



WATERFORD COUNTRY SCHOOL

Strong roots. *Bright future.*



ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Building on a century of service.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

We are proud to offer an array of services that provide timely help to children and families. Each of our programs is developmentally-focused, relationship-centered, enhanced with family involvement and focused on personal success for each individual.

Therapeutic Boarding

A specialized program designed for families of middle school-aged boys who have social, emotional or behavioral challenges that incorporates special education, individual and family therapy as a path for personal growth.

Special Education

Provides K-12 classroom instruction, individualized instruction, computer skills, conflict resolution and cooperative work programs. Educators focus on personal achievement and improvement.

Residential Treatment

Provides a wide spectrum of therapeutic services to children and youth throughout the State of Connecticut who cannot remain in their communities due to family issues, trauma, abuse or serious behavioral problems.

Mental Health Clinic

Serves children ages 3-18, the Outpatient Clinic provides individual, group and family therapy. Professional therapists see clients in our Norwich Community Services office.

Emergency Shelter

Provides emergency short-term placement for Department of Children and Families-involved youth ages 11-18 who need immediate residential assessment and respite services. We partner with DCF for families experiencing crisis.

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Rehabilitates almost 200 injured animals per year. Most of the injured wildlife are rehabilitated and returned to the wild; those that would not survive find a permanent home on our Quaker Hill campus.

Outdoor Education

Hands-on education and therapeutic opportunities for children, adults, families and organizations. Specialized programs include a challenge ropes course, children's farm and mobile farm program.

Summer Camp

An innovative summer day camp that specializes in adventure and animal therapy for children ages 6-18 who need individualized support and extra adult supervision.

Therapeutic Foster Care

A home-based treatment program designed to provide support and guidance for children and youth in need of a stable home environment. Foster families live throughout the eastern region of CT.

Quality Parenting Center

A new initiative through the Department of Children and Families to provide supervised, supportive visits with parents and children that are working towards reunification. The goal is to strengthen the relationship between the children and parents, heal trauma, ensure physical and emotional safety, and increase attachment.

CHRIS LACEY

Chief Executive Officer



It all started in 1922 when Ettie Schacht opened up her home to teach both struggling and gifted students whose needs were not being met in the New York public schools. Today we celebrate 100 years of serving thousands of young people and have evolved into a state-of-the-art treatment center offering over nine different programs.

Our approach is guided by 100 years of experience and the work of Cornell University and its CARE model. We treat young people who are experiencing problems at home, in school, and in the community with care and compassion, addressing the underlying needs that are at the heart of their struggles. Through the development of strong therapeutic relationships, we strive to enhance their belief that they can do well, and we partner with them on that journey.

We take great pride in the accomplishments realized since our inception. Our roots are strong, but we must strengthen the organization for its next century of service. Non-profit organizations have experienced great challenges in recent years; facing constant funding cuts and rising costs. We need to better subsidize the cost of care in the future in order to continue to offer the range of services we currently provide.

Our endowment fund is currently \$2.8 million dollars. A larger endowment fund will enable us to support future operations to a greater degree:

- Subsidize underfunded programs
- Weather the ups and downs of public funding streams
- Maintain a quality physical plant
- Fund the farm and wildlife programs
- Implement new program initiatives
- Enhance our research initiatives

These objectives are vital to achieving our mission to serve young people, their families and our rescue animals. Our current fund was established by an initial gift from one of our greatest supporters, Ken Grube. We are now seeking new contributors to join in the spirit of Ken's gift and help grow our endowment to achieve these goals.

Thank you for your joining our legacy group and ensuring the future strength and lifechanging work of Waterford Country School.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CL', located at the bottom right of the page.



1922

Henry & Ettie Schacht start a school in their home in Brooklyn, NY.



1929

The Schacht family buys land in Quaker Hill, CT and brings kids there for summer camp.



1942

The family moves and begins a year round program with school and camp in Connecticut



1969

The School becomes Waterford Country School, Inc. and forms its Board of Trustees.

STRONG ROOTS

As a New York City public school teacher in 1922, Ettie Schacht experienced first-hand the lack of services and opportunities for children with special needs. Ettie decided to leave public school teaching, and with her husband Henry's support, establish Waterford Country School (WCS), which is located on a 350-acre campus in Southeastern Connecticut. The combination of their philanthropy and vision resulted in an organization that would positively influence the lives of thousands of children and families.

From a simple residential facility and school with modest accommodations, WCS has evolved into a diverse, modern, and innovative agency. Over the years, WCS has added many services to help children, families, and animals, and has completed extensive campus infrastructure improvements.



1992

WCS opens shelter and safe home programs. The Farm and Outdoor Education Center is revitalized in Quaker Hill.

