

## “ALL HEARTS UNITED”

Brooker Memorial received grant funding from the Robert Rosenheim Foundation in 2021 for the installation of a sculpture on Brooker’s property. Our sculpture committee received over 80 artist submissions and chose Clayton Swartz from Pinellas Park, Florida. The sculpture was installed in September 2022 and was named by contest winner Margaret Gamache. Brooker is excited to bring this beautiful piece of art to Torrington as a representation of the work our organization provides to the community. We are looking forward to our clients, staff and passers-by to admire the sculpture for years to come. Thank you to the Foundation and to Brooker’s Sculpture committee for all their hard work.



**Brooker Memorial**  
Preparing Children for Life-long Success

ANNUAL REPORT  
2022 - 2023



### *Our Mission:*

*To prepare children for life-long success through education, health services, family support and programs of excellence.*



157 Litchfield Street • Torrington, CT 06790  
860.489.1328 • [www.brookermemorial.org](http://www.brookermemorial.org)



# Volunteer Leadership

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As of June 30, 2023

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Judith Theeb

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## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Child Care Enrichments in Yoga, Music, and Gardening
- Dental Care for Children, ages 1-20
- Dental Care for Pregnant Women
- Early Learning and Child Care Center: Infants, Toddlers, Pre-school, Nursery School, Before and After School Care
- Relatives as Parents Program for Grandparents and Other Kin Raising Kin
- Torrington Pediatric Therapy at Brooker — powered by Cheshire Fitness Zone

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Judith M. Hogan

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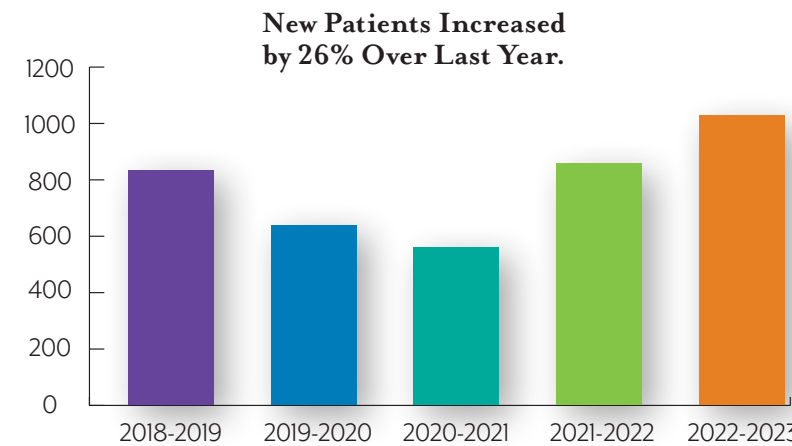
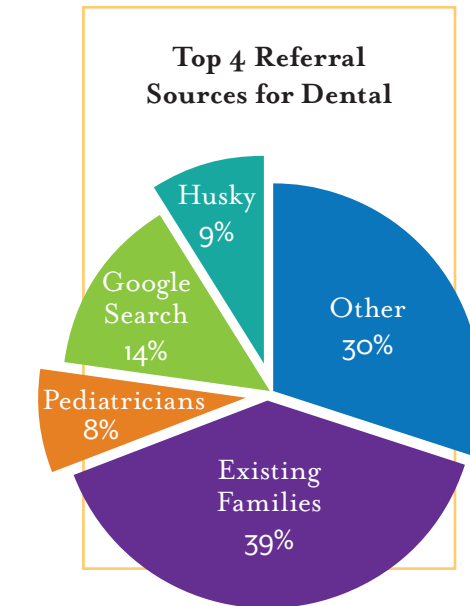
Donna Mattiello

Catherine S. Oneglia

Alan Temkin

## DENTAL CARE HIGHLIGHTS

PEDIATRIC DENTAL CENTER	2022-2023
Total unduplicated patients seen at the Dental Center & at Schools	4,527
Total Patient Visits at the Dental Center and at Schools	8,763
Total dentist visits	2,793
Total hygienist visits at the Dental Center and at Schools	5,970
Percent of uninsured patients	5%
Percent of patients insured by Private Ins (Includes HUSKY as secondary)	15%
Percent of patients insured by Husky	80%



## DEMOGRAPHICS:

Of the new patients served this year, families identified themselves as:

59% Caucasian 27% Hispanic  
6% African American 8% Multiple races







## FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023\*

REVENUE	
Dental Services	\$1,052,754
Child Care Tuition	576,281
Grants	114,800
Contributions & Events	183,683
Trust Fund Income	44,431
Program Support from Investment Activity	483,550
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,455,499</b>
EXPENSES	
Dental Services	\$1,260,615
Child Care	733,145
Other Programs	179,667
Fund Raising Event Expense	82,309
Administration/Building	199,763
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,455,499</b>
<b>YEAR END NET</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\* Unaudited statement

# Financials & Statistics

## CHILD CARE HIGHLIGHTS

 <p><b>74</b> The child care center provided care and education for a total of 74 children last year.</p>	 <p><b>14%</b> We supported 10 families with one time or ongoing tuition scholarships.</p>	 <p><b>65%</b> of our students attended full time, 5 days per week, 35% attended part time.</p>
 <p><b>31%</b> of our enrolled children received tuition assistance from Connecticut's Care 4 Kids Program.</p>	 <p><b>195</b> The children planted 195 seeds/seedlings in the garden. Most are still growing!</p>	 <p><b>30</b> The children raised and released 30 Painted Lady butterflies into our newly planted Butterfly Garden.</p>

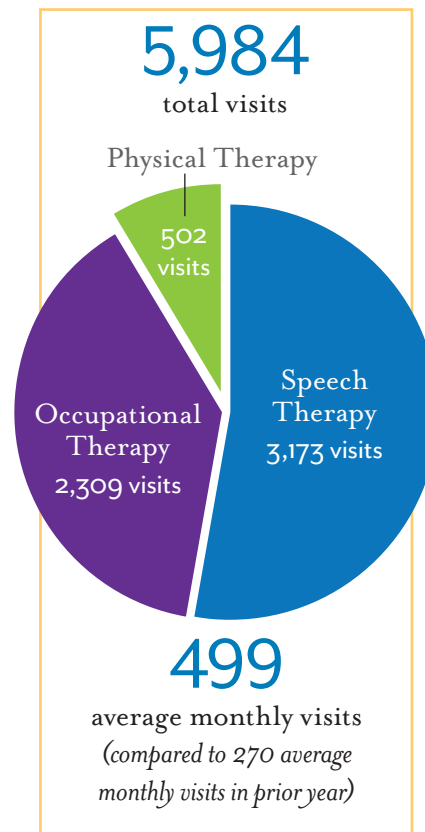
**DEMOGRAPHICS:** Of the children enrolled, families identified themselves as:  
**63%** Caucasian; **11%** Hispanic; **3%** African American; **3%** Asian; **13%** Multiple races; **7%** Unidentified




### TORRINGTON PEDIATRIC THERAPY AT BROOKER – powered by *Cheshire Fitness Zone*



The partnership between Brooker and Cheshire Fitness Zone's Torrington Pediatric Therapy Center continues to grow and thrive. We are pleased to host this program at Brooker. The impact on the children served is significant. The importance of having these services available in the northwest corner cannot be understated. Cheshire Fitness Zone is the only children's therapy program in the area that accepts Husky (Medicaid) insurance. If they were not here, most of the children would go without this important medical care.

