

# Congratulations to our 2022 National Philanthropy Day Award Winners:



Catherine  
Violet  
Hubbard  
ANIMAL SANCTUARY

## Crisis Hero Award

This award recognizes an individual, family, group, corporation, or foundation whose actions or donations have contributed positively to social justice, economic, or pandemic responses in Connecticut. Heroes can be nominated for solving challenges related to the COVID pandemic, equality for non-white and/or immigrant groups, long-term economic instability, record unemployment, health care worker support, food insecurity, police reform, mental health, domestic abuse, gaps in virtual education, or other critical social concerns.

## Award winner: Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary, a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization works to promote compassion and healing through human-animal connection. The sanctuary was started in 2013 to commemorate and honor the life of Catherine Violet Hubbard, a six-year-old victim of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy and passionate animal lover who dreamt of someday working with and caring for them. In 2014, the sanctuary was awarded over 34 acres of Connecticut state farmland by a unanimous vote from the Connecticut State House of Representatives and Senate. The sanctuary pays tribute to Catherine and her spirit of kindness towards all living things by honoring the bond between humans, animals and the environment. Since its inception, the organization has raised over \$6.5 million in funding, including grants from the ASPCA, private sector partners and thousands of individuals to support its breadth of programming, including a pollinator protection initiative providing critical shelter, sustenance and migration space for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and other critical ecosystem pollinators, free community workshops around animal care and environmental protection, aid for seniors to keep and care for their pets and much more. Donations also go towards the sanctuary's ongoing construction of onsite facilities, including a vet in-take center, learning barn and library. For more information on donating, programming and volunteer opportunities visit [www.cvhfoundation.org](http://www.cvhfoundation.org).

**Nominated by:** Jenny Hubbard



## Outstanding Philanthropist

This award honors an individual or family with a proven record of exceptional generosity who, through direct financial support, demonstrates outstanding civic and charitable responsibility and whose generosity encourages others to take philanthropic leadership roles.

## Award winner: Art Schaller, Jr.

- Born in Manchester, CT.
- Lived in Newington, CT, from birth to age 29
- Now resides in Avon, CT, with his AMAZING wife , Trish
- Father to Alli, Spencer , and 3 dogs.

### EDUCATION

- Graduated Newington High School in 1989.
- Graduated Babson College with Bachelor's of Science from the School of Management in 1992 (member of Beta Gamma Sigma honor fraternity)
- Graduated from the Dealer Academy of the National Automobile Dealer's Association in 1993.

### BUSINESS

- 3rd generation owner of Schaller Auto World in New Britain, Berlin and Manchester, CT. The company has been in business since 1953. We sell Honda, Acura, and Subaru new vehicles as well as operating a full-service Auto Body repair facility, an All-Brand Service Center, a Kar Kare center performing all forms of vehicle detailing, and a full complement of Used Vehicles. I started right out of college in June of 1992.
- Served on the Universal Underwriters/Zurich Direct Underwriters Customer Council from 2002-2007, including a term as its Chairman
- Director for the Connecticut Auto Retailers Association (October 2001-present)
- Chairman of the Connecticut Auto Retailers Association (2010-2012)
- Representative for Honda Zone 9, District B, for the New England Zone Dealer Advisory Board (Spring 2010-2021)
- Became licensed insurance agent (P&C, Life/Accident/Health) in 2013, opened Schaller Insurance in March of 2014 and became FINRA representative in 2014 after passing the Series 6 and 63 exams.

## COMMUNITY

- 1992-1998 Coached Pop Warner football in Newington
- United Way Allocations Committee-Past Tri-Chair
- Past Board Member of the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain
- Served on the Board of Trustees for the YWCA of Greater New Britain, served as Chairman 2011-2013 (my third term ended in June of 2013)
- In 2003 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his family's business, helped establish The Schaller Auto World Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain. This fund was created to support children's causes.
- Became Assistant Scoutmaster for BSA Troop 68 (Farmington) in March of 2013
- Serving on Executive Council for the CFGNB's New Britain Early Childhood Collaborative (June 2012-2016)
- Joined the Board of the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain in September of 2014. Vice chair of Community Initiatives Committee (2016-2019), Chair of CIC (2019-2022), Vice-Chair of BOD (2020-2021), Board Chair (2022-2023)

## ROTARY

- Joined in August of 1995
- Joined Board as Member-At-Large in 1996
- Served on Board until 2006, spending 8 years as Executive Secretary
- Recipient of NB Rotary's first ever Distinguished Service Award in 2003
- Recipient of NB Rotarian of the Year Award in 2008 and again in 2017
- Became Paul Harris Fellow in December of 2003 and is currently a Major Donor (Level 3)
- Chairman of Foundation Committee from 2007-2010 and helped raise over \$8000 for the Foundation (2008)—the most in any year for NB Rotary to that point. Became chair of Foundation Committee again in the Fall of 2015
- Rejoined the Board in 2009, by filling a vacancy in the President-Elect position.
- Served as President for the 2010-2011 Rotary year.

**Nominated by:** Community Foundation of Greater New Britain



## Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser

This award honors an individual or family that demonstrates outstanding skills in coordinating and motivating groups of volunteers for fundraising projects for the benefit of charitable institutions. The recipient must have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in coordinating groups of volunteers for major fundraising projects and for more than one nonprofit organization.

### Award winner: Amy Gonch

Amy Gonch is a Director of Insurance Operations and Records Management at MBIA, Inc. She was initially introduced to Circle of Care when a group of volunteers from her company completed their first room makeover for a young girl with cancer back in 2012. Immediately hooked on the program, Amy has completed over 20 room makeovers in the past decade while involving colleagues, family, friends and neighbors in the process. In July 2020, Amy joined the Circle of Care's Board and its Finance Committee.

