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## **Thank You, Donna Collins, For Your Volunteer Work at Darien Nature Center**

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Thank you, Donna Collins, for your volunteer work, shaping meaningful and thoughtful exhibits at the Darien Nature Center.

*—This article is part of a series of daily articles profiling the volunteers recognized in May at the Darien annual [volunteer recognition luncheon](#) organized by the [Community Fund of Darien](#).*

### **Donna Collin's Efforts With the Darien Nature Center**

Donna has been our volunteer exhibit coordinator and curator at the Darien Nature Center for the past three

years.

She has gifted the Nature Center her time and talent to shape meaningful and thoughtful exhibits that reflect the values and mission of the Nature Center to celebrate and engage with the natural world.

In addition to her curatorial skills, Donna has shared her own beautiful artwork with the Nature Center in exhibits that lift up the natural world to our visiting public.

Donna led her fellow artists in establishing a standard 30% donation from sales which has made a tremendous impact on our ability to engage our community in the beauty of the natural world through programming.

— *Leila Wetmore, executive director of Darien Nature Center*

## **Here's the Full List of Volunteers**

Each of these volunteers was recognized this year and will be profiled in this series:

Shyamla Menon (A Better Chance);—Nina Miller (At Home in Darien);—Rochelle Charnin (Building One Community);—Frank Huck (Darien Arts Center);—Darien firefighters, including Fire Chiefs Vic Pensiero, Shaun Volin & John Hessmer (Darien Board of Selectman);—Pam Miller (Darien Book Aide Plan);—Cheryl Williams (Darien Chamber of Commerce);—Pat Parlette (Darien Community Association);—Tiffany O'Connor (Darien High School);—Anne Lise Brown (Darien High School Parents' Association);—Carolyn McGrath (Darien Historical Society);—Janet Cling (Darien Land Trust);—Kathy Larkins (Darien Human Services);—Peter Eder (Darien Library);—Mike Wheeler (Darien TV79);—Scott Overbeck (Darien YMCA);—Jennifer Geddes (Domestic Violence Crisis Center);—David Ball (Family Centers);—Shelly Skoglund (League of Women Voters);—Andrea Huntington (Mather Homestead Foundation);—Katie and Emily Wiley (Norwalk Grassroots Tennis);—Hayley Ackers (Person-to-Person);—Margaret “Annie” Slaughter (Silver Hill Hospital of New Canaan);—Reeve Boeckmann & Elizabeth Hall (The Carver Foundation of Norwalk);—Jill McCammon (The Community Fund of Darien);—Bryne Pozzi (The Darien Foundation);—Donna Collins (The Darien Nature Center);—Kathy Arrix (The Depot, Darien Youth Center);—Annie Arrix & Lily Kosnik (Thriving Youth);—Stephanie O'Malley (Tokeneke PTO);—Katie Murphy (Darien Youth Commission).

*Sponsors of the 2019 Recognition Luncheon were the Darien Community Association, Brown Thayer Shed and Halstead Real Estate.*

### **About This Series**

- The profiles in this series were presented at the 2019 volunteer recognition luncheon held at

the [Darien Community Association](#) and recorded (in [this video](#)) by Darien TV79.

- Darien runs on volunteers — from our churches to our town government, schools, political parties, sports teams, three fire departments and our local nonprofits. They're the largest part of what makes this town a community. With this series we want to thank them and hope to encourage them.
- Darienite.com is running this series now, while more people are thinking about whether they want to volunteer in the upcoming year. Each article presents the description provided about that volunteer (or sometimes more than one) as provided by an organization that benefited from that person's efforts.