In the last fiscal year, 271 unique (unduplicated) patients received therapy. Many children received more than one type of therapy.



 <p><b>TOP 3 TOWNS</b> patients reside in: Torrington, Winsted, Harwinton</p>	 <p><b>10</b> Therapists providing care</p>
 <p><b>INSURANCE MIX:</b> CT Husky: <b>65%</b> Private Insurance: <b>35%</b></p>	 <p><b>MOST COMMON DIAGNOSES:</b> Speech delay, autism, muscle weakness</p>

**AGE BREAKDOWN:**  
 Under 4: **2%** 4-8: **77%** 9-12: **17%** 13+: **3%**



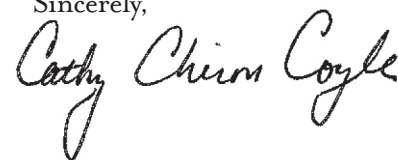
# From the Executive Director

As my service to Brooker approaches the 20-year mark, it seemed an opportune time to reflect on the many accomplishments and changes the organization has experienced. I had fun looking back and I'm happy to share some highlights and data points that paint a picture of growth, success, love and compassion.

We all know that the good work Brooker does and the success we've had is the result of teamwork by a talented and committed workforce. This success is reinforced by the support and involvement of a dedicated Board of Managers.

- Children we cared for in our child care center 20 years ago are now in college, pursuing careers and even raising their own children! One of these students, Emily, came back to Brooker this year to do a shadowing experience as part of her early childhood degree program.
- Our Pediatric Dental Center is now seeing third generations of families.
- We have sent 200 children off to kindergarten – ready to learn and thrive!
- Our volunteer corps grew from 36 to 129.
- Our annual fund and special event contributions grew from \$2,200 to \$188,000.
- In 2018, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the organization that Mr. Charles F. Brooker founded and named after his loving mother Maria Seymour Brooker.
- Grants to support our programs grew from \$2,300 to \$114,000 last year.
- The percentage of corporators who are involved as donors, volunteers, event supporters, or ambassadors increased from 10% to 88%.
- Brooker child care has cared for dozens of foster children over the years. Of interest, we have had three teachers who were the foster parents to 12 of these enrolled children. Three of these children were adopted by two of our teachers.
- Our 2015 building renovation and building project increased square footage from 10,000 to 16,800 square feet and provided a much needed façade improvement, modernized program space and room for future expansion.
- We started new programs including: Ready Set Go! summer Kindergarten readiness, school-based dental care in Region One, Norfolk and Torrington schools, aptitude testing for high school students, a college student internship program, and pediatric developmental therapy - just to name a few!

This list could go on. Suffice it to say, the Brooker team does not sit still. We will continue to work hard, think meaningfully, act with integrity and love without judgment. Our team's high level of compassion is the driving force behind all the accomplishments listed above and it is what stands out the most in this retrospective review. Thanks to all who are part of this great organization. Here's to the next twenty years of success and caring for the community!

Sincerely,  
  
 Cathy C. Coyle  
 Executive Director



Dr. Isadore Temkin, founder of the dental program, joined the team to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Pediatric Dental Center in 2014.



# Child Care & Early Learning Center

## CHANGE IS IN BLOOM IN OUR CHILDREN'S GARDEN

The Brooker children's vegetable garden continues to be a fun and educational offering in our child care center. This year, however, the child care teachers and garden volunteers have worked to shift the focus of the garden to a more experiential and educational model. Rather than having a "production" focus where the gardens are planted in the traditional way to grow as much produce as possible, the gardens have been planted and cared for by the children from the beginning. This resulted in a garden that isn't lined up in perfectly spaced rows and has fewer plants. The benefit of this is that the children can readily see how the plants grow, how buds form, and how they mature into the vegetables they eat. By making the children the primary caretakers of the garden we are providing them with opportunities for curiosity and surprise, opportunities for sensory exploration, a sense of accomplishment from growing something from seed to harvest, and a better understanding of where food comes from. The kids love digging in the soil, finding bugs and learning what they do, watching their plants grow, and they especially love to water the garden. And most of all, they are excited to eat what they harvest!

## ALMOST FULL CIRCLE - ALUMNA VISIT

The child care center periodically gets phone calls from college students requesting to do required observations



at our center. We are always happy to help students who are pursuing a career in Early Childhood, but even more so when the student is a former Brooker kid! Emily Jury attended our child care center from 2003 - 2008. She is now working full time as a nanny and studying Early Childhood Education at Northwestern Connecticut Community College. She reached out to our Child Care Director this past May asking if she could come to the center to complete her observations. She spent time in each of the classrooms over the course of two days. Emily said she remembers her time here at Brooker fondly and was very excited to return. Who knows, maybe one day she'll be teaching here!

## ROTARY GIFT

After Executive Director Cathy Coyle gave a presentation about Brooker to the Rotary Club of Torrington and Winsted Areas, we were invited to submit a funding proposal for additional summer staffing needed in the child care center. Each of our preschool and school-aged classrooms is currently staffed with one experienced teacher who provides supervision, curriculum and care for up to 10 children. One of the children in our program is on the autism spectrum and often needs one-on-one assistance which is difficult to provide with this staffing model. As a result, in the past the teacher needed to curtail some activities and curriculum. We requested funding to cover the salary of a part time teaching assistant to provide the student with one-on-one support during structured activities and extra supervision during free play time. The Rotary Club approved our request and Mazda Delgado joined our teaching team for the summer. She provides needed sensory breaks, individualized assistance when necessary, and extra supervision for the student and group as a whole. As a result, the entire group has been able to do some wonderful activities so far. They have been able to be more meaningfully engaged in gardening this year and have enjoyed other fun outdoor activities such as mud experiments and using the slip-n-slide. They have been able to do many great STEAM activities such as making a solar oven and testing it out by making

# Words of Thanks and Gratitude



## From our Child Care Families:

“THE TIME HAS COME for us to say goodbye to Brooker Memorial. I sit back and think of all the wonderful memories we have here with the most awesome set of teachers a parent could ask for. Although for some of that time, Aaliyah may have been too small to remember, I will never forget. I will not forget who made me feel at ease with going back to work, and whom I trusted with my child. I will not forget the daily texts/reports/ pictures and journals from those who cared for my child. I will not forget those who became second mothers to my child, and those that potty trained my child (because you all get the credit for that)! I will never ever forget the teachers who stepped in to homeschool during Covid, when I was at work, because I know that wasn't easy!! I remember it all, and it is all appreciated!

