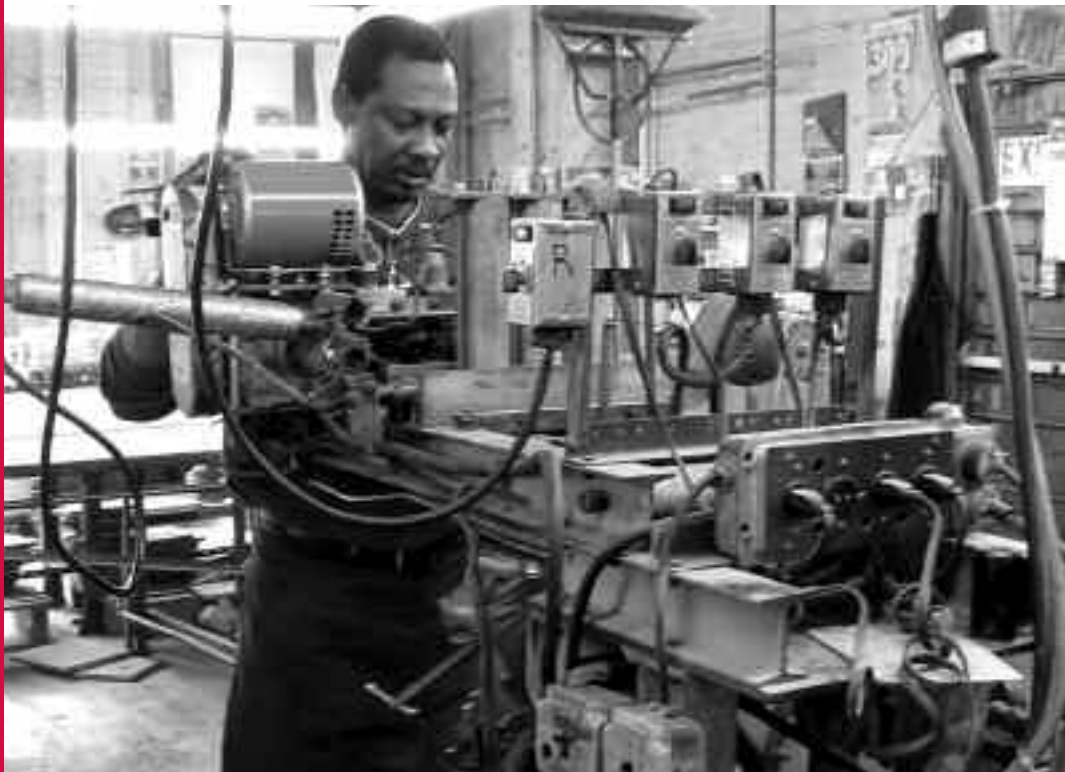


GRANTS

August 2006 NEWSLETTER



Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

The City's industrial sector will never be what it once was, but 235,000 manufacturing jobs still remain. Many of these blue-collar jobs are at risk of disappearing because of planned development in the waterfront areas where industry once was concentrated. The **New York Industrial Retention Network** has proposed a number of techniques to save industrial property that are under consideration by the City Planning Commission and the City Council. Last year, it got the City to create a \$4 million relocation fund for displaced manufacturers and a \$20 million fund to develop and preserve industrial property. With our **\$43,000** grant, the Network will coordinate public testimony, and analyze the economic impact of a proposed zoning district that protects job-intensive manufac-

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 **The City's Mosaic**
- 3 **Educating Our Kids**
- 4 **A Safer Environment**
- 5 **Nurturing Creativity
Staying Healthy**
- 6 **Other Grants**

Collin McIntosh works at Marchetti and Bro. in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. New York Industrial Retention Network worked with Marchetti to advocate for local manufacturers to remain in Brooklyn.

A job—any job—is the single goal of most welfare-to-work programs. Without training for anything else, former welfare recipients are consigned to dead-end jobs.

turers from encroaching development. As the only public representative on a commission overseeing the year-old Office of Industrial and Manufacturing Businesses, it will monitor the progress of the City's industrial development policies and programs.

A job—any job—is the single goal of most welfare-to-work programs. Without training for anything else, former welfare recipients are consigned to dead-end jobs.

Community Voices Heard is a membership organization of more than 8,000 low-income people that, since 1994, has helped create more than 12,000 public sector, transitional jobs for women on welfare. With a previous Trust grant, Community Voices Heard released *The Revolving Door*, a report that identified flaws in the City's major employment program for welfare recipients, and recommended changes. With a **\$35,000** grant, the group will encourage the City to adopt the report's recommendations, advocate for more career training and paid transitional job programs, and involve its members in City commissions and advisory panels on employment and welfare policies.