In addition to her work with Circle of Care, Amy has also served as Board Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair for Hillside Food Outreach since 2017. Hillside Food Outreach is a non-profit organization serving Westchester, Putnam and Fairfield counties with a mission to deliver healthy food to individuals and families in the community who are unable to access local pantries.

At work, Amy has been actively involved with the MBIA Foundation, which provides numerous volunteer and charitable giving opportunities for employees. From 2011 to 2016, she served on the Charitable Contributions Committee, which reviews grant proposals from charities in the local community. From 2017 to 2021, she served as the Chair of the Volunteer Initiatives Committee leading company employees in a variety of volunteer programs supporting local non-profit organizations. In 2022, she continues to serve as a member of this committee.

"Being a part of the Circle of Care organization by helping families who are facing their own set of unique challenges has been the most rewarding thing I've ever done in my life. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve my community in this way."

**Nominated by:** Circle of Care



## Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy

This award recognizes service by an individual or group of young people, ages 5 to 17, who demonstrates outstanding commitment to the community through direct financial support, development of charitable programs, volunteering and leadership in philanthropy.

### Award winner: Feeding 500

Founded in March of 2021, Feeding 500 is a youth non-profit organization managed and run exclusively by high school age students dedicated to supporting local communities through fundraising and volunteerism. Over the last year and a half, Feeding 500 has grown to include over 85 members across 4 different towns in CT and NY who have cumulatively raised over \$75,000 for Open Doors, a housing and homelessness service organization in Norwalk, CT. Feeding 500 has become an established philanthropic organization in the state of Connecticut, gaining recognition from public figures such as Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Rep. Jim Himes, and State AG William Tong.

**Nominated by:** Open Doors



## Outstanding Corporation

This award honors a corporation or its corporate foundation that demonstrates commitment through financial support and by its leadership role in encouraging and motivating others to take leadership roles toward philanthropy and community involvement.

**Award winner:** Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company

Helping the future arrive is what we do. We solve the great problems of our times. We create the innovative technologies that define eras. While no one knows what's going to change the world next, we're probably already working on it.

As a global security, innovation, and aerospace company, the majority of Lockheed Martin's business is with the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. federal government agencies. In addition, Sikorsky (a Lockheed Martin Company) provides military and rotary-wing aircraft to all five branches of the U.S. armed forces along with military services and commercial operators in 40 nations. The remaining portion of Lockheed Martin's business is comprised of international government and commercial sales of products, services and platforms.

**Nominated by:** Girl Scouts of Connecticut



## **Outstanding Fundraising Professional**

This award recognizes an individual fundraising professional who works directly for a nonprofit charitable organization, has at least ten years of professional fundraising experience, and practices our profession in an exemplary and ethical manner.

### **Award winner:** Lorraine Gibbons

Lorraine Gibbons is in her 4th year as the Executive Director of the Cardinal Shehan Center and the McGivney Community Center in Bridgeport, CT. She previously was the Director of Development at the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport, a subsidiary of the Diocese of Bridgeport, where she served in that capacity for almost 14 years. She manages a staff of 8 full time employees and up to 60-70 part time staff at both locations.

#### **Past Professional Experience**

Lorraine was a Senior Accountant and Manager of Shareholder Relations at Aquarion Water Company before being promoted to their Manager of Corporate Relations and Assistant Corporate Secretary position. Prior to that, she held positions in banking at First Constitution Bank, Great Country Bank and Westinghouse Electric Supply Company.

#### **Educational Background**

Lorraine holds a Bachelor's Degree from Rhode Island College and an MBA from the University of New Haven. She also has a certificate in Investor Relations from the University of Connecticut.

#### **Volunteerism/Community Service**

Lorraine previously served as the President of the Fairfield County Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and has served as its President-Elect and Vice President of Membership.

She served as a volunteer with Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut for 16 years, where she taught the JA Curriculum to over 300 high school students at Bullard Havens Technical High School and 300 middle school children at Barnum School in Bridgeport, CT.

Lorraine is currently the 2nd VP of the New Haven Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and previously served as the 1st VP of Programs, Chair of Fund Development Committee and its Treasurer:

Lorraine serves on the Board of Directors of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council since 2018 and is also an active Board member of the Barnum Festival since being tapped to serve in 2018.

She is a Board member, and Secretary, of Amistad Academy School in New Haven for 10 years + and is a Board Member of the Burroughs Fund in Bridgeport.

She was previously a Trustee at St. Vincent's College in Bridgeport and served on the Board of Directors for the Bridgeport Public Education Fund, the Mercy Learning Center, and Secretary and Board member of the Jamaican American Connection of Greater New Haven.

Lorraine is a graduate of the Leadership Greater Bridgeport Program and the New Haven Neighborhood Leadership Program. Two years ago, she was asked by the City's Lighthouse Director, to be a Co-Chair of the Bridgeport Community Collaborative for Youth Committee.

She is a mother of two daughters and is a mentor.

#### **AWARDS**

Lorraine is the recipient of various community service awards including the 2022 Award from Senator Blumenthal, the 2019 Jayne Kuchma Leadership Greater Bridgeport Alumni Award, the 2019 Marie W. Morgan Community Service Award from the Greater Bridgeport Section of the National Council of Negro Women, the 2019 West Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport, the 2018 Ijlal Muhammad Humanitarian Award, the 100 Women of Color Award in 2017, the 2015 Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award.

**Nominated by:** Cardinal Shehan Center