What Aaliyah will remember is the friends she made while at Brooker. The hugs she got when she was having a rough day. The hands that held hers when she needed the comfort. The things that she has learned from all of the amazing teachers. The Brooker family that surrounded her and gave her stability when things in the outside world were crazy.

As parents we want better for our children, we want to give them all the "tools" they need for the road to success and one of the biggest and best decisions I have ever made as a parent, was enrolling her into Brooker Memorial and having them be the first part of that road.

It truly takes a village and I want to thank those at Brooker for being part of ours for the last 8 years!

You are all truly appreciated and your hard work does not go unnoticed! Thank you for the memories that we will forever cherish.”  
- JK

“The attentiveness and love of the teachers is incredible. The additional learning opportunities provide phenomenal growth to my child's learning.”

“The staff is amazing. We have been fortunate to have knowledgeable, hardworking teachers each year for both of our children.”

“The staff is gentle, kind and loving towards my children. They understand about different needs for different children.”

“The staff is so easy to work with. They are warm and accommodating, and they genuinely care for every kid. I've always felt the kids were safe and well-cared for in the past, so they are always my #1 choice.”

## From our Dental Care Families:

“My son's dentist was incredibly nice and patient with him. She made him feel comfortable and gave me all the information I needed.”

- GM

“I always enjoy the comfortable atmosphere and the staff is super—very friendly and nice, wouldn't take my children anywhere else!”

- RR

“Julia had the most gentle approach I've ever seen for a dental hygienist! The way she made it so play-like to my daughter allowed the visit to run so smooth. My daughter had no anxiety or tears and that is a big deal!!!! Thank you Julia !!!”

- AB

“The best in pediatric dentistry. My son was very apprehensive (he's 2) and they were so patient and supportive of him and myself. I couldn't be happier with our visits there!”

- MS

“Consistently professional, caring and thorough work by the greatest team of dedicated dentists, hygienists and assistants in the area. Once AGAIN, we thank you!”

- SG

“The staff here was remarkable. They were fantastic with my two year old and made him feel safe and comfortable. They provided clear and educational instruction and really went above and beyond.”



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## OUT OF STATE

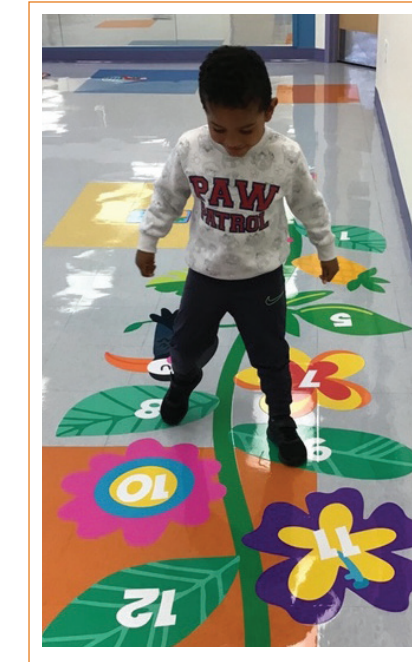
Rick & Caitlin Boger-Hawkins



s'mores, "architectural" tower challenges, bubble science, and experimenting with chemistry to see what happens when you mix Borax and glue (hint- you can make super bouncy balls with it!) Next, they will be planning some off-site walking field trips. Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Torrington and Winsted Areas for helping us provide a fun, educational summer for all of our students!

## SENSORY PATH INSTALLED

Brooker raised funds through the Northwest CT Community Foundation's Northwest Corner Gives Campaign for materials to install a sensory path and tactile panels in our child care gym. The path was installed and teachers were trained on its use in October. These sensory materials are used by both our children in child care and by patients of Torrington Pediatric Therapy – powered by Cheshire Fitness Zone. The purpose of the pathways is to help children who may be overstimulated, experiencing some behavior challenges, or who are having difficulty focusing to reach a calmer state. The research-based materials are designed to engage different parts of the body and brain in a prescribed sequence to help children regulate their emotions, focus, and engage in physical activity. The materials have been an excellent additional tool for staff of both departments to use with children and are used about 25 times per month. Staff report an 80% improvement in behaviors after using these sensory materials.



## THIS AND THAT

Last August the Kids of Summer Foundation brought a Dunk Tank to Brooker for a fun summer activity. Executive Director Cathy Coyle, Child Care Administrative Assistant Nicole DePaoli and Toddler Teacher Pablo Cruz provided some end of summer

entertainment getting dunked by the child care children! The kids laughed and cheered as the adults got soaked! Pablo even did a repeat dunk much to their enjoyment!

The Kids of Summer Foundation also selected us as one of the sites for their 2022 pilot Summer Enrichment program. They provided an instructor who came to the center to teach the school age children a little about robotics and coding. The children had a great time spending a couple of days building and programming Sphero Bots. The activity culminated in a friendly robot competition.



We welcomed Robert the llama from Country Quilt Llama Farm in September. He and his owner Debbie visited with the children and read a book together. Of course the children got the chance to get up close to pet him. Everyone loved meeting Robert, learning about llamas, and really

enjoyed watching him climb into his minivan for the ride home!

In December child care parent Chris Marchand dressed up as the Grinch and paid a visit to the center. He danced and played, then read the story "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" while the children snacked on cookies. We were so happy he came from Whoville to see us!

In April the center hosted our local Lion's Club to provide free vision screenings for the children. The KidSight Screening is a quick, easy, hands-free screening which uses a hand held unit to detect the potential indication of several common vision problems. Each child's parent received a printout with the results including recommendations for follow up with an eye doctor.



# Pediatric Dental Center

## DENTAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Part of Brooker Memorial's mission for our dental program is to educate families about the importance of developing and maintaining good oral hygiene habits and healthy eating choices. Some of the ways we accomplish this are to have our hygienists attend community events and provide trainings and educational presentations to our local community partners, camps and pre-school programs. The hygienists educate about proper brushing and flossing techniques, reasons to limit sugar intake, the importance of visiting the dentist twice a year and healthy versus unhealthy snacks. When our hygienists visit pre-schools or camps they read stories about good dental habits and bring their very special puppet friends to demonstrate good brushing techniques by giving the



children a chance to "practice" their brushing on the puppets. At community events the hygienists perform dental screenings on the children. They will count their teeth, look for any signs of cavities or anything that may look suspicious and also educate parents and children about good hygiene habits and healthy snacks. Community partner education includes a power point on what causes decay in teeth, the stages of decay and how to prevent it. Our hygienists have been busy this year with their dental

outreach. We have presented dental education to WIC staff and families, EdAdvance Head Start program, Harwinton Consolidated Pre-School and several camps in the area. We also attended the Strawberry Festival providing information about Brooker programs. We provided dental screenings at Torrington's Kindergarten Readiness Fair and at Kidsplay Children's museum during dental health month. Thank you to all the dental staff for their dedication to our dental families and for always providing the very best care to our patients.