The City's Mosaic

Now that Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and Bushwick have become hot neighborhoods, landlords are driving out low-income occupants, often using illegal methods; the area's nearly 100,000 Spanish-speaking immigrants are in jeopardy of losing their homes. **Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A** started a Housing Preservation Unit last year to coordinate legal services for low-income residents with the housing advocacy efforts of local community groups. Two attorneys negotiated with landlords on behalf of tenant associations, represented tenants in housing court, and advised low-income co-ops on management and governance. They also gave legal advice to community groups working to include affordable housing in rezoning plans. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Corporation will hire a third attorney and give legal assistance to 36 tenant associations, 15 low-income co-ops, and community housing groups.

Although immigrants make up a third of the City's population, they are only beginning to vote and get involved with community boards, churches, and other local institutions. There is still work to be done to ensure that immigrants understand and are welcomed into the political process. Two grants support organizations that involve immigrants in voting and other civic activities.

- **La Fuente, A Tri-State Worker & Community Fund (\$40,000)** will provide leadership training to immigrant leaders, involve them with local community organizations, and hold forums about local concerns and immigration issues.
- **New York Immigration Coalition (\$60,000)** will provide grants and assistance to immigrant community groups to promote voter turnout and participation in civic affairs.

Midwood is a largely well-off Brooklyn neighborhood with stately homes, tree-lined streets, and large pre-war apartment buildings. But several pockets of poverty have developed, composed mainly of two immigrant groups—Muslims from Pakistan and other South Asian countries, and Orthodox Jews from the former Soviet Union. These residents make up nearly 90 percent of the clients of **Midwood Development Corporation**, which provides housing, employment, commercial revitalization, and youth services. Four years ago, it started working with the Council of Peoples Organization, which provides citizenship classes, legal workshops, and other services to the area's South Asian community. The groups have referred clients to each other, produced a community resource directory, and hired two attorneys to help with housing and immigration cases. With a **\$40,000** grant, the two groups will hold four workshops on housing and six on immigrants' rights and citizenship. They will write a manual on forming tenants associations and hold monthly legal clinics.



Gouri Sadhwani, director of the New York Civic Participation Project at La Fuente, with daughter Maya at a pro-immigrants rights rally in New York.

Educating Our Kids

With the pressure of federal and State mandates that punish schools that don't raise test scores required for a high school diploma, some City school officials are telling students who aren't doing well to leave. These students are overwhelmingly black and Latino: many are failing because of poor schooling in the lower grades, some are immigrants still learning English, and others have disabilities. If given appropriate assistance by the schools, most could earn a diploma. **Advocates for Children of New York** helps parents get quality education for poor and disabled public school students. After its research in 2003 revealed illegal discharging of students, the group filed lawsuits against three high schools and earned the right for several thousand students to go back to school and get help to graduate. Its work has persuaded the Department of Education to revise its discharge policy and start new programs for students who need extra help. With a **\$75,000** grant, Advocates will continue its lawsuit against a fourth high school, prepare reports about the underlying issues in schools that lead to dropping out, and get media

coverage on the effect of low graduation rates on minorities, disabled students, and immigrants.

Students do better when their parents are involved in their educations and schools. But with 60 percent of City public school students either immigrants or children of immigrants, many parents don't know English well or at all and have trouble talking with teachers, reading school notices, or helping their children choose classes. Over the past year, immigrant parent groups, assisted by the New York Immigration Coalition, have worked with the Department of Education to improve translation and interpretation policies. The Department agreed to translate its basic documents (e.g., those related to special education, learning English, health services, discipline, and major policies) into the eight most frequently spoken languages. For less frequently spoken languages, translation services will be provided at individual schools. Three grants support organizations that will monitor implementation.

- **Asian American Coalition for Children and Families (\$30,000)** will be part of a task force to monitor implementation, identify ways to involve parents in schools, and offer a one-week summer training seminar on educational advocacy for parents and staff.
- **Make the Road by Walking (\$30,000)** will survey parents in ten Bushwick schools and make test phone calls in Spanish to school offices to monitor the new services, work to create after-school programs, and provide leadership and advocacy training for parents.
- **Metropolitan Russian American Parents Association (\$23,000)** will document the experiences of parents with the new policies, work to create after-school classes for students who don't know English, and offer advocacy training and workshops on raising and educating kids in this country.

Blacks and Latinos make up approximately 30 percent of America's population, but constitute only 2.4 percent of employed scientists. Few poor minority students in City schools have the chance to get interested in the sciences

Briana Hartman performing in "We Real Cool" with Eamon Goodman and Aiste Blaudziunas. National Dance Institute.

because their schools often don't have licensed math and science teachers or labs. The **Harlem Children Society** gives minority students that chance. Each summer, motivated students are selected from high schools in Manhattan and the Bronx and paired with scientists from prestigious research institutions, including Columbia University, the Albert Einstein School of Medicine, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. For ten weeks, the students work full-time on research projects, get individual tutoring, and prepare papers about their work. With a Trust grant last year, 103 students were accepted into the program, participated in research projects, and organized the Society's second annual Harlem science fair. Thirty-three students continued their work during the school year, and twenty presented their research at the American Chemical Society's annual conference. With a two-year, **\$140,000** grant, the Society will expand the program to 140 students each year, and add an aeronautical and engineering program at NASA for five students.

