



Midstate
Chamber of
Commerce

129th
**Annual Meeting,
Dinner, Awards
& Silent Auction**

Thursday, April 10, 2025

4:30 - 8:30 pm

The AquaTurf Club
556 Mulberry Street | Plantsville, CT



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BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREES THROUGH THE YEARS

These "Lifetime Achievement" Awards are given annually by the Midstate Chamber of Commerce to recognize Large and Small Businesses that have exemplified outstanding private sector leadership in the central Connecticut business community. Criteria includes but is not limited to innovation, community relations, customer satisfaction and employee relations. Over the years, the following businesses have been honored with this distinction:

- 1997 – Yankee Gas
- 1998 – Cox Communications
- 1999 – MidState Medical Center
- 2000 – Castle Bank & Trust Company and Westfield Meriden
- 2001 – Canberra Industries and Packard BioScience Co., Inc.
- 2002 – SNET / SBC / AT&T and Kaye's Pharmacy, Inc.
- 2003 – Murdy and Sons Quality Home Builders and Web Solutions, Inc.
- 2004 – Valencia Discount Liquor & Wine Shop and Hunter's Ambulance Service, Inc.
- 2005 – On-Site Video and ShopRite of Wallingford - Drust Markets
- 2006 – Colonial Flooring Plus and Thompson Brands
- 2007 – Moran's Television & Appliance & Record-Journal Publishing Co.
- 2008 – John C. Fiderio & Sons, Inc. and BL Companies
- 2009 – Salon Nathaniel & Ragozzino Foods, Inc.
- 2010 – Bongiovanni Insurance & Financial, LLC and Four Points by Sheraton Meriden
- 2011 – Prentis Printing Solutions and Pyramid Time Systems
- 2012 – Mule Security Systems and Fosdick Fulfillment Company
- 2013 – Rose Flowers & Gifts and Protein Sciences, Corporation
- 2014 – Roman Oil and Gaylord Specialty Healthcare
- 2015 – PROSHRED Security, East Side Veterinary Clinic, LLC and Batista Companies ~ Dunkin' Donuts
- 2016 – Valentin Karate, LLC and The L. Suzio York Hill Companies
- 2017 – Suzio Insurance Center, Inc. and Boscov's and Ulbrich Stainless Steels and Special Metals, Inc.
- 2018 – MembersFirst CT Federal Credit Union and Triple Springs Water Company and Masonicare
- 2019 – Shiner Signs Inc. and Jonal Laboratories Inc.
- 2020 – Russell Hall Company, Aqua Turf and V. Czapiga & Son
- 2021 – 125th Anniversary Celebration
- 2022 – Liberty Bank & Liberty Bank Foundation and Sans Souci Restaurant
- 2023 – Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Mirion Technologies, Inc, Higher Movement, LLC, E. Haberli Electric, LLC
- 2024 - .Ion Bank, TriCircle, and Noack's Meat Products

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Complete Care Meriden

The physical facility at 845 Paddock Ave. in Meriden has been part of the Midstate Chamber family for over 50 years. The skilled nursing facility ensures a full continuum of care, offering a wide array of services and clinical care programs to meet patient's needs and goals in short-term rehabilitation or long-term care. Their expert physicians and staff deliver outstanding treatment with a focus on their patients' overall well-being. Their array of services range from respiratory care to orthopedic rehab, to cardiac care, wound care, hospice care and stroke recovery. At Complete Care in Meriden, they understand the nuances that uplift the spirit and inspire optimism. With well-appointed, private, and semi-private rooms and a host of amenities, Complete Care is all about providing care that elevates patient health and well-being. Free Wi-Fi, cable TV in every room, comfortable lounges and guest areas, beautiful courtyard gardens and numerous activities are just a few of the amenities that residents enjoy – and we can't forget about the food – residents' testimonials rave about the quality and variety that is provided on a daily basis.

Resident care and satisfaction are top priorities at Complete Care, while striving to set new standards in quality, service and innovation. Over the past year, the facility has undergone extensive renovations, including upgrades to patient rooms, common areas, and treatment rooms, significantly enhancing both the aesthetic appeal and comfort for patients, guests and staff. The leadership encourages participation in the Midstate Chamber at our many programs and on our Health & Wellness Council. The facility also hosts a number of community events during the year, from Easter Egg Hunts, to Car Shows to Trunk or Treat events. We are delighted to honor Complete Care with the 28th Annual Large Business Leadership Award.





