

THE NEW YORK
COMMUNITY TRUST



GRANTS

December 2006 NEWSLETTER



Improving Education

Beginning in the 1970s, arts programs in public schools were decimated by draconian budget cuts. But since 1997, the City has given \$75 million annually to schools for arts teachers and supplies, and to bring in arts groups. But there still is not enough money and many students—particularly those in poor communities—have no arts program at all. Lincoln Center Institute, a constituent organization of the **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts**, was established in 1975 to bring arts back to City public schools. Through its programs in 130 schools, students study a work of art and then create their own. With a two-year, **\$60,000** grant, the Institute will bring its program to three Bronx schools

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Elementary school students take part in a Lincoln Center Institute arts program.
Photo credit: Jane Hoffer

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that feed into each other—an elementary, a middle, and a high school—so that kids will progress through it grade by grade. These are high-needs schools with many first- and second-generation immigrants. The curriculum—tailored to each grade—will center on a play commissioned by the Institute that has a cast of young refugees from Iran, Kosovo, and Liberia. Education students from nearby Lehman College will work as student teachers.

The following two-year grants have been awarded through our Reader's Digest Scholarship and Leadership Fund to organizations that sponsor leadership programs for disadvantaged City youth:

- **Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health (\$100,000)**, to expand a science education and college preparation program for high school students.
- **City Year (\$120,000)**, to expand a program where youth ages 18 to 24 work in public schools during the day, staff youth programs after school, and work with communities on beautification projects.
- **Improving Mentor Practices and Communication Techniques Coalition (\$100,000)**, to start debate teams in ten Queens high schools.
- **New York Hall of Science (\$100,000)**, to expand a science education and employment program for high school and college students.

The ten international high schools in the City enroll immigrants who have been in the country fewer than four years and aren't fluent in English. The schools have been extremely effective, achieving a graduation rate of almost 90 percent. Excellent and innovative leadership is crucial to their continued success. The **Internationals Network for Public Schools** was founded with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support existing schools, develop new ones, and offer professional development. With a two-year, **\$100,000** grant, the Network will match newer principals with trained,

experienced mentors who have worked in the schools, and create a manual for other schools that enroll immigrant students. It will hold roundtable discussions, go on group visits to Network schools, and hold monthly training sessions for teachers.

Poor and minority students lag well behind other groups. Many efforts to close the gap focus on improving schools that enroll low-income students. But there are other circumstances that impede children from learning: lack of preschool education, inadequate health care, and poor housing. True reform must take into account the relationship between education, class, and poverty. Last year, **Teachers College, Columbia University** formed the Campaign for Educational Equity to overcome the educational achievement gap between the most and least advantaged students in the country. With a **\$75,000** grant, it will plan a project in New York City to integrate the many resources and services poor children need to be successful in school. It will research what has been done to date and what cost-effective services might be included. The project will offer high-quality teaching as well as resources in other critical areas, such as physical and mental health, early childhood development, and family services. In fall 2007, it will begin the project in selected schools in the neighborhood surrounding the University. The research will help advocates determine the best use of the additional school funding that is expected to become available.

Caring for Elders

One only has to look at recent events to realize that the most vulnerable people in an emergency are the frail and disabled elders who are isolated in their homes. During Hurricane Katrina, elders abandoned at home accounted for more than 60 percent of the deaths, and most of the 22 New Yorkers who died during this summer's heat wave were elderly and disabled. Over the last two years, The Trust has funded two agencies to study



Celia Mollot, grandmother of the executive director of Long Term Care Community Coalition, when she was a nursing home resident.

isolated elders in the City; new grants will enable them to plan programs for isolated elders during emergencies.

- **International Longevity Center-USA (\$25,000)** will complete a report that identifies the gaps between the number of isolated elders and available elder programs, and work with the Department for the Aging on a plan for services in communities with the greatest need.
- **United Neighborhood Houses of New York (\$55,000)** will develop plans to register and get services to isolated elders on the Lower East Side and in upper Manhattan, the Bronx, and central Brooklyn.

