LONG-TERM VISION:
A student in Brooklyn gets his eyes checked, thanks to a bequest from a Trust donor who became blind.

Taking Better Care of New Yorkers

Decades of gifts to The Trust improve health | PAGE 3
I oversee The Trust’s grantmaking for the elderly, so you might think it was easy for me to get my grandmother the services she needed in her final years. Not at all.

Grandma Wilma was a lab technician in Forest Hills, Queens. After she was diagnosed with cancer, she had trouble riding buses—and she dreaded using New York’s unreliable Access-A-Ride to go to treatments. Finding palliative care for her proved difficult, too. For months, my family tried everything to get her quality services.

That experience motivates me as I recommend grants to help seniors throughout the city lead fulfilling, independent lives while aging at home. At The Trust, we pay particular attention to seniors in poor neighborhoods who need social and health support. For example, we help Service Program for Older People (commonly known as SPOP) bring physical and mental health care to homebound seniors.

That’s just one grant. We do so much more: We help LGBTQ elders get medical care in their neighborhoods. We improve arts programs at senior centers (see below). We fund groups that train older New Yorkers to bring healthy cuisine to their communities.

Our work is possible because, decade after decade, generous New Yorkers like you leave money to The Trust for all sorts of purposes, including making life better for those over 65. I often think of my grandmother as we address the problems facing the city’s growing population of seniors—including our grant to help New York Lawyers for the Public Interest make the outdated Access-a-Ride service more efficient while saving taxpayers money. Join us as we make New York City better, for everyone.

Being a caregiver made me a better grantmaker
When work hits close to home

CREATIVE AGING: Older adults want to have fun—dance to familiar music and write memoirs—but many instructors are trained to work with children. With $600,000 from The Trust, Lifetime Arts will work with city agencies to bring age-appropriate programs taught by well-prepared instructors to senior centers. Photo: courtesy of Lifetime Arts
Taking better care of New Yorkers
Decades of gifts to The Trust improve health

A fifth-grader suffers chronic headaches because her family can’t afford glasses. A retiree with diabetes is hobbled by depression. A teen misses school because mold in his apartment triggers asthma.

How can a community foundation like The Trust help? We combine funds that donors like you have created over decades to care for the sick or elderly, feed the hungry, and more.

The Trust uses the money to improve New Yorkers’ health in the broadest sense.

We want to make health care more accessible, cost-effective, and focused on patients. We do this by providing everything from coordinated care for the chronically ill to ensuring people struggling with mental illness or drug use get the help they need.

The Trust also makes grants to support the elderly, the visually impaired, and children with disabilities. We help them live, work, and be fully involved in their communities.

A BROAD APPROACH TO HEALTH
We take on health from many angles. Here are a few:

**ADDRESSING POVERTY**
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy works with government, service providers, and educators to create policies that ease the impact of poverty on children’s health.

**REPRODUCTIVE SERVICES**
Planned Parenthood serves thousands of women a year at clinics that we helped open in Queens and Staten Island.

**HEALTHY HOUSING**
Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island helps homeowners eliminate heavy metals such as lead, as well as mold and mildew.

**SAFER CHEMICALS**
Green Science Policy Institute helped persuade furniture manufacturers to stop using toxic flame-retardant chemicals in mattresses, couch cushions, and other household products.

HEALTHY FOOD: The Corbin Hill Food Project (pictured), United Community Centers, and Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center are using $355,000 from The Trust to bring fresh, nutritious food to low-income communities, including Washington Heights, East New York in Brooklyn, and Crotona Park in the Bronx.
Getting Results

A Look Back at Victories in 2017

With support from The Trust, nonprofit groups improve policies that affect our lives—while holding the line on hard-earned protections. We identified 17 victories in 2017. Five are highlighted here; other

Keep young people out of prison

The Raise the Age NY campaign, managed by Citizens Committee for Children, won a legislative battle to end the practice of routinely prosecuting 16- and 17-year-olds as adults in the state’s criminal courts—which affects 27,000 young people each year. Last spring, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed Raise the Age into law, diverting the majority of teens in the justice system to family courts and rehabilitative programs.

Provide free school lunches

More than half of the city’s public school students and families are poor, living at or near the poverty line. By sharing household incomes and other financial information, many parents could get their kids free lunches. But revealing such information to get free lunch can cause shame. That’s why we funded Community Food Advocates as it persuaded the city to offer free, healthy meals to all students. The program serves 1.1 million children, who will now have the fuel to focus in class.
GETTING RESULTS

**Victories in 2017**

programs offer improved affordable housing, health care enrollment, tenant protections, and a plan for closing Rikers. You can find all of them in our website’s newsroom.

