



2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY
FRIENDSHIP
SERVICE

www.southbury.org
info@southbury.org
P.O. Box 190

A Message from Our President

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

As we close out another successful fiscal year, I am deeply honored to reflect on all we have accomplished together. Through your dedication, compassion, and hard work, we have continued to make a meaningful difference in our community.

Here are just a few of our proudest milestones from this past year:

- **Community Impact:** As a result of the collaborative efforts of our dedicated members, supporters, and sponsors, the Southbury Women's Club (SWC) awarded monetary gifts to over 35 local organizations during our 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- **Membership Growth:** We welcomed six new members, bringing our vibrant network to 40 dynamic women.
- **Events & Connection:** Our signature events, such as CT Arts & Eats, Dueling Pianos, SWC Scholarships, Operation Backpack, Southbury Turkey Trot, brought us closer together as we supported the community.

This remarkable progress would not be possible without the continued support, energy, and engagement of every single one of you. Whether you sponsored one of our programs, volunteered your time, or attended a SWC event, your contribution has been the cornerstone of our success.

As we look toward the future, I am excited to build upon this strong foundation. We have an inspiring calendar of events and initiatives ahead, and I know that together, we will continue to empower one another and uplift those around us.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our club, our mission, and each other. I look forward to another phenomenal year ahead.

Warmly,
Debbie Broadwater
President, Southbury Women's Club



About Us

Who We Are

The Southbury Women's Club, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, is a local service organization made up of women of all ages with different backgrounds, and varied interests, who combine their time, talents and energy to enrich our community. Southbury Women's Club sponsors several fundraising events and activities throughout the year, such as the CT Arts & Eats, Operation Backpack, the Southbury Turkey Trot 5k & Kid's Fun Run, and An Evening with Santa.

As a result of the collaborative efforts of our dedicated members, supporters, and sponsors, SWC has donated over \$1.1M to local charities, scholarships and families in need with approximately 80% of all gifted funds being distributed within Southbury.

Our Mission

To combine the talents and interests of our members in order to enrich the community.

Through club-sponsored projects and events, as well as collaboration with local support organizations, we will raise awareness of local needs, demonstrate the importance of community service, and improve the quality of life for those in need.

Within a culture of friendship and respect, we recognize that our club's success is a product of our collective efforts, both large and small.



About Us

Executive Leadership

President: Deborah Broadwater

Past President: Shanna Hampton

Vice President & Membership Chair: Avril Fraser

Assistant Vice President: Jennifer Rizza

Treasurer: Melanie Brooks

Assistant Treasurer: Jennifer Nikolich

Secretary: Emily Carrington

Founding Member Board Advisor: Lorie Grabowski

Appointed Leadership

Parliamentarian: Lauren Taylor

Historian: Sue Dolan

Juniorettes Co-Leaders:

Trist DiDonato, Marion Manzo, Mauneen Kania



Our Members

Charlotte Adams
Holly Archibald
Shannon Barbarisi
Tara Beall-Gomes
Debbie Broadwater
Melanie Brooks
Emily Carrington
Monica Conway
Trista DiDonato
Marya DiPerna
Sue Dolan
Lisa Duhamel
Avril Fraser
Meredith Gal

Jennifer Gervais
Lorie Grabowski
Sue Grom
Shanna Hampton
Rebecca Hudson
Mauneen Kania
Kelly Keenan
Cathy Kleros
Liisa Koeper
Christina Lang
Carol Maksimow
Marion Manzo
Melissa McIlrath
Kathy McNeiece
Jennifer Nikolich

Page Overhiser
Sarah Rasmussen
Gail Reiner
Jennifer Rizza
Bev Roche
Jenny Roper
Phuong Sander
Marge Skinger
Elizabeth Spencer
Lauren Taylor
Hollie Ward
Betsy Westerfield
Laura Wilhelm
Cynthia Winer

Give Local Campaign

Committee Members: Lisa Duhamel (Chair), Jen Rizza

Give Local Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills is an extraordinary, fun and inspiring 36-hour online give-a-thon hosted by Connecticut Community Foundation (GiveLocalCCF.org) that brings the community together as one—all to raise money and awareness for the vital work of hundreds of local nonprofits.

The 13th Annual event took place from Tuesday, April 29th to Wednesday, April 30th and generated donations at GiveLocalCCF.org. The campaign generated over \$2,500 for the Club.





