The purpose of The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund (HBMF) is to help needy teachers who have served but are no longer active in the teaching profession. This private fund is exclusively charitable. Its main goal is to help teachers stay independent—with an adequate standard of living—and maintain pride in themselves and in their profession. The Fund preserves the dignity of teachers as human beings by offering financial and other assistance in a private, professional manner.

Daily, throughout Connecticut, people ask public school teachers for help. Parents, students, and administrative personnel all view the classroom teacher as the person with the answers. What happens when teachers find themselves with a disability or in an otherwise unfortunate circumstance is of grave concern. The HBMF was established as a place to turn for help. Those entrusted with the care of the fund know how difficult it is for needy retired teachers to ask for help.

Money is obtained through the generosity of the many active and retired teachers in Connecticut. The HBMF accepts bequests from estates as well as earns interest on invested monies.

Retired teachers who are financially overburdened should feel welcome to apply for help.

Feeling ill at ease about asking for help should not impede requests for assistance. All requests, whether they are granted or not, are treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Although requests for help from the HBMF are usually due to a general need, there can be one-time or single-area expenses that can tip the balance between financial independence and financial need. Nowadays, disability retirements are becoming more frequent.

The Fund is available only to retired teachers who are receiving benefits from the Connecticut State Teachers’ Retirement System. Applications can be obtained from Janice Grodski or Andrea Yukna.

For application and information contact:

Andrea Yukna  
76 Chatham Rd.  
Kensington, CT 06037

Janice Grodski  
33 Canborne Way  
Madison, CT 06443

Or at ayhbmf@yahoo.com

The Fund is supported solely by donations and bequests, primarily from active and retired teachers. It relies on the generosity of others to continue its good works. Just as educators feel obliged to help needy students, teachers feel the responsibility to assist disadvantaged colleagues. Making a tax-deductible donation is a gratifying way to help others in need. HBMF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity/corporation.

Contributions can be made to this independent fund in a variety of ways. A number of schools, active and retired locals, counties, Greek letter associations, and state groups solicit donations routinely. The Connecticut Education Association (CEA) and the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC) will gladly forward any donations. Individuals are also encouraged to give directly to the HBMF. Whichever the method of giving, all donations are sent to:

The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund  
76 Chatham Rd., Kensington, CT 06037

Gifts in the name of others will be gratefully acknowledged if addresses are provided.

Another way to help If anyone knows of retired teachers who need some financial assistance, encourage them to apply or help them fill out an application for the HBMF.
Each of the following individual circumstances is unique, but the message is the same: Connecticut teachers need not ever sacrifice their pride, dignity, and independence—even if they no longer teach in a classroom.

- A 50 year old gentleman had to take an early retirement due to medical issues and had a teacher’s pension of $1,100.00. The HBMF provides a monthly stipend to help with living expenses.

- A 75 year old retired Connecticut teacher living in Vermont receives a pension of $2,300.00. He has no social security. The HBMF helps with the additional insurance through Sterling and Sterling.

- A 67 year old retired teacher living in an assisted living facility due to medical issues was able to purchase new glasses and hearing aids with the help of HBMF.

Who was Henry Barnard?

Henry Barnard (1811–1900) served as the third president of The Connecticut Education Association (CEA) in 1850. The Fund was established in 1953, largely due to the efforts of Lyndon U. Pratt, who at that time was the CEA Executive Secretary. Fittingly, the HBMF uses Barnard’s name in honor of his dedication to the teaching profession.

A Hartford-born educator, legislator, and educational reformer, Barnard was instrumental in nurturing the emerging concept of a united teacher’s profession. He served as secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Common Schools in Connecticut and Rhode Island and was the first United States Commissioner of Education as well as founder/editor of the American Journal of Education. Barnard devoted his life to securing universal education for everyone and to providing the best education to people through a system of public schools.

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Joe Blancato
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The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund, Inc.
Helping Retired Teachers In Need