

THE NEW YORK
COMMUNITY TRUST



GRANTS

April 2007 NEWSLETTER

Most of the grants described in our newsletter are made possible through the generosity of past donors who established permanent, charitable funds with us during their lifetimes or through their wills. If you would like to learn more about how to do this, please contact our general counsel, Jane Wilton, at 212.686.2563

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 200,000 Out of School and Out of Work: Programs that are helping young New Yorkers.

3 Affordable Housing: A New York oxymoron?

Victims of violence: Do you know where to turn when you're alone?

4 Help for public schools comes from many sources.

5 Meeting the needs of the elderly—wherever they are.

How do we protect the "Dom Perignon" of water?

6 No, it's not Broadway. But check it out.

How to deal with chronic illness.



Where Goes the Neighborhood?

Preserving what makes the city the City.

New York's 1965 Landmarks Law created the Landmarks Preservation Commission, whose charge covers historically important structures. But the Commission has focused solely on architectural criteria, and the lion's share of money goes to projects in Manhattan, overlooking decaying sites that evoke the history and culture of the City's neighborhoods. In 1998, **City Lore** and the Municipal Art Society created Place Matters to preserve neighborhood landmarks across the City. A citywide census identified 600 historically significant places, and 12 of those sites have

This young resident of Kingsborough Houses in Crown Heights, Brooklyn is cycling past the Richmond Barthé frieze, documented by City Lore. Photo credit: Matha Cooper



Reciprocity Foundation helps homeless teens prepare for college and work in fashion, design, media, and marketing. Here, graduates of the program—aspiring designers—make centerpieces for the Social Capitalist of the Year awards, sponsored by Fast Company.

been designated official landmarks, including Our Lady of Mount Carmel Grotto on Staten Island, the Bohemian Hall in Queens, and Casa Amedeo Record Store in the South Bronx. City Lore also used the census to publish *Hidden New York: A Guide to Places that Matter*, produce the film *From Mambo to Hip Hop: A Bronx Tale*, and install descriptive signs throughout the Lower East Side. With a **\$50,000** grant, Place Matters will produce a handbook to help residents of low-income communities preserve and promote significant places.

Many long-time New Yorkers are simply baffled that so much of the City's waterfront is still a wasteland. Efforts to revitalize the East River waterfront are moving forward, but progress along poor areas that once housed commercial and manufacturing facilities is moving at a snail's pace. The **Municipal Art Society of New York**, which promotes urban design, planning, and historic preservation, created the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance in 1999, a coalition of 300 groups that advocates for rational development of the regional waterfront. With a previous Trust grant, the coalition's East River Network put together an agenda of 231 places that require clean-up, held briefings and tours for City Council candidates during the 2005 election, and worked with graduate students to design waterfront improvements in Hunts Point, Long Island City, the Lower East Side, and Williamsburg. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Alliance will publish the East River Agenda and host a series of public

events for elected officials and business, civic, and environmental leaders. The Alliance will design redevelopment plans for the Navy Yard and Newtown Creek in Brooklyn and Anable Basin in Long Island City, and organize residents to advocate with the City Council to eliminate sewage flowing into the East River.

200,000 Out of School and Out of Work: Programs that are helping young New Yorkers.

If you think you've been seeing an awful lot of young men and women on the streets during the day, you have. The majority of these young people, ages 16 to 24, are African American or Latino, a third are single mothers, more than half are young men, and all are poor. Another 20,000 are also homeless. Because of limited skills, work experience, and schooling, they can't find and keep jobs. Four grants of \$50,000 each go to organizations that are helping dropouts and homeless youth learn the skills they need to make it on their own.

