



**Mayor Anita Dugatto**  
City of Derby, Connecticut

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### **DERBY SENIOR CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FOR COMPUTERS**

DERBY –Derby Senior Center members will soon be able to freely access online resources, exchange emails, and follow friends and family on Facebook thanks to a grant recently awarded by Valley Community Foundation.

With assistance from Derby's Department of Community and Economic Development, Derby Senior Center Executive Director, Sarah Muoio, submitted a grant application to Valley Community Foundation seeking funding for two new computers and a new printer for the center.

Her motivation for pursuing the grant was to offer computer access, as well as training, to center members. The technology would also allow the center to continue publishing its very popular monthly newsletter, as well as update its website, event calendar, and Facebook page.

Derby Senior Center, located at 293 Main Street, currently serves nearly 2,000 members from 25 towns. Most of its members reside in the surrounding communities of Derby, Ansonia, and Shelton. However, some come from as far away as Fairfield and Hamden.

"Many of our members do not have computers at home," Muoio said. "With today's high cost of living, a computer is simply not an option in many cases."

Muoio pointed out that computer access is not just a matter of convenience.

According to studies cited in the grant application, computer usage has many benefits for older adults. Research has shown that those who use computers report fewer depression symptoms than those who do not. In addition, computer usage has been credited in helping seniors stay sharp and mentally alert.

"Computer availability will also allow our seniors to keep in touch with loved ones, which is very important to their quality of life," Muoio said.

Derby Mayor Anita Dugatto praised Muoio's efforts. "Sarah recognized the value in bringing computer access to our older community members. Through teamwork, as well as the generosity of Valley Community Foundation, she filled an important need."