

Discovery 2009

An Initiative of the
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

FACT SHEET

Across Connecticut, communities, statewide organizations and other partners are working with the Memorial Fund to improve early school success for young children from birth through age eight. Since 2001, 54 communities have accepted an invitation to join the Discovery initiative. Based on local resources and needs, all the communities are using grants, technical assistance, convening and other supports to develop and carry out local action plans. Working collaboratively, community groups, nonprofit organizations, governmental and school leadership are building both a state and local agenda for young children, as well as the public will to prepare all young children for school success.

In 2006, the Memorial Fund recommitted itself to the goals of Discovery and extended its support through 2009. In response to our partners' efforts, this means that the Discovery initiative will grow from its original \$16 million over 6 years investment to a total of more than \$32 million over 8 years. Two core values guide and support the Discovery 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 make available direct grants to collaborative groups within the communities. Other supports include capacity building, public will building, and knowledge sharing strategies.

Developing a statewide and regional network that both seeks state level change in policy and practice and supports the community Discovery groups. 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 half or more of its program effort to those communities participating in Discovery.

2008 Discovery Communities

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

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

These are among the communities identified by the State Department of Education as priority or other districts qualifying for school readiness funding. More information is available on the Discovery website: 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.

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



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