

Basic Detail Report



Title Interview with Holly Cassaday

Date 30 June 2025

Medium born digital audio file

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Description (a) Audio file of interview with Holly Cassaday. She was interviewed

by Samantha Hass on 30 June 2025 in Winsted, Connecticut (b) Photograph of

Holly Cassaday provided by Holly Cassaday. Holly Cassaday was interviewed as

part of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History's Community History

Project discussing moments of change in her life. Holly talks about her

experiences being part of the board of the endowed academy, the Gilbert

School, that she attended years ago. The high school, which her family has

attended for generations, is important to her. Its significance in her life

encouraged her to volunteer and become a trustee of the board. As the chair of

the board, Holly organizes meetings, works with the head of school, and signs

off on certain financial documents. Her work here requires a great deal of

scheduling and responsibility. She explains that her work for the school has

been the result of climbing up the hierarchical volunteering ladder. She initially

volunteered at her daughter's elementary school for the PTO program, which

mostly consisted of organizing fundraising events. Then, she volunteered for the

town's Laurel commission. Later, she found her work for the board to be the

most satisfactory, as it directly impacts students. Positively impacting

students' lives has always been a goal of Holly's. One thing that Holly describes

fondly is the board's role in increasing security and mental health resources for

students at the Gilbert School. She explained in the interview that, post-Covid,

the school had a need for increased mental health services, so counselors were

hired to assist the students. An armed security officer was also hired for safety.

As a mother and someone with a full-time job, Holly explained that she uses

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calendars to track her responsibilities and has to plan her schedule with a great deal of intentionality in order to balance everything in her life. Fortunately, she has flexibility with her working hours, which allows her to dedicate time to volunteer services and board work. Overall, Holly spoke highly of her time on the board. The biggest takeaway that she learned was to “keep an open mind and really think things through,” because working for a school board allows you to meet people of countless different needs and backgrounds.

Dimensions Duration: 27 Minutes, 29 Seconds