



Since 1997, Fairfield County's Community Foundation has shared a long history with LifeBridge. The Foundation has been a steadfast supporter, having invested over \$900,000 in programs with the shared mission of closing the opportunity gap in Fairfield County, and with particular focus on eliminating disparities in income, education, employment, housing, and health.

As a long-time and strategic ally to LifeBridge's Urban Scholars Program, we know that developing a strong foundation at the middle school age helps young people to be more engaged and to develop the social-emotional skills they will need to be successful in high school. The critical academic support provided by Urban Scholars continues to help identify weaknesses in math and reading, so those deficits can be addressed before students enter high school. As a result of the pandemic, some vulnerable students have fallen behind academically, and it is programs like Urban Scholars that can help them make up lost ground. The Community Foundation shares a vision with LifeBridge, which is to change the landscape of one of Connecticut's most inequitable communities into one that is safe, secure, and prosperous for all who live and work here.