

April 2009 NEWSLETTER

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City Harvest's mobile green markets bring free fruit and vegetables to poor neighborhoods on Staten Island and in the Bronx, giving people, like the woman above, an opportunity to make healthy meals. Photo by Michael Seto.

Reinforcing New York's Safety Net

The City's nonprofits are being besieged by families who have never before asked for help—to pay rent, fight debt collectors, and apply for food stamps. They join the far too many New Yorkers for whom this economic crisis is a way of life. The burgeoning numbers, coupled with impending City and State budget cuts and shrinking corporate and private funding, are forcing many nonprofits to try and do a lot more with a lot less. In response, The Trust has made eight grants totaling **\$7,198,000** to shore up nonprofits helping people across the City.



Goddard Riverside Community Center is one of the City's 36 settlement houses. Kids in its Head Start program learn how plants grow while other West Siders take advantage of the Center's senior, after-school, adult literacy, and feeding programs. Photo by Alex Steedman.

A grant of **\$275,000** is supporting **City Harvest's** work to redistribute 23 million pounds of produce donated by farmers, distributors, and food manufacturers. The group is coordinating with the Food Bank to get more fresh produce to the City's emergency feeding programs.

Unfortunately, illness, age, or disability prevents some seniors from traveling to these feeding programs. **Citymeals-on-Wheels**, a nonprofit founded in 1982 with a grant from The Trust, delivers hot and frozen meals to poor and homebound seniors on weekends and holidays, when the City-run Meals-on-Wheels program does not deliver. A grant of **\$500,000** will help continue this critical service.

Unlocking the Money

"In developing these grants, we looked at ways we could help effective groups provide the most service for the most people most efficiently," said Joyce Bove, The Trust's senior vice president of programs. "For example, our grant to the **New York City Financial Network**

Action Consortium will provide financial counseling and unlock millions of federal dollars in Earned Income Tax Credits, food stamps, and other benefits for eligible New Yorkers, making our **\$560,000** grant go a very long way." The Consortium is partnering with the **Food Bank** and the **Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement** to provide these services at neighborhood sites.

Similarly, a **\$1.2 million** grant to **Legal Services NYC** will support a partnership with the **Legal Aid Society** to expand legal services for New Yorkers. Agency staff will work with clients to determine eligibility for public benefits, Earned Income Tax Credits, or unemployment

Feeding More People

With people losing jobs every day, more families are turning to feeding programs. As the largest organization of its kind, **Food Bank for New York City, Food for Survival** collects and distributes food to more than 1,000 agencies throughout the City that provide meals to a million New Yorkers each year. Two-thirds of our **\$1,500,000** grant is helping the Food Bank collect 58 million pounds (6 million more than last year) of produce, meat, and other staples to feed the increasing number of hungry New Yorkers. The other third will go toward buying freezers, shelving, or toward compensating volunteers, ensuring that smaller feeding programs have the capacity to prepare, serve, and store this food.

For more than 100 years, the City's settlement houses have opened their doors to immigrants and poor people. The 36 houses offer education, social services, job training, and recreation for people of all ages.

insurance. They will also deal with illegal debt collection and home foreclosures, and when all else fails, help people file for bankruptcy.

Keeping Services Running at Settlement Houses

For more than 100 years, the City's settlement houses have opened their doors to immigrants and poor people. The 36 houses offer education, social services, job training, and recreation for people of all ages. Already serving more than 500,000 New Yorkers in some of the City's poorest neighborhoods, they are facing an unprecedented increase in demand. A grant of **\$1,300,000** to **United Neighborhood Houses of New York** is helping to sustain early childhood and after-

school programs for youth, senior centers, adult education, and job workshops. In addition, the grant will enable the settlements to give out emergency cash to prevent evictions, and provide food for the hungry.

Helping Cancer Patients Pay their Bills

People with cancer are confronting mounting drug and health care costs. Even those with employer insurance face cuts in covered services along with higher premiums, deductibles, and copayments. Many newer cancer drugs are not covered by Medicaid and the elderly enrolled in Medicare can get stuck in a coverage gap in which they pay the full cost of *all* their drugs. With these problems exacerbated by the recession, **Cancer Care** has seen a

United Neighborhood Houses' After School Conservation Club teaches kids about environmental conservation—and sprucing up their communities. The young lady below plants flowers that attract butterflies in a formerly abandoned plot near the Queens Community House in Forest Hills.





