

THE NEW YORK
COMMUNITY TRUST



GRANTS

August 2007 NEWSLETTER

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Not Just Fun and Games

Extra-curricular programs keep kids on track

Whether it's a basketball clinic or an arts and crafts workshop, after-school programs help kids do better in school and resist negative peer pressure. Minority boys without fathers are particularly needy—they're more likely to fall behind academically, drop out of high school, and get in trouble. In Queens, the most diverse county in the United States, there are more than 516,000 Asian, Latino, and African-American children under the age of 18, but only enough after-school programs for a quarter of them. Grants to three

Kids in Urban Dove's HiRisers program, which uses sports to improve discipline, teamwork, and communication skills, celebrate their gold medals. Photo: Urban Dove

Materials for the Arts trains teachers to use salvaged goods for art projects, and allows them to “shop” from the inventory of more than 764 tons of donated material that otherwise would have ended up in landfills.

organizations support programs that increase after-school opportunities for disadvantaged boys in Queens.

- **Boy Scouts of America, Greater New York Councils**, will use a **\$50,000** grant to establish scouting programs for disadvantaged boys.
- **Boys’ Club of New York** will use a **\$50,000** grant to expand the After-School Academy, an academic leadership program for boys living in Flushing.
- **New York Youth at Risk** will use a **\$78,000** grant to expand a mentoring program for fatherless boys, ages 11 to 14, living in Far Rockaway.

The Reader’s Digest Scholarship and Leadership Fund supports programs that promote leadership development for disadvantaged young people in New York. Grants to five agencies serving low-income communities will pay for programs that help kids improve their academic, social, and decision-making skills.

- **Aspira of New York** will use a **\$100,000** grant for an after-school leadership program for minority, middle school boys.
- **Harlem Children’s Zone** will use a **\$120,000** grant to expand services for minority and low-income students attending college.
- **Legal Outreach** will use a **\$120,000** grant to bring a program that encourages disadvantaged high school students to pursue higher education and law-related careers to 35 students in Queens.
- **Sponsors for Educational Opportunity** will use a **\$100,000** grant to increase enrollment in a college preparation program for disadvantaged minority students.
- **Urban Dove** will use a **\$100,000** grant for a program that uses sports to teach discipline and teamwork.

Play-Doh to Playhouse:

Supporting artists of all ages

With the recent reorganization of the New York City public schools, principals were freed from a requirement

to spend \$60 per student on arts education. As a result, many arts education programs are being cut. Even in schools with arts programs, art supplies are hard to come by. **Materials for the Arts** trains teachers to use salvaged goods for art projects, and allows them to “shop” from the inventory of more than 764 tons of donated material that otherwise would have ended up in landfills. Over the next two years, **Materials for the Arts** will use a **\$60,000** grant to double the number of its teacher workshops, schedule advanced workshops on particular projects such as bookmaking and sculpture, begin special sessions for teachers working with disabled students, and extend the summer workshop schedule from three weeks to four.

Francis Ford Coppola once said, “Art depends on luck and talent.” Unfortunately, many talented artists lack the luck, and struggle to find money for supplies and equipment, training, or living expenses. Ten grants, totaling \$563,000, go to organizations providing fellowships to talented young minority and low-income artists.

- **Bloomington School of Music, \$60,000**, to provide three-year instrumental music scholarships for six high school students and help them qualify for acceptance to a conservatory or college for advanced training.
- **Dance Theatre of Harlem, \$57,000**, for four, three-year fellowships for 11- to 15-year-olds.
- **Educational Video Center, \$40,000**, for one-year documentary production fellowships for 12 high school students.
- **Jazz at Lincoln Center, \$56,000**, to give two-year fellowships to five middle school students from low-income families.
- **Third Street Music School Settlement, \$60,000**, for three-year fellowships to four high school sophomores.
- **The Public Theater, \$60,000**, for one-year fellow-

ships for six young theater professionals—two playwrights, two directors, and two producers—for one year each.

- **Second Stage Theatre, \$50,000**, for two-year fellowships to three minority directors, giving them opportunities to work on one mainstage production per season and direct readings and workshop productions.
- **Smack Mellon Studios, \$60,000**, for one-year fellowships for six visual artists, including women and those from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds.
- **Socrates Sculpture Park, \$60,000**, for six-month fellowships for six aspiring sculptors.
- **Teachers and Writers Collaborative, \$60,000**, for one-year fellowships for four writers.

Small theater and performing arts groups are crucial to the health of New York's arts community. While many large theaters' productions have mass appeal, it's the smaller companies that take risks, develop new talent, serve particular niches, and produce experimental work. Three grants support small companies in New York.