## THANK YOU TO OUR DENTAL COMMITTEE

Brooker Pediatric Dental Center is very lucky to have a supportive dental committee that helps guide the direction of the dental program. Our dental committee is made up of board members, corporators, community members and dental staff. The committee meets quarterly to discuss how things are running in the dental department. The committee receives staff reports on topics such as outreach to the community, practice data including new patients, number of visits, broken appointment/cancellation percentages, and number of children presenting with dental decay. The

Landmark Community Theater at  
Thomaston Opera House  
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Litchfield County Axe House  
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RAR Excavating & Building, LLC.  
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Ms. Tammy Robison  
Rock Climb Fairfield  
Salem Witch Museum  
Salt Time  
Mr. David Sharp  
Shoreline Trolley Museum  
The Simsbury Inn  
Ski Sundown  
Staples  
Stepping Stones Museum for  
Children  
Stone Age Rock Gym  
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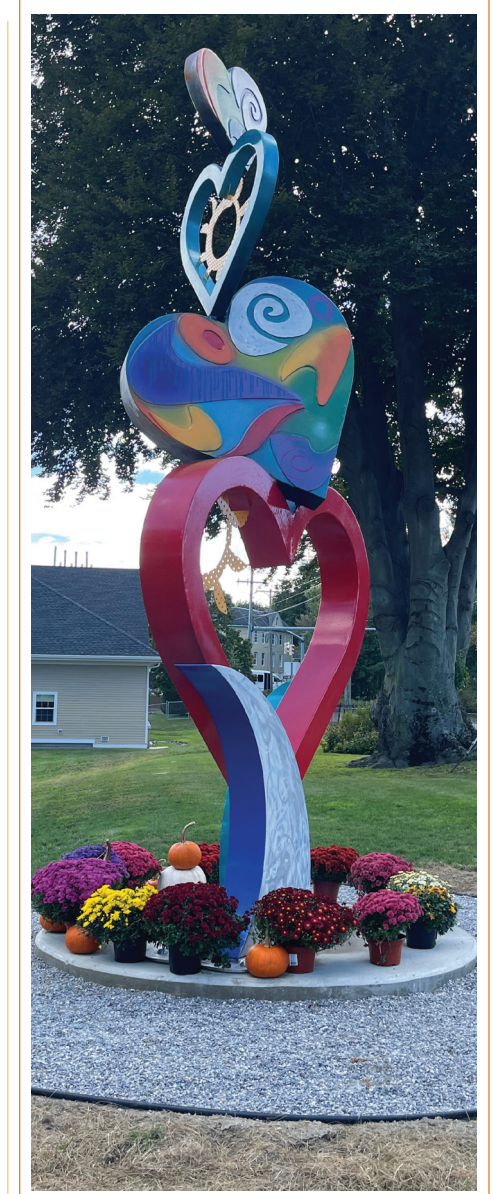
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*(Continued on next page)*



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The Canaan Foundation  
*(North Canaan in-school dental program)*  
Foundation for Community Health  
*(Region One and Botelle School Dental Programs & Capacity Building-Interpreter)*  
Northwest Community Bank Foundation  
*(Interpreter)*  
Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation  
*(Northwest Gives-sensory pathway, and Johnson O'Connor Aptitude Testing)*  
The Francis J. & Louisa J. Oneglia Foundation  
*(General Support)*  
The Rotary Foundation of the Torrington/Winsted Areas  
*(Summer staffing for school age program)*  
Dr. Elizabeth Temkin  
*(Pediatric Dental Center)*

## TRIBUTE GIFTS:

*In memory of Courtney Avallone*  
Ms. Diane Kulinski  
*In memory of John Badjar*  
Ms. Lorene Chiron  
*In memory of Judith A. Bekasi*  
Mr. John E. Bekasi  
*In memory of Mary Beyer*  
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*In memory of Corrine D'Angelo*  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Thebarga  
*In memory of Brianna Hope Ferris*  
Mr. Lance Leifert & Ms. Lisa A. Ferris  
*In memory of Marilyn Grahm*  
Mr. Gregg Grahm  
*In honor of Judith M. Hogan*  
Atty. Thomas Hogan  
*In honor of John N. Lavieri*  
Mr. Jeff Geddes  
*In memory of Auntie Minoo*  
Dr. Bahar Houshmand  
*In honor of Callan O'Brien*  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter O'Brien  
*In memory of Kevin Purcell*  
Ms. Susan Nomelli-Crosley  
Ms. Lucille R. Purcell

*In memory of Elsie Rossi*  
Mr. Len Meyer & Ms. Wendy Tam

*In memory of Virginia Ruwet*  
Ms. Anne L. Ruwet

*In memory of Dr. Abraham & Dr. Izzy Temkin*  
Dr. Elizabeth Temkin

*\*deceased*

## IN KIND DONATIONS

Ace Hardware  
American Flatbread  
Barker Character Comic & Cartoon Museum  
The Beauty Mark Tattoo  
Black Hall Outfitters  
Blackhawk Sports Fishing  
Brick Mountain Railroad  
Burlington Construction Co.  
Canaan Country Club  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cole  
Connecticut Beer Tours  
Connecticut Parachutists, Inc  
Connecticut Science Center  
Conquest  
Ms. Cathy Coyle  
The Edison Grill  
Edward Jones  
Everwonder Children's Museum  
Ms. Lisa Ferris  
Gresczyk Farms  
Gouveia Vineyards  
H.O.R.S.E. of CT  
Hartford Yard Goats  
Hawk Ridge Winery LLC  
The Home Depot  
Imagine Float  
Jimmy's  
Kelly's Crystal Boutique  
Ms. Erin Kennedy  
Kid City  
Lake Compounce



committee reviews and discusses new equipment purchases and brainstorms ways to enhance family education about healthy snacks and better oral hygiene at home. The committee is truly committed to the success of our dental program and is willing to help in any way they can.

The committee also likes to let the staff know that they appreciate their hard work and recognize staff are providing excellent care to our patients. During dental staff appreciation week, committee members prepared special treats and attended an appreciation luncheon with the staff. Thank you to the dental committee for their support!

