

YALE CLUB OF LOWER FAIRFIELD COUNTY

To Our Community of Lower Fairfield County Yale Alumni:

With the help and support of the AYA and the dedication of local alumni in Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, and Wilton, the Yale Club of Lower Fairfield County was recently born out of the merger of these area Yale Clubs. Each community had its own separate Club, but in recent years membership and the level of activity had dwindled. ASC committees were in place but little else.

A group of men and women representing each community from Yale undergraduate and graduate schools spanning several decades met to discuss the problem. Rapport was instant and agreement reached that they would undertake the challenge of effecting the merger of the various clubs and figure out what could be done to make our new Club interesting and relevant. Upbeat and productive meetings followed and a bond formed. But where should we start? AYA provided the answer by announcing a "Connecticut Day of Community Service" on Saturday April 19th. The problem was that it was already January, and we had no infrastructure or tools in place with which to "get out the word." No problem! AYA asked us to identify a local service project and created a website for the event. We provided descriptive copy and contact information, and AYA did the rest. This gave us the opportunity to immediately participate and the needed time to set up our own email system announcing that (a) we existed and (b) we were giving Yalies and their families (1,200 of them) in our area a chance to get together and volunteer for Community Service under the banner of a new area Yale Club.

April 19th dawned a beautiful spring day. Temperatures were in the 70's, and the sun shining as sixty people brought rakes, clippers, digging tools, and gardening gloves to the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. AYA provided water and T-Shirts. They had previously taken on line registrations for the event and emailed a weekly report summarizing who had registered. The people who came out for this "first ever" Yale Day of Community Service and Yale Club of Lower Fairfield County event spanned decades of graduates and undergraduates and included whole families, children and grandchildren. We provided juice and soft drinks and were guided by the Museum staff to various projects including clearing leaves and brush accumulated over the winter and planting trees. Everyone pitched in and had the opportunity to donate time, get to know people from various surrounding communities...and have lots of fun.

As you can see, our new Yale Club website is up and running, using the newly launched AYA platform, and we are planning a family inaugural reception in June. What feedback have we received? One graduate responded about the Day of Service: "I never thought Yale would do this. I'll be there." Others said that they looked forward to more service oriented activities and were assured we would provide them. We were overwhelmed by the positive, enthusiastic response for our new Club and the direction in which it is going.

We will continue to provide ASC support for our local students and will more than likely take advantage of our proximity to New Haven to sponsor events at Yale. But the addition of a commitment to providing Community Service and family oriented events plus the invaluable help of AYA and the lightening fast communications tools available on the internet to a group of “fired up” alums made it possible for us to launch our new Club incredibly quickly and just in time to be part of a great first ever Yale Day of Community Service.

With thanks and best wishes to you all,

Ed Greenberg

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President
Yale Club of Lower Fairfield County