

THE NEW YORK
COMMUNITY TRUST



GRANTS

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Cleaning Up Our World

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The Harlem River in upper Manhattan has been transformed; tens of thousands of tons of garbage, construction debris, and sunken boats have been removed, and Swindler Cove was transformed into a five-acre park with a children's garden and a boathouse. All of this was accomplished by **New York Restoration Project**, a nonprofit founded by Bette Midler. The group supplies labor, equipment, and project design and management to rescue parks, community gardens, and waterfronts in poor neighborhoods throughout the City. Last year, New York Restoration began work on Sherman Creek, a natural inlet on the Harlem River and a tidal estuary that is adjacent to Swindler Cove. It was the site of industry and

New York Restoration Project will create a permanent riverfront esplanade at Sherman Creek linking it to Swindler Cove Park (above).

Immigrant artists are introducing new art forms, exciting ethnic arts organizations are being created in immigrant communities, and several neighborhood programs have grown into major institutions.

power plants for most of the 20th century, and has suffered from illegal dumping, invasive plants, and neglect. During the past year, the group created a pedestrian trail on the southern portion to connect the creek with Swindler Cove. With our **\$50,000** grant, New York Restoration Project will extend the trail north, where the City plans to restore the area. A team of its staff and AmeriCorp volunteers will remove trash, plant native trees and shrubs to stop erosion and restore ecological balance, and run environmental education programs.

Chemicals are used in nearly all consumer products, from fabrics to furniture, computers to cosmetics. But some of the chemicals are dangerous: they cause illnesses in people, including headaches, asthma, and even cancer; and pollute our air, water, and soil. Companies are beginning to look for nontoxic, recyclable, and reusable ingredients and components for their products. Two new fields offer promise: “green chemistry,” which uses chemicals that are safe for people and the environment; and “biomimicry,” which applies principles of design in nature to industrial products. Two grants support groups that are working with industry to create safer products.

- **Clean Production Action (\$75,000)** will work with the electronics industry to promote the use of safe plastics in its products.
- **Green Blue Institute (\$74,000, two years)** will develop and publicize a database of green ingredients for companies that make cleaning products.

Many scientists and doctors believe that toxic chemicals in the environment are contributing to the rise in birth defects and children’s diseases. Eight years ago, **Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health** opened a Center for Children’s Environmental Health and, with Trust support, began a longitudinal study on the effects of toxins on children’s health. The study enrolled children from Washington Heights and Harlem, tested their mothers for exposure to chemicals

and the level of toxins passed to their babies during pregnancy, and then followed the children’s development. The results so far are disturbing: virtually every mother showed signs of exposure to pesticides during pregnancy and 40 percent of the babies had respiratory problems. Birth weights were an average of 9 percent lower than normal and 41 percent showed developmental delays by age three. The Center also works with local environmental advocacy groups to educate residents about toxic chemicals, prevent the City from expanding pollution-causing bus and diesel depots, and get the City Housing Authority to use safer pest management methods. With a two-year, **\$200,000** grant, the Center will continue to follow the children for cognitive and health problems, collect samples of allergens in the kids’ homes, and test babies enrolled this year to see if its education efforts have reduced the use of pesticides and toxins.

Improving Education

Four years ago, the 100-year-old Board of Education was replaced by the Department of Education, which reports directly to the mayor. Most of the powers of the local school districts were eliminated and the system centralized. Today, the school system is again undergoing a change in governance. One-third of the schools now are in an empowerment zone with authority in the hands of the principals, and the chancellor expects to extend this to every school. Effective monitoring of the ongoing reforms is essential to ensure that they meet the needs of students. The **Donors’ Education Collaborative (DEC)** was created in The Trust in 1995 as a cooperative foundation initiative to build and support advocacy for systemic and long-range reform of City schools. It has invested more than \$9 million in a variety of advocacy projects and created networks of parents and community groups. It is currently making grants to groups that are advocating for school finance reform, educating immigrant students, and teacher training in poor Bronx



Ologundê performing Afro-Brazilian music and dance.
(World Music Institute) Photo Credit: ©Jack Vartoogian/FrontRowPhotos

neighborhoods. DEC is also supporting groups working to improve middle schools in poor Brooklyn neighborhoods, include students' voices on school issues, and prevent the illegal discharge of students. Originally a five-year initiative, the DEC's tenure has been extended several times, and will be extended again through 2008. With our two-year, **\$150,000** grant and grants from other DEC members, it will continue to support the issues mentioned above, as well as new advocacy efforts that focus on accountability.

Native American students have the highest dropout, suicide, and substance abuse rates of all youth in the United States. Things are different on the Long Island Shinnecock Indian Nation reservation. Last year, every student in grades K through 11 was promoted and all the seniors graduated, with half going to college—thanks to the Nation's academic, cultural, and substance abuse prevention program. Previous Trust grants have supplemented this program by providing tutoring, computer training, and test preparation for all students. With a **\$50,000** grant, the **Shinnecock Indian Nation Fund** will continue the program. Tutors will help with homework and tests and train peer tutors, and

Shinnecock elders will teach about culture and tradition. The fund will also introduce two reading programs to increase literacy.

