



Fiddlehead

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Creating a Legacy

What does it mean to leave a legacy? Will your efforts create lasting change and have an impact on the lives of others?

For the more than 700 people who attended our Annual Meeting on October 16 at the Log Cabin, the meaning and the importance of legacy is abundantly clear. Whether expressed as financial support or the dedication of time and talent, we recognized and celebrated the many ways in which the Foundation nurtures a legacy of care and commitment throughout the Valley.

A Legacy of Generosity

Guests of honor David and Peggy Starr have been prominent supporters of—and fundraisers for—a wide range of cultural and community service organizations for over 30 years, from the Springfield Symphony to WGBY to CityStage. David was one of the founders of the Community Foundation, and he and Peggy established



Above: Trustee Dr. Willie Hill and his wife, Beverly, congratulate Peggy and David Starr.

Right: Tim Rice, Foundation Trustee from Franklin County, and Ami Weber, Springfield attorney, join in the applause at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

a \$1 million legacy fund to continue in perpetuity their commitment to the arts.

In honoring the Starrs, Kent Faerber noted, “More than anyone else, they’re responsible for reminding us that life with-



2008 Honorees, Peggy and David Starr were joined by their daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Lee Bromberg for the occasion.



out our cultural heritage is not life at all... For living their legacy today and every day, throughout their lives, not in some distant future, we’re happy to recognize them today.”

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Paying it Forward

The story of guest speaker David Ambroz underscored the lasting effects the Community foundation has on the lives of thousands of individuals. David’s humorous and moving speech put a personal face on what it truly means to support someone’s ambitions with concrete help to achieve their goals.

From a childhood spent on the streets, in homeless shelters, and foster care until the age of 17, David ultimately graduated from Northampton High School, earned a degree from Vassar College, spent a year at Oxford, and then obtained a law degree from UCLA. He is now the executive director of the Los Angeles City College Foundation, and freely credits the support of the Community Foundation with his success.

Interviewed before his presentation, David noted, “It changed my life, very simply, because you can be as smart as you want to be. You can have all the ambition in the world, and you still need help. I got into 17 of the 18 top schools in America, and I couldn’t afford textbooks... I ended up calling the Foundation for a lifeline...[and they] supported me for seven years.”

While practicing law in Los Angeles, David became aware of the LACC Foundation, which provides scholarships to help students bridge funding gaps and meet critical financial needs.



Guest speaker David Ambroz: “Ten years later, I’m talking to you because some donor that I never met... created a fund. That fund, that legacy, is sitting in front of you.”

He wanted to give back and make it possible for others to complete their educations and achieve their goals. Since becoming executive director, he has increased the endowment from \$1.2 million to just under \$7 million today. And he has established three new scholarships: a book fund (which is the most-accessed scholarship on campus), a fund aimed at homeless or under-housed students, and a scholarship for foster children.

Go to communityfoundation.org to see the video presented at the Annual Meeting. You’ll see David’s inspiring story in its entirety, as well as the O’Donnell Sisters of Northampton, Barbara Braem of Westfield and Teresa Harris of Springfield.

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Speaking for both of them, David reminded the audience that, “It’s not just about money. It’s giving time, energy, going to meetings, stuffing envelopes, speaking up. It’s volunteering.” He praised the Community Foundation as an organization that is best equipped to meet the community’s needs, saying, “Our community couldn’t be in better hands.”

A Legacy for Today

The meeting finished with a flourish. Three attendees were chosen at random to select an organization to receive matching grants of \$10,000 each if they succeed in raising donations in an equal amount. The lucky winners were Barbara Benedetti, who has chosen the Palmer Public Library; Sr. Mary Quinn, who selected the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Springfield; and Mary Walachy, who has named the Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts.

Thanks to the generous contributions of three anonymous donors, these three organizations will have an endowed fund to help them create a lasting legacy in the community.



Incoming Chair of the Board, Elizabeth D. Scheibel (second from right) congratulates the Legacy Challenge winners after the meeting.

Advisor Profile: Ronda Parish

Ronda Parish, a partner at Robinson Donovan in Springfield, specializes in business law, estate planning and elder law. In the course of her work, she frequently helps her clients identify and put into practice their philanthropic goals—often referring them to the Community Foundation.

“Philanthropy does not need to be associated with great wealth. It is a desire to take care of others and take care of the world...no matter what the dollar amount,” she notes.

And while many organizations can benefit from an individual’s generosity, they don’t always have the internal resources to manage complex gifts and permanent funds. That’s where the Community Foundation can step in and provide options that help donors make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

To learn more about how the Foundation works with advisors and their clients, visit www.communityfoundation.org or call Katie Allan Zobel or Kristin Leutz at (413) 732-2858.



Ronda G. Parish, partner at Robinson Donovan, Springfield

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Financial Rescue Extends Charitable Opportunity

The recently enacted Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 extended the right of donors age 70 1/2 or older to make gifts directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to a charity during 2008 and 2009. Such gifts will not be included in the donor’s federal taxable income in the year made (and will not generate an additional charitable deduction). In addition, these gifts

- will count toward any minimum distribution required
- will not count toward the maximum charitable deduction allowed
- are not subject to Massachusetts income tax
- are not subject to the phase-out for itemized deductions for high-income taxpayers

If you qualify, this may be the ideal time to start a permanent fund or add to one that already exists. For more detailed information, please contact Kent, Katie, or Kristin at (413) 732-2858.

A 501(c)(3) public charity.

www.communityfoundation.org

fax: 413-733-8565

phone: 413-732-2858

Springfield, MA 01115

P.O. Box 15769

1500 Main Street, Suite 2300

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