

The Essex Foundation

2025 COMMUNITY NEWS

This was another active year of community stewardship and funding for initiatives that benefit all residents and visitors to 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.

Grant awards helped fund new needs typically not met by other charitable organizations or sources. Support was given for essential services, arts and culture, educational opportunities, and community events, thanks to 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 and on Facebook.

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The Essex Foundation
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Help Support Our Local Community



Answering Essex Ambulance Association's Emergency Call

In times of medical emergencies, ambulance service providers know that every minute counts and having a patient care system that you can count on is mission critical. Essex Ambulance Association needed to replace the 10-year-old computer units used for patient record keeping and care administration onboard the nonprofit group's two ambulances. Given the volume of service calls each year and rising operational costs, the Association did not have the required funds in their budget to cover the two essential systems but knew they couldn't wait to make the upgrade. They turned to The Essex Foundation for funding assistance and quickly received a \$8240 grant to cover all costs.

A Memorial Day Celebration to Be Remembered

The Essex Foundation helped get the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall renovation over the finish line before Memorial Day with an additional \$30,000 grant. The ambitious project included enlarging the kitchen; a new porch and outdoor dining area; a new roof and ADA accessible ramp; and updating the meeting room interior.



Delivering Hurricane Helene Relief



The Foundation was happy to help support local community members' efforts to deliver donated goods and supplies to people in North Carolina who lost personal property and homes due to Hurricane Helene. A grant was given to Chris Shane, one of the organizers, for rental truck expenses.

Barnes Callendar Memorial Scholarship Award

Nathaniel Hill of Ivoryton was the recipient of the 2025 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 will help support Nathaniel's Master's degree studies in Global Environmental Sustainability at the University of Denver.



The Essex Foundation

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

Community News 2025



Inaugural Essex Film Fest

The Essex Library Association was awarded a \$2500 grant to help fund the inaugural Essex FilmFest. The weekend program highlights a single filmmaker with film screenings, in-person Q & A sessions, and workshops conducted by the filmmaker.



Ivoryton Playhouse Visiting Artist Housing

Each year Ivoryton Playhouse welcomes over 50 professional guest artists from across the country. Finding appropriate short-term accommodations has always been a challenge. When an opportunity to rent a house in Centerbrook at a discounted, year-round rate presented itself, the Playhouse seized it and turned to The Essex Foundation for \$15,000 in funding to help furnish the four bedroom living space.



CT River Museum Block Party

A \$2500 grant helped the Connecticut River Museum hold its second annual block party, inviting more people to engage with our region's rich heritage through demonstrations; hands-on historical activities; living history re-enactments; nature-themed crafts; tours of the Onrust and Samuel Lay House; live music; food trucks; and free Museum admission.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The spirit of community continues to grow strong here in our beautiful town. Thanks to the generosity of local residents like you, The Essex Foundation awarded grants for a broad range of initiatives—all helping to keep Essex vibrant and welcoming.

As we plan for the year ahead, we invite you to support this important work. **One of the most effective ways to give is by donating appreciated stock or securities.** Gifting stock directly to The Essex Foundation can provide **significant tax advantages.** By donating shares that have increased in value, you may avoid paying capital gains tax while still receiving a charitable deduction for the full market value of the gift. This means your donation can have a larger impact without increasing your out-of-pocket cost.

Stock gifts are easy to arrange. Simply ask your financial advisor or broker to make a transfer to The Essex Foundation and we'll provide any information needed to complete the process smoothly. Every gift, large or small, helps strengthen our community. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to Essex.

With best wishes for the holiday season,
Strickland Hyde III
President



*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



Essex PreSchool River Museum Program

Essex Preschool attendees are learning about local history thanks to a \$2500 grant award. The school partnered with the Connecticut River Museum to provide six visits to the riverfront location for activities designed to engage the youngest museum goers.



Ivoryton Village Illuminations

A \$8900 grant was awarded to the Ivoryton Village Alliance in support of the volunteer group's efforts to modernize the Ivoryton Illuminations Light Show. The holiday event attracts thousands of visitors to the Ivoryton Green each year. The upgrade effort includes replacing over 10,000 traditional holiday lights with state-of-the-art pixel lights, new controls and power units, and a new computer system for a more dazzling display.



Essex Board of Trade Visitors Map

The Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) received a \$6200 grant to fund the costs of producing 2500 printed visitor maps to be distributed to businesses and frequented locations in Centerbrook, Essex Village, and Ivoryton, showcasing Essex as a visitor destination and highlighting key town landmarks as well as EBOT member businesses and organizations.

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)

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



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