Nurturing Creativity

The arts, like most things in the City, are in a constant state of change. Immigrant artists are introducing new art forms, exciting ethnic arts organizations are being created in immigrant communities, and several neighborhood programs—such as El Museo del Barrio—that showcase minority and immigrant arts have grown into major institutions. In addition to sustaining the cultures of the City's immigrant communities, this work is gaining broader audiences. But even established ethnic arts groups lack the major donors who support the City's mainstream institutions, and individual artists or small groups are rarely eligible for foundation support. Three grants will help strengthen organizations that support ethnic artists and art groups.

- **Amigos del Museo del Barrio (\$50,000)**, for a membership drive and a major gifts program to attract wealthy donors.
- **Cuban Artists Fund (\$20,000)**, for a business and fundraising plan.
- **World Music Institute (\$50,000)**, for a branding and marketing campaign.

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

- **DOVA (\$90,000)**, for a modern dance company that features the choreography of Doug Varone.
- **Mercantile Library Association of the City of New York (\$30,000)**, for public presentations of literary programs.
- **Stephen Petronio Dance Company (\$90,000)**, for a modern dance company that features the choreography of Petronio in collaboration with leading artists in music, art, and fashion.



A record crowd of 4,500 watched *Raiders of the Lost Ark* at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy's Thursday night Movies With a View series. Photo: Etienne Frossard

- **Target Margin Theater (\$60,000)**, for a theater that produces original adaptations of classic and contemporary plays and literary works.
- **Wooster Group (\$90,000)**, for an experimental theater ensemble that combines classic plays with technology, music, and movement.

Creating Open Space

In 1988, the **Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy**, a coalition of 60 civic and environmental groups, began advocating for a park along the East River waterfront. It wasn't until 2002 that Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg reached an agreement to build the 85-acre Brooklyn Bridge Park. Construction will start this year, and is expected to take five years. In the meantime, the Conservancy is keeping the community involved in the planning process through public meetings, a Web site, quarterly newsletters, and events at the site. With a **\$30,000** grant, the Conservancy will involve residents in identifying appealing programs, and develop a business plan to identify sources of revenue, an annual budget, and a proposed schedule of events during construction. It will work with the Brooklyn Bridge Development Corporation, which is responsible for the park's design and construction, to create a layout of the completed

park to use to plan programs for performances, sports fields, educational centers, and water activities.

Prospect Park in Brooklyn is a City landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places. The 585-acre park, designed by Olmstead and Vaux, was built in the 1860s as a retreat from the pressures of City living. The southeast section, known as Concert Grove, featured lavish flower beds and tree-lined paths that led to Prospect Lake. Visitors could stroll while listening to music being played on a small island just off shore. But in the 1960s, Parks Commissioner Robert Moses made drastic changes: the Wollman ice-skating rink—which is now in poor condition—was built between Concert Grove and the lake, the inlet surrounding the island was filled in, the lake's edge was paved into a parking lot, and a mechanical systems facility was built. **Prospect Park Alliance**, which has completed several large restoration projects in the park over the past 20 years, plans to reclaim the site's original design. With our **\$50,000** grant, the Alliance will hire architects to plan, oversee, and restore the area. Two modern outdoor skating rinks will be built and a Lakeside Center will include a café, lockers, and a visitor's desk. The current rink will be dismantled and replaced with walkways and

A quarter of the City's schoolchildren have vision problems that affect their learning, and many children in poor neighborhoods go unscreened and untreated.

flowerbeds, and the Music Island will be restored. When completed in 2008, the public will enjoy open-air concerts, with access to the shoreline and views of the Music Island and the lake.

Staying Healthy

A quarter of the City's schoolchildren have vision problems that affect their learning. The most common childhood eye disorders—nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism—develop between ages 10 and 15, and can be diagnosed easily and corrected with glasses. In 1992, the State passed a law requiring children to be screened six times between pre-school and tenth grade, but screenings happen intermittently at best, depending on funding. In 2004, the City allocated \$1.6 million over three years to screen middle school students, but this is not nearly enough; many children in poor neighborhoods go unscreened and untreated. **Helen Keller International** started the ChildSight program in 1994 in response to the 1992 vision screening law. It uses a van with an eye-glass-making lab to screen students age 10 to 15 in poor neighborhoods in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and northern Manhattan. Last year, 20,000 students at 30 public schools were screened, 3,000 got glasses, and 300 were referred to eye clinics for more care. With our **\$50,000** grant, ChildSight will expand its screenings to eight middle schools in Queens and lower Manhattan with large numbers of immigrant students. The program will screen 5,000 students and expects to give glasses to at least 500.

According to a 2003 study by the City Department of Health and Hygiene, 43 percent of elementary school students were overweight or obese. Even worse, 15 percent were overweight by the age of two. Overweight kids are at risk for serious health problems, as well as low self-esteem, depression, and poor school performance. There has been a significant focus on overweight African-American and Latino kids, but little attention has been paid to Chinese-American children, even though a City

Department of Health study found that 30 percent of Chinese elementary school kids are overweight. Last year, the **Medical and Health Research Association of New York City** (MHRA) developed a video about children's nutrition and good feeding practices for Latina mothers. With our **\$100,000** grant, the MHRA will develop a video for Chinese families. Chinese mothers will attend focus groups and discuss breastfeeding, the nutritional value of formula, the introduction of solid foods, and the nutritional and caloric content of American high-fat foods versus traditional Chinese foods. MHRA will use the information to create a video in Mandarin, which will be distributed to 6,000 Chinese mothers at Women, Infants, and Children programs and to Bellevue Hospital, which serves a large Chinese population who live on the Lower East Side. A follow-up survey will rate its success.

