It Takes a City

Bringing parents, pediatricians, educators, and nonprofits together to help young people thrive.
GIVING

Respond to New Yorkers’ Evolving Needs

Help get an accurate census count, support LGBTQ communities, and more

The Trust takes pride in responding quickly to pressing issues. Our Annual Fund gives you an opportunity to join us. Your contribution to the 2018-2019 Annual Fund will:

- Make sure New Yorkers are counted in the 2020 census;
- Benefit LGBTQ neighbors as we celebrate 50 years since the Stonewall Uprising;
- Address critical needs in our city as they arise.

Anyone can give to the Annual Fund: By credit card (click “give online” at nycommunitytrust.org); by check (our address is on the back of this newsletter); or through your donor-advised fund (click the Annual Fund tab on MyNYCT, or call us.) Please specify what you want to support: 2020 Census, LGBTQ Focus, or Critical Needs.

THANKS TO LAST YEAR’S DONORS,
the Annual Fund helped dozens of groups, including Grace Institute of New York, which provides job training and counseling for women with barriers to employment.

Not only did these women get jobs, but your generosity helped them find child care, manage public benefits, negotiate salaries, and address workplace harassment.

“My husband and I love giving to the Annual Fund. It’s a smart and strategic way to make an impact, and an opportunity to fund great groups that aren’t on our radar.”

ANN UNTERBERG, Trust board member and donor

MATCHING GIFTS

Did you know you can double—or even triple—your gift if your company offers to match it?

Many workplaces also match gifts of retirees, spouses, and outside directors. Ask your employer.
EDUCATION

Making Room for Mom and Dad

Programs educate while strengthening family bonds

We know parents play an important role in their children’s education. But as kids get older, it’s harder for adults to get involved with homework and projects. We’re funding two programs that give families ways to work together.

**PowerMyLearning** will use $75,000 to train teachers and parent coordinators in 10 city schools on how to use a new program designed to help middle schoolers “teach” their parents what they are learning in school using a fun, collaborative activity. The program, called Family Playlists, is based on research from Johns Hopkins that shows this kind of parental involvement boosts student achievement.

Binta, a sixth-grader at South Bronx Preparatory, says the program has strengthened her relationship with her mother. “My mom used to tell me every day to study and go over my notes,” Binta says. “Family Playlists helps us interact more. Now, my mom trusts me and knows how well I’m doing. She likes to listen to me explain what I’m learning.”

Another program, Participatory Budgeting, allows people to vote on how public money is spent. It gets New Yorkers involved in the democratic process and has led to higher voter participation. Now, with $120,000 from The Trust, the **Participatory Budgeting Project** will bring the concept to 50 high schools.

Schools will set aside $2,000 or more from their budgets and let students propose how to spend it—for new classroom technology, for example, or sports equipment. Then students, parents, teachers, and others vote on funding. “When we invite parents in, it’s beautiful to see their conversations with their children about the projects,” says Francesco Tena, a program manager. “We talk about Participatory Budgeting rebuilding trust in the democratic process and government, but it’s also about showcasing what young people have to offer.”

**DIRECTING DOLLARS:**
Students take part in a Participatory Budgeting Expo at PS 41, the Greenwich Village School. Their idea won $350,000 in technology upgrades for District 3 schools.

**ON THE COVER:**
A mother and son play math games designed by grantee PowerMyLearning.
After taking vitals and giving immunizations, pediatric practices in New York City are doing something new: Assessing children’s risk of hunger, homelessness, violence, stress, and other factors that are often referred to as the social determinants of health.

The challenge? How to address these risks.

The Trust, along with the United Hospital Fund of New York, Altman Foundation, and the William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation, is helping pediatric practices connect families with community services. All in an effort to keep kids and families healthy.

Doctors at NYU Langone Health’s clinic in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, have found that families worry about being able to buy food. They also want better jobs, but need child care to attend classes to learn English and other skills. With our funding, the clinic’s new Spanish-speaking “patient navigator” will help families enroll in food stamps, get legal aid, and schedule appointments.

Another grant is making sure families follow up on referrals and appointments. NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center is starting an online messaging, tracking, and appointment reminder system that connects patients and practitioners.