Sleep Walk with Me, produced by the Barrow Group, is an autobiographical show performed by comedian Mike Birbiglia who suffers from REM Behavior Disorder. The show is now playing at the Bleecker Street Theatre. Photo by Joan Marcus.

significant increase in requests for help with medical costs. With an **\$850,000** grant, Cancer Care is paying for chemotherapy, radiation, and other treatment-related costs including pain medication, childcare, transportation, and home care for people who can't afford it.

Providing Rent and Mortgage Relief to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions

Preventing homelessness, rather than coping with its aftermath, has long been a priority for The Trust. With more homeowners and renters facing foreclosure and eviction, a **\$1,000,000** grant will help the **Bridge Fund of New York** double the number of people it works with. This year, they will make small loans and grants to 700 families and refer an additional 3,600 for financial services and public benefits. To improve the prospects

The show must go on, and not just to take our minds off the economy. Theater, dance, and the visual arts often get short shrift in tough times, but as the soul of the City, and as a driving force of tourism, New York can't afford to neglect the arts. More than 160,000 jobs and \$21 billion in revenue were generated by the arts industry in the City in 2005.

that families will remain in their homes, the Fund will hold bi-weekly money management workshops in multiple languages at various places around the City.

"These kinds of grants have always been a major part of our giving," said Lorie Slutsky, The Trust's president. "What's different is that we have given significantly more money to agencies that have the ability to increase the number of people they help, but face a serious drop-off in private and public funding."

The Green Legacy of a Man of Steel

When Charles Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic, he had Staten Island native Wheaton B. Kunhardt to thank for the specialized steel in his engines. While Andrew Carnegie was concentrating on mass-producing steel for buildings, Kunhardt's company, Carpenter Steel, developed stainless steels and high-grade alloys for cars, machinery, and aircraft. Although Carpenter Steel was based in Reading, Pennsylvania, Kunhardt spent much of his time in New York City, where he was a member of



Wheaton B. Kunhardt



Syracuse residents share personal stories about living in different cultures in *Tales from the Salt City*, part of Ping Chong & Company's reality-theater series "Undesirable Elements." Photo by Michael Davis.

the New York Botanical Society and the American Museum of Natural History. When he died in 1933, he left his estate to The Trust.

Today, we are bringing together his passion for industry and nature. A **\$40,000** grant from the Wheaton B. Kunhardt Fund to the **New York Industrial Retention Network** is helping local businesses get green tax credits and grants for energy-efficient equipment, and produce environmentally safe products. More than 70 years after his death, Mr. Kunhardt is improving the environment and helping the City retain and create well-paying industrial jobs.

Supporting the Arts in Good Times and Bad

The show must go on, and not just to take our minds off the economy. Theater, dance, and the visual arts often get short shrift in tough times, but as the soul of the City, and as a driving force of tourism, New York can't afford to neglect the arts. More than 160,000 jobs and \$21 billion in revenue were generated by the arts industry in the City in 2005. A three-year grant of

\$75,000 supports the **Barrow Group**, an incubator for new plays and a training ground for directors, actors, and playwrights. "In our work, we attempt to make the 'acting' invisible, so that audiences feel like they're watching real events instead of 'performances,'" said founder and co-artistic director Seth Barrish. "In this way, the viewer has a more intimate and hopefully more moving relationship with the story."

Ping Chong & Company is known for pushing the boundaries of multi-media theater and creating works that combine themes of race, immigration, history, art, and technology. Since 1992, the company has produced a community-hosted series, "Undesirable Elements," in which people born in one culture, but currently live in another, are invited to share their experiences with the audience. Chong is currently directing *Three Vampires: A Parable of the Philippines* in collaboration with Trust grantee Ma-Yi Theater Company. The Company is also working on a stage adaptation of Akira Kurosawa's film, *Throne of Blood*. A three-year grant of **\$75,000** will provide continued support for this creative powerhouse.



Choreographer Yvonne Meier's *Stolen*, described as "simultaneously raw and exacting" by the *New York Times*, was performed as part of Danspace Project's City/Dans series. Photo by Ryutaro Ishikane.

Wendy Wasserstein and David Mamet are among those who received their first readings at **Ensemble Studio Theater**. With a three-year grant of **\$90,000**, Ensemble will continue nurturing the work of emerging playwrights. New audiences are drawn by a showcase entitled "Youngblood," in which writers ages 18 to 25 present readings of new works. This spring, the theater will also be featuring a marathon of new one-act plays in addition to a series of works by contemporary African-American women, and a festival dedicated to plays about science and technology.

