Grace Farms Foundation

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Our Approach

As a private operating foundation, we focus the majority of our funding into Grace Farms and our related on-site programs.

We offer grants of space instead of monetary grants.

We are accessible year-round to the public without membership.

We take a hospitality-first approach in our daily operations, partnerships, and ongoing programs.

We aim to balance peacefulness with vibrancy.

We collaborate across initiatives and with partners, creating new outcomes.

44%
Percentage of leadership and management that hold advanced degrees

59%
Percentage of women in leadership and management

5
Additional roles added to the Foundation’s team in 2019. Total part-time: 27
Space Grants

In lieu of monetary support, we offer not-for-profit organizations grants of space with the ultimate goal of serving as a platform for collaboration and the advancement of good work. The Space Grant Program welcomed 17 new organizations in 2017, continuing our efforts to provide not-for-profit leaders and community constituents with opportunities to reflect, strategize, and extend their programming.

Space Grant Highlight
Our partnership with the Connecticut Institute for Refugees & Immigrants (CIRI) exemplified how space can contribute to the life of our place. In September, CIRI conducted a management team retreat, where our serene, natural, and creative spaces helped the group focus on amplifying their impact in assisting and providing direct services to trafficking survivors. In June, we connected CIRI with two other space grant recipients, Blossom Hill Foundation and Full Court Peace, to plan and lead a recreational basketball game on World Refugee Day. The program brought together local middle school students and recently resettled refugees, serving as an important opportunity for the refugees to connect, make new friends, and build bonds in their new home. In December, we offered a public opportunity to support CIRI at our Community Dinner, where participants

"With the programming support of Grace Farms, the Syrian, Eritrean, and Congolese kids who came to play will never forget it or the friends they made. I am sure this program, too, will grow—and only at a place like Grace Farms."

Mike Evans
Founder and Executive Director, Full Court Peace

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<th>30</th>
<th>206</th>
<th>142</th>
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<td>Organizations, representing all five initiatives, that were granted gifts of space in 2017</td>
<td>Programs, events, and meetings took place through the Space Grant Program in 2017</td>
<td>Days that Grace Farms was activated by Space Grants in 2017</td>
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Space Grants

spent the evening assembling packages of everyday essentials for individuals in CRIS Refugee Resettlement Program.

Manifesting long-term partnerships from the Space Grant Program was a primary goal for our team in 2017, which required further refinement of our existing processes. During the program’s second year, we focused heavily on optimizing space grant alignment with our initiative programming and rolled out an improved quarterly review process to better identify, select, and track grant recipients. These enhancements have not only increased the effectiveness of the program, they have also laid the groundwork for the launch of Space Grant Partner engagements, which are projected to begin in Q3 2018. These offshoots of the Space Grant Program will be developed as long-term relationships between Grace Farms and targeted space grant recipients. The selection of these partners allows us to activate available work spaces at Grace Farms while building deeper relationships with the potential for future program collaborations.

Not-for-Profit Roundtable

In addition to Space Grants, the Foundation supports the not-for-profit community through roundtable gatherings that focus on substantive discourse. These annual gatherings are curated and facilitated by the Community Initiative team with the goal of connecting not-for-profit and government workers who are invested in similar focus areas. In 2017, we hosted a Local Grantmaker Roundtable, as well as a co-hosted Roundtable with LiveGirl, highlighting Women Who Inspire.

Grant Recipients

Nature
The Discovery Center of Ridgefield
Keep America Beautiful
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
New Canaan Beautification League
New Canaan Land Trust

Justice
Blossom Hill Foundation
Building One Community
Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling & Education
Connecticut Institute for Refugees & Immigrants
Connecticut Department of Children and Family
Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Family ReEntry
Full Court Peace
International Organization of Adolescents
LoveIs6
Nami Network
Polaris Project
Pura Vida for Children
Re/Entry Center of Newtown
Save the Children
Second Response
The Underground Lighting a Way to Freedom
Walter E. Luckett Foundation

Community
Ability Beyond Disability
All Our Kin
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy
Connecticut Opportunity Project
Ethical Culture Fieldston School
Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
Fード Rescue US
Future 5
The Carrion Club of America
Harvard Business School Connecticut Community Partners
Horizons National Student Enrichment Program

Impact Fairfield County
LiveGirl
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Charity League, New Canaan Chapter
New Canaan Boys Basketball
New Canaan Community Foundation
New Canaan Historical Society
New Canaan Mounted Troop
New Canaan Parks & Recreation
New Canaan YMCA
Norwalk Community College
Person-to-Person
Southwest Regional Mental Health Board
STARK Inc. Lighting the Way
Staying Put in New Canaan
THISAbility
Young Presidents Organization, Fairfield Chapter
Young Women’s League of New Canaan

Arts
Arts for Healing
Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County
Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York Public Library)
Silvermine Guild Arts Center
Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum
The Glass House
University of Delaware Opera Workshop Ensemble

Faith
Yale Center for Faith & Culture
Yale Divinity School

“The work we did that day, focusing on diversity and inclusion for staff, volunteers, and clients, has been carried forward. Staff teams are continuing to explore how we can ensure cultural competency at all levels of the agency to live our mission.”

- Ceci Maher
Executive Director, Person-to-Person

As an important space grant partner, Person-to-Person has been selected to continue their staff trainings in 2018.

The list above represents all Space Grant Recipients since 2016.
* Identifies organizations that have also served as program partners.