- **Black Spectrum Theatre Company, \$75,000**, for performances at an African-American playhouse.
- **Joyce Theater Foundation, \$60,000** for three years, for dance performances at Joyce Soho, which provides subsidized rehearsal and performance space to more than 350 emerging dance companies.
- **La Mama Experimental Theatre Club, \$90,000** for three years, for an experimental performing arts center.

New York City boasts at least 150 museums. But despite their value, museums in the outer boroughs have difficulty raising private money and are dependent on public support. The **Bronx Museum of the Arts** is the only fine arts institution in the borough and has opened an award-winning, \$19 million wing funded by the City. Still, money from admissions constitutes less than three

percent of the budget, and individual giving is less than two percent. With a **\$60,000** grant, the Museum will hire two consultants: one to raise paid attendance through marketing efforts, and one to increase individual donor support. A media relations firm will create promotional brochures and event calendars, and increase marketing to Spanish-speaking residents.

Living Dangerously: Reducing health hazards in New York communities

Mercury is one of the six most dangerous chemicals in the world. Even at low levels, it can cause serious damage. And while mercury exposure is declining with the use of digital thermometers, in some Caribbean and Latino areas in Brooklyn, mercury exposure remains high. Studies show that children in these neighborhoods have higher rates of learning disabilities and perform poorly in school. Researchers believe that these problems could be related to mercury use in rituals and a diet high in fish. The **State University of New York Downstate Medical Center** will use a **\$50,000** grant to study mercury exposure in mothers and infants in central Brooklyn. Medical Center staff will show families what they can do to reduce mercury exposure.

A healthy home is easy to take for granted. New York City's Housing Code grants all tenants that right, but with a lack of funding, it is difficult for the City to enforce the rules when conditions don't pose an immediate threat, such as in cases of vermin infestation, mold, and other contributors to asthma and respiratory problems. A previous Trust grant to **Fifth Avenue Committee** funded research that linked poor housing and poor health. This year, with a **\$35,000** grant, the Committee will push for better coordination between the City's housing and health agencies, and continue its research into the connection between health problems and substandard housing. It will also help 250 tenants get improved housing through court advocacy and staff intervention.

Short-term rehab patients are more likely to be in much better shape than traditional nursing home patients, but the effects of strokes, heart attacks, and other medical problems contribute to depression, making recovery more difficult.

Helping the City's Most Vulnerable Get the Care They Deserve

Nursing homes are no longer just facilities where elderly patients go to live out their last days. Many nursing homes are now caring for patients discharged from hospitals who need physical and occupational therapy before returning home. Short-term rehab patients are more likely to be in much better shape than traditional nursing home patients, but the effects of strokes, heart attacks, and other medical problems contribute to depression, making recovery more difficult. While symptoms of major depression are more obvious to clinicians, few can detect mild or moderate depression, which can also interfere with rehabilitation. **Schervier Nursing Care Center** offers nursing home care, short-term rehab, supportive housing, and home care. It opened the Center for Research in Geriatric Care to evaluate its program and make improvements. This year, with our **\$50,000** grant, it will test a depression screening program for patients in its short-term rehab unit. Intake staff will be trained to administer a depression screening test for 100 newly admitted patients. Depressed patients will have counseling and/or medication added to their treatment. Another group of 100 patients will receive standard intake assessment and screening. If depression screening and treatment is effective in identifying patients and improving rehabilitation results, all unit staff will be trained to use it.

Nearly 35,000 elderly Manhattan residents live below the federal poverty line. While these seniors face various challenges, simple solutions exist for some problems. Legal assistance can help in many cases, such as dealing with the risk of being forced out of their homes because of the City's expensive real estate market. In other cases, seniors are denied Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income because they improperly filled out complex

applications. To help these residents get the services they deserve, two grants help provide free legal assistance to Manhattan's poor elders.

- **Lenox Hill Neighborhood House** will use a **\$40,000** grant to help provide legal assistance to elders and their caregivers facing housing problems, and assist them in applying for government benefits.
- **New York Legal Assistance Group** will use a **\$50,000** grant to help elders applying for Medicaid and other programs.

A small percent of seriously ill people, usually with multiple health, mental health, and substance abuse problems, account for the largest share of the State's \$46 billion Medicaid budget. Governor Spitzer called for the development of new coordinated programs to care for seriously ill elders and people with AIDS. The Trust has supported two programs using managed care principles to help people with complex medical problems better organize care. These programs show promise to improve patient care, reduce duplication of services, and provide savings to the State, but better management systems are needed.