A Safer Environment

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tested a random sample of 5,000 Americans, it found more than a hundred widely used chemicals—including dioxins, PCBs, and pesticides—in their blood. The good news is that it also found declining levels of banned chemicals, such as lead and DDT, demonstrating that regulating chemicals works. The bad news is that more than 70,000 synthetic chemicals are in commercial use in the United States, and many make their way into the environment and are then passed to humans and animals. **Commonweal** is a research institute that has been advocating for removing toxic chemicals from the environment; last year, it started a biomonitoring research center. With a **\$75,000** grant, it will begin a media campaign to inform the public about biomonitoring, which tests for chemicals in humans. Working with the Pesticide Action Network, it will highlight the risks from pesticides and herbicides in California agriculture and offer biomonitoring to a group of farm workers. Commonweal will also work with the California



legislature to reintroduce a bill for a state biomonitoring program that was vetoed last year.

Depending on which way the wind blows, most of the City could be at serious risk of injury or death. There are at least 13 plants in New Jersey within 12 miles of the City that manufacture toxic chemicals, including chlorine, titanium chloride, and anhydrous ammonia. If one of them blew up, either because of an accident or terrorism, New Yorkers would have little time to evacuate or protect themselves. The Domestic Security Preparedness Act, passed by New Jersey in 2001, created a panel to develop chemical-plant safety guidelines, but none of the recommendations—imposing strong regulations on chemical plants, protecting workers who report unsafe conditions, and strengthening the state's right-to-know policies—have been enforced. The **New Jersey Work Environment Council** advocates for strict chemical safety policies. With a **\$50,000** grant, it will work with labor and community groups to organize petitions and letter-writing campaigns to support enforcing the regulations. The Council will also meet with Governor

Since 1991, The Trust, through our Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund, has helped gifted young people of limited financial means who aspire to careers in the arts.

Corzine, a strong proponent of chemical safety, and state environmental and health agency staff to advocate for implementing the reforms.

One of the biggest dangers for children traveling in school buses can't be seen: most of the 6,500 school buses in the City use diesel fuel, which releases tiny particles of sulfur. Scientific studies have linked these emissions to allergies, lung cancer, asthma, heart disease, and premature death; children are at special risk because their lungs are still developing. The State is aware of the problem: it started a program in 2003 to install pollution control systems in 1,000 of the buses, but only 59 have been retrofitted so far. The same year, the State Energy and Research Development Authority began a grant program to retrofit buses or buy new buses with emission-reducing equipment. But both efforts only address tailpipe emissions, and don't eliminate the high diesel levels inside buses that escape from the engine. With a two-year, **\$80,000** grant, **West Harlem Environmental Action** will start a campaign to protect the health of children and school bus drivers. It will work with elected officials, parents, the bus drivers' union, and environmental groups to recommend ways to reduce exhaust inside the buses, including retiring older buses and installing filters on engines. Through presentations and media outreach, it will advocate for funding to retrofit school buses.

Nurturing Creativity

Since 1991, The Trust, through our Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund, has helped gifted young people of limited financial means who aspire to careers in the arts. Grants are made to arts training groups for fellowships that support artists at two critical points in their development: pre-college, to prepare teenagers for college or conservatory; and post-college, to help young artists get their careers off the ground. Ten grants will provide one- to three-year fellowships for 35 pre-college and 19 post-college artists in dance, music, and visual and media arts.

Pre-College:

- **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music** (\$54,000, three years)
- **Ghetto Film School** (\$55,000, two years)
- **National Dance Institute** (\$55,000, two years)
- **Parsons The New School for Design** (\$54,000, three years)
- **School of American Ballet** (\$30,000, two years)

Post-College:

- **Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation** (\$50,000, two years)
- **Creative Capital Foundation** (\$50,000, two years)
- **Harvestworks** (\$50,000, two years)
- **Meet the Composer** (\$50,000, two years)
- **Roulette Intermedium** (\$52,000, two years)

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

- **Atlantic Theater Company** (\$30,000, three years) for Stage 2, the company's new play development and production program.
- **International Arts Relations** (\$30,000) for a Hispanic theater company.
- **Kings Majestic Corporation** (\$50,000, two years) for dance, theater, and literary presentations at an African-American arts presenter.
- **Threshold Dance Projects** (\$60,000, three years) for a contemporary dance company.

