



communityWORKS

C A M P A I G N

October 2017

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Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the organizing committee, I am excited to announce the beginning of our 17th annual Community Works fundraising campaign!

We seek your support for the ten local non-profit organizations that were selected from your nominations, and we are confident of the impact these agencies will have to address the community needs that nominations spotlighted this year: education/literacy, youth, environment, domestic violence, immigrant services, LGBTQ services, legal services, and animal welfare. Read about the new Community Works grant recipients on the back of this letter.

Recent months have brought devastating natural disasters and human tragedies, such as in the Gulf Coast, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. No doubt many of us are responding in some generous way to help affected people restore their lives. When you contribute to Community Works you invest in compelling needs close to home -- which may be experienced by our family members, friends, or neighbors, or even by a Vassar co-worker. Our ten agencies include preventative and crisis services for the most vulnerable people where we live. These, unfortunately, are people we can lose track of until we are suddenly reminded by a headline or tragedy.

You can meet staff from some of the agencies at the Benefits Fair on November 1 -- come by the Community Works table! In the spring we will share brief summaries from the organizations on their latest activities. We are also planning a bus tour for employees to visit some of the agencies (keep an eye out for more details).

Each organization receives an equal share of the Community Works funds raised, and 100% of our contributions goes directly to the agencies because Vassar pays for all costs of the campaign. You can make your tax-deductible contribution via payroll deduction, credit card or check. Use the secure Community Works website (communityworks.vassar.edu) to make a payroll deduction pledge or contribute by credit card. *For payroll deduction please submit your pledge form by December 1st (if you are paid bi-weekly) or January 5th (if you are paid monthly).* To give by check fill out the form on the back of this letter and use the enclosed return envelope.

If everyone makes a contribution, no matter how large or small, together we strengthen our community ties! We thank you for your commitment and consideration.

Warm Regards,

Karen Getter
Community Works, Chair
getter@vassar.edu

Recipients

Catharine Street Community Center

Downtown Poughkeepsie agency focuses on four program areas for children through 6th grade: Summer Enrichment, Bridge to School (school readiness for ages 3-5), After School, and Universal Pre-K. Curriculum spans academics, cultural and recreational activities, and life skills. The Center also honors two high school seniors and two local employers at its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. community breakfast.

Community Family Development

For 40 years has provided the Poughkeepsie community affordable childcare for infants and toddlers, pre-school, pre-kindergarten, after school care, as well as summer programming for children from six weeks through twelve years old. The developmentally appropriate curriculum at this very diverse school fosters the individual growth of each child.

GLSEN-Hudson Valley

Through education and advocacy this all-volunteer organization strives for each student at every school to be valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Services range from teacher, student, and parent programs to the support of school based gay-straight alliance groups.

Hudson Valley House of Hope

Seeks to eliminate sexual assault and domestic abuse through sensitive prevention, intervention, and treatment. From a 14-bed residential shelter it provides 24-hour emergency services, crisis intervention, and counseling services for victims and their children. Also offers advocacy, public education, children's services, a crisis hotline, and job skills training.

Legal Services of the Mid-Hudson Valley

Provides free, high quality counsel in non-criminal matters to low-income individuals and families, protecting human necessities such as access to shelter and medical care, and a person's freedom from physical abuse. Focus areas include disability advocacy, domestic violence, elder law, veterans benefits and services, Medicaid, eviction, foreclosure, HIV/AIDS, and food stamps.

Literacy Connections

Recruits and trains volunteers to provide free tutoring for people struggling with literacy, whether English is their first language or a second language. Its programs also address illiteracy as an intergenerational problem -- if the parents are not reading, or are struggling with reading, the children too often struggle with the same issues and are at high risk of dropping out of school.

Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue

A safe haven for dozens of unwanted, abused, and neglected horses from its farm in Dutchess County. The horses also serve as companion animals in equine-assisted mental health services, including services for people affected by cancer, grief and loss, PTSD, autism, ADHD, anxiety, and depression, as well as for at-risk youth.

Scenic Hudson: Northside Community Greenway Project

Intends to create a linear park through the City of Poughkeepsie that serves as a community catalyst by connecting (along the Fall Kill and the north side's former CSX railroad spur) affordable housing, job centers, social services, schools, arts organizations, high school equivalency programs, urban farming, and youth programs. Advancing the City's north side is key, where unemployment ranges up to 24%, high school graduation rates are around 60%, and home ownership is only 36%.

Sparrow's Nest

Created in 2012 with the simple idea of cooking for families of local mothers diagnosed with cancer. Today, having fed over 1200 people, it provides two meals per week to the families of caregivers and children diagnosed with any type of cancer that requires chemotherapy, radiation, or surgery. All recipients live within 20 miles of the health department-approved kitchen in Hopewell Junction.

Ulster Immigrant Defense Network

Coalition formed by faith communities and concerned residents (with a board led by Islamic, Jewish, Christian, Latino and business representatives) to provide legal assistance and direct support for local immigrants and refugees at risk. Services include: bilingual helpline; financial assistance for people affected by detention and deportation; accompaniment to court appearances and ICE check-ins; "Know Your Rights" information and legal referrals; rapid response to immigration enforcement actions; and safe spaces in houses of worship and homes.

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- To give or pledge online by credit card, debit card, or payroll deduction, go to the secure website communityworks.vassar.edu.
 - To give or pledge by campus mail, complete this form below and mail the entire sheet in the enclosed return envelope. Choose either payroll deduction or single contribution.
 - To give in honor of someone fill in their name here: _____

One-time contribution by check

Enclosed is my one-time contribution to the 2018 Community Works Campaign in the amount of:

- \$500 \$250 \$150 \$100
 \$75 \$50 \$25 other \$ _____

Please complete and sign below:

Payroll deduction

My **total** contribution to the 2018 Community Works Campaign will be:

- \$500 \$250 \$150 \$100
 \$75 \$50 \$25 other \$ _____

Spread out my contribution over _____
paychecks

Vassar ID Number

Print Name

Signature

**One hundred percent
of your contribution
will support the work
of all 10 organizations
in our community!**