People with Special Needs

The physical limitations of disabled children make it hard for them to participate in sports or exercise programs, putting them at risk of health problems such as high cholesterol or obesity, as well as social isolation and low self-esteem. Even when programs offer special equipment or instructors, many disabled kids feel uncomfortable exercising alongside non-disabled peers. In 1981, **Hunter College of CUNY** began the City's first exercise program for disabled children, called Project HAPPY (Hunter Athletic Program for Parents and Youth). Using certified instructors and student volunteers from its physical and occupational therapy programs, the program offers classes at Hunter's Brookdale campus, which has a swimming pool, basketball court, weight room, bowling alley, and gymnastics, yoga, and aerobics space. As more agencies, schools, and doctors have learned about the program, referrals have increased, and it now has a waiting list. With our **\$50,000** grant, Project HAPPY will hire three more instructors and recruit more volunteers by reaching out to students on Hunter's sports teams and freelance fitness instructors at health clubs. It will add



A student with glasses she received from ChildSight, a program of Helen Keller International.

more van service, buy more sporting equipment, and teach parents how to do simple fitness activities at home with their children.

Children's emotional and behavioral problems often first become apparent in pre-school. It's not surprising that pre-schools in neighborhoods with high levels of drug abuse, crime, family violence, and unemployment usually have more children with problems. Mental health services for young kids are difficult to get, and are especially scarce for poor families. **Riverdale Mental Health Association** offers counseling to residents of Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Crotona, Morris Heights, and Fordham in the Bronx. In 2006, it began a program with two Bronx pre-schools that enroll large numbers of poor minority and immigrant children. A pediatric social worker meets with staff, observes children in class, and trains teachers to change the behaviors of students during class. Children with severe problems are referred to the agency's mental health clinic. With our **\$50,000** grant, the Association will offer the program at two other Bronx nursery schools, screen 150 children at all the sites, and treat 40 at the clinic.

Other Grants

Preparing for Careers

The construction industry will be a strong source of jobs in the City over the coming years; as many as 30,000 new positions are projected. But creating job opportunities for women in this male-dominated workforce is a challenge. Previous Trust grants to **Legal Momentum** have helped the group make inroads for women in the construction industry. It got commitments on participation rates for women in major construction projects; won a seat on a mayoral commission on women and minorities in the trades; worked with private and public developers; and got stronger compliance with the City's equal opportunity laws. Last year, it worked with school administrators at the City's new high school for construction trades, and 25 percent of new students are girls. With our **\$40,000** grant, Legal Momentum will work to get more women in the pipeline for construction jobs. It will train counselors and caseworkers at four City career centers on construction jobs for women. The group will work to increase the number of girls in the eight City trades-related high schools, and get students into industry-run, pre-apprenticeship programs. Legal Momentum will also enlist tradeswomen as recruiters and mentors to attend career fairs and meet with middle school guidance counselors to promote the building trades as a career for girls.

Latinos are not well represented in the legal profession: 1 in 50 lawyers is Latino, and Hispanic students make up only 7 percent of law school enrollment. Too often, Latino students don't receive guidance from their schools, take relevant coursework, apply early enough to be eligible for financial aid, or take prep courses for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). The **Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund** (PRLDEF) currently gives Hispanic and other students reduced-cost LSAT prep classes, networking and recruitment events, low-cost admissions counseling, workshops on applying to law school, and LAWbound, a program that encourages freshman and sophomore college students to consider law school. But the Fund has found that some of the most promising students can't afford even its low-cost services. With our two-year, **\$60,000** grant, PRLDEF will work with local colleges to start a free program that gives 15

students each year a weeklong summer course with LSAT prep classes, workshops on law school applications, and individual counseling. It will also help students apply to schools where they have a good chance of being accepted. Students will be selected from local colleges based on financial need, motivation, and academic background, and will include LAWbound graduates.

Making a New Start

Studies show that ex-offenders are most likely to get in trouble again right after they get out of jail. Finding housing, job training, and other services before they're released would help them avoid winding up on the streets or back in jail. The three City agencies responsible—the Departments of Correction, Probation, and Homeless Services—traditionally haven't worked together. But recently, they asked a group of nonprofits to work with them in a program called RIDE (Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement) that will help ex-offenders make the transition back into society. **Career Gear**, a group that provides business clothes to disadvantaged men so that they can go on job interviews, has been asked to be a part of RIDE. With our **\$40,000** grant, the group will hold workshops for inmates on job applications, interview skills, dressing properly, and finding services. Upon release, they will be given clothes to wear to interviews and work. And when they're employed, the men can sign up for other Career Gear services, such as financial planning seminars, peer support groups, and public speaking and writing workshops.

There are an estimated 22 million Americans with substance abuse problems in the United States; nearly 800,000 New Yorkers abuse alcohol or drugs. Even though addictions destroy families, cost billions of dollars in health care, and contribute to crime, less than ten percent of substance abusers are treated. This is because of the continued perception of policymakers that treatment doesn't work, and not enough staff or treatment slots. To promote better policies and programs, the **National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University** (CASA) is conducting a national study of current treatment efforts, including agency capacity, characteristics of the people served, successful methods, funding, and costs. With a **\$71,000** grant, CASA will do a case study of the City as part of

the national report. It will focus on the barriers people face in getting treatment, obstacles faced by the programs, and the availability of trained staff. Results will be included in the national report; a special report will include recommendations for improving New York State policies and City programs.

