



Educating Girls

By the time they reach high school, fewer than 30 percent of girls are interested in science or medicine, even as the need for workers in these fields is increasing. In 1996, the **New York Academy of Medicine**, which runs a number of programs in the City's public schools, began a Junior Fellows Program to interest students in science and medicine. An 11-week program matched each participating high school and middle school student with a physician or health professional at five medical centers. They took educational seminars, visited hospitals and laboratories, and completed a research project. Several years ago, with Trust

A Junior Fellow from The Young Women's Leadership School in East Harlem presents her research on cystic fibrosis at the 2006 Poster Session held at The New York Academy of Medicine.

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support, the program added new activities to keep girls interested. Students now attend the program the whole school year, participate in workshops on women's health, and are assigned female mentors. With a **\$35,000** grant, the Academy will increase its efforts to interest girls earlier in science and medicine. Enrollment in the program will be limited to middle school students only, and when they enter high school, the girls will move on to an advanced program. The Academy will track the girls' progress to find out their educational and career choices. It will work with 60 girls each year.

Catholic high schools for girls in the City enroll predominantly poor, minority students. The girls have problems common to disadvantaged kids: lack of confidence, teen pregnancy, and limited access to career or cultural opportunities. Despite their reputation for good academic programs, the schools have limited resources for services outside the classroom. Last year, three girls' high schools—Cathedral, St. Jean Baptiste, and Saint Michael—worked together to improve these services. A peer tutoring program was set up for freshmen and sophomores failing two or more classes; 62 students received help. A program for juniors and seniors to get internships in law and health services provided career workshops, presentations, field trips, and coaching in public speaking; 700 girls participated. Two full-time nurses provided health care and counseling and organized health seminars; more than 1,000 used this service. With a **\$160,000** grant, the group of schools—led by **Saint Michael Academy**—will add St. Joseph High School in Brooklyn, and identify new schools for expansion.

A Safer Environment

Until we can shift from fossil fuels—the major cause of global warming—to alternative energy, we must reduce consumption. But U.S. electricity demand, supplied by power plants that use polluting technologies, is expected to increase over the next 25 years. The easiest and most

cost-effective way to reduce consumption in the near term—and save on operating costs immediately—is to improve the energy efficiency of our machines, appliances, and buildings. In fact, reducing energy use by two percent annually could reduce net electricity consumption by 20 percent by 2030. Seventy-five percent of the needed energy efficiency can happen through programs of utility companies that encourage customers to use energy-efficient consumer products, such as new windows, lighting, thermostats, and insulation. Two grants to regional efforts will promote energy efficiency.

- **Minnesota Project (\$125,000, two years)** will run a campaign to get commitments from the governors of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to reduce electric and natural gas use by one percent a year; promote public investments in energy efficiency; adopt uniform efficiency standards for appliances; incorporate energy efficiency in new power plants; and mandate stronger energy conservation codes for buildings in Illinois and Iowa.
- **Pace University School of Law (\$75,000, 18 months)** will promote a financing program in the Northeast in which utilities or a public agency buy energy-efficient products for consumers and are repaid through a monthly tariff on the customers' energy bills that is lower than their energy savings.

The transportation systems that tie together New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are 70 to 100 years old, and clogged with traffic. How we get around—and how easily—affects the region's quality of life, environment, and economic development. Planning and building a 21st century transportation system requires critical decisions by three state governments, several bi-state authorities, and hundreds of local governments. The **One Region Fund** was established at The Trust in April 2006 by a group of foundations interested in the role that transportation infrastructure plays in environmental quality, economic development, and social equity. With a **\$200,000** grant,



Real Black Men Don't Sit Crosslegged on the Floor at New Federal Theatre (l to r: Charles Reuben, Gerard Catus, Nyasha Hatendi, D.K. BOWSER) Photo: Carmen DeJesus

the Fund will begin a grantmaking program to influence transportation policy. The Fund will ask for proposals from groups in the three states to improve their local transit systems as well as the regional system, and hold a series of briefings to inform the philanthropic community about the importance of transportation issues.

The environmental and labor movements have not always seen eye to eye. Labor unions have often seen environmentalists' demands for conservation and pollution reduction as a threat to the jobs of their members. But times are changing. Since 2001, The Trust has supported the efforts of the **Public Health Institute** to bring the two groups together through training on energy issues and climate change. As a result, on June 7, 2006, the nation's largest manufacturing union, the United Steelworkers of America, and the nation's largest environmental group, the Sierra Club, announced the formation of a Blue/Green Alliance that will promote

good jobs and a clean environment. With a **\$75,000** grant, the Alliance and the Institute will work on a public education campaign to convince working-class Americans that protecting the environment can save—and create—jobs. Focus groups and a national poll will help develop a clear message for use in presentations, on Web sites, and through electronic communications and the media. Organizers from the Steelworkers and the Sierra Club will work in Louisiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington to promote renewable energy policies and chemical safety measures for workers and the public.

