Helping Love Take Action...Locally

Through our Philanthropic Advising program, The New York Community Trust administered the New York Life Foundation’s Love Takes Action Awards in celebration of the organization’s 175th anniversary. Senior Program Officer Marlyn Torres oversaw the awards program (and coincidentally was a graduate intern at The Trust in 2000). To learn more about how you or your institution can take advantage of our philanthropic advisory services, please contact Kerry McCarthy at kem@nyct-cfi.org.

One of the best things about this awards program was the stories of resilience in the face of adversity it uncovered.

During the pandemic, a hospital chaplain had a mission to ensure that ‘no one dies alone.’ She continued to meet patients in person, providing compassionate care to the ill, regardless of their faith.

An immigrant pizzeria owner provided free food to the hungry, inspired by his Sikh faith and his own experience of being homeless.

The Trust helped us run the Love Takes Action Awards program, which honored these two selfless individuals and 33 others around the country for going above and beyond in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We engaged our agents and employees in the nominating process, which resulted in the selection of these community leaders and accompanying nonprofits who received general operating support grants.

I immensely enjoyed working with the team at The Trust. In addition to helping us shape the program (and then reshape after the pandemic hit), they worked with us to develop the application, manage a team of reviewers, and make the grant decisions.

We received an overwhelming number of nominations and touching stories. The fortitude and humanity of nominees was so inspiring and truly illustrated ‘love taking action.’

We are grateful for the New York Life Foundation’s investment in our organization and to Eugene Lutz, managing partner of New York Life’s Westchester General Office, for recognizing Belkis Crowe for her extraordinary community service during COVID-19, which brought about this grant, and will change many lives for the better.

— Randi Shubin Dresner, president & CEO, Island Harvest Food Bank
You know how easy it is to give cash. But have you considered whether you might have other assets you can turn into philanthropic resources? Your generosity can provide local nonprofits with the resources they need to help our region recover and rebuild as a more just and equitable place to live and work.

**We appreciate appreciated stock**
You see a double tax advantage when you give a gift of appreciated securities that you’ve owned for more than a year. The full fair market value is deductible as a charitable contribution and you avoid paying tax on the built-up capital gains.

**Give the gift of life insurance**
Have a paid-up life insurance policy you no longer need? Make The New York Community Trust the owner and beneficiary of the policy during your lifetime. If you don’t care about an income tax deduction for the gift, you can merely name The Trust as your beneficiary of a policy at death.

Please note our legal name for this purpose should be “Community Funds, Inc.”

**Convert your IRA into impact**
Donors aged 70-1/2 or older may direct contributions from an IRA directly to a public charity such as The Trust. The “charitable IRA rollover” allows you to exclude the IRA distribution from taxable income—instead of taking it into income and claiming a charitable income tax deduction—under certain circumstances.

To qualify, the distribution must be made directly from your IRA to The New York Community Trust and must not go to a donor-advised fund. Each financial institution has its own form to process these distributions, so please inquire with your IRA custodian.

You will need to provide them with our information, including our legal name, “Community Funds, Inc.,” our EIN: 13-6089923, and our address: 909 3rd Ave., New York, NY 10022. Your custodian should also note the purpose of gift. For example, you can support our Emergency Fund (or, you can contact us to discuss how you’d like us to allocate your gift).

For further information on any of these ways to turn assets into impact, please call (212) 686-0010 x363 or email Marie D’Costa at md@nyct-cfi.org.

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**CURRENT MAILING ADDRESSES FOR DONATIONS**

**For U.S. Postal Service**
Community Funds, Inc.
P.O. Box 22472
New York, NY 10087-2472

**Delivery services other than USPS**
JPMorgan Chase – Lockbox Processing
Attn: Community Funds, Inc. and 22472
4 Chase Metrotech Center
7th Floor East
Brooklyn, NY 11245
To help the local economy rebuild from the effects of the pandemic, The Trust is making grants to improve job prospects for many and to help the region find its economic footing as it recovers.

**RESTORING JOBS LOST DURING THE DOWNTURN**

Making sure that the region’s economy works for everyone has been a long-time priority for The Trust, with a particular focus on making sure more residents are ready for good, available jobs.

Since 2001, The New York Community Trust has distributed nearly $60 million in grants from our New York City Workforce Development Fund, which pools money from several donors and seeks to help low-income workers find jobs in high-growth fields. The fund takes a multi-faceted approach, strengthening nonprofits, underwriting research, engaging employers, and providing money for demonstration projects.

Seeing a labor force gap amid the current health crisis, the Fund recently awarded a $100,000 grant to the **1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds** to work with eight community-based nonprofits to enroll people in a training and placement program for certified nursing assistants.

Similarly, the Westchester Community Foundation, one of our two suburban affiliates, has been helping residents find jobs in promising sectors for years, and formed the Westchester Workforce Funders Collaborative in 2019. The Collaborative gave $100,000 grants to **Westhab** and the **Westchester Community**
College Foundation to partner with local companies to train workers for careers in construction and health care, respectively.