Drug abuse is not only an adult problem: more than 10,000 City youth need treatment for substance abuse each year, some as young as 12 years old. Most have family, social, and mental health problems, have been arrested, and are dropouts. Those not in foster care often have parents who are unemployed, active substance abusers themselves, or in jail. **Outreach Project**, a drug treatment agency, runs the City's only residential program for addicted youth ages 12 to 17. It serves 60 kids each year; most are repeat offenders sent by the City's Department of Probation and Family Courts. The year-long program includes treatment, academic classes, counseling, and group sessions that teach anger management and relapse-prevention strategies. But helping kids overcome their addiction just to send them back to chaotic, unhealthy, and even dangerous environments is a waste of time, money, and lives. With our **\$60,000** grant, Outreach Project will hire a full-time social worker to improve its discharge services. Within the first month of treatment, the social worker will visit the patient's home to determine if it is safe for the teen to return, and identify any crises that need to be addressed. If returning home is not safe or feasible, other options will be considered, including placement with a foster family or close relative. Older youth will be helped to find group homes or other independent living programs, such as Job Corps. Once a decision has been reached, the youth will get counseling and be referred to support services.

Readjusting to civilian life is difficult for many veterans; it is especially hard for those with substance abuse problems. Many Vietnam and Gulf War vets continue to have serious drug abuse and alcohol problems, and experts estimate that substance abuse among soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq is also high. **Samaritan Village**, a City agency that operates the State's only residential drug treatment program specifically for male combat veterans, treats more than 1,500 men each year. With a previous Trust grant, a social worker from the group visited Veterans

Administration (VA) hospitals, reentry centers, and homeless shelters to encourage veterans to get help. He reached more than 800 vets, and referred 126 to mental health, detoxification, outpatient, and residential drug programs. Sixty-seven others got help with housing, VA health care claims, food stamps, and public assistance applications. With a **\$64,000** grant, Samaritan Village will focus on reentry centers and National Guard facilities in order to reach soldiers who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan. It will also update its guide of local drug treatment services to include resources for female veterans.

Giving Youth a Hand

Being a teenager is rarely easy, but immigrant kids also struggle with adapting to a new culture. Immigrant girls have an even harder time, since cultural norms often take a dim view of American teenage activities. Discrimination against girls and women—and even violence—also limit their exposure to services and opportunities. The City has many programs that help point youth in the right direction and offer opportunities to socialize and grow. But many immigrant youth feel uncomfortable going to mainstream programs and their parents are reluctant to have them go outside their communities. One solution is for immigrant-led community groups to offer youth programs. Eleven two-year grants to immigrant organizations will help them expand their programs to nearly 1,700 youth. With a **\$55,000** grant, **Community Resource Exchange**, a nonprofit consulting firm, will give individual and group help to all of the agencies to improve their programs.

- **Arab-American Family Support Center (\$40,000)**
- **Asian American Coalition for Children and Families (\$40,000)**
- **Beit Shalom (\$40,000)**
- **Chinese Staff and Workers' Association (\$40,000)**
- **Council of Peoples Organization (\$40,000)**
- **Dwa Fanm (\$40,000)**
- **Esperanza del Barrio (\$40,000)**
- **Latin American Integration Center (\$40,000)**
- **Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development (\$20,000)**
- **Nah We Yone (\$40,000)**
- **Sauti Yetu Center for African Women (\$40,000)**

For several years, The Trust has supported the **Girl Scout**

Council of Greater New York's effort to establish troops for low-income girls, and recruit and train women from their communities as troop leaders. One focus has been on involving more Latina girls, but the Council has had trouble attracting leaders from their neighborhoods. Last year, 100 new Latina leaders and 1,300 young Latinas signed on, but most of the leaders didn't live where the girls lived, making it difficult to place them in troops near their homes. With a **\$25,000** grant, the Council will try a strategy that has had success in other cities. In Bushwick and a neighborhood in the Bronx, a Latina community organizer will hire ten trainers to each recruit six troop leaders. These troop leaders then will approach girls from their neighborhoods to form troops. The Council hopes to recruit 120 Latina troop leaders and 600 Latina scouts.

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

- **Harlem RBI (\$50,000)**, for a college prep program in East Harlem.
- **Summer on the Hill (\$60,000, two years)**, for a college prep program in Washington Heights and the Bronx.

Improving Education

Getting students to do better in school depends on more than what or how they're being taught—they must also feel safe, comfortable, and self-confident. Kids in schools that are disorderly or conflict-ridden have trouble learning and teachers routinely leave. With a **\$50,000** grant, **Educators for Social Responsibility Metropolitan Area** will work with the Department of Education to promote school environments that allow teachers to teach and kids to learn. Nineteen schools in Brooklyn—including elementary, middle, and high schools—will identify problems, such as disorder during lunch and recess, tension between groups of kids, and lack of parent involvement. Educators for Social Responsibility will help each school choose and implement programs to address these problems. It will also help schools create their own programs to improve students' social and emotional skills.

