



Essex County Community Foundation News

Summer 2009

ECCF is Moving to New Offices, Still in Danvers



ECCF is 10 years old this year and has moved into new space. With the expansion of our team and programs we needed larger space and...we outgrew our conference room.

Your community foundation is now in the handiest office building in the county, at the intersection of Rtes. 1, 114 and I-95. If you are in Essex County, we're within half an hour's drive. We are still in Danvers at the same phone number:

**175 ANDOVER STREET
SUITE 101
DANVERS, MA 01923
Tel: 978-777-8876
Fax: 978-777-9454**

ECCF Launches Hunger Initiative

Over a half a million people in Massachusetts are struggling to feed themselves and their families every day, according to the *Status Report on Hunger in Massachusetts* released by Project Bread in October 2008. Moved by the alarming results of this report and the difficult economic climate, ECCF has created a project to support the hunger organizations and their work in the County.

Essex County is served by over 60 hunger agencies of various shapes and sizes. These vary from small all volunteer, church or community run food pantries, to professionally staffed organizations offering pantries, soup kitchens, summer meal programs, mobile pantries, nutrition and cooking classes, and educational programming to help end the causes of hunger.

All are reporting increases in participation and particularly from people who are new to their organizations, including former donors.

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On April 15th, ECCF joined the Friends of Beverly Hospital and the North Shore Music Theater as beneficiaries of the Nordstrom Grand Opening Gala at the Northshore Mall. The proceeds of the event are supporting the Foundation's Hunger projects. Pictured are ECCF event co-chairs Paula Jerome and Julie LaFontaine with Nordstrom family members

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.

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President's Letter

If there were ever a time for philanthropy, it's now.

There's a lot of talk about foundations and individuals cutting back their giving. A better response is to give more wisely.

Your Community Foundation is at its best in times like these. We can point out effective ways to help responsive nonprofits. Or even better: groups of nonprofits.

Example 1: For Essex County's many hunger organizations, we're setting up communication systems to help them share resources and ideas, we're helping balance and increase the food supply throughout the year, and we're about to develop grant proposals aimed at bringing our communities their first major national funding for these services.

A charitable dollar from any of us is more valuable in a time of need. The philanthropic community has not had such an opportunity to save lives, encourage progress, and solve problems, in years.

Example 2: Commercial development pressures are lower in this economy, so ECCF is using the hiatus to refresh the Smart Growth agenda of the Essex County Forum. See the latest at www.eccf.org. Essex is still the only county in New England with a Forum that convenes collaborations of environmentalists, developers, government agencies, and town planners. When markets rebound, our communities will have new resources to help them make sustainable choices in housing, transportation, preservation, and other infrastructural investments.

Foundations and philanthropists have for years enjoyed growing their tax-advantaged endowments, usually defending their cautious spending in the name of "saving for a rainy day." The rainy day is here, and opportunities abound to step up and do good works.

A gift to ECCF is a gift which will strengthen hundreds of nonprofits at once. Where else can you be sure that your investment will advance a whole set of organizations?

Join us in acts of optimism,

Best wishes,



David M. Welbourn

More on Hunger Initiative

All agencies share the problems of obtaining access to excess food when available and sustaining donations of food throughout the year. To help resolve these issues ECCF is developing an Essex County Hunger Website to enable organizations to post needs, communicate about available food and post services and volunteer opportunities.

A second project, in partnership with Project Bread, enhanced the U.S. Letter Carrier's annual food drive in May by providing grocery bags for food collection. Food donations more than doubled in drives that provided grocery bags.

Nordstrom opened its newest store at the Northshore Mall in Peabody with a Gala benefiting ECCF's Hunger Project. 1,200 guests contributed \$98,000 shared by ECCF, Beverly Hospital and the North Shore Music Theater. This gift provided the seed money for the hunger project and we are very thankful for Nordstrom family's support.

For information on ECCF's Hunger Initiative, please contact Julie Bishop, Vice President for Grants and Services, j.bishop@eccf.org, 978-777-8876

New ECCF Staff:

Peggy Hegarty-Steck, Assistant Grants Manager – Peggy brings 18 years of non-profit and public sector experience to ECCF. She recently worked with Cambridge and Gloucester Public Health Departments.

