



# Essex County Community Foundation News

Summer 2007

## ECCF Breaks the \$12 Million Mark



*Essex County Community Foundation  
15 Cherry Street, Danvers, MA*

Throughout the United States, some 700 community foundations act as a focal point, convener and enabler for philanthropic activities in the regions they serve. In the same way, the Essex County Community Foundation serves the 34 different communities that comprise Essex County.

A community foundation is built on donor funds. In a short eight years, the Essex County Community Foundation has built a \$12 million asset base of over 80 named donor funds. These funds provide grants to serve the critical needs of the communities that comprise Essex County. In all ECCF has granted over \$5 million to 400 of the 1,500 nonprofit agencies which serve our communities.

Donor funds are established by individuals, families or a group of donors to support their own charitable interests or are created to benefit a specific charity or field of interest. Scholarships can be established as memorials or to benefit students at a specific school. Donor funds are a very cost effective alternative to creating a private foundation or charitable trust.

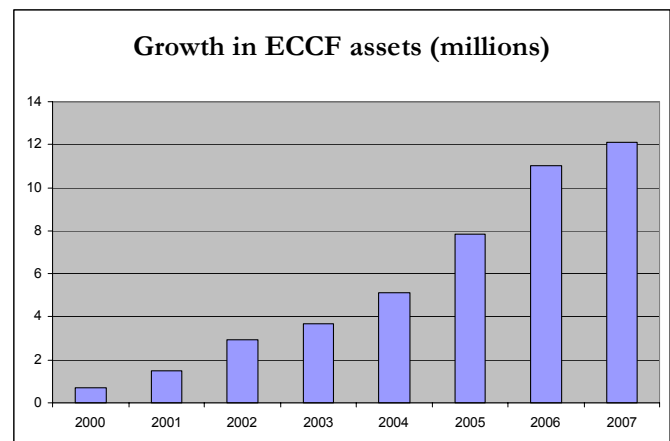
Our donors have recognized the advantage of setting up their charitable funds at a community foundation. ECCF offers huge economies of scale by enabling donors to outsource the

administration of their charitable endeavors to a central, multi-service organization dedicated to philanthropic support. ECCF provides the donor with major tax advantages, elimination of individual federal and state reporting requirements and a much greater return on investment of their philanthropic dollars.

Setting up a fund at ECCF takes four easy steps:

- Meet with ECCF staff to review and select different options for your specific philanthropic interests
- Transfer assets to ECCF
- Establish an advisory committee
- Begin making grant awards.

*For more information on establishing your fund at ECCF, please call 978-777-8876.*



### **Pension Act of 2006(HR4) Encourages Charitable IRA Rollovers**

Passed in August 2006, this law permits individuals aged 70½ and older to contribute up to \$100,000 of their IRA to a qualified charitable organization without recognizing the income through December 31, 2007. The legislation allows such contributions to be used to set up or add to existing funds such as scholarships, field of interest or designated funds. Donor advised funds are not eligible.

**Serving the Essex County communities of: Andover, Amesbury, Beverly, Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Groveland, Hamilton, Haverhill, Ipswich, Lawrence, Lynn, Lynnfield, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Marblehead, Merrimac, Methuen, Middleton, Newbury, Nahant, Newburyport, North Andover, Peabody, Rockport, Rowley, Salem, Salisbury, Saugus, Swampscott, Topsfield, Wenham, and West Newbury.**

## David Tory Returns to Lead ECCF

ECCF is very pleased to announce the return of David Tory as the Interim CEO and President of the Foundation.

In December, ECCF Board of Trustees Chair, Joe Trustey accepted the resignation of Ashley Allison, CEO and President of ECCF since July, 2005. Ashley accepted an opportunity to lead the Waco Community Foundation, a large community foundation in her home state of Texas. Ashley enjoyed her 18 months at ECCF and brought her many years of valuable professional community foundation experience to the organization.

Joe Trustey, Chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomed David's return "We are so grateful that David has agreed to return to the organization he helped create and build. We know that he will serve

us well as we look to the next two years of growth for ECCF." Although maintaining a part-time status, David returns with great enthusiasm "As one of the founders of ECCF, I am very committed to our mission and look forward to leading our continued development in the future. Over the past 18 months, the Board has worked to refine our mission and develop plans for growth over the next several years. The Foundation will continue its community grants activities and other programming services while offering fund management and other philanthropic services to benefit the community."

Also joining David is ECCF co-founder Lorraine Astle Jenks. Lorraine is assuming the part-time role of Operations and HR Manager. Lorraine returns with her great knowledge of ECCF, its programs and resources.

## Update on Programs

### Essex County Forum

Launched as an initiative in 1999, the Essex County Forum promotes smart growth planning for our county and serves as an educational resource for our 34 communities on environmental and planning issues. By bringing together different stakeholders, such as environmental and affordable housing advocates to collaboratively work on local smart growth issues, the Essex County Forum promotes the stewardship of our natural resources in balance with growth and development. It does this by providing model tools and case studies, hands-on help through a circuit rider service, and workshops, all of which are actively used both within and outside Essex County. The Forum will present a workshop on Historic Preservation on September 27, 2007. More information is available at [www.essexcountyforum.org](http://www.essexcountyforum.org).

### Youth-At-Risk

The Youth-At-Risk Initiative provides a collaborative network among the numerous Essex County agencies, which in various capacities serve at-risk youth and their families. Our goal is that this network will enable services for children to be delivered in a collaborative, continuous and comprehensive manner. YAR accomplishes this through a resource directory of the over 800 services in Essex County for youth and families-at-risk, educational programs, a website and technical assistance. YAR just completed its seventh annual Youth-at-Risk conference held at Endicott College on June 13, 2007 for over 600 professionals who serve Essex County youth and families. For more information, visit [www.essexcountyyouth.org](http://www.essexcountyyouth.org).



