

# WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB



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SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1907



## Member Professional Directory

## Westport Woman's Club Highlights

**The Westport Woman's Club, a non-profit philanthropic organization, has empowered women for more than a century. It leads volunteer efforts in education, culture, and health, leaving a significant mark on the community. The Club addresses pressing issues while also adjusting to modern women's interests and lifestyles.**

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## President's Message

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I would like to extend our sincerest appreciation for your unwavering support of the Westport Woman's Club. Since 1907, our commitment to helping others remains steadfast.

Our members are women from diverse backgrounds who have collectively volunteered tens of thousands of hours of time and resources to enrich the lives of others.

Each year the Westport Woman's Club awards community service grants to help support a range of social needs, from homelessness to families in crisis, food insecurity, and domestic violence. We provide need based scholarships to deserving students. The Westport Woman's Club maintains a food closet in our house and volunteers work with the local health district to provide essential food for local families in need.

Our good work requires financial resources and many volunteers that go above and beyond to meet the call of those we serve. By making a tax deductible contribution today, you will be part of our legacy of commitment to women who support our mission to enrich the lives of others, each and every day.

With gratitude for your support,

*Robin L Clark*

Robin L. Clark  
President

## **Join Our Community: Empowering Local Women to Make a Difference!**

Membership is available to all women residing or working in Westport and its surrounding towns. Your participation plays a pivotal role in upholding the philanthropic endeavors that commenced over a century ago. Our club is devoted to providing educational, charitable, cultural, and public health services to our community. Join us in our mission to support community programs throughout the year.

We extend a warm welcome to women from all backgrounds and ages. The only prerequisite is an eagerness to engage & volunteer.

If you are drawn to our Club's congenial ambiance and committed to upholding our legacy of philanthropy and community service, we cordially invite you to become a member.

Prospective members interested in touring the Westport Woman's Club are encouraged to stop by and say hello!

## DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY

As a member, you'll have access to an exclusive network of like-minded women. Get involved in philanthropic initiatives, service projects, and a variety of social events. Enjoy special access to our historic clubhouse and participate in social groups like books, gardening, games, and gourmet cooking. Don't miss our monthly general membership luncheon featuring captivating guest speakers and musical programs.

### Experience Connection, Networking, and Leisure at the Clubhouse.

Our Clubhouse serves as a vibrant hub, providing an ideal setting to connect with fellow members, conduct meetings, and relish leisurely moments. It is the heart of our philanthropic endeavors and acts as our home base.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE & PHILANTHROPY

At the heart of our mission is a focus on local social service and charitable endeavors. Our members run long-standing programs and initiatives that adapt to address the changing needs of our community. Through our Community Service Grants, we provide support for various social needs such as homelessness, family crises, food insecurity, and domestic violence. We take pride in the scholarships we have awarded throughout our history.

### GROW & DEVELOP

- Improve the quality of life in our community
- Experience a sense of fulfillment through acts of kindness
- Engage in inspiring and enriching programs
- Develop skills for personal and professional growth
- Connect with like-minded women who share your interests

### ENJOY

- Monthly luncheons with guest speakers
- Game Nights
- Open House Events
- Yankee Doodle Fair
- Fund Raising Gala
- Art Show
- Fashion Show
- Year-round philanthropic activities and more...

# SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY

Since its inception in 1907, members have generously given their time and financial support to improve the lives of their neighbors in Westport and greater Fairfield County.

The Community Services Committee embodies the core values of the Westport Woman’s Club and evaluates grant applications from area non-profit organizations each year. Additionally, the committee oversees service projects that members participate in. Homelessness, family crises, and food insecurity are some of the social needs addressed.

Since 2014, over \$571,830.00 in Community Service Grants have been awarded by the Westport Woman’s Club!