To protect nursing home residents, the federal and state governments developed strong regulations that set staffing levels and govern operations. In 1986, Congress passed the Nursing Home Reform Act, which calls for states to impose fines on homes that don't meet quality of care standards. New York State used to put these fines in the general Medicaid budget, but in 2004 the legislature passed a law that placed them in a separate fund. Nearly \$1 million has been collected, but there is no plan to use it. The **Long Term Care Community Coalition** surveyed how these fines are being used in

other states and found that \$60 million was going unused in all but four states. It examined those four and issued a report that highlighted the best ideas for improving nursing home care. With a **\$55,000** grant, the Coalition will set up an advisory committee of consumer advocates and long-term care specialists to review the survey and make recommendations for programs that could most effectively use the money. It will distribute the report to nursing home and elder advocates, and share it with the candidates for governor and with the media. It will also meet with State Department of Health officials and members of the legislature to advocate for a grant process to spend the unused funds.

Serious, but treatable, chronic disease is a fact of life as people age. Early diagnosis and careful management of illnesses, such as diabetes, arthritis, and heart disease, can reduce or prevent the worst consequences, as well as reduce hospitalizations, delay nursing home admissions, and increase elders' ability to stay active. Unfortunately, few doctors have been trained to teach their elderly patients about the early signs of disease or the importance of regular screenings. Community agencies are ideal locations to teach elders about health problems and help them manage their conditions. Grants of **\$40,000** each support three elder-serving agencies that promote health and manage care.

- **One Stop Senior Services** will conduct additional in-home assessments of upper Manhattan elders and make referrals and regular home visits.
- **Riverdale Senior Services** will teach more elders in the Bronx how to manage their medications and the importance of regular screenings and proper diet.
- **Visiting Neighbors** will hire a health advocate to begin a program in lower Manhattan that teaches elders about the importance of regular screenings, good nutrition, and talking with doctors about medications; and coordinate care for elders with health problems.



Kids in the Brooklyn Children's Museum's neon-lit "People Tube."
Photo Credit: Michael Dames

Strengthening Nonprofits

The City has a rich history of neighbors volunteering to work on community projects, such as block parties, crime patrols, and cleaning vacant lots. These projects could use modest donations, but volunteers generally don't have time to complete formal proposals for the money. **Citizens for NYC** gives financial and management assistance to volunteer groups, and is well known for its mini-grant programs, which The Trust has helped fund continuously since 1979. With our last three-year grant, Citizens for NYC made 163 cash awards of \$100 to \$500 for projects that started new volunteer groups, newsletters, Web sites, and beautification projects. With a three-year, **\$183,000** grant, Citizens for NYC will continue its mini-grants program and also begin making grants of up to \$1,000 to ten flagship projects that will be chosen for their ability to be duplicated throughout

the City. It will also create a new category of awards to encourage proposals that tackle traffic problems. Applicants and awardees will get help with their projects.

The biggest obstacle to building more affordable housing is the cost of purchasing and assembling sites. While there are government programs and financial incentives to help with construction costs, there are no subsidies for predevelopment costs, such as site acquisition, which puts nonprofit and small housing developers at a disadvantage. The **New York Acquisition Fund** was established in 2005 as a financial vehicle for producing and preserving affordable housing. It provides the critical "gap" funding for projects ranging from supportive housing for poor people to moderate-income housing for civil servants who are being priced out of the City. Earlier this year, the Fund was capitalized with \$40 mil-

The Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York has offered management assistance to the nonprofit sector for 22 years, and the most common request from its members is for help with financial management.

lion that it can use to leverage more money, and it got pledges of \$150 million in low-interest loans from several banks. With an 18-month, **\$156,000** grant, the Fund will begin operations and aims to process \$30 million in loans. Developers—both for-profit and nonprofit—will use loans for property acquisition, environmental remediation, architectural analysis, engineering studies, appraisals, and other predevelopment activities. The Fund expects to be the catalyst for the construction and preservation of 30,000 units of affordable housing in the next ten years.

