



The Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, a program of Family Service, Inc., works to reduce the incidence of suicide in the Merrimack Valley by educating the community, conducting outreach to organizations and community groups, and providing a 24-hour crisis hotline to befriend individuals who are lonely, despairing and may be contemplating suicide.

Grant Applications

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ON-LINE APPLICATION FORM located at <https://westparishchurch.org/sp-grant/>

We look forward to hearing about new and innovative programs designed to improve the quality of life for all citizens of the Merrimack Valley.

3/24//2025



Susanne Smith Purdon

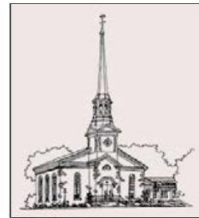
Photo courtesy of Andover Historical Society.

THE SMITH PURDON FUND

WEST PARISH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
29 RESERVATION ROAD
ANDOVER, MA 01810

978.475.3528

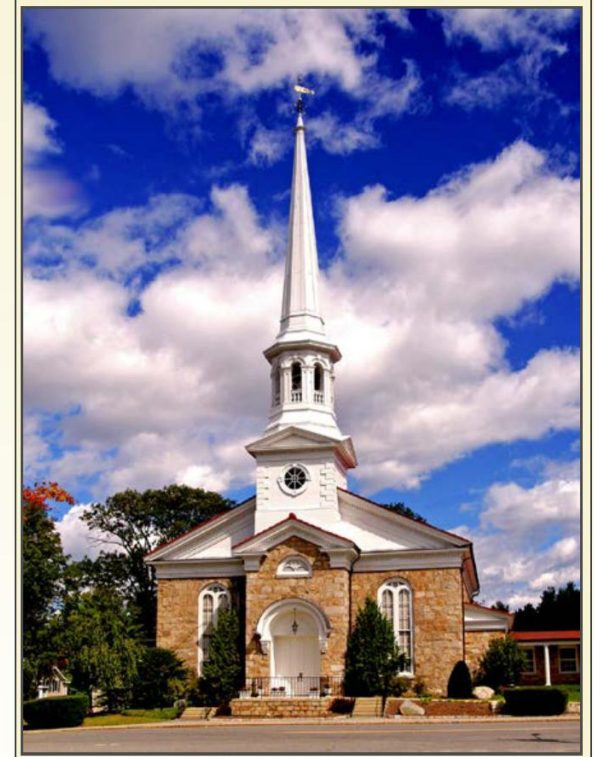
office@westparishchurch.org



www.westparishchurch.org

THE SMITH PURDON FUND

WEST PARISH CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



† WEST PARISH CHURCH †
EST. 1826



History

The Smith Purdon Fund was created as a result of a bequest to West Parish Church of one-half million dollars from Susanne Smith Purdon in 1975. The Smith Family had been active members of West Parish for generations and were involved in the beginnings of West Parish Church in 1826. Susanne Smith Purdon carried on her family's tradition of interest and support of West Parish Church during her lifetime. The Fund has provided West Parish Church with a unique opportunity to respond to requests from numerous organizations in the Merrimack Valley, providing grants to programs directly impacting children, youth and family life. Over the years, seed money from the Smith Purdon Fund has benefited a variety of startup programs.

Mission

The mission of the Smith Purdon Fund is to provide funding to innovative programs that support family life with a goal of positively impacting the lives of children and youth. The fund also supports programs that seek to meet the needs of low income families, immigrants and mentally or physically limited residents of the greater Merrimack Valley. In the past the Fund has focused on new and innovative programs, especially those with broad impacts within the community. This will continue to be a primary focus but existing programs with new approaches and ideas will be considered.

THE SMITH PURDON FUND GRANT AWARDS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN WITHIN THE \$1000 TO \$4000 RANGE.

The Smith Purdon Fund



Since 1967, A Better Chance of Andover has been giving young, talented youth of color the opportunity to achieve their dreams through education. Our nonprofit program offers outstanding students from under-performing urban schools the opportunity to prepare for college at Andover High School. Andover community generously supports our goal of changing young lives, one person at a time.

Areas of Interest

Youth Development -- Youth-at-Risk
Adolescent Adjustments and Support
Families In Need
Physically and/or Cognitively Challenged
Individuals
Substance Abuse Prevention
Suicide Prevention

SOME PREVIOUSLY FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

A Better Chance of Andover
Merrimack Valley Hospice
Samaritans of Merrimack Valley
Neighbors in Need, Lawrence
Lazarus House Ministries, Lawrence
Lawrence Community Works
Acre Family Day Care, Lowell
Greater Lawrence Head Start
Habitat for Humanity, Merrimack Valley
Andover High School, Substance Abuser
Ironstone Farm, Andover
Professional Center for Child Development, Andover
Andover Community Trust
YWCA of Greater Lawrence
Samaritans of Merrimack Valley
United Teen Equity Center (UTEK) (Lowell)



Merrimack Valley Hospice Testimonial:

More than 30 years ago, support from the Smith Purdon Fund of West Parish Church was instrumental in the development and implementation of the first hospice in this region. Today, Merrimack Valley Hospice is one of the largest, most respected not-for-profit hospices in the region, providing compassionate end-of-life care for patients of every age. Merrimack Valley Hospice House, located in Haverhill MA, opened in June 2009 and provides another option for patients who cannot receive hospice care at home.