



Working to benefit the community of Westbrook and its residents

2024 BY THE NUMBERS: WESTBROOK FOUNDATION AWARDED \$165,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CLASS OF 2024, \$278,919 IN GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Last June, the Westbrook Foundation awarded 63 scholarships totaling \$165,000 to members of the Westbrook High School Class of 2024 to support their post-secondary educational pursuits. The Foundation also awarded \$18,000 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.

GRANTS

In 2024, the Westbrook Foundation awarded \$278,919 in grants to 24 organizations during its spring and fall grant cycles. Grantees included:

- **Bare Necessities, Inc.:** \$5,000 to purchase diapers and wipes to meet 70% of the monthly diaper need for approximately 125 Westbrook babies.
- **Camp Hazen YMCA:** \$3,000 to provide financial assistance for Westbrook youngsters to attend two-week Day and Overnight Camps.
- **The Estuary:** \$10,000 to help fund a new commercial gas/electric oven for the Estuary's Nutrition Program which serves over 700 individuals throughout the nine-town region.

- **Friends of the Westbrook Public Library:** \$18,512 to purchase new tables and chairs for the Community Room.
- **High Hopes Therapeutic Riding:** \$5,000 to provide financial assistance for Westbrook residents to participate in High Hopes' equine-assisted activities.
- **Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, Inc.:** \$4,000 to support a variety of experiential career readiness and exploration, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship programs for Westbrook High School students.
- **Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore CT:** \$4,300 to purchase new computer equipment.
- **Lumibility Inc.:** \$3,000 to support wellness, arts, and therapy programs for Westbrook Day Program participants.
- **Middlesex Health:** \$4,570 to support the installation of a large-format Communication Board at the Ted Lane Field playground.
- **Safe Harbor, Inc.:** \$13,992 to replace range hood tops, bathroom vanities/sinks, and install ADA toilets in the residential units of Safe Harbor.

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Local Postal Customer

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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 41st year of operation, the Westbrook Foundation continues to serve the town of Westbrook.

Our small, locally based private Foundation has become a beacon of hope and support in our community. In 2024 we provided \$165,000 for scholarships and \$278,919 for grants for a total of \$443,919.

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 students looking to further their education, our continued support of the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries 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 provided a significant grant to Westbrook Town Center for the painting of the mural that showcases our maritime history. At Westbrook High School we provided over \$40,000 to greatly expand the school welding program in conjunction with Electric Boat shipyard.

Financial Health: Financially, we remain on very 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. Board members serve without compensation and are committed to making Westbrook a better place to live.

Looking Ahead: We are excited about upcoming projects that promise to further our mission. We are in the planning stages of increasing the funds available to local high school seniors and graduates, seeking to go to college or trade school after graduation. I am pleased 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.



Continued from front cover

- **Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries:** \$25,000 to support the purchase of food for distribution at SSKP which operates five pantries, including Westbrook.
 - **St. Paul's Episcopal Church:** \$4,800 to install two new air conditioners in the church's worship space; and to fund a land survey of the Church's parcel at 53 South Main Street.
 - **Town of Westbrook: Harbor Management Commission:** \$3,165 to purchase two Sealite marker buoys and to assemble two 200-lb moorings, shackles, and swivels.
 - **Town of Westbrook: Department of Public Works:** \$1,568 to replace bridges on the Red Trail of the Town Forest; \$55,000 to install a new roof and gutter system for the Bushnell House; and \$7,000 to install liners for a cooking oven and the main fireplace of the Bushnell House.
 - **Town of Westbrook: Social Services:** \$4,518 to support 50% of the cost of furnace/boiler tune-up for eligible Westbrook residents.
 - **Town of Westbrook: Youth & Family Services:** \$13,000 to support the Harm Reduction project that will address the impact substance use has on families and communities.
 - **Tree Lighting Committee:** \$5,207 to purchase new holiday banners, a directional microphone, and re-trench and replace underground audio cables for the sound system.
 - **Westbrook Congregational Church:** \$40,000 to update the electrical systems, painting and replace the carpeting in the main sanctuary of the Church; and \$18,000 to replace the existing double doors and paint the walls in the lower level of the church.
 - **Westbrook Drum Corps:** \$6,298 to purchase complete regimental uniforms, tricorne hats, and a rope tension snare drum for members of the Westbrook Drum Corps.
 - **Westbrook Garden Club:** \$1,884 to create an authentic colonial garden on the site of the Bushnell property.
 - **Westbrook Historical Society:** \$4,500 to support workshops provided by the Witness Stones Project and preparation and delivery of a Witness Stone Memorial honoring Toby.
 - **Westbrook Land Conservation Trust:** \$3,335 to prepare and file a mylar that maps property lines and monumentation for documenting a safe and lawfully protected entrance.
 - **Westbrook Little League:** \$2,270 to support a free pitching clinic for any child grades 1 through 6.
 - **Westbrook Music Boosters:** \$12,000 to support a 3-day trip to New York City for 60 WHS band and chorus students.
- In addition, the Westbrook Foundation awarded \$6,115 in a special allocation grant to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

2024 Board of Directors

Joan Angelini
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Kathleen Cietanno
Jeff Dickey, *Treasurer*
Mike Engels, *Vice Chair*
Sid Holbrook
Tiffini Hovey
An-Ming Truxes, *Secretary*
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Claire Anthony Smith
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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 (Ginger) Reeve Scholarship
- 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
- Dr. Robert J. Schreck 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.