2004

The Levine Education building is built and becomes the premier private K-12 special education school in the county.

2014

Otto Graham Gymnasium is finally complete. WCS becomes Cornell University's first CARE Academy.

2022

WCS celebrates 100 years of continuous service for children & families!

BRIGHT FUTURE

Today, Waterford Country School stands out as a certified Cornell University CARE Academy. CARE stands for "Children and Residential Experiences" and is a multi-level program developed by Cornell University to improve positive outcomes for children. Waterford Country School is proud of its affiliation with Cornell and is achieving demonstratively measurable results.

As Waterford Country School celebrates its centennial, new opportunities and fresh challenges demand vigorous fundraising to ensure that the institution remains fiscally nimble enough to meet the changing needs of its clientele, and provide a fair salary and benefits package to retain and attract talented staff.



OUR NEED FOR SUPPORT

The financial needs of Waterford Country School's diverse services have outpaced the annual contribution of our current \$2.5 million endowment. **The goal of our endowment campaign is to raise \$2.5 million.** The larger endowment will provide a greater contribution to the annual budget and strengthen our financial security. Waterford Country School is committed to becoming more financially independent so that our ability to offer and expand services is never jeopardized.

Endowment contributors share a vision for the future. Each year, Waterford Country School's services impact approximately 500 children, 200 animals, and countless families. An enhanced endowment will support upgrades to the campus, new programs that benefit our children and families and reduce dependence on State funding.



Your gift will ensure we provide critically needed services to the community for the next 100 years.

Strong roots. Bright future.



THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

ISABEL

Isabel, a 17 yr old in the residential program, worked on the farm all summer. She found the birds in the Nature Center helped make her feel more relaxed and comfortable while having "hard conversations." She became so close with a certain set of cockatiels that her program directors allowed her to bring the birds to her dorm room at the cottage. Isabel is responsible for cleaning, feeding, and taking care of the birds and has decided she wants to be a veterinarian someday.

ANGELA

Angela loves the horses on the farm. She found she was calmer when taking care of them. When her WCS Clinician noticed this bond, she started having family therapy sessions at the farm with the horses. Angela and her mother connected over caring for the horses. They were able to communicate and understand each other better in that therapeutic setting. For Angela and her mom, being on the farm with the horses profoundly helped them on their road to healing.



SAMMY

Sammy fell in love with one of our guinea pigs. He nicknamed him Gweber. No matter what kind of frustration or difficulty Sammy was having that day, all it took was reminding him that it was almost time to "go check on Gweber" to redirect his behavior. Taking care of his guinea pig friend helped keep him grounded and could turn his mood around every time, without fail.

BECAUSE THE GRATITUDE ENDURES...



**Kathleen
Jacques**

WCS Alumna

Member of the
Board of Trustees

If you have read this far, you must be a person who cares about children and wonders what you can do to help. It was caregivers at WCS that helped me to be the person I am today. I feel especially qualified to express my appreciation to you for supporting their mission to improve the lives of children and families.

When I was ten years old and a straight "A" student selected for an accelerated education program, school officials were unaware how my home life would affect me. After years of domestic abuse, my mother found the courage to divorce my alcoholic father. She struggled to support four children in virtual poverty, but in a short while became a victim of alcoholism herself.

Between the ages of 11 and 13, my physical and mental health deteriorated. I took on baby-sitting jobs to earn money to buy food. I emulated my parents' lifestyle by smoking, drinking, and staying out late. With only a few ragged outfits to wear, hung-over and physically distressed, I gradually stopped attending school.

The response of the "system" for my chronic truancy was to expel me and sentence me to four years in reform school. Although I only spent five days in juvenile detention, the humiliation and horror of that experience chills me to this day. After the intercession of a family friend, I was placed at Waterford Country School and lived there until I graduated from Waterford High School.

Sometimes, when people who know me now learn details about the challenges I faced as an adolescent girl, they refer to me as a "success story." From my view point, I am just an ordinary person who graduated college, married, co-owned a successful business with my husband, and is now happily retired. Since 1991, I have served on the WCS Board of Trustees. Volunteering as a child advocate has been my humble way to help other children such as I was.

If there was success, it was because I was rescued from an alternative path --- of abandoned education, ill health, low self-esteem, and financial hardship. When my parents failed me, Waterford Country School provided a warm bed, a balanced diet and medical care, and a network of caring mentors. During those formative years I learned resiliency and hope, and my self-confidence blossomed.

Many years later, when a child has had a chance to heal from the hurt, confusion, blame, insecurity, resentment, and distrustfulness that can result from a shattered home life, gratefulness blossoms.