For nonprofits to be effective, solid leadership is essential. This means not only overseeing the staff and activities, but also fiscal management. Fiscal responsibility is doubly important because of the stringent oversight requirements from funders and regulatory agencies. Large nonprofits have the money to hire middle managers with strong financial skills, but smaller groups don't. The **Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York**—which represents more than 1,400 nonprofit members—has offered management assistance to the nonprofit sector for 22 years, and the most common request from its members is for help with financial management. With an 18-month, **\$65,000** grant, the Committee will work with a financial management consulting firm to design a training curriculum that will cover basic bookkeeping and financial skills in 15 hours of classes. The goal is to offer two training cycles with 20 to 25 groups in each cycle, starting with groups with budgets of about \$250,000—the amount at which an audit is required by the New York State Charities Bureau. An executive director and a board member from each group will be required to attend the classes, and there will be individual follow-up sessions. A manual with sample documents—such as pre-audit checklists and budget templates—will be developed.

Building Community

The **Brooklyn Children's Museum** was the world's first museum expressly for children; it revolutionized museum-going with its emphasis on interactive exhibits and learning through experience. It is an important cultural resource for the City and for the surrounding Crown Heights neighborhood, which is home to African Americans, Latinos, and Hasidic Jews. In late 2007, the Museum will complete a new \$46 million facility that will double its space and accommodate 400,000 visitors a year. In order to fully use the space—which will include *World Brooklyn*, an exhibit highlighting the different ethnic neighborhoods and groups of Brooklyn—the Museum needs to attract children and families from outside its neighborhood. With a two-year, **\$50,000** grant, the Museum will hire a coordinator who will meet with three ethnic groups that have been underrepresented at the Museum: the Asian community in Sunset Park, Polish residents in Greenpoint, and Russians in Brighton Beach. Community groups will work with the Museum to plan a series of workshops, lectures, films, and performances for *World Brooklyn*, and help develop audiences for the programs. Promotional information will be distributed at ethnic fairs, community board meetings, and schools.

New York is the most diverse city in the nation, with more than 200 nationalities and a multitude of religions represented. While this pluralism is one of the City's strengths, overseas conflicts can result in discord among groups here. Relations among Jewish and Arab and Muslim New Yorkers have fluctuated with the volatile situation in the Middle East, especially in neighborhoods where they live side-by-side. **Ishmael and Isaac** was created in 2003 in Cleveland to foster better relations among these groups and promote joint humanitarian projects in the Middle East. Rami Nuseir, a lawyer and immigrant from Palestine, was hired as



The East New York CSA, a Citizens for NYC Building Blocks grantee, participated in a local farmers market with other organizations and vendors. Photo Credit: Matthew Jensen

executive director to start the New York chapter. He was managing attorney for the Arab-American Family Support Center and is respected by Jewish organizations such as UJA Federation and the Anti-Defamation League. His first accomplishment in New York was creating a board that includes Muslims and Christian Arabs and committed and observant Jews. With a **\$20,000** grant, the chapter will promote tolerance and reconciliation among Jews and Christian and Muslim Arabs. Besides calming local rhetoric influenced by fighting in the Middle East, it will work to develop partnerships between New York and Middle Eastern universities, and between Arab-American and Jewish-American women with breast cancer. If the situation in the Middle East permits, it will also raise funds for humanitarian projects that benefit Jews and Arabs in Israel and Palestine.

Other Grants

Improving Education

When pre-school children who have language and learning delays get speech therapy, counseling, and adaptive devices they are better prepared for school. Most kids who receive the services perform at grade level in kindergarten and don't need them after the first few years. But most pre-schools don't have staff who can identify or work with children who need help; African-American and Latino children are the least likely to benefit. The **Cooke Center for Learning and Development** trains and helps staff at schools, Head Start programs, and early education programs to work with disabled students. Collaboration for Inclusion is a program that helps early childhood centers in poor neighborhoods get these kids ready for kindergarten. The program—already in place at seven pre-schools in Brooklyn and Harlem—provides staff training, gives individualized services by Cooke therapists, and informs parents about developmental milestones and the benefits of the special instruction. With a two-year, **\$100,000** grant, the Center will start the program at seven more Brooklyn pre-schools; it expects to work with at least 330 children. It will also evaluate the program and share the results with other early childhood centers.