*Youth at Risk 2007 Conference*

### The Women's Fund

In 2003, the Women's Fund of Essex County was founded to raise money for programs which benefit women and girls in Essex County in the categories of Economic Self-Sufficiency, Leadership and Empowerment, and Health and Well-Being. Since its inception, the Fund has donated \$143,500 directly to programs and has built an endowment of \$264,000 to enhance future awards. Each year, the Fund seeks out well-established, well-managed, non-religious, non-political 501(c)(3) organizations with existing programs which meet the criteria for that year's chosen category. Building on its success to date, the Annual Grant Awards Luncheon, which offers a fun designer purse raffle, will move to a larger, more accessible venue at the Peabody Marriott on October 25 and will feature as guest speaker the acclaimed author and columnist Anna Quindlen. For more information, write to: [thewomensfund@gmail.com](mailto:thewomensfund@gmail.com). Or call 978-777-8876.

## ECCF's Steady Growth Benefits Essex County

ECCF has granted over \$5 million to non-profit agencies which serve the County's 700,000 citizens since its foundation in 1999. This year alone we granted close to \$1 million in grant dollars.

ECCF manages and distributes funds for eight competitive grant programs and a dozen scholarships. In addition, our individual donor advised funds support a variety of programs and causes in Essex County. Our close involvement with the 1,500 nonprofits serves as a resource to these donors as they choose the organizations that best meet their philanthropic interests.

This year's grants are as varied as the communities we serve. A few examples of the organizations we have helped to reach their goals and the individuals we have touched through our funding opportunities follow:

- A boating program that teaches sailing and kayaking to inner city kids from *Lawrence* each summer;
- A program for Latina women in *Lynn* to help them access the resources that are available for families in their new community;

- A board development study to assist a small museum in *Cape Ann* restructure and strengthen its capacity to serve its audiences;
- Equipment to begin a Robotics courses for students in a *Salem* middle school;
- Support for a program that helps young victims of family violence in the Greater *Newburyport* area; and
- Equipment and therapies for physically disabled children to help with gross motor skills at a center serving the *Greater Lawrence* community.

For every grant given, there is a heart warming story of the help that grant provides to those tirelessly working non-profit organizations in Essex County who are dedicated to improving our collective common good – these organizations feed our hungry neighbors and care for the sick and the elderly. They protect our wetlands, support and inspire our children, counsel the abused, and help to enrich our lives through the arts and humanities. From Amesbury to Lynn and Rockport to Andover, the Essex County Community Foundation is working to connect individuals with the philanthropic causes that benefit us all.

## Donor Events

On May 17 2007, the Peabody Essex Museum and Essex County Community Foundation hosted an *Art, Antiques and Charitable Giving* event at the PEM. Karen Keane, CEO and Stephen Fletcher, Partner and Executive Vice President of Skinner, Inc. entertained and informed a captivated audience with photos and stories of discovered, valuable treasures on the North Shore, sending many a hopeful scurrying to their attics. The event is one in a series of educational programs hosted by ECCF as a service to our donors and those interested in philanthropy in Essex County. Look for more programs during the upcoming year. *The antiques event was generously sponsored by: Bank of America, Lehman Brothers, Morgan Stanley, Northeast Health Foundation, Rackemann, Sawyer & Brenster, and Boston Private Bank & Trust Company.*

## Serving the Nonprofit Community

Part of the role of a good community foundation is to find ways to support the nonprofit organizations which serve its communities. The Essex County Community Foundation helps the 1,500 nonprofit organizations working in Essex County to strengthen their capacity to serve their clients. We are particularly concerned with the many small agencies that do such good work in our towns and cities. This year ECCF launched a new discretionary grant program which supports capacity building grants for nonprofit organizations with operating budgets of less than \$500,000 and awarded grants to nine organizations

In addition ECCF created a new workshop series aimed at the needs of small to medium sized nonprofits. The

November 2006 workshop on *Organizational Capacity Building* featured Gayle Gifford, President of Cause and Effect, Inc. Lydia Watts, Principal, Greater Good Consulting lead the second workshop in March 2007 on *Board Development*. Both events sold out, confirming the need for relevant training and education for nonprofit staff members.

The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation and the North Shore Community College generously supported both events. Based on survey responses gathered at these events, we are planning a workshop this fall on *Endowment Building*. Be prepared to learn about when to begin building an endowment, vehicles for creating and managing endowments and how endowments support nonprofit organizations.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Treat yourself to a prestigious golfing experience at the challenging and scenic **Essex County Club in Manchester, Massachusetts**. Designed by Donald J. Ross, the Essex County course opened in 1893 and remains one of the premier private courses on the North Shore. The fundraiser will support ECCF's work with nonprofit organiza-

tions throughout Essex County.

Boxed Lunch,  
12:00 Shot Gun.  
Cocktails and  
Auction following.  
\$400 per player.  
Limited to the first  
100 players.

Register today on-line at  
[www.eccf.org](http://www.eccf.org) or call  
Lorraine Astle Jenks at  
978-777-8876 for  
more information.



## Board of Trustees

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**David Tory**  
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**Mary Whitney**  
*ECF Program Director*



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Community Foundation

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*The mission of the Essex County Community Foundation is to  
connect people, ideas, and resources for the common good.*