

Giving Youth a Hand

The Highbridge section of the Bronx has many problems: 38 percent of families have annual incomes of less than \$15,000; 65 percent of children live in single-parent homes; 75 percent of elementary school kids read below grade level; and even though more than a third of its residents are under the age of 18, there are few after-school programs. The **Highbridge Community Life Center** serves more than 4,000 people each year with adult education, youth and family services, counseling, job training, and a monthly

community newspaper called *Highbridge Horizons*. To help young people improve their communications skills, do something productive after school, and become more involved in civic life, the Center will hire a journalist to develop an after-school journalism program for 100 youth ages 10 to 18. With a **\$40,000** grant, workshops on writing, media, and computer skills will be offered, and students will research and write stories about the community. Teens interested in business will work on increasing circulation and advertising revenue.

Highbridge Community Life Center

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



Kids need physical activity to grow and develop, but physical education programs in City schools are in bad shape.

Tens of thousands of City youth need drug or alcohol abuse treatment. Many of them have family, social, or mental health problems, and have been involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Few get treatment: only 15 of the State's 1,200 public, licensed outpatient and residential programs serve youth exclusively, and almost all are located upstate. Two grants will expand two City outpatient treatment programs for court-involved youth.

- **Bronx Addiction Services Integrated Concepts Systems, \$117,000**, will serve an additional 100 teenage boys, run a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) program, and hire new staff to provide drug treatment, run family counseling sessions, and coordinate services.
- **The Osborne Association, \$70,000**, will serve an additional 84 young men, start a GED program, offer additional counseling, and hire a new staff member to help them find jobs.

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

- **Governor's Committee on Scholastic Achievement, \$100,000** to expand a college preparation and mentoring program for disadvantaged high school students.

- **Nature Conservancy of New York, \$65,000** for a program that prepares high school students for environmental careers.
- **Urban Assembly, \$100,000** to improve college preparation and counseling for disadvantaged black and Latino high school students.

City officials, private funders, youth agencies, and advocates came together in 2003 to overhaul public after-school programs. The Out-of-School-Time Initiative (OST) consolidated regulatory and funding oversight at the Department of Youth and Community Development, combined State and City funding, issued one Request for Proposals, and focused on the poorest neighborhoods. Two hundred organizations received OST contracts in 2005; they currently run more than 550 youth programs, 60 percent of which are located in poor communities. But the contract organizations must raise significant private matching funds; State policies and regulations complicate running OST programs; there is almost no money for services for older teens; and the whole system is under-funded. The Citizens' Committee for Children estimates that by 2007, OST will have places for only half of City kids who need after-school services. Two grants support coalitions working to solve problems with the OST funding system.

- **Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, \$30,000**, will conduct

surveys, focus groups, and interviews with the 200 contract agencies to identify the challenges facing them under OST, study the financing of after-school programs around the country, and write a report with recommendations for improving OST.

- **New York State Afterschool Network, \$20,000**, will create a network of youth service providers and advocates to discuss administrative and regulatory obstacles in OST, recommend policy to the State Office of Children and Family Services, and host a forum in the City to encourage gubernatorial candidates to make funding for after-school programs a priority.

Kids need physical activity to grow and develop, but physical education programs in City schools are in bad shape. The Department of Education is turning to nonprofit fitness programs to help children learn healthy habits and improve physical education programs. **Row New York** uses rowing to get girls to exercise and teach them discipline and teamwork. Last year, the Department asked Row New York to create a rowing program for girls in the 8th grade. It started a ten-week course on rowing, exercise, and academics for girls at two Queens middle schools. With a three-year, **\$150,000** grant, Row New York will expand the program to five middle schools and train teachers how to run the program. The group also will continue to offer

its summer and year-round after-school programs for 250 girls.

Nurturing Creativity

Small arts groups and artists, many of them located in the outer boroughs, produce innovative work, are tied to their communities, and reach audiences not served by larger, traditional arts organizations. But many are not skilled in management or fundraising. For help, they can turn to service organizations, which provide a large number of small groups and individuals with assistance in management, fundraising, technology, and marketing. The following two-year, **\$60,000** grants to arts service organizations will help improve the business practices of small arts groups and individual artists in Brooklyn and the Bronx:

- **BAM Local Development Corporation**, to provide management assistance to small arts groups in downtown Brooklyn.
- **Bronx Council on the Arts**, to provide management assistance to immigrant artists and arts education groups in the Bronx.