Students do better in school when their parents are involved in their education, but many immigrant parents are intimidated because they don't know English well or at all, are undocumented, or themselves have had limited education. The **Latin American Integration Center** works with Spanish-speaking immigrants in Woodside, Queens and Port Richmond, Staten Island. This year, in an effort to get immigrant parents more involved, the Department of Education adopted policies that require interpretation and translation services. With a **\$30,000** grant, the Center will ensure that these policies are being carried out, by visiting schools, surveying parents, and making test phone calls to school offices. It also will work to expand after-school programs and teach parents and community members about educational issues and legal rights.

Broadway is the live theater capital of the world and going to the theater is one of the most popular events for tourists. But with the high cost of tickets, many City children from low-income families have never been to a Broadway show. Two grants support organizations that bring kids to Broadway shows and use the performances in school lessons.

- **New 42nd Street (\$50,000, two years)** will expand its program to three new schools: one for students who have difficulty with basic learning skills; one with many Spanish-speaking students; and a high school for immigrants.
- **Rosie's Broadway Kids (\$40,000, two years)** will expand its program to all the fourth grade classes in three schools, two on the Lower East Side and one in East Harlem.

When the City schools were restructured several years ago, responsibility for the system's 150,000 special education students shifted to individual schools. The then-new position of parent coordinator—parents who advocate for students, and coordinate services—was filled by people with little or no knowledge of special education. With a previous Trust grant, **Resources for Children with Special Needs** helped parents and parent coordinators learn the rights and options of special needs kids. This year, the State will finalize revisions to special education regulations based on the 2004 changes made to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act, which regulates and funds special education. With a **\$65,000** grant, Resources will explain to parents how the regulations affect their ability to request services and how to advocate for them. At school workshops, it will inform staff about a new requirement to hold mediation meetings to settle disagreements over service plans, and the Department's obligation to help special education students as they leave school for adult services and/or work. Resources will conduct a survey of children about to leave the school system and those who have already left to learn about their experiences with transition services, and share the results—and recommendations for improvement—with policymakers in the Department.

The good news is that fourth grade reading scores in the City have risen in recent years; the bad news is that eighth grade test scores have fallen. Helping middle school students improve their literacy skills is a challenge, since many young adolescents are less motivated to read and write than younger children, and teachers in disadvantaged schools tend to be inexperienced and need help to excite their students. **Teaching Matters** has developed a new program—Writing in the City—that uses technology to improve middle school students' writing. With a **\$50,000** grant, the program is starting in 20 low-income schools this year and training teachers to use the program. Students will use computers to research topics, write and revise drafts, and edit classmates' work. The learning materials, which include funny animations and tutorials, are designed to appeal to City kids. At the end of the project, students will submit their work to an on-line journal. The editorial board for the journal will be composed of students, teachers, and professional writers, and the editorial process will be entirely on-line.

Preventing AIDS

The **New York City AIDS Fund** was formed in 1988 by The Trust and a coalition of foundations and corporations to coordinate AIDS grantmaking. Since its founding, the Fund has raised and distributed nearly \$15 million to more than 150 organizations. Even though overall HIV infection rates are low in the general population, infections are on the rise in young men and women of color and are concentrated in poor, immigrant neighborhoods in Harlem, Central Brooklyn, and the South Bronx. The Fund has identified HIV prevention and advocacy as areas most in need of support. A **\$50,000** grant will help the Fund continue its work.

Crystal meth is a cheap, potent, and dangerous drug. It is physically and psychologically addictive, reduces inhibitions, and impairs judgment. First noticed in poor, rural communities, it is now becoming a public health problem in the City. Early studies by the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene found that the highest rates of new HIV infection were among young, white gay men

who use the drug recreationally. More recent studies find that young, black gay men now constitute 10 percent of all crystal meth users in the City, up from only 2 percent in 2001. Although public health campaigns have helped reduce the drug's use among young, white gay men, little is known about how to have an impact on young, black gay men who live in poor communities. With a **\$35,000** grant, **New York University's** Center for Health, Identity, Behavior, and Prevention Studies will study crystal meth use among this group with the help of three community groups: Harlem United, Gay Men of African Descent, and the People of Color Coalition. Focus groups of men who self-report abuse of the drug and high-risk sexual behavior will help gain an understanding of the cultural and lifestyle issues that lead to crystal meth use. The men will be tested for HIV, get drug counseling, and be referred to medical, mental health, and housing services.