PREPARING CT'S NEXT GENERATION OF BUILDERS AND CREATORS WITH WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL'S NEW WELDING LAB

The Westbrook Foundation supported Westbrook High School's new welding lab with a grant of \$43,259.08 to fund four of the eight new welding stations.

Preparing students for the future and career-readiness is no easy task. There are a variety of different professions students can pursue, and high school is a pivotal time in a young person's life to begin thinking about what sparks their interest. Educators at Westbrook High School saw a need in updating its outdated metals workshop to a modern welding and metals fabrication lab with the goal of creating opportunities, training, and skills for students who may want to pursue careers in welding or engineering.

In 2023, through a grant from the Westbrook Foundation and other organizations, Westbrook High School was able to update and renovate its former metals workshop to accommodate the new welding program, designed in partnership with Electric Boat. Electric Boat is a renowned Connecticut company that has established standards of excellence in the design, construction and lifecycle support of submarines for the U.S. Navy. The purpose of this project was for the High School to expand its program and facility to prepare students and eventually Westbrook



residents for a high demand trade in welding. Eight welding stations were added to the new lab. This upgrade not only prepares students to learn a critical trade skill, but also to earn certification and college credits in welding. This program is also an important opportunity for any aspiring engineers to complement skills in coding, robotics, and engineering with corresponding trade skills

in welding. "The welding lab aims to foster skill development and innovation, empowering students with the expertise to meet the growing demand for skilled labor in the manufacturing and marine industry. By providing hands-on training and creating local partnerships, the lab will play a vital role in strengthening Westbrook's youth workforce development and supporting sustainable growth," said Leslie Carson, Career/College Readiness Coordinator at Westbrook High School.

As of 2025, there are at least ten students who are actively building skills in welding and will likely explore employment opportunities after graduation with industry partners like Electric Boat and Moroso. In future years, Westbrook High

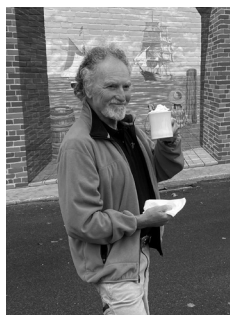
School will expand the opportunity to train adults in Westbrook through a part-time adult education program similar to the Southeastern CT Advanced Manufacturing Pipeline. Students have already experienced the benefits of the new lab. "The new metals lab has enhanced my pursuit of a career in metal work, and I know future students might also follow in these footsteps," said Charlie Anderson, Class of 2025. "The gift of eight new welders gave me opportunities to learn a trade," said DJ Caistko, Class of 2025.

With such vocal enthusiasm from students, it's clear this renovation will be a valuable gift to both current and future generations of Westbrook welders and engineers.



REVITALIZING DOWNTOWN WESTBROOK WITH A NEW ART MURAL

The Westbrook Foundation funded a grant totaling \$17,000 in support of the Town of Westbrook: Economic Development for the painting of a new mural at 4 Westbrook Place.



The development and installation of a public art mural at 4 Westbrook Place, on the side of Turtle Café, had been seven years in the making. In that time, the Town of Westbrook: Economic Development and the Town Center Revitalization Committee sought community support for their Public Art Mural project, which would feature a 1,200 square foot mural intended to foster a sense of place and create excitement, energy, and vitality in the center of town.

Tony Falcone

The mural design, conceived by Connecticut artist Tony Falcone, would depict three arches that showcase three vessels that have historical significance to Westbrook: The Turtle, the David Crockett, and a sloop. The Turtle – America's first submarine and the first submarine ever used in war – was created by David Bushnell of Westbrook. Falcone has been painting professionally since 1974 and is known for his wide spectrum of fine artworks, including monumental murals, highly detailed canvases, and heirloom quality portraits that enhance public spaces.

In 2024, the mural project, which received \$17,000 from the Westbrook Foundation the year before, garnered enough funding from community

members, organizations, and businesses. Falcone set out to paint the mural over the summer. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place in November 2024.

Driving and walking down Route 1 today, the prominently featured mural is a welcome sight in the heart of downtown.

Featuring vibrant blues and a maritime theme, it also displays the phrase "Westbrook: a friendly port," capturing the story and legacy of our town, as intended. Falcone's signature use of *trompe-l'oeil* – the highly realistic optical illusion of three-dimensional space and objects on a two-dimensional surface – is well illustrated in his Westbrook mural.