Not many people know that the General Education Development (GED) exam was created in 1942 by the

U.S. Department of War to allow returning veterans to enter college without going back to high school. Today, it is primarily used by poor people who never finished high school. While the exam's content is written by the American Council on Education, state governments are responsible for preparing students for the test, making it available to people who don't speak English and those with physical and learning disabilities, and administering the five-part, seven-hour exam. New York's GED system, which has not been reviewed in a decade, has many problems. There aren't enough services for English-language learners or dropouts with severe academic deficiencies; the exam is more available in jails and prisons than in poor communities; is only offered during the school year, which creates long waiting lists; and test scheduling is not computerized so applicants must register at multiple sites in the hopes of getting a slot. With our **\$50,000** grant, the **New York City Department of Youth and Community Development**—which is responsible for coordinating the City's GED program providers—will hire a consultant to review the system. The consultant will study utilization, scheduling, and results from the City's exam centers, and analyze preparation services, barriers to establishing new test centers, and available federal and State funding. The consultant will review GED systems in ten other urban areas and conduct focus groups of GED students. An advisory committee will guide the research and present the findings to the mayor's office, public officials, and youth and education funders and advocates.

Since the 1970s, the City's Department of Education has invested billions of dollars in programs to improve teaching and learning. But even though the Department collects massive amounts of information on these programs each year, most of this data have never been analyzed and evaluated. The City's leading education research institutions—Teachers College, the Steinhardt School of Education at NYU, and CUNY—have agreed to work together to design and run the Research Partnership for New York City Schools, which will collect and digitally archive the Department's data. It will give access to independent researchers, and issue regular reports assessing the schools and education policies. With our **\$60,000** grant, the **Social Science Research Council**, an independent research institute, will set protocols for data transfer, pick a team of researchers to maintain the archive, and convene

a prominent governing body to ensure independence. It will work with researchers and the Department to identify the data to be transferred, create guidelines for confidentiality and data sharing, and supervise the initial transfer.

Helping Nonprofits

The City's many immigrants include those resettled here by the federal government for humanitarian reasons. In addition to the usual challenges commonly facing immigrants—language barriers, cultural stress, and financial needs—most have faced horrific experiences before they arrived here, including murder of family members, imprisonment, refugee camps, and journeys from one country to another to find safe haven. Self-help groups that share their background and language can help them adjust to life here. These groups receive money from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, but the grants are for three years only. Grants of **\$20,000** each will help two organizations that assist refugees from Eastern Europe while they make the transition from federal funding.

- **Albanian American Women's Organization** will hire a consultant to develop a fundraising plan.
- **Bosnian-American Association of New York City** will hire a part-time manager to assess its programs, produce a resource guide of services for constituents, and develop a fundraising plan.

Even though New York is the media capital of the world, many local nonprofits don't know how to get their stories into newspapers, on television, or in magazines. Previous Trust grants have supported the Strategic Press Information Network (SPIN) to help nonprofits develop media and communication skills. Originally a project of the Independent Media Institute, SPIN was "spun off" from the Institute and became the flagship project of **Communications Leadership Institute**, a new nonprofit. SPIN holds an annual three-day "media boot camp" that includes sessions about creating press kits and media advisories, holding media events, and training media spokesmen. The group has helped numerous groups receive media coverage and raise the visibility of their issues. With a **\$45,000** grant, SPIN will again offer the boot camp, as well as coaching throughout the year, to 50 City nonprofits.

The Nonprofit Project was a research effort conducted

between 1999 and 2001 that created a census of 9,000 nonprofits using data from the IRS, the Charities Registration Bureau of the State Attorney General's Office, nonprofit membership and umbrella organizations, and other sources. The data were synthesized into a report—and companion Web site—that is a vital reference for the nonprofit field. An important outgrowth of the Nonprofit Project was the Nonprofit Service Atlas, an on-line directory of more than 6,000 nonprofits that is searchable by neighborhood or type of service. The site receives 3,000 visits each month from people looking for services, organizations looking for like-minded groups, and funders and government officials trying to identify service gaps. With a **\$50,000** grant, **Community Studies of New York**, which worked on the Nonprofit Project, will update the atlas, adding new providers and other information. Community Studies will also survey users to determine what additional information would be useful, and track Web-site use in order to analyze patterns.

With more than 60,000 City and State nonprofits, it's no wonder that some charities get lost in the shuffle. **NYCharities.org** provides people with a centralized site to learn about the area's nonprofits, find volunteer opportunities, and donate money—more than \$2 million last year. But it also allows nonprofits to download financial reports, sell tickets for fundraisers, send thank-you letters, and post information about workshops and volunteering—all important resources for small groups. A previous Trust grant helped the group inform small and mid-sized nonprofits about their services. With a **\$75,000** grant, **NYCharities.org** will hire a customer-support person to schedule demonstration workshops and help screen new registrants. A technology associate will help with special projects for nonprofits. The group will also streamline its administrative costs, such as replacing monthly mailings of donations with wireless money transfers.

A recent study by the Brookdale Center on Aging found that more than 90 percent of gay and lesbian elders have no children, 80 percent have no partner, and nearly 20 percent have no one to call in an emergency. They are likely to need the help of formal care-giving agencies, and **Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders** (SAGE) meets this need. It offers a drop-in center, case management, friendly visiting, recreational programs, and an AIDS sup-

port program to 2,000 elders each month. Over the last decade, SAGE has grown rapidly, quadrupling its clients and budget, and adding dozens of new programs. Early this year, it ran into serious financial trouble because staff weren't experienced in managing complex government contracts and grants. Its board contributed money to cover immediate obligations, hired a new executive director and financial officer, reviewed every program, and cut staff. The group is now operating with a balanced budget. With our **\$55,000** grant, SAGE will retain an accounting firm to send invoices to government funders, track client services, manage cash and accounts payable, and present monthly financial reports to the board.