- **Ali Forney Center** is adding remedial classes in reading, writing, and math to its employment program for homeless gay and lesbian youth that trains them for the workplace and helps them find jobs.
- **Covenant House New York** is expanding a job training and placement program for formerly homeless and other disadvantaged youth in Bedford-Stuyvesant, including on-site General Equivalency Diploma (GED) classes, and preparation for entry level jobs in health care, retail, security, and banking.
- **New Heights Neighborhood Center** is strengthening a GED program for high school dropouts who live in Washington Heights and helping them apply to college or find jobs.
- **Reciprocity Foundation** is expanding a college prep program for homeless, predominantly gay, teens that also includes internships at fashion, design, media, and marketing firms.

If you're elderly and live on a low and fixed income, you may really have trouble: Renters are threatened by the hot real estate market and new rent regulations that make it easier for landlords to raise rents and evict tenants; homeowners often find it hard to pay for upkeep.

By 2012, the City expects to have 8,000 openings a year for health-related jobs such as phlebotomist, emergency medical technician, and pharmacy assistant—careers that don't require a four-year college degree. And while new City high schools have been started to interest young people in these jobs, they rarely give them work experience at hospitals. The **Jewish Home & Hospital for the Aged**, founded in 1848, began a three-year internship program last year for poor, minority high school students. Twenty-seven students from the Marie Curie High School for Nursing and Health Professions started in the Geriatric Career Development Program in 2006 when they were sophomores. They're being trained in geriatrics, long-term care, and medical ethics. The program will now recruit a second class from Marie Curie and two additional high schools. With a two-year, **\$100,000** grant, the original class will be assigned to semester-long internships in specific Hospital departments starting in September 2007. The following year, when they are seniors, they will begin coursework for State certification as pharmacy assistants, phlebotomists, and electrocardiograph and emergency medical technicians. Each student will also be paired with a tutor and attend prep classes for the State Regents exam.

Affordable Housing: *A New York oxymoron?*

Ask any New Yorker about finding affordable—and decent—housing, and you're likely to get a cynical laugh. If you're elderly and live on a low and fixed income, you may really have trouble: Renters are threatened by the hot real estate market and new rent regulations that make it easier for landlords to raise rents and evict tenants; homeowners often find it hard to pay for upkeep. Previous Trust grants to community organizations for counseling and legal assistance have helped more than 2,000 elders keep their homes. Two groups that help the elderly with housing issues have received grants of \$40,000 each.

- **Erasmus Neighborhood Federation** will counsel elders

in Flatbush, and offer legal help, workshops, and home repair grants to help them stay in their homes.

- **Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City** will help elderly homeowners apply for reverse mortgages.

Victims of violence:

Do you know where to turn when you're alone?

What do you do if you're trapped in an abusive relationship, don't speak much English, have no support, and are afraid? If you're a woman, and you live in Queens, you can now go to the **Violence Intervention Program** (VIP), which was started in 1984 in upper Manhattan and the Bronx to fill a void in services for Latina survivors of domestic violence and their children. Last year, it helped 900 women, and an additional 18,000 women who called its hotline. In 2004, with Trust support, it opened a small program in Queens. The new office has become a valuable source of help, but it doesn't have enough staff to meet the demand. With a **\$60,000** grant, VIP will hire more staff to work with children, help their mothers, and manage the helpline. It expects to help 300 additional families this year.

Survivors of torture in other countries come to America seeking asylum. They often arrive without identification, which creates difficult immigration problems. They also face a high burden of proof that they have been victims of persecution: of the more than 100,000 people who applied for asylum in 2002, less than 30 percent were approved. **Doctors of the World—U.S.A.** uses volunteer medical professionals to assess the physical and mental health of immigrant survivors of torture as well as immigrant women who are victims of domestic abuse. With a previous Trust grant, the group's New York City Human Rights Clinic helped 275 clients; 87 percent of asylum seekers were approved. It also worked with immigrant groups to increase referrals. With a **\$40,000** grant, the



Children and parents beef up on natural science through the SPARKS program. Here, Bronx Zoo visitors compare their body weight and size to the world's largest primates, bears and large cats by observing, up-close, animal foot and handprints, and skulls.

group will train all its volunteers and doctors at referring hospitals to improve their ability to assess women who have been victims of sexual torture and domestic violence.