Nurturing Creativity

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



Hessian Hut at the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, located in Manhattan. (Historic House Trust of New York City)

- **CSC Repertory (\$90,000, three years)** for a theater that produces contemporary interpretations of classic plays.
- **Foundry Theatre (\$20,000)** will develop and produce new plays.
- **New Federal Theatre (\$75,000, three years)** will develop and produce African-American plays.
- **Storyville Center for the Spoken Word (\$30,000, two years)** for storytelling performances.
- **Thin Man Dance (\$15,000)** for a contemporary dance company.

Documentary films seem to have burst on the scene in recent years, but they have a long and proud history. Pare Lorentz was a pioneer in the documentary film genre, creating his most famous films during the 1930s under the New Deal. His scripts were often compared to the work of Walt

Whitman, and his script for *The River*, about the Tennessee Valley Authority, was nominated for the 1938 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. A fund established by his widow at The Trust in 1997 supports the Pare Lorentz Award, given each year by the **International Documentary Association**. It is awarded to a film that focuses on one of Lorentz's three concerns: "the appropriate use of the natural environment, justice for all, and the illumination of pressing social problems." With a **\$150,000** grant, the Association will commemorate the 15th anniversary of Lorentz's death and the 10th anniversary of the award by holding a Pare Lorentz Film Festival in October 2007. All Lorentz's work will be shown, as well as each film that has won the award. Discussions will follow each film, scholarly essays about Lorentz's influence on documentaries will be published in the Association's magazine, and lessons about Lorentz will be included in the group's high school arts education curriculum. The Association will also create a Pare Lorentz Filmmaking Award of \$25,000 to support a film at the pre-production stage "that embraces the Pare Lorentz tradition."

City public schools are a study in contrasts: some students attend schools that offer a great education; many others sit in crumbling, overcrowded buildings with overburdened teachers, limited technology, and not enough books or supplies.

Improving City Schools

City public schools are a study in contrasts: some students attend schools that offer a great education; many others sit in crumbling, overcrowded buildings with overburdened teachers, limited technology, and not enough books or supplies. In 1993, the **Campaign for Fiscal Equity** (CFE), a coalition of advocacy organizations and community school boards, filed *CFE v. State*, claiming that the State's education funding system denied City students their constitutional right to a "sound, basic education." The case has been before the State courts for 13 years, and the most recent ruling ordered that the schools receive additional operating aid and capital funds. The State has authorized the capital funds, but not the operating aid, which was appealed back to the courts. The combination of the continuing lawsuit and the imminent change in the governorship has created a climate where there may be a political solution to the issue of sufficient operating aid for schools. With a **\$50,000** grant, CFE will conduct an intensive legislative and policy campaign to include the additional operating aid in the 2007 State budget. CFE will create a platform for school reform that includes the opportunity for a meaningful high school education for all students in the State, goals for improving education, and other initiatives, such as universal pre-K, reduced class size, and teacher quality. It will be used as a basis for lobbying candidates, the new governor, and the legislature. The platform will also be used in a media campaign to gain public support for the reforms.

There are 22 historic houses located in City public parks; 16 are outside Manhattan, many in neighborhoods without other museums. They include the house where Edgar Allan Poe wrote his greatest works, the headquarters of George Washington in 1776, and the home of Rufus King, abolitionist and signer of the Constitution. The houses offer excellent opportunities to learn about history, as well as behind-the-scenes looks

at historic preservation. The **Historic House Trust of New York City** preserves, enhances, and promotes these museums, and with our support in 2001, strengthened the education programs at all 22 houses. Unfortunately, local school teachers are often unaware of these treasures in their own backyards. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Historic House Trust will hire a consultant to promote class visits to the houses, highlight the compatibility of each house's education program with City and State Learning Standards, and work with the Department of Education to upgrade school programs and materials. The person will also help staff at each house make in-school presentations, produce brochures and flyers, and hold after-school tours for teachers.