Dueling Pianos

Committee Members: Meredith Gal (Co-Chair), Page Overhiser (Co-Chair), Shannon Barbarisi, Melanie Brooks, Monica Conway, Lorie Grabowski, Kathy McNeiece, Jennifer Rizza, Betsy Westerfield, Cynthia Winer

The Southbury Women's Club (SWC), with the generous support of their Valor and Honor sponsors, proudly presented Dueling Pianos hosted at Woodbury Brewing Company on March 27, 2025.

The Flying Ivories, an all-request Rock & Roll sing-along duo, played to a full house.

Admission was \$25 per ticket, with premium seating available for an additional cost. Patrons were able to participate in a 50/50 raffle.





DUELING PIANOS

A NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT

THE FLYING IVORIES
The Flying Ivories, an all-request, Rock & Roll sing-along duo

\$25 per person
Limited premium seating additional cost

50/50 RAFFLE | CASH BAR

WOODBURY BREWING COMPANY
738 MAIN ST. S. WOODBURY, CT
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
SHOW STARTS 7PM

THURSDAY **MAR 27** 2025

Presented by:  Southbury Women's Club Est. 2001

Hosted by:  Woodbury Brewing Company

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



BENEFITTING

 **VFW Post 1607**

The majority of proceeds benefit VFW Post 1607 in Southbury and Homes for the Brave. The Southbury Women's Club respects and honors our military service members, and aims to increase their wellbeing and welfare through this event.

DRESS IN YOUR BEST PATRIOTIC ATTIRE!

VALOR SPONSORS

 **EASTERN WATER SOLUTIONS**

 **THE CARRINGTON LAW FIRM**

Southbury Kitchens
Where great rooms begin
• Playhouse Corner •

 **Leisuretime**
of Southbury, Inc.

southburywomensclub.org/dueling-pianos

Our Valor Sponsors

Carrington Law Firm, Eastern Water Solutions, Leisuretime of Southbury, Southbury Kitchens

Our Honor Sponsor

The Southbury Music Studio

Through a combination of sponsorships, donations, ticket sales, and a 50/50 raffle, the SWC raised over \$4,000. The majority of the proceeds were donated to the Southbury VFW Post 1607 (vfwpost1607.org) and Homes for the Brave (homesforthebrave.org).

Contact Information:

Email: SWCDuelingPianos@gmail.com

Website: southburywomensclub.org/dueling-pianos



CT Arts and Eats

Committee Members: Melanie Brooks (Chair), Elizabeth Spencer (Chair), Deb Broadwater, Emily Carrington, Avril Fraser, Kelly Keenan, Lorie Grabowski, Laura Maguire, Sarah Rasmussen, Gaile Reiner, Marge Skinger

SWC hosted a free, community-wide event featuring more than 50 handmade craft vendors, diverse food offerings, live music throughout the day, and family-friendly activities, including a children's area and a visit from the local fire department. Proceeds from a basket raffle and sales at the club's handmade booth supported numerous local charitable organizations, reinforcing the club's commitment to community engagement and philanthropy.



Contact Information

Email: CTArtsEats@gmail.com

Website: southburywomensclub.org/ct-arts-eats

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CTArtsAndEats

Instagram: [@ct_arts_eats](https://www.instagram.com/ct_arts_eats)



Southbury Turkey Trot 5K & Kids' Fun Run

Committee Members: Jen Nikolich (Co-Chair), Hollie Ward (Co-Chair), Deb Broadwater, Emily Carrington, Sue Dolan, Lorie Grabowski, Shanna Hampton, Becca Hudson, Kathy McNeiece, Jenny Roper, Lauren Taylor



This year we celebrated our 15th annual Southbury Turkey Trot and Kid's Fun Run. What began as a small-town tradition has grown into a beloved event that draws nearly 2,000 runners and walkers from near and far. The Turkey Trot is more than just a race – it's a celebration of giving. A majority of proceeds benefit three local nonprofits – Southbury Food Bank, Southbury Fuel Bank, and Southbury Helping Hands. The majority of proceeds from the Kid's Fun Run benefit Children2Children, a nonprofit organization dedicated to distributing clothing and shoes to children in need locally and in third-world countries.

