

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Community Foundation plans 80th anniversary

NEW BRITAIN

By CATHERINE SHEN
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Celebrations are in order for the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain as it makes plans to mark its 80th anniversary next year.

“We were working on plans to celebrate, but obviously with the pandemic, we’re not sure what’s going on with that right now,” said Kimberly Duncan, the foundation’s communications and donor relations manager. “But we’re looking into different ideas such as a digital celebration and creative advertising. But we do want to take this opportunity to celebrate those who are able to make our work happen.”

As one of the oldest community foundations in the nation, the



Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

From left, Community Foundation of Greater New Britain staff, Candice Tabone, Kimberly Duncan, Joeline Wruck, Christine Utting, Bob Trojanowski, Kaylah Smith, and Dave Obedzinski.

In response to the covid-19 pandemic, the foundation has been able to allocate about \$207,400 in grants to support local organizations that serve and respond to community needs for the most vulnerable during the crisis.

There is no doubt that without the organization’s countless donors and volunteers, the foundation would not be able to do the work that impacts the communities so much.

“They drive home the work that we do,” Duncan said. “Without those organizations and people who set it up for us, none of this could be done. Which is why our 80th anniversary focus will center on those who had made everything possible.”

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foundation has been the area’s signature resource since 1941 for those who aspire to make their communities a better place. It has been at the forefront of positive community change and charitable impact since The Stanley Works and New Britain Machine pooled \$30,000 in gifts before World War II to begin what was then called the New Britain Foundation for Public Giving, according to the foundation. Primarily a grant maker for many years, providing funding to support New Britain nonprofits and their programs, the foundation today is

leading and collaborating to shape the Berlin, New Britain, Plainville and Southington of tomorrow.

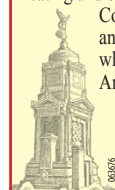
The foundation’s more than 200 charitable funds, \$45 million endowment and nationally recognized asset management expertise gives them the financial ability to continue funding important programs and services. Such as the recent efforts in donating more than \$50,000 to join forces with New Britain-based manufacturer OKAY Industries, Inc. and the Consolidated School District of New Britain to make 22,000

face shields for frontline workers. The foundation also continues to support programs in its four-town service area to help with efforts to increase census participation.

“It’s important to work on improving those census numbers because the more federal dollars we can get to help with funding certain programs, the less we have to grant those same programs and we can give those funds to other areas in need,” Duncan said. “We’re still working hard on getting New Britain numbers up and we hope people will start participating more.”

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