



**Hartford Foundation**  
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

*Newsletter*



*Joel Roskin (left), Hartford Foundation donor and founder of the Equality Fund, with his partner Max Otero*

## **Supporting Greater Hartford's LGBTQ+ Community**

Joel Roskin created the **Equality Fund** at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in 2018 to support organizations serving Greater Hartford that empower individuals of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions to thrive. In 2022, we provided additional Foundation-directed resources to the Fund.

As we strive to grow the Equality Fund, we're also supporting the LGBTQ+ community in ways that extend beyond grantmaking by convening Greater Hartford residents to discuss important issues and build partnerships.

On April 18, along with **DataHaven**, we hosted an interactive convening focused on the wellbeing of Greater Hartford's LGBTQ+ community. Approximately 40 donors, advocates, and community members reflected on data compiled from public and private databases, responses to the DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey, and qualitative data related to residents' lived expertise. We will release a full report in the coming months.

This past Saturday evening, the Hartford Foundation was honored to attend and participate in the [Connecticut Voice Honors](#) ceremony at The Bushnell. Connecticut Voice celebrates the people making a difference for LGBTQ+ communities in Connecticut, and the event was a chance to honor changemakers in our state.

We were also honored when [Boston Spirit Magazine](#), an award-winning LGBT publication, decided to write about the Equality Fund and the Hartford Foundation's work for their latest issue, featuring LGBTQ+ Funds Across New England. [Read the article here](#), and go pick up a copy of the full issue.

If you're interested in contributing to the Equality Fund, [visit our website](#) or reach out to a Hartford Foundation staff member.



*Kate Emery, fund holder and professional painter*

## 2023 Annual Report: Kate Emery

**Kate Emery** is a native of Farmington, a businesswoman, artist, and advocate. When she converted her business to a perpetual purpose trust, she opened the [Walker Community Fund](#) at the Hartford Foundation to honor her commitment and distribute profits to the community.

Kate is one of the people profiled in our upcoming **2023 Annual Report**, which will be released later this spring and featured in an upcoming newsletter. It will include information about the Foundation's work in 2023 along with stories about Kate and others who make Greater Hartford a better place to live and work.



## Thank You to All of the Greater Together Community Fund Volunteers!

Five years ago, we completed a listening tour across the 29 towns we serve to listen and learn from residents. They shared their communities' strengths, desired changes, and how the Hartford Foundation might help. Recurring themes were a lack of resources and the need for more platforms to engage, voice concerns, and collaborate on solutions. As a result of these discussions, we established the [Greater Together Community Funds](#), with each town receiving \$100K. Since then, **more than 700 volunteers have made a real impact** by recommending **nearly 500 grants** to improve the quality of life in their towns!

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## Grant Opportunities for Nonprofits

We periodically release Requests for Proposals for specific projects that help improve Greater Hartford. Currently, we have three opportunities available:

- Basic Human Needs Emergency Assistance Grants
- Community Organizing Grants
- Resident Engagement Grants

Visit our [Grant Opportunities web page](#) to learn about these and other upcoming opportunities.

You can also [sign up to be notified when new grant opportunities are announced](#).

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*Case Mountain in Manchester, one of the Connors family's favorite places*

### New Fund Story: Connors Family Fund

Mark and Barbara Connors appreciate the importance of protecting our shared past while building for the future. The couple are long-time residents of Manchester who run a business in town. They spend most of their free time outdoors and can often be found hiking and biking in local parks.

Their love of nature led them to create the **Connors Family Fund** at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in 2023. To date, the fund has awarded grants to the Connecticut Fireman's Historical Society, Case Mountain Cabin Corporation, and Manchester Land Conservation Trust. The couple works with Foundation staff to ensure that the fund will exist in perpetuity, and that one day their children will be able to take over its management.

"It makes us both feel good to think that our fund is helping in small ways," says Mark.

#### Happy Earth Day from the Hartford Foundation!

*Interested in creating your own fund? Contact Deborah Rothstein, Hartford Foundation Vice President of Development, at [drothstein@hfpg.org](mailto:drothstein@hfpg.org) or 860-548-1888.*

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**Hartford Trailblazers: Glenda Lorianne**

Do you know the woman who helped over 200 families move into Greater Hartford?



## Copes Reed

In the 1970s, **Glenda Lorianne Copes Reed** assisted over 200 Black families in finding homes in the suburbs by providing clarity of the homebuying and loan process, aiming to provide homeowners “the opportunity to be free from unemployment and substandard housing.”

Helping to build **higher opportunity neighborhoods**, which includes increasing homeownership, has been an important part of the Hartford Foundation's strategy. Recently, in collaboration with our donors, the Foundation awarded a \$600,000 grant to Housing Development Fund's (HDF) Homeownership Equity Fund, which supports first-time homeowners of color by offering a 20-year interest-free loan and homebuying workshops. With this funding, HDF will aid dozens of families in unlocking the doors to their new homes.

The Foundation uses our social media channels to honor Hartford-area trailblazers like Glenda. Follow us for more!



Visit our website: [hfpg.org](http://hfpg.org)

Questions? Email [hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org](mailto:hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org).



Hartford Foundation for Public Giving | 10 Columbus Boulevard, 8th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106

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