2025: \$50,000  
2023: \$41,000  
2021: \$25,000  
2019: \$33,000  
2017: \$29,660  
2015: \$29,000



2024: \$35,230  
2022: \$189,000  
2020: \$50,000  
2018: \$30,000  
2016: \$30,000  
2014: \$30,000

# FOOD CLOSET (Celebrating 50 Years!)

In 1975, the Westport Woman’s Club started an Emergency Food Distribution Program, under the leadership of the Westport Department of Human Services. It is now known as the Food Closet and continues to this day. Westport Woman’s Club volunteers and donors provide over five hundred bags of non-perishable food each year to individuals and families in need.

Additionally, the Westport Woman’s Club donates holiday meals and grocery store gift cards to allow families in need to purchase perishable food items like eggs, milk, and bread.

2023 & 2024 Holiday Meal Donations \$16,560

The Westport Woman’s Club's commitment to service and philanthropy remains an integral part of our mission.

## RUEGG GRANT HISTORY

The Ruegg Grant was established in 1995 by an endowment bequeathed to the Westport Woman's Club by member Lea Ruegg. Proposals are solicited and reviewed by a Woman's Club appointed committee. The award is given annually to a non-profit organization for a project that will provide a lasting benefit to the community. Past recipients have been involved in the arts, education, public health, and safety-related programs. To date, over \$200,000 has been awarded to the following organizations:

1996 Curry Fresco Restoration Committee - to restore two John Steuart Curry Frescos "Comedy and Tragedy" located in the Kings Highway School auditorium. \$9,600

1996 The Connecticut Theater Foundation - Operator of the Westport Country Playhouse, to co-sponsor a world premiere of the musical, "Snapshots," during the summer season. \$10,000

1997 Westport Public Library- Business Reference Reading Area \$10,000

1998 Staples Players - Sound System Equipment \$10,000

1999 Westport Rotary Club - Fire Safety House \$10,000

2000 Theatre Artist Workshop - "A Gathering of Glory" film \$10,000

2001 Touquet Hall – Kitchen \$10,000

2002 Mercy Learning Center \$10,000

2003 Interfaith Housing - Homeless Shelter \$10,000

2004 Westport Senior Center – Fireplace \$10,000

2005 Nursing and Home Care - Life Focus Program \$10,000

2006 Hall-Brooke Hospital – Equip New 16-Bed Women's Treatment Unit \$10,000

## RUEGG GRANT HISTORY

2007 Susan G. Komen for the Cure CT - Breast Cancer Research \$10,000

2008 Westport Police Department - “Project Lifesaver” Tracking System \$10,000

2009 CLASP Homes - Alzheimer’s Care Initiative \$10,000

2012 Westport/Weston Family Y - Pool Lift for physically challenged \$5,000

2013 Wakeman Town Farm - Greenhouse for Educational Purposes \$5,000

2014 ITN Coastal Connecticut - Grant is designated to provide an iPad mini to facilitate communications between the dispatcher and drivers while on the road; a Bluetooth projector to help with community outreach presentations; and a new laptop to allow them to use the proprietary software from ITN America \$5,000

2015 Earth Place Trails – Update maps of 74-acre sanctuary \$5,000

2016 Project Return - Repaint historic North Compo Road home \$10,000

2017 Westport Astronomical Society Board - New solar telescope for Rolnick Observatory \$5,000

2018 Wakeman Town Farm - Purchase of innovative Mobile Chicken Coop that aids in soil fertilization. \$1,200

2019 Aspetuck Land Trust - Sponsor “Green Corridor: Saugatuck to Shore” program \$10,000

2023 Positive Directions – The Center for Prevention and Counseling – Quarterly mental wellness fairs - \$6,000

2024 Club 203 - Mission is to provide fun, engaging activities for our community of adults with disabilities - \$10,000



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

In 2022, the Westport Woman’s Club and an anonymous member, pledged \$300,000 to the Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Service to purchase a new ambulance.



# SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENT GRANTS

The first scholarship was awarded in 1925, and each year thereafter a special community services scholarship committee consulted with Staples High School to decide on a designee. The amount and number of general scholarships vary by year according to the funding available and the qualifications of the applicants. Since 2014, Westport Woman’s Club has awarded \$392,600 in Scholarships and Student Grants.