Protecting Our Health

Many classical ballet dancers don't have insurance coverage or the money to pay for care if they are injured. The Michel Fokine Memorial Fund was established in The Trust to meet the expenses of needy classical ballet dancers who have suffered disabling physical injuries in pursuit of their careers. Since 1994, the fund has helped pay for medical and rehabilitation services to injured, low-income classical ballet dancers at the **Harkness Center for Dance Injuries at the Hospital for Joint Diseases**. Last year, with Trust support, the Center provided care to approximately 1,300 dancers, and an additional 1,500 dancers were seen at injury-prevention clinics. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Center will continue to provide free or subsidized care to dancers. It will also offer injury-prevention workshops, lectures, and a monthly newsletter to help dancers prevent injury and seek early treatment. The Center's staff will teach their peers how to evaluate and treat injured dancers through the presentation of research in journals and at professional conferences.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the federal government's report of the first six cases of AIDS in the

United States. We have learned a lot about HIV prevention since then, but with new drug cocktails helping people live longer, younger people are not protecting themselves, especially gay men and women of color. African Americans and Latinos now account for 80 percent of the City's infections; among women, they account for 95 percent. A recent study found that 35 percent of young gay black men in the City were infected with HIV, and new infections in the gay white community have doubled in the past five years. Two **\$50,000** grants will support HIV-prevention programs for people with the highest risk of infection.

- **Legal Action Center of the City of New York** will organize community forums about HIV infection; help agencies that serve poor women start HIV-prevention programs; continue outreach to the media; and work with the State AIDS Institute, community groups, government, foundations, and businesses to fund creative HIV prevention approaches for women of color.
- **Medical and Health Research Association of New York City** will develop an on-line video that encourages gay men to adopt safer behavior and evaluate its effectiveness through questionnaires.

The Abraham L. Danziger Fund was established in The Trust to support rehabilitation programs for needy patients in public hospitals. For the past 10 years, the fund has helped the **New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation** (HHC) improve rehabilitation services in its largest long-term care facility. With a **\$116,000** grant, HHC will now focus on rehabilitation in its acute care hospitals. Senior clinicians will review a new training curriculum for stroke patients and expand a curriculum that covers the best practices in rehabilitative medicine for patients with hip fractures, spinal cord and brain injuries, and amputations. The program will be used to train all clinical staff at Metropolitan Hospital, which has HHC's largest rehabilitation service. In subsequent years, it will use its experience at Metropolitan to train staff at six additional hospitals.

Other Grants

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Recent studies show that nearly 200,000 City youth ages 16 to 24 are neither in school nor working. The majority is African American or Latino, but an increasing number are Asian immigrants. One-third are single mothers, more than half are young men, and all are poor. With few skills or work experience and limited education, it is hard for these young people to find work. Without training or academic help, many will end up homeless, incarcerated, or worse. Five grants support organizations that help out-of-school youth become economically independent.

- **Chinatown Manpower Project (\$62,000)** will expand an education and job training program for Asian immigrant youth.
- **The Door—A Center of Alternatives (\$50,000)** will expand an education and job training program for high school dropouts.
- **Good Shepherd Services (\$50,000)** will expand an education and counseling program for high school dropouts in the Bronx.
- **Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (\$50,000)** will expand an education and job training program for high school dropouts in the northwest Bronx.
- **Vocational Foundation (\$60,000)** will expand an education and job training program for young minority men in public housing on the Lower East Side, in the South Bronx, and in central Brooklyn.

The **New York City Workforce Development Fund** was established in The Trust in 2001 by a group of foundations interested in employment issues. The first project was a program to help youth employment organizations effectively spend new federal funds. In 2003, it helped adult employment providers improve their financial management. With a **\$100,000** grant, the Fund will support three collaborative projects to improve workforce development in the City. With the City's Department of Small Business Services, it will continue the New York City Sector Initiative, training 130 participants over three years for careers as radiation technicians, medical office assis-

tants, and emergency medical technicians, as well as 127 laboratory technicians to work in the biotechnology field. The Fund will continue to help six adult employment agencies improve their financial management systems and possibly identify a new group of organizations with which to work. The Workforce Development Fund will help develop a new citywide organization to coordinate employment services for youth not in school, and work with other workforce development groups to advocate for increased resources for employment services in the City.

Despite the decline in City welfare rolls, hundreds of thousands of women who are single parents still rely on public benefits. Getting them out of poverty and into good jobs requires training and education. Under a 2003 court settlement, the City's Human Resources Administration (HRA) agreed to allow single-parent welfare recipients to count education and training toward satisfying work requirements, and inform them of education and training programs. But the City relies on outside vendors to provide job services to welfare recipients—and the vendors earn their fees by placing people in jobs. There is little incentive for them to recommend or place women in education and training programs, nor is there a system to monitor if they are even telling recipients about these programs. With a **\$50,000** grant, the **Welfare Law Center** will push for the City to include requirements in vendor contracts that agencies must inform recipients of—and place them in—appropriate education and training programs. It will monitor HRA directives to employees and vendors and work with HRA to develop a system to oversee vendors' performance. The Center will work with other groups that represent welfare recipients to learn about single-parents' experiences with vendors and give the groups information on recipients' rights to education and training.