Staying Healthy

The new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit has proven to be a logistical headache for the elderly and the disabled, many of whom have switched from Medicaid to private plans with more limited drug formularies and that require co-payments. Few people, even experienced advocates, understand all its provisions. It also is confusing to private insurers and Medicare staff, who have not been able to give quick and accurate assistance. Advocates have identified hundreds of people in New York unable to get the drugs they need to manage chronic health problems, particularly the mentally ill. Another problem is a provi-

sion of Part D that requires elders to pay for up to \$3,500 in drugs when they reach a threshold of expense. The New York State EPIC (Elderly Prescription Insurance Coverage) program helps the elderly pay for drugs, but disabled people under age 65 are not eligible. Two grants support agencies that are working together to help vulnerable people with the Medicare drug benefit.

- **Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies (\$50,000)** will offer workshops for mental health agency staff to explain the benefits, penalties, requirements for psychotropic drugs, and the appeals process of Medicare Part D to ensure that their patients continue to receive care.
- **New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage (\$75,000)** will advocate for State assistance for younger disabled people not covered by EPIC, conduct a study to estimate the amount of money that EPIC will save because many elders' drugs are now covered by Medicare, and advocate for applying the savings to expanded EPIC coverage of disabled people under 65 years of age.

The population of Corona, Queens is overwhelmingly poor, minority, and uninsured. It also has no direct access to hospitals, no primary care health centers, and few doctors. In 2003, The Trust gave a \$75,000 grant to Corona Community Services Corporation to establish a community health center. Plans for the center fell through when the State decided not to issue licenses for new clinics in the City, and the federal government put an indefinite hold on funding for new clinics. **Urban Health Plan**, a health center in the South Bronx, agreed to take over the project and pursue starting a clinic in Corona through expansion of its existing State license. With the help of our **\$75,000** grant, it will complete the planning and site renovation, hire staff, develop policies and procedures, get patient and insurance systems running, and apply for City grants and private loans to cover these start-up expenses. The director of the new center will meet with the community to recruit and train members to serve on its advisory board.

Other Grants

Breaking the Cycle

It's no surprise that women who abuse drugs and alcohol aren't healthy, and that many have been abused and homeless. When they commit a crime, the courts try to send them to highly structured programs instead of prison. The few programs that are available require offenders to find work, kick their drug habits, and rebuild their lives, but don't have staff that can deal with the women's health and mental health needs. Two grants will help agencies add these services.

- **Center for Community Alternatives (\$65,000)** to hire health professionals and start a health program with medical screenings, doctor referrals, and exercise and nutrition classes.
- **United Bronx Parents (\$50,000)** for a clinical social worker to provide individual counseling and for the Ackerman Institute for the Family to offer therapy groups for mothers and their children.

The best way to get food to hungry people is through neighborhood programs; an added benefit of local agencies is that they can also help their clients get other essential services, such as education, job assistance, and public benefits. But 90 percent of the programs rely on volunteers and work on average budgets of less than \$50,000. Most are open only a few hours each day, one or two days a week. A Trust-supported study released by the **Food Bank for New York City** in 2004 reported that more than 500,000 hungry New Yorkers were not being helped to get food, and identified the neediest neighborhoods. Earlier this year, we gave 20 grants to food agencies in the Bronx and on Staten Island, and later this year we plan to give five grants to Brooklyn food agencies. The nine grants below to food agencies in Queens will support emergency feeding programs. With a

\$75,000 grant, the Food Bank will update its study to determine how the communities are faring now.

- **African Women's Dreams (\$15,000)**
- **Bethel Gospel Tabernacle (\$15,000)**
- **Bethel Mission Station Church (\$23,000)**
- **Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church of Jamaica (\$25,000)**
- **Builders for the Family and Youth of the Diocese of Brooklyn (\$47,000)**
- **Holy Ghost Upper Room Filling Station Ministry (\$13,000)**
- **Hour Children (\$40,000)**
- **New Jerusalem Baptist Church of Jamaica (\$10,000)**
- **R.C. Church of St. Margaret Mary (\$25,000)**

Foster care is meant to be a brief, temporary haven for children; indeed, federal law mandates that children be reunited with their families or freed for adoption as quickly as possible. But in the City, many kids languish in foster care for three to six years. Part of the problem is the traditional adversarial approach in child permanency hearings, leading to disputes among parties—which include biological parents, foster parents, potential adoptive parents, family members, social workers, and their lawyers—that can hold up the process, sometimes for years. But few options exist outside the courtroom where issues can be discussed calmly and resolved. The New York Office of Court Administration asked the **New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children** in 2003 to test mediation in solving differences among parties. It proved so successful that it was expanded to family courts in four boroughs. With a **\$75,000** grant, the Society will work to increase the annual case assignment to 250 families, train judges and attorneys about the mediation option, and explore the possibility of pre-court referrals from the child welfare administration.

Teens Step Up

Being a teenager is rarely easy, but immigrant kids also struggle with adapting to a new culture and dealing with racial intolerance. And because their parents often work long hours, they spend a lot of time without adult supervision. Involving immigrant teenagers in community service helps them make friends, learn leadership skills, and give back to their neighborhoods. Two grants support agencies that involve immigrant youth in community service programs.