Frances Littell, Prospect Research Analyst – Fanny received an M.S. in Library and Information Science from Simmons College in 1985. She has worked for MIT, NARAL, and Dana Hall School and more recently for Healthy Families First Connections.

Patricia Tobin, VP for Development – Pat's fundraising experience includes leadership at Landmark, Governor's Academy, and most recently at Big Brothers Big Sister Massachusetts Bay.

New Funds at ECCF

ALMA Fund
Corinne Morris Johnson Scholarship Fund
Lawrence High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
George Mc Quinn Memorial Foundation
Dr. Thomas N. Pesola Memorial Scholarship Fund

Growing in a Down Economy

ECCF Thrives Against the Tide

In happy contrast to much of the economic news in recent months, your Community Foundation is growing.

New staff and programs are expanding services to donors and nonprofits in every corner of the county. Check eccf.org for details on these and dozens of others:

- The County's first program for homeless children 18-21 years old is starting up in Salem with ECCF's help.

- ECCF staff have provided services to over 800 nonprofit trustees and staff in the past year, in dozens of programs, workshops and individual meetings in every town and city.

- Essex County's nationally-recognized Forum for Smart

Growth (a healthy economy and healthy environment are inseparable) has an ambitious new agenda for its second decade of helping communities with preservation and progress.

- From theatres and land trusts to schools and shelters, Essex County nonprofits are joining the

movement to standardize accounting and compliance practices for ease, for savings, and for certifiable trustworthiness for donors.

- Grade schoolers learning English often regress during summers spent in households where it is not their parents' native tongue, but under a grant from the insightful Hardscrabble Fund they now have summer language programs to boost their progress.

- The diversifying staff now includes lifelong residents, professionals who have chosen to come home to ECCF, and a brand new immigrant. The Board continues its growth toward representation from every community.



Searle Bridge, Methuen

ECCF is not immune to the decline in investment performance, but it is winning record support from donors and is managing its resources with great care. The fiscal 2010 budget is 51% higher than fiscal 2009, and every penny of that growth will be at work in Essex County's 34 cities and towns. Your generosity is inspiring and effective.

We talk a lot about Pride-of-Place here. This pretty corner of the country is visited by tens of thousands of tourists whose presence ratifies our choice to live here. Some interesting distinctions:

- Essex County has more First Period homes (built before 1720) than anyplace in the Western Hemisphere.

- Our area is 500 square miles and our coastline is 493 miles long. Our rocky coast rivals Maine's and our beaches rival the Carolinas'.

- Our seven cities, more than any other Massachusetts county, are historic gateways that provide replenishing diversity. They have led America's

historic revolutions in trading, manufacturing and technology, and are now revitalizing themselves again with creative and scientific economies.

- Thanks to our communities' long history of stewardship, 25% of Essex County land is preserved!

From the early days in which the colonies to the south came to us for food and help, we've sent a lot of our charitable gifts out of the County, especially to Boston. ECCF was founded to encourage support of your own institutions here in Essex County. When you consider giving to education, social services, health, the arts, preservation, or other worthy causes, do you invest in your own community? If you want some "give-where-you-live ideas", give us a call, 978-777-8876.

Ninth Youth at-Risk Conference



WBZ's Jack Williams, left, told wonderful stories about "Wednesday's Child" to the 450 people at this year's conference of agencies that serve Essex County youth.

With Jack: Youth at-Risk Program Director Kirsten Dohery, Endicott College President and Conference host Richard Wiley, and ECCF President Dave Welbourn

Grant Application Deadlines

Webster Family Fund –
September 1, 2009

Merrimack Valley General Fund –
October 1, 2009

The Women's Fund –
November 1, 2009

Workshops & Events

ECCF Fall Workshops –
Dates TBA

* Solving the Mysteries of the New
IRS Form 990

*Strategic Finance: Growing Plans
and Funds in a Tough Economy

*Leadership 2010 - Building a Better
Board.

Women's Fund Luncheon –
October 22, 2009

Please check www.eccf.org
for frequent updates.

Birthday Cake!



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www.eccf.org

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