

# Discovery2006

An initiative of the  
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

## FACT SHEET

Across Connecticut, communities and other partners are working with the Memorial Fund to improve early school success for young children from birth through age eight. In 2001, nearly 50 communities accepted an invitation to join the Discovery Initiative. Based on local resources and needs, all the communities are using direct grants, technical assistance, convening and other supports to develop and carry out local action plans.

The Memorial Fund is committed to supporting the Discovery Initiative through 2007 and, based on the communities' interests and the availability of funds, the Trustees plan to make available a total of \$16 million over six years. Communities and other partners are building a broad base of support for the early learning of all children. Two core values support the work: parent engagement and collaboration. Experience shows that communities that work collaboratively and meaningfully engage parents are more successful over the long term.

**What we want to accomplish:** Discovery aims to increase the capacity of communities to analyze, reflect, organize and act on behalf of children; to mobilize communities and advocates in a statewide campaign to improve policy and practice for children from birth to eight years old; and, through the Connecticut Center for School Change, to improve instructional leadership and academic outcomes for young children. The Memorial Fund partners with communities and groups that share these objectives:

- # 1. to expand the supply of high quality early childhood education
- # 2. to increase the quality of existing early childhood education
- # 3. to build strong connections between early care and elementary education
- # 4. to improve students' social, emotional and academic performance

### Discovery Grant Programs

**Engaging Connecticut communities** in building and implementing an early care and education agenda. The Trustees of the Memorial Fund plan to make available over \$1.25 million dollars in direct grants annually to communities. Other supports include capacity building, public will building, and knowledge sharing strategies.

**Developing a statewide and regional network** that both supports the local communities and seeks state level change in policy and practice. To create such a network of communications, policy research, advocacy and civic engagement resources, we are working closely with partner organizations, agencies and communities.

**Pursuing an instructional leadership strategy**, through the Connecticut Center for School Change, that focuses at both the school and district levels on improving student outcomes. To integrate its work with the Memorial Fund's initiative, the Center directs no less than half of its program effort to those communities participating in Discovery.

### **2006 Discovery Communities**

Over half of Connecticut's children, from birth through age 17, live in these communities, according to the 2000 Census.

Ansonia	East Haven	Mansfield	Plainfield	Vernon
Bloomfield	Enfield	Meriden	Plymouth	Wallingford
Branford	Granby	Middletown	Putnam	Waterbury
Bridgeport	Greenwich	Milford	Shelton	Wethersfield
Bristol	Griswold	Naugatuck	Southington	West Hartford
Brooklyn	Groton	New Britain	Stafford	West Haven
Chaplin	Hamden	New Haven	Stamford	Winchester
Danbury	Hartford	New London	Stratford	Windham
Derby	Killingly	Norwalk	Thompson	Windsor
East Hartford	Manchester	Norwich	Torrington	

These are among the communities identified by the State Department of Education as priority districts, transition districts, or districts with severe needs schools. More information is available on the Discovery website: [www.discovery.wcgmf.org](http://www.discovery.wcgmf.org).

### **Who we are**

*The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund was created in 1946 by Archibald R. Graustein in honor of his brother, a Professor of Mathematics at Harvard University, who had died tragically in an automobile accident in 1941. The son of an immigrant, Adolf Graustein, Archibald had five siblings, all of whom graduated from college and achieved prominence in their careers. These children of an immigrant won success through education. Archibald believed that academic accomplishment could benefit both individuals and society as a whole. In 1993, the Trustees established a mission that reflects the enduring values that the Memorial Fund seeks to promote as a memorial to its namesake.*

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***The mission of the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund is to improve the effectiveness of education in fostering both personal development and leadership.***



**For more detailed information**, please contact us at:

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