

Janet Bailey Faude: Champion of Women and Girls

In the words of one of her nominators, "Janet Bailey Faude is a remarkable woman who has dedicated much of her life to social good and justice...having made an easy and successful transition from her accomplished career in financial services to the non-profit world, bringing with her skills that would ensure her ability to build recognition and capacity at the institutions she has served."

Indeed, after graduating from Dartmouth College and the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Janet worked for many years in banking and education – first at CT Bank and Trust, Fleet Bank, and Aetna, and later at Trinity College and Saint Joseph's College, where she finished her (working) career as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

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In her "retirement," Janet was able to focus more intently on organizations whose missions and goals aligned most closely with her own – namely, the <u>Girl Scouts of Connecticut</u>, which she served as a member of the Board of Directors, and the <u>Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls in Greater Hartford</u>, where she has been a Board member for the past nine years -- and Board chair for the past four.

A catalyst for change in the lives of women and girls in our region, the Aurora Foundation is known as one of the most influential and reliable resources in Greater Hartford for information, research, and education about the issues and challenges facing women and girls. Its goal is simple: to unlock the potential of women and girls and thereby help not only them, but also their communities. And, thanks to its ability to attract supporters and funding, Aurora is able to help in very tangible ways, through grants awarded to groups or organizations providing real assistance to females.

During her years on the Aurora Board, Janet has assumed roles that are both tactical and strategic. In addition to managing the appointment of Aurora's first full-time executive director and the creation of its first office in West Hartford, she herself stepped up and served as acting Executive Director during a time of transition between one executive to another – running the organization for more than 10 months while also serving as board chair. She also commissioned the signature "Aurora Report" in 2013 – which is the first comprehensive statistical assessment of the status of women and girls in Greater Hartford. This report has become the "go-to" reference for many community members who need data to support their efforts to identify needs and design collaborative solutions for key issues.

Janet's passion for the Aurora Foundation – its mission, its work, and the individual women and girls who benefit from it – is apparent to anyone who meets her for even the briefest moment. Again, in the words of her nominator: "Her contributions as a leader, philanthropist and champion of women and girls in Greater Hartford has been an inspiration to those with whom she works."