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Wallingford GMC



For OVER a century, Wallingford GMC (Route 5 in Wallingford) has made good on the promise of providing an exceptional level of personalized, quality service to their customers, maintaining a strong legacy of family values and customer loyalty. They've built their reputation on trusting and lasting relationships from Hartford to New Haven, Connecticut, New England, and beyond! The Wallingford Auto Company was the first new automobile dealership built in Wallingford in 1914. It is one of the oldest dealerships continuously owned and operated by the same family, the Backes Family. E.B. Backes, son of Michael Backes, founder of M. Backes Fireworks Company, started the business on February 14, 1914. He chose Buick, the real first success story of the automobile industry. Buick also holds credit for being the brand responsible for the foundation of one of the largest industrial corporations in the world, General Motors. Throughout the decades, E. B. Backes bought and sold other franchises but always kept Buick because of its quality and reputation. John B. Backes, "Jack" Backes bought the dealership from his father in 1955. Jack expanded and relocated the business to its current location in 1977. J. Christopher Backes, "Chris," bought the dealership from his father in 1979, expanded in 1987, and acquired GMC in 1997, adding another quality expansion. To better serve their customers, in 2014, the Backes Family built an entirely new showroom, customer service lounge, and service drive in. This marked a pinnacle date, 100 Years of service to the community and our customers. The Backes family and Wallingford Buick-GMC have been a mainstay in Wallingford. They serve the community through various local organizations and also serve their customers by selling quality products and providing excellent customer service. The experience and knowledge gained as a result of a business owned and operated by the same family, in conjunction with the evolution of the automobile, is why Wallingford Buick-GMC is one of the nation's oldest dealerships. It is with great pleasure that we honor Wallingford GMC with the 28th Annual Large Business Leadership Award.

LARGE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Class Act Auto Wash LLC featuring Premier Pet Wash



Class Act Auto Wash LLC, Featuring Premier Pet Wash is located at 1275 E Main St in Meriden, and has been a member of the Midstate Chamber family since they opened in the fall of 2013. And, they just opened another location just over Meriden's west side border in Southington!

Care and quality service are their mission at this family owned and operated local business. As proud supporters of the local community they want their customers to know that by washing your vehicle with them you will help to secure the well-being and future of our great community.

They are generous supporters of countless community events and they also hold regular car shows during the summer at their Meriden location.

Their facility features self-service car, truck, and pet wash bays as well as automatic touchless and brush washes. The entire team takes pride in offering the latest and greatest in car wash technology and are constantly looking for ways to improve. The car wash is always open. They want every customer to leave with a smile and every vehicle to leave with a shine.

A unique part of this business is the pet wash, dedicated to "Moxy", dearly beloved pet of the family. That is also open 24/7 and air-controlled with two pet washing stations each located in their own secluded room. The dimensions of each room are 8 ft x 10 ft so there's plenty of room for the whole family! Each pet washing room has a waist high tub so there's no reason to bend over and break your back in your own bathroom anymore. The tub is rated for 200 pounds and measures at 51" x 35". Don't worry about bringing your own products either. They supply you with everything that you need including tearless shampoo, skunk odor remover, tick & flea treatment and more, including treats!

We are pleased to present Class Act Auto Wash LLC, Featuring Premier Pet Wash with the 23rd Annual Small Business Leadership Award.



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I'Lann Realty



I'Lann Realty is a fairly new business in downtown Meriden and a member of the Midstate Chamber family since 2024.

Wife and husband entrepreneurs, Yvonne Bailey and Lamont Wright, have brought their expertise and passion to our community with zest and fervor! They purchased 61 Colony Street, and transformed it into an amazing office space on the main floor with beautiful apartments on the upper levels. The project created job opportunities and also serves as a hub for first time home buyers, renters and investors.

The project was not without challenges and the team overcame them with resilience and determination. The old, building had been home to banks and non-profit agencies through the years and was in need of major repairs and upgrades.

I'Lann Realty is doing a big part to bring life and activity to Colony Street and the transit oriented district, hosting wonderful events and offering affordable housing options, while encouraging renters to become first time home buyers.

Additionally, I'Lann Realty offers flexible office space for entrepreneurs and startups, creating a collaborative environment for innovation. Their commitment to community resources, including career development, financial literacy workshops, and access to essential services, empowers individuals to grow personally and professionally. By integrating housing, employment, and community support, the team at I'Lann Realty is creating a lasting, positive impact on both individuals and communities. Their innovative model sets a new standard for real estate and community development. We are delighted to present the 23rd Annual Small Business Leadership Award to them and wish them many years of continued success in our community.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN INNOVATION AWARD HONOREES

This award recognizes special achievements and leadership in innovation. This member has shown illustrated this within the last 18 months, which may include improvements, responsiveness to challenges, etc.