So, I want to thank you for giving now; for guaranteeing that WCS will be here for many years to come; for personally contributing to the many, many "success" stories that will emerge in future years. Believe me, the gratitude that lives in my heart today, will eventually find its way into those hearts as well.

**During those
formative
years.....
I learned
resiliency
and hope.**



A LEGEND'S LEGACY

The late Otto Graham was a renowned NFL quarterback with the Cleveland Browns. After his NFL career, he became the coach of New London's Coast Guard Academy football team. Otto and his wife, Bev, became involved in the local community and were advocates of Waterford Country School. Beverly Graham served on the Board of Trustees and Otto was the first president of the Waterford Country School Foundation, a group organized to raise funding to renovate the campus. It was their dream to give WCS children a new recreational facility.

Today that dream is a reality.

"I can't imagine a more fitting legacy for Otto's humanitarian spirit than to be showcased in an atmosphere where the sounds of children's laughter and good cheer echo in the rafters," remarked Beverly Graham. The 13,300 square foot state-of-the-art facility houses a full size basketball court, stage, offices, bathrooms, a community training room, and school classrooms. After 30 years of fundraising, the Otto Graham Gymnasium and Activity Center is now a hub of constant activity. A dream come true.

OTTO GRAHAM

NFL Quarterback

WCS Advocate



Whether on the playing field or backyard, Otto felt strongly that hard work, love and laughter makes for a strong child and a better world.



(Above) Otto Graham's great niece, wife Beverly and Bill Martin, Executive Director standing in the foyer of the Otto Graham Gymnasium.



THE LEGACY OF GIVING: KEN & CAROLYN GRUBE

The seed for the Waterford Country School Endowment Fund was planted by Ken and Carolyn Grube. Ken served as an Editor for The Day newspaper in New London, Connecticut, and was a member of the original Board of Trustees of the School, where he served from 1975 until his death in 1997.

During Ken's tenure on the Board, he took part in the transformation of the "Children's Farm" into an Experiential Education Center that is now a vital component of the educational, recreational, and therapeutic programming of Waterford Country School. The 350-acre campus is used by area schools, scout troops, churches and civic organizations. Our horseback riding programs and wildlife rehabilitation center nurture life-changing experiences for children, adults, and animals. The Grube's generous bequest of \$1.5 million dollars has provided operating support, enhancement of staff benefits; a state-of-the-art gymnasium and conference center; and a new residential program for boys. **Since it's inception, the endowment has provided over \$1.4 million in funding to our programs.**



Our goal is to increase the Endowment Fund by \$2.5 million dollars during our centennial celebration, to ensure that Waterford Country School will be able to improve the lives of children and families forever.



EACH ANIMAL HAS A STORY

PAULIE

Paulie the peacock became famous in Waterford when the lonely bird was wandering around businesses, stopping in at nursing homes and local schools for months. He evaded Waterford Police and Animal Control several times. When our WCS team of wildlife rescuers were able to capture him, this famous peacock found his forever home on our farm.

FIONA

Fair Fiona came to us in 2010. She spent most of her years as an Amish work horse which is why she has a permanent scar across her muzzle from too many years of hard work. Fiona is a Belgian Draft horse who fancies herself the leader of the herd of therapeutic riding horses. The healing effect of animal/child interaction became beautifully evident when one of our students chose to have her family therapy sessions at the farm with the horses who helped her feel calm and happy.



LINCOLN

Our wildlife team was called when a driver saw a large bird of prey drop something from the sky. It turned out to be 2 baby broad-shoulder hawks. Lincoln suffered neurological damage but was able to rehabilitate in our wildlife center, much to the happiness of our kids. The now grown hawk could not have survived on its own but has a forever home in our wildlife center being looked after by WCS staff and kids.



MORE ABOUT US



A YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

382

Children & Families
Served

200

Animals Rescued

82

School Students

56

Summer Camp Youth

129

Residents

72

Foster Children

9

Adoptions

24

Clinic Clients

LICENSES & ACCREDITATIONS

State of CT Department of Education
State of CT Department of Children & Families
Council on Accreditation (COA)
A Cornell University Certified CARE Academy
A Certified TCI Agency

THERAPEUTIC MODELS

Children and Residential Experiences (CARE)
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI)
Adventure Based Counseling
Seven Challenges (Drug & Alcohol Treatment)
Animal-Assisted Therapy
Trauma Focused Therapy (TF-CBT)
Visit Coaching Model
Restorative Justice Treatment

PUBLICATIONS

Transforming Residential Interventions: Practical Strategies and Future Directions

Caldwell, B., Lieberman, R., LeBel, J., Blau, G. (2020).

