

TOWN OF VERNON



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOWN GRANT REWARDS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SEEKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Town of Vernon recently received \$100,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to fund community programs and increase citizen participation. Vernon is one of 29 towns in the Foundation's region to receive funding.

The purpose of the community funds is to support residents in taking ownership of their town's needs, encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement, and to anchor the Hartford Foundation in each town.

According to Vernon Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, "We are truly grateful. It's a fantastic opportunity to provide financial support to a wide range of groups and individuals with creative and innovative solutions to enhance the quality of life in our community."

As required by the Foundation, Vernon's community fund will be handled by an Advisory Committee of town residents that must be inclusive, representative, and reflective of all residents of the community. Town residents will take the lead in deciding how their funds will be used.

In 2019, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving established the Greater Together Community Funds in response to common concerns expressed by residents about their understanding of their communities' challenges, and the inability to take action due to lack of resources.

The Advisory Committee will determine community needs and design a grantmaking process aimed to ensure the fund's potential for maximum impact benefitting town residents. Hartford Foundation staff will provide guidance on topics such as participatory decision making, grantmaking, and fund development, as needed.

In order to establish the initial Advisory Committee, a Selection Committee was formed to conduct broad outreach to town residents informing them about how to become part of the Advisory Committee and accept nominations. Members of the Selection Committee include Julia Anderson, Jennifer Buckler, Mary Carlson, Amani Clemons, Thomasina Clemons, Emily Hayes, Michelle Hill, Than Kachan Joseph, Angeline McLean, William Meier, Eric Osterday, Michael Purcaro, Kathy Stavens, Phyllis Winkler, and Vicki White.

To submit a nomination for the Vernon Community Fund Advisory Committee, complete the online form at www.hfpg.org/vernoncf, or obtain and return a paper copy of the form at either the Vernon Police Department or Rockville Public Library. Questions may be emailed to hfpg4vernon@gmail.com. **Deadline for forms is Thursday, April 9, 2020.**