



Ready to barter

The ribbon is cut for Barter Business Unlimited. From the left are, Diana Esposito, Chamber Membership Director; Lisa Boudreau Mullen; Heather Lombardi; Debbie Lombardi, owner; John Leone, Chamber President emeritus; Art Ward, Bristol Mayor; Mike Nicastro, Chamber President; Kimberly Brewer, Ray Gagnon, Chamber Vice President Membership; Justin Widger.



Tortoise & The Hare serve it up

New owner Steve Tsiongas of the Tortoise & The Hare located at 457 North main Street Bristol is shown cutting the ribbon. From the left are: Ray Gagnon, Bristol Chamber Vice President of Membership, Bristol Councilman Ken Cockayne, Christine Sulvester, Chamber Board Member, Sovereign Bank, Steve Tsiongas, owner, Mike Nicastro, President/CEO Bristol Chamber, Bristol Councilman Cliff Block.

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Foundation announces grant recipients

The Main Street Community Foundation recently awarded over \$38,000 in grants from three funds at the Foundation following its fall competitive grant cycle. The Malerbo Children's Field Maintenance Fund was created through a bequest from Harold Malerbo in 2005 to support non-profit organizations that provide organized sports activities for children under the age of 18 in the towns of Bristol and Burlington. Grant recipients include the Burlington Little League for purchase of a field cover and St. Paul Catholic High School for purchase of a roto tiller tractor attachment and spectator bleacher. The James R. Parker Trust supports charitable projects that benefit the residents of Burlington. Grant recipients include the Burlington Public Library for parenting workshops and related resource materials, the Burlington Land Trust

for a reprint of the Rambler Trail Guide and 20th Anniversary event program, Lewis Mills High School to support the purchase of a scoreboard, and Har-Bur Middle School to provide an enrichment science program. The Women and Girls' Fund was established to fund projects and programs that work to improve the conditions and opportunities for females of all ages in the towns supported by the Foundation. This year's grant recipients include Bristol Hospital Parent & Child Center to support the "Maternal Child Family Literacy Program", Bristol Youth Services for a "Dancing Stars" program, Central Connecticut Senior Health Services to provide wellness scholarships for women participating in the Good Life Fitness program, Family Center of Bristol for the Smart Girls Program, Greene-Hills Family Resource Center for a weekly playgroup for

women and children and to support the Ages & Stages screening program, Living in Safe Alternatives, Inc. to provider a "Women's World" event for women ages 14-21, Plainville Adult and Continuing Education for a yoga education enrichment program, Queen Ann Nzinga's Center received funding for a P.R.I.D.E. leadership training program for girls ages 7-15, Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center for a mother/daughter workshop, Women & Girls Immediate Response Fund for mini grants for basic needs and the YWCA of New Britain for a teen empowerment group for high school girls at Bristol Eastern High School. In 2008, the Foundation has distributed \$1.3 million dollars in grants and scholarships to non-profit organizations and deserving students in its service area.

Open grant deadlines are available to the public

The Main Street Community Foundation in partnership with the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) is seeking non-profit organizations in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott who are interested in applying for funding from CHEFA through the annual Open Grant Program. Eligible applicants will include, but not be limited to, higher education facilities, cultural institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, continuing care facilities, child care providers, independent schools, and human service providers. Clients of the Authority

(entities with an open bond issue) are not eligible for the Open Grant Program. Grant applications will be considered for capital, operating, and programmatic needs that will benefit the lives of residents in Connecticut. Of special interest this year will be applications that address basic needs.

For more information about the CHEFA Open Grant Program and to determine if your organization is eligible to submit an application in early 2009, contact Jarre Betts, Director of Programs & Community Relations at the Main Street Community Foundation at 583-

6363.

The Main Street Community Foundation is a nonprofit public charity, created by private citizens, serving donors in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott who wish to build permanent charitable endowments to support their communities. Since 1995, it has improved the capacity of numerous organizations and positively enhanced the lives of the area's citizens through prudent management of assets, donor services, responsible grantmaking, and community collaboration.

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