



Working to benefit the community of Westbrook and its residents

2023 BY THE NUMBERS: WESTBROOK FOUNDATION AWARDED \$119,750 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CLASS OF 2023, \$184,614 IN GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Last June, the Westbrook Foundation awarded scholarships totaling \$119,750 to members of the Westbrook High School Class of 2023 to support their post-secondary educational pursuits. The Foundation also awarded \$12,000 in Messerschmidt Scholarships to Westbrook residents currently enrolled or enrolling in college and graduate school and administered \$5,000 in scholarships from the Westbrook Education Association.

There were 66 scholarships given to the Westbrook High School Class of 2023:

- Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Academic Achievement Award (to 3 students)
- Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Good Citizen Award (to 1 student)
- Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Leadership Award (to 1 student)
- Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Special Award (to 35 students)
- Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship Spirit of Westbrook Award (to 2 students)

- Brandon E. Norman Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Calderari-Hoxsie-Schubert-Steinson Veteran's Memorial Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Dan Nuhn Memorial Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Dorothy Christopher Hoyt Scholarship (to 2 students)
- Eileen M. Daily Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Ellen S. Murphy Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Elliot A. Spencer Memorial Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Henry Ortner, Jr. Memorial Scholarship (to 2 students)
- Herbert A. Muller, Jr. Memorial Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Josephine S. Crump Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Lew Daniels Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Manstan-Nolf Memorial Technology Education Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Marie Mazeau Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Nicholas P. Tragakes Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Patricia Mazeau and Myrtie Gareau Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Raymond L. Wilson Scholarship (to 1 student)

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Local Postal Customer



WESTBROOK FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Pictured, from left: Julie Campbell, An-Ming Truxes, Paul Winch, Kathie Cietanno, Joan Angelini, Tiffini Hovey, Jeff Dickey, and Mike Engels. Front row: Sid Holbrook

FROM THE CHAIR



As we step into the 40th year of operation, The Westbrook Foundation is continuing to serve the town of Westbrook. Our small, locally based private foundation has

become a beacon of hope and support in our community.

Community Impact: Over the past twelve months, we've launched several initiatives that have touched lives and fostered positive change. The scholarship program has opened doors for aspiring students, our support of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen has addressed hunger, and our partnership with local social service groups and charities has strengthened the social and economic fabric of our community. Partnering with the Town of Westbrook, the Foundation has given fuel assistance to residents, helping to offset the high cost of home heating oil and provided needed technology upgrades to the local Visiting Nurse Association and Westbrook Youth and Family.

Financial Health: Financially, we remain on solid ground. Through prudent management and the unwavering commitment of the nine Foundation Board members, we've ensured that every dollar is maximized for impact. Our commitment to Westbrook has long been set by past Chairpersons of the Foundation, including Ed Binder, Jim Crawford, John Hall and Connie Vogell.

Looking Ahead: Looking forward, we are excited about the upcoming projects that promise to further our mission. We are in the planning stages of increasing monies available to local high school seniors, seeking to go to college or trade school after graduation. I am honored to witness the incredible ways in which the Westbrook Foundation transforms our shared vision into tangible outcomes. Together, we are making a difference, one step at a time.

Sincerely,
Paul Winch

The Westbrook Foundation, Inc.

Established 1984

Consider Donating Today

A contribution to the Westbrook Foundation supports the organization's mission to help meet the medical, educational, social, welfare, cultural, recreational, and civic needs of the town's residents through grants and scholarships.

For more information about The Westbrook Foundation, visit www.westbrookfoundation.org.

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

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.



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- Shoreline Amateur Radio Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Tom ODell Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Westbrook Education Association Daisy Ingraham Memorial Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Westbrook Education Association Peter D'Errico Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Westbrook Education Association Scholarship (to 1 student)
- Westbrook Grange #123 Scholarship (to 1 student)

GRANTS

In 2023, the Westbrook Foundation awarded \$184,614 in grants to 13 organizations during its spring and fall grant cycles. Grantees included:

- **A Little Compassion, Inc.:** \$3,000 to support a mentorship program that matches Westbrook neurodiverse young adults with Westbrook artists/mentors to create and sell their handmade goods.
- **High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc.:** \$2,500 to provide financial assistance for Westbrook youth and adults to participate in equine-assisted services.
- **Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, Inc.:** \$8,000 to provide experiential career readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship program for WHS students.
- **Safe Harbor, Inc.:** \$27,914.94 for facility improvements at the affordable-housing development.
- **SARAH, Inc.:** \$5,000 to provide equestrian therapy

for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc.