Arts in the schools were decimated in the seventies, but they've been coming back. The New York City Department of Education recently created a guide to teaching the arts, *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts*. The *Blueprint* for music was developed with help from the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, and Jazz at

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Protecting the Environment

Rapid advances in technology have resulted in increases in the number of computers and electronics that become obsolete.

They contain hazardous lead, mercury, and cadmium, but less than 10 percent are recycled properly. Discarded electronics are the fastest growing part of the waste stream, leaching into the ground and contaminating our water. The following two grants support local and national efforts to address the e-waste problem:

- **Lower East Side Ecology Center, \$40,000** for electronics recycling and waste prevention drives in the City, to educate the public about electronics waste, and to advocate for legislation making manufacturers responsible for their products.
- **Silicon Valley Toxics Campaign, \$75,000** to get technology companies to reduce the toxins used in manufacturing and recycle their products, and to advocate with local governments for greater manufacturer responsibility.

The City's water comes from three major watersheds upstate; it is one of the highest quality drinking water systems in the world, and was unfiltered—until now. Pollution and runoff from increasing development around one watershed is forcing the City to build a filtration system. The other two watersheds were protected in 1997 when the City reached agreement with local communities to acquire land around them to prevent pollution from development and runoff from agriculture. Because of those actions, the Environmental Protection Agency agreed that no filtration system was needed for those reservoirs. Both agreements expire next year, forcing the City to find new ways to protect the watersheds. Many communities across the country face similar problems protecting their water supplies, but few organizations monitor government enforcement of drinking water standards or advocate for stronger protections. The following two grants support organizations working to protect drinking water:

- **Natural Resources Defense Council, \$125,000** to advocate protecting land around the City's watersheds from development and to promote strong national standards for pollutants in drinking water.
- **Riverkeeper, \$75,000** to promote land conservation around the City's watersheds and increase local residents' roles in development plans.

In an effort to halt climate change, seven Northeastern states, led by New York's Governor Pataki, agreed to develop their own carbon reduction and trading system for power plant emissions—the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Each state must adopt its own regulations to implement the trading system by 2009. The **World Resources Institute**, a group that works to protect the environment, helped design RGGI. With a **\$100,000** grant, the Institute will help state policymakers with allocation plans for the cap and trade system, and work with utilities on new clean-energy technologies. It also will design options for companies to buy “offsets” to compensate for carbon emissions, and develop a way to measure the flow of electricity between states.

Improving Health Care

Occupancy rates in general acute care hospitals in the State averaged only 77 percent in 2004.

Closing underused hospitals can save money, and in 2005 the State formed the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century to review excess capacity, consider the effects of closings on communities, and recommend which facilities to close. But in its review, the Commission groups general and specialty beds together. Separating them is essential because psychiatric bed use averages 92 percent in the City and 88 percent in the State, and losing these beds could drastically affect mental health care and agencies. With a **\$55,000** grant, the **Mental Health Association of New York City** will form a task force to gather information on psychiatric bed use at hospitals, make recommendations on how to keep mental health services available, and present it to the Commission. It also will advocate for its recommendations at public hearings and with elected officials.

Infectious diseases, such as polio, are no longer a great threat to American children; chronic conditions—asthma, ADHD, and autism—now are the most common childhood diseases, and cancer is the leading cause of death for children. Toxic chemicals in the environment are suspected of contributing to this new pattern, but there is not enough research to establish a definitive link. In 2000, Congress authorized the Children's Health Study to look at environmental causes of childhood illnesses. The **Mount Sinai School of Medicine's** Center for Children's Health and the Environment helped design the study and was one of seven lead medical schools picked to carry it out. The study will enroll 100,000 children at birth and follow them for 25 years, but funding for the program was eliminated in the administration's most recent budget. With a **\$130,000** grant, the Center will advocate in Albany for funding a State network of centers to track children with environmentally caused illnesses, improve diagnosis and treatment of those diseases, and strengthen education and prevention programs. It also will lead a coalition of

environmental pediatricians to advocate for renewed funding of the national Children's Health Study.