Child Welfare. Benefits of Embedding Research into Practice: An Agency-University Collaboration

Nunno, M. A., Smith, E. G., Martin, W. R., & Butcher, S. (2015).

Does the CARE Program Model Reduce Use of Psychotropic Medications in Residential Care?

Smith, E.G., Nunno, M.A., Martin, W.R., Sullivan, S. & Sellers, D.E. (2019). Presented at the 63rd Annual Conference of the Association of Children's Residential Centers, New Orleans, LA.



Strong roots. Bright future.



THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS

The evolution of Waterford Country School into a state-of-the-art multi-service agency has brought significant financial demands. The fiscal diligence of our management has fostered major growth and expansion of services during our hundred-year history, and new discretionary funds are essential to help us keep pace with infrastructure improvements, curriculum development and program expansion.

Your contribution to our permanent endowment fund will ensure that Waterford Country School's mission - to do "Whatever it Takes" to meet the ever-evolving needs of children and families in our communities - continues for one hundred more years.

Your generosity will make a substantial difference in the existence and evolution of Waterford Country School.

Can we count on you?

THE REWARD OF GENEROSITY

Those seeking to make an impact on struggling children, families, and animals will find reassurance in knowing their gift will make a difference. As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, WCS will use your gift to enrich the lives of those we serve. If you're inspired by a specific interest, your gift may be designated to support the interests closest to your heart. Through a deliberate and thoughtful process, WCS will work with you and/or your advisors to create a giving opportunity that reflects your wishes. Gifts to the endowment will be kept in perpetuity and invested to generate an annual income stream to further our work. How a donor chooses to make a gift varies; some gifts are immediate while others are planned gifts. All that is necessary is a commitment to be part of the Waterford Country School endowment family.

GIVING METHODS:

- **Outright Gifts** – Immediate gifts of cash, securities, real or tangible property are welcome additions to our endowment fund.
- **Wills and Revocable Living Trusts** – Designate a percentage or specific amount of your estate to WCS while retaining your assets during your lifetime.
- **Charitable Trusts** – Provide a lifetime income stream for yourself and bequeath the principal to WCS.
- **Beneficiary Designations** – Add WCS as a beneficiary to your IRA, pension, bank account, or insurance policy.
- **Life Insurance** - Paid-up, cash value life insurance policies can be transferred to WCS.
- **Qualified Charitable Distributions** - A direct transfer from your IRA custodian that can satisfy your annual required minimum distribution while excluding the donated amount from taxable income.



Strong roots. Bright future.

**WATERFORD
COUNTRY SCHOOL**

Considering a gift?

Contact:

Chris Lacey
Chief Executive Officer

860-442-9452 x4107
clacey@waterfordcs.org

Julianna Velazquez
Director of Development

860-442-9452 x4105
jvelazquez@waterfordcs.org

Board of Trustees

Robert Anderson
Emily Schacht
Jay Miner
Kathy Jacques
Christine Hammond
Ray Currier
Lorri Saunders
Carmen Sands
Beth Camassar
Kenneth Levy
Susan Gula
Kim Caron
Leslie Suarez
Theodore Olincyw
Eileen Olincyw
Gene Marchand
Bill Martin

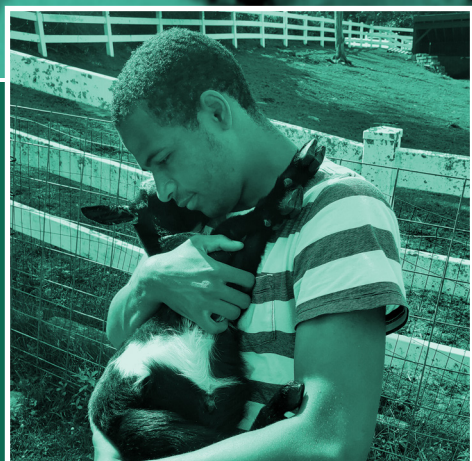
Trustee Emeritus

Arthur Egelhofer
Raymond B. Johnson, MD

(WATERFORD COUNTRY SCHOOL RECOMMENDS DONORS CONSULT WITH THEIR FINANCIAL ADVISOR, FAMILY AND LEGAL COUNSEL)



since 1922



**Waterford Country School is
dedicated to doing “Whatever
it Takes” to enrich the lives of
children and strengthen families.**



Strong roots. *Bright future.*



**WATERFORD
COUNTRY SCHOOL**

*A non-profit human services
agency dedicated to the needs of
children and families since 1922.*

78 Hunts Brook Road Quaker Hill, CT 06375 860.442.9454 waterfordcountryschool.org