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The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

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www.cfgnb.org



Topics

- What is the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
- CFGNB's First Years First (FYF) Initiative
- FYF impact on the community
- How supporting programs that benefit young children have a long-term impact
- Getting more involved with CFGNB

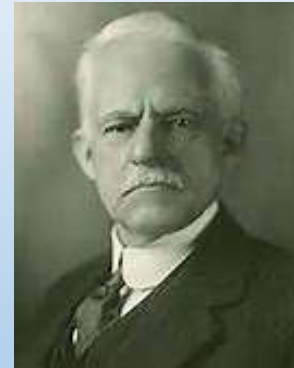
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Origins of Community Foundations



Frederick H. Goff - Founder of the first CF

- Goff was an elite professional and the former mayor of what had been the city of Glenville in Ohio when he hatched the idea of a “community trust.” His vision was to pool the charitable resources of Cleveland’s philanthropists, living and dead, into a single, great, and permanent endowment for the betterment of the city. From that revolutionary idea, the Cleveland Foundation was born on Jan. 2, 1914



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Mission Statement



- *We inspire philanthropy*
- *We manage permanent charitable assets responsibly*
- *We partner to address key community issues through strategic leadership*

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First Years First Early Childhood Initiative

We launched our initiative in 2006 with an original goal of having children enter kindergarten ready to learn.



In 2015 we adjusted our goal to increase the school readiness skills of young children so they may progress successfully from pre-k through grade 3 due to more awareness that 3rd grade reading is often a predictor of future academic success. **We can learn too!**

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• Why we chose early childhood? Research has shown that...

- **Early learning and development sets the stage for improved academic performance**
- Literacy and language programs set the stage for reading
- **Early learning and development is a contributor as to whether children will go on to drop out of high school, be dependent on welfare, or commit crimes versus becoming healthier, more productive members of society.**
- A focus on early childhood was appealing because it is prevention oriented.



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PERRY PRESCHOOL STUDY

One of the most well-known of all HighScope research efforts examined the lives of 123 children born in poverty and at high risk of failing in school



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- **From 1962–1967, at ages 3 and 4, the subjects were randomly divided into a program group that entered a high-quality preschool program based on HighScope's participatory learning approach, and a comparison group who received no preschool program.**
- The HighScope Perry Preschool Study interviewed 97% of the study participants still living at the age of 40. Additional data was gathered from the subjects' school, social services, and arrest records.
- **The study found that adults at age 40 who underwent the preschool program had higher earnings, committed fewer crimes, were more likely to hold a job, and were more likely to have graduated from high school than adults who did not have a preschool education.**
- And multiple study sources have concluded that on average for every \$1 spent on early childhood, \$7 is saved down the road

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The Initiative has three strategies to meet its goal



- **Skill Development:** Improve literacy, early learning & developmental skills for families with young children
- **Parenting Education:** Improve parenting education and skills that increase parents' knowledge of child development, the importance of early education, and enhance their skills so that children are supported and ready to learn and succeed in school
- **Advocacy/Public Policy:** Support advocacy and public policy that promotes the importance of and access to high quality early childhood outcomes and leverage resources to support this work

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ECCS
Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington
Southington Age 3 to Grade 3 Collaborative



The Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington is a group of committed educators, community leaders, parents, healthcare providers, childcare providers and members of the community who are deeply invested in the growth, development and academic success of young children in Southington.

Their mission is that “all Southington children will enter school ready to learn.”

That's a mission well connected to our goal!

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Impact on the Southington Community & Long-Term Impact



Since it began in 2006, ***First Years First*** has been the Foundation's primary community leadership initiative, investing over \$2.1 million in grant support.

Organizations benefitting from funding include;

- **ECCS**
- **Tunxis Professional Educators Development Consortium**
- **Southington Family Resource Center**

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ECCS Efforts Have Among Other Things



- Increased awareness and education of parents and students
- The Pre-School Experience percentage had been approximately 80% in Southington. This statistic has been on a two-year upswing reaching 88.43% in 2016 and 92.94% in 2017 for the current kindergarten class

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Tunxis Professional Educators Development Consortium



The first entity of its kind in the State brings together early educators from all four towns to network, share information, and participate in professional development opportunities that strengthen early learning environments and learning. The Consortium is still in place and provides training to hundreds of early educators annually. **Many Southington Providers benefit from this programming.**

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Family Resource Center of Southington



FYF funding from CFGNB in 2008 helped to start the **Southington Family Resource Center**. Now co-funded by FYF and the Southington School District, hundreds of children and families benefit from FRC programming and for many, it is their only preschool experience in that community.

The FRC provides free, quality early education opportunities that foster optimal development of and school readiness among Southington's children. Unfortunately there is often a waiting list for these services.

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The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain is proud to partner with the community on this initiative and others.



Other ways to get involved at CFGNB;

- Volunteer on a committee/project/initiative
 - FYF, Young Philanthropy, Capacity Building for Nonprofits
- Join the **Catalyst Giving Circle** or contribute to our annual **Civic Leadership Fund**
- Consider establishing your own fund or scholarship

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Thank you for your partnership
and support!



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