New York's public radio station, **WNYC**, has been on the air for 81 years, and is the most listened to public radio station in the country. It has more than 1.3 million weekly listeners and strong relationships with the City's ethnic communities and cultural institutions. Previous Trust grants have helped the station with its transition from being City supported to independence, and with emergency expenses after its offices and studios were damaged on September 11th. In July 2007, the station will move to new quarters, doubling the size of its news department, allowing it to develop new programs, and have a 140-seat performance space for live events. With our **\$150,000** grant, WNYC will hire a producer to curate the performance space and develop a schedule of artist talks, poetry readings, music performances, and live broadcasts of the station's popular interview programs. It will also hire an arts reporter to increase arts and culture coverage.

Lending a Legal Hand

Thousands of young women are forced into sexual slavery by traffickers each year. Some are abducted, some deceived by offers of work, and others are trying to escape poverty. Although human trafficking is a federal crime, enforcement is largely limited to the FBI, which focuses on high-profile cases. The law doesn't provide for local and state enforcement, and New York doesn't have an anti-trafficking law. A previous Trust grant to **Equality Now**, an international organization working to ensure human rights for girls and women, supported its advocacy for a strong anti-trafficking bill in the State legislature. Although the bill did not pass, Equality Now built strong relationships with members of the legislature, worked with

a coalition of nonprofit groups, and got the issue in front of the public. With our **\$75,000** grant, the group will again advocate for anti-human trafficking legislation in the State through an aggressive media and public education campaign, meetings with elected and law enforcement officials, and working with the bill's sponsors to include funding for victims' services.

More than 40 years ago, the Supreme Court, in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, held that poor defendants in criminal cases have a constitutional right to legal representation provided by the government. But a recent study commissioned by New York's Chief Judge Judith Kaye found that just because defendants in the State get a lawyer doesn't mean they get quality representation. Local governments cite problems such as overburdened defenders and grossly inadequate funding for the failure. Judge Kaye has called for the State to take over administration of indigent defense; the issue will be before the new governor and legislature in 2007. The **Legal Aid Society**, which was not cited for inadequacies in the study, is the primary legal agency defending poor clients in the City and the largest defender in the State of poor people charged with crimes; it handles more than 200,000 criminal cases each year, and half are resolved before trial. It has years of data on attorney caseloads, number of court appearances to resolve cases, and results obtained. But its data system is outdated, preventing the group from analyzing its information. With our six-month, **\$100,000** grant, the Society will hire a data consultant group to extract and organize the data so it can prepare a presentation to policymakers in time for the 2007 budget process.

Last year, there were nearly 125,000 calls to the City's Domestic Violence Hotline; 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 legal help

to use them. Two grants support programs that help poor and immigrant victims of domestic abuse.

- **Legal Services for New York City (\$60,000)** will provide legal help and social services to women on Staten Island.
- **South Brooklyn Legal Services (\$60,000)** will work with government justice agencies to help women in Brooklyn.

Improving Health Care

Cancer affects hundreds of millions of people around the world; in the United States, one in three people will have cancer during their life. Treatment for the disease has improved greatly over the years, and today there are 10 million survivors. A study by the Institute of Medicine of the American Academy of Sciences found that lasting mental and physical issues from treatments can alter personal relationships, daily routines, and the ability to work. A second study by the National Cancer Institute found that survivors of early childhood cancer develop unusually high rates of heart disease, second cancers, joint damage, learning disorders, and infertility. Both studies found that the health care system does little to help survivors deal with quality-of-life issues, in part because there is no payment for this type of service, and largely because doctors do not view it as their responsibility. Two grants to medical centers will help meet survivors' needs.

- **Beth Israel Medical Center (\$200,000)** will coordinate follow-up care for head and neck cancer patients through a patient navigator who works with a team of doctors, nurses, and social workers.
- **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (\$100,000)** will survey mainly adult survivors of retinoblastoma, an eye cancer in children, about their health, education, employment, and personal relationships.

Many terminally ill people, whether at home or in the hospital, lose control over treatment and medications; almost half die in pain, despite the fact it can often be controlled. **Compassion & Choices of New York** gives the terminally ill information and emotional support for a peaceful and humane death. With previous Trust support, it made presentations on end-of-life issues and pain management at senior centers, hospice programs, oncology and geriatric physician groups, health care organizations,

law schools, and churches. Last year, it counseled 43 individuals on their rights and helped them prepare advance directives advising how they would like to be treated. With our **\$20,000** grant, Compassion & Choices will continue its information sessions, counsel individuals, and work with the Council of Senior Centers and Services to reach more agencies that serve seniors. It will again lobby for a bill in the State legislature—which failed to pass last year—that would require pain management training for medical students and doctors.

Nursing home residents are among the most likely to get poor quality care because they are physically or mentally fragile and unable to speak up for themselves. But the State Department of Health system that allows family members to file complaints about poor care is filled with bureaucratic barriers. With a previous Trust grant, **Friends and Relatives of Institutionalized Aged** started a program that selected the most urgent and serious complaints from people who called their hotline. The group helped them file paperwork, accompanied them to meetings with State officials, and got a *pro bono* lawyer to represent residents in three of the most severe cases. With a **\$40,000** grant, Friends and Relatives will continue to help the most serious cases and recruit additional *pro bono* lawyers. It will track how State staff respond to complaints, and prepare a report that lays out the best ways for families to present their complaints as well as recommendations for improvements in the system.