- **Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries:** \$25,000 to support the purchase of food for distribution at Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries.
- **St. Paul's Episcopal Church:** \$17,935 to support the renovation of the church's undercroft.
- **Town of Westbrook: Economic Development Commission:** \$17,000 to support an art mural on the side of 4 Westbrook Place, portraying the Turtle submersible vessel created by David Bushnell of Westbrook.
- **Westbrook Congregational Church:** \$23,560 to fund safety and security upgrades at the Church.
- **Westbrook Conservation Commission:** \$3,672.98 to replace the four exhibit signs at the Mulvey Riverfront.
- **Westbrook Emergency Management:** \$2,227 to purchase a cellular weather station for use by all emergency service providers in town.
- **Westbrook High School:** \$43,259.08 to support four welding stations for the high school's upgraded and expanded welding lab.
- **Westbrook Little League:** \$4,425 to purchase safety equipment; and \$1,120 to purchase new team equipment bags for the League's softball and baseball teams.

In addition, the Westbrook Foundation awarded \$4,256 in a special allocation grant to the Town of Westbrook: Department of Public Works.

2023 Board of Directors

Joan Angelini
Julie Campbell
Kathleen Cietanno
Jeff Dickey, *Treasurer*
Mike Engels, *Vice Chair*
Sid Holbrook
Tiffini Hovey
An-Ming Truxes, *Secretary*
Paul Winch, *Chair*

Foundation Administrator

Kate Sullivan Daly

Emeritus Members

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Jane Butterworth
James M. Crawford
Janet Dickey
Teresa Gavigan
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Barbara Reeve
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Johanna Schneider
Claire Anthony Smith
Barbara A. Spencer*
Constance Vogell
Michael Wells
Richard Westbrook
Alberta Woodstock
Daniel J. Wren*
* *Deceased*

For Further Information

This mailer was prepared as reference material. Visit www.westbrookfoundation.org to view news articles, previous Annual Reports, and other information.

The following scholarships are awarded to Westbrook residents each year. Full descriptions of each scholarship can be found online at 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
- Lew Daniels Scholarship
- Lawrence L. Lariviere Entrepreneurial 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.

HELPING TO PRESERVE A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART

The Westbrook Foundation supported the renovation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church's undercroft with two separate grants totaling \$36,935.



As any homeowner knows, maintaining a property takes time, work, and money. For St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a place of worship located at 53 South Main Street where many community members are in and out of the building on a weekly basis, wear and tear is inevitable. However, for this "small church with a big heart," relying on donations from members and the community was not quite enough to fund the upgrades that the building desperately required.

Over the course of 2022 and 2023, through grants from the Westbrook Foundation, St. Paul's Episcopal Church was able to make significant improvements to its undercroft. Renovations made included updating the kitchen, rejuvenating all the flooring, repairing and repainting cabinets and countertops, cleaning heating ducts, installing new signage, as well as creating a new office space where parishioners can speak privately with Priest Dr. Nihal de Lanerolle. The vestry room was expanded to double its original size and the storage closets were redesigned to hold chairs and other materials that support groups use for meetings. The work has completely transformed the undercroft into a cleaner, more organized space for members to gather. As the founder of the Westbrook Foundation, Barbara Spencer, was a member of St. Paul's, the Foundation was proud to support the church in making these improvements.

On a weekly basis, five groups of about 150 people use the undercroft as a meeting space to gather for fellowship and mutual support. The church provides space for activities for those who are alone or seeking community. "The hope is to continue to maintain the building in good condition well into the future as the mission of the church is to provide a sanctuary of relaxation, peace, and meditation for persons from all walks of life," said Dr. de Lanerolle.

IMPROVING SAFETY AND SECURITY AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Westbrook Foundation funded two grants totaling \$39,760 to the Westbrook Congregational Church to support safety and security upgrades.

As the Westbrook Congregational Church, located at 1166 Boston Post Road, continues to expand its community outreach efforts and increase building use, maintaining a safe and comfortable environment is of the utmost importance. WCC is a hub of activity, functioning in many ways as a community center and housing worship, yoga, music classes, faith formation classes, as well as a Spanish-speaking congregation. They also partner with recovery support group programs and Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries as an active hot meal site. The annual number of individuals in the building for church and community programs is approximately 10,000 individuals.

Due to the number of people coming in and out, the Church Cabinet and Board of Trustees determined that there were four areas in need of safety and security upgrades: the installation of air conditioning in Fellowship Hall, the

replacement and upgrade of the fire panel, the replacement of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), and the installation of security cameras and controlled access locks throughout the building. The Westbrook Foundation was proud to support the church in making these upgrades over the course of 2022 and 2023.