Past recipients include:

- 2014 - LaRosa Building Group
- 2015 - Hancock Pharmacy and Surgical, Inc.
- 2016 - Healthy Choices FastVax Mobile Clinic
- 2017 - O & G Industries, Inc.
- 2018 - Trifecta Ecosystems, Inc.
- 2019- The Assisted Technology Training Center of CT
- 2020- Meriden Farmer's Market
- 2021- 125th Anniversary Celebration
- 2022- NESIT New England Society of Innovation & Technology
- 2023- Always Best Care Senior Services
- 2024 - Fantarella Dental Group

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UBEO Business Services

UBEO is a leader and one of the fastest-growing companies in the business technology industry. They have grown significantly over the past few



years, acquiring various businesses around the country, while maintaining a commitment to their local communities. This fact alone, is illustrated by their longstanding membership with the Midstate Chamber of Commerce family for over 35 years.

UBEO also offers numerous ways for businesses to respond to IT challenges, with abundant resources for clients on their web site from blogs and training videos to improving workflow and other office efficiencies. Productivity, IT support, document management, security and BTA (Business Technology Assessment) are key services that they provide that bring these innovative programs to our businesses.

A Business Technology Assessment (BTA) is an analysis of your business processes, technology, solutions and the experience of your end users as it relates to the flow of business technology and data in your organization. The BTA provides a crucial roadmap to help optimize your processes, reduce technology bottlenecks, and safeguard your business. It serves to clarify what you are working with and identify areas where your current setup could improve.

UBEO's continuing mission putting customers first with exceptional service, followed by employees as their next priority, and company profits third, is an admirable business model that continues to keep UBEO ahead of their competition, especially in the area of innovation. We are pleased to present them with is honor, Special Achievement in Innovation.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD HONOREES OVER THE YEARS

These Lifetime Achievement Awards honor a person or persons who show dedication to the community, volunteerism without seeking personal gain, a high professional standard on community projects, or aids in community enhancement activities which have improved quality of life in central Connecticut. The following individuals have been honored with this distinction since 1993:

1993– Robert Cyr and Shane Rood
1994– Maureen Bilger and A. Lee Campione
1995– Phil Ashton
1996– Marcia Trotta and Ronald Meoni
1997– Lynn Faria
1998– Burton G. Tremaine, III
1999– James H. Shiels
2000– Kenneth W. Mango, Esq.
2001– James A. Hamelin
2002– Robert A. DeBaise
2003– Frank W. Ridley
2004– Molly Savard
2005– Phil Ashton
2006– David Lowell and James Ieronimo
2007– Ric Suzio and Lawrence McGoldrick
2008– Michael D. Barker and Stephen T. Zerio
2009– Anthony Tomassetti and Dan M. Hunter
2010– Larry Pelletier
2011– Lucille A. Janatka
2012– Officer Thomas Cirillo
2013– Richard Fontanella
2014– George Hamrah
2015– Lawrence Kendzior, Ret. Chief Robert Kosiencki, Sr.
2016– Yvonne deAngeli-Fontanez and Joseph Mirra
2017– Cliff Carlson
2018– George McGoldrick
2019– Eileen Bongiovanni and Karen Roesler
2020– Emil “Buddy” Altobello
2021– *125th Anniversary Celebration*
2022– Rhudean Raye, Friends of the Library
2023– Molly Savard and Thomas Welsh, Esq.
2024 – Justin Mitchell and Michael Rohde

Becky Starr



Becky comes from a family of 7 siblings. Growing up, they traveled extensively as her father served in the Army Air Force. The family settled in Saco, ME and Becky attended Assumption College in Worcester, MA where she received her undergraduate degree. She went on to earn her MBA from University of Hartford while working full time as an accounting manager.

Becky began her tenure at the City of Meriden working for (then) City Manager Roger Kemp as a budget analyst. She decided to return to school while her children were young, to earn her MLS from Southern CT State University and began to work as a part time librarian at our Meriden Public Library in 1997. She later became a full time reference librarian, and eventually, the Head of Reference – continuing to move up the library ladder to Assistant Director in June of 2022, followed by Acting Director and finally, Director. Becky was also involved in the Meriden Youth Theater for many years while her daughter was involved there.