Help for public schools comes from many sources.

Regular readers of this newsletter may recall that The Trust supported for more than a decade the Campaign for Fiscal Equity's (CFE) landmark lawsuit—charging the State with shortchanging City public school students. In November 2006, the New York State Court of Appeals issued its final decision: at least \$2 billion more must be spent annually on City schools. But the court left it to the governor and legislature to determine whether more money is required, and didn't set accountability mechanisms for spending it. The **Alliance for Quality Education** worked with CFE plaintiffs on an agenda for education reform. With a nine-

month, **\$125,000** grant, the Alliance and its 230 members will organize parents to push for more money in the 2007/08 budget for City schools.

Science is increasingly important to a complete education, but the latest test by National Assessment of Education Progress showed that public school kids know very little science: more than half of City fourth-graders scored "below basic" in the subject. Parents can encourage their children's interest in science, but many are intimidated by their own lack of knowledge. Zoos and museums can help both parents and kids enjoy and learn about science. In 1929, the **Wildlife Conservation Society** started an education department that uses the Bronx, Central Park, Queens, and Prospect Park zoos to teach natural science to kids and expose them to wildlife conservation careers. In 2005, the Society worked with schools in the northwest Bronx to

The Catskill mountain region...is only 100 miles northwest of the City and contains more than 6,000 square miles of forest, rivers, and wetlands. Protecting it from tourism and overdevelopment is essential to protecting the quality of City drinking water.

develop SPARKS (Supporting Parents in Advocacy, Reform, and Knowledge in Science), a program of workshops to help parents learn how to use the zoo as an educational resource for their children. With a two-year, **\$60,000** grant, the Society will recruit additional parents, particularly those not fluent in English. The parents will attend workshops and help run activity tables at the summer SPARKS Family Science Fair. When they complete the program, each parent will receive a family membership entitling them to free admission to the four zoos and the New York Aquarium. The program will be fine-tuned and repeated with another group of parents in 2008.

Meeting the needs of the elderly—wherever they are.

With schedules for eating, recreation, and sleep, nursing homes feel more like boot camp than “home.” With a previous Trust grant, the **Isabella Geriatric Center** and the Cobble Hill Health Center reduced their institutional feel by training staff to take patients’ desires into consideration when making decisions about recreation, meals, and other personal needs. The program was a hit. With a **\$100,000** grant, facilities will form committees to identify the most successful parts of the program and hold training sessions for every staff member in patient-centered care. The committees will also work with the union to change collective bargaining agreements to allow flexible job descriptions and develop patient charting procedures to ensure that new approaches to care comply with State regulations. Patient, staff, and family satisfaction will be evaluated and results shared with other long-term care managers and nursing home regulators in Albany.

Many nonprofits rely on volunteers. With Baby Boomers—who are healthy, active, and motivated—beginning to retire, the crop of available talent is growing. **ReServe Elder Service** was founded in 2005 to place retired professionals with nonprofits that can benefit

from their experience. A previous Trust grant helped ReServe recruit 235 qualified retirees for volunteer work; 150 were placed in 38 nonprofits. With a **\$50,000** grant, ReServe will hire a business manager to streamline its operations and give the executive director more time to develop volunteer jobs. ReServe will continue to recruit retirees, improve their computer skills, and train a selected group to offer money management to frail elders.

How do we protect the “Dom Perignon” of water?

Although many people buy bottled water, most New Yorkers prefer theirs straight from the tap. It comes from the Catskill mountain region, which includes the Catskill and Delaware watersheds. The region is only 100 miles northwest of the City and contains more than 6,000 square miles of forest, rivers, and wetlands. Protecting it from tourism and overdevelopment is essential to protecting the quality of City drinking water. In 1999, the **Catskill Center for Conservation and Development** began a program to involve residents and business owners in planning for the region’s growth and conservation. In the last four years, it helped 10 towns plan for their future and attracted \$1 million in public and private grants for local revitalization. With a **\$60,000** grant, Catskill Center will start working with communities in Greene County on land-use and economic growth policies. Greene County is important because it contains parts of both watersheds and is facing heavy development pressure from builders. The Center will educate community leaders and residents on attracting economic development and channeling it to town centers as opposed to hillsides—and prevent runoff into waterways that affect the City’s water.

