New Haven Ecology Project (Common Ground)

General Information

Contact Information

Nonprofit
Address
Phone
Web Site
Facebook
Twitter
Email

New Haven Ecology Project (Common Ground)
358 Springside Ave
New Haven, CT 06515
(203) 389-4333
Web Site
Facebook
Twitter
kcartwright@commongroundct.org

At A Glance

Year of Incorporation
Organization's type of tax exempt status
Organization received a competitive grant from the community foundation in the past five years

1990
Public Supported Charity
Yes
Mission & Areas Served

Statements

Mission
The New Haven Ecology Project, better known as Common Ground, is a center for learning and leadership, inviting people across ages and identities to connect to their urban environment, build community, grow into their full potential, and contribute to a just and sustainable world. We work toward this mission through active, authentic learning rooted in justice and our environment: a farm, in a forest, in a city.

Background
From the start, our founders and supporters aimed to break new ground and change lives in our community. In the 1980s, community members and educators came together with shared purpose: connect city residents to the natural world, grow healthy food in our community, and change the way we educate our children. In the 1990s, on 20 acres of city park land, Common Ground's founders cleared tons of garbage and rebuilt a historic farmhouse. They planted the state's longest-running community farm, and launched a wide array of community and environmental programs – including a summer camp, after school programs, green jobs opportunities, and workshops for families. In 1997, our founders opened the nation's first environmental charter school, now a leader among the 300+ environmental public schools across the country. In 2010, Common Ground convened a broad group of students, parents, and community partners to design a plan for the use of this unique 20-acre site. The resulting plan for our future imagined Common Ground could change more lives and step forward as a national leader. Common Ground completed its building expansion in 2016 with a newly built national model of an environmentally friendly school and community building. More than 15,000 people visit annually, for an innovative high school experience, for standards-aligned field trips, and for adventurous play in the outdoors.

Impact
Planting seeds, growing leaders, cultivating community. The diverse Common Ground community of children, young people, and adults is doing transformational work on many levels in New Haven. Last year, the four-year graduation rate at Common Ground High School surpassed the state average and for the past five years 95-100% of our graduates were accepted to college. When the children in our after-school programs and summer camps go home, more than 50% are more willing to try new, healthy foods, and more than 90% demonstrate new sustainable behaviors, according to surveys of their parents. We see our 20 acre site -- an urban farm, at the base of a forested state park, within a city -- as an irreplaceable community resource, and as a catalyst for community change. More than 15,000 people visited Common Ground for an educational program last year. We are compelled by our mission and values to step into the larger New Haven community, to create partnerships and leverage other nonprofits' strengths to build a model that can help strengthen others around the country. For example, Common Ground's Schoolyards Program works with 22 New Haven Public Schools developing school gardens and bird habitats for educational uses - deepening students' education through a connection with the outdoors. We work with CitySeed to sustain New Haven's mobile farm market, bringing food to senior centers, public housing projects, and food insecure neighborhoods across the city. We have joined with the Urban Resource Initiative, Audubon Connecticut, the City, New Haven Public Schools, and other strong partners to create a matrix of "urban oases" across our city -- designed to provide rich habitat for wildlife and human communities, and recently designated as one of the country's first urban wildlife refuges.
Needs
1. Continue to develop our site as a critical community resource. Common Ground's site is at the root of all we do. Recognizing this, we developed a 10-year master site plan to steward and develop this unique place. Six years later we have completed most of the physical improvements and are now working to solidify a new set of strategic priorities that will take advantage of the new buildings and improved ecosystems on the site. The rate of expansion requires us to upgrade our internal systems, such as talent management, communication tools, and evaluation systems, to keep pace with the increased demands for more high quality work.2. Ensuring that our students succeed in college. Common Ground students have made remarkable strides -- reflected in college acceptance and graduation rates. Yet, getting these students into college is not enough. Our students need support during the college admissions process, and as they transition to college -- requiring a $750 investment in each graduate.3. Sustaining growth and diversity of our community environmental programs. Offering life-changing environmental learning experiences to all children and families requires financial commitment. For instance, it costs $150 to fund each of the 250+ classrooms of students who visit for school field trips each year. 4. The ripple effect. Common Ground works with 22 New Haven Public Schools partners in designing, building and maintaining outdoor educational spaces through school gardens and bird habitats. Common Ground convenes a network of urban high schools in the Northeast U.S. as a learning community called "Teaching Our Cities."5. Moving healthy, local food from farm to table. The 8,000 pounds of produce we grow each year is a real investment in food security and community education. Ensuring that this food gets to those who need it most, and that it has the maximum educational impact, requires $150,000 in the next year.