This journey did not come without challenges. Becky’s leadership ability was certainly a valued trait when she was declared Library Director after her predecessor left the position unexpectedly ... oh, by the way, and in the midst of a \$13 million expansion and renovation project! She was involved in public surveys, meetings, and complete oversight of the 18 month expansion, working closely with the City Council, the Renovation Committee, Library Board, Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library. Additionally, during this time, our library remained committed to serving its patrons by opening a satellite location inside the Meriden Mall. Under Becky’s leadership, attendance at the library has expanded as the number and diversity of programming has increased. Throughout her career, she’s worked in collaboration with other city departments and other organizations including the Midstate Chamber of Commerce, Meriden Board of Education, the Meriden Historical Society and many others, including our local service clubs.

Becky meets all of the criteria for this award as a person who shows dedication to the community, volunteerism without seeking personal gain, a high professional standard on community projects, and aids in community enhancement activities that have improved the quality of life in central Connecticut. We are delighted to honor her with this Community Partnership Award and we wish her the very best in her retirement.



The Board of Directors are a dedicated group of volunteer members that meet monthly to provide direction, insight and set policy for this organization. We are pleased to present the slate of Officers & Directors for 2025-2026.

**Names with a star indicate officers and/or directors being elected this evening.*

2025 ~ 2026 OFFICERS

Adriana Rodriguez* Spanish Community of Wallingford, Chairwoman
Steven Minkler* Central CT State University, Vice Chairman
Chrissy Rutigliano* Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, Secretary
Ed Hogan* MembersFirst CT Federal Credit Union, Treasurer
Ralph Mesite* Mesite Family Partnerships, Immediate Past Chairman
Frank W. Ridley Chairman Emeritus, Friends of the Meriden Public Library

2025 ~ 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dundee Benson* Connoisseur Media
Krystle Blake* The Vanni Foundation
Seth Duke Easterseals
Jonathan Erickson Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home
Joe Feest* Meriden Department of Economic Development
Beth Fisher* KUHN Employment Opportunities
Eric Flynn* Flynn Systems Group
Becky French* MembersFirst CT Federal Credit Union
Brian Hoeing* Updike, Kelly and Spellacy
Kim Hogan* CT State College - Middlesex
Kerry Johnson* Travel Consultant
Leon Langs M&T Bank
Erin Libby* Hartford Healthcare | MidState Medical Center
Stephany Morales I'Lann Realty
Richard Pendred UBEO Business Services
Marisol Rodriguez Liberty Bank
Anne Marie Rosado Higher Health
David Sharron Meriden Public Schools
Amisha Tailor TDBank
Joan Walker* UNAPEN
Greg Walsh Inn at Middletown

2025 DINNER COMMITTEE

Seth Duke Adriana Rodriguez
Jonathan Erickson Ralph Mesite
Kerry Johnson Greg Walsh



THE PROGRAM

5:30 PM

Welcome ~ Rosanne P. Ford, President

Invocation ~ Sr. Suzanne Gross, Sisters of the Franciscan Eucharist

Call to Order of the 129th Annual Meeting:

Adrianna Rodriguez, Chairwoman of the Board

Election of Directors & Officers ~ Ralph Mesite, Immediate Past Chairman

Remarks ~ Chairwoman Adriana Rodriguez

Remarks ~ President Rosanne P. Ford

Presentation of William Sears Rice Awards:

First Congregational Preschool | The Curtis Home

Presentation of Special Recognition "Community Champion" Awards:

Kiwanis Club of Meriden | Meriden Lions Club | Rotary Club of Meriden

6:15 PM

Business Meeting is adjourned and Dinner is served

7:15 PM

Dinner concludes, Silent Auction ends, Lottery Raffle & 50/50 Sales end and
Chamber Awards Program begins

2025 Chamber Award Presentations

Annual Large Business Leadership Award:

Complete Care Meriden | Wallingford GMC

Annual Small Business Leadership Awards:

Class Act Auto Wash, LLC | I'Lann Realty

Special Achievement in Innovation Award:

UBEO Business Services

Community Partnership Awards:

Becky Starr

Excellence in Education Awards:

SCOW - Spanish Community of Wallingford | Workforce Alliance

8:15 PM

Program concludes, Lottery Raffle & 50/50 winner is pulled, and
Silent Auction winners may check out

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD HONOREES OVER THE YEARS

In 2014, this award was created to recognize special achievement by an individual or organization in the public or private sector who contributes to education or an educational institution or program to advance or expand our education system.