Strengthening Nonprofits

In 2002, The Trust and members of our Fund for New Citizens created a program to strengthen grassroots immigrant organizations. Two dozen groups have received support to improve board and staff development, fiscal management, technology, and external relations. In addition, The Trust has made grants to the **Community Resource Exchange** (CRE) to provide

each group with 30 to 60 hours of consulting to improve its operations. With a **\$50,000** grant, CRE will work with at least six organizations that receive grants this year from the Fund for New Citizens to help refine fundraising plans, develop grant proposals, and improve fiscal management and office procedures.

Minority-led foster care agencies provide neighborhood-based, culturally appropriate services for children in foster care. But because they are the newest agencies in the child welfare system—created by a 1989 State legislative initiative—they have some of the lowest per-child rates paid by the City, lack private resources, and rely heavily on restricted public money. Last year, with Trust support, seven minority agencies, led by **Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families**, began to restructure their quality assurance and compliance operations. Each agency hired a full-time worker to improve casework and monitoring and to communicate accurate, timely information to City and State child welfare authorities. Each agency increased their performance scores—with one of them receiving the highest score ever awarded—and improved their compliance rates, which resulted in timely payments and better cash flow. They all have received more money and additional foster children from the City. With a **\$300,000** grant, the agencies will keep the staff hired last year to continue the quality assurance program. Eventually, the agencies will be able to cover these expenses through increased per-child rates paid by their City contracts.

Human services nonprofits have a hard time hanging on to their employees. The major reason is the pay; government contracts that cover their salaries offer near-poverty wages. To address this problem and help reduce turnover, the **Human Services Council of New York City**, an organization of the City's most prominent social service agencies, advocates for salary increases and cost of living adjustments in government contracts in the human services field. Last year, the Council negotiated a \$70 million package of salary increases and bonuses for staff in aging, child welfare, and homeless agencies. It also agreed to improve productivity to finance 10 percent of the package. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Council will press for salary increases in other sectors of the human services

field, and monitor the productivity measures introduced last year. The group will also look at how federal policy decisions affect hiring and keeping human service workers, and raise the visibility of the issue with candidates.

Community credit unions play an important role in low-income neighborhoods by providing members with a safe and convenient place to save money and get loans at reasonable rates. But because of strict federal regulations that require extensive recordkeeping, many credit unions must hire outside accountants at great cost. The **New York Financial Network Action Consortium** provides financial and management assistance to the City's largest community development credit unions. Its current members hold \$40 million in assets and have 16,500 members. With a **\$40,000** grant, the Consortium will begin a centralized accounting service, hiring a CPA to do quarterly reporting, monitoring of internal checks and balances, and assisting with regulatory compliance functions for each credit union—and save its credit unions money, improve financial management, and reduce errors.

Few nonprofits have the time or resources to produce effective and professional promotional material. The **Taproot Foundation** uses a model called “service grants” to help them out. It enlists corporations as sponsors and recruits employees with experience in communications and marketing to help nonprofits with brochures, Web sites, donor databases, annual reports, and other promotional efforts. Nonprofits receive services they could not afford, corporations give back to the community, and volunteers expand their skills. With Trust support, Taproot established an office in the City in 2004 and has awarded 135 service grants and recruited and assigned more than 600 volunteers. With a **\$50,000** grant, the group will award 40 new service grants and work with 30 nonprofit clients. It will increase its volunteer base to more than 1,000 professionals and start discussion groups to help nonprofits understand Taproot service grants. The organization will also begin providing human resources service grants.

A Safer Environment

American homeowners use 67 million pounds of chemical pesticides and herbicides on their lawns; 25 of the most

commonly used chemicals have been linked to a wide range of health problems, including birth defects, liver and kidney damage, and allergies. Last year, with Trust support, **Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides** worked to increase consumer knowledge about the danger of chemicals used in lawn care. With a **\$65,000** grant, Beyond Pesticides will work with local groups to enact pesticide-free zoning in communities, and fight proposed state laws—that are backed by pesticide manufacturers—that would override local pesticide-free ordinances. It will also work with cities and institutions to develop safe pesticide policies. It will help start a pest management program at Johns Hopkins University that uses fewer chemicals and create a rodent control program in Washington, D.C. that works using safe pesticides. The group will also work with the U.S. Geological Survey to document and publicize the extent of pesticide run-off in ground water.

