



Working to benefit the community of Westbrook and its residents

## 2025 BY THE NUMBERS: WESTBROOK FOUNDATION AWARDED \$211,900 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CLASS OF 2025, \$278,934 IN GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Last June, the Westbrook Foundation awarded 29 scholarships totaling \$188,900 to members of the Westbrook High School Class of 2025 to support their post-secondary educational pursuits. The Foundation also awarded \$18,000 to 13 Messerschmidt Scholarship recipients who are Westbrook residents currently enrolled or enrolling in college and graduate school and administered 3 Westbrook Education Association scholarships totaling \$5,000.

### GRANTS

In 2025, the Westbrook Foundation awarded \$278,934 in grants to 16 organizations during its spring and fall grant cycles. Grantees included:

- **Camp Hazen YMCA:** \$4,000 to provide financial assistance for Westbrook youngsters to attend two-week day and overnight camps.
- **The Estuary:** \$20,000 to support Meals on Wheels for Westbrook seniors.

- **Gilead Community Services:** \$4,047 to subsidize behavioral health services at the Outpatient Clinics for Westbrook clients who are uninsured/underinsured.
- **High Hopes Therapeutic Riding:** \$5,000 to provide financial assistance for Westbrook residents to participate in High Hopes' equine-assisted activities.
- **Incarnation Center, Bushy Hill Nature Center:** \$7,000 to provide full or partial scholarships for Westbrook campers to attend day camp.
- **Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries:** \$25,000 to support the purchase of food for distribution at SSKP which operates five pantries in the 11-town service area.
- **Saint Paul's Episcopal Church:** \$29,025 to support restoration of the church including signage, building preservation, landscaping and restoration of nave windows.

*Continued on page 2*

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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



**Dear Members of our Community,**

As Chairperson of the Westbrook Foundation, I am pleased to reflect on the achievements and progress realized during 2025. This past year has been one of steady advancement, responsible stewardship, and continued commitment to the Foundation's mission.

Throughout 2025, the Foundation maintained a strong and stable financial position. Our assets remained secure and diversified, supported by a disciplined investment strategy designed to balance long-term growth with capital preservation. Even amid periods of market volatility, the Foundation's portfolio performed within expectations due to prudent oversight and diversification, ensuring the sustainability of our philanthropic commitments.

Liquidity levels remained healthy, allowing the Foundation to continue funding grantmaking initiatives while maintaining financial resilience. Operational expenses were carefully controlled and aligned with our governance standards, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and accountability.

A major highlight of 2025 was the Foundation's continued investment in education and community support. During the year, the Foundation awarded more than \$278,934 in grants to organizations and initiatives that align with our mission and support the well-being of our community. In addition, the Foundation proudly provided \$211,900 in scholarships to graduating seniors from Westbrook, helping students pursue higher education and achieve their academic goals. These investments represent one of the most meaningful ways the Foundation fulfills its purpose—empowering the next generation and strengthening the future of our community.

Our grantmaking efforts remained disciplined and mission focused. The Foundation continued to distribute funds responsibly within established policy limits while strengthening partnerships and supporting programs that deliver measurable community impact.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my gratitude to our partners, advisors, and stakeholders for their continued trust and collaboration. Together, we remain committed to advancing the Foundation's mission and building a lasting legacy of responsible philanthropy.

Sincerely,

**Paul Winch**

*Chairperson, Westbrook Foundation*

# 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](http://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*

- **Town of Westbrook: Public Works:** \$40,000 to support construction of a Pickle Ball court contingent on the Town of Westbrook funding the other half.
- **Town of Westbrook: Social Services:** \$16,650 to support continuation of the transportation program which provides rides to medical appointments for residents who are unable to drive.
- **Town of Westbrook: Visiting Nurses and Public Health:** \$12,135 to provide flu vaccines to Westbrook residents, School and Town Hall employees.
- **Traveling Toys:** \$1,863 to enhance the existing teen toy lending of various games and audio/video creation tools at the Westbrook Public Library.
- **Tree Lighting Committee:** \$6,248 to replace holiday banners and purchase a new sound board.
- **Valley Shore Community Television:** \$15,000 to support the replacement of a studio camera with a high-definition camera.
- **Westbrook Congregational Church:** \$39,647 to replace windows in the church and \$15,900 to support installation of a nitrogen generator corrosion monitoring system to prevent future catastrophic leaks.
- **Westbrook Garden Club:** \$672 to enhance the Meadow Walk with a library structure, an additional bench and signage to identify plants for educational purposes.
- **Westbrook Little League:** \$12,744 to repair the concession stand, fortify Ted Lane/Palmieri fields, supply uniforms, and provide softball training workshops.