Health experts estimate that a quarter of all preventable disease in the world is caused by exposure to environmental hazards. Increasing rates of asthma have been attributed to air pollution and the use of pesticides; other conditions, such as cancer and developmental disabilities in children—who breathe more air, eat more food, and drink more water relative to their body weight than adults—have suspected environmental links. But most medical schools give only seven hours of study in environmental medicine, and less than half of pediatric training programs offer any environmental health experience. The **National Environmental Education & Training Foundation** was created in 1990 by Congress to advance environmental education for health professionals. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Foundation will start the Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions project this year. Twenty Faculty Champions from medical and nursing schools will be trained, who will in turn train at least 200 junior faculty to include environmental questions when taking children's medical histories. The faculty also will include the Foundation's environmental pediatric materials in medical and nursing school curricula.

Medicaid covers more than 50 million Americans, including 3.8 million New Yorkers. In 2005, New York State Medicaid expenditures totaled \$50 billion. Research by **New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service** showed that the elderly and disabled—30 percent of Medicaid enrollees—accounted for 70 percent of the costs. The School and the United Hospital Fund then worked with health care providers to find more efficient models of caring for severely disabled adults, the most expensive patients. They designed a program to provide patients in managed care plans with case management and a range of health, mental health, substance abuse, and social services. With a **\$95,000** grant, the Wagner School and the Fund will help the programs complete their models and begin to admit patients. The School will identify inefficiencies in service, recommend solutions, and create a plan to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Undocumented immigrant teens in foster care because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment face major obstacles: immigration policies put them at risk for deportation, and their lack of legal status is a barrier to independent living.

Lincoln Center. But many schools have not had music programs for years, and there are only 917 licensed music teachers and more than 1,400 schools. The following two-year grants will help provide music education based on the *Blueprint* to students in underserved public schools:

- **Brooklyn Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, \$50,000** for music education at four Brooklyn elementary schools.
- **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, \$50,000** for music education at four schools in Queens and two schools on Staten Island.
- **Education Through Music, \$60,000** for music education at five schools in the Bronx.

Madame Anna E. Schoën-Rene was one of the 20th century's most respected singing teachers, and was director of the voice department at Juilliard from 1925 to 1942. In her will, she established a fund at The Trust to help young people pursue advanced study in the vocal arts. The following two-year grants from her fund will help young vocalists continue their advanced musical education:

- **The Juilliard School, \$52,000.**
- **Metropolitan Opera Association, \$52,000.**

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

- **The House Foundation for the Arts, \$75,000** for three years, to develop, produce, and tour the works of multi-media artist Meredith Monk.
- **Ontological-Hysteric Theater, \$60,000** for three years, to support experimental theater performances by Richard Foreman.
- **Pick-Up Performance Company, \$30,000** for two years, to support the dance/theater of David and Ain Gordon.

Supporting Immigrants

Undocumented immigrant teens in foster care because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment face major obstacles: immigration policies put them at risk for deportation, and their lack of legal status is a barrier to independent living. Without permanent status, they are denied social services, tuition assistance, and employment. However, the law does offer them a chance to apply for permanent residency—the visa category called Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). But finding legal help to apply for SIJS in the City is difficult. **The Door—A Center of Alternatives** helps runaway and foster care teens with health care, mental health, education, meals, and other services. It also runs the City's only civil legal services center for youth. With a **\$65,000** grant, The Door will open at least 70 new cases for youth eligible for SIJS, and continue to represent 58 previous cases still open. It will reach an additional

500 immigrant youth through workshops and pamphlets, and share its legal expertise with other groups representing undocumented immigrant youth.

In recent years, the City has experienced an unprecedented wave of immigration from countries around the globe. According to the 2000 Census, 2.9 million City residents were born outside the country; immigrants and their children constitute 55 percent of the City's population; and 43 percent of the workforce is foreign born. But language and cultural barriers hamper many from using public services, voting, or being protected by our laws. The following three grants help immigrants participate in the City's civic life:

- **City University of New York, \$50,000** for its Center for Urban Research to train immigrant organizations how to use demographic data to advocate and provide services for their communities.
- **Independent Press Association, \$30,000** to offer workshops on management and editorial topics for ethnic immigrant newspapers.
- **LawHelp/NY, \$50,000** to expand its on-line legal resources for immigrants.

