

THE NEW YORK  
COMMUNITY TRUST



# GRANTS

October 2007 NEWSLETTER

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## Back to School:

*Three nonprofits help students, principals, and parents stay involved*

“**W**hen am I ever going to use *this*?” is a cry heard each school year when students grapple with geometry or physics. Dr. Mario Salvadori, a structural engineer and architecture professor at Columbia University, started the **Salvadori Center and the Built Environment**, which employs architects and engineers to work with middle and high school math and science teachers using a curriculum based on the built environment. Students learn physics by building and testing bridges and towers; earth science by con-

Kids participate in the Salvadori Center's Guided Learning through Our Built Environment (GLOBE) program to learn math and science through hands-on projects.

**Sixty percent of the City's public school students are either immigrants or children of immigrants. Their parents speak more than 170 languages, and come from countries around the globe.**

structuring model homes for a specific climate and geology; and biology by drawing analogies between elements of the human body and those of a structure. The Center runs workshops for teachers, provides more than 60 different lesson plans, and gives students scholarships to attend summer programs and college. This year, the Center will use a **\$50,000** grant to bring the program to three elementary schools. Salvadori teaching artists will work with more than 2,000 students in grades K through 5 two days a week. Students will take field trips to architectural and engineering firms, buildings, and bridges. The program will end with an all-day competition where 100 students will work with professional architects and engineers on a design challenge.

High school students in the GLOBE program improve their knowledge of math, science, art, language, and social studies by studying the built environment.



Sixty percent of the City's public school students are either immigrants or children of immigrants. Their parents speak more than 170 languages, and come from countries around the globe. Although parent involvement is an important factor in student achievement, immigrant parents face many obstacles to getting involved in their children's education. Many don't speak or read English well or at all; others come from cultures that don't value parent participation in schools; and they are often concerned about uncertain legal status. In 2006, the Department of Education issued new policies requiring schools to provide translation and interpretation services. Two groups have received grants to monitor how these policies are carried out: the **Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, \$35,000**, and the **Metropolitan Russian American Parents Association, \$25,000**.

New York City school principals are responsible for curricula, budget, and personnel decisions. They are expected to raise academic standards, be accountable to the public, introduce new curricula, deal with budget limitations, and inspire their teachers. But while the Department of Education's reforms have demanded more of principals, principal turnover has increased; more than 470 principals left their jobs in the last five years. Assistant principals who already know the City system are a strong pool of potential leaders, but it is important to help them prepare for issues they will face and provide them with mentors. The Council of School Supervisors and Administrators created the **Executive Leadership Institute** to help school administrators improve their leadership, managerial, and instructional skills. The Institute will use a **\$100,000** grant over the next two years for its Advanced Leadership Program, which helps assistant principals build the skills needed to run a successful school. Each year, 50 assistant principals participate in eight full-day seminars. They are placed in groups of five and paired with an outstanding

working principal who visits participants at school and hosts the group at his or her own school for three additional full-day meetings. The mentors are also available for phone and e-mail consultations.

## Staying Healthy, Staying Safe:

### *Two organizations protect immigrant women*

Caribbean immigrants frequently have a hard time getting health care because many are undocumented, unemployed, don't have insurance, or can't find doctors who understand their needs. The **Caribbean Women's Health Association** provides culturally sensitive health, immigration, and social services to Caribbean women and their families. This year, the Association will use a **\$50,000** grant to start an HIV prevention program focusing on intergenerational communication about the sexual health of immigrant women and girls. It will work with girls in two summer youth programs, two public school health programs, two churches, and a public library in central Brooklyn. It will conduct seven weekly group sessions at each site, which will promote the routine use of primary care services and encourage HIV testing. Each participant will receive an HIV risk-assessment, counseling, and referrals for HIV testing, health insurance, or case management.