The recipients of this honor include:

- 2014: Maria Harlow, SCOW (Spanish Community of Wallingford)
- 2015: Saint Joseph School and Meriden Board of Education and Meriden Federation of Teachers Expanded Learning Time Program
- 2017: Brian Cyr
- 2018: Tri-Town Collaborative Out-of-School Youth Program in Meriden, Wallingford and Middletown
- 2019: Gus Robotic Team 228 Inc. and Community Classroom Collaborative Transition Program
- 2020: Dr. Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education
- 2021: The 125th Annual Celebration
- 2022: STEAM Train, Inc
- 2023: H.C. Wilcox Technical High School - Silver City Bistro
- 2024: Celeste Tapia and Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven



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SCOW - Spanish Community of Wallingford

SCOW was founded in 1972 by a small group of Hispanics in the greater Meriden-Wallingford area who experienced difficulties finding translators, interpreters, employment, and medical assistance.

The founders envisioned SCOW to be the leading agency to help develop and support Hispanics in the community. For over 50 years, SCOW has been successful in implementing its mission by providing a variety of social, cultural, and educational services and enrichment activities in an ever changing environment. These allow their clients to integrate themselves successfully into society. The agency supports newcomers from different backgrounds as well as local clients in their transition to becoming full participants in the local community and the country. Every program they offer is designed and implemented to build confidence, enhance skills, and offer educational opportunities. The programs can be essentially described in three words: guidance, education, and sharing.

SCOW routinely partners with other area organizations on education initiatives. These partnerships include the public libraries in both Wallingford and Meriden, the Midstate Chamber of Commerce, CEDF – Community Economic Development Fund, the Wallingford Health Department, Literacy Volunteers and Meriden Public Schools.

Whether it's collaborating on business education programs with the Midstate Chamber and CEDF, or assisting clients with translating services, or helping students take full advantage of the opportunities, or providing music and dance programs to celebrate one's culture, SCOW is a key player when it comes to educational initiatives and in their contribution to educating individuals in our community. We are proud to present them with the Excellence in Education Award.





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VISIT
workforcealliance.biz/business-services

Workforce Alliance is the workforce development board serving 30 towns in South Central Connecticut.



Workforce Alliance



Workforce Alliance is the workforce development board for our area. A member of the Midstate Chamber of Commerce for over 20 years, they have prepared thousands of individuals for jobs and have assisted numerous employers with training and employee transition. With a majority of leaders of local businesses and industry, Workforce Alliance has worked closely with business organizations, local elected officials and community leaders to meet changing local needs and shifting national economic and workforce trends.

Their programs are getting folks back to work, upskilling for better job opportunities and careers, and helping vulnerable individuals with training to get them back into the workforce and on the path for a better future. These training programs are often in collaboration with area businesses who are ready to hire, making this a great recipe for success for all.

- Health Careers Advancement Program (HCAP) provides tuition assistance, professional development, and job placement to eligible job seekers. Individuals who have prior healthcare industry certifications can get help to return to school, add more skills and move up the career ladder!
- Skill Up for Manufacturing includes a cash stipend during training, minimum 175 pre apprenticeship hours, Six Sigma certification, OSHA 10 safety card, job development.
- Recovery Works - certified Peer Recovery Specialist works with clients to provide the guidance and support to have a successful career if clients are unemployed, laid off, no longer self-employed, or have no work history as a result of substance abuse by the client or someone they know. Emotional support, recovery wellness plans, and community referrals, peer guidance, support groups, one-on-one, and family coaching will be blended with: Training Tuition Assistance - Paid On-the-Job Training - Transportation, Childcare and other Supportive Services - Advisement for employment in Addiction Services, CDL, Manufacturing, Healthcare and more...
- Project CEO: Career-Minded & Committed To Success - Explore Your Interests & Make A Plan. • Opportunity to Show Leadership & Move Up. Project CEO participants practice interviewing, create a resume and access paid work experience, on-the-job training or other skills training in Greater New Haven and Middlesex Counties. The program is open to ages 16-24 living in South Central CT not currently attending high school or college. Offered FREE of charge.

We are grateful to partner on many initiatives with Workforce Alliance and are delighted to honor them with this Excellence in Education Award.



At the heart of Vanni and Nesso is purpose-driven service. Nesso empowers businesses with expert solutions in finance, insurance, benefits, and tax, while Vanni helps nonprofits build strong foundations. Together, they create an ecosystem that enables growth and lasting impact.