"The Westbrook Congregational Church community has benefited greatly from these safety and security improvements to allow members to gather in a safe, comfortable space. Consistent with our mission, the Westbrook Foundation has partnered with us over the years to ensure the needs of the church and community are being well served," said Board of Trustees Chair, Jim Dahl.

By maintaining the church in good condition, community members can continue to benefit from the variety of offerings WCC provides as well as being a haven as a place of worship.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW *Catching up with past recipients of Westbrook Foundation Scholarships*

JOSEPH AVENA

Westbrook High School Class of 2008

Current City: Essex, Connecticut

Undergraduate Degree: B.A. in Film, Video, Interactive Media from Quinnipiac University in 2012

Graduate Degree: M.S. in Public Relations from Quinnipiac University in 2014

Current Position: Digital Content Producer for Choate Rosemary Hall, and I also do freelance work as a Cinematographer and Photographer.

Advice for students about to graduate from high school: Do as much as you can, take every opportunity, never let fear of not being good at something stop you from participating. Be open, be kind, and try as many new things as you can. Do what you love, not what others say is the right choice. Life is too short to not do what you love. And lastly, look out for your future self, they are counting on you.

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

A. Since graduating college I have worked in a few different roles at the Valley Shore YMCA, Coastal Chiropractic & Wellness in Madison, and Connecticut College mostly focusing on marketing and event management. I have also been working as a freelance videographer filming weddings and working for small businesses. In April 2022 I started my current full-time role as the Digital Content Producer for Choate Rosemary Hall producing all the video and photo content for our different marketing needs. I love spending time with friends and family, working out, going to the beach, and making fun video content.

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

A. A major challenge I faced in my career was going after security, and not passion. I love filmmaking and photography, but I was sheepish about going after it. I leaned more into marketing and event planning to feel more secure with my career, and my film hobby fell to the wayside. In 2016 I lost someone special in my life and it really changed my outlook on life. Life is short, and ever since

then I decided I am going to spend my life doing what I love. I have been working in film and photography ever since.

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

A. My friendships and connections in Westbrook helped me to grow up, helped me get to college, and have helped me get into every single job I have been in. My connections from Westbrook have helped shape who I am today. I moved to Westbrook when I was 13 years old from Long Island. When I first got here, I did not know how I would accept this place as my new home, and now I get nostalgic thinking about my time in Westbrook. Westbrook will always be home.



Joseph Avena

CAROLINE BARTON

Westbrook High School Class of 2013

Current City: Westbrook, Connecticut

Undergraduate Degree: B.S. in Finance & Mathematics from the University of Virginia in 2017

Current Position: Founder of Modatrova

Advice for students about to graduate from high school: Explore Your Interests: Take the time to explore different subjects, activities, and hobbies. Use this next phase of life to learn more about what you're passionate about and what drives you.

Embrace Challenges: Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and take on new challenges. Whether it's pursuing a difficult academic program, participating in extracurricular activities, or trying something completely outside of your usual interests, facing new challenges will only help you grow.

Stay True to Yourself: Remember to stay true to your values, interests, and aspirations as you navigate the transition from high school to the next phase of your life. Don't feel pressured to conform

to others' expectations or follow a predefined path. Trust yourself and your instincts as you make decisions about your future.

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

A. Since graduating from college, I've dedicated the majority of my time and energy to building my business, Modatrova (Modatrova.com). Modatrova is an online destination that showcases emerging fashion brands. As the founder of Modatrova, I've been deeply involved in every aspect of the business, from conceptualizing the idea to building the website, curating brands, and managing day-to-day operations. Throughout this time, I've honed my skills in areas such as e-commerce, marketing, branding, and customer relations. I've also had the opportunity to collaborate with talented designers and creative minds.

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

A. Building a business comes with a variety of challenges on a daily basis — from financial hurdles to strategic decisions and everything in between. One of the most impactful solutions I've found to overcome these challenges has

been seeking mentorship from experienced individuals in the industry. By connecting with mentors who have walked a similar path and have successfully overcome obstacles of their own, I've

been able to gain perspective, learn from their experiences, and avoid potential pitfalls. Whether it's navigating the intricacies of e-commerce, refining my marketing strategies, or managing growth effectively, having mentors to turn to for guidance has been instrumental in helping me tackle challenges head-on.

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

A. My high school friends have been a constant presence in my life, standing the test of time and distance. The tight-knit community atmosphere here is something truly special.



Caroline Barton