Board Chair Statement
Before the No Child Left Inside, the No Child Left Behind, the school gardens, the food deserts, school lunch politics, farm to table dinners, and the healthy foods non-profits, an idealistic bunch of young and not so young teachers, farmers, and environmentalists believed they could make students better stewards of the planet and of their own bodies. Earnestly deploying maxims like “there is no away” and imbuing classes with lessons in culinary capitalism, the believers helped students to see the impact their choices had on the city of New Haven and their own personal health. And it wasn’t long before they were convincing others too through summer camps, community programs, and finally a charter school. Today’s culinary landscape is structured by food studies research, rich with edible options, and politically highly evolved. There is incredible range of resources now devoted to supporting a healthier planet, healthier bodies, and tastier meals. Yet there is still incredible need particularly around food choices and health, and that reality assails us everywhere. Committing to Common Ground is a promise for future generations: I’ll try to make healthier choices now for a better planet later. It is the carrot over the cookie as often as possible. Or at least the carrot along with the cookie. It is a commitment to the early believers at The New Haven Ecology Project who dreamed of Common Ground and to a city that made it possible and where those healthier options and that rhetoric should be inescapable. Common Ground is, once again, growing something new, despite major public policy challenges and a difficult funding environment. With a brand new school building built with more than $2 million in private support and $8 million in public support, Common Ground has the physical facilities needed to meet the increased demand for its programs. Now, despite major financial obstacles, we remain idealistic. Together with students, their parents, and our wider community, we are tackling not just the threats to the natural environment, but the threats to our community posed by structural racism and other systems of oppression, to ensure that all members of the Common Ground community and New Haven are engaged, feel safe, and are valued in the important work of the organization.

Service Categories
Primary Organization Category  Education / Secondary & High Schools
Secondary Organization Category  Environment / Environmental Education

Areas Served
Ansonia
Bethany
Branford
Cheshire
Derby
East Haven
Guilford
Hamden
Lower Naugatuck Valley
Madison
Milford
New Haven
North Branford
North Haven
Orange
Oxford
Seymour
Shelton
Shoreline
Wallingford
West Haven
Woodbridge

Common Ground is a resource for Greater New Haven. High school students come from 14 towns, and community program participants are even more geographically diverse. We are particularly committed to New Haven's most vulnerable residents, and to serving a diverse urban community. Nearly 50% of our high school students qualify for free/reduced lunch, as do about 75% of children's program participants.
Programs

Common Ground Environmental Education Center

Description
At our Environmental Education Center, Greater New Haven young people find many ways to connect with the natural world. Kids Unplugged for grades K-8 build New Haven and Hamden students’ environmental leadership and understanding through outdoor adventures after school. Through school field trips, we provide New Haven elementary students with first-hand experiences in the farm and forest, connected to educational standards. NatureYear’s K-6 participants spend an entire day of the week outdoors throughout the seasons. Our Green Jobs Corps links high school students with work opportunities, leadership and career development. Our summer ecology camp gets kids out into the natural world – exploring and playing, learning and growing. Nature’s Playdate winter programming on Saturdays complements our April - November “Open Farm Day” programming on all other Saturdays. With your help, we have grown the community engaged by these programs to 15,000 people/year.

Budget
$1,855,541.00

Category
Environment, General/Other / Environmental Education

Population Served
Children and Youth (0 - 19 years) / Families / Adults

Program is linked to organization’s mission and strategy
Yes

Short Term Success
- 15,000+ community program participants will demonstrate increases in environmental understanding, commitments, and behaviors each year.

Long Term Success
- All members of the New Haven community will demonstrate habits of healthy living and sustainable environmental practice: e.g., through healthy food choices, use of neighborhood greenspaces and parks, and acts of environmental leadership. - All New Haven children will experience direct connections to nature and the sources of their food, leading to healthier food choices, better physical health, and deeper commitment to the natural world.

Program Success Monitored By
- # of program participants; demographic data on these participants; surveys of parents and teachers of program participants. - % of community program participants demonstrating increases in environmental understanding, commitments, and behaviors.