In addition, the Westbrook Foundation awarded \$19,700 in Special Allocation Grants to Town of Westbrook Social Services, Town of Westbrook Parks and Recreation, and the Westbrook Congregational Church.

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:

- Allie Cyphers Scholarship
- 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
- Krysta Brielle Morant 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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

**2025 Board of Directors**

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**For Further Information**

This mailer was prepared as reference material. Visit [www.westbrookfoundation.org](http://www.westbrookfoundation.org) to view news articles, previous Annual Reports, and other information.

## PARTNERING WITH SHORELINE SOUP KITCHEN AND THE ESTUARY TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY IN WESTBROOK

In 2025, the Foundation awarded \$25,000 to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry (SSKP) and \$20,000 to the Estuary, formerly the Estuary Council of Seniors, to support food assistance for Westbrook residents.

Food insecurity continues to be a growing challenge in our community affecting individuals and families who struggle to access nutritious food. These include the unemployed and under-employed, low-wage earners and elderly residents struggling to make ends meet, those with illnesses and/or disabilities, homeless persons, and families in poverty, many with children.

The mission of SSKP is simple but powerful: to provide nutritious food and fellowship to individuals and families in need via food pantry services and community meals. The Westbrook Pantry at St Mark's Church is one of five weekly pantries distributing fresh and non-perishable groceries in an 11-town service area. According to its recent Annual Report, SSKP registered 949 Westbrook residents for pantry services in



*Estuary Meals on Wheels*

2025. The Westbrook Pantry distributed 494,456 pounds of food representing 126,711 meals which included fresh meat, vegetables, fruit, and dairy and non-perishable canned and packaged food. In the area of community meals, the Westbrook Congregational Church (WCC) is the host site for free community meals every Friday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. In 2025, WCC served 3,418 meals, averaging about 70 per week. SSKP provides almost all the food for these home-style meals.

Reducing food insecurity is also a key part of the mission of the Estuary. In 2025, its Meals on Wheels program, funded by two Foundation grants, delivered a daily hot meal to about 90 Westbrook seniors who are vulnerable, many of whom are homebound and unable to shop for and prepare their own meals. In addition, every meal delivered is an interaction with the driver – a kind of wellness and safety check for those seniors who are isolated. In 2025, the Estuary successfully installed two new industrial ovens in its kitchen. A 2024 Foundation grant contributed to this critical upgrade that

restored the kitchen to full meal production capacity.

“The Foundation is proud of its long history of partnering with the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry and the Estuary to address food insecurity in the Westbrook community,” commented Chair Paul Winch. “We are honored to have your partnership,” Estuary Executive Director Stan Mingione acknowledged, “Together we are making a meaningful difference, ensuring that no senior goes hungry.” Added Amy Hollis, SSKP Executive Director, “The Foundation’s generous giving not only provides food to Westbrook residents, it enables struggling families to re-direct their limited funds to cover other critical needs.”



*SSKP Pantry in Westbrook*

## TEEN TOY LENDING COLLECTION AT THE WESTBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Foundation awarded \$1,863 to Traveling Toys, Inc. to help build the Teen Library of Things at the Westbrook Public Library (WPL). This was the second time that this non-profit organization partnered with the Foundation and the WPL to provide high-quality toys for Westbrook youth. In 2020, the Foundation granted Traveling Toys \$3,600 to establish the state's first toy-lending library in Westbrook. Founders Diana Caty and Mary Didiuk credit this seed grant for helping to catalyze the growth of Traveling Toys which is now in 35 libraries across Connecticut. “Westbrook Foundation’s early support helped us get started, and we will always be thankful for that confidence,” said Mary Didiuk.

Key to the mission of Traveling Toys, Inc. is providing children and teens free access to play and learning regardless of their financial background or socio-economic condition. The launch in August 2025 of the teen lending collection was a boost to the WPL furthering that mission. In addition to educational toys for children ages 1-8, there are now toys and games curated for teenagers ages 12-18. These include hands-on tools, tech, and creative gear to help teens explore hobbies, learn new skills, or complete school projects without the cost of buying the equipment.