Poorly planned, sprawling development harms not only habitat and drinking water; it also saps the vitality of once-vibrant cities. **Environmental Advocates of New York** works to make sure the State protects its natural

resources and environmental health. It has succeeded in passing key legislation since it started in 1969, including the nation's first acid-rain law; the bottle deposit law; the creation of the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Systems Program; and brownfields legislation. With a previous Trust grant, Environmental Advocates started a coalition of 70 groups and campaigned to get the Community Preservation Act passed, which would allow cities and towns to charge a fee on real estate deals to create a fund for acquiring open space. Although it was passed in the Assembly and received Governor Pataki's support, it failed in the Senate. With a **\$65,000** grant, Environmental Advocates will expand its campaign promoting community preservation funds and focus on the Hudson River Valley, the Capital district, and Long Island, where communities have demonstrated interest.

No, it's not Broadway. But check it out.

In recent years, Brooklyn has become a magnet for artists from all over the world. The **Brooklyn Arts Council** has supported the borough's artists and cultural organizations since 1966, and last year staged more than 1,000 free music, dance, film, and visual arts events. To help the growing number of traditional dancers in Brooklyn, last year the Council started Folk Feet, a program that showcases dance traditions from the borough's ethnic communities. With a **\$40,000** grant, the Council will include more ethnic dancers in Folk Feet. It will interview and videotape the performances of 200 dancers and work with larger presenters—such as BAM Café and Lincoln Center Out of Doors—to hold performances. The Council will also help the dancers organize fee-for-service workshops and add 15 dancers to its roster of paid teaching artists in public schools.

Through our Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund, the following grants have been made to small theater, arts, and dance groups in New York:

Performance Space 122 (\$90,000, three years), for an experimental performing arts center on the Lower East Side.

Pregones Touring Puerto Rican Theater Collection (\$90,000, three years), for a Bronx theater group.

Spanish Dance Arts Company (\$90,000, three years), for a Flamenco dance company.

St. Ann Center for Restoration and the Arts (\$30,000), for an art center in Brooklyn Heights that integrates theater with other art forms.

How to deal with chronic illness.

Cancer treatments, particularly radiation and chemotherapy, often dull the appetite and make many patients too weak to cook, let alone shop for food. But research shows that healthy meals strengthen the immune system of cancer patients. **God's Love We Deliver** was established in 1985 to deliver well-balanced meals and give nutrition counseling to people with HIV/AIDS who are homebound or unable to cook. As it became more well-known, God's Love was asked to help individuals with other illnesses, including cancer, and with a 2001 Trust grant, it began delivering meals to patients with breast, colon, and prostate cancer. With a **\$75,000** grant, it will add ovarian, cervical, and uterine cancer patients and create brochures about nutrition for them. The group also will work with agencies such as the African Services Committee, Harlem Hospital, and the Ralph Lauren Center at North General Hospital to reach women in Harlem.

Mentors can interest troubled or disadvantaged kids in constructive activities and help them gain self-confidence. Kids who have mentors often show improvement in school attendance, grades, and family relationships. In 2004, **Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City** began Incredible Kids, a mentoring program for youth with disabilities, such as sickle cell, brittle bone syndrome, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. A previous Trust grant helped Big Brothers expand the program and develop referral relationships with after-school programs, local Ys, and other agencies. With a **\$50,000** grant, Big Brothers will recruit more volunteer mentors by reaching out to human resource managers at companies, chambers of commerce, and religious and college alumni groups. It will use the Internet to reach young professionals and place stories about the program in local and ethnic media. It will also enroll more kids by working with more mainstream youth groups that include disabled kids and groups that work with disabled kids.