Examples of Program Success
Participation in Common Ground’s community environmental programs has grown steadily for the last 10 years -- this year reaching more than 15,900 community members, nearly doubling since 2011. Children are a particularly crucial audience for these programs; this year, nearly 5,000 elementary students participated in school field trips and day-long programs, and more than 150 children participated in extended after-school programs for grades K-8. Program participant diversity has also increased substantially over the last three years -- in large part due to our strong partnerships with New Haven Public Schools, which pays for busing their students to our campus for field trips and the Kids Unplugged program.
**Common Ground High School**

**Description**
Common Ground High School was founded in 1997 as the nation's first charter high school focused on the urban environment. It is a small college prep high school, where students experience a combination of individual support and high expectations that help them achieve academic success. With only 215 students, Common Ground can challenge and support each individual, linking them with on- and off-campus opportunities that push them as far and fast as possible. We use our three campuses – the forested ridge of West Rock State Park, our 20-acre educational farm, and the city of New Haven – to engage students and provide challenging, relevant learning experiences. Our students master state standards as they design new green buildings on our site, partner in the research of university scientists, launch environmental business ventures, and create outdoor museum exhibits.

<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>Budget</strong></th>
<th>$3,838,367.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population Served</strong></td>
<td>Adolescents Only (13-19 years) / /</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program is linked to organization’s mission and strategy</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Short Term Success**
- 100% of our graduates will be accepted to college or another appropriate post-secondary educational option.  
- 100% of our students will demonstrate mastery of state standards -- as measured by continued gains on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests.  
- 100% of our students will demonstrate increased capacity as social justice and environmental leaders -- as measured by school-wide assessments and their performance during significant "acts of leadership."

**Long Term Success**
- 100% of Common Ground students will successfully graduate from college or another appropriate post-secondary educational option.  
- 100% of Common Ground graduates will demonstrate the capacity and commitment to be effective environmental and community leaders, working at the intersection of social and environmental justice.

**Program Success Monitored By**
- % of students demonstrating proficiency on state-wide tests, showing improvement on common formative assessments, and reaching proficient/goal on school-wide benchmark assessments.  
- % of students demonstrating significant growth in environmental leadership, as measured by benchmark assessments and school-wide performance rubrics.  
- % of students graduating on time, accepted to college, and graduating within 4 years.

**Examples of Program Success**
Our students often enter with significant educational disadvantages – but four years later, nearly 100% are accepted to college. For the past three years, more than 75% of those graduates matriculate for their first year. Persistence rates into a second year are often more than 80%. Academic gains are not the only indicator of our students' growth; in the last three years, these same young people have helped to lead educational programs for hundreds of elementary students, taken on more than 400 paid environmental job work placements, and helped in the redesign of a 9th and 10th grade core experience for new students. We are genuinely creating the next generation of successful college students and environmental leaders.
Common Ground Urban Farm

Description
Our urban farm and 20-acre site is the only resource of its kind in New Haven, and a unique model for urban sustainability. The farm functions as one of the classrooms and laboratories for our work: the location for community programs, the textbook for our courses. It is a hands-on educational tool for students in the High School and thousands of K-8 students who come to the site for educational field trips, after-school programs, summer camp, NatureYear, or any of our other environmental education programs. Our farm also supports local food security, growing 10,000+ pounds of produce and meat for free school lunches and a mobile market during the summer, bringing fresh food to low income senior housing communities. It is a gateway to West Rock Park for city residents -- strengthened through 20+ interpretive exhibits.

Budget
$135,000.00

Category
Food, Agriculture & Nutrition, General/Other / Sustainable Agriculture

Population Served
Families / Children and Youth (0 - 19 years) / Adults

Program is linked to organization’s mission and strategy
Yes

Short Term Success
- Grow 10,000+ pounds of healthy, organic produce in the coming year. Provide free lunches, using ingredients from our farm, to every Common Ground student. Distribute approximately half of this harvest to low-income community members through mobile markets, our high school family CSA, farmer’s markets that accept public benefits, school lunch, and other strategies.
- Employ at least 35 high school students as members of our Green Jobs Corps, using work on our farm to teach employability skills, generate family income, and build pathways to green careers.
- Offer at least five courses that use the farm as a learning laboratory. Through these courses, provide authentic learning experiences, rooted in our 20-acre site, that help more than 90% of Common Ground’s 215 students move on to college.
- Engage at least 15,000 children and adults in community educational programs on Common Ground’s farm – including extended after-school programs focused on the farm, school field trips, weekend workshops, seasonal festivals, and summer ecology camp. Measurably increase understanding of healthy habits and sustainable environmental practices among the participants in ongoing Common Ground community programs.