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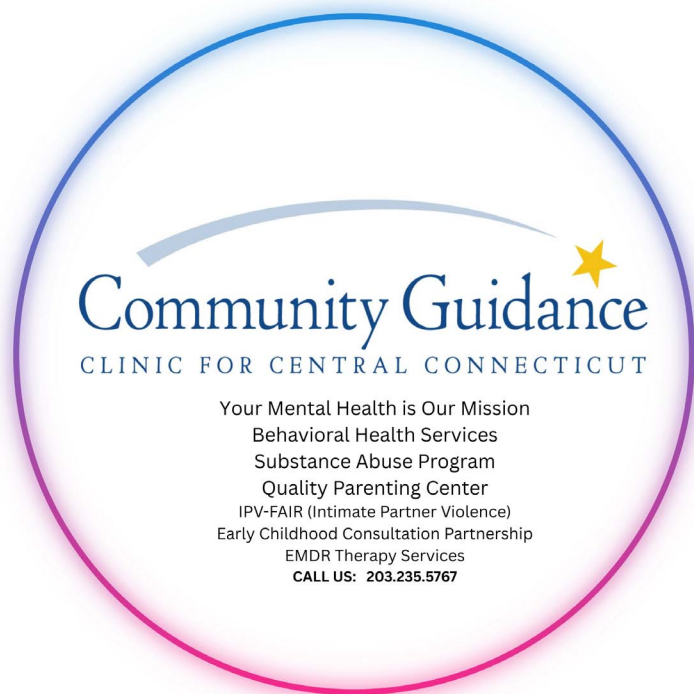
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SPECIAL RECOGNITION - "COMMUNITY CHAMPION" AWARDS

This year's Award Selection Committee thought it fitting to recognize the three service clubs that are longtime and valued members of the Midstate Chamber of Commerce. Collectively, they've been in our community for hundreds of years and have provided resources, funding, support and manpower for service projects, while hosting community fundraisers and much more. These clubs are part of the fabric of our community and they give back in so many ways throughout the year - most often behind the scenes and without fanfare or spotlights. They often take part in service projects together, as well, like the recent End Hunger project where boxes were assembled to create 20,000 meals for the hungry in our community. We are pleased to present "Community Champion" Awards to:



Kiwanis Club of Meriden

The Kiwanis Club of Meriden was chartered in 1930 and has remained active serving children and those in our community for 90+ years.



Kiwanians are an eclectic group of volunteers who are passionate about making our community and the world a better place for children so they can thrive. The club is devoted to serving children locally and across the country and world through unique and innovative service projects and fundraising initiatives.

Some of the club's signature service projects include:

Souper Bowl Food Drive	StoryWalk®	Education Awards
Bicycle Safety Day	Citywide Spelling Bee	Little Free Library
Deptula Public Speaking & Essay Contest	Challenger Bowling League	

Our local club also sponsors Service Leadership Programs ("SLPs") in the Meriden schools and community, including: K-Kids (elementary school), Builders Club (middle school), Key Club (high school), and CKI (college).

Kiwanis raises important funds to help kids and others in need through their many signature projects and community donations. All proceeds of their signature fundraisers support Kiwanis projects and programs right here in our local community. There are many ways to support the Kiwanis Club - you can learn more at www.k01910.site.kiwanis.org. All are welcome and invited to participate in the fundraisers. They are lots of fun and a great way to help our community:

Fried Dough Sale at Daffodil Festival - May 3, 4, 2025

Strawberry Shortcake Sale - June 5, 2025

Cow Chip Raffle ("Cow Plop") - November

Comedy "Magik" Night - November 15, 2025

We thank the Meriden Kiwanis Club for your continued participation in the Midstate Chamber of Commerce and we are so grateful for all of your contributions to our community.

Meriden Lions Club

The Meriden Lions Club was chartered in 1923 and has no signs of slowing down in serving our community after celebrating 100 years in 2023!.



Lions are a diverse group of volunteers who care about our community and meet the needs of our community because they all share a core belief to serve their community. Historically, the Lions are known for fighting blindness, but also volunteer for many different kinds of community projects including caring for the environment, feeding the hungry, supporting children battling cancer, and aiding seniors and the disabled.

Lions show up with compassion, consistency, and a promise to stand beside and serve those who are in the greatest of need. The Meriden Lions Club is proud to play its role quietly, humbly, and wholeheartedly. Some of the local club's signature service projects include: Eyeglass Donation Drop Boxes around the city, Education Awards for area students, Red Bridge restoration project, Lions Club Park, at the entrance to the Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail, Flag pole at Castle Craig, and many more.