More than a third of Latinos in the City don't have health insurance, causing them to put off care until their conditions become serious. But a report from the Institute of Medicine places part of the blame on doctors and their inability to communicate with non-English speakers. According to the report, minorities were referred less often for specialty care than whites, and Latinos were less likely to see a doctor because they thought they would be treated poorly. The **Mount Sinai School of Medicine of New York University** teaches medical students about the impact of cultural differences on health care use and offers courses on treating minority patients. With our **\$85,000** grant, the School will study the effectiveness of its program to teach medical students to care for Spanish-speaking patients. Every second-year student will complete two Spanish-language classes and a course about how Latinos

view and use health care. They will be videotaped in clinical settings to assess their communication skills. Results from the observations will be used to improve Mount Sinai's courses and clinical training, and compiled in a report for medical conferences and publications.

Each year, more than 12,000 New Yorkers are estimated to be victims of sexual assault. Because of the violent nature of the crime, most victims are extremely vulnerable and need sensitive care from first responders. But many victims complain that responders are brusque, especially when conducting the initial physical exam or asking about the victim's background and details of the assault. Properly provided care can improve a victim's emotional and physical recovery—and improve evidence collection. In 1996, the State Department of Health began the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program. Located in hospital emergency departments, SAFE uses specially trained doctors, nurses, and social workers to give medical care, gather forensic evidence, offer counseling, and refer victims to services. The **New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault** used a Trust grant in 2004 to review the SAFE program and found that while the program was helpful, it was not available in areas of Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Alliance will advocate for six new SAFE programs—two in each underserved borough. Because it is not feasible to open a program in every hospital, the Alliance will develop guidelines for screening and transferring victims to the nearest SAFE hospital instead of the nearest emergency room.

Electronic medical records are a promising way to improve health care quality, increase the productivity of providers, and reduce medical errors. Doctors can get access to them from any location with an Internet connection and review patient histories, enter notes, prescribe medications, and make referrals. Unfortunately, electronic records are not generally used in emergency rooms, where getting patient information quickly can be life-saving. The State Department of Health recently awarded \$22 million in grants to 9 large networks of health care organizations in the City to help them connect their electronic medical records so that patient information can be shared in emergency rooms. One of the grantees is the **New York Clinical Information Exchange**, which was formed to apply for the grant and develop a shared medical record

system for 11 hospitals in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens; one network of community health centers; and the Visiting Nurse Service. Together, these organizations account for nearly 1 million emergency room visits, 185,000 ambulatory care patients, and 90,000 home-care patients. Over the next two years, with the State grant, the Exchange will link the electronic records of its members. With our two-year, **\$75,000** grant, the Exchange will evaluate the effectiveness of shared records on patient care and cost. Researchers from Weill Cornell Medical College will work with emergency room staff to determine the data that will be tracked, including adverse drug events, drug-resistant infections, deaths, admissions, repeat emergency room visits, and emergency room procedures. In 2008, researchers will collect the data and survey emergency room staff about the new record-sharing system.

Staying Healthy

Diabetes develops when the body can't metabolize sugar. It's a serious disease: more than 700,000 people in the U.S. die from diabetic complications each year. Type 1 diabetes, which affects about 2.1 million people, is a genetic disorder in which the body doesn't produce any insulin; Type 2 diabetes, which affects nearly 19 million people, is usually caused by obesity and results from the body not being able to produce enough insulin. While it is most common in elderly people, Type 2 is now developing in teens and children because of the rise in obesity. Diabetes can cause fatal damage to almost every organ system. One of the most serious complications is diabetic retinopathy—when blood vessels in the retina swell and leak fluid or when abnormal vessels grow on its surface—which causes blindness in 20,000 people every year. The City has a much higher rate of diabetes than the national average, partially due to the fact that diabetes is much more common among African Americans and Latinos, who make up nearly half of the City's population. Controlling weight, changing diet, increasing exercise, checking sugar levels daily, and getting regular medical care can help control the disease and reduce complications—which could shrink the \$50 billion spent every year on diabetes. Three grants support agencies that have programs to manage diabetes and prevent serious medical problems.

- **Community Health Care Association of New York State (\$150,000)**, for a diabetes patient management

program at community health centers in the South Bronx.

- **Jewish Guild for the Blind (\$125,000)**, for a retinopathy prevention program for poor people on Medicaid in northern Manhattan and the Bronx.
- **Lighthouse International (\$225,000)**, for a diabetes management program and a home visiting service for people with early symptoms of retinopathy.

Residents of central Brooklyn have significantly higher rates of chronic diseases—including diabetes, stroke, and heart disease—than other residents in the City. Many factors contribute to this, including genetics and limited access to health care, but lack of exercise and poor nutrition are two important elements. The **YWCA of Brooklyn** runs a program called Sister Strength that offers poor, minority women exercise classes, health education seminars, and nutrition support groups. Last year, with Trust support, Sister Strength worked with women from four public housing projects and four community groups. It also worked with a health center and hospital to screen 1,000 women for diabetes and high blood pressure, and created a cookbook of healthy recipes and brochures on diabetes and heart disease. With our **\$70,000** grant, Sister Strength will work with five Brooklyn agencies to offer its workshops to female parolees, victims of domestic violence, former drug abusers, and women leaving welfare.

