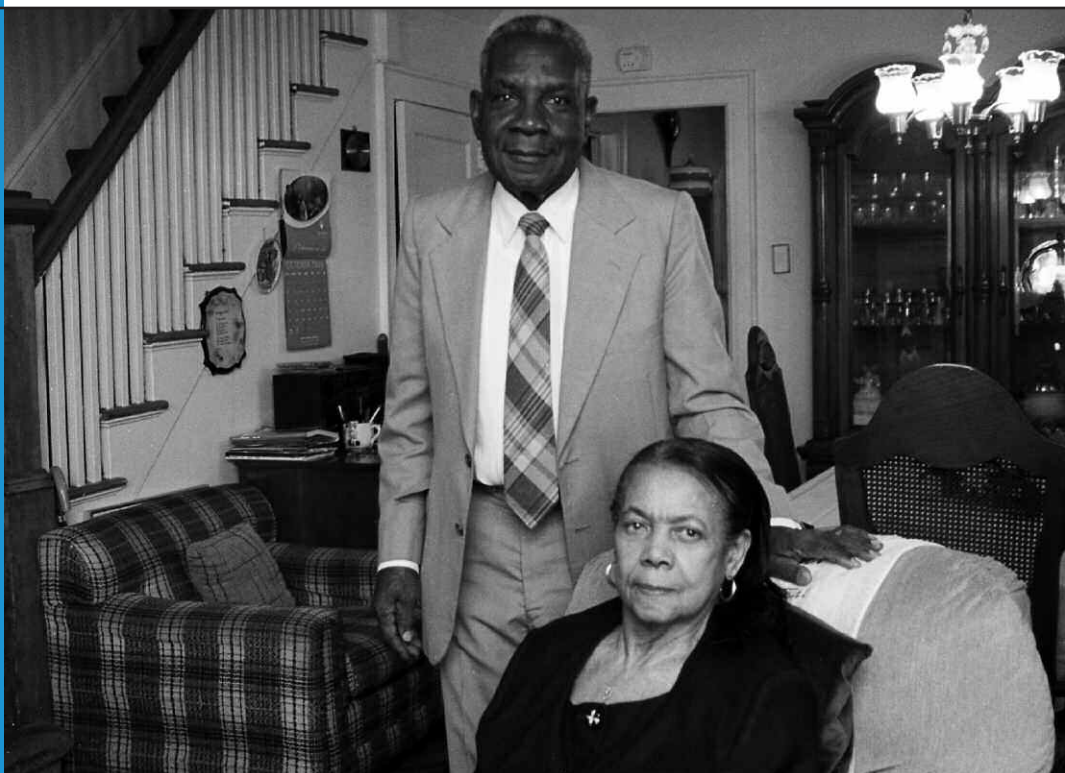


June 2008 NEWSLETTER

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

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Leonard and Irene Richards were victims of a predatory loan that nearly cost them their Queens Village house. They were able to save their home with help from a housing counseling program like the ones that will be supported by the Center for NYC Neighborhoods. Photo by L. Racioppo/NYC HPD

Helping Families in an Uncertain Economy

Even in the New York City housing bubble, homeowners are feeling the heat of the subprime mortgage crisis with the threat of foreclosure knocking at thousands of doors across the five boroughs. Legal service providers have been overwhelmed by the volume of homeowners trying to save their homes. The size of the crisis also demands an expedient and comprehensive system of allocating services and coordinating efforts to help low- and moderate-income New Yorkers in danger of losing their homes.

Despite the efforts of many organizations, the problem [of foreclosure] has worsened over time. Recent statistics show that as many as one of every 52 households on Staten Island, one of every 96 in Brooklyn, and one of every 121 in Queens are in the early stages of foreclosure.

The Trust made its first grant to combat predatory lending, which many consider to be an extreme version of subprime lending, more than ten years ago. Since then, we've made 15 grants to 6 organizations for counseling, outreach, legal intervention, and financial assistance in response to a foreclosure crisis that many saw unfolding in the City's neighborhoods long before it became an issue on Wall Street.

Despite the efforts of many organizations, the problem has worsened over time. Recent statistics show that as many as one of every 52 households on Staten Island, one of every 96 in Brooklyn, and one of every 121 in Queens are in the early stages of foreclosure. In the context of this alarming trend, the City's housing commissioner, Shaun Donovan, announced the creation of the **Center for NYC Neighborhoods** late last year. It will be a clearinghouse of information about foreclosure patterns and trends, as well as a source of operating money and training for nonprofits to help them reach out to and educate homeowners, offer pre-and post-mortgage counseling, and provide legal services. With our **\$75,000** grant, the Center is creating a sophisticated database and a Web site that will direct people to the right places for government assistance, counseling, legal clinics, and other services to help them keep their homes.

