The Gift of Speech

FINDING HER VOICE:
A therapist works with a child at a clinic that gets funding thanks to a Trust donor who had a stutter.

Helping children with disabilities | PAGE 3

INSIDE: You can give effectively during the holidays | PAGE 2
For 90 years, The Trust has been helping donors’ charitable dreams come true by supporting the nonprofits that make the City and its suburbs great places to live, work, and play. Join us.

HOLIDAY JOY | Giving back to New York

A NOTE FROM ROBERT M. KAUFMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN EMERITUS OF THE TRUST

When The Trust launched an Annual Fund last year, I was pleased to pitch in. After I left Vienna on a Kindertransport in 1938, New York became my home. I went to public schools in Manhattan and the Bronx, then public college in Brooklyn. This City gave me a second chance.

Some of you gave, too. Together, our gifts helped reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings by encouraging clean energy investments… promote the health of Jamaica Bay’s watershed… provide an afternoon science program for high school students… and prepare disadvantaged young people for careers in health care and geriatrics (see photo, below).

During this season, many New Yorkers think about charitable giving. The Annual Fund, starting its second year, will raise money for several causes. Modest donations are fine, because they’re pooled together. You can choose where yours goes:

- **HOUSING:** Create and protect affordable housing for low-income New Yorkers.
- **JOBS:** Help train job-seekers for careers, and connect employers with skilled workers.
- **JUSTICE:** Make the justice system work for low-income and minority New Yorkers.
- **CRITICAL NEEDS:** Respond to New York’s unforeseen, urgent problems.

The Annual Fund introduces many of you to the savvy work done by The Trust’s program staff. At the same time, your gift makes life better for all of our neighbors. That’s a great feeling for those of us lucky enough to be able to give back.

Please give to our Annual Fund and make New York better for everyone. Contact Bob Edgar: (212) 686-2564.

“...My elder mentor, Drucilla, has taught me to take responsibility for my actions and to learn from my mistakes.”

—Vivica West, (right)

ACROSS GENERATIONS: Your gifts to the Annual Fund have helped The New Jewish Home (formerly Jewish Home Lifecare) train high school students in the growing field of geriatric health care. Above: students in the program are mentored by elders such as Drucilla Marshall (center).
Up to the Challenge

Giving young disabled New Yorkers tools to succeed

Disabled kids face challenges at every turn. That’s why we’re making three new grants to help young people deal with multiple disabilities, get what they need to graduate, and make their voices heard.

- In New York City, less than a third of students with disabilities graduate from high school. Although schools are required to provide services, many students don’t get what they need. “It’s common for these kids to be left out of their own education planning meetings with therapists, educators, and parents,” says Anishah Cumber, a program manager at IncludeNYC (formerly Resources for Children with Special Needs). The Trust helped start the group, which assists families of young people with disabilities.

  Two years ago, we worked with the organization to create a program to teach disabled middle-schoolers how to identify services they need and speak up. Now we’re providing $80,000 to expand the program to ninth-graders. “A disabled student’s ability to self-advocate is a great predictor of finishing school, getting a job, and living independently,” says Rachel Pardoe, Trust program officer for health and people with special needs.

  An example: A girl with a learning disability had trouble with reading comprehension. She realized that having her tests read aloud could boost her scores on the State’s Regents exams. She fought for the accommodation; now she’s in college.

- Children who are blind and those with limited vision often face multiple challenges: 50 percent also have physical, emotional, or developmental disabilities. Many come from poor homes or speak English as a second language. Educational and therapeutic programs exist, but they’re run by a variety of agencies, each with its own eligibility requirements. Two years ago, we helped VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired create a coalition of more than 40 groups to streamline services and list them online. Now, with an additional $100,000 from The Trust, VISIONS will strengthen the coalition’s connection with eye clinics, hospitals, and nonprofits serving minority communities. It also will help families access services for children with both developmental and visual disabilities.

