



The Caroline Fund

The Caroline Baird Crichfield Fund for Women in Need

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

| DECEMBER 2021

Caroline Fund Expands Mission to Include Focus on Education & Civic Engagement

The time is now to think about the future of The Caroline Fund -- after all, the fund is almost 25 years old and none of us is getting any younger. In that regard the Caroline Fund is organically developing a new direction.

Helping women and their families in immediate crisis continues to be the permanent mission of the Fund. However, in order to become a permanent institution capable of surviving the initial founders, we are working to develop a legal and educational branch that would foster civic engagement among the people of our community.

First, some background: For about two years the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV) has provided office space to Sandy Baird and The Caroline Fund. This has enabled Sandy, under the auspices of The Caroline Fund, to provide legal assistance to the many New Americans and low-income people experiencing problems related to family life and the Family Court system.

As a lawyer, Sandy has always been aware of the particular problems

of all poor people; now, thanks to her association with AALV, she has become intensely educated in the special difficulties in the family lives of New Americans. While all Americans typically have little education about the law and the courts -- and more important, strategies to deal with the law, the police, the state bureaucracies and civic life -- New Americans face unique difficulties in their encounters with our legal and political institutions.

Based on her experience with the needs of low-income people and of New Americans in particular, Sandy recommends that The Caroline Fund, in order to become a more permanent and effective institution that can serve the long-term needs of women and their families in our community and the broader world, should develop a "Legal, Educational & Justice Center" devoted to educating people about the law and nurturing their civic engagement in order to build a democratic, free and beautiful society.

We are working with several partners and collaborators to create the center, including AALV and the Office of the Vermont Attorney General. Stay tuned!

The Caroline Fund's 'Legal, Educational & Justice Center' would educate New Americans and others about the law — and encourage them to become civically engaged at the local, state and national levels.

DESPITE THE PANDEMIC, OUR MISSION & ACTIVITIES HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH OUR:

- Grant Program
- Law Clinic
- Community Sponsorships

Because we could not hold an annual gathering in both 2020 and 2021, this newsletter remains our only way to raise funds for the second year in a row.

Please consider making a contribution to The Caroline Fund!

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Please mail a check to:

**The Caroline Fund
P.O. Box 8486
Burlington, VT 05402**

To apply your gift to the Caroline Fund Law Clinic, please note this on the memo line of your check.

To make a bequest or to contribute to Caroline Fund gatherings and events, please contact Sandy Baird at sandrabaird114@gmail.com.

THANK YOU !

We've Been Busy — and Making an Impact!

Caroline Fund and VICII: Community Discussions

In collaboration with AALV, The Caroline Fund supports the Vermont Institute of Community and International Involvement (VICII), which sponsors free community discussions (both virtually and in person) led by scholars and experts in the law, the U.S. Constitution, and the institutions, culture and history of our republic and global society. The past year has seen over a dozen such sessions, including:

- “What’s Happening in Haiti Today?”
- “Update for Gaza”; and
- “The Negro League: Black Baseball in the Shadow of America’s Favorite Pastime.”

These and other sessions were recorded and archived by Town Meeting TV and are available for viewing at cctv.org. (Special thanks to Meaghan O’Rourke of CCTV!!!)

To learn more, visit vicii.org. To request email notifications about upcoming programs, contact Sandy Baird at 802.862.2001 or SandraBaird114@gmail.com.

Expungement Clinic & Africa Day

The Caroline Fund partnered with AALV and VICII to put on several kinds of events this year in addition to community discussions:

We organized an “Expungement Clinic” with the Office of the Vermont Attorney General on March 5, 2021.

This was an opportunity for people to have criminal and traffic records examined by a representative from the Attorney General’s office to determine whether any could be erased from their records.

Not having these convictions on one’s record provides valuable new opportunities for education and careers. The clinic was a great success; all appointment slots filled quickly, leading to a wait list.

Africa Day took place May 22, 2021, in the yard of Robin Lloyd’s Burlington home. This afternoon of food and music was attended by a number of New Americans who originally hailed from several African countries.