Poor housing conditions are a major contributor to chronic diseases. Lack of heat or hot water worsens colds, bronchitis, and sinus infections. Roaches, mold, and dust cause asth-

A recent report shows the number of lawyers offering free legal help has stagnated.

ma, allergies, and skin infections. But when violations are found by City housing inspectors, they're rarely fixed. Under-funding of code enforcement is especially harmful in immigrant neighborhoods, where tenants don't complain for fear of reprisal or deportation or because they don't understand their rights. The following two grants are helping to improve hazardous conditions in low-income neighborhoods:

- **Fifth Avenue Committee, \$35,000** to survey people in Sunset Park about health problems due to deteriorated housing and draw attention to the problem.
- **Make the Road by Walking, \$35,000** to push for code-enforcement reform.

Representing the Elderly

There are approximately one million New Yorkers over the age of 65. While many are healthy, financially secure, and live without assistance, low-income seniors need access to *pro bono* legal advice on a variety of issues, such as foreclosure, public benefits, wills, and the new Medicare Part D benefit. The following \$40,000 grants support free legal assistance programs that advise and represent low-income elders:

- **Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund**, to give legal help to elders in Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx through presentations on public benefit programs, help with Medicare Part

D questions, and extended hot-line hours.

- **Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project**, to recruit more *pro bono* lawyers to give legal assistance to elders in Brooklyn about wills, those faced with foreclosure, and other legal matters.

Pro bono legal services help many poor New Yorkers with civil legal problems who can't afford a lawyer. But a recent report shows the number of lawyers offering free legal help has stagnated. The reasons lawyers gave for not participating include lack of time, unfamiliarity with poverty law issues, and not being able to find projects matching their expertise. **Pro Bono Net** is an on-line clearinghouse connecting law firms and private lawyers with legal agencies that need volunteers. Our \$40,000 grant will help Pro Bono Net recruit more volunteer lawyers. A new general practice area will be added to the Web site for attorneys unfamiliar with public interest law to help them find cases they can handle. Pro Bono Net will start on-line training sessions for lawyers and offer training materials for download. It also will work with the State and City bar associations and the Office of Court Administration on recruiting campaigns and advertising to the legal community.

Other Grants

Feeding the Hungry

Three large organizations—City Harvest, Just Food, and the New York City Coalition Against Hunger—give food to poor people across the City. Although these agencies often work in the same community, they rarely cooperate and normally rely on the same group of poorly staffed and under-funded neighborhood feeding programs to carry out the work. All three agencies have now come together to get the most out of scarce resources and to reach more people in need. The groups have agreed to share staff and work jointly in neighborhoods where their services overlap.

- **City Harvest, \$50,000**, will expand a mobile food market at public housing projects in the Bronx and on Staten Island.
- **Just Food, \$30,000**, will enroll more poor families in its fresh food cooperatives and help emergency food programs get more fresh vegetables.
- **New York City Coalition Against Hunger, \$25,000**, will give management assistance to emergency food programs, training for new services, and help recruit volunteers.

The best way to get food to the needy is through neighborhood emergency food programs. These agencies also connect their clients to other essential services, such as education, job assistance, and public benefit programs. But 90 percent of the agencies rely on volunteers and have average budgets of less than \$50,000. Most are only open a few hours each day, one or two days

a week. A Trust-supported study released by the Food Bank for New York City in 2004 reported that more than 500,000 hungry New Yorkers were not being helped to get food and identified the neediest neighborhoods. Twenty grants to food agencies on Staten Island and in the Bronx will support emergency feeding programs that reach out to the poor, the elderly, and immigrants. A grant to the Food Bank also will provide the groups with more food.

Food Bank for New York City, Food for Survival, \$155,000

Bronx:

- **Aging in America Community Services, \$20,000**
- **Allianza Dominicana, \$20,000**
- **Bronx Jewish Community Council, \$47,000**
- **Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York, \$47,000**
- **Iglesia Pentecostal Abrigo del Altisimo, \$15,000**
- **Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development, \$25,000**
- **Regional Aid for Interim Needs, \$25,000**
- **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$25,000**

Staten Island:

- **Community Health Action of Staten Island, \$20,000**
- **Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, \$25,000**

- **Lutheran Family and Community Services, \$12,000**
- **Meals on Wheels of Staten Island, \$15,000**
- **Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, \$20,000**
- **New Direction Services, \$20,000**
- **Project Hospitality, \$27,500**
- **Rescue Ministries, \$12,500**
- **Richmond Senior Services, \$15,000**
- **Safe Horizon, \$15,000**
- **Salvation Army of Greater New York, \$20,000**
- **Stapleton Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, \$10,000**