Long Term Success
- Increase food security and economic vitality, using Common Ground-grown produce as an engine.
- Increase student achievement through authentic learning rooted in Common Ground’s urban farm.
- Develop habits of healthy living and sustainable environmental practice through community educational programs on our farm.
Program Success Monitored By

- Pounds of organic produce contributed to the local food system; % of produce going to free student lunches and food insecure New Haven residents through the mobile market.
- Number of green jobs created; $ contributed to the local economy through these efforts.
- # of courses in which course, unit, and lesson plans demonstrate that the urban farm is fully integrated as a teaching resource; % of these students demonstrating mastery of state standards through pre- and post-assessments, and school-wide benchmark assessments using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test.
- # of participants in community educational programs, including school field trips, after-school programs, summer camps, weekend workshops, and seasonal festivals, that use the farm as an educational resource; % of educational program participants demonstrating measurable gains in environmental understanding, healthy habits, and sustainable environmental practices as measured through end-of-program and follow-up surveys.

Examples of Program Success

Last year, Common Ground grew more than 10,000 pounds of produce -- up from just over 5,000 pounds in 2010. The first use of this produce is to provide free lunch to every Common Ground High School student. The rest goes to fuel food security and economic vitality in the Greater New Haven community. For instance, it is shared through a mobile farm market that focuses on New Haven's lowest-income and most food insecure neighborhoods. This harvest also fuels a new Community Supported Agriculture project, providing the families of Common Ground High School students with local produce on a weekly basis, priced based on family income. It is, just as importantly, the raw material for our community environmental education programs -- cooking and gardening classes for families, summer camps, school field trips, and more -- that last year engaged nearly 15,000 of our neighbors.
Schoolyards Resource Center

Description

Common Ground's Schoolyards Resource Center works with more than 19 New Haven Public Schools helping design and build school gardens and bird habitats that can be used as outdoor hands-on educational laboratories. The Center partners with nonprofits in other urban areas of CT to provide technical assistance statewide. Common Ground launched a comprehensive School Garden Resource Center in 2012. In 2015 CT Audubon joined the coalition in support of developing schoolyard habitats for birds and other animals and the Center was renamed the Schoolyards Resource Center. The Center supports the effective educational use of edible gardens and schoolyard habitats throughout Connecticut. The Center makes it possible for champions of educational gardens and habitats to build and sustain schoolyards that are deeply integrated into the curriculum.

Budget

$120,000.00

Category

Education, General/Other / Elementary & Secondary Education

Population Served

Adolescents Only (13-19 years) / Adults / General/Unspecified

Program is linked to organization’s mission and strategy

Yes

Short Term Success

- 19 New Haven Public Schools maintain school teams focused on having at least three classes in each school that incorporate going outside to visit the gardens or habitats as part of their classes.
- Teachers at those schools feel supported by their administration and by Common Ground in having the skills to use the gardens and habitats as learning laboratories.
- All these partner schools develop "All-School Outdoor Days" - engaging specific grade levels or the entire student body in a full day of activities and site-work projects focused on their garden and schoolyard habitats.

Long Term Success

- Greater partnership with other technical assistance providers in other urban parts of the State, leading ultimately to a garden and habitat in every urban school in the state and a strong, cohesive community of educators.
- School teachers from around the State of CT regularly update each other online and in person regarding new lessons they have designed to take advantage of outdoor school garden and habitat spaces.

Program Success Monitored By

Formative evaluation measures track the number of people involved in school garden and habitat teams and Outdoor Days. The Schoolyards staff will use a short questionnaire to assess workshops and field trips, and discuss results with school garden teams to determine what sorts of additional technical assistance is needed. Common Ground plans to survey members of the garden teams at the end of the school year to learn what lessons were offered, in which academic disciplines, as well as documenting how the gardens and habitats are used beyond the opportunities for co-teaching with Schoolyard Program staff.
Examples of Program Success

Each school has its own personality and adjusts how they use the spaces based on their students’ needs. One school grows plants that make natural dyes, so they can teach history lessons on how people added colors to textiles in pre-colonial times. Another school might use the spaces as refocusing, therapeutic spaces for students struggling with trauma or behavioral issues. A third might grow food to help students understand where their food comes from. All schools in the Schoolyard Program have a garden or habitat that they use to teach a wide range of subjects, such as the natural versus built environment, plant parts and how plants grow, the water cycle, the food web, health and nutrition.