- Most children born with a craniofacial disfigurement have speech problems. This can limit their functioning at school, at play, and at home. MyFace (formerly known as the National Foundation for Facial Reconstruction) will use a new grant of $50,000 from The Trust for intensive speech therapy to help young clients speak clearly and confidently.

“…We’re helping young New Yorkers with disabilities attain happy, healthy, and productive lives.”

—Rachel Pardoe, Trust program officer
A “linear park” in Queens could link neighborhoods

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Next High Line?

A “linear park” in Queens could link neighborhoods

Buoyed by the success of Manhattan’s High Line, as well as parks built on unused rail lines in Chicago and other cities, New Yorkers are trying to make a linear park along a 3.5-mile section of abandoned tracks in Queens.

The project, known as QueensWay, would stretch from Rego Park to Ozone Park, creating walking and biking paths for residents who want to avoid crowded, dangerous streets. To turn plans into reality, we’re giving $100,000 to The Trust for Public Land, which protects open space and creates urban parks.

The nonprofit group will complete design work for the park’s first section, seek public funding for construction, and organize partnerships to get community support.

Eventually, the QueensWay would provide 47 acres of fields, trails, and bike paths.

“The QueensWay will remove garbage and dangerous rails while providing a safer, healthier alternative route to travel by bike or foot, and will open spaces for activities and performances,” says Arturo Garcia-Costas, Trust program officer for the environment.

PLANNED PARK

RAILS TO TRAILS: The QueensWay could transform the old Rockaway Beach branch of the Long Island Rail Road, which has been abandoned and inaccessible for more than 50 years. A survey shows residents want bike paths, gardens, and playgrounds. Rendering by DLAND Studio and WXY Architecture & Planning.
A “linear park” in Queens could link neighborhoods.


Reining in Runoff

A green solution to a toxic problem

Those giant puddles under highway overpasses aren’t just a nuisance. They’re poisonous. Stormwater running off the City’s 700 miles of elevated highways, railways, and bridges contributes to 27 billion polluted gallons that end up in New York Harbor every year.

With $100,000 from The New York Community Trust, Design Trust for Public Space will install bioswales—landscaping designed to absorb harmful runoff—at three sites in Queens and Brooklyn. The project could be replicated throughout New York and other cities, improving water quality while beautifying neighborhoods.

Renewable Gifts

Over the years, New Yorkers have left us bequests to clean the air and water, to preserve our parks and open spaces, and to develop renewable energy. Thanks to their generosity, we’re able to make the grants described in these pages.

Join us.
Visit www.GiveTo.nyc
QUICK VIEW | From Improving Shelters to Rethinking Rikers

Our donors’ bequests help bring fresh food to the South Bronx, provide housing for homeless families, fight for a fairer criminal justice system, and more...

A HEALTHIER SOUTH BRONX: “In New York, a ZIP code is a better predictor of health than a person’s genetic code,” says Trust senior program officer Irfan Hasan. The Bronx is the least healthy county in the State, particularly the South Bronx neighborhoods of Mott Haven, Morrisania, and Hunts Point. Last year, The Trust started the South Bronx Healthy and Livable Neighborhoods program. Now three nonprofits will use grants of $250,000 each to foster healthier living in these neighborhoods.

RIKERS CRISIS: Miguel Padilla worked two jobs to support his family. After being pulled over for a broken taillight, he was arrested for a previous, unpaid auto violation. Unable to post $1,000 bail, he spent two weeks in Rikers Island, the City’s main prison complex. “I feared for my safety every day,” says Padilla. “I pled guilty so I could get out of that awful place.” Padilla lost his jobs because of the absence, and had a hard time finding work because of his criminal record.

Padilla’s experience is alarmingly common. More than 75,000 New Yorkers, mostly black or Hispanic, are locked up on Rikers every year. Eighty percent haven’t been convicted of a crime—they simply can’t afford bail. The State and the City plan to speed up trials and eliminate bail for minor offenses, but that’s just a start.

With $60,000 from The Trust, JustLeadershipUSA will back sweeping reforms, with the ultimate goal of closing Rikers. The group trains formerly incarcerated people to advocate to downsize the enormous U.S. prison system.