- **Common Cents New York (\$40,000)** to train students in 20 Queens schools to run penny collection drives in their schools and communities, and then donate the money to local charities.
- **Directions for Our Youth (\$60,000)** to expand its Helping Empower Youth program, which establishes youth councils that develop community service projects, to ten poor Bronx neighborhoods.

Many gay and lesbian youth rejected by their families come to New York hoping to find a place in the City's large gay community. But without enough education or work experience, many become homeless: nearly 40 percent of the estimated 20,000 homeless youth are gays and lesbians. They often resort to drugs and prostitution, putting themselves at high risk for HIV infection, jail, and violence. These young people need to find housing, apply for public benefits, learn job skills, and become self-sufficient. Three grants support agencies helping homeless gay and lesbian youth.

- **Gay Men of African Descent (\$50,000)** will train youth leaders to reach out to homeless gay youth in Harlem, start a support group for HIV-positive teens, add academic programs to its drop-in center, and help teens get summer jobs.
- **Safe Space (\$65,000)** will open a drop-in center for homeless gay youth in Queens that will include street

outreach, case management, job and educational counseling, and referrals to drug treatment, medical care, and mental health services.

- **Urban Justice Center (\$40,000)** will provide civil legal services to gay youth, offer assistance to lawyers representing gay youth in the juvenile justice system, and train staff in City-funded shelters and transitional housing programs about the needs of gay youth.

The following two-year, **\$80,000** grants have been awarded through The Trust's Reader's Digest Scholarship and Leadership Fund to organizations that sponsor leadership programs for disadvantaged youth in New York City:

- **Jewish Community Relations Council of New York** will enroll 70 teens in its YouthBridge New York program, which trains high school students to speak out for religious tolerance and the value of diversity.
- **Police Athletic League** will expand the number of Brooklyn teens in its In-Step program, which prepares high school students for college and work.

Civics Lesson

Voters should know where candidates stand on the issues so they can make informed decisions at the ballot box. But so far this year, politicians have focused on a single issue: tax policy. With every seat in the State legislature and each statewide office—for governor, lieutenant governor, comptroller, and attorney general—up for election, the **Center for Governmental Research** wants to draw attention to a range of subjects, including jobs, the economy, and public education. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Center, which studies and promotes effective govern-

ment, will start New York Matters, a statewide polling project. Working with the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, the group will use multiple phone polls to gather voters' opinions on a number of issues. Results will be shared with candidates who agree to respond to a detailed questionnaire about their positions on key topics. The Center will also use the results to talk with editorial boards, hold regional forums, and publish policy briefs on a New York Matters Web site.

Chronically late—and often unbalanced—budgets are just one symptom of the broken fiscal process in our state, which has a major impact on the City. The **Citizens Budget Commission** is a nonpartisan group that advocates for disciplined fiscal practices from government. Three years ago, it produced the Palisades Principles, a set of fiscal reform recommendations for local and State governments, and followed it with a number of reports elaborating on the key recommendations. Earlier this year, the Commission held a meeting to find remedies for the State's fiscal distress. Improving the budget process and making it more transparent topped the agenda. With a **\$25,000** grant, the Commission will produce issue papers with specific recommendations to achieve a more open budget process and better align State and local fiscal responsibilities. The recommendations will be posted on its Web site, sent to civic activists, and shared at community forums and through the media.

Preserving Our Environment

For more than 30 years, a set of conservation laws have protected endangered species by safeguarding their habi-

tat—water, air, and land. But over the last decade, business and property rights interests have tried to weaken the United States commitment to species protection. A bill introduced in Congress last year would eliminate many important safeguards and diminish the duty of federal agencies to save threatened plant and wildlife.

Defenders of Wildlife, which works to conserve ecosystems, has started a public education campaign to build support for continued protection of endangered species and their habitat. With a **\$100,000** grant, Defenders will focus on six states whose congressmen sit on important committees or that have large concentrations of threatened species. It will organize individuals and groups to meet with elected officials, coordinate media campaigns, organize conferences and public events, and ally with local nature groups.

The vast forests of central and eastern Canada and the southeastern forests of the United States are some of the last wilderness areas on the planet. They are home to many and varied wildlife, and help limit climate change by absorbing carbon emissions. But the growing demand for fiber used in paper office supplies and mail-order catalogues threatens these forests. **Forest Ethics** educates large corporate consumers of paper and wood products about the consequences of their purchasing decisions. It persuaded Victoria's Secret and Williams Sonoma to begin using recycled paper for its catalogues, and convinced Dell Computers to stop buying paper made by destructive logging practices. With a two-year, **\$100,000** grant, Forest Ethics will continue its campaign to persuade large and influential retail office supply companies, large consumers of office paper, and mail-order cat-

alogue companies to buy only from paper mills that protect virgin forests.