Preserving Our Environment

Agriculture uses 40 percent of America's land and is the country's largest consumer of energy and fresh water. It also uses massive amounts of pesticides and fertilizers that pollute the environment. Advocates argue that federal agricultural policies—codified in large farm bills passed by Congress every five years—discourage the use of sustainable practices by subsidizing the growing of major “commodity crops,” including corn, rice, wheat, and cotton. The **National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture** helped develop the Conservation Security Program in the 2002 farm bill, an alternative approach that pays farmers for specific conservation practices. With a previous Trust grant, the Campaign promoted the program and succeeded in getting \$259 million appropriated and enrolling 15,000 farmers. With a **\$50,000** grant, the group will teach farmers about sustainable and organic practices that reduce the need for pesticides and fertilizers. In Washington, it will monitor the budget process and coordinate grassroots advocacy to keep and increase appropriations for the program. The Campaign also will encourage lawmakers to include high-quality organic standards and expand investment in conservation in the 2007 farm bill.

The Pacific Ocean off the coast of Alaska contains some of the richest marine ecosystems on Earth, including more than a hundred deep sea coral and sponge species that live on its floor. But much of the coral habitat in the Pacific has already been destroyed, most of it by fishing boats that pull trawl nets along the ocean floor to catch fish, crabs, and other bottom-dwelling species. With a previous Trust grant, **Oceana**, an international advocacy organization dedicated to restoring and protecting the world's oceans, got the Pacific and North Pacific Fishery Management Councils to adopt a precautionary management approach for more than half a million square miles of ocean floor from the Bering Sea to Baja California to protect it from bottom trawling. With a **\$75,000** grant, the group will work to ban bottom trawling in coral and sponge habitat in all U.S. marine waters. It will work in Congress to get protections for deep sea corals included in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act reauthorization; monitor the progress of the two councils in closing off Pacific Ocean areas to trawling; and advocate with the New England, South Atlantic, and Gulf Fishery Management Councils to ban trawling in their waters.

The Northern Rockies are home to a spectacular array of wildlife and wild lands, but rapid growth in rural areas—especially in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming—is taking a toll. The **Sonoran Institute** helps communities conserve and restore natural landscapes in western North America. With a previous Trust grant, the Institute worked with local planning boards and officials in Rocky Mountain counties facing rapid population growth to keep open space and control development. It also trained officials on rural growth management techniques. With a **\$75,000** grant, the Institute will continue helping officials, community leaders, and developers manage growth and conserve rural landscapes. It also will work to strengthen zoning regulations, expand conservation easements, and support citizen groups that are promoting land-use planning. The group will hold two forums to train officials, join with the Montana Smart Growth Coalition to reform the state's planning statutes, and publicize the most effective development methods compiled by land developers.

Secure, reliable, and affordable energy sources are crucial to the future of our country. But until they're developed, one of the quickest and easiest ways to reduce the demand for energy is through energy efficiency. Retrofitting and constructing buildings with efficient lighting, appliances, and heating and cooling systems reduces demand and creates jobs. Convincing public officials to adopt efficiency policies requires a broad-based campaign of labor, business, and civic leaders. The **Urban Agenda** unites labor unions with other social justice organizations to promote a progressive public policy. One of its major projects is New York City Apollo, the local partner of the national coalition called the Apollo Alliance, which promotes investments in renewable energy, high-performance buildings, and rebuilding urban transportation systems. New York City Apollo—a coalition of labor unions, environmental groups, businesses, educators, and community groups—has adopted a plan to create jobs by investing in green buildings and alternative sources of energy. With a **\$40,000** grant, NYC Apollo will work with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to promote green, affordable housing, and with the School Construction Authority to promote new State energy guidelines for schools. It will also work with the Economic Development Corporation to retrofit the 100 least efficient City office buildings.

Nurturing Creativity

Through our Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund, the following three-year grants of **\$75,000** each have been made to small theater and dance groups in New York:

- **Barrow Group**, for a theater that develops and produces new plays.
- **E. Monte Motion**, for a modern dance company that features the choreography of Elisa Monte.
- **Evidence**, for a Brooklyn-based African-American dance company.