*Westbrook Library Teen Library of Things*

Beth Nolder, Teen Public Service Librarian, reports that the most frequently circulated items are the Nintendo Switch and sports accessories for the Switch. There are several Switch games that are popular including Mario Tennis Aces, Mario vs Donkey Kong and Mario Golf. The Podcast Machine is in high demand for both school projects and personal use. There is also a selection of board games available for check out. Unique items such as Nex Playground are sometimes requested by other towns. The most popular board games are What's your Meme and Unstable Unicorns. Lawn games such as Jenga and Smash Ball are popular items during the warmer months when kids

congregate at the library to see friends and socialize.

“The library has seen increased teen attendance at the library due to access to popular games, equipment and collaborative activities,” Nolder further commented. These resources offer meaningful alternatives to passive screen time and support social, emotional, and cognitive development of youth. “We believe that the Westbrook Teen Library of Things will continue to be a valued community asset giving all teens a safe and welcoming place to gather, socialize and explore new interests,” said Mary Didiuk.

## WHERE THEY ARE NOW

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

### LISA FREDRICKSON

*Westbrook High School Class of 2010*

**Current City:** West Hartford, CT

**Undergraduate Degree:** Graduated 2014 from Boston University with a B.S. majoring in Biology with specialization in Cellular Biology, Molecular Biology, and Genetics and a minor in Dance

**Graduate Degree:** DMD from UConn School of Dental Medicine in 2019 Graduate Certificate from General Practice Residency at Northwell Health in NY in 2020

**Current Position:** General Dentist

**Advice for students about to graduate from high school:** Do as much as you can! Don't let the fear of not being good enough stop you from trying. In fact, I wish I had tried and failed more early on in my life and my career. Surround yourself with good people, embrace the community that is there to support you, and realize that it really is about the journey not

just the end destination. Stay humble and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

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

A. After graduating college, I took a gap year to travel, work, and experience the world before coming back to CT and going to dental school. During dental school, I was lucky enough to keep teaching dance and found my community in a group of women founding Moxie Dance Company. I am still a member of Moxie Dance to this day. After graduating dental school, I went on to do a one-year residency in all facets of general dentistry at Northwell Health in NY. I now live back in CT with my husband who I met during graduate school. He recently completed his medical training in otolaryngology and is joining a practice down by the shoreline, so we are excited to move back to the shore and begin this next phase of our lives!

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

A. Running a dental office comes with many of its own unique challenges and opportunities.

To me, the best way to manage all of this has been cultivating a strong group of colleagues and mentors that I rely on.

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

A. Westbrook has such a special place in my heart I have amazing friendships from as early as elementary school that have stood the test of time, and I am lucky enough to have a lot of family in town that keep me connected. My father is still a staple in the high school theater program and I love to return and watch their productions, and I am loving watching my niece and nephew grow up in town and explore their interests too. It feels like a full circle watching them grow.



*Lisa Fredrickson*

### GREG TALPEY

*Westbrook High School Class of 2002*



*Greg Talpey*

**Current City:** Troy, MI

**Undergraduate Degree:** B.A. in Economics from Trinity College

**Current Position:** AVP, Financial Advisor

**Advice for students about to graduate from high school:** Focus on the things you can control and do not stress over the things you cannot.

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

A. Since graduating I have been in the financial field in some form. I worked for ING in Arizona and then Prudential in Shelton, CT as a sales representative. Prudential brought me to Michigan as a Regional VP. In 2017, I joined Morgan Stanley as a Financial Advisor where I help people and businesses navigate their life financially.

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

A. In this business, there is a lot of stress. We cannot control the market's ups and downs, but we can help people understand what is going on. The Pandemic was a major challenge which forced me to find new ways to communicate and grow. Leaning into the technology and resources provided by Morgan Stanley helped me continue to grow through a challenging period.

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

A. I have maintained extremely close relationships with core friends and coaches from high school. These connections are everything and are built in trust. Maintaining these relationships allows us all to learn from each other and coach each other through anything that we may face personally or in business. Over the years, everyone has developed their own sets of friends, and it grows the circle with which we can connect.