Caroline Fund Co-Sponsors Burlington Mayoral Debate

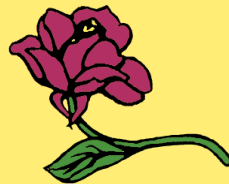
In preparation for the March 2021 elections, The Caroline Fund, AALV and VICII sponsored a Burlington mayoral debate on January 21.

AALV Associate Director Thato Ratsebe welcomed the candidates and the public, after which each candidate gave a statement and sponsoring organizations asked questions. The candidates also had the opportunity to ask questions of each other.

The forum took place via Zoom and was recorded for later viewing via YouTube and on CCTV/Town Meeting TV. By the following morning the debate had 380 views. Both WCAX (Channel 3) and VTDigger.org reported on the debate.

As with all events recorded by Town Meeting TV, the debate has been archived and is available for viewing at cctv.org.

From Our Mailbox



“My blessings upon your work, and know one kindness extended opens the blossoms of so many more.”

— *from a Caroline Fund grantee*

“My deepest gratitude for your financial assistance and most importantly your mission of caring to touch my spirit.”

— *from a Caroline Fund grantee*

“The work you do through The Caroline Fund is so important to so many, and we are honored to be a part of supporting it.”

— *from a Caroline Fund supporter*

“Thank you for all you do to help and protect.”

— *from a Caroline Fund supporter*

Caroline Fund Scholarship

To honor Caroline’s professional dreams and her alma mater, Burlington High School (BHS), The Caroline Fund awards an annual scholarship of \$2,500 to a BHS or Burlington Technical Center senior woman who plans to pursue a technical or vocational program after graduation. Past recipients have attended the University of Vermont, Vermont Technical College, the Culinary Institute of America, and the University of Tampa.

We are now accepting applications from seniors who will graduate in spring 2022 and have plans for post-secondary education. Please help spread the word!

Caroline Fund Grants Awarded from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

We continue to manage The Caroline Fund on a volunteer basis and keep operating costs at a minimum. Consistent with years past, **our administrative costs account for only 7.3% of expenditures this year.**

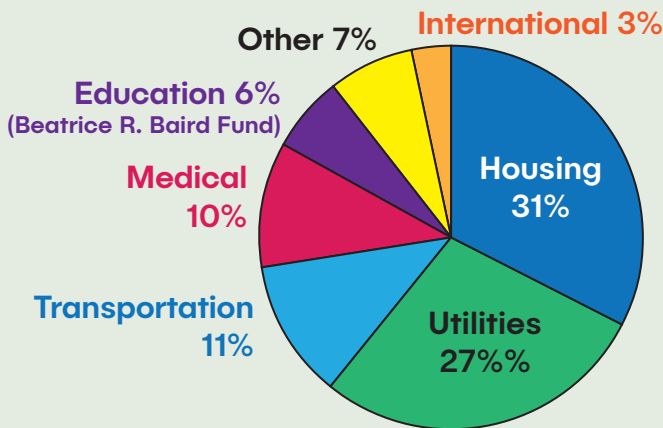
Gifts to The Caroline Fund typically are designated in one of these three ways:

1. General/No Designation: Grants are awarded based on need, with allocations determined by the Board.

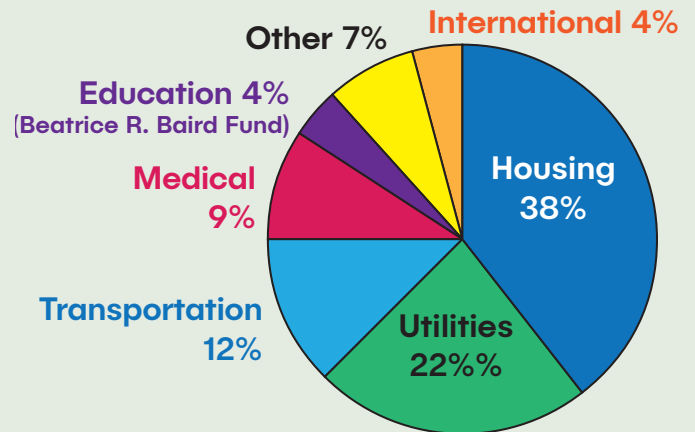
2. Law Clinic: Grants are used to support the operations of The Caroline Fund Pro Se Law Clinic.
3. Beatrice R. Baird Fund: Established in memory of Sandy's mother, grants are used to support the educational needs of women and girls.