Presenting both emerging artists and experimental pieces by established choreographers, **Danspace Project** has become a hub of innovation in movement. With its variety of programs, low-cost performances, and central location at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, it is also one of the most accessible homes of contemporary dance in the City. With a three-year grant of **\$90,000**, Danspace is beginning 2009 with works produced locally and globally: City/Dans features New York

choreographers and Global Exchange will feature artists from Poland, Denmark, and Hungary. In addition to its regular season, Danspace will present performances in Brooklyn and on the Lower East Side, and a showcase of younger choreographers that collects donations for various causes in lieu of admission. Danspace also shares its space at St. Mark's Church, providing low-cost performance space for smaller companies.

Queens Theatre in the Park prides itself on offerings that are just as good as what's on stage in Manhattan, but closer to Queens and Long Island residents, and at half the price. In order to produce quality shows that attract an audience as diverse as its borough, the theater employs seven artistic directors expert in a different cultural niche. With a **\$90,000** grant, programs such as the Latino Cultural Series and Festival, Black Cultural Arts Series, and the Immigrant Voices Play Reading Project will continue to complement the regular theater and dance seasons, which are filled with tangos, ballets, musicals, comedies, tragedies, and all that's in between.

Other Grants

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, \$50,000 to continue a three-year, academically rigorous, after-school science program for motivated black and Latino high school students.

New York Youth at Risk, \$75,000 for a program that provides fatherless boys in Far Rockaway with mentors, leadership and community service workshops, and help with schoolwork.

CIVIC AFFAIRS

One New York: Fighting for Fairness, \$153,000 for advocacy and lobbying to safeguard services for the poor as City and State budgets are drastically cut.

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, \$150,000 to promote the use of plastics made from plants.

Pew Charitable Trusts, \$100,000 to build support for a global fund to halt rapid species extinction.

Silent Spring Institute, \$75,000 to study the link between disease and carcinogenic chemicals in the environment and to advocate for better regulation of power plants and a reduction in the use of toxic flame retardants.

Smart Growth America, \$200,000 for a national campaign promoting sustainable transportation policies at the federal, state, and local levels.

University of Massachusetts, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, \$150,000 to work with industry on using safer chemicals in consumer goods (with an emphasis on toys and children's products), and to promote state and federal chemicals policy reform.

U.S. Green Building Council, New York Chapter, \$50,000 to integrate energy efficiency and water conservation standards into City building codes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Cause Effective, \$100,000 to help nonprofits increase and diversify their base of donors through consultations and workshops.

Community Resource Exchange, \$400,000 to help organizations serving poor communities improve their operations so that they can survive the recession.

Lawyers Alliance for New York, \$200,000 to provide more nonprofits with business-law services necessitated by the economic crisis such as debt restructuring, modifying employer benefits, terminating commercial leases, and asset transfers.

NYCharities.org, \$100,000 to expand an on-line charitable giving service for City nonprofits.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

National Employment Law Project, \$75,000 to improve New York State's unemployment insurance program by helping people enroll, increasing employer contributions, and raising benefits.

New York City Employment and Training Coalition, \$100,000 to organize local workforce development organizations to respond to the economic crisis by spending federal stimulus resources and advocating for more funding for job skills education.

EDUCATION

Advocates for Children of New York, \$250,000 to protect the educational rights of poor, immigrant, and other youth with special needs through legal representation, advice, and advocacy.

Alliance for Quality Education, \$125,000 to preserve the hard-won, needs-based State funding formula for public schools; and to make sure budget cuts do not fall disproportionately on the neediest students.

HUMAN JUSTICE

The Fund for New Citizens, \$200,000 to help immigrants and refugees in the City through a joint grantmaking effort.

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, \$60,000 to train young people to become advocates for gun-violence prevention and design and carry out community improvement projects.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Birch Family Services, \$35,000 to train 150 teachers from 60 elementary and middle schools to work with autistic students in mainstream classes.

Coalition for Medically Fragile Children, \$50,000 to advocate for improved home-nursing, hospice, and palliative care for medically fragile children.

New Alternatives for Children, \$100,000 to coordinate health and mental health care at an agency for children in foster care who have severe disabilities.

April 2009 GRANTS Newsletter

The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its February 2009 meeting.

For address, phone number, and contact person for each grantee listed, or for more information, please call The Trust's receptionist at 212-686-0010, Extension 0.

This issue and past Grants Newsletters can be found on our Web site:
www.nycommunitytrust.org

If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please send an e-mail with your name, e-mail address, and "Grants Newsletter" in the subject to newsletter@nyct-cfi.org.

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