To increase public pressure on elected officials to address global warming, an array of constituencies must be mobilized, including outdoor enthusiasts. There are nearly 40 million hunters and sport fishermen in the United States. Nearly two-thirds consider themselves politically conservative, but they believe that global warming is affecting hunting and fishing. They are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and investing in clean, renewable energy technology. With our last grant, the **National Wildlife Federation** ran a grassroots campaign aimed at fishermen in the Great Lakes and Pacific Northwest regions that resulted in significant media coverage and more than 1,000 individuals and organizations sending postcards voicing their concerns about global warming to Congress and state officials. This year, the Federation will use our **\$75,000** grant to work with hunters and fishermen in Arkansas, Florida, Michigan, and Minnesota, where there's a good chance the outdoorsmen can influence their elected officials. It will build coalitions, conduct a media campaign, and educate policymakers.

Thirty years ago, Congress passed the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards to increase the fuel economy of cars. For the first 10 years, the standards increased gasoline efficiency; but since 1985, fuel economy has stagnated due to the rapid increase in light trucks and SUVs. But rising gas prices and public concern about global warming are increasing consumer demand for more fuel-efficient cars. With a **\$75,000**

grant, the **Sierra Club Foundation** will urge local governments to use hybrids in their fleets, and lobby states to adopt California's tougher vehicle emission standards. It will expand a campaign to promote hybrids to young buyers, and generate national media coverage about the need for stronger CAFÉ standards. It will also pressure Ford to lead the American auto industry in making cleaner cars.

Most Americans think alternative energy is a good idea, but aren't sure it's a practical one. **SmartPower** has proved otherwise. Founded in 2002 to create a market for renewable energy in Connecticut, it has gotten the state of Connecticut, 20 municipalities, 30 houses of worship, and Yale University to commit to generating 20 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2010. The Arizona Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission have asked SmartPower to help them market solar energy to local utilities and their customers. With a **\$100,000** grant, it will identify large organizations—religious institutions, cities, and colleges—to be the first to adopt solar energy and be a model for others. Research on attitudes about solar energy will enable SmartPower to create an effective education and marketing plan to other large institutions, followed by a media campaign aimed at the general public. SmartPower will hold a conference with—and make grants to—organizations already promoting solar energy in the region. It will also help local utilities and governments with their marketing.

Community gardens were almost lost in 1998 when the City put them up for sale. To save these valuable green

spaces, the **Trust for Public Land** (TPL) made a deal with the City to give permanent or increased protection to 500 of them, including 63 bought by TPL. With a Trust grant in 1999, TPL started the Garden Stewardship Program to teach residents to improve and maintain their gardens, and design land trusts to oversee and support the 63 purchased gardens. Over the last six years, the three land trusts have been established and organized, money has been raised to support their operations, and staff and board have been trained in management and fundraising. With a **\$40,000** grant, TPL will prepare the trusts to take ownership of the gardens. It will acquaint the land trusts with each garden, recruit new garden volunteers, and finish its land management and operations handbook. The group will also acquire seven more gardens from the City to include in the land trusts.

Protecting Our Health

As hard as it is to believe, the health care industry uses a large number of products that are suspected of causing health problems: mercury in thermometers, PVCs in tubing, and toxic chemicals in building materials.

Health Care Without Harm has successfully campaigned for the last decade with states, cities, hospitals, clinics, pharmacy chains, and medical supply manufacturers to remove mercury and PVCs from medical institutions and products. It also helped the Kaiser Permanente Health Care System adopt a green purchasing policy. With a **\$50,000** grant, the group will write papers on other potential hazardous chemicals in health care institutions and distribute them to health care organizations. It will work with institutions to develop

safe chemical policies and start buying low-energy equipment and locally grown organic food. It will also encourage health care purchasers to buy only safe products. An evaluation of Kaiser's green purchasing policy will help the group write a report with guidelines for other health care systems.

Some pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and industrial chemicals can now be genetically engineered and "grown" from traditional food crops, such as corn. While these "pharma" crops might mean lower costs for consumers, they also pose serious health risks. One of the most important concerns is that they will contaminate crops grown for food through pollen blown into nearby crops or physical intermingling. Genetic engineering also affects animals and fish, but the federal government has done little to monitor the field: no single agency has clear authority to oversee biotechnology advances. With a two-year, **\$100,000** grant, the **Union of Concerned Scientists** will work to protect crops and animals grown for food from contamination. Its major focus will be influencing the environmental impact statement being prepared by the Department of Agriculture on biotechnology regulations for plants. The Union will build a coalition of environmental and consumer groups, educate the media, and mobilize activists to push for a ban on pharma crops. It also will work to ensure that an approval process is used for food from genetically engineered animals that considers risks to human health and enforces proper labeling.