The continent's largest estuary—the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland—is literally choking to death. Algal blooms caused by nitrogen and phosphorous pollution from sewage treatment facilities, agricultural runoff, and air emissions are blocking sunlight to underwater grasses and removing oxygen from the water, creating vast dead zones. In 2000, leaders from the region signed the Chesapeake 2000 agreement, a plan to restore the health of the bay and its waterways by 2010. But not enough money has been allocated by the states to carry it out, and little has been done to encourage farmers to reduce runoff—which accounts for 40 percent of the nitrogen pollution in the bay. With a **\$75,000** grant, the **Chesapeake Bay Foundation** will advocate in the capitals of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia for financing for agricultural conservation practices—such as using manure management, planting alternative crops, and promoting sustainable agriculture—that would reduce pollution and improve profits. And it is advocating with Congress to mandate reductions of nitrogen and phosphorous pollution in the 2007 farm bill. The Foundation will also help farmers and landowners use conservation practices, such as fencing livestock out of streams and planting grass and plant buffers along banks to absorb runoff.

Antibiotics have been a great benefit to humanity, but their effectiveness is waning because of overuse: the more bacteria are exposed to the antibiotics, the more resistant they become. Although overuse in health care is part of the problem, a major cause is the widespread use of antibiotics in animal production. Because animals, such as chickens and pigs, are grown in huge “factories,” antibiotics are routinely used in large doses to prevent disease and promote growth. With Trust support, **Keep Antibiotics Working: The Campaign to End Antibiotic Overuse** (KAW) has worked with Congress, food producers, national restaurant chains, and hospitals to reduce the use of antibiotics in animal production. With a **\$50,000** grant, KAW will lobby Congress to pass a bill that will phase out the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics in animal production, and ask health care groups to support it. It will work with the Food and Drug Administration to withdraw approval of using medically important antibiotics in animals and with the Department of Agriculture to adopt food-labeling rules that accurately list antibiotics. The group will also advocate in seven states for policies to purchase only antibiotic-free foods.

The United States is seeing a rise in reproductive system disorders: infertility affects almost 15 percent of couples, a 25 percent increase since 1950; pre-term births have risen by 23 percent since 1986; endometriosis, a disease not identified until 1920, affects six million women; and girls are beginning puberty earlier than they did in the 1970s. According to many scientists, the culprits are toxic chemicals called endocrine disruptors that mimic or repress the natural hormones that regulate reproductive organs. Two organizations—the Program in Reproductive Health and the Environment at the **University of California, San Francisco** and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment—will hold a two-day invitation-only summit in early 2007 on toxic chemicals and reproductive health. Participants will be from the fields of clinical practice, biomedical research, biological and environmental science, reproductive health, and women’s health. With a **\$25,000** grant, organizers will prepare papers summarizing what is known about endocrine disruptors today and finalize an invitation list. At the end of the conference, recommendations agreed upon by participants for restrict-

ing the use of the most dangerous chemicals and diagnosing and treating disorders will be distributed to health care providers, health policy and environmental experts, and government officials.

Nurturing Creativity

Research shows that students who participate in quality arts education programs—especially those living in poor communities—have fewer behavioral problems, make friends more easily, and get better grades. Public schools in the City are working with arts organizations to reach needy students, including children from non-English speaking households and special education students. Three two-year grants will help arts organizations start arts programs for disadvantaged students in public schools.

- **Arts Horizons (\$30,000)** will begin an arts program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at five elementary schools—four with low academic achievement levels and one that serves autistic children—in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens.
- **Lehman College Art Gallery (\$30,000)** will start a visual arts program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in three Bronx elementary schools with many Spanish-speaking students, as well as immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa.
- **Working Playground (\$56,000)** will start an arts program in five middle and high schools in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens that enroll a large number of recent immigrants.

Increasing numbers of artists are deciding it’s just not worth it to stay in the City because of the high cost and scarcity of studios and rehearsal space. If the space crunch continues, the City risks losing much of its promising new talent. Last year, **El Barrio’s Operation Fightback**, an East Harlem group that renovates abandoned buildings, teamed with Artspace, a national developer of affordable housing for artists, to create home and work space for artists in the City. The two groups decided to restore and convert P.S. 109, a vacant, boarded-up school building on East 99th Street that is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The renovation will result in 64 affordable live/work units for artists and their families, plus ground floor space for studios, rehearsal space, and

nonprofit arts group offices. With a **\$50,000** grant, architects already working for El Barrio will prepare an application to the Department of the Interior to obtain Historic Tax Credit, which involves documentation of the building's historic properties, schematic drawings, a description of the rehabilitation project, and photographs. El Barrio will also create an advisory group—including local elected officials, community board members, and Hispanic cultural groups—to act as a liaison between the development team and the neighborhood during the renovation.