The Trust also was one of the first funders of the **Financial Clinic**, which was started to provide free and low-cost legal services and counseling for low-income people with financial problems. These are people for whom a judge's decision about a creditor's claim or a wage garnishment can be catastrophic. Trying to make ends meet with minimum wage jobs, they must take advantage of every benefit available for working poor families, and they must become disciplined budgeting

experts. With our **\$70,000** grant, the Financial Clinic will now double its capacity by working with the Community Service Society. The Society provides office space in exchange for the Clinic's commitment to train and deploy as financial counselors retired professionals who have been recruited as part of the Society's Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.

Groups like these are often ahead of the curve. As the City's community foundation, we support these organizations as they provide services to and advocacy on behalf of the most vulnerable New Yorkers in good times and bad.

When Learning is Child's Play

The **Children's Museum of Manhattan** has been a favorite family field trip for more than 35 years. While tots squeal with delight—driving a kid-sized fire truck and feeding alphabet letters to a talking baby dragon—their parents and caregivers discover new ways to make the most of playtime at home.

In fact, playtime is a key element in helping toddlers develop the early skills in language, socializing, math, and science they need to do well in school. Poor children and their babysitters can use extra help to make sure that the children are entering kindergarten on the same footing as more privileged kids.

With an **\$80,000** grant from The Trust, the Museum will equip many of New York's 6,000 unlicensed child care workers with imaginative ways to help kids learn while having fun. Caregivers and toddlers will attend 18 hours of free workshops developed by CUNY's Early Childhood Professional Development Institute at the



A Teach For America corps member in a New York City public school. Photo by Jean-Christian Bourcart.

Museum's PlayWorks center. Once completed, workshop participants get a membership to the museum for the year, meaning lots of free field trips!

Change is the Challenge

SUVs are probably the first things that come to mind when global warming and energy-guzzling are mentioned, but an office building? In fact, buildings are responsible for almost half of all energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

2030 Inc., a nonprofit led by Santa Fe green architect Ed Mazria, recognizes that although buildings are currently a big part of the problem, they can also be a big part of the solution. With about five billion square feet of new construction, five billion square feet of renovation, and 1.75 billion square feet of demolition taking place each year, three-quarters of the country's built environment will be new or renovated by the year 2030. If all this work could be designed to promote energy efficiency, it would dramatically decrease our country's fossil fuel consumption. 2030 Inc. has issued

the "2030 Challenge" to all developers to cut their fuel consumption by 50 percent within two years, and work toward total carbon neutrality by 2030. It has developed a simple modification to existing building codes that would allow architects to use a specified energy budget to design more energy-efficient buildings.

With the help of our **\$75,000** grant, the organization is taking the 2030 Challenge on the road, marketing it to cities and states across the country. It will also mobilize local chapters of the influential American Institute of Architects to adopt the Challenge, while highlighting practical solutions to integrate innovative design practices from around the world into construction in the U.S.

Looking for Leadership in All the Right Places

One of the cornerstones of a school's success is the quality of its leadership, but with impending principal retirements, hundreds of new schools, and high turnover, effective leaders for the City's public schools are in high demand.



Through ReServe Elder Service, Steve Walton brings his database development skills to New Alternatives for Children.

Photo by Kyle Fischer.

Teach For America is now in its 18th year of recruiting outstanding college graduates to commit two years to teaching in public schools. More than 1,000 of these bright and energetic corps members are currently teaching in New York City schools, boosting student achievement, getting grants, and leading after-school programs. Today, 110 former corps members are principals or fill other leadership roles, but that's not enough. In fact, Chancellor Joel Klein has asked Teach For America to ramp up its efforts to get more young teachers on the leadership track.

With a **\$50,000** grant, Teach For America will recruit alumni of the program, inviting them to events, alerting them to training programs, and helping them with applications, interview preparation, and getting scholarships—keeping a growing number of qualified candidates plugged into the latest job opportunities as future leaders of our public schools.

New York is known for all that is brought by its diverse people—from thriving technology firms to steamy salsa clubs. But many of New York's 2.9 million foreign-born residents are stuck in dead-end jobs because they don't speak English.