This milestone year would not be possible without the generous support of our community and sponsors, such as 2025 Premium Sponsor Green Wealth Management Group; and Platinum Sponsors Aronson Orthodontics, Cohen and Wolf, Sabit V Salon, Sabrina Style, and Yale New Haven Health Urgent Care. Their continued commitment helps ensure the Turkey Trot remains a cherished tradition that uplifts neighbors and strengthens the Town of Southbury.



Contact Information

Email: southburyturkeytrot@gmail.com

Website: southburywomensclub.org/southbury-turkey-trot

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthburyTurkeyTrot

Instagram: @southburyturkeytrot

Scholarships

Committee Members: Marge Skinger (Chair), Deb Broadwater, Melanie Brooks, Monica Conway, Avril Fraser, Sue Grom, Laura Maguire, Gail Reiner, Betsy Westerfield, Cynthia Winer

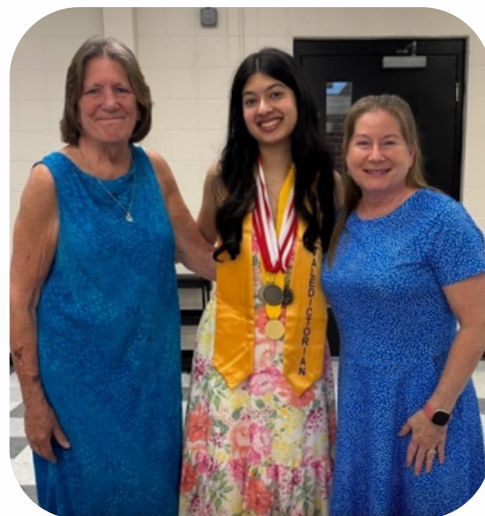
We are proud to offer scholarships as our ongoing commitment to supporting students in our community.

By investing in education, we aim to empower local students to pursue their goals and build a brighter future for the recipients and those around them.

In June 2025, we awarded five scholarships. Award amounts range from \$500-\$1000.

There are two offerings:

1. A general scholarship in any field of study for graduating high school seniors who are planning to pursue a College/University program in Fall 2025 or Spring 2026 or a Trade school or Apprenticeship Program.
2. The Meghan V. Dowling Memorial Scholarship is open to students pursuing a college degree in childhood education (early childhood, elementary, middle or high school level) or other child/youth focused professions (school social worker, speech pathologist, occupational therapist, preschool director, librarian, etc.)



Contact Information

Email: info@southburywomensclub.org

Website: southburywomensclub.org/swc-scholarships



Operation Backpack

Committee Members: Sue Grom (Chair) Shannon Barbarisi, Jennifer Gervais, Becca Hudson, Christina Lang, Kathy McNeiece, Jen Nikolich, Sarah Rasmussen, Gail Reiner, Bev Roche, Phuong Sander, Betsy Westerfield

For over 20 years, the Southbury Women's Club (SWC) has been collaborating with Southbury Social Services and Region 15 schools to provide backpacks and school supplies to Southbury students in need.

In August 2025, SWC Operation Backpack Committee delivered school supplies, backpacks, lunchboxes, and reusable water bottles for 101 Southbury students to Southbury Social Services to be distributed before the first day of school.



This event was supported through a Connecticut Community Foundation grant (\$2,500), the Mustard Seed Fund Charitable Grant (\$1,250), and individual donations. Monarch Southbury supported SWC's Operation Backpack event by generously providing 12 backpacks filled with some school supplies.

Contact Information

Email: info@southburywomensclub.org

Website: southburywomensclub.org/operation-backpack

Facebook: www.facebook.com/operationbackpacksouthbury

Instagram: [@swcoperationbackpack](https://www.instagram.com/swcoperationbackpack)

Community Projects & Activities

Department of Children and Families of Waterbury Donation Program

Committee Member: Sarah Rasmussen (Chair)

SWC continues to donate baby and toddler supplies to support the Department of Children and Families (DCF) of Waterbury, the district office supporting Southbury families. In 2025, SWC purchased \$4,000 worth of diapers, wipes, bottles, and pacifiers for clients of DCF Waterbury.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Committee Member: Jennifer Rizza (Chair)

Every year, SWC members purchase and assemble Thanksgiving baskets with food items to be used to make a full Thanksgiving meal. By partnering with Southbury Social Services, SWC will be supporting three families in need with food baskets and \$50 ShopRite gift cards.