Immigrant women and girls who are victims of domestic violence or sex crimes are often afraid to seek help to escape from their abusers. They are intimidated by language, cultural, and religious barriers, and their uncertain status in the U.S., particularly if returning to their home countries would subject them to even greater cruelty. Frequently, they are young, poor, and reliant on their abusers for economic survival. Although there are extensive legal provisions in the immigration law that protect battered women and crime victims and allow them to legally remain in the U.S., victims need good lawyers to help them learn about these safeguards and



Both legendary artists and up-and-coming musicians perform at the Apollo Theater in Harlem.

use them. Two grants go to programs that provide legal help to immigrant victims of family violence and gender-related crimes.

- **Dwa Fanm**, meaning 'women's rights' in Haitian Creole, will use a **\$50,000** grant to provide legal help to immigrant women and girls from Haiti, the Caribbean, and Africa who are victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- **Sanctuary for Families** will use a **\$75,000** grant to help girls and young women who are victims of violence get asylum.

## They're Playing Your Song:

### *Theaters and performing arts centers reach out to new audiences*

The Apollo Theater on West 125th Street opened its doors in 1914 as a burlesque house for white patrons. In 1935, new owners instituted a variety show format,

**The Apollo Theater catapulted to success many legendary performers, including Ella**

**Fitzgerald, James Brown, Gladys Knight and the Pips, and the Jackson Five. But by 1991,**

**the theater had fallen into disrepair.**

began welcoming black patrons, and became a “must play” performance hall for aspiring black artists. The theater catapulted to success many legendary performers, including Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Gladys Knight and the Pips, and the Jackson Five. But by 1991, the theater had fallen into disrepair. It was revived as a nonprofit organization—the **Apollo Theater Foundation**—and has since been working to establish an archive that documents the history of this cultural landmark. Beginning in 2006, an archivist inventoried and cataloged 2,000 photographs and 457 audio and video cassettes, and tracked down artifacts in other facilities, including the Apollo’s original seats, neon letters from the first marquee, and sections of the original façade. With a two-year, **\$62,000** grant, the archivist will set up a system to allow public access to the archive, solicit people and institutions with historic Apollo materials, and help staff incorporate these artifacts into the Apollo’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2009-2010.

Interest in live symphonic music has dwindled. A recent survey by the National Center for the Arts sites a 43 percent drop in attendance in the past decade. Despite being one of the City’s best and busiest music groups, the **Orchestra of St. Luke’s** is one of the organizations that has been grappling with smaller audiences. In response, it has started several programs to attract younger patrons, including a multimedia project that combines music, movement, video, and narration that will debut this fall; a festival featuring American women composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries; and free family concerts at the Bronx and Queens museums, MoMA, and the Apollo Theater. To publicize these new programs, St. Luke’s will use a **\$60,000** grant for marketing efforts, including a redesigned Web site, a membership campaign to draw in younger people, and a new program, called *45*

*Below*, that will introduce the Orchestra to adults under 45 by holding social events with local museums.

In the last decade, a dramatic influx of immigrants has transformed Queens. More than 160 nationalities live and work together. One out of three residents comes from another country, and nearly half of the borough’s population speaks a language other than English at home. In response to the borough’s increasing diversity, cultural organizations in Queens are rethinking their roles in the community, and developing ways to draw previously untapped audiences. Two grants go to helping arts organizations in Queens market to new audiences.

- **Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning** will use a **\$60,000** grant to develop a marketing plan to increase attendance.
- **LaGuardia Performing Arts Center** will use a **\$60,000** grant over the next two years to attract campus and community residents to shows.