Putting Seniors on the Payroll

When professionals leave the workplace for a well-earned retirement, some want to continue to feel the satisfaction of a day's work—and some need to keep earning money. With a lifetime of professional skills, these seniors can provide nonprofits and government agencies with invaluable help.

ReServe Elder Service recruits and matches retirees with experience in law, social service, education, and business with the right organization. But finding a good fit is only the first challenge; making sure the volunteer is being effectively and efficiently used is the second. One factor in ReServe's success has been paying stipends of up to \$10 per hour—leading to better use of the volunteers, greater satisfaction, and higher retention. Our **\$50,000** grant will enable its business manager to continue managing the payroll for these volunteers, as well as increase recruitment efforts—making more seniors aware of these great opportunities.

Breaking the Language Barrier

New York is known for all that is brought by its diverse people—from thriving technology firms to steamy salsa clubs. But many of New York's 2.9 million foreign-born residents are stuck in dead-end jobs because they don't speak English. Immigrant workers want to learn English,



Judy Sanchez helps a student improve his employment skills at a job training session at LaGuardia Community College's Center for Immigrant Education and Training. Photo courtesy of CIET.

but there is a serious shortage of free and low-cost classes. Of the more than 1.75 million adults with very limited English skills in New York State, only 90,000 are enrolled in State-supported classes.

With the majority of the State's immigrants living in and around the City, **City Futures** is taking the lead in Albany on reshaping the debate on immigration issues. As a leading public policy group and publisher of the award-winning *City Limits* magazine, it recently released a report exposing how gaps in funding for English classes have had a negative impact on the State's economic competitiveness.

With our grant of **\$75,000**, City Futures will build a coalition of business, labor, literacy, and immigrant groups to increase the number of adult English Language classes. It is prepared to offer recommendations that can be implemented even with the State's budget crunch. These include changing the out-of-date reimbursement formula for adult education; increasing coordination between the Departments of Labor and Education; and developing programs that combine workforce training with learning English. Entrepreneurial immigrants can have a transformative impact on the local economy, but the State needs do its part to help foster this opportunity.

Other Grants

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

After-School Corporation, \$160,000 to help after-school programs in Queens strengthen the leadership skills of teens participating in a 10-week, team-building course.

City Harvest, \$100,000 to make affordable fresh fruits and vegetables more available in poor neighborhoods.

Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies, \$200,000 to help community agencies deal with the new application process for City child welfare contracts and build community coalitions that include residents to ensure that children and families receive the services they need.

Groundwork Incorporated, \$100,000 to expand a leadership program for high school students in East New York, Brooklyn, who work with younger children in after-school and summer programs.

Rocking the Boat, \$80,000 to expand a program that teaches youth in the South Bronx how to build and launch wooden boats to navigate the Harlem and Hudson Rivers, teaching them teamwork, math principles, and marine conservation.

JOBS FOR YOUTH

Nearly 200,000 youth in New York City are neither in school nor working. With limited skills and work experience, educational deficits, and low confidence and motivation, finding and keeping a job is tough. The following two grants, each for **\$60,000**, will help these youth become economically independent:

- **New Heights Neighborhood Center**, for an education and job placement program for high school dropouts who live in Washington Heights.
- **Vocational Foundation**, to expand a job training program.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Center for Employment Opportunities, \$60,000 to help ex-offenders get jobs by designing and evaluating projects that improve their chances for success.

Citizens Union Foundation of the City of New York, \$70,000 to improve State voting systems by improving the quality and training of thousands of poll workers and monitoring the State's implementation of the 2002 Help America Vote Act.

Corporation for Supportive Housing, \$100,000 to help youth who have been recently released from foster care avoid homelessness by helping youth organizations plan and develop supportive housing for these young adults.

Municipal Art Society of New York, \$40,000 to train community board members and high school students to use a computerized mapping system to help community boards tackle land-use and economic development issues.

University Neighborhood Housing Program, \$25,000 to provide independent, consumer-driven research into the alarming rise in water and sewer charges levied on homeowners.

Urban Homesteading Assistance, \$50,000 to preserve distressed Section 8 federally assisted housing in New York City by helping residents respond to foreclosure.

ENVIRONMENT

1Sky Education Fund, \$100,000 to catalyze the creation and adoption of bold national climate change policy by galvanizing broad public support.

Clean Energy Group, \$200,000 to set up a database of state investments in clean energy to inform future renewable energy projects.