Protecting the Environment

Federal farm policy is outdated: most of the \$20 billion in subsidies go to the largest producers of feed grains, rice, and cotton; only a small amount supports land management. Large-scale agriculture contaminates our water with runoff, promotes soil erosion, and threatens wildlife habitat. The **American Farmland Trust** promotes conservation of agricultural resources and farming practices that lead to a healthy environment. With a **\$100,000** grant, it will work with other organizations on new agricultural policies to include in Congress' next farm bill, scheduled to be marked up in 2007. To build support in Congress for policies that move away from subsidies for production and toward sustainable farming, the organization will post farming data of Congressional districts on the Internet, work on policy reform with key members of Congress,

and give testimony once the bill is introduced. To build public support, it will start a campaign to explain the damage caused by current farm policy.

More than 4 million people live in the Arctic region, which includes Alaska, Canada, Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden. Global warming—much of it caused by pollution and greenhouse gases from countries to the south—is affecting its fragile environment, which serves as an early warning system for the rest of the planet. With a **\$50,000** grant, the **Circumpolar Conservation Union** will start a campaign in the United States—which produces one-quarter of the world's greenhouse gases—about the loss of animal and plant habitat and the ice melt caused by climate change. The Union also will promote starting an Arctic Resource Center in Washington, D.C., to serve as a meeting place, library, training and research site, and an information source for policymakers.

Petroleum and toxic chemicals used in manufacturing harm human health and the environment. With “green chemistry,” industry can substitute farm crops to make plastics, building materials, textiles, lubricants, and fuels. With a two-year, **\$100,000** grant, the **Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy** will promote using bio-plastics, which don't produce greenhouse gases or the hazards from toxic chemicals. It will test its sustainability standards, which make sure that plants used for plastics are grown and harvested with

non-toxic and energy-efficient practices. It will then promote products made with materials meeting these standards, and work with companies to develop consumer items, such as biodegradable water bottles and organic drinks in organic packaging. The Institute also will give incentive payments to farmers to lessen their risk in changing to sustainable farming.

The **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives** is a membership association of more than 450 cities, towns, counties, and villages worldwide. It helps local governments inform their citizens about important issues, learn new skills through training, and evaluate progress toward common goals. Its Cities for Climate Protection Campaign includes 159 U.S. cities and counties that are reducing greenhouse gases by 23 million tons and saving \$600 million in energy costs each year. With a **\$100,000** grant, the Campaign will hold its second national meeting of mayors to tell them about state and regional climate initiatives and train them in public speaking and media relations. The Council will start two regional centers in the Pacific Northwest and the Great Lakes regions and form working groups of cities to address climate change together. It also will introduce on-line software that lets cities quantify their emissions reductions and ranks them with other cities. The world is facing a disaster: if habitat destruction is not stopped, scientists estimate two-thirds of all species will be heading toward extinction by

2100. Loss of biodiversity will threaten the ecosystem that gives us food, medicine, and shelter. At least \$6 billion annually is needed to avoid the worst extinction scenario, but developing and developed nations, private foundations, and conservation organizations are only spending \$1.3 billion on conservation in developing nations, where 80 percent of biological diversity is located. With a two-year, **\$125,000** grant, the **National Environmental Trust** will promote establishing an international fund for species conservation in developing nations with contributions from the G-8 countries. It will start a campaign in the industrialized nations, beginning in the United States, to educate a variety of concerned constituencies about the importance of conservation, and work with policy-makers, environmental groups, health professionals, zoos and aquariums, and businesses with a stake in biodiversity—such as pharmaceutical and fishing companies—to build support for the fund.

Parks are a necessary oasis in the City, but funding for parks has been cut 30 percent in the last 20 years and Parks Department staff reduced by more than half since 1980. Parks citywide are in poor condition, and the hardest hit are those in poor communities. Since 1886, **New Yorkers for Parks** has worked to make sure New Yorkers can enjoy well-maintained parks and green spaces. With a **\$50,000** grant, the organization will train 10 community

groups to evaluate the conditions of their local parks and advocate with the City for better park conditions.

