



Contact:

R. David Addams
Executive Director
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund
2319 Whitney Avenue, Suite 2B
Hamden, CT 06518
Telephone: 203-230-3330
Email: daddams@wcfgm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$241,500 IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT EQUITY WORK IN NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Hamden, CONN - May 27, 2020 - The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund is pleased to support the New Haven Public School system as it strives to respond to generations of structural racism which have prevented students and communities of color from fulfilling their potential academically, socially, and economically. Founded in 1993, the Graustein Memorial Fund is a family foundation that has been committed to working towards a society where everyone has access to opportunity to thrive and make their contributions to society.

In 2015, our trustees adopted a newer Mission statement that focuses on achieving “equity in education by working with those affected and inspiring all to end racism and poverty.” Towards that goal, we have been in dialogue with the New Haven Public School system since 2019 to support two initiatives that can address some of the structural obstacles that communities of color face in our education systems in America.

The Minority Talent Development and Recruitment Grant for \$100,000 will assist NHPS to establish a Teacher Certification program for the district. The grant will also provide housing assistance, homeownership training, and financial literacy through a partnership with Elm City Communities. This ensures a support system and pathway that have not existed for the predominantly Latinx and African American paraprofessional staff which seeks to become certified educators.

The Equity Transformation Grant for \$141,500 will support equity and inclusion training to raise awareness of cultural biases that preserve barriers to student achievement. COVID-19 has highlighted a long standing and stark system of structural inequity within New Haven’s Public Schools. We are certain that this work is needed now more than ever. As we face the daunting task of building from the current

crisis, we must not replicate all of the ways that disadvantaged communities are marginalized and held back.

We also want to thank the Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs, Inc. for agreeing to serve as the fiscal sponsor for both grants.