## **Staying Strong to Serve Well:** *Nonprofits get the help they need to help others*

In the often understaffed world of nonprofits, smart managers recognize that technology can help their organizations operate more effectively and efficiently. But the fast pace of technological advances can be overwhelming, and managers need help figuring out which products and services are right for them. **NPower New York** helps nonprofits use technology to improve their operations. Our last grant helped launch NPower Basic, a service featuring remote maintenance and monitoring of computer systems; and Technology Service Corps, a workforce development program that prepares disadvantaged young adults for technology jobs in nonprofits. This year, NPower will use a **\$60,000** grant to double the number of NPower Basic clients to 800. It will hire



Teens volunteering with Restore America's Estuaries plant salt marsh nursery plants to help absorb storm surge in vulnerable coastal areas.

ten Technology Service Corps graduates to do technology assessments and hardware installations for new subscribers, and handle ongoing monitoring and maintenance for existing customers. It will also introduce remote hosting and maintenance of network servers.

Human services nonprofits have a hard time recruiting and retaining quality employees. This is largely a function of the very low wages allowed in government contracts. In 2000, a survey of 330 human services agencies documented staff turnover of 35 to 50 percent, reducing the quality and continuity of services offered. The **Human Services Council of New York City** comprises 200 organizations that advocate for increased wages for workers in mental health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and other human services fields. This

year, the Council will use a **\$50,000** grant to continue to develop policy and budget recommendations, provide testimony to government officials, and conduct a public education campaign. The agency will push for a \$30 million package of cost-of-living increases covering chronically underpaid workers in the fields of youth, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, and mental health. It will also push for technology that increases productivity and helps offset the cost of increased compensation.

### **In Your Backyard:** *Mitigating risks for safer communities*

There are 13 chemical plants in New Jersey within 12 miles of New York City. These plants use millions of pounds of toxic chemicals, and New Yorkers would have little time to evacuate or protect them-

**Real estate development and pollution doesn't affect just cities; more than 55 million acres of coastal and estuarine habitat have been lost to development and pollution.**

selves if one blew up due to an accident or terrorism. Last year, the **New Jersey Work Environment Council** recommended new state regulations to reduce risk in communities near New Jersey's chemical plants. This year, the Council will use a **\$50,000** grant to prepare testimony for a public hearing on the regulations, monitor the requirement that chemical facilities train staff in the new regulations, and continue its chemical safety education with unions and community groups.

Real estate development and pollution doesn't affect just cities; more than 55 million acres of coastal and estuarine habitat have been lost to development and pollution. In addition to supporting more than three quarters of the nation's commercial fish species, tidal wetlands and estuaries buffer shore communities from hurricanes and tidal surges; each 2.7 miles of coastal marsh can absorb a foot of storm surge. With the forecasted rise in sea level due to global warming, many already-eroded regions will be hard hit. An alternative to fortifying coastlines with barriers and walls is restoring estuarine habitat. **Restore America's Estuaries** is a consortium of 11 of the most effective estuary protection and restoration groups in the country. This year, with a **\$75,000** grant, it will analyze the potential effects of climate change on coastal habitat, the connection between coastal habitats and carbon absorption, and how healthy coasts can mitigate sea-level rise. The group will summarize their research, create a map identifying acreage available for restoration projects, and develop a plan for ranking projects that could help soften the impact of climate change.

# Other Grants

## Housing & Hunger

Grants totaling **\$338,800** have been awarded to 13 emergency feeding programs serving the neediest neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Queens.

- Bethel Mission Station Church, Queens, **\$21,000**
- Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church of Jamaica, **\$25,000**
- Builders for the Family and Youth of the Diocese of Brooklyn, **\$21,000**
- Citymeals-on-Wheels, Brooklyn, **\$25,000**
- Hispanic Federation, Brooklyn, **\$30,000**
- Holy Ghost Upper Room Filling Station Ministry, Queens, **\$15,000**
- Hour Children, Queens **\$25,000**
- Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults, **\$14,000**
- Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, Brooklyn & Queens, **\$50,000**
- R.C. Church of St. Margaret and Mary, Queens, **\$26,000**
- Transfiguration Church, Brooklyn, **\$25,000**
- Trinity Human Services Corporation, Brooklyn, **\$50,000**
- Zichron Acheinu Levy, Brooklyn, **\$12,000**

**Abyssinian Development Corporation, \$40,000**, to preserve a subsidized housing complex in Harlem.

**Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development, \$65,000**, to strengthen enforcement of the housing code.