## MEETING HIGH RISK DENTAL NEEDS AT BROOKER DENTAL

Many children need preventative dental care more than the recommended two times per year. Some children need additional care due to high decay risk factors such as orthodontic treatment, treatment anxiety, a diagnosis of special needs such as Autism or sensory processing disorder, poor nutrition, and poor oral home care. Decreasing the length of time between dental appointments allows our team to carefully watch for new cavities and treat them early, to continue in-depth oral hygiene education and to allow children with high anxiety a chance to develop comfort in the dental setting. Dental insurance reimbursement for dental preventative care is limited to two times per year. Brooker Dental may see

these children three or four times per year for prevention and optimum care. Support from our donors allows us to provide the extra care that these children need at no additional cost to the families. This helps us ensure our patients receive the best care possible.

## SHOUT OUT TO OUR STAFF

We could not be prouder of the staff we have in our dental center. Upon arriving at Brooker Dental, patients and families are warmly welcomed by the front office staff including Susanne, Cara, Erica, Suni and Carole. This welcoming team is the patient's first contact at our office, whether it be over the phone or in person. Our hygienists - Sharon, Debra, Julia, Sandy and Kris work very hard to educate our families about the importance of good dental hygiene. As they are cleaning the patient's teeth they are pointing out areas that might need a little more attention, talking to mom or dad about the child's routine for brushing their teeth and about healthy snacks. Dr. Karanki and Dr. Salas together with dental assistants Jen, Inna and Rylei make patients feel comfortable when they are in the dental chair for treatment. They focus on any patient or parent concerns and work with them to ease any anxiety they may have regarding dental care. In addition to our primary goal of providing excellent dental care, our team's main focus is providing families with a wonderful dental experience and ensuring families know we care about them.



# Other Programs

## HELPING YOUTH FIND THEIR CAREER PATH

Brooker's program planning committee and the staff implemented an exciting new program in collaboration with the Johnson O'Connor Research Foundation (JOC). The goal of the program is to help students find a pathway to a promising and enjoyable career. In spring of 2023 we partnered with Torrington High School to launch the program. Thirty sophomore students traveled to JOC in Boston or New York and completed a day-long aptitude assessment. The assessment is based on a scientific study of human abilities and identifying one's natural talents. The founder of the program, Mr. Johnson O'Connor, believed that understanding and exploring one's natural abilities would lead to a fulfilling career.

After the testing, students met individually with a JOC counselor to review their results including receiving advice about occupations that would best fit their aptitudes. With this knowledge in hand, students can research the suggested career fields and explore required schooling and training.

Brooker's goal is to help the students with this career exploration through job shadowing, resume building, and informational sessions with area employers. The program will continue in the 2023-2024 school year. Special thanks to the Women and Girls Fund of the Northwest CT Community Foundation and City of Torrington (ARPA funds) for their support of the program.

## RELATIVES AS PARENTS

Brooker's Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) is a support group for family members raising children who are not biologically their own. For the past two years, community member Jeff Geddes has been volunteering as the coordinator of RAPP. He has worked hard to recruit more participants and he has taken the time to listen to what the group wants to learn and achieve from the program. This past year we held support group lunches, members learned about guardianship from a local attorney and we had a speaker talk to members about taking care of themselves. In December, we held a



holiday party at R&B Sports World with all the relatives and children. Members cite the most valuable aspect of RAPP as the monthly peer support lunches. They appreciate that RAPP enables them to talk and share experiences with each other. We are looking forward to continuing the program and adding more members in the coming year.

## SUMMER INTERNSHIP

In summer of 2022, Brooker Memorial and New Opportunities partnered to implement an internship for three local women who were recent college graduates or close to finishing their degrees. Funded by the Women and Girls Fund of the Northwest CT Community Foundation, the internship's purpose was to provide work experience and skills to help the women secure professional positions in their chosen occupations. The six-week internship included work assignments, community networking events, and workshops on financial literacy, interviewing and resume writing. The interns were introduced to leaders in their career areas to learn about their positions and their companies/organizations. The interns organized and hosted a meeting for social service directors from area municipalities. The interns planned the entire event and ran the meeting. Everyone who met the interns was impressed with their professionalism and determination to reach their career goals. We are

- Dr. & Mrs. William Ryan  
Santoro's Cleaners & Commercial  
Laundry
- Sasso's
- Dr. & Mrs. Boris Sawula  
Saybrook Fish House
- Mr. & Mrs. John Seagrave  
Seneca Lodge 55 AF&AM  
Senior Advocate Services
- Sheaffer Real Estate
- Signature Building & Remodeling
- Mr. Nalin Siriwardene &  
Ms. Vandana Sood
- SJ Winn Construction
- Ms. Susan Smith
- Smoke Easy Cigar Parlor
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Soliani
- Ms. Patricia Soudier
- The Soul Anchor Foundation
- Soundworks & Security
- Atty. James P. Steck
- Ms. Carol-Ann Stentiford
- Sterling Sintered Technologies, Inc.
- STIFEL Wealth Management
- Still River Wellness
- Stock the Shelves
- Sullivan Automotive
- Kevin and Ginger Sullivan
- Sullivan & LeShane, Inc.
- Ms. Maryann Summa
- Mr. Paul Summers
- Supreme Industries
- TDI
- Ms. Mary Teddick
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Teittinen
- The Abraham & Joann Temkin  
Memorial Fund
- Mr. Alan Temkin
- Mr. & Mrs. Steven Temkin
- Albert & Carole Thebarge
- Ms. Judith Theeb
- Thomaston Savings Bank
- Ms. Katherine Thompson
- Ticon Pools
- Rev. Ellen Tillotson

## LEGACY GIFTS 1918-2023:

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the many individuals who have supported Brooker Memorial over the years with bequests & other legacy gifts. Their thoughtful planning and generosity have been instrumental in Brooker's success.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Billy Archer Fund  | <i>of her grandparents: Edgar B. Newbury<br/>and Rebecca E. Newbury</i>   |
| Lina Bourquin Estate   | Rufus King Estate   |
| Charles F. Brooker Fund  | Joyce and Fred Kirkwood   |
| Mary L. Brooker Fund <i>in memory of<br/>her sisters: Elisa Brooker Travis, Emma<br/>Brooker Oviatt, and Sarah Maria Brooker</i> | Lena Meyer Estate   |
| Rose Bruno Estate  | Leon and Jennie E. Meyer Fund   |
| Francis C. Burnell Estate  | Mary Elizabeth Rivera Estate <i>in<br/>memory of Mary Elizabeth Rivera,<br/>Catherine Rivera and Edward J. Rivera</i> |
| John Calder Estate   | Norma H. Rushworth Estate   |
| Florence K. Colombie Estate  | Ella Seymour Coe Estate   |
| John Davey Trust   | Edwin M. Stone Trust  |
| James A. Doughty Estate  | Clara Swayze Estate   |
| William D. Farley  | Robert C. Swayze  |
| Marguerite E. Gagnebin <i>in memory<br/>of Albert Gagnebin</i>   | Marjorie Stearns Turner   |
| Gisselbrecht Family Fund   | Fred Uri Wadhams Estate <i>in memory of<br/>Margaret Travis Wadhams</i>   |
| Florence M. Hunt Estate  | Margaret T. Wadhams Estate  |
| Harriet E. Kelm Estate <i>in memory</i>  |   |