The illegal wildlife trade—whether for food, medicine, trophies, or exotic pets—is a global concern. Not only

does it cause the decline and even extinction of species, but it can spread dangerous diseases to humans. The international scope of the trade means that these pathogens can travel around the world quickly, but no global entity monitors the health of these wild animals. The **Wildlife Conservation Society** aims to fill that void. With a two-year, **\$125,000** grant, its Field Veterinary Program will begin monitoring the transmission of infectious diseases in the Asian wildlife trade from its offices in Cambodia and Laos by testing the animals and birds for pathogens. This will help scientists understand how diseases spread between different species and identify areas where disease poses the greatest risk of human infection. Results will be shared with local and national governments, international organizations, and U.S.-based health institutions, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Preserving Our Past

The **Brooklyn Historical Society** is a treasure trove of the borough's rich history. Among the hundreds of thousands of paintings, photographs, books, artifacts, maps, and atlases are a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln, a second edition of *Leaves of Grass* inscribed by Walt Whitman, and the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers World Championship pennant. Unfortunately, its records system is also an antique: the collection is only accessible through an outdated card catalogue. With a **\$40,000** grant, the Society will hire experts to convert the card catalogue to a fully searchable electronic database that can be accessed on site and via the Internet. The Society will also scan its collection of 33,000 low-resolution images into a high-

resolution software program made for historical societies, and scan 50,000 negatives and slides that have never been digitized.

Pieter Claesen Wyckoff arrived in America in 1637, an illiterate farm laborer. After finishing his term of indenture, he built a home in 1652 in what is today east Flatbush, and became a successful farmer and magistrate. His descendents farmed the land until 1901 and the family donated it and the house to the City in 1969. It is the oldest house in the City and the first structure ever designated a New York City landmark. Today, the farmhouse is a museum dedicated to Brooklyn's history from Colonial times through the urban development of the 1920s and 1930s, offering a school program and seminars to 7,500 residents each year. Herbs and vegetables are still grown on the farm, which employs high school students who learn marketing and organic farming and run a weekly farmers' market in the summer. The **Wyckoff House & Association** will hire an architect to relocate an early-19th century Dutch barn from New Jersey—owned by a Wyckoff descendent—and reconstruct it next to the farmhouse. It will enable the Association to expand its programs, create an exhibit space for artifacts and historical documents, and provide a venue for community events and cultural programs. Our **\$30,000** grant contributes to this effort.

Health Services

Arthritis is a leading cause of disability among elders; one in three adults in the United States has a type that requires medical care. The Trust's Emily Griggs Fund supports the care, treatment, and direct relief of needy

people with arthritis. For 30 years, The Trust has made grants from the fund to the **Arthritis Foundation, New York Chapter** for a patient cash-assistance program. Applicants are evaluated for medical and financial need, and individual care plans are developed. The two most requested services are for transportation to and from medical appointments and social events, and help with household chores. The Foundation began reaching out to low-income Hispanics and African Americans four years ago, and recently started outreach to the Chinese community. With a **\$51,000** grant, the Foundation will continue its outreach to minority communities, and provide cash assistance to at least 180 individuals who have too much money to be eligible for Medicaid but can't afford to pay for services.

Breast and gynecologic cancer rates are particularly high among lesbians in the City. In addition to a number of risk factors, lesbians often lack regular health care. Many report difficulty finding doctors with whom they feel comfortable, and so don't get pap smears and mammograms, which are critical for early diagnosis and treatment. Alarmed by rising cancer rates, the **Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center** started the Lesbian Cancer Initiative six years ago to provide outreach, education, and support. With a **\$75,000** grant, the Initiative will distribute materials detailing cancer risk factors, screening locations, treatment options, and lesbian-friendly health care providers at workshops held at the Center, health fairs, and other community sites. It will develop a lesbian-sensitive training program for doctors and nurses at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, St. Vincent's, and Beth Israel hospitals, and expand support

groups and individual counseling offered to lesbians diagnosed with cancer.

Hip fractures are one of the most common and serious injuries among the elderly, with more than 300,000 fractures each year in the United States. Experts expect the number to double in New York City within the next 15 years as the population ages. Immediate emergency treatment of a fracture is crucial, as is longer-term rehabilitation to restore mobility. The Trust's Mary and David Hoar Trust supports research in the treatment of hip fractures. For 18 years, grants from the fund have enabled the **New York Academy of Medicine** to administer a program that issues requests for proposals and selects hip fracture research projects. With a **\$110,000** grant, the Academy will select a researcher to receive a two-year, \$100,000 grant.

Each year, 75,000 diabetic and 3,500 heart disease patients go to clinics operated by the **New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation**, the country's largest public hospital system. Although many also suffer from depression, doctors in medical clinics are poorly trained in mental health care and diagnose depression in less than 50 percent of affected patients. In 2003, the Corporation tested a depression screening tool at its Queens sites for patients with chronic diseases. It found previously undiagnosed depression in 15 percent of patients screened, and then provided treatment. A Trust grant last year helped expand the screening and treatment program to four of the group's seven regional networks. With a **\$150,000** grant, the Corporation will bring the program to its remaining three networks, cre-

ate a Web-based program to teach doctors to screen for and treat depression, and provide psychiatry liaisons to offer consultations.