## Children & Families

**Safe Horizon, \$300,000**, to expand child protective service centers in Manhattan and the Bronx.

**Center for Family Representation, \$75,000**, to improve services to families involved in child protective investigations and proceedings.

## Juvenile Justice

**Bronx Addiction Services Integrated Concepts Systems (BASICS), \$85,000**, to increase the numbers of boys in an outpatient treatment program for drug-addicted, court-involved Bronx teens.

**Correctional Association of New York, \$50,000**, to advocate for reform of New York City and State juvenile justice policy.

**Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, \$50,000**, to advocate for reform of New York City and State juvenile justice policy.

**Fund for the City of New York, \$50,000**, to start a pre-trial alternative-to-detention program for delinquent Queens youth.

**Osborne Association, \$85,000**, to add workshops and increase the number of youth in a program for drug-addicted felons.

**Outreach Project, \$110,000**, for drug treatment services for New York City adolescents.

**Urban Youth Alliance International, \$50,000**, to add a post-trial alternative-to-detention program for delinquent Bronx youth.

### **Environment**

**Coming Clean Collaborative, \$75,000**, to advocate for safer use of chemicals.

**Healthy Building Network, \$75,000**, to promote the use of environmentally safe building materials.

**Institute for Local Self-Reliance, \$50,000**, to promote bio-based plastics as a substitute for petroleum-based plastics.

**Silent Spring, \$75,000**, to study the connection between breast cancer and the environment.

### **Nonprofit Services**

**Nonprofit Finance Fund, \$80,000**, for financial analysis and counseling to local nonprofits.

**Wildcat Service Corporation, \$30,000**, to demonstrate how an unused source of federal funding for employment services can be tapped.

**Workforce Professionals Training Institute, \$70,000**, to train workforce development professionals.

**Education and Research Foundation of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan New York, \$25,000**, for a seminar series on nonprofit effectiveness.

### **Arts**

**Dance Continuum, \$45,000**, for general support of a contemporary dance company.

**Home for Contemporary Theatre and Art, \$60,000**, for general support of the HERE Arts Center, an experimental, multi-disciplinary theater complex.

**New York City Center, \$30,000**, for an annual dance festival.

### **Education**

**Campaign for Fiscal Equity, \$100,000**, to monitor the implementation of the New York State 2007 Education Budget and Reform Act.

**City College of CUNY, Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service, \$130,000**, for fellowships to prepare 15 financially needy students for careers in public service.

**Resources for Children with Special Needs, \$100,000**, to tell parents of disabled children how to get services in the reorganized public school system.

### **Health**

**Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, \$50,000**, to develop a Spanish-language training program for home health aides caring for dementia patients.

**Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, \$70,000**, to advocate for better reimbursement rates for mental health clinics.

**Community Service Society of New York, \$100,000**, to assess the ability of the working poor to pay for health insurance.

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**Long Island Jewish Medical Center, \$80,000**, to train physicians to provide better care to dying elders.

**Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, \$50,000**, for an on-line HIV prevention program for gay men.

**New York Academy of Medicine, \$80,000**, to provide health education in public schools.

**Safe Space, \$50,000**, for an HIV prevention program for low-income, African-American girls in Queens.

**Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, \$50,000**, for an exercise and nutrition program for obese, African-American adolescents in Harlem.

**Visiting Nurse Service of New York, \$60,000**, to train nurses with associate degrees for careers in home care.

### **Civic Affairs**

**New York Jobs with Justice, \$50,000**, to educate low-income voters about issues such as housing, education, and jobs.

The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its July 2007 meeting.

For address, phone number, and contact person for each grantee listed, or for more information, please call The Trust's receptionist at 212-686-0010, Extension 0, or visit our Web site and click on Grantmaking and then Recent Grants.

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[www.nycommunitytrust.org](http://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](mailto:newsletter@nyct-cfi.org).*

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