## GIFTS TO THE LEON & JENNIE E. MEYER FUND

*The Leon and Jennie E. Meyer Fund* was established as an endowed fund in 2020 with an initial gift from Len and Wendy Tam. In the past year the following people made gifts to this fund.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Mr. Gary Arnold & Ms. Anne<br>Giordano | Mr. & Mrs. John E. Maturo, Jr.                 |
| Mr. & Mrs. David Baillargeon           | Mr. Len Meyer & Ms. Wendy Tam                  |
| Mr. & Mrs. John Flanagan               | Ms. Rosemarie Meyer & Mr. Dan E.<br>Kibbe, Jr. |
| Ms. MaryAnn Flanagan                   | Mr. & Mrs. Mark Neri                           |
| Mr. & Mrs. Wesley J. Gilbert           | Mr. Steven Russo                               |
| Mr. Brendan Kelly                      | Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Strawinski                    |
- 
- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Gordon C. Todd     | Torrington Savings Bank    |
| Mr. Ernest Torizzo            | Town Fair Tire Foundation  |
| Torrington Ford/Toyota        | The Traveling Buddies, LLC |
| Torrington 4-Wheel & Off Road | Ms. Tammy Tronina          |
| Torrington Insurance Agency   | Msgr. Robert F. Tucker     |

*(Continued on next page)*



# Donations and Support from the Community

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Coyle  
Critical Cooling, LLC  
CT Pellet  
Ms. Doreen Deary  
Ms. Jessie A. DeBisschop  
Ms. Nicole DePaoli  
Ms. Brenda DiCarlo  
Ms. Patricia Diorio  
Jason Dismukes, LLC  
Ms. Christine Donahue  
Doyle's Medical Supply  
Dunkin  
Ms. Jennifer Dupill  
Eastside Electric, Inc.  
EdAdvance  
Edible Arrangements  
Ms. Inna Epstein  
Family Dentistry-Dr. Baujin,  
Dr. Braverman & Dr. Sanchez  
Ms. Barbara Gioia Ferrarotti  
Mr. Zach Ferris  
Ms. Mary Fischer  
Ms. Maryann Flanagan  
Forever Kitchen Cabinets  
Drs. Michael & Stephanie Fowler  
Frontier Communications  
Mr. Thomas Fuchsman  
Mr. & Mrs. Blake Fuessenich  
Ms. Jeanne Fusco  
Gengras Subaru  
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Giampaolo  
Ms. Ann Gianni  
The Honorable Charles & Mrs. Gill  
Ms. Anne Gioia  
Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home  
Ms. Maria Gonzalez  
Ms. Rebecca Good  
Chris Gueniat-Northwest CT Realty  
Jessica & Chris Gueniat  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Guralnick  
Joseph & Helene Haddad  
Hair By Design  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Niebiolo Hamlin  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Harrigan

Ms. Patti Harris  
Hi-Tech Mechanical Heating &  
Cooling  
Atty. & Mrs. Thomas Hogan  
Hometown Pizza II  
HTH Automatic Sprinkler, LLC  
Hydrocare Pool & Spa  
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Janco  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Joiner  
Dr. Archana Karanki  
Ben Kelley #531 KTM Racing  
Atty. & Mrs. Todd Kenner  
Mr. John Kissko  
Ms. Cheryl Kloczko  
Mr. & Mrs. John Lavieri  
Mr. & Mrs. David Lee  
Mr. Jack Leifert  
Mr. Lance Leifert  
Ms. Laura Lemieux  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Linehan  
Lippincott Moving & Storage  
Litchfield Veterinary Hospital  
Ms. Jan Lyon  
M&T Bank  
Maaser Family Reunion  
The Hon. & Mrs. Michael  
Magistrali  
Maletta Pfeiffer Physical Therapy  
Ms. Sandra Mangan  
Ms. Alyssa Marchand  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Marchand  
Mr. & Mrs. William Marchand  
Marcum, LLP  
Atty. Ellen Marino  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mattiello  
Jim & Mary Jane Mazzarelli  
Ms. Judith McElhone  
Michael & Claudette McGuffie  
McKenna Orthodontics  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Merz  
Mr. Gerald Michalowski  
Mr. Edwin Millette & Mrs. Deborah  
Bernard  
Ms. Tina Mitchell

Mitchell Volkswagen  
Murphy Boyz Printing &  
Marketing  
Atty. Victor M. Muschell  
My Office  
Ken & Susan Nardine  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael NeJaime  
Network for Good  
Northwest Community Bank  
Northwest Corner Dental Partners  
Northwest Hills Credit Union  
O&G Industries  
Atty. & Mrs. Douglas O'Connell  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Oneglia  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Oneglia  
Payhub Payments  
Mr. & Mrs. John Pelchat  
Ms. A. Candy Perez  
Ms. Linda T. Perosino  
Phalen Funeral Home  
Preferred Building Maintenance  
Print Master  
Puddletown Adventures  
PW Bookkeeping, LLC  
RAR Excavating & Building, LLC  
Ms. Debra Ravlin  
RBC Aircraft Products, Inc.  
Atty. & Mrs. Gerald Reis  
Ms. Colleen Renzullo  
Richard C. Gauthier Drilling &  
Blasting  
Mr. Zak Ritchie  
RMC Investment Advisors  
Roberson Tierney & Assoc., LLC  
The Roberts Tax Group  
Rocco Rubbish Removal  
Mr. & Mrs. James Rokos  
Atty. & Mrs. Charles W. Roraback  
The Hon. Andrew Roraback and  
Ms. Kara Dowling  
Ms. Margaret Roraback  
Mark & Anita Rosa  
Guy & Patty Rovezzi  
Mr. & Mrs. Wilfrid Roy

pleased to report on the interns' progress. Vanessa is working with families at a local human services agency; Jackie is finishing her studies at Charter Oak State College and is working as an educational assistant at Northwestern CT Community College and as a community outreach worker at New Opportunities. Marisa achieved her goal of securing a position in medical/dental sales. She is currently a sales associate and is working toward a promotion to sales representative. She is thankful for all she gained from the internship. In an email sharing the news of the job offer, Marisa said, "I am so excited to start and couldn't have secured this position without all that I have learned through the internship program."



Intern Vanessa introduces a speaker at the Social Service Forum in August 2022.

