



Essex County Community Foundation News

Spring/Summer 2008

Helping Families to "Reach for the Stars"

When Kaisy Rosario began kindergarten at the **Lawrence Family Development Charter School** in Lawrence MA, she joined her classmates in adding their small handprints to a colorful mural which symbolized the school's challenge for children "to reach for the stars." Her mother Kenia Furcal, a single mom and recent immigrant from the Dominican Republic, was determined to provide the best opportunities for her daughter and had found a home for Kaisy at the Charter School.

The Lawrence Family Development Charter School, is a program of the **Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. (LFDEF)**. The LFDEF's mission is "to develop the educational and leadership potential of inner city youth and adults in Lawrence" through its charter school, ISL and citizen education programs. The K-8 school serves 600 children, 99% of which are Hispanic and 87% from families that fall below the federal government's poverty income guidelines.

Kaisy thrived at the Charter School and in the summer of 2003 enrolled in **Prep@Pingree**, a summer academic enrichment program at the Pingree School in Hamilton designed to help middle school children from Lawrence and Lynn prepare for the challenges of a rigorous high school education and beyond. With the confidence and academic readiness made possible from her school and summer experiences, Kaisy joined the Pingree Class of



Patricia Karl, founder of the Lawrence Family Development Charter School, and Kaisy Rosario celebrate Patricia's retirement and the announcement of the Patricia Foley Karl Scholarship Fund.

2008. She captained the varsity softball team, served as President of the Multicultural Club and worked summers with younger students at Prep@Pingree. After graduation in June, Kaisy will enter Manhattanville College. Kaisy and her family reached for the stars, and with hard work and support from her schools, achieved their goals.

A community foundation can play an important part in improving one life at a time in the towns and cities it serves. By identifying and supporting those organizations that are making a difference in our communities, the Essex County Community Foundation contributes every day to the welfare of children like Kaisy, and their families, and helps them to reach for the stars.

Over the past eight years ECCF, through its donor advised and discre-

tionary funds, has provided over \$90,000 in grants to the Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. Grants from the Greater Lawrence Summer Fund, Merrimack Valley General Fund, and Webster Family Fund have supported the Charter School as well as programs to help recent immigrants acquire English language skills and negotiate the citizenship application process.

ECCF also supports Prep@Pingree through the Greater Lawrence Summer Fund and donor advised funds. Prep@Pingree has enrolled 125 middle school students over the past six years in a five week intensive academic and cultural enrichment program. The program attracts motivated young people like Kaisy and helps them

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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.

President's Letter

This newsletter's lead article is a wonderful story about someone being given opportunities through the generosity of the community and taking full and glorious advantage.

It is a typical example of how the community invests in the community. Yet, so much that happens is so little known. A charitable contribution is an investment. Any investment requires access to knowledge about what and where to invest.

Which makes a case for a Community Foundation.

The lead article provides an obvious example of the role of a community foundation. It shows the breadth of support that ECCF has brought together to help fund The Charter School and Prep@Pingree. These collaborative processes make a major impact from many individual donations.

Another example lies in the list of agencies ECCF has supported. On our website, www.eccf.org, you can access a list of the 350 agencies, sorted by town in Essex County, that have,

so far, received grants from the donor funds that ECCF manages.

A common response is, "I didn't know there were that many agencies around". There aren't – there are four times that many in Essex County. We have a way to go. We must continue to build donor support.

Which makes a case for a Community Foundation.

Our website also lists the 80 donor funds we manage, so far. The central administrative management of these funds together with aggregation of their assets into a \$12 million and growing investment portfolio provides a highly cost-effective and knowledgeable philanthropic resource for donors to work with.

Which makes a case for a Community Foundation.



David Tory
President/CEO

Upcoming Events

Youth-at-Risk (YAR) Eighth Annual Conference – Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at Endicott College, Beverly. The keynote will be a panel of students from the North Shore Recovery High School in Beverly.

YAR/Northeast Center for Healthy Communities Regional Youth Leadership Institute – July 2008. For more information and registration for YAR events, please log onto: www.essexcountyyouth.org

ECCF's Fifth Annual Golf Tournament, Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at the new Renaissance Golf Club in Haverhill. The field will be limited to 100 players.



To register to play and for more information, visit: www.eccf.org

The Women's Fund Sixth Annual Grant Awards Luncheon will be held on October 21, 2008 at the Peabody Marriott. Rev. Liz Walker, New England award-winning journalist and documentary film producer will be the keynote speaker. For more information, visit The Women's Fund website at www.thewomensfundec.org.