"Without the financial assistance from the Westbrook Foundation we would not have been able to bring the vision of the Westbrook Mural to reality. The completed mural is even more visually striking than we envisioned," says Peter Gillespie, Westbrook Town Planner. "The Foundation grant provided significant support that allowed us to leverage additional public and private fundraising by the community. The resulting community support has been overwhelming."



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

CAROLINE DAVIS

Westbrook High School Class of 2013

Current City: Portland, Maine

Undergraduate Degree: B.A. in Spanish from Smith College in 2017

Graduate Degree: Graduate Certificate in Radio Production from the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies in 2021

Current Position: Radio Producer for Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Radio

Advice for students about to graduate from high school: Try your best to keep an open mind. Even if you find yourself in a career or place you don't love, it's amazing how a past colleague, friend, or connection can come back around in the most unexpected of ways. Practicing kindness and professionalism will always pay off, even if you can't see how just yet.

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

A. I've been enjoying a busy and adventurous life! I spent a few years after college living in California before landing in Maine in 2020. In 2021, I attended the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, which

led me to my current job as a radio and podcast producer for Milk Street. Cooking and listening to podcasts are two of my favorite hobbies, so I feel tremendously lucky to have a job in food media.

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

A. I didn't love my first job after college, and as time passed, I felt daunted at the thought of trying to pivot careers and change my trajectory. It turns out, people do it all the time and it's never too late. If you want to go back to school or change your career, the first and best thing to do is start talking to people in positions you admire. Finding my footing in the world of audio was both humbling and exciting, and it required having a belief in myself in order to make that switch.

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



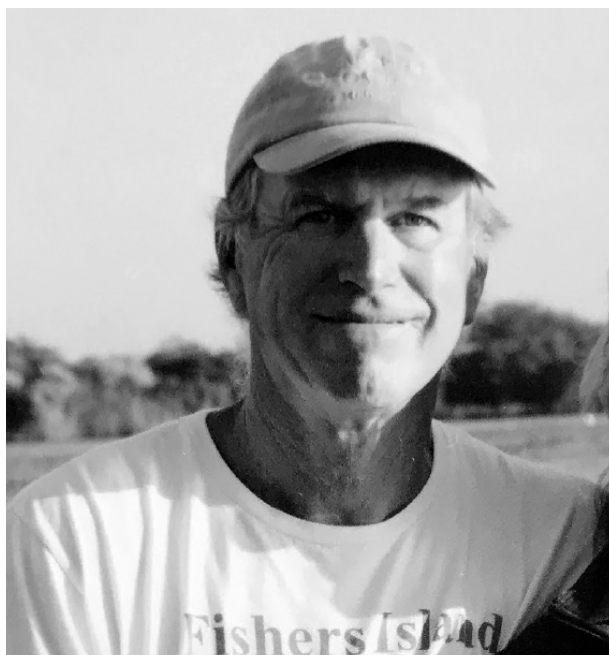
Caroline Davis

A. In addition to still having my best friends from kindergarten, growing up in Westbrook taught me what real community looks like. I remember Mr. Daniels in the Public Library filling my arms with college guide books when I was a sophomore; it felt like he was giving me the keys to my next life chapter. I wouldn't have majored in Spanish if it weren't for the support of Ms. Basler and Mr. Synott, and there's no

way I could do basic math today if it weren't for Ms. Ventresca suggesting I re-take Algebra I my freshman year. I learned to swim from summers spent at the Town Beach with Parks and Rec camp and I loved singing with the school choir every year at the Tree Lighting. There is a small-town camaraderie in Westbrook that I've yet to find replicated elsewhere, and I think that means it's up to all of us to spread that little bit of Westbrook magic in all of the places we find ourselves.

STEVE MALINOWSKI

Westbrook High School Class of 1973



Steve Malinowski

Current City: Fishers Island, New York

Undergraduate Degree: B.A. in Environmental Science from Wesleyan University in 1977

Graduate Degree: PhD in Marine Ecology from University of Connecticut in 1981

Current Position: Owner/Manager/Operator of Fishers Island Oyster Farm, Inc.

Advice for students about to graduate from high school: Speak out, take risks, be persistent, don't be ordinary.

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

A. We started our business and family of six children while I was in graduate school. After initial years of trial by error with different species and techniques, we zeroed in on farming oysters and are still at it 45 years later. We developed techniques for growing oysters to maturity and selling them to restaurants. Later we built a hatchery and began producing oyster seed we could sell to other farms. Today, our business is a combination of these two developments. We

sell oysters to restaurants across the country and oyster seed to more than 75 farms in the Northeast.

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

A. Everyone involved in aquaculture has to deal with significant challenges each year. Early on, we had most of our inventory concentrated at one site and lost nearly a whole year of hatchery production to a toxic algal bloom. We learned that we needed to "hedge our bets/not put all our eggs in the same basket" and then put much of our energy into acquiring and developing other areas to grow our seed oysters. We now have four distinct growing areas and have had no seasons since where all four produced to potential. But at least one or two produces to capacity each year. Since, we've applied this lesson to all our production systems.

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

A. Close friendships that developed during High School remain ongoing, special and enriching to this day.