Nearly 75,000 chemicals are made or imported into the United States each year, and many end up spoiling our environment or causing disease. The Trust has invested in a number of ways to promote safer chemical use, including support for the “precautionary principle.” This principle calls for extensive testing of new chemicals before they are used and for the immediate removal of chemicals as soon as there is evidence that they are dangerous. The **State Alliance for Federal Reform of Chemicals Policy** (SAFER) is a coalition of state environmental groups whose goal is to enact a precautionary approach to federal chemicals policy within 15 years. With Washington turning a deaf ear, SAFER is working to get strong chemicals laws in enough states to create a national consensus. A report last year, called *The Louisville Charter*, ranked states by tiers on the progress of local environmental laws. With a **\$100,000** grant, SAFER will work in four top-tier states—Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Washington—to advocate for safer chemical policies. It also will train environmental groups in nine second-tier states to develop chemical laws.

Trees—whether planted on sidewalks or in public parks—contribute a lot to urban life. They make the City more beautiful, have a cooling effect, provide homes for wildlife, and absorb dust

and pollution that cause health problems such as asthma. **Trees New York** is dedicated to planting, preserving, and protecting New York's trees through public education and action. The City Parks Department recently identified five neighborhoods without enough street trees and with high levels of asthma—Morrisania in the Bronx, Far Rockaway in Queens, East Harlem in Manhattan, Stapleton on Staten Island, and East New York in Brooklyn. With a **\$35,000** grant, Trees New York will recruit 50 volunteers to plant 100 trees in these neighborhoods and care for them for two years. It also will train the volunteers to advocate with local officials to get more trees in their neighborhoods.

Helping Nonprofits

The **Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island** provides a variety of social services to low-income residents of southern Brooklyn. It also gives technology assistance to small and mid-sized nonprofits through its Nonprofit Help Desk. With the large number of choices of software and hardware, it can be hard for small nonprofits to know which is right for them, or find the time to do the research. The Council has helped 600 groups install and use technology, given workshops and on-line training, and sends a weekly e-mail with technology tips to 700 nonprofits. With a **\$40,000** grant, the Council will start an interactive Web site for nonprofits to learn about technology. The key feature will be a discussion area where members can

post questions, find troubleshooting tips, and compare products.

The **Nonprofit Finance Fund**, started by The Trust in 1980, is the nation's leading nonprofit financial intermediary, offering working capital and financing for acquisition, construction, and major capital projects. Many organizations that turn to the Fund need help with financial planning and management. The Fund's financial counseling service, called the Nonprofit Business Analysis, reviews an organization's infrastructure, fundraising, and cash flow requirements; looks at five years of audited statements; and interviews staff and board. With an **\$80,000** grant, the group will counsel 40 nonprofits, and improve software that measures a nonprofit's fiscal health.

Improving Schools

Having an effective leader is key to a successful school. But over the last three years, more than 300 principals have left the City school system, and 60 percent of the remaining principals are eligible to retire within five years. To keep talented principals—and improve schools—the Department of Education will pair effective schools and leaders with less successful schools and principals. This mentoring program includes visits to each other's schools, group meetings to share ideas and hear from national experts, a shared resource library, and a Web site for communication. A **\$100,000** grant to **The Fund for Public Schools**, the nonprofit arm of the City schools, will

help 100 schools—most of them middle schools with large numbers of non-English speaking and special education students—to participate.

In 1979, the **New York Academy of Medicine's** Office of School Health Programs began coordinating health education in City schools. It created courses for all grades and trained more than 17,000 teachers at 1,000 public schools to use the curriculum. With the schools now under direct control of the Mayor, the Department of Education has decided to run all health education programs. It has asked the Academy's Office of School Health Programs for help with the transition. With a **\$75,000** grant, the Academy will bring the Department up to speed on the health curriculum each school uses and provide a list of teachers and staff that have been trained. It will evaluate *HealthTeacher*, a national health education curriculum, to see if and how it can be used in City schools. The Academy also will design a program for teachers so that they can train colleagues to teach health courses.

Giving Youth a Hand

Domestic violence is not openly talked about in the Orthodox Jewish community, although it occurs almost as much as it does in society at large. Despite cultural taboos about the subject, a group of women founded the **Shalom Task Force** in 1992 to help victims of domestic violence in the Orthodox Jewish community. It offers prevention services, crisis intervention, counseling,

referrals, and follow-up. With a **\$49,000** grant, the Task Force will expand its Young Women's Prevention Education Project, which teaches girls—and boys—in Orthodox schools about communication, conflict resolution, and recognizing the warning signs of abusive relationships. This year it will target immigrant students at three schools for girls and four schools for boys. The group will work to make its program accepted in the community and standard curriculum in schools, and train teachers to counsel students.