The City's cultural scene owes a lot to the many service organizations—borough arts councils, art-specific service groups, and presenters—that help small arts groups and individual artists by providing grants and management

assistance, and showcasing work. Although service groups are critical to the artistic vitality of our City, they operate behind the scenes and often struggle to raise money to operate. Grants to two umbrella organizations that help immigrant arts groups and artists will help them expand their donor base and strengthen their boards.

- **Center for Traditional Music and Dance** (**\$50,000**, two years)
- **Queens Council on the Arts** (**\$49,000**)

Protecting Our Health

Nearly two million New Yorkers don't have health insurance. Most of them delay care until medical problems are serious, at which point they go to emergency rooms for help. What many people don't know—especially the uninsured and immigrants—is that there are institutions, known as “safety net providers,” that get government money to take care of the poor. These include hospital emergency rooms, federally funded community health centers, and the public hospitals and clinics of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. With a previous Trust grant, the **Commission on the Public's Health System** conducted a survey and found that most community agencies in poor neighborhoods didn't know about these providers or the laws that mandate care for the uninsured. The Commission compiled a manual with information about insurance programs and providers and used it to train staff from agencies in poor neighborhoods. With a **\$45,000** grant, it will add information to the manual and its Web site on changes in government health insurance, including Medicare Part D and immigrant eligibility guidelines. It will train staff from additional agencies, and develop a tracking system to monitor its effectiveness in helping groups get health care for their clients.

Hearing impairment is the most common sensory disorder in the country, affecting 28 million Americans. But research into its causes and treatment is poorly funded. Because it is unlikely to produce profitable medications, the pharmaceutical industry is not interested, and the National Institutes of Health are cutting back on their funding as well. With a two-year, **\$72,000** grant from our

Corinne R. Frear Fund, which supports research into the causes and cure of deafness, the **Deafness Research Foundation** will support three young researchers. This year, Dr. Yan Li of New York University's School of Medicine will examine a mutant gene thought to cause congenital deafness. Next year, two additional New York City scientists will receive research awards.

In 2003, The Trust helped the City's Health Department start a colon cancer program in public hospitals that includes outreach, screening, treatment, rehabilitation, and referrals for support services. "Navigators" are assigned liaisons between patients and doctors and give patients information on treatment options, help them apply for insurance, and refer them for follow-up services. The program was started at one South Bronx hospital; the next year, it added a hospital in northern Brooklyn, and last year, a hospital in Queens. More than 12,700 people have been screened; 188 needed treatment. With a **\$450,000** grant, the **Fund for Public Health in New York** will bring the program to one hospital in the Bronx and two in Harlem. A senior epidemiologist will evaluate the program to see if it has reached the people most likely of developing colon cancer and also conduct research to determine why mammography rates have fallen by eight percent in the City over the last two years.

Over the past four years, numerous federal actions have restricted a woman's access to reproductive health care, which includes contraception, breast and pelvic exams, and screenings for cervical cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV. Actions include a law requiring parental consent and a mandatory waiting period for young women seeking an abortion; the Food and Drug Administration's two-year delay in making the "morning-after pill" available without a prescription; and cuts in Medicaid funding. In addition, funding for Title X, the federal program that supports reproductive health services, has remained static. Three grants support groups working to safeguard access to reproductive health care.

- **National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (\$50,000)** will advocate for increased fund-

ing for Title X; update its report about the success of family planning programs; meet with members of Congress to recommend restoring family planning services cuts to Medicaid funding; and work with Senator Clinton on new legislation to expand family planning programs.

- **New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation (\$60,000)** will train staff at health, social services, and youth agencies on minors' rights to family planning services; teach youth about their rights to these services; and educate doctors who perform abortions on their rights and legal restrictions.
- **Planned Parenthood of New York City (\$50,000)** will continue its outreach to and enrollment of young women in the State's Family Planning Benefit Program, which provides Medicaid coverage for family planning services.