Southbury Helping Hands - Tag a Gift

Committee Member: Lauren Taylor (Chair)

SWC annually participates in the Southbury Helping Hands's Holiday Gift Program by sponsoring several children identified by Southbury Social Services to provide gifts during the holiday season. This year SWC members purchased new clothing and requested gifts for four children in Southbury.



Community Projects & Activities



Blind Date with a Book Project

Committee Members: Avril Fraser (Chair), Shannon Barbarisi, Christina Lang, Melanie Brooks, Elizabeth Spencer, Kelly Keenan

The SWC was the recipient of a generous donation of books from a SWC member. The books were wrapped beautifully with fun clues about the stories inside. The books were then donated to residents at Monarch Southbury, an assisted living residence.

Senior Center Holiday Cheer - Themed Baskets

Committee Member: Laura Wilhelm (Chair)

For the past couple of years, SWC has participated in the Southbury Senior Center Holiday Cheer Program by purchasing items to create “themed/experience” holiday gift baskets to support our Southbury senior community. This year, we delivered four baskets with the themes of Cozy Winter Night, Self Care, It’s All About Art and Fun & Games along with four Dunkin Gift cards for \$15 each. We were able to provide eight seniors with something special for the holiday season.



Sponsorships

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors for your generous support and continued partnership. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping us achieve our mission and make a meaningful impact throughout the year. We look forward to growing together and reaching new milestones in the years ahead.

Dueling Pianos Sponsors

- Carrington Law Firm
- Easter Water Solutions
- Leisuretime of Southbury
- Southbury Kitchens
- The Southbury Music Studio

CT Arts & Eats Sponsors

- ACES International
- Chatfield
- Houzpital
- Newtown Savings Bank
- Renewal By Anderson
- USA Waste

Turkey Trot 5K & Kid's Fun Run Sponsors

- Aubuchon Hardware
- Adam Broderick
- Aronson Orthodontics
- Baldelli and Company
- Behavioral Health Center
- Catalyst
- Cohen and Wolf
- Drakeley Real Estate
- Green Wealth Management
- Heritage Hotel
- Joseph Bette Realtors
- Logan Murphy Mengold Foundation
- MAXX365
- Newbury Place
- On the Mend
- Open MRI
- Our House Design
- Overhead Door
- Pies & Pub
- Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine
- Rathskeller
- S.M.A.R.T
- Sabit V Salon
- Sabrina Style
- ShopRite
- Specialists in Womens Healthcare
- Spyne Pilates Studio
- Yale New Haven Health Urgent Care

Grants

We are deeply grateful to the Foundations whose generous grants have empowered our work this year. Your belief in our mission and investment in our programs have been vital in driving progress and creating lasting change. Your partnership inspires us, and we are honored to have your trust and support.

Connecticut Community Foundation awarded \$2,500 toward Operation Backpack.



Mid-South Catholic Mustard Seed Fund awarded \$1,500 to fund Operation Backpack.



Constellation Community Champions awarded \$500 in support of the Southbury Food Bank's Summer Lunch Program.



American Savings Foundation awarded \$2,500 for our Diaper Distribution Program.



GIFTING

SWC awarded monetary gifts to the following organizations:

Audubon Bent of the River
Children to Children Foundation
Choose Love
Companion Pet Rescue
CT Canine Search & Rescue
CT Junior Women - Paulie Magera Fund
CT Junior Women - Marie Bates CJW Scholarship
Cuyo
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation - CT Chapter
D.A.R.E.
Fuller House
George Newton VFW Post 1607 - Southbury
Homes for the Brave
Juvenile Arthritis Foundation
Little Britches Therapeutic Riding
LINKED Autism Safety Project
National Alliance of Mental Illness
Newtown Parent Connection
Newtown Underwater Search and Rescue
Pink Chair Project
Pomperaug High School GradNite
Pomperaug Watershed Coalition
Regional Hospice Southbury Chapter
Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Support
Soulful Forest
S.M.A.R.T.
Southbury Ambulance Association
SACA
Southbury Food Bank
Southbury Fuel Bank
Southbury Helping Hands
Southbury Historical Society
Southbury Land Trust
Southbury Volunteer Fire Association
Wheeler Family Health and Wellness Center
Whiskers Pet Rescue



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