Improving City Schools

In response to the *CFE v. State* lawsuit, the State legislature authorized \$11.2 billion in new school construction aid to the City over the next five years. A clear understanding of what the legislation provides and how the City and State have agreed to implement it will ensure this money is spent appropriately on construction and renovation. The **Educational Priorities Panel**, a coalition of 27 civic groups, was formed in 1976 to focus on budget issues affecting public schools. Its expertise is respected and relied on by the media, civic organizations, and government. With a **\$30,000** grant, the Panel will prepare a report on the legislation that describes the progress made on allocating funds, estimates the likely reduction in overcrowding, and establishes benchmarks that can be monitored by advocates and oversight agencies. It will be published in time to influence budget negotiations in the State legislature, and to revise the legislation or agreements if needed.

Over the last two years, with support from The Trust's Wallace Education Fund, 20 New York City teachers who want to become principals received one-year fellowships to participate in the **Teachers Network's** Policy Institute. They met monthly for a full day, conducted policy research studies related to issues in their classrooms and schools, developed recommendations based on their findings, and documented and disseminated their work. In addition, the Institute compiled all the fellows' recommendations on developing school leadership in a publication. Seventeen are now on track to become principals and are obtaining supervisory credentials. With a two-year, **\$60,000** grant, the Institute will recruit 20 new teachers who want to be principals to participate and be mentored

by principals who are alumni of the program. The Institute will also work with other principal-development groups to conduct joint meetings and promote dialogue.

Combating Depression

Elderly home-care patients rarely leave their homes except for medical appointments, and their home attendants are often the only people they may see for weeks on end. Given their illness and isolation, it is not surprising that studies have found a high level of depression in elderly home-care patients. Unfortunately, home-care agencies traditionally focus on physical needs, not mental health. The **Burden Center for the Aging** serves more than 3,000 elders, 300 of whom are homebound. With a **\$50,000** grant, staff from the Division of Internal Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University will train the Center's social workers to use a depression screening tool. Most of the Center's home-care patients will be screened, and elders that need treatment will be referred to mental health providers. A computer program will be developed to train Center volunteers to recognize signs of depression when they visit elders and report it to Center staff.

Many of the characteristics of growing older—declining health and the loss of partners and friends—contribute to mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. According to research, these problems are serious enough in ten percent of the elderly to require professional treatment. Unfortunately, the stigma of mental illness and the high cost of treatment—Medicare only covers 50 percent for outpatient care—mean that most elders who need care don't get it. With Trust support last year, **Hudson Guild** started discussion groups for the elderly led by a social worker, which encouraged participants to express their feelings. Questionnaires completed at the end of each session helped the social worker identify those who were suffering from mental health problems. About 160 elders took part, and 30 reported issues that needed follow-up. With a **\$35,000** grant, the Guild will reduce the stigma of “going to group” by organizing discussions on specific topics, such as retirement or the loss of a spouse, and having the social worker use a more conversational approach. Elders who use other Guild services will

be referred to the discussion groups. Latino elders will be a focus as well, with outreach materials translated into Spanish and Spanish-language groups added.

College students in the City have depression rates and suicidal thoughts that are 50 percent higher than the national average. Extra pressures—on students unfamiliar with a high-stress urban setting to minority students, often the first in their families to go to college—contribute to these high rates. In recent years, three City colleges have noticed serious mental health problems among their students. Six students at **New York University** (NYU) and three at Baruch College have committed suicide; Hunter College reports a high dropout rate among its minority students. With an **\$82,000** grant, the three schools, led by NYU, will improve depression screening and treatment for students. The three student health care center directors will each form teams that will be trained by NYU mental health staff to use a depression screening tool. The teams will then train staff at their schools' health centers how to use the tool and refer students for treatment and follow-up care. Care managers, who are members of each team, will help students balance schoolwork with depression treatment, help them apply for Medicaid or low-cost insurance, and reach out to minority students through campus clubs and school offices. Monthly conference calls will help the teams share experiences and work on common problems.

Protecting Our Health

A career in theater, film, dance, or music can be full of uncertainty; even those who achieve some success can experience long periods of unemployment, erratic income, and lack of health insurance. **The Actors' Fund of America** provides health services, affordable housing, emergency financial assistance, and job training to people employed in the performing arts and entertainment business. It operates two free health clinics in midtown Manhattan for uninsured and underinsured performing artists: the Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic and the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative. But the clinics are not fully utilized, and a survey found that artists working independently or for small and mid-sized nonprofits were unaware of the clinics. With a two-year, **\$50,000** grant, the Fund will work with arts service organizations and bor-

ough art councils to spread the word about the clinics to their members through brochures and a series of workshops held in each borough. The Fund hopes to double the number of patients at the clinics to 2,000 each year.