- **Catholic Health Care System** will use a **\$75,000** grant to develop an electronic medical records system that allows case managers to track patient service utilization and monitor patient care in its managed care program for the elderly.
- **VidaCare** will use a **\$50,000** grant to study whether adding an incentive program to an AIDS managed care program can improve patient compliance with the plan.

Give Locally, Benefit Globally

With Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* in theaters and new leadership in Congress, 2006 was a tipping point in the awareness of global warming. Now every level of the government is rethinking the way we power our homes, cars,

and cities. But the challenge of reducing our greenhouse emissions—or even holding them constant in a growing world economy—is daunting, and requires a multi-pronged approach. Four grants support organizations using a variety of strategies to address climate change.

- **Clean Air-Cool Planet: A Northeast Alliance** will use a **\$75,000** grant to develop climate action plans to help Pittsburgh and Portland, Maine reduce energy consumption.
- **Fresh Energy** will use a **\$75,000** grant for a media campaign in five Midwestern states that promotes clean energy and reduces dependence on coal for electricity.
- **League of Conservation Voters Education Fund** will use a **\$75,000** grant to frame the debate on energy and global warming as a top priority for presidential candidates.
- **Western Resource Advocates** will use a **\$100,000** grant to create a media campaign opposing 30 coal-fired power plants in the West.

With a worldwide population of 6.6 billion, there are fewer and fewer isolated areas left in the world, and people now come into contact with animals they were previously separated from, enabling diseases to pass from one to the other. HIV, SARS, and the avian flu all originated in animals before appearing in humans. The **Consortium for Conservation Medicine** studies how humans are changing the environment and threatening biodiversity. Last year, the Consortium began a project to identify places where new diseases are most likely to emerge, and discovered that several human activities contributed to the spread of new diseases, including high human population density and trading in and eating the meat from wild animals. This year, the Consortium will use an **\$80,000** grant to conduct research in China and Bangladesh. In China, it will col-



The Lower East Side Ecology Center saved 5 tons of electronic equipment from landfills at a recent three-day electronics recycling event in Union Square.

lect samples of wildlife from markets where SARS emerged and test them for existing and new viruses. In Bangladesh, it will collect samples of bats and test them for the presence of other viruses. Genetic analysis of the viruses detected in the samples will determine their likelihood of causing serious human diseases, and results will be used to build a computer model that predicts characteristics of potential hot spots for new diseases.

New York State of Mind: *Plans and projects to keep New York coming out on top*

Americans discard more than 3,000 tons of electronics every day, which end up in landfills and release toxic materials, such as lead, into the soil. Last year, the **Lower East Side Ecology Center** helped consumers recycle more than 100 tons of electronic waste and diverted 5.4 tons of toxins from the waste stream. But more can be done. In 2006, a bill was introduced in the New York City Council to make electronics manufacturers responsible for disposal of their products; a similar bill was rejected in 2004. This year, the Center will use a **\$40,000** grant to help pass this legislation. Staff will meet with Council members to educate them about the toxins in electronic waste, testify at City Council hearings, and encourage residents on its e-mail list to become involved. It will also continue to host and advertise its



A volunteer with Bronx Green Up tends a neighborhood garden. Photo: Jason Green

recycling services and increase activities with other local organizations, such as Computers for Youth, which refurbishes and distributes recycled computers to low-income families with school-aged children.

Thirty years ago, New York City was in crisis. High crime, business flight, bankruptcy, and dysfunctional subways painted a bleak picture of the City's future. Today, with the lowest unemployment rate in history, crime at a 40-year low, and record numbers of tourists, the City is stronger than ever. But our population is expected to grow to more than 9 million by 2030, and the quality of air, water, and land is still suffering despite steady improvements. The **Campaign for New York's Future** was created to promote Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC, a comprehensive plan to make New York City more environmentally sustainable through 127 different projects. It comprises 70 civic, business, environmental, labor, religious, public health, and community organizations. This year, the Campaign will use a **\$100,000** grant to let legislators, State commissioners, and county executives know how broadly it is supported. It will organize media outreach, and with its members, host

public events. Finally, the Campaign will research key elements of the plan, such as congestion pricing.