People with Special Needs

Many of the City's 30,000 homeless people have a serious mental illness, but few places are willing or able to treat them. **St. Paul's Center of New York** was established in 2003 by nurse practitioners to give outpatient psychiatric care to severely mentally ill homeless adults. With a previous Trust grant, St. Paul's hired an additional nurse and treated 259 adults, twice the number expected. The group also began a graduate student internship program with Columbia University School of Nursing and trained two students to diagnose mental illnesses, manage medications, write progress notes, lead therapy sessions, and make referrals for other services. With our **\$65,000** grant, St. Paul's will add a nurse practitioner and graduate student to serve patients on its waiting list and to get more referrals from shelters, soup kitchens, and other homeless programs. It will add therapy groups on medication, anger management, and family.

Parents face a maze of government policies and regulations to get special education services for their disabled children; it proves even more difficult when they don't speak English. **Sinergia** helps poor Hispanic families get education and social services for their disabled children. In 2006, the group began to help poor Spanish-speaking parents understand the changing federal, State, and City public policies governing special education. It translated policy papers prepared by other advocacy groups for disabled children, and presented the material at workshops for parents from East and Central Harlem. With our **\$50,000** grant, Sinergia will work with community groups to reach Spanish-speaking parents from Washington Heights, East and Central Harlem, and the South Bronx. It will inform parents about their children's rights, the difference between mainstream and special education classrooms, the importance of parent involvement, how to monitor education plans as children advance through school, and how to file an appeal if services are inadequate or denied. Sinergia advocates will also help parents request services and accompany them to education planning meetings.

Reaching Out to the Elderly

Gay and lesbian elders grew up concealing their sexual orientation for fear of reprisals, rejection, and even violence. But hiding such an important part of their lives often leads to isolation and depression as they get older. Even though tens of thousands of gay and lesbian elders live in Queens, there are few organizations that offer social, psychological, and recreational services for them. Previous Trust grants have helped the **Forest Hills Community House** operate SAGE Queens, a social service program for gay and lesbian elders that provides recreation, discussion groups, arts and dance classes, exercise programs, day trips, visits to homebound elders, help with benefits, and health education. With our **\$40,000** grant, SAGE Queens will train four elders as friendly visitors for homebound peers, and add new classes in creative writing, computer skills, and art appreciation. It will work with a Queens-based program for gay and lesbian youth to encourage elders and youth to advocate for services. It will also reach out to straight youth at a local high school to recruit volunteers to help SAGE Queens elders; students will receive community service credits for their work.

The age of 65 used to mark the beginning of old age and retirement, but that is changing. The current generation of retirees is the healthiest, best educated, and most affluent in our country's history—and with the first wave of baby boomers turning 60, their numbers will go up. Atlantic Philanthropies began the three-phased Community Experience Partnership to encourage community foundations to develop programs that will change how older Americans participate in their communities. Phase 1 will gauge the interest of older adults in civic projects; Phase 2 will choose the policies they want to change; and Phase 3 will put civic projects into action. The Trust applied for and was selected as one of 30 foundations to receive \$25,000 for Phase 1. We selected **United Neighborhood Houses of New York** (UNH), a support organization for 35 settlement houses throughout the City, to work with us. With an eight-month, **\$50,000** grant, UNH will gather demographic data on older adults in the City, and conduct surveys and focus groups to find out what they're interested in. The group will also survey agencies that use retired volunteers as well as government officials and gerontologists.

Building Communities

Since 1978, The Trust's Neighborhood Revitalization Program has awarded more than \$12 million in grants to groups working in poor communities. This year, we focused on housing needs in immigrant neighborhoods. More than one-third of the City's residents are immigrants, and studies show that immigrants are more likely to live in substandard and overcrowded housing. Community groups can help them improve housing conditions, and explain rent regulations, housing court, and other related issues. They can also bring native-born and immigrant residents together to work on community concerns. The projects selected this year will help tenant associations, offer housing and financial counseling clinics, give tenants' rights training workshops, provide building repair loans, and preserve affordable housing. Fourteen grants of **\$40,000** each totaling \$560,000 were made.

- **Brighton Neighborhood Association**
- **Bushwick Housing Independence Project**
- **Chhaya Community Development Corporation**
- **Credit Where Credit Is Due**
- **Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation**
- **Flatbush Development Corporation**

- Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement
- Housing Conservation Coordinators
- Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- Northfield Community Local Development Corporation of Staten Island
- Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition
- St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation

Special Projects & Philanthropy

Tens of thousands of cats and dogs are euthanized each year because animal shelters are seriously overcrowded. Strays roam the streets, barking, biting, and getting into garbage. With a previous Trust grant, the **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** (ASPCA) spayed and neutered almost 13,000 pets for free or at low cost through its mobile clinics in the City's poorest neighborhoods. The ASPCA also offered public vaccinations and wellness clinics once a month. There was so much demand that many people had to be turned away. With a **\$33,000** grant, the group will operate two mobile units in 41 low-income communities and offer vaccinations and wellness care on Saturday mornings. At the request of the Office of Emergency Management, the ASPCA also designed a plan that uses a network of 700 volunteers to take care of animals in the event of a disaster and evacuation. To avoid evacuees refusing to leave because of their pets, the ASPCA and the City have developed shelters with accommodations for pets. The group will hold 18 workshops, training 40 volunteers at each session to assist with emergency evacuation of people with pets.

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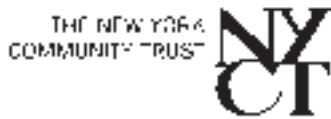
The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its December 2006 meeting.

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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