<b>2023</b>	<b>\$58,000</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>\$46,100</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>				<b>2020</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>				<b>2018</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>\$27,500</b>				<b>2016</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>\$30,500</b>				<b>2014</b>	<b>\$27,500</b>



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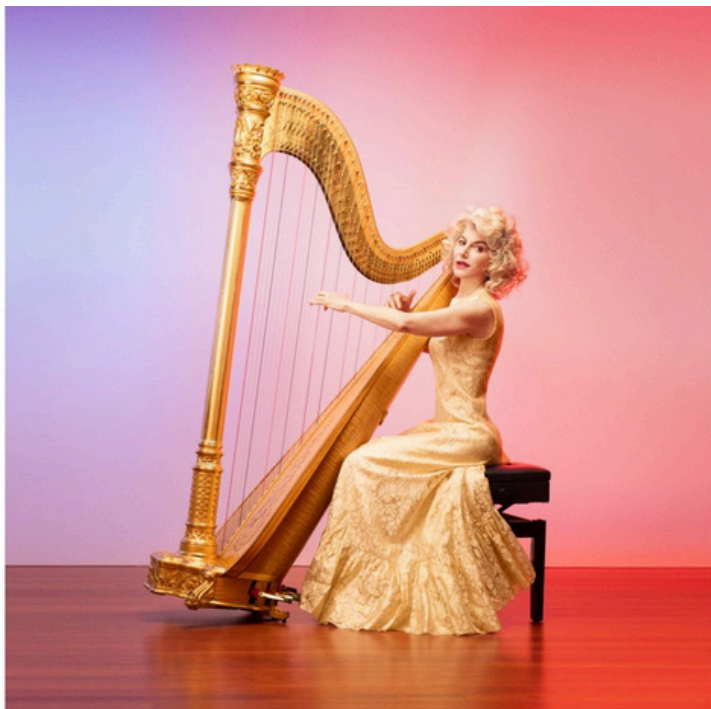
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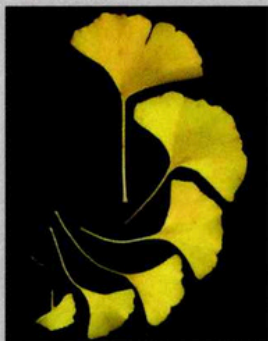
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*Thank you for supporting the  
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# Curio Cottage

Discover the charm of Curio Cottage, operated by dedicated volunteers from the Westport Woman's Club, this hidden gem offers a delightful array of treasures. Explore our thrift shop, full of unique merchandise donated by generous individuals. Whether you're seeking a special find or want to lend a helping hand, Curio Cottage promises an enchanting experience for all.



## A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

# *Thank You*

On behalf of the Westport Woman's Club we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to you, our members, volunteers and their families. Your incredible work has had a positive and lasting impact on our community. Your passion for volunteering and helping others is a testament to your kindness, compassion, and unwavering strength.

When you choose to volunteer, you are giving away your most valuable asset - your time - to help those in need. Your hard work and dedication have truly made a difference, and your willingness to lend a hand is inspiring.

We want to give a huge shoutout to you for your continued commitment to the Westport Woman's Club. We are beyond grateful for each and every one of you, whether you've been a member for many years or just joined recently. No matter how much time you can spare, know that you are making a difference.

Your volunteerism and continued support of the Westport Woman's Club is cherished, valued, and recognized. We cannot thank you enough!

With Gratitude,  
Westport Woman's Club Board of Directors



**The Yankee Doodle Fair in Westport is an annual event and one of the primary fundraisers for the Westport Woman's Club.**

**Dating back to 1907, this beloved tradition brings the community together for an exciting weekend of support. Members eagerly volunteer, ensuring the fair's success. Notably, it even appeared on the popular 1950s show "I Love Lucy".**

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**The Westport Woman's Club, founded in 1907, is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 philanthropic organization dedicated to volunteerism and the raising of funds in support of the charitable, educational, cultural, and public health services in Westport and surrounding towns.**

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