The Lions Club raises funds all through the year to help with their initiatives. All proceeds of their signature fundraisers go right back into our community. There are countless ways to support the Lions Club - you can learn more at www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/meriden/index.php. Everyone can participate in the fundraisers - you are guaranteed to help our community and have a lot of fun!

Palm Sunday Breakfast at Platt High School - April 13, 2025

Food Booth Daffodil Festival - May 3, 4, 2025

Fran Zygmont Duck Race & Car Show - June 8, 2025

28th Annual Golf Classic - September 4, 2025

We thank the Meriden Lions Club for your continued participation in the Midstate Chamber of Commerce and we extend our thanks to all of you for all of your contributions to our community.

Rotary Club of Meriden

The Rotary Club of Meriden was chartered in 1921 and continues to serve our community and make an impact in various ways.



Rotarians are an organization of men and women with varied backgrounds and talents who work to improve our community with the goal of SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians felt strongly about promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is The Four-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor (who later served as RI president). Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The Four-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

"Of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Rotary Club of Meriden fundraises all year to support their initiatives and projects which include scholarships for students, and helping non-profits with projects at facilities like The Curtis Home and Chrysalis of Meriden & Wallingford, donations of hundreds of winter coats to individuals and veterans and others. There are many ways to support the Rotary Club - you can learn more at www.meridenrotary.org/index.php. All are welcome and invited to participate in the fundraisers.

Night at the Races II - April 26, 2025

Pet Fair - August 2025

Silver City Brewfest - Fall 2025

We appreciate the Rotary Club of Meriden for your continued participation in the Midstate Chamber of Commerce and for making an impact in our community through your generous contributions.

THE WILLIAM SEARS RICE AWARD

Bill Rice was a hard-working member of the Chamber for many years. He served both on the Board of Directors and the Town Criers. His partnership with Oscar Gross brought many good times and laughs. Bill was owner of Rosamond Miller Shoes on West Main Street in Downtown Meriden. As a local merchant, Bill was a voice in downtown affairs, serving on the Chamber Retail Trade Board. He enjoyed retail because he got to meet so many people and discuss various issues such as city affairs. Bill cared about his Church, serving on the Finance Committee and selling strawberry shortcakes for the annual festival. He assisted every year on the Chamber Golf Committee.

Bill was devoted to his wife, two sons and grandchildren. Always a cheerful optimist, he didn't worry about negative outcomes. His death brought the loss not only of a committed businessman, but also a friend you could count on. Many people told his wife how much he was missed, because of his constant presence everywhere. The William Sears Rice Award was created in memory of Bill's efforts to strengthen Chamber membership by bringing in new businesses, his dedication to the improvement of the downtown, and his positive attitude.

You're invited

Midstate Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER MEET & GREET

2025 Dates

Location:
Midstate Chamber of Commerce
546 South Broad Street Suite 2C
Meriden, CT

January 21 4 pm	July 22 4 pm
February 19 8:30 am	August 13 8:30 am
March 26 4 pm	September 10 4 pm
April 23 8:30 am	October 22 8:30 am
May 13 4 pm	November 13 4 pm
June 18 8:30 am	December 9 8:30 am

Join us to chat and gather information on how membership in the Midstate Chamber can help YOUR BUSINESS GROW while also helping to strengthen our community! Learn about our variety of programs as well as our phenomenal committees. This event is FREE and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about partnering with us for success.

This program is designed for new members, existing members and "not-yet members" - feel free to invite other friends in business.

Contact the Chamber to RSVP
203.235.7901 | info@midstatechamber.com
www.midstatechamber.com



The Curtis Home

Founded in 1884 by Meriden industrialist Lemuel Curtis, the facility has offered a wide array of therapeutic services and residential choices through the years. The Curtis Home initially cared for widows and orphans. Today, they are dedicated to helping adults of all ages live as independently as possible. They also are proud and honored to have a contract with Veteran's Affairs, giving them the honor to care for many service men and women who have served our country. In addition to providing personalized attention and quality care that is consistently rated among the best in the state, The Curtis Home is dedicated to helping their residents live as independently as possible. They have all the resources to ensure you or your loved one will benefit from a continuum of health and wellness options, resulting in the best possible outcome.

This is accomplished through various services, including:

Long and short-term skilled nursing care	Respite care
Rehabilitation and therapeutic care	Hospice care
Speech, physical, and occupational therapy	Social services
Recreation	Residential housing
Cardiac & respiratory management	Surgical recovery
Pain & wound management	IV therapy

Specialized Consulting Services include Audiology, Dentistry, Optometry, Podiatry, Psychiatry, Pulmonology.