Lupus is a serious autoimmune disease that develops when the body attacks its own organs. It causes lifelong disability and leads to a higher risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease; it mainly affects young women. Lupus is difficult to diagnose and is often confused with rheumatoid arthritis. With previous Trust support, the **S.L.E. Foundation** established the New York City Lupus Cooperative in East Harlem and the South Bronx to improve the diagnosis and treatment of young Latinas and African-American women. It teaches women about the disease, informs doctors and nurses about the importance of diagnosis, and works with community health centers that diagnose and treat lupus. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Cooperative will identify Brooklyn neighborhoods with the greatest need for services. It will refer women to a selected community health center, and offer follow-up counseling and emergency cash assistance for services not covered by insurance. The program will educate at least 2,000 women and treat 200.

Preventing Violence

Last year, there were nearly 125,000 calls to the City's Domestic Violence Hotline, but many more victims are afraid to seek help. Poor women often feel trapped

because they rely on the abusive partner for economic support, and abusers frequently maintain that power by preventing their victims from working or complying with welfare requirements. Young mothers who have dropped out of school are particularly vulnerable, and immigrant women are especially intimidated because of language, cultural, and religious barriers—and their uncertain status in the country. There are many provisions in immigration, welfare, and other laws to protect battered women, but victims need to be made aware of them and have the legal help to use them. Two grants support programs that help low-income and immigrant victims of domestic abuse.

- **Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (\$60,000)** will give legal help to poor and immigrant women in Brooklyn.
- **Sanctuary for Families (\$75,000)** will give legal help to immigrant African women.

The City's housing shortage and escalating prices affect everyone, but is especially difficult for victims of domestic violence. To put distance between themselves and their abusers, many search for "safe homes," City shelters, or temporary arrangements with family or friends. Unfortunately, the City has enough beds in its emergency shelter system for only 800 families; more safe places are desperately needed. With previous Trust grants, **New Destiny Housing Corporation**, which develops housing for abused women, produced 29 permanent apartments, 29 transitional apartments, and 106 emergency shelter beds. Last year, it completed 48 units; among them was the City's first emergency shelter for physically disabled domestic violence victims. It also formed a task force that identified policy and regulatory changes needed to help victims get government-supported housing. With a **\$50,000** grant, New Destiny will push forward two housing projects: a 38-unit apartment building and a 35-unit complex. The group will also survey agencies that work with abused women to gather data on the fate of those who are forced to leave emergency shelters. A final report that includes recommendations for improvement will be submitted to the Mayor.

Even though crime has fallen in the City, illegal guns—85 percent of which come here from out of state—continue to be a great concern. Mayor Bloomberg has made getting them off the streets a priority. This year, he held a summit on gun violence for 80 mayors from across the nation; submitted four bills to the City Council aimed at curbing illegal guns; and sued 15 out-of-state dealers whose guns were linked to more than 500 crimes in the City. But these efforts only address the supply, not the demand.

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence Education Fund will join with the American Friends Service Committee New York Metro Regional Office to organize anti-gun efforts in neighborhoods that suffer most from gun violence. With a **\$50,000** grant, meetings will be held with youth, community leaders, residents, and local police to hear concerns, identify conditions that lead to illegal guns, and listen to ideas to decrease the demand for guns. It will also form a youth chapter in Brooklyn that will teach young people to speak out against illegal guns. The Fund will prepare a report on its findings and meet with City officials about the issues raised. It will share the report with the 80 mayors who attended the summit, as well as anti-gun groups in cities around the country.

Too often, tragedies involving abused or neglected children result from the lack of coordination between the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and other City agencies. This year, ACS will improve communications between its child protection workers and family court attorneys, and hire experienced law enforcement investigators to improve coordination with the Police Department. It will also work with the Department of Education and doctors and staff in child care centers to identify children suspected of being abused. The City will hire consultants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family to Family program, the National Resource Center on Child Protective Services, Cornell University's Institute for Conflict Resolution, and the Juvenile Protective Association to develop training and policies for City agencies that will improve investigations and offer new ways to resolve problems. **New Yorkers for Children**, created to receive private funds to support ACS, will manage all