Teach Our Cities

Description

Our vision for Teach Our Cities is that urban public high schools across our region mobilize active, authentic learning experiences, rooted in urban environmental issues, to help students develop mastery of challenging state and national academic standards. They work with community organizations and residents to turn the urban environment into a textbook, classroom, and “teacher” for city students. These schools and their students will become engines for addressing issues related to urban waters, air quality, toxins, and other environmental justice challenges. Students at these schools will climb clear and varied ladders to environmental careers, creating pathways out of poverty and allowing them to thrive as life-long environmental stewards, creating a generation of environmental leaders that reflects the racial, economic, and cultural diversity of our urban communities. We aim to model a regional approach to capacity-building through this learning community.

Budget

$75,000.00

Category

Education, General/Other /

Population Served

Adolescents Only (13-19 years) / /

Program Comments

CEO Comments

Common Ground is in the middle of hiring a new Executive Director and developing a new strategic plan. Gathering feedback from students, staff, parents, community program participants, financial supporters, and other stakeholders all seems to indicate we will hold true to our values and efforts to strengthen our existing programming while finding new ways to help our programs “ripple” out and cause bigger more systemic change in New Haven and the State of CT.
Leadership & Staff

CEO/Executive Director
Monica Maccera Filppu
Term Start
July 2019
Email
monica.maccerafilppu@nhep.com

Staff

Number of Full Time Staff 41
Number of Part Time Staff 14
Number of Volunteers 350
Number of Volunteers 350
Number of Contract Staff 100
Staff Retention Rate 84%

Staff Demographics - Ethnicity
African American/Black 9
Asian American/Pacific Islander 0
Caucasian 41
Hispanic/Latino 5
Native American/American Indian 0
Other 0 0

Staff Demographics - Gender
Male 20
Female 35
Unspecified 0

Plans & Policies
Organization has a Fundraising Plan? Yes
Organization has a Strategic Plan? Yes
Years Strategic Plan Considers 3
Date Strategic Plan Adopted Mar 2016
Management Succession Plan? Yes
Organization Policy and Procedures Yes
Nondiscrimination Policy Yes
Whistleblower Policy Yes
Former CEOs and Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Barton</td>
<td>Jan 2002 - July 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Spear</td>
<td>Nov 2009 - Nov 2018</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Senior Staff

- **Ms. Lizanne Cox**
  - Title: Director of Common Ground High School

- **Mr. Joel Tolman**
  - Title: Director of Development and Community Engagement

- **Ms. Betsy Sneath**
  - Title: Director of Business Administration

- **Ms. Rebecca Holcombe**
  - Title: Director of Community Programs

- **Mr. Kimball Cartwright**
  - Title: Director of Development
  - Experience/Biography: Hired as Capital Campaign Manager for Common Ground in 2012, Kimball worked in development for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England for seven and a half years prior to working for Common Ground.

Formal Evaluations

- **CEO Formal Evaluation**: Yes
- **CEO/Executive Formal Evaluation Frequency**: Annually
- **Senior Management Formal Evaluation**: Yes
- **Senior Management Formal Evaluation Frequency**: Annually
- **Non Management Formal Evaluation**: Yes
- **Non Management Formal Evaluation Frequency**: Semi-Annually

Collaborations

Common Ground's work is rooted in community -- and in ongoing, results-driven partnerships with others that share our commitment to New Haven. For example: • Common Ground's Green Jobs Corps places young people in paid leadership and work experiences at Solar Youth, New Haven Farms, CitySeed, and the Urban Resources Initiative -- fueling these organizations' work and supporting young people's development. • Common Ground is the lead organizer on Rock to Rock -- New Haven's largest Earth Day celebration, raising support for two dozen different local environmental groups. Last year, 1100 riders raised more than $150,000. • Common
Ground is an active partner in efforts to promote food security. For instance, Common Ground is working with CitySeed to operate a mobile farm market reaching food insecure communities across New Haven. Common Ground has built partnerships with Southern Connecticut State University, Yale University, Elm Shakespeare, and other partners to provide supports to our high school students. The CT School Garden Resource Center -- a program of Common Ground -- is supporting educational gardens and schoolyard habitats in dozens of schools and child care providers across the state.