For information about these or other options you would like to see, please call Sandy Baird at 802-862-2001.

TYPE OF GRANTS AWARDED BY # OF GRANTS



TYPE OF GRANTS AWARDED BY \$ AMOUNT



Here Are Some of the Women You've Helped This Year

The Caroline Fund provides grants to qualifying women to help them through a crisis when a modest, one-time amount of money would help move them out of their emergency. Here a few examples from 2021:



Suffering from a complex and long-standing pain syndrome, a woman applied to The Caroline Fund for help with dental work. Her several decades of medical treatment had destroyed her teeth; she needed expensive and specialized dental work to enable her to once again chew her food and eat safely as well as to gain employment and participate fully in society.

The Caroline Fund made a grant toward the total cost of the treatment for her teeth so she could "offer [her]

gifts and talents to the world" and move beyond "merely existing."



A woman fell and broke a leg that was weak due to childhood polio, then had a heart attack that led to surgery.

Living on a very limited income (only SSI), she applied through her local Agency on Aging to The Caroline Fund for funds to purchase a Lifeline® medical-alert and support system, which among other things provides automatic fall detection. Living alone, she feared falling again and not being found for hours, perhaps days.

We awarded a grant to help pay for the Lifeline system. She was able to secure the remaining funds to purchase and install it so she could live more safely.



A woman referred to us via the 211 help line had been ill for half a year and had disabled children who needed oxygen machines and other equipment that required minimum temperatures in order to function properly.

Facing a utility shutoff that could have been lethal for several family members, she applied for and received a Caroline Fund grant to help with her utility bills.



A woman facing eviction during the winter COVID shutdown requested emergency aid to help her remain in her home. She had some of her own money, but not enough to cover the full rent. Several agencies had pledged small amounts, and we contributed the rest she needed.

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For information, to make a donation or to apply for a grant from The Caroline Baird Crichfield Fund for Women in Need, please call Sandy Baird at 802-862-2001.

The Caroline Fund is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

ABOUT THE CAROLINE FUND

In a world where many girls and women are uneducated and poor, where they struggle against discrimination and second-class citizenship, and where they are often the victims of physical and sexual abuse and violence, we need advocates who believe that women and men should have equal opportunities to life, liberty and happiness.

Established in July 1998 in memory of Caroline Baird Crichfield, who was killed April 11, 1998 in an incident of domestic violence, The Caroline Baird Crichfield Fund for Women in Need is one of those advocates committed to helping women in need or crisis lead secure, healthy, independent lives and to assure the dignity of both sexes. The Caroline Fund has designed its grants and educational programs to help women create meaningful, free lives.

— Rosanna E. Crichfield, *President*

Mission Statement

The Caroline Baird Crichfield Fund for Women in Need shall help women in emergencies create independent, safe, healthy, creative and free lives. The Caroline Fund's purpose includes assisting women in crisis situations through grants of funds to them for their immediate need when no other funds are available. The funds shall be disbursed to women who need, for example but not limited to, shelter, utilities, nutrition, legal assistance, health care, transportation and safety when they cannot find another way to meet these needs.

In order to implement the mission of The Caroline Fund to assist in the emergency needs of women and their families, the mission of The Caroline Fund is also to promote persons, causes and projects

that create a society that supports families, in both their immediate and long-term needs, to live in a world, city/town and neighborhood that take into account the needs of all families to thrive, prosper and be creative.

With the commitment to assist individuals, the mission of The Caroline Fund is also to promote and support community programs and ideas that value just and sustainable economies; the establishment and maintenance of safe and secure housing for all; the preservation of a healthy, safe and peaceful environment; and education of people of all ages to encourage the fulfillment of the potential of human beings to think critically and to act creatively in pursuing a world of justice, peace and beauty.

When we receive an application for support, we consider whether the need fits with our mission and consider other options that might meet the need. When satisfied that other options are not available, we decide whether Caroline Fund support is warranted and at what financial level.