

# The Essex Foundation

## 2024 COMMUNITY NEWS

This past year was an active time of community stewardship and funding for initiatives that benefit all residents in Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton. The Foundation continued to expand its support for projects that require fast, local action, working in partnership with town officials, residents and other like-minded organizations. Several grant awards helped fund new services and project needs typically not met by other charitable organizations or sources - all possible through the many generous bequests and donations made to the Foundation from the community at large. Learn more about the grant awards inside or visit us online at [www.TheEssexFoundation.org](http://www.TheEssexFoundation.org) and on Facebook.

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The Essex Foundation  
PO Box 64  
Essex, CT 06426

Dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents.

## Help Us Support Our Local Community

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we reflect on another remarkable year, I am filled with gratitude for the support that allows The Essex Foundation to contribute meaningfully to our beautiful town. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we have been able to support a variety of projects and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for everyone in our community.

The Foundation has continued to focus on beautification, historical preservation, educational opportunities, and community support. From expanding our daffodil planting sites across town to ensuring the ongoing enhancement of our public spaces, your donations are bringing visible joy and vitality to Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton.

As we prepare for the year ahead, we invite you to consider a donation to The Essex Foundation. Every gift, large or small, will help ensure that Essex remains a vibrant and welcoming community.

With warm regards and sincere thanks,  
Bruce M. Glowac  
President

## Valley Unified Buddies Take Life Skills Trip to Disney

In March, 23 local teens took the ultimate life skills trip to Disney World in Florida thanks to the organizational efforts of Valley Unified Buddies and a \$10,000 grant award from The Essex Foundation. The nonprofit group is made up of Unified Sports, a registered program of Special Olympics, and Valley Buddies. The group provides high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities every opportunity to succeed in school, their jobs and in life. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most students, the entire trip was designed to put everything they have been learning into practice - from following directions to get through security; to displaying proper social behavior while traveling by airplane and during the hotel stay; to planning their time and paying for meals.



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## Essex Veterans Memorial Hall Breaks Ground on Expansion

Members of the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall (EVMH) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of the building that serves as a resource for members, their families, and the greater community. Special recognition was given to The Essex Foundation for its matching gift fundraising campaign that resulted in a \$100,000 grant award- \$50,000 from community donors matched by \$50,000 from the Foundation.



## Daffodil Project Blooms Bright in Centerbrook & Ivoryton



The Foundation was honored by the Essex Board of Trade as the selected organization celebrated by Essex Ed during the Groundhog Day parade in January. "Ed" was decorated with daffodils in recognition of the Foundation's community planting efforts, including the newest blooms along Mill Race on South Main Street in Ivoryton and at Stanley Park in Centerbrook, both in cooperation with the Essex Land Trust.

## Trinity Lutheran Saving Souls in More Ways Than One

Reverend Kurt Saenger-Heyl, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church on Main Street in Centerbrook, reached out to The Essex Foundation with a simple yet vital holiday wish. The church needed an onsite, automated external defibrillator (AED) and he hoped the foundation could help fund the purchase and installation of the emergency medical equipment. AEDs are designed to be simple to use by the layperson as well as people with first-aid, first responder, and CPR training to assist people in cardiac arrest. Response was quick with approval to grant funds to cover the \$2,349 cost, allowing the equipment to be installed over the winter months.



## Barnes Callender Annual Scholarship Award



Ivoryton resident Cayden Willets-Johnson was the 2024 recipient of The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Memorial Scholarship Award. Presented to honor the bequest and memory of the late "Diz" Callender and her sister Mary, the \$3000 grant is awarded to one Valley Regional High School graduating senior or graduate, or an Essex resident, who is pursuing studies related to land conservation and preservation at a two or four-year college, a technical school, or graduate school.

## Board of Directors

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*Thank you for  
your support...  
No gift is too small!*

## Consider a Legacy Donation

A gift through your will or living trust will continue your support of The Essex Foundation as an important legacy in our community.

For more information email:  
Treasurer@  
TheEssexFoundation.org



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[www.TheEssexFoundation.org](http://www.TheEssexFoundation.org)

Yes! I want to support my community through The Essex Foundation. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1000     Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(As it should appear on website/social media recognition list OR check here if you prefer not to be publicly recognized )

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