Government Accountability Project, \$75,000 to spur coordinated federal action to adapt to climate change through its Climate Science Watch initiative.

Keep Antibiotics Working: The Campaign to End Antibiotic Overuse, \$75,000 to greatly reduce the use of antibiotics in food production, which can lessen their effectiveness in fighting human infection.

New York Industrial Retention Network, \$40,000 to help manufacturing facilities reduce industrial pollution and their energy use, saving money and ultimately saving jobs.

New Yorkers for Parks, \$50,000 to advocate for better maintenance and improvement of New York's nearly 500 parks.

Rainforest Alliance, \$150,000 to protect the environment in Latin America from the impact of tourism by training businesses to compete in the thriving eco-tourism market and make their hotels, restaurants, and tour operations more environmentally friendly.

Scenic Hudson, \$75,000 to make sure that the redevelopment plan for Stewart Airport is as environmentally sustainable as possible and preserves the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley.

ARTS

Arts and Business Council of New York, \$80,000 to assist small and mid-sized arts groups recruit board members who offer business leadership, can increase visibility, and help strengthen the finances of the groups.

Ballet Hispanico of New York, \$60,000 to develop a 3- to 5-year plan for this growing dance company and training institution that celebrates Latino dance and culture.

Harlem School of the Arts, \$60,000 to promote its arts programs with a revamped Web site, postcards, and other print materials.

Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York, \$40,000 to send teaching artists and educational staff into public schools and bring young people, teachers, and families to the orchestra's performances at Avery Fisher Hall.

The following four grants were made through our Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund:

- **H.T. Dance Company, \$75,000** (three years) for an Asian-American modern dance company and performing arts facility.
- **Jennifer Muller/The Works, \$75,000** (three years) for a contemporary dance company.
- **New Group, \$30,000** (three years) for the production of theater about contemporary issues.
- **Poets House, \$20,000** for public programs, including readings by poets, poetry discussions, and the Children's Poetry Room, which offers readings, workshops, and film screenings for school groups and families.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Irondale Productions, \$50,000 to convert the Sunday schoolroom of a historic Brooklyn church into a community theater.

Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, \$50,000 to develop a new exhibit about contemporary immigration for the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

EDUCATION

New York Immigration Coalition, \$75,000 to increase the involvement of immigrant parents in public schools through workshops, training, and conferences that highlight opportunities for parent involvement in education issues.

NYC Coalition for Educational Justice, \$150,000 to coordinate a citywide advocacy organization to give parents and communities a voice on school governance and policies.

Partnership for Children's Rights, \$75,000 to advocate for and to provide services such as tutoring, college application assistance, and vocational assessment and training for students with disabilities.

Teaching Matters, \$50,000 to improve the writing skills of middle school students using an on-line, interactive tutorial program featuring animated characters, help sessions, and opportunities to publish their writing.

HEALTH AND PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Adaptive Design Association, \$80,000 to expand a program that makes equipment for children with physical disabilities and to inform physical therapists and families about the service.

Bridge Street Development Corporation, \$40,000 for recreational, health, and social services for the elderly residents of a subsidized and supportive housing residence.

Cancer Care, \$650,000 for financial aid to needy cancer patients to help pay for chemotherapy, radiation treatment, transportation, and child care.

June 2008 GRANTS Newsletter

Children's Defense Fund – New York, \$70,000 to expand enrollment of poor children in State-funded health insurance.

Easter Seals New York, \$50,000 to help low-income elders get jobs and government benefits.

National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, \$40,000 to advocate for federal funding of family planning services, including non-prescription access to the morning-after pill.

New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation, \$75,000 to preserve reproductive health services, as well as advocate with the City Department of Education to add age-appropriate and medically accurate sexuality education to its health programs.

New York eHealth Collaborative, \$120,000 to develop a statewide shared medical record system to improve patient care.

Planned Parenthood of New York City, \$75,000 to establish a reproductive health clinic on Staten Island.

Prevent Blindness Tri-State, \$50,000 to screen and treat pre-school children for eye problems to put an end to preventable and treatable blindness.

The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its April 2008 meeting.

For address, phone number, and contact person for each grantee listed, or for more information, please call The Trust's receptionist at 212-686-0010, Extension 0.

This issue and past Grants Newsletters can be found on our Web site:
www.nycommunitytrust.org

If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please send an e-mail with your name, e-mail address, and "Grants Newsletter" in the subject to newsletter@nyct-cfi.org.

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