It's another New York paradox: we have the largest park system in the country, but the least amount of green space per capita of any major American city. Since the 1980s, many Bronx residents have taken matters into their own hands, planting gardens in abandoned lots. Today these local gardeners need help maintaining more than 300 community gardens. The **New York Botanical Garden** started Bronx Green-Up to help transform vacant lots into community gardens. The program provides horticulture and composting education and trains school, civic, and community groups that are improving their neighborhoods through greening projects. This year, the Garden will use a **\$50,000** grant to get young people interested. Green-Up will work with public schools, after-school programs, and youth groups to host workshops for kids on horticulture and maintenance. It will help garden leaders train youth to take care of community gardens; conduct 50 workshops on pruning and composting; and deliver nearly 2,000 plants, trees and shrubs to help residents maintain these gardens.

Other Grants

Poverty & Hunger

Grants totaling **\$333,000** have been awarded to 15 emergency feeding programs serving the neediest neighborhoods in the Bronx and Staten Island.

- Aging in America Community Services, Bronx, **\$10,000**
- Bronx Jewish Community Council, **\$47,000**
- Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York, Bronx and Staten Island, **\$45,000**
- Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development, Bronx, **\$25,000**
- Community Health Action of Staten Island, **\$25,000**
- Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, **\$20,000**
- Meals on Wheels of Staten Island, **\$15,000**
- Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, Staten Island, **\$25,000**
- New Direction Services, Staten Island, **\$22,000**
- Project Hospitality, Staten Island, **\$25,000**
- Rescue Ministries, Staten Island, **\$13,000**
- Richmond Senior Services, Staten Island, **\$15,000**
- Safe Horizon, Staten Island, **\$15,000**
- Salvation Army of Greater New York, Staten Island, **\$20,000**
- Stapleton Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, Staten Island, **\$11,000**

Food Bank for New York City, Food for Survival, \$150,000, to give one million pounds of free food to emergency feeding programs.

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, \$30,000, to analyze its services, leadership, and administration.

Pro Bono Net, \$45,000, to recruit *pro bono* attorneys to help poor New Yorkers with civil cases.

Families & Children

Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, \$179,000, to teach social work students how to work with families of different cultures.

Legal Information for Families Today, \$40,000, for a free resource center to help unrepresented litigants in family court.

Business & Workforce Development

Accion, \$50,000, to teach financial and business skills to women entrepreneurs and help them apply for loans.

City Futures, \$50,000, to assess professional and educational opportunities for disadvantaged New York youth.

Coro New York Leadership Center, \$45,000, for a leadership program to teach leadership skills and public policy issues to immigrants pursuing public service careers.



With a loan from Accion, Koudediah Bah expanded her home-based business of importing and selling jewelry and traditional African "pagne," a type of clothing. Photo: Andy Kropa

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, \$70,000, to create employer-matched education accounts to fund training for financial services and restaurant employees.

National Employment Law Project, \$50,000, to reform New York State's unemployment insurance program.

Housing

Asian Americans for Equality, \$30,000, to monitor implementation of a housing trust fund.

Help USA, \$65,000, to detect and document patterns of housing discrimination and advise tenants.

Environment

Greenbelt Conservancy, \$30,000, to test native plants that restore soil in brownfields remediation projects.

Wildlife Trust, \$75,000, to research the effects of invasive species and pollution on habitat and wildlife in New York.

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, \$100,000, to protect a wildlife migration corridor from Wyoming to Alberta, Canada.

Arts

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, \$100,000, to transform a neglected public space into a discount ticket office and visitor's center.

Elderly

New York Academy of Medicine, \$110,000, to research hip fractures in the elderly.

New York Legal Assistance Group, \$50,000, for legal assistance for poor elders applying for public benefits.

Health

Institute for Urban Family Health, \$125,000, to improve cancer detection by implementing a medical records system to identify high-risk individuals.

Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, \$100,000, to improve the health literacy of immigrants.

New York Immigration Coalition, \$150,000, and **New York University School of Medicine's Center for Immigrant Health, \$260,000**, to improve access to health care and cancer screenings for immigrants.

Montefiore Medical Center, \$75,000, for a credentialing program for bioethics staff in hospitals.

Primary Care Coalition, \$60,000, to advocate for expanded primary health care.

Services for the Underserved, \$75,000, for coordinated treatment for mentally ill, substance-abusing adults.

Immigration

Lawyers Alliance for New York, \$40,000, for free legal assistance to immigrant organizations.

Fiscal Policy Institute, \$50,000, to study the effects of immigration on the New York economy.

Community Development & Preservation

Neighborhood Opportunities Fund, \$50,000, for grants to 12 community development groups.

New York Landmarks Conservancy, \$100,000, to preserve historically significant churches in Queens.

Education

Learning Leaders, \$50,000, to train and oversee school volunteers and get more financial support for the volunteer program.

Mediation

Interfaith Center of New York, \$20,000, to train religious leaders in mediation and conflict resolution.

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

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