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**Embrace diversity in school**

Thanks to work by NYC Coalition for Educational Justice, New York’s educators must design curricula and teach with students’ cultural differences in mind. Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, states submit “accountability plans” to get funding to close achievement gaps in public schools. The Coalition and others persuaded the state’s Department of Education to commit to “cultural responsiveness” in its plan.

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**Give residents a voice in budgets**

Six years ago, we began funding Community Voices Heard as it introduced participatory budgeting to New York City. At first, only four City Council members allowed residents to propose and vote on capital projects in their districts. Today, participatory budgeting operates in 31 of the 51 council districts. Last year, residents decided where more than $40 million was spent, from new computer labs in schools to safer structures on playgrounds.
ARTS

Films that Change Lives
A cinematic legacy fuels a new generation of filmmakers

Many documentary films are so glum they “overwhelm and desensitize us,” says Melissa Fondakowski of the Redford Center, a Trust grantee. A better alternative: “Give people a solution, and keep it simple.”

Since 2002, The Trust has given more than $1.7 million to The International Documentary Association and the Redford Center to create documentaries that help Americans understand and take action on crucial issues. This work is possible because of a fund created in 2002 by Elizabeth Meyer Lorentz, the widow of Pare Lorentz, a noted filmmaker who chronicled the Depression. Drawing on the expertise of these groups, we support films that advance the Lorentz legacy.

In 2015, the Redford Center sent several filmmakers to Sundance Institute for training. They also were given equipment for filming underwater and from the air, using drones. A year later, all six had produced short films.

One of the shorts, “Reefs at Risk,” is helping to get a reef-killing sunscreen chemical banned in Hawaii. Films funded through Lorentz’s gift have been featured on PBS and nominated for Emmy Awards.

“Ms. Lorentz saw a need for documentaries that furthered her late husband’s legacy; we saw a need for films about the environment that give people hope.”

—Kerry McCarthy, The Trust’s program director for the arts

WHAT’S NEW:
Starting this year, our newsletter will be published four times a year instead of six. For a list of our latest grants, please visit nycommunitytrust.org.

YOUR THOUGHTS?
Our communications department welcomes ideas, questions, and criticisms at info@nyct-cfi.org

NYCOMMUNITYTRUST.ORG

 nycommunitytrust.org

SWITCHING SUNSCREEN:
The short film “Reefs at Risk” explores the harmful effects that Oxybenzone, commonly used in sunscreens, has on coral and other marine life. Stills courtesy of “The Cover Up” film series
David Kaon, 23, tried a few jobs, then decided to go into the food business. Now he’s majoring in accounting at Queens College while preparing food at a big-box retailer to pay the bills and gain experience. He credits his career path to Queens Connect, a job training program.

“Before, I didn’t have a plan,” Kaon says. “I didn’t know how to build my résumé, I was shy and fidgety in interviews, and I couldn’t cook.”

We’ve given Queens Connect, the HOPE Program in Brooklyn and the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center in East Harlem $310,000 to help young people like Kaon who need a boost. The programs help with job training, interview skills, résumé building, and paid internships. Most important, they offer a second chance. “It can be tortuous trying to find a job if you are young and have an empty résumé,” says Roderick Jenkins, who oversees these programs for The Trust. “It’s even harder if you are a parent, or dropped out of high school, battled addiction, or have a criminal record.” In short, Jenkins says, failure should be part of learning, not a deterrent.

“New York has jobs that are just waiting for women and men with the right training.”

—Roderick Jenkins, The Trust’s senior program officer for workforce and youth development

THE CHEF IS IN: Through a Queens Connect program, chef John Gabor trains David Kaon as he prepares to take his food handler’s certification test.
Combining Gifts to Help Find Cures

Raymond H. Fiero was a financier who led a nonprofit that helped people with incurable maladies.

William H. Seward, Jr. was a banker who shared his family fortune with those less fortunate.

Both created permanent funds in The Trust to help find cures for disease.

We’ve combined their gifts to help the New York Genome Center search for a cure for ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. The nonprofit research institution is using our $125,000 for one of the world’s largest mapped ALS genome databases. Scientists from around the world share their research in exchange for access to this genetic treasure trove.

You, too, can help others.

Set up a fund with us today.
Create your philanthropic legacy.

ON GENOMES:
Dr. Hemali Phatnani and her team at the New York Genome Center analyze sequencing data from ALS patients. This work is supported by The Trust.

Contact Jane Wilton at (212) 686-2563 or giving@nyct-cfi.org