“"If homeless people get help with jobs, child care, and health, they’re more likely to become stable and independent.””

—Natasha Lifton, Trust senior program officer

BronxWorks is finding ways to get more people to eat better, and to increase use of St. Mary’s Park—a 35-acre diamond-in-the-rough that locals avoid. Claremont Neighborhood Centers will, among other things, expand an affordable fresh food program for public housing residents. And Urban Health Plan is hosting Mercados, which sell fresh food and burst with activity. Above, a recent Mercado in Hunts Point Riverside Park attracted 800 residents, including many at an exercise class.

FIXING SHELTERS: Many people repeatedly return to New York’s homeless shelters. Breaking this cycle requires effective transitional shelter services and affordable permanent housing. The newly formed Gateway Demonstration Assistance Corporation will use our $100,000 to test a promising approach to redesign shelters and develop affordable housing units, starting with five shelters in the Bronx and upper Manhattan.
Alex Truesdell understood that the right tools and furniture could dramatically improve disabled children’s ability to learn, socialize, and play. But it’s tough to find a desk that fits a small wheelchair or an adjustable tray for independent eating.

Truesdell, an educator who worked with blind children, founded Adaptive Design Association in 1998 to create inexpensive adaptations out of materials like corrugated cardboard.

With our first grant in 2002, Adaptive Design began teaching occupational and physical therapists to create equipment on-site. For example: portable steps with handrails that help a young boy transfer in and out of his wheelchair. Since then, we’ve given $415,000 to help bring adaptive design to communities and schools throughout the City and beyond.

Gary Cohen wants to improve Americans’ health by allowing fewer toxic chemicals in land, water, and air. We’ve worked closely with Cohen on several projects, starting in 2001, when we funded the Environmental Health Fund (now known as Coming Clean). With our support, the group has been building a national network that makes consumer products safer.

We’ve also funded Health Care Without Harm, a group Cohen created to encourage hospitals and other institutions to stop using thermometers with mercury (a neurotoxin), to stop burning toxic waste, and more. Since the late 1990s, the group has helped close 4,500 medical waste incinerators in the U.S.

“‘We can create a universe of possibilities.’”
—Alex Truesdell

“The Trust was crucial at the start, as we decided how to phase out toxic chemicals.”
—Gary Cohen

Harnessing Offshore Wind

The nation’s first offshore wind farm began construction last summer off the coast of Block Island, ending years of opposition. Why did politicians and residents allow the change? The Campaign for Offshore Wind made a convincing case for renewable energy.

We supported this groundbreaking effort with $685,000 in grants. The Campaign also helped double the area leased by the federal government for offshore wind development along the East Coast, and it successfully pushed for changes in New York State, which promises to get half its energy from renewable sources by 2030.

The Campaign (which includes Environment America, National Wildlife Federation, and Conservation Law Foundation) will use the Block Island project to showcase jobs and other economic benefits of a vibrant U.S. offshore wind industry. Now we’re giving $75,000 to the University of Delaware’s Special Initiative on Offshore Wind to expand markets for wind energy in New York and Massachusetts.
Her bequest changes lives. Daily.

Mildred Anna Williams traveled the world as an adult, but she never forgot the hardships of her childhood. In her will, she left a large part of her estate to The Trust to help poor and disadvantaged girls and young women improve their lives. Since 1940, her fund has helped thousands of them across New York.

These days, teen pregnancy is part of a cycle of poverty that destroys the dreams of girls and their families. That’s why we recently used our Mildred Anna Williams Fund to help Planned Parenthood open its first Queens clinic—in Long Island City. Incredibly, 63 percent of pregnancies in Queens are unintended, and sexually transmitted disease rates are far above the national average.

Now we’re giving this new clinic an additional $125,000 to provide birth control, reproductive counseling, and other help so girls and young women can stay healthy and become educated. Just as Mildred Anna Williams wanted.

You can make a difference
Set up a fund to keep giving—forever.
Call Jane Wilton at (212) 686-2563

nycommunitytrust.org