The health care system in New York is in financial crisis: costs are rising at more than double the rate of inflation. One way to save money is to close underused hospitals. The Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century was formed in 2005 by the State to review excess hospital capacity, consider the effects of closings on communities, and recommend what facilities to close. Health care advocates believe that expanding primary care, which provides preventive and routine health care, can fill the gap left by hospital closings. With a **\$65,000** grant, the **Primary Care Development Corporation**, which helps build primary care centers in poor City neighborhoods, will study the finances and operations of existing primary care clinics, evaluate areas without sufficient primary care, determine how much primary care will be needed to make up for hospital closings, and make recommendations for new primary care centers.

People with Special Needs

The transportation program that takes 10,000 mentally retarded people to and from day service programs is gridlocked. Run by the State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and paid for through Medicaid, the system created more than 10 years ago to serve a handful of people now features long, cross-borough routes with multiple pick-ups and vendor contracts with geographic restrictions that must be reauthorized every two years. The **Interagency Council of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities**

Agencies is a membership organization of 120 agencies that offer a range of services to 100,000 individuals and families each year. Last year, the Council formed a task force with the seven largest adult day service programs to recommend changes to the transportation program. The proposed program—which the State is interested in adopting—centralizes the contracting process, offers five-year contracts, uses computers to make shorter, efficient routes, and provides escorts to accompany clients with behavioral problems. With the help of a **\$46,000** grant, the Council will hire a coordinator to oversee and implement the plan. The Council expects to enroll 5,000 clients this year, and the other 5,000 next year.

Raising a mentally ill child is difficult under the best of circumstances, and when parents become isolated, it is not healthy for them or the child. Nearly 100,000 New Yorkers under the age of 18 have a serious mental disorder, but there are fewer than 50 family support programs in the City. The **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of New York City** (NAMI) works to improve the lives of people with mental illnesses and support their families. It started the Parent Matching Program in 2003 to train parents who have raised a mentally ill child to advise parents just starting to deal with their child's diagnosis. It has trained 20 volunteers who have helped 70 parents. With a two-year, **\$100,000** grant, NAMI will hire a coordinator and outreach worker to expand the program, and expects to serve 250 additional parents. Forty volunteers will be recruited and trained on topics including State guidelines on confidentiality and reporting abuse, how to deal with crises, and techniques to reassure parents. Information sessions at community agen-

cies and hospitals will be used to spread the word about the program, and phone conferences will be held on issues facing parents.

Strengthening Nonprofits

According to one study, only 42 percent of nonprofit board members rated their own boards as effective, and 68 percent said they were interested in training on nonprofit governance. **BoardSource**, started in 1988 by Independent Sector and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, helps build strong nonprofit boards. With a previous Trust grant, the group worked with New York-based organizations, such as the Foundation Center and the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers, to offer training on fundraising and effective governance. With a **\$50,000** grant, BoardSource will continue to work with local membership organizations to run fundraising workshops, host roundtables that will showcase strong nonprofit boards, and hold seminars for nonprofit executives and board members on national governance trends and new ideas in nonprofit leadership. It will also publish new resource materials on its Web site.

The budgets of many nonprofits are dependent on special fundraising events. When done well, these events can bring in new money and expose the group to a new audience. But many fall short of expectations. **Cause Effective** offers consulting services to nonprofits in fundraising, donor development, marketing, and promotion. It has co-produced 2,000 special events, generating \$70 million in new funding and \$6 million of in-kind support for its clients. Last year, the group updated its

Special Events Toolbox, a comprehensive guide on promoting events with sample letters, spreadsheets, and templates. With a **\$50,000** grant, it will hold special events workshops, with talks by experts, sharing with colleagues, and interactive sessions. Groups attending will receive a copy of the Toolbox and free half-day consultations.

The **Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund** was started in 1973 by three young Latino attorneys to protect the rights of Puerto Ricans. It won important class action suits on housing, education, employment, language access, and other critical issues, and today continues to play an important role for the City's Latino residents. But poor fiscal management almost caused it to shutter its doors. In 2003, when the financial crisis came to a head, Cesar Perales, former State Commissioner of Social Services and one of the founding lawyers, came back to lead the agency. The steps he took—reconstituting the board of directors, reducing expenses, cutting back staff, and developing a solid fundraising plan—have allowed the agency to refocus and rebuild. With a previous grant from The Trust, the group hired a chief of staff to oversee a technology plan to expand communications and fundraising, and begin revising its human resources policies. A **\$50,000** grant will enable the chief of staff to continue overseeing the technology upgrade, train staff on the new systems, and focus on personnel.

August 2006 GRANTS Newsletter

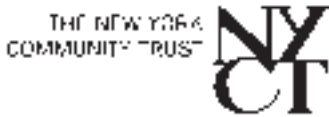
The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its June 2006 meeting.

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.

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.



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
--