



The Main Street Community  
Foundation

**A graphic for the Pass  
the Purse fundraiser.**

## **‘Purse’ of \$6K passed to help assist senior women**

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BRISTOL — The Main Street Community Foundation’s “Pass the Purse” fundraiser enabled them to award six grants to local non-profits to help senior women.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said that the fundraiser was held at the Foundation’s annual WOW (Wonder of Women) event in May, which supports the Foundation’s Women & Girls Fund. This year’s “Pass the Purse” cause, identified by local organizations, was to help provide personal care items for senior women.

“Small purses were placed on each table and attendees were encouraged to ‘pass the purse’ and donate what they could,” said Rajotte. “This year, donations totaled \$6,053.” And so, the Main Street Community Foundation awarded that amount from the Women & Girls Fund to six local orga-

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# Passing the Purse raises \$6K

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nizations for the purchase of personal care items for senior women in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

According to the Main Street Community Foundation, “roughly 1 in 3 older adults aged 65+ are economically insecure, and senior women are more likely to live in poverty than men.”

“SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) dollars cannot be used for personal care items and therefore many women simply go without

because these products can be expensive,” said Rajotte.

“The top requests by senior women in the local communities are disposable washcloths, denture adhesive, incontinence products, shampoo and body wash, and deodorant.”

The grants from this year’s Pass the Purse initiative were distributed to the following local organizations:

- Bristol Senior Center - \$1,553
- Burlington Social Services - \$600
- Plainville Senior Center - \$900

- Plymouth Community Food Pantry - \$600

- Southington Community Services - \$1,500

- Town of Wolcott - \$900

The Main Street Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$780,000 in grants from the Women & Girls Fund to organizations and individuals in the communities that it serves since the Fund’s establishment in 2001.

For more information on the Women & Girls Fund, contact the Main Street Community Foundation at 860-583-6363 or visit [mainstreetfoundation.org/women-girls-fund](http://mainstreetfoundation.org/women-girls-fund).