

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canton Community Fund Awards Grants

The Canton Greater Together Community Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded nearly \$14,000 in grants to five organizations serving Canton residents. This is the second round of grants awarded by the Canton advisory committee, formed in 2021. The committee is comprised of Canton residents who volunteer to try to fulfill the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's mission to support each community it serves to enrich the lives of a broad cross-section of residents and satisfy unmet needs.

After a careful review of the many worthy applications, the committee approved grants to the following groups:

Canton Schools' Music Department, \$4,900: To commission a composer to create a choral piece of music that all Canton choirs, Grades 2-12, can sing together. The students will have the chance to work with the composer on the piece, and choir members from all the town's schools will sing the piece together at the high school auditorium in the spring of 2024. The choral teachers hope this opportunity will reignite interest in the district's choral programs, which was hurt by pandemic-related school closings and restrictions, the application said.

SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding Center of Canton, \$3,500: Provide summer equine therapy and half-day camp to Canton children with special needs who would not be able to afford the camp experience otherwise. The summer program includes a 30-minute therapeutic riding lesson, arts and crafts, farming chores, horse care, gardening and nature walks, according to each participant's ability.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 117, Canton, \$2,040: Outdoor service enrichment, providing camping gear, including tents and propane stoves, to allow scouts from all backgrounds to experience camping and outdoor service projects.

Roaring Brook Nature Center, \$1,910: Signs and wildlife rehabilitation and lecture series with the Canton Public Library. In response to an increase demand for the Roaring Brook Nature

Center's (RBNC) staff to help with wildlife rehabilitation, the grant will fund signs designed to educate visitors about what wildlife rehabilitation means and how the staff treats wildlife brought to the RBNC. It will also cover printing costs for a pamphlet explaining the "dos and don'ts" regarding wildlife rehabilitation, as well as a free, three-part lecture series on the necessity and benefits of wildlife rehabilitation.

For All Ages, \$1,580: Tea @ 3 Intergenerational Friendship Community. To address the loneliness crisis exacerbated by the pandemic, the Tea @ 3 intergenerational program provides a free, 12-week opportunity for older adults to connect with college students for a weekly phone call over a cup of tea. The program also offers virtual, communitywide live events designed to promote a sense of belonging.

The Canton Greater Together Advisory Committee includes: Jay Kaplan, Kimberly Marze, Mary Tomolonius, Alan Weiner and Wendy Young and Committee co-chairs: Rie Poirier-Campbell and Theresa Sullivan-Barger.

In 2019, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving established \$100,000 Greater Together Community Funds for each of the 29 towns in the Foundation's region, which includes Canton. The community funds' purpose is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in their towns, encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement and anchor the Hartford Foundation in each town. In 2021, the Foundation provided an additional \$50,000 to each of the 29 community funds to support their grantmaking.

The Greater Together Community Funds also create an opportunity for organizations and individuals to make tax-deductible contributions to any of the 29 Greater Together Community Funds to support their towns. All donations are welcome, both large and small.

To learn more about the Canton Greater Together Community Fund, grant project guidelines and how to apply for grant funding, go to: www.hfpg.org/cantoncf. Email questions to CommunityFundCantonCT@gmail.com.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for Hartford and 28 surrounding communities. Made possible by the gifts of generous individuals, families and organizations, the Foundation has awarded grants of more than \$948 million since its founding in 1925. For more information about the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, visit <https://www.hfpg.org> or call 860-548-1888.