# Staff 2022-2023

For many employers, the past year brought hiring challenges due to a shrinking workforce and smaller pool of qualified candidates. However, at Brooker, we were fortunate to retain almost all of our talented team of dedicated employees. When we did have openings, we were successful in recruiting great people who quickly fit in and began contributing significantly to Brooker's success. We are deeply grateful for the love and commitment each employee demonstrates to Brooker and to the children and families we serve.

This year we are pleased to congratulate the following employees who reached a milestone anniversary: Susanne Eanniello, Accounts Receivable Specialist/Dental Receptionist (15 years), Carole Thebarga, Dental Receptionist (15 years) and Molly Weir, Child Care Teacher (10 years).

## ADMINISTRATION

Cathy C. Coyle, M.B.A., Executive Director \*\*\*  
Marcia L. Geddes, M.B.A., Operations Manager  
Kaitlyn Graboski, Marketing and Program Coordinator

## CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

Charlene Lee, Director\*\*\*  
Nicole DePaoli, Administrative Assistant\*  
Paula Armstrong\*\*\*  
Katherine Bloom Bronski\*  
Pablo Cruz\*  
Mazda Delgado  
Christine Donahue\*\*\*\*\*  
Lacey Gover  
Vicki Holly  
Arian Latimer  
Brandi Rivera  
Mia Rivera  
Danielle Robison\*\*\*  
Tammy Tronina\*\*  
Molly Weir\*\*  
Emma Worden

## MAINTENANCE

Thomas Lopardo\*

## PEDIATRIC DENTAL CENTER

Archana Karanki, D.M.D., Dental Director\*\*\*  
Lisa Ferris, Program Manager & Director of Community Relations\*  
Rylei Abraham  
Cara Dougherty  
Jennifer Dupill\*\*\*\*  
Susanne Eanniello\*\*\*  
Inna Epshtein\*  
Sharon Grieco, R.D.H.\*\*\*  
Mitra Kabakoff, D.D.S  
Erica Kaye  
Sandy Lepage, R.D.H.\*  
Kristine Navin, R.D.H.  
Julia Nield, R.D.H.  
Debra Ravlin, R.D.H.\*\*  
Sunirilza Rodriguez  
Moises Salas, D.D.S., M.S.D.H.\*  
Carole Thebarga\*\*\*

\* 5+ YEARS OF SERVICE  
\*\* 10+ YEARS OF SERVICE  
\*\*\*15+ YEARS OF SERVICE  
\*\*\*\*20+ YEARS OF SERVICE  
\*\*\*\*\*25+ YEARS OF SERVICE  
\*\*\*\*\* 30+ YEARS OF SERVICE



## In the Community



### STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Over the past few years, members of our staff have participated in the Strawberry Festival held at Coe Park. This is one of the many events we participate in to promote our programs, and remind our dental patients to schedule their cleanings. Pictured are Front Desk Receptionist Erica and Interpreter Suni.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE SPEAKING CIRCUIT!

Executive Director Cathy Coyle was asked to participate on a panel presentation for students at Thomaston High School in March. The purpose of the discussion was to provide students with successful, positive role models from historically marginalized groups. Another objective of the school administrators was to initiate critical conversations among students about gender and racial equality and its impact on our local and greater community.

Cathy was also asked to be the keynote speaker at the Women and Girls Fund annual meeting in May. She presented a talk entitled “Bucketful – stories and inspirations.” Cathy shared personal stories about workplace success, life lessons and advice for living a full life. Audience members laughed, learned, some cried, and most left the meeting feeling inspired. Cathy has since been invited to give a similar talk at the 2023 WOW Forum at the Warner Theatre on October 6th.



Members of the Thomaston High School panel pictured above: WNBA CT Suns Basketball Player Nia Clouden; Brooker Executive Director Cathy Coyle; CCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kimberly Kostelis and Litchfield First Selectwoman and small business owner Denise Raap.

### 12TH ANNUAL LITCHFIELD HILLS BREWFEST

On a gorgeous sunny Saturday in June more than 1900 people came out to enjoy the 12th Annual Litchfield Hills BrewFest at Ski Sundown presented by Torrington Savings Bank. The event featured more than 90 vendors who provided an array of tastings of microbrews, wine, spirits and moonshine. We had a great variety of food trucks plus raffle and silent auction items. Live music by Brian Mattiello and Organized Chaos kept the crowd entertained and dancing throughout the day. More than



## Donations and Support from the Community

As a non-profit organization, Brooker operates with earned revenue from child care and dental services, grants from foundations, investment income and donations from the community. We are grateful to the following individuals, businesses and organizations who supported our programs and the families we serve. Donors listed made gifts between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

### THE GISSELBRECHT FAMILY FUND

In March 2023, Ann G. Amicone established The Gisselbrecht Family Fund in memory of her parents Walter G. & Evelyn Gisselbrecht. Ann wished to celebrate and honor her family’s involvement at Brooker Memorial that has spanned nearly 75 years and counting. She chose to establish an unrestricted legacy fund that will support Brooker at the discretion of the Board of Managers.

Ann’s father served as a corporator and on the Brooker Board of Managers from 1950 to 1999 and her mother was an active volunteer for many of those years. Mrs. Amicone followed in her father’s footsteps and also served on the board of managers from 2000-2013 and is currently a corporator. Ann’s brother Walter C. Gisselbrecht also served as a corporator and Ann’s niece Lisa Gisselbrecht Ferris is currently the director of community relations and dental office manager at Brooker.



In discussing her gift, Mrs. Amicone said, “Brooker has been an important part of my family for most of my life. I am very happy to have the opportunity to give back by establishing this fund that will enable Brooker to continue serving the community for years to come.”

### ANNUAL FUND, GIVING TUESDAY, GIVE LOCAL, NWCT GIVES, BREWFEST 2023

Acadia Action Coach  
Ace of Litchfield  
Adams Samartino & Company  
Advanced Physical Therapy  
Aflac of Litchfield County  
Alternative Employment Incorporated  
Amazon Smile  
Anonymous  
Mr. David Antoniazzi  
A&R Autobody  
Ms. Paula Armstrong  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Arum  
Barrante’s Cleaners  
Barron Financial Group  
Barry Cone’s Heating & Air Conditioning  
Bartolotta, Inc

Dr. Jorge Baujin  
Mr. David Benson  
Ms. Gail Berglund  
Ms. Tina Bernacki  
Better Baking by Beth  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles V. Beyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin G. Booth, Jr.  
Borghesi Building & Engineering  
Borla & Associates Real Estate  
Mr. & Mrs. Miles Borzilleri  
Ms. Mary Moran Boudreau  
Bradley, Foster & Sargent  
Mel Brickman-Health Markets  
\*Dr. Harry Briggs  
Ms. JoAnn T. Briggs  
Ms. Susan V. Brillhart  
Brooks, Todd & McNeil  
Burlington Construction  
Ms. Paula Bush  
Mr. & Mrs. David Carroll  
Mr. Steven Caruso  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Cassella