A total of $160,000 from The Trust is supporting these and similar efforts at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center, NYC Health + Hospitals/Gouverneur, Mount Sinai Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens, Northwell Health, and St. John’s Episcopal Hospital. A $40,000 grant to the United Hospital Fund of New York will bring these health organizations together to share ideas and experiences.

A GIFT FOR HOSPITALS

In her will, Katherine Sloan Pratt created a permanent fund in The New York Community Trust to benefit hospitals. The grants above were made from her fund, and we think she’d be pleased to know she is helping New York families raise healthier kids.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: At the Charles Rangel Community Health Clinic (part of NewYork-Presbyterian), a new mother is connected to community resources by a licensed social worker and intern.
As doctors, we learn about diseases and medicine, but a huge part of what we do isn’t just medical. It is making sure young children have the safe, nurturing environments they need to thrive.

—Dr. Suzy Tomopoulos, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at NYU School of Medicine
Taking Matters Into Their Own Hands

Programs guide and empower young immigrants

Over the past year, shifts in immigration policy have fueled fear and anxiety in our city. Some legal residents are concerned about losing their status, while citizens fear their parents and other family members may be deported.

Many young immigrants have found refuge in neighborhood groups that offer legal and emotional support, and a place to gather and organize. These groups must respond quickly, appropriately, and effectively to unpredictable policy changes.

To meet these demands, The Trust has awarded $1 million to 13 groups that assist immigrants.

The Academy of Medical and Public Health Services, Atlas: DIY, Masa, South Bronx United, and Terra Firma will provide academic, mental health, and legal support, which can help young immigrants balance their lives and find stability.

Other groups will train young people to stand up for themselves and organize. The Arab American Association of New York, Arab-American Family Support Center, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Damayan Migrant Workers Association, Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project, and Mekong NYC will offer know-your-rights workshops, teach public speaking skills, and promote self-advocacy.

The New York State Youth Leadership Council focuses on improving school policies for undocumented students. With our grant, it will organize teams at high schools and universities to fight for immigrant rights.

Global Action Project, a nonprofit that trains young people in videography, digital literacy, and activism, will work with other groups to combat anti-immigrant rhetoric and advocate for human rights.

“The dreams of young immigrants are being thwarted at every turn,” says Shawn Morehead, program director for education and human justice grantmaking at The Trust. “We hope these grants help them find their power to change policies and perceptions, while providing emotional and practical support.”
When young people fall behind or are too old for mainstream high school, they’re transferred to School District 79 to get their high school equivalency diploma and learn job skills. Until now, the arts have taken a back seat at “transfer schools.”

The Trust is working to change that. With a $150,000 grant, Opening Act will bring acting, improvisation, and theatrical writing classes to 17 transfer schools.

Because many of these students also have histories of trauma, addiction, and behavioral problems, our funding will support a social worker who can address their academic, social, and emotional needs as well.

Although the city requires transfer schools to help students prepare for jobs, they’ve had limited success. With $540,000, we’re funding JobsFirstNYC and New Visions for Public Schools to strengthen ties between schools and employers. For example: A partnership between an Upper West Side transfer school and a job placement organization will prepare students for pre-med studies and health careers.

This three-year pilot project is part of JobsFirstNYC’s strategy to reduce the number out-of-school, out-of-work young adults in New York City by intervening before they leave school.

“We’re working to stem the exodus of students leaving the system without any opportunity,” says Kevin Stump, a vice president at JobsFirstNYC.

Is The Trust in your will?

The projects in these pages are possible because people left bequests. You, too, can set up a permanent fund. We’ll make grants supporting the causes you care about. Forever.

Call Jane Wilton at (212) 686-2563 to learn more.
She believed in the power of social work. So she gave.

Dr. Helen Rehr dedicated her life to transforming the way we help people out of poverty and other difficult circumstances. Directing Mt. Sinai Hospital’s Department of Social Work Services, she also wrote more than 100 articles, books, and chapters on innovation in the field.

Today, we’re using Dr. Rehr’s generosity to help Providence House develop new ways to train homeless mothers to ensure their children meet developmental milestones. With our funding, social workers will videotape mother/child interactions, then use the footage to provide guidance on parenting.

MORE THAN A HOME: A formerly homeless young mother sits in the living room of a Providence House residence, where she is able to live for free and learn parenting skills.

What do you believe in?
Contact Jane Wilton to talk about setting up a fund. Janewilton@nyct-cfi.org, (212) 686-2563