The City has too few health professionals trained in geriatrics, which leads to poor care for sick elders, who rarely have one doctor to manage multiple health problems. The lack of trained geriatricians will present a growing problem as the number of elders grows over the coming years. The **Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers** is a network of health professional schools that offer training to improve care to elders. It offers a three-day program that cover topics such as nutrition, dementia, physical aspects of aging, and elder abuse. Optional elective courses cover rehabilitation, mental health, and cultural competency. Over the past five years, more than 4,500 health professionals have attended the Consortium's programs. It is one of fifty similar programs around the country that received funding from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. But the grant program was not renewed this year, and all 50 centers lost funding. With an **\$80,000** grant, the Consortium will offer its training to 750 professionals. The group's national association is lobbying for funding to be restored next year.

Lending a Legal Hand

Low-wage workers, including those who have moved off the welfare rolls in recent years, can't afford to hire a lawyer when they face an urgent problem in housing, employment, or other civil law matters. And because they have incomes that exceed eligibility guidelines (e.g., \$16,000 for a family of two), they can't get help from Legal Aid or Legal Services. With Trust support, the **Church Avenue Merchants Block Association** and five other community programs that provide free legal services formed a consortium to provide legal representation for the working poor. They coordinate their services, provide cross-agency and attorney training on legal issues affecting the working poor, and operate a common data system to identify trends. With a **\$50,000** grant, consortium members will provide legal training to each other and to other lawyers who represent low-income workers, and expand cross-agency training on consumer and debt issues.

Many people from foreign countries attempt to come to the U.S. to get a better life, including gay people with AIDS, who come for access to life-saving drugs or to escape persecution. But it's hard for immigrants with AIDS to enter the country, much less establish residence. U.S. law bars HIV-positive foreign nationals from entering the country, and many are stopped upon arrival and put in detention centers. Winning asylum for those who can document that they will be persecuted in their home countries is the best hope they have of remaining. **Immigration Equality** works to end discrimination against gay and heterosexual people with HIV who are trying to become legal residents of the U.S. Last year, it provided information to 1,200 clients and direct legal assistance on 60 immigration cases, 54 of which resulted in asylum approval. With a **\$40,000** grant, the group will hire an additional attorney to visit gay HIV-positive immigrants in detention centers to assess their chances for asylum, and hold educational forums at gay and AIDS-related community groups. The attorney will also strengthen the group's partnerships with law firms currently providing *pro bono* lawyers and reach out to additional firms.

For more than 40 years, the federal Legal Services Corporation (LSC) has supported a network of legal services agencies around the country that represent poor clients on civil legal issues such as housing, public benefits, and family and consumer law. But in 1996, Congress barred agencies funded by LSC from engaging in class-action lawsuits, representing most undocumented immigrants, assisting people in prison, conducting legislative advocacy, and getting attorneys' fees in winning cases. Another restriction barred them from these activities even if the costs were covered entirely by private money. Legal Services for New York City (LSNY), the umbrella organization for the 17 legal services offices in the City, challenged the "private money restriction" in court. The court agreed and ruled that a legal services agency could share staff with a privately funded entity to engage in the restricted activities, so long as that entity is a separate corporation, has dedicated waiting and client interview rooms, and closely tracks staff time and funding. With a **\$100,000** grant, LSNY will establish the **New York City Justice Project** as a new, separately incorporated nonprofit. Starting with South Brooklyn

Legal Services, the Project will work on cases that South Brooklyn had to turn away because of restrictions, for example, on representing undocumented immigrants to force landlords to repair uninhabitable apartments. The Project will bring class-action cases on systemic issues that it has had to address one case at a time, such as the practice of banks illegally freezing Social Security funds of disabled people, and it will seek attorneys' fees in egregious situations. It will also engage in legislative advocacy on issues such as lead paint regulations and denials of unemployment insurance.

Breaking the Cycle

The best way to get food to hungry people is through neighborhood programs; an added benefit of local agencies is that they can also help their clients get other essential services, such as education, job assistance, and public benefits. But 90 percent of the programs rely on volunteers and work on budgets of less than \$50,000; most are open only 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. Earlier this year, we made 29 grants to food agencies in the Bronx, on Staten Island, and in Queens. Five grants to food agencies in Brooklyn serving the neediest neighborhoods—Greenpoint/Williamsburg and Borough Park—will support emergency feeding programs.