Awards

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Award/Recognition</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Conservation Achievement Award</td>
<td>National Wildlife Federation</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Prize in Public Education Nominee</td>
<td>NEA Foundation</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>ING Unsung Hero Award - National Top Prize Winner</td>
<td>ING</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Major Feature in NYT Education Section</td>
<td>New York Times</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Green Prize in Public Education</td>
<td>National Education Association/National Environment Education Association</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presidential Innovation Award in Environmental Education</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency/Presidential Council on Environmental Quality</td>
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<td>National Green Ribbon Schools Award</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Education</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Distinction</td>
<td>CT State Department of Education</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National &quot;Beating the Odds&quot; list - top schools for low-income students</td>
<td>Newsweek</td>
<td>2014</td>
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</table>
Board & Governance

Board Chair
Robert Parker

Company Affiliation
Retired, former principal

Term
Sept 2016 to Sept 2020

Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyeen Andersson</td>
<td>Community Volunteer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Battles-Plasse</td>
<td>Health Coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ilene Crawford PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Doolittle</td>
<td>Photographer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Klingher</td>
<td>Self-employed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerry Lord</td>
<td>CT Center for School Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Negaro</td>
<td>Chabaso Bakery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babz Rawls-Ivy</td>
<td>Parent Representative; Inner City News</td>
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<tr>
<td>Errol Saunders III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terri Snell</td>
<td>Parent representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Springsteen</td>
<td>Common Ground High School teacher representative</td>
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Board Demographics - Ethnicity

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<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Asian American/Pacific Islander</td>
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<td>Caucasian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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Board Demographics - Gender

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<td>Male</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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Governance

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<th>Value</th>
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<td>Board Term Lengths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Term Limits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Meeting Attendance %</td>
<td>81%</td>
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Number of Full Board Meetings Annually: 10
Written Board Selection Criteria: No
Written Conflict of Interest Policy: Yes
Percentage Making Monetary Contributions: 92%
Percentage Making In-Kind Contributions: 100%
Constituency Includes Client Representation: Yes

Board Co-Chair
Wendy Battles

Company Affiliation: Yale
Term: Sept 2016 to Sept 2020
Email: wendy.battles@yale.edu

Standing Committees
Audit
Education
Executive
## Financials

**Fiscal Year Start**  
July 01 2019

**Fiscal Year End**  
June 30 2020

**Projected Revenue**  
$6,018,934.00

**Projected Expenses**  
$5,973,484.00

**Spending Policy**  
N/A

## Detailed Financials

### Prior Three Years Total Revenue and Expense Totals Chart

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$5,360,228</td>
<td>$5,731,424</td>
<td>$9,771,377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$5,558,551</td>
<td>$5,098,358</td>
<td>$4,658,803</td>
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### Prior Three Years Assets and Liabilities Chart

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<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$15,109,465</td>
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<td>$14,073,710</td>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$1,796,478</td>
<td>$1,537,547</td>
<td>$1,864,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Liabilities</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$1,338,199</td>
<td>$1,217,005</td>
<td>$1,400,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$13,271,266</td>
<td>$13,469,589</td>
<td>$12,672,787</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Prior Three Years Top Three Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</td>
<td>CT Teachers' Retirement Board $305,281</td>
<td>CT Teachers' Retirement Board $294,247</td>
<td>The Peter &amp; Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation $325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Highest Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</td>
<td>The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven $60,100</td>
<td>Newman's Own Foundation $35,000</td>
<td>CT Teacher's Retirement Board $288,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Highest Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</td>
<td>Graustein Memorial Fund $30,000</td>
<td>Audubon CT $25,483</td>
<td>Dalio Foundation $250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Solvency

### Short Term Solvency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Ratio: Current Assets/Current Liabilities</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Long Term Solvency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Liabilities/Total Assets</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Capital Campaign
Comments

CEO Comments
In recent fiscal years, Common Ground’s operating budget shows large surpluses. The surplus exists because Common Ground is in the midst of a major capital campaign; this surplus reflects campaign commitments. The current year shows a small projected deficit, equivalent to 1/2 of 1% of revenue. Some of our capital campaign contributors are paying off multiple year pledges, and do not anticipate making additional commitments this year. Common Ground has forecast year-end projections conservatively as a result.

Foundation Staff Comments
This profile, including the financial summaries prepared and submitted by the organization based on its own independent and/or internal audit processes and regulatory submissions, has been read by the Foundation. Financial information is inputted by Foundation staff directly from the organization’s IRS Form 990, audited financial statements or other financial documents approved by the nonprofit’s board. The Foundation has not audited the organization’s financial statements or tax filings, and makes no representations or warranties thereon. The Community Foundation is continuing to receive information submitted by the organization and may periodically update the organization’s profile to reflect the most current financial and other information available. The organization has completed the fields required by The Community Foundation and updated their profile in the last year. To see if the organization has received a competitive grant from The Community Foundation in the last five years, please go to the General Information Tab of the profile.