HELPING YOUNG JOB SEEKERS
Even before the pandemic, students with disabilities struggled to find and keep good jobs. The Trust renewed a grant of $100,000 to Bridges from School to Work, which connects mentors with high-school students with disabilities as they search for jobs and then, once the students are hired, continues to meet with them and their employers regularly as they acclimate to the rigors of the workplace.

Since 2018, The Trust has provided $240,000 to Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow to help unemployed young people in Brooklyn get health care and technology jobs. The group moved its programs online and continues to teach job-oriented courses on topics such as digital marketing, cloud support, and medical administration. It also will resume a masonry restoration program at Green-Wood Cemetery, and help unemployed alumni find new jobs.

The $1.5 billion building maintenance and restoration industry in New York City employs 20,000 workers, but demand for qualified workers is high. The nonprofit Andromeda Community Initiative was specifically formed by employers to meet their staffing needs, and targets groups that have been traditionally hard to reach, such as formerly incarcerated people and homeless shelter residents. The Trust gave the Long Island City-based nonprofit $80,000 to expand its training programs in person and online.

Charting an economic recovery
To guide the city as it steers out of the COVID-related economic downturn, The Trust gave $200,000 to The New School Center for New York City Affairs so it can provide policymakers with clear, current data about the current labor market and public schools during COVID-19.

With earlier support from The Trust, the Center has already found that 85 percent of job losses during the pandemic were in the food, hospitality, retail, and arts sectors, and that 68 percent of those who lost jobs were people of color.

The Center will gather data about the demographics of the unemployed, and workplace health protections, and make recommendations on needed policy reforms. It also will begin offering information targeted to Latinx families with children in public schools, including those with disabilities, about how to access special services for their children. The hope is that the Center’s findings will be included in discussions as the city begins a critical local election that will see the replacement of all citywide elected officials and many City Council members due to term limits.

AN AL FRESCO FUTURE
Expanded outdoor dining has become part of the city’s “new normal” during the pandemic, and the city now aims to make its expansion permanent. To ensure that what began as many restaurants’ makeshift lunge for financial survival is well-designed, The Trust has given a $400,000 grant to the Regional Plan Association to develop guidelines and work with stakeholders.

The Open Streets Ahead Coalition—led by the Regional Plan Association, the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, and the Design Trust for Open Space—plans to publish guidelines that will help make outdoor dining spaces safe, appropriate for the locales in which they are placed, and aesthetically pleasing, and minimize their impact on traffic. The Association also will work with business improvement districts, community boards, and restaurant owners to ensure that the guidelines are followed, and it will give some grants in lower-income neighborhoods to help restaurant owners comply.
Project Illuminates the Lives of Brooklyn Muslims

Oral histories integrated into exhibitions and school curricula

In 2017, against a background of rising hate crimes and Islamophobia, the Center for Brooklyn History at Brooklyn Public Library (formerly known as the Brooklyn Historical Society) used grants from The Trust to launch an oral-history project that brings to light the multi-faceted communities of Muslims that have lived in the borough for decades.

The goal of “Muslims in Brooklyn” is to provide an opportunity for Muslim residents to tell their own varied and nuanced stories, and to promote wider understanding among non-Muslims.

The project also aimed to underline the history of Muslims in Brooklyn: The first building to be dedicated to Muslim prayer was built in 1931 and today the borough is home to more than 100 mosques. In recent years, though, the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the New York Police Department have recorded huge increases in anti-Muslim incidents.

“The impact of Muslims in Brooklyn cannot be overstated,” said Heather Malin, the Center’s director. “The project has touched every aspect of our work, including collections, exhibitions, education and curricular resources, and public programming. But perhaps most important is that we have formed relationships with members of Brooklyn’s diverse Muslim communities, and their voices are now reflected in our collections, which are fully accessible to Brooklynites and the world.”

A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS

The project was composed of interviews with more than 50 Brooklynites from the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, as well as African Americans, and included those from different Islamic traditions.

In the 90 hours of recorded conversations, the interview subjects talk about their interior lives—speaking about gender, religious observance, interfaith families—as well as about the everyday institutions of their lives, the arts, and their immigration stories. For example, one woman recalls her experiences running a Girl Scout troop of Muslims from different ethnic backgrounds, another speaks about immigrating from Bangladesh as a teenager by himself and how getting a cup of coffee led to his first job, and a Pakistani man recounts making friends from other cultures and going to his first bar mitzvah.

“It felt really cathartic,” one interviewee later told The Bklyner. “It made me appreciate my place in this city.”

