.

"Coming out of COVID, we were facing an uphill battle," said WLL President Clinton Bonner. After a year without physical fundraising, "the coffers had

run quite low." Meanwhile, "every spot on the board was filled with first-time volunteers" who had to "learn on the fly" how to navigate the unexpected challenges that came with the pent-up demand for the activity among Westbrook parents and youth.

"We blew past our registration goals and fielded nine teams, including four softball teams," said Bonner. "We needed new equipment, many more uniforms than in recent years, new baseballs, softballs, field chalk, scoreboard lights—you name it, we needed it!"

So, WLL turned to the Westbrook Foundation, which helped meet the need through a \$10,800 grant.

"The Westbrook Foundation's generous grant was simply huge for us. It not only ensured that we had all the equipment we needed, but it also provided us some financial freedom so we could tackle other important projects, such as restoring Eastman Field and replacing mounds, pitching rubbers, and home plates," said Bonner. "This simply could not have been possible without the Foundation's support."

"The grant provided a hopeful feeling: Westbrook can have it all. We can have economic progress and growth while retaining small-town charm and affordability despite being a coastal town in Connecticut. We're unique in that way, and I hope our Little League is an example of how partnerships, volunteerism, and good planning can produce positive change that benefits all."



*Photo by SLB Photography*

# WHERE THEY ARE NOW

## Catching up with two past recipients of Westbrook Foundation scholarships

### ANNIE RAUNIKAR

Westbrook High School Class of 2014

**Current City:** Arlington, Virginia

**Undergraduate Degree:** B.S. in Economics-Finance from Bentley University in 2018

**Graduate Degree:** M.S. in Finance from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2021

**Current Position:** Senior business intelligence analyst at BAE Systems, Inc.

**Advice for students about to graduate from high school:**

The decisions you're making now don't have to define you or silo you into a single path for the rest of your life. There is still room to grow, change, and make different choices that you feel suit you better.

*Q. What have you been up to since graduating from college?*

A. I'm currently a senior business intelligence analyst. I build models, processes, and dashboards based on a variety of datasets. Some of my more recent projects have focused on financial insights, geospatial analysis to ensure employee safety during natural disasters, inventory management, and people/workforce analytics. My goal for the near term is to complete a nanodegree in data engineering. Beyond that, I hope to continue building my career path in the data analytics and business intelligence space.

*Q. What's one major challenge you've faced in your professional life, and how have you handled it?*

A. I spent my first few years out of college in finance roles and found that I was more interested in pursuing a role that heavily focused on data analysis. I had built a network within the finance organization and now wanted to change career paths to find a place in a more technical vertical. It felt incredibly unlikely that I might be able to break into the field without technical undergraduate degrees or certificates. However, I leaned on my network and developed relationships with managers and mentors who were invested in my success.



They supported my interests and helped me build the skills needed to change my trajectory. Similar to my experience in the Westbrook school system,

the most pivotal aspect was finding people that would guide and support me through the growing pains of setting and achieving new goals. While at Westbrook High School, I found that teachers and coaches like Ms. Joslyn and Janet Dickey were instrumental in helping me realize I could do more.

*Q. How have your connections to Westbrook enriched your life?*

A. Although my Westbrook friends have ended up all over

the country pursuing their chosen career paths, one has landed in the same city as I have. We have completely different careers, and maintaining our connection helps us expand beyond the groups of people who live similarly to us; we learn from each other.

### CHRIS DAHL

Westbrook High School Class of 2014

**Current City:** Houston, Texas

**Undergraduate Degree:** B.S. in Accounting from the University of Connecticut in 2018

**Current Position:** Project coordinator at Harmon

**Advice for students about to graduate from high school:**

1) Strive to learn. Education doesn't stop with school. The best employees/smarter people are always trying to learn more. Spend time reading, learn technical skills, or even surf YouTube and learn something about history, nature, or home repair skills.

2) Take time to really think about what you want out of life. Will your current path lead you there? Will you be satisfied with where you are going?



3) Enjoy the moment. It feels like high school was only yesterday. I always try to plan ahead and make tomorrow easier, but don't get so focused that you miss what's going on in front of you.

4) Take risks! A lot of what I'm thankful for is a product of taking a chance. It's OK to fail. If you do, you'll learn and you'll have people to help you recover. Stepping out of your comfort zone allows you to grow as a person.

5) Stay in touch with your family. Life will pull you in many different directions, and you'll get busy. Don't let that prevent you from checking in with your parents and siblings. Nothing beats a tight-knit, loving family.

*Q. What have you been up to since graduating from college?*

A. As a project coordinator with Harmon, I do curtain wall (exterior glass) installation for commercial construction on projects for clients like Marathon Oil and TMC3. My goals include staying in Houston, becoming a project manager, and learning to smoke meats.

*Q. What's one major challenge you've faced in your professional life, and how have you handled it?*

A. The first six months down here were tough.

The job I had taken (the one before Harmon) was

incredibly difficult and it turned out to be a terrible fit and made me question whether I should have moved in the first place. COVID hit and suddenly I was out of a job and had no idea when companies would look to hire. Patience and leaning on friends helped keep me confident. My time in Westbrook taught me about the importance of leaning on friends and family. No one is meant to navigate life's challenges by themselves. Many great

achievements in Westbrook (academics, sports, theater, etc.) were the result of teamwork, trust, and strong friendship. Knowing that people believe in you and have confidence in your skill set is really wonderful for self-image.