Other Grants

Arts

Sound Portraits Productions, \$60,000 (two years), for an oral history project that records the stories of City residents.

Civic Affairs

Public Advocate for the City of New York, \$100,000, to find out what New Yorkers think about City services.

Common Cause Education Fund, \$75,000, to examine the sources of financing for State campaigns and to push for strengthened reporting requirements, a ban on the use of campaign funds for personal use, and a lower limit on personal and corporate contributions.

Education

New York Immigration Coalition, \$75,000, to involve more immigrant parents in their children's education through workshops and conferences for parents, and staff training.

Inside Broadway, \$40,000, for a program that brings teaching artists into classrooms and includes student attendance at and study of plays.

Academy for Educational Development, \$65,000, to bring Middle Start, a professional and leadership development program for middle school teachers and principals, to two City middle schools, one in Washington Heights and one in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn.

Studio in a School Association, \$100,000, to help bring the Department of Education's Blueprint for teaching and learning the visual arts, which it helped develop, into classrooms.

University Settlement Society of New York, \$100,000, will start a health and sexuality course and leadership classes in public speaking, advocacy, and communication, as well as involve the kids in community action projects at the Houston Street Center.

Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, \$40,000, to advocate with elected officials to build new facilities for 1,000 high school students and make the Department reconsider its proposed cuts in new construction.



Teaching artist James Reynolds discusses painting techniques of self-portraiture with a student at PS 196 in the Bronx.

St. John's University, \$70,000, to offer law classes for minority, college sophomores in summer 2007 and internships at the Brooklyn and Queens DA offices, and for LSAT preparation for returning juniors.

Housing

Supportive Housing Network of New York, \$60,000, to help members meet production goals that will increase the pipeline of supportive housing units to 7,000 in the City and 12,000 statewide.

Goddard Riverside Community Center, \$35,000, to help tenants of subsidized buildings fight unfair evictions and harassment.

Enterprise Community Partners, \$50,000, to develop housing that is environmentally healthy and energy efficient.

Elderly

Lawyers Alliance for New York, \$80,000, to help small, elder-serving agencies, particularly programs in Brooklyn and Queens, address governance, contracting, human resources, commercial leases, and corporate liability issues.

Bridge Street Development Corporation, \$40,000, to bring activities—including horticultural classes, exercise classes, and health education and screening—to a senior residence in the Stuyvesant Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Medicare Rights Center, \$100,000, to lead RxSolutions members—a coalition of 200 agencies that helps elders understand the new prescription drug benefit—in advocating for the State to merge all its Medicare-related assistance programs into a single agency.

Environment

Earth Island Institute, \$75,000, to involve college students in efforts to combat global warming.

Land Trust Alliance, \$200,000, to improve the practices of land trusts—community groups that protect land from development through private donations—and create a national accreditation program.

Conservation Law Foundation, \$100,000, to establish a network of protected areas in the Gulf of Maine, one of the world's richest and most biologically productive marine ecosystems.

Government Accountability Project, \$75,000, to ensure the integrity of scientific information on global warming.

Environmental Health Sciences, \$150,000, to make its Web site, which helps users understand environmental science, more user friendly, and to develop a new site that will review media and scientific articles on the health consequences of global warming.

Children & Families

Safe Space, \$85,000, to expand mental health treatment for young children who have experienced family and street violence.

The Financial Clinic, \$50,000, for legal and financial counseling for the working poor and to document the economic issues faced by low-wage earners.

Workforce Development

Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York, \$60,000, to improve working conditions in New York City restaurants and for a report documenting the extent of discriminatory hiring and promotion practices.

April 2007 GRANTS Newsletter

The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its February 2007 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, or visit our Web site and click on Grantmaking and then Recent Grants.

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.

THE NEW YORK
COMMUNITY TRUST



909 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
www.nycommunitytrust.org

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.
5013
New York, NY