Improving Health Care

Cancer Care was started in 1944 to help cancer patients stay at home through the terminal stages. Today, it provides education, counseling, home visits, information, and referrals to more than 30,000 people each year. Seventy percent of its clients are poor and minority; it also serves undocumented immigrants. In 1985, we asked Cancer Care to help distribute The Trust's cancer treatment funds to patients not covered by insurance. The money pays for treatment, such as chemotherapy and radiation, and services, such as transportation, child care, home care, and medicine. With a **\$625,000** grant, Cancer Care will continue to give financial assistance to needy patients, and target its services to the elderly, immigrants, and children in the outer boroughs. It also will focus on patients who have higher co-pays or had drugs removed from their insurance because of the new Medicare Part

D prescription drug benefit. Cancer Care will keep track of the effect of Part D changes on patients, and advocate with the State to get cancer patients the care they need.

Through the mid-90s, thousands of kids were born infected with HIV to mothers who did not know they had the disease. Most of the mothers died from AIDS, and the kids ended up in foster care. Hundreds of these children under the care of the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) were enrolled in AIDS trials to give them treatment at a time when there were no FDA-approved AIDS medicines for children. Recently, there has been concern that proper informed consent procedures were not followed. In response, ACS asked the Vera Institute for Justice to review all the cases of children in trials from 1988 to 2001. It also convened an **HIV/AIDS Health Care Advisory Panel** of ten experts in children's services, pediatrics, and AIDS services to provide guidance and advice. With a **\$75,000** grant, the Panel will review Vera's work, look at how other states conduct clinical trials, review federal guidelines for clinical trials with children, hold meetings to hear from the community, help ACS communicate Vera's findings, and recommend guidelines for foster care children in future clinical trials.

Most elderly and disabled people want to live as independently as possible, even though many may need

assistance from family or professionals. In recent years, younger disabled people have advocated for a system in which the patient takes the lead in care decisions and is directly involved in hiring and supervising personal care workers. But many health care professionals have been trained to view patients as dependents. Two years ago, with Trust support, **Montefiore Medical Center** convened an advisory committee to study how the attitudes of long-term care professionals about dependency affect the lives of the elderly. With a **\$50,000** grant, the committee will issue a report about the importance of listening to the disabled, how to balance their wishes with safety concerns, and recommend changes in the way long-term care professionals are trained.

With new medicines and treatments, AIDS has become a more manageable disease. But care is expensive, and more than \$3 billion of federal, State, and City money are spent each year on health care and prescription drugs for people with AIDS in New York. The two major sources of this money are Medicaid and the Ryan White CARE Act. But Congress is debating renewal of Ryan White, and considering shifting part of New York's allocation to other states; in addition, proposed Medicaid cuts would reduce money to the states. With a **\$65,000** grant, the **New York AIDS Coalition** will advocate in Washington, D.C., to increase funding for Ryan White rather than changing how the money

is distributed, and to stop cuts in Medicaid. The Coalition also will offer workshops to teach New Yorkers with AIDS about the Ryan White and Medicaid proposals and get them to meet with their elected officials to protest the cuts.

Almost 100,000 elders in the City have low vision, which causes difficulty with daily activities and can make people withdraw from society. Last year, the **State University of New York's State College of Optometry** identified five naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs)—housing complexes with large numbers of elderly residents—where it could teach minority elders how to deal with low vision. With a two-year, **\$175,000** grant, the College will begin a low-vision education, screening, and treatment program for seniors in the five NORCs. It will educate seniors about symptoms, treatments, and adaptive devices, and offer on-site screenings. Seniors with impaired vision will be referred to the College for more tests. Those with low vision will get counseling and training on low-vision devices. Seniors with more serious eye diseases will receive treatment and medicine.

The City has the country's largest home-care industry, serving more than 100,000 elderly and disabled people each year. While health care professionals focus on the physical needs of the patients, not much is known about patients' mental health. Most

clients are poor, have been disabled for years, rarely leave their homes, and don't have much human contact. With a \$100,000 grant, the United Hospital Fund will start a two-year test of a depression screening, referral, and treatment program for home-care patients, and write a report on its effectiveness. Health care professionals will screen 1,600 clients, and refer any with signs of depression to geriatric mental health nurses.