The interviews were posted to the Center’s oral history portal on its website and publicized via news outlets, podcasts, social media, and public events. In 2019, the Center hosted several in-person events on a range of related topics, from hip-hop to living under government surveillance, and included music and dance performances. It also commissioned an art installation at the Center that featured audio clips from the interviews, and an exhibition at BRIC House in downtown Brooklyn of works by Muslim visual artists.

In 2020, the Center used the oral histories as the basis for a curriculum for K-12 teachers, then introduced it to 400 educators via one-on-one professional development sessions. The teachers, in turn, worked with their 25,000 public school students.

One teacher wrote the Center, saying that the training was “moving and emotional and showed that we are all humans and need each other.”
Rescuing Arts Education and Arts Educators

Kimberly Olsen is the executive director of NYC Arts in Education Roundtable, which has a membership of more than 100 cultural organizations. It received a $250,000 grant from The Trust’s NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund and a $215,000 grant from The Trust’s competitive grants program.

Last March, our world changed. As city school buildings closed, arts education was impacted almost instantaneously. Our community was disconnected from the schools and students with which they were working. We found that not only did many arts educators lose their jobs, but those who had jobs required an entirely new skill set.

New York City’s Department of Cultural Affairs reported arts education organizations lost 78 percent of their artist staff, approximately 2,100 teaching artists. We realized we had to do something. We came to The New York Community Trust to establish a relief fund to give financial support to a highly specialized workforce that does incredible work, but that we are at a severe risk of losing.

I can’t say enough about just how amazing it was to work with The Trust, and how swift and responsive they were. Along with other donors, we were able to create an emergency fund of $333,500 for arts educators. We received way more applications than we anticipated, nearly 800. Almost 80% of those people had been furloughed or laid off, and almost 85% estimated their 2020 income would be under $30,000, which is below the poverty threshold in NYC.

STUDENT BENEFITS

We’re hearing that students are logging in to participate in arts classes, saying, ‘I came today because I knew we would be doing dance,’ or, ‘I came because I would be able to connect with my friends.’

One of the most magical things about the arts is that it engages students in building relationships. It gives them an authentic place to process their emotions, and what’s happening in the world around them. It gives them a creative outlet for joy and happiness and physical fitness. The skills they learn contribute to their becoming creative citizens who are able to think critically, to speak passionately, to take risks. All of these are foundational elements of the arts that we can’t lose now.

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

We also hosted a series of professional development trainings on topics like bridging arts and advocacy in the classroom and trauma-informed best practices in arts learning. We’re seeing hundreds of people log in for our workshops each week. It’s just been truly remarkable to see the creative solutions to digital arts learning that educators are pioneering.

People are really experimenting with the many ways they can use technology to keep us connected at a time that we feel so siloed. For example, we’re seeing educators stage innovative Zoom-musicals or organizations engage communities in intergenerational artmaking, where young people and seniors are creating art together online.

Unfortunately, we’re seeing that many teaching artists are still out of work, and that organizations are struggling to reach students. But in those moments where folks were able to connect with students, there has been so much joy, hope, and excitement. There are these great moments of inspiration at a time when it’s so vitally needed.

Financial information about The New York Community Trust can be obtained by contacting us at: 909 Third Avenue, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10022, (212) 686-0010, at www.nycommunitytrust.org, or as stated below: Florida: SC No. CH9514 A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-HELP-FLA OR AT www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Maryland: For the cost of postage and copying, from the Secretary of State. Michigan: MICS No. 22265. Mississippi: The official registration and financial information of The New York Community Trust may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State’s office by calling 1-888-236-6167. New Jersey: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING (732) 445-2911. New York: A copy of our most recent financial report is available from the Charities Registry on the New York State Attorney General’s website at www.charitiesnys.com or, upon request, by contacting the NYS Attorney General, Charities Bureau, at 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271 or at 212-416-8401. North Carolina: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at (888) 830-4989 (within N.C.) or (919) 814-5400 (outside N.C.). Pennsylvania: The official registration and financial information of The New York Community Trust may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Virginia: From the State Office of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. Washington: From the Charities Program at 1-800-332-4483, or www.sos.wa.gov/charities. West Virginia: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Wisconsin: A financial statement of the organization disclosing assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenue and expenses for the preceding fiscal year will be provided to any person upon request. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW. REGISTRATION IN A STATE DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST BY THE STATE.
Community foundations combine the generosity of many to support a geographic area. At The New York Community Trust, we focus on making life better for all in New York City, Westchester, and Long Island.

Most have broadly defined missions and make grants to local nonprofits. They bring grantees together to strengthen their communities, and bring funders together to build power and resources to drive systemic improvements.

As public charities, community foundations like The New York Community Trust offer donors a way to give a wide range of assets in tax-saving ways that maximize the funding available to make a difference.

Donors can create customized funds within these foundations, which offer a more practical, cost-effective, and well-staffed alternative to creating their own private foundations.

By pooling resources, community foundations offer economies of scale, investment expertise, and institutional wisdom to multiply the