In recent years, the Curtis Home is diligently seeking funds and support to further improve the quality of life for veterans and other potential residents by building additional housing to help support and care for them.

With such a long history and dedication to our community we are pleased to present The Curtis Home with the William Sears Rice Award.



First Congregational Preschool

First Congregational Preschool, Inc. is a Nationally Accredited, State-Licensed, non-denominational, cooperative nursery. Their aim is to promote the full development of children - socially, physically, emotionally and intellectually, emotional well-being. A quote on their website prominently states: "Childhood should be a journey, not a race."



First Congregational Preschool has provided excellent quality care to children and families in our community since 1967. They believe that play is children's work and use play to give children a love of learning, while working on the skills that children will need to be successful in school and in life. They achieve this by connecting with our families.

They are proud of their close relationship with children and their families, they unite to provide the best possible experience for the children who attend First Congregational Preschool. They utilize a parent information app called Tadpoles to keep families informed about daily happenings, including daily photos of their child(ren) in the classroom. They also provide daily updates on white boards outside each classroom as well as monthly newsletters.

Their teacher to child ratio is exceptional (1 teacher to 8 students) and all classrooms have 3-4 teachers for the group. Teachers and groups are set for the school year. They believe that the root of good, quality care is the relationships that they enjoy with their families and children.

As a longstanding downtown business and long-time member of our Midstate Chamber family, we are pleased to recognize First Congregational Preschool with this William Sears Rice Award and we thank them for the work they do to mold young minds and give them a great start to their educational journey.



The Meriden Lions Club

Previews of our Coming Attractions!

April 13th 2025

**Palm
Sunday
Brunch**



May 3rd & 4th

**Meriden
Daffodil
Festival**



June 8th 2025

**Fran Zygmunt Duck Race & Car
Show**



September 4th 2025

**Lions 28th Annual Golf
Classic**





Past Chairpersons Of The Midstate Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

1916	A. B. Jennings	1974 – 1975	John D. Altobello, Jr.
1917 – 1919	W.A. Schenck	1975 – 1977	Craig A. Bossi
1919 – 1923	C. R. Gardiner	1977 – 1979	A. Gordon Davis, Jr.
1924 – 1925	G. J. Sokel	1979 – 1981	Robert P. Patton
1926 – 1928	F. H. Billard	1981 – 1983	Robert G. Barnes
1929 – 1931	W. H. Upham	1983 – 1985	Elsa H. Bradford
1932 – 1934	W. S. Alexander	1985 – 1988	Jeffrey H. White
1935 – 1936	H. D. Immick	1988 – 1990	Richard J. Leary
1937 – 1939	A. S. Jourdan	1990 – 1992	Joseph R. Werner
1939 – 1940	H. L. Stockwell	1992 – 1993	Marisa P. Thurston
1940 – 1941	Wayne Robison	1993 – 1995	Karl Harkenreader
1941 – 1943	Fred Sparrow	1995 – 1997	Alan Solomon
1943 – 1945	Willard F. Terrell	1997 – 1999	James H. Shiels
1945 – 1947	Walter A. Carey	1999 – 2001	Molly H. Savard
1947 – 1949	Clifford I. Packer	2001 – 2003	Lynn A. Faria
1949 – 1951	Carl A. Schultz	2003 – 2005	James Ieronimo
1951 – 1953	Frederick A. Flatow	2005 – 2007	Leonardo H. Suzio
1953 – 1955	Winston E. Ackroyd	2007 – 2009	Thomas Marano
1955 – 1960	Bernard D. Kasack	2009 – 2011	Frank W. Ridley
1960 – 1962	Dudley A. Dutton	2011 - 2013	Yvonne de Angeli-Fontanez
1962 – 1963	Floyd B. Goodwin	2013 - 2015	Attorney Thomas J. Welsh
1963 – 1964	Donald S. Tracy	2015 - 2018	Richard J. Pendred
1964 – 1966	Ralph C. Jahnige	2018 - 2020	Nathaniel Bottone
1966 – 1968	MacRae H. Curtis	2020 - 2022	Dan Quesnel
1968 – 1970	L. Stewart Bohan	2022 - 2024	Ralph Mesite
1970 – 1972	Robert A. Houde	2024 -	Adriana Rodriguez
1972 – 1974	Robert W. Mills		



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Mahatma Gandhi

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."

Lily Tomlin

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