Involving Citizens

In the aftermath of the 2000 presidential election, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was enacted. This federal legislation gives money to states to upgrade voter databases and voting machines. To keep getting money, states must reach milestones, one of which is having partial upgrades ready for the 2006 elections. New York is so far behind that the U.S. Department of Justice has filed suit against the State for noncompliance. When HAVA became law, the **Citizens Union Foundation of the City of New York** began monitoring and responding to HAVA-related activities in Albany. Our **\$60,000** grant will help the group continue to monitor the State's implementation of HAVA, recruit poll workers for this November's elections, advocate for election day voter registration, and promote nonpartisan redistricting through a report and symposium.

In New York, high-paying jobs are being lost, economic and workforce

development programs are not properly targeted or managed, and the middle class is leaving. Baby boomers are preparing to retire, and young adults must be ready to fill their jobs. An election year is a great opportunity to talk about these issues and develop solutions. The **Fiscal Policy Institute** conducts research, advocacy, and education on tax, budget, and workforce policies. With a **\$75,000** grant, it will develop a public education campaign to raise workforce and economic policies during the election season. Issues will include safety nets for low-income workers, strategies for job creation, and more balanced revenue-sharing between the City and State. The Institute also will identify jobs in five business sectors for low-skilled workers, which will give employment agencies research they can use to create successful employment programs.

Preserving Communities

In 1967, Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Jacob Javits helped establish the nation's first community development corporation—the **Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation**, which serves Bed-Stuy, Brownsville, and Crown Heights. During the recent redesign and renovation of Restoration Plaza, the Corporation's flagship commercial project, thousands of historical documents, photos, and works of art were discovered. They include speeches by Senator Kennedy and the Corporation's first president, Franklin Thomas; playbills from the Billie Holiday Theatre featuring Samuel L.

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

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Jackson and Debbie Allen; artwork by prominent African-American artists; and photographs of people such as Diana Ross, Lena Horne, and the Kennedy and Javits families. With a two-year, **\$50,000** grant, the Corporation will hire an archivist to determine the condition of the materials, sort and catalogue them, and duplicate or digitize rare materials. The collection will be made available on the Corporation's Web site and used in exhibits celebrating the Corporation's 40th anniversary in 2007.

Governors Island lies in New York Harbor at the mouth of the East River. After being a military base for the United States Army and Coast Guard for almost 200 years, it was given to the City/State Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation and the National Park Service in 2003. The **Regional Plan Association**, the nation's oldest independent planning association, helped secure the transfer and develop a master plan for the island with the Corporation and Park Service. A series of problems brought planning to a grinding halt in 2005, but the Association kept the issue alive and pushed the planning process forward. With a **\$40,000** grant, the Association and the Governors Island Alliance will comment on the final redevelopment plan, keep the public informed of progress, and host a fundraiser on the island. An architect will be hired to create design guidelines for the island's public spaces, and the Association will

help the National Park Service plan events to draw visitors.

Finding Work

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 85 percent of all jobs in the next five years will require a college degree. Still, most welfare-to-work programs focus exclusively on work and do not include opportunities for higher education. In fact, current welfare policies make it difficult for welfare recipients to attend college. New York officials are concerned that because so many welfare recipients will move into low-paying, dead-end jobs, they will still need public assistance. The **Education and Work Consortium**—comprising Medgar Evers College, Metropolitan College of New York, and Pace University—started a test project in 2000 to help people out of poverty by combining college education with job experience and career training. The colleges have enrolled almost 200 mainly young, female, minority students in various degree programs, and provided tuition assistance and academic, personal, and career counseling. All students have left the City's welfare rolls and are employed—even those who decided not to finish their degrees. Eighty-three students have graduated; forty-two are still in school. With a two-year, **\$142,000** grant, the Consortium will help the remaining students graduate, work with students and graduates to get better jobs, complete an evaluation of the project, and plan how to keep the program going.

Most of the employment services for poor people in the City are run by community organizations, community colleges, and union-affiliated training programs, but their staffs have little formal preparation. The **Workforce Professionals Training Institute** builds the skills of workforce development staff, and has trained more than 1,400 people in three years. Courses offered include employment retention strategies and assessing the skills and needs of job seekers. With a **\$100,000** grant, the Institute will expand its courses and train employment services staff from the New York City Housing Authority, the Parks Department, and the Probation Department.