grant funds—including a **\$100,000** grant from The Trust—and contract with each of the national groups for the consultants.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Licensed, home-based child-care centers have two benefits: they offer quality, affordable child care to working parents, and provide an income for the caregivers, who are typically low-income, single mothers. But starting a center isn't easy. **Business Outreach Center Network**, a citywide membership association of eight small business development centers, helps minority, immigrant, and female entrepreneurs. With a two-year federal grant in 2003, the Network began helping women start or expand family child care businesses. With previous Trust support, it helped 130 women start new family child-care centers and 75 existing providers expand. With a **\$75,000** grant, the Network will continue to work with its three centers that offer child-care business development services and bring two more on board. It will try to reach more immigrant women through its affiliated centers in Chinatown, the Bronx, and south Brooklyn, and expects to help 130 women. The Network will give management support to 100 existing family child-care centers, and hire consultants to give legal advice to participants, help recruit new providers, and evaluate the project. It will also work with the City's Office of Small Business Services to get its business development model considered by the Mayor's Commission on Economic Opportunity.

Every year, up to 25,000 prisoners in New York State prisons are released to serve the remainder of their sentences on parole. They need to find jobs, but many have little education, few skills, limited work history, and minimal family support. More than 50 percent end up back in jail within three years; those who find permanent jobs are far less likely to return to prison. The **Center for Employment Opportunities** offers paid, transitional work and full-time job placement services to former inmates from New York prisons and detention centers. For the past several years, the Center has tried new strategies to help ex-offenders keep jobs. They include a class

during the first week of employment identifying strategies for staying in a job; daily tracking of performance at work; assignment of a job coach for a year; visits during the first month on the job; and celebration of achievements. With a **\$60,000** grant, the Center will create a computerized system to match participants with jobs, evaluate its rewards and incentives programs, analyze its strategies to keep young people in jobs, and measure the success of its community support program for former Rikers Island inmates. The results will be issued in reports and presentations to the field, and the Center will help other organizations working with ex-offenders.

Early education programs contribute to children's development and prepare them for school. Trained, stable, and well-compensated teachers are crucial to quality early education, but sadly, because of low pay and lack of training, many are not up to the task. The **New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute (PDI)** supports training and career development for professionals who work with young children. As PDI and the City considered how to address the sector's needs, they recognized that they didn't have accurate and detailed information on salaries, benefits, tenure, experience, education, certification, or the availability of training programs. With a six-month, **\$25,000** grant, PDI will complete a survey of the early childcare workforce, and has sent a questionnaire to 18,000 early education teachers and program directors. Researchers from Cornell University, who helped design the survey, will analyze the data. A report on the survey's findings will be completed in 2007 and presented to public officials, the media, foundations, and local and national child care groups.

Microenterprises—businesses employing five or fewer people—are one path to economic independence for low-income people. Studies show that most low-income entrepreneurs gain enough income from their ventures to move out of poverty over time. But before they can start a business, aspiring entrepreneurs must have money to invest in their business or in training for themselves. They also need guidance in planning, marketing, and other aspects

of running a successful business. Two **\$25,000** grants support organizations that help low-income entrepreneurs reach their goals.

- **Project Enterprise** will give loans for microenterprises and increase participation in its peer lending circle, in which entrepreneurs collectively vet and approve each other's loan applications.
- **Workshop in Business Opportunities** will strengthen its links to its program alumni, the largest source of volunteers who lead its workshops.

Special Projects & Philanthropy

The southeastern counties of Ohio—known as Appalachian Ohio—have the highest concentration of poverty in the state. Families in this rural area often have linked medical and legal problems, such as health problems made worse by the denial of Medicaid coverage. **Ohio State Legal Services Association** is an umbrella organization providing legal help to poor Ohio residents. With a **\$32,000** grant, its Southeastern Ohio Legal Services division will work with Family Healthcare—the primary provider of medical care to the region's poor—to increase awareness in both organizations about overlapping health and legal issues and how to address them. The project will develop a screening tool for Family Healthcare to identify patients with potential legal problems that affect their health and refer them to Southeastern. Staff at Family Healthcare will be trained about the intersection of medical and legal issues, and find out what steps they can take to help patients enforce their rights. The project will also document the project's progress. It will start at a single Family Healthcare site and expand to four other sites the following year.

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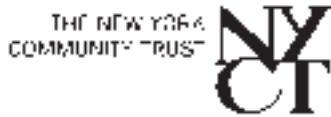
The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its October 2006 meeting.

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, or visit our Web site and click on Grantmaking and then Recent Grants.

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