Planned Giving for Nonprofit Organizations Workshop – November 2008

Essex County Forum Fall 2008 Workshops include Climate Change and Renewable Energy and Healthy Water for Healthy Communities. Dates to be announced. Visit the Forum's website for information for these and other upcoming events. www.essexcountyforum.org

In Memory

Sandra Gersten Blinn, Trustee, chair of the Planned Giving Committee, and strong supporter and friend of ECCF, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, January 31, 2008. After a 25-year banking career, Sandy recently retired and was looking forward to her next phase of life dedicated to her family and the community in which she lived. Sandy created enthusiasm where ever she went. She was a joy to be with and we will miss her terribly.

Grant Application Deadlines

Webster Family Fund – September 1, 2008

Merrimack Valley General Fund – October 1, 2008

The Women's Fund – November 1, 2008

Estate Planning and Philanthropy

It always seems a little awkward to talk about estate planning and philanthropy in the same conversation.

- People think about philanthropy as being charitably minded – being responsive, on a regular basis, to perceived need.
- Estate planning is something one can procrastinate about until signs of mortality start making themselves felt.

Yet the two are very directly inter-related. Philanthropy is all about “thoughtful” or “planned” giving. The simplest form of estate planning is to prepare a Will and within which to make a charitable bequest - the ultimate and simplest form of planned giving. Charitable bequests amount to 80% of all planned giving. So, don't be put off by the more esoteric aspects of planned giving.

Yet, it is amazing how many people have not made or do not have a current Will. Given the problems associated with asset disbursement after death without a Will (being intestate), it really does make huge sense, irrespective of someone's philanthropic inclinations, for a person to establish a basic level of control over the disbursement of their assets.

Therefore, simple steps towards estate planning and planned giving are:

1. Talk to your Attorney about making a Will, or bring an existing Will up to date.
2. Think about your particular charitable interests and how you might want to make a charitable bequest.
3. Talk to Essex County Community Foundation about making a charitable bequest to establish a donor advised fund that will provide long term support for your particular charitable interests.

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sharpen the academic and social skills they will need to succeed in secondary school and provides exposure to an independent school experience.

Last fall the Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. Board honored Patricia Karl's retirement as Executive Director and founder of the Charter School, naming an endowed scholarship fund to recognize her lifetime work as an educator. In March, the Board approved a resolution to place the **Patricia Foley Karl Scholarship Fund** with ECCF to be invested as a permanent fund. LFDEF hopes to raise

one million dollars over the next decade to ensure that all the Kaisy Rosarios who graduate from the Charter School and reach for their stars will have access to the scholarship funds so necessary to complete their dreams. We are proud to continue to support organizations such as the Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. and Pingree School as they make a difference in the lives of Essex County citizens.

For more information or to donate, please contact Peter Kamberlis at 978-689-9863 x120.

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A Home for the Michael J. Latta EMT Scholarship Fund



Michael Latta loved being an EMT. After graduating from North Andover High School in 2004, he found his passion when he enrolled at Northern Essex Community College and completed his EMT certificate. "Michael would sign up for 24 hour shifts on Saturday nights because there were more emergency calls" recalls his sister Nikki. "We all need people like Michael in our communities." He dreamed of continuing his education to become a Paramedic. On April 26, 2007, Michael died of an apparent heart attack while on duty with the Patriot Ambulance Company.

In the days and weeks that followed his death, family and friends raised money to start a scholarship to honor Michael and his achievements. The scholarship would be used to help other EMTs to become Paramedics. Although the plans were made, the scholarship needed a home. The Latta family turned to the Essex County Community Foundation.

ECCF manages over a dozen individual scholarship programs for families and trusts throughout the county. Most are formed in memory of a loved one, but others are created to

help graduates of specific high schools or middle schools. ECCF's flexibility and service is a selling point. Families have the option of being involved in developing the selection criteria and reviewing applications or can turn the process over to a school scholarship committee or an ECCF appointed committee. Scholarships can be permanent ECCF funds which will continue in perpetuity or be depleted over time.

Many ECCF scholarship programs continue to fund raise with support from foundation staff. In addition, donors can make on-line gifts to scholarship funds using the ECCF website.

ECCF is a member of the Dollars for Scholars® program which provides valuable information on college financial aid policies. In addition, scholarships awarded through ECCF are eligible for matching grants at Dollars for Scholars® affiliated colleges and universities.

Nikki Latta comments "ECCF is helping my family create a permanent memorial in Michael's honor. They are providing the expertise and support so that we can help other EMTs realize Michael's dream of becoming a Paramedic."

For more information on establishing a scholarship or contributing to the Michael J. Latta EMT Fund, please contact Julie Bishop, Grants and Nonprofit Services Manager, 978-777-8876.



Essex County
Community Foundation

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*The mission of the Essex County Community Foundation is to
help you help your community.*