- **Citymeals-On-Wheels (\$55,000)**
- **Hispanic Federation (\$30,000)**
- **Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty (\$25,000)**
- **Transfiguration Church (\$20,000)**
- **Zichron Acheinu Levy (\$20,000)**

The nature of poverty is changing. No longer does working a full-time job ensure that you can make ends meet. Even some dual-income families are struggling to survive. Understanding the hardships and concerns facing people living in or near poverty can help policymakers, service providers, elected officials, and grantmakers make informed decisions about public policy and allocating resources. Each year, the **Community Service Society** publishes a report, *Unheard Third*—a name derived from

the proportion of poor, voting-age residents—that captures the views of low-income New Yorkers. It has become an important public education and advocacy document. An independent pollster surveys 1,000 low-income people and a comparison group of 500 middle- and upper-income people by phone about a range of issues, including employment, public and work benefits, voting, public schools, and housing. The results are analyzed with assistance from the Society's policy staff. With a **\$100,000** grant, the Society will begin the latest edition, which will add questions about issues such as health insurance, immigration, and access to arts and culture. It will send the report to public agencies, elected officials, and the media; meet with officials and community groups to help them use the information; and present its findings to religious, civic, business, and philanthropic leaders. It will also encourage other cities to do similar surveys.

The single largest benefit program for working-poor families and individuals is the earned income tax credit (EITC). For example, a family with two children and an income of \$20,000 can claim a cash refund of more than \$3,500 when it files its taxes. Unfortunately, many of the people eligible for the program don't know about it. **FoodChange** offers a hotline and free tax filing assistance centers to help eligible New Yorkers claim their EITC refunds. It now has 10 sites in all 5 boroughs that have processed more than 44,000 returns. With a **\$50,000** grant, FoodChange will continue to offer free tax filing services, provide financial literacy workshops, process amended returns for prior years, and help clients apply for other benefits. It will promote EITC through community organizations and the media and advocate for improving EITC guidelines.

Saving Homes

More than one million New Yorkers live in federally assisted housing, such as public housing and Section 8-subsidized apartments. Despite their local impact, federal housing policies are often overlooked by housing advocates unable to keep up with the numerous regulations coming from Washington. Consequently, many tenants looking for answers to simple questions get bounced from office to office. Two years ago, the **Community**

Service Society teamed up with the Public Advocate's Office to create the Tenant Advocacy Project, the City's first centralized resource on training, services, and advocacy for federal housing programs and policies. The Project trained staff from 450 community groups and tenant associations and counseled 325 households in cases involving grievances or evictions. With a **\$50,000** grant, the Society will conduct 20 new workshops, provide case management for public housing residents, create software to help caseworkers calculate rent subsidies, and add two publications to its Housing Answer Guide series. It will also provide testimony, brief officials, and prepare policy recommendations to deal with the looming financial shortfall at the City Housing Authority that threatens to increase fees and revise eligibility standards for people receiving assistance.

Soaring housing costs and few vacancies—facts of life in the City—have now spread to Long Island, Westchester, and other downstate communities, while upstate communities are facing abandonment and blight. We need leadership at the State and local levels to address these diverse housing problems. Two grants support coalitions that promote housing production and protect low-income renters.

- **Housing First! (\$25,000)** will promote State investment in creating and preserving affordable housing this election season through a media campaign and pressing candidates to address the issue.
- **Housing Here and Now (\$20,000)** will get banks to sign agreements to deny mortgage requests for buildings with chronic code violations and/or emergency repair liens.

Human Justice

Same-sex marriage is a hot topic in American politics, with many viewpoints on both sides of the issue. But one fact cannot be debated: the inability to marry deprives same-sex couples of many of the rights that heterosexual married couples take for granted. Advocates estimate there are as many as 90 benefits of marriage that same-sex couples don't receive, including spousal health insurance, survivor social security and pension payments, visiting rights in hospitals, inheriting property without a will, legal residency for immigrants,

and family and medical leave. Recently, State courts overturned a decision that would have granted same-sex couples the right to marry. With a **\$40,000** grant, the **Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation**, which is dedicated to increasing knowledge about the gay and lesbian community in the State, will use three of its current programs to build support for same-sex marriage in the religious community, the workplace, and among organized labor. The group will also conduct a poll to measure support for same-sex marriage in the State and use the results in a media campaign.

Civic Affairs

How to run for elected office is a mystery to many people. For the most part, candidates are selected by the two major political parties, who traditionally choose from among their election district representatives. But half of these positions are vacant, and of those filled, most have been appointed, not elected, making it difficult for people who aren't professional politicians to find their way into the process. The **League of Women Voters of the City of New York Education Fund** tried to open it up in the late 90s, when it offered a course on campaign skills at Baruch College for people interested in running for local office. It was stopped due to a lack of money, but now some CUNY staff want to revive the program and offer it as an adult education course. With an 18-month, **\$40,000** grant, the League will offer a six-session course on how to run for public office. It will cover a range of topics, including campaign finance laws, board of election filings, and the State Election Law. Students will learn how to budget and staff a campaign, research data in their districts, write a press release, produce petitions, and prepare for debates.

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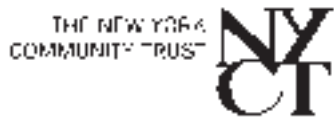
The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its July 2006 meeting.

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.

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

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