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**Darien Foundation:
Tech Foundation Shortens Name But Keep Its Mission**

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Coming soon to Grove Street Plaza is an immense brick representing the Darien Foundation. Use your smart phone to take a photo of the QR code on the side of the brick and see where it leads you.

"Our new slogan is Building a Better Darien" Pam Dysenchuk, the foundation's executive director, said.

"We want people to know about all the terrific grants we've provided to the Darien public schools as well as other community organizations in town. This is a way to inform people of our mission."

The Darien Foundation is the new name for the Darien Technology & Community Foundation. Its mission of providing funding for technology and capital projects to the Darien Schools and other community organizations remains the same.

"The reason for the change is to have a shorter, simpler name," Dysenchuk said. "There are quite a few organizations in town that sound alike (the Darien Community Association, the Community Fund of Darien) which sometimes results in confusion. We're hoping to lessen that confusion by calling ourselves The Darien Foundation for Technology & Community - the shortened version being The Darien Foundation."

The Darien Foundation has provided more than \$1 million in grants to the Darien Schools since its founding in 1998. In addition, it has provided grants to many community organizations in town for a variety of projects.

The new Darien Library received \$500,000 towards technology and its Power Library training lab. Darien EMS-Post 53, the Police Department and all three volunteer Fire Departments have received grants totaling \$115,000. Person-to-Person received a grant for its recent capital campaign, as did the Playground by the Sound at Weed Beach.

The renovated Historical Society has a state-of-the-art audio visual system thanks to the Foundation.

The Foundation's most recent grant was to the YMCA's capital campaign.

They contributed \$185,000 toward the green technology co-generation facility which will efficiently heat, cool and dehumidify the renovated Y.

Fundraising is key to the foundation's ability to provide grants, Dysenchuk said. Money is raised through a town wide mailing each November as well as an annual fundraising event in October. This year, Grace Potter & the Nocturnals will perform a private concert on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Palace Theatre in Stamford, to benefit the foundation.

Potter has been described as "a modern day version of Tina Turner stroking the microphone in a spangled mini-dress while fronting the Rolling Stones circa Sticky Fingers."

The band has appeared on the Conan O'Brien and Jay Leno shows. This summer, Grace performed with Kenny Chesney on the Today Show Concert Series.

The evening will begin at 6:30 with a pre-concert cocktail reception featuring hearty hors d'oeuvres and a live auction followed by the performance at 8:30. Afterwards, dessert and drinks will be served and Grace Potter will mingle with the guests. Kristin Edwards is chairman of the event this year, supported by committee heads Krista Brown, Daphne Ely, Alex Eising, Jaymie Pavolonis, Katie Stein and Jenny Tarleton.

Tickets can be purchased on the Darien Foundation Web site, darienfoundation.org.
More info: 203-655-5099

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