Charles Heaven & Co., CPA  
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital  
Cheshire Fitness Zone  
Mr. Richard V. Chiron  
Ms. Tamara Christiansen  
Mr. John Ciesco  
Ciesco Memorials  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Colavecchio  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cole  
Commercial Sewing  
Community Health and Wellness Center  
Ms. Priscilla Conlon  
Connecticut Community Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Connors  
Conquest  
Cook Funeral Home  
The Cottages at Litchfield Hills  
Dr. Roger D. Coutant  
Ms. Maria Coutant-Skinner  
Cathy & Bill Coyle  
*(Continued on next page)*



# Volunteers

Every year Brooker is fortunate to have a dedicated team of people who volunteer to make our organization successful. Our volunteers consist of community members, board members, corporators, staff, and parents who share their time and skills to help Brooker in a variety of ways including gardening, grocery shopping for child care snacks and supplies, clerical work, helping at our Brewfest, and much more.

The volunteers listed below provided more than 800 volunteer hours to Brooker in the past year, including staffing the Litchfield Hills Brewfest in June 2023.

Dayan Aguilera  
 Kay Balkunas  
 Barbara Balnis  
 Charles V. Beyer  
 Edwin G. Booth, Jr.  
 Kathy Broege  
 Taylor Caine  
 Rhonda Capitanio  
 Lorene Chiron  
 Richard Chiron  
 Hayat Comporesi  
 Jack Comporesi  
 Bill Coyle  
 Cathy Coyle  
 Diane Daley  
 Scott Daley  
 Doreen Deary  
 Dave DiMauro  
 Anne Disorbo  
 Tony Disorbo  
 Lyle Duprey  
 Susanne Eanniello  
 Christine Escobar  
 Devon Ferris  
 Lisa Ferris  
 Gerry Gardiner  
 Susie Gardiner  
 Jeff Geddes

Justin Giampaolo  
 Meghan Giampaolo  
 Anne Gioia  
 Launa Goslee  
 Kaitlyn Graboski  
 Holly Groleau  
 Bob Hart  
 Cindy Hart  
 Judith M. Hogan  
 Lisa Hogan  
 Thomas F. Hogan  
 Bruce Johnson  
 Mike Jones  
 Kris Kelley  
 Daren Knox  
 Duane Knox  
 Melanie Knox  
 John N. Lavieri  
 Charlene Lee  
 Chloe Lee  
 David Lee  
 Jason Lee  
 Lance Leifert  
 Laura Lemieux  
 Pauline Linehan  
 Anne Marchand  
 Chris Marchand  
 Gail Marchand

Henry Marchand  
 Katherine Marchand-  
 Beyer  
 William Marchand  
 Dan Mathieu  
 Brian Mattiello  
 Donna Mattiello  
 Len Meyer  
 James Mogob  
 Scott Mooney  
 Donna Motuzick  
 M & T Bank - Employee  
 Volunteers  
 Chris Nardello  
 Mike Nardello  
 Susan E. Nardine  
 Carlos NeJaime  
 Daniel NeJaime  
 Lori NeJaime  
 Michael NeJaime  
 Natalie NeJaime  
 Norman NeJaime  
 Pascale NeJaime  
 Rich NeJaime  
 Don Newkirk  
 Sharon Newkirk  
 Linda O'Connell  
 Mitchell Phalen

Lisa Pozucek  
 Sue Preis  
 Kathy Renzullo  
 Amanda Rios  
 Faith Ritchie  
 Danielle Robison  
 Doug Robison  
 Kristin Robison  
 Tammy Robison  
 Albert Royer  
 Marion Royer  
 Susan Sawula  
 Melissa Scheerer  
 David Sharp  
 Jon Sheaffer, Jr.  
 Fred Simon  
 Sam Slaiby  
 David Smail  
 Lisa Soliani  
 Michael Soliani  
 Patricia Soudier  
 Andy St. Onge  
 Ginger Sullivan  
 Kevin Sullivan  
 Mary Teddick  
 Duane Wootton  
 Patty Zabbara

## VOLUNTEER GARDEN PROJECTS

In May 2023, Brooker held a volunteer workday to prepare the gardens for the season. The spring clean-up day is a great way for our volunteers to come together after the cold months to socialize and help the kids get ready to plant their vegetables. Volunteers cleaned out the vegetable garden beds, prepared the planting barrels and planted beautiful annuals.

In June 2023, many of these same volunteers came back to plant several varieties of donated perennials. They created a beautiful butterfly garden to add to our nature-focused curriculum.

This dedicated volunteer group put in a lot of time and effort. Their support enables our teachers to educate and involve the children in learning about the full cycle of growing fresh vegetables.



\$55,000 was raised from this charitable event and will help support Brooker Memorial's pediatric dental center, early learning and child care programs, student aptitude testing and Relatives as Parents Program. These funds also support St. Maron Church's ability to help families in need and minister to their parishioners.

A special thank you goes out to all of our sponsors, including our presenting sponsor: Torrington Savings Bank; Major sponsors: M&T Bank, Northwest Community Bank, The Roberts Tax Group, Supreme Industries; our tasting cup and lanyard sponsors: Sullivan Automotive, Dr. Baujin, Braverman and



Sanchez Family Dentistry, Dunkin, Torrington Ford/Toyota, CT Pellet, Jon Sheaffer Real Estate and Tzedakah House. Without their support this event would not be possible. We would also like to give a huge shout out to the BrewFest committee for all their hard work and dedication and to all of the volunteers who helped throughout the day to ensure everything ran smoothly.

We look forward to next year's BrewFest on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Brooker Memorial collaborates with many community organizations including the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. In October of 2022, we partnered with Conquest to co-host a Business after Hours. This event was to show off our beautiful new sculpture and to educate members of the Chamber about Brooker Memorial's programs and how contributions to Brooker help us fund those programs. More than forty people attended the event that evening. Guests were able to take tours to learn more about each department and see what we do at Brooker everyday. We are thankful to everyone who came and also to Lance Leifert, CEO of Conquest for co-hosting the Business after Hours.



# 2022-2023 Scrapbook

A look back at some of the day-to-day happenings from the past year that make Brooker Memorial such a cherished community institution.



*Garden volunteers Rick and Judy.*

*Cavity Free winner Haley!*



*Brewfest Committee volunteers getting ready for the big day!*



*Learning how to brush!*

*"Young Picassos" at work creating thank you cards for our donors.*



*Sphero Bot robotics competition was a great STEAM activity!*



*The universal language of kindness.*



*"Thanks for taking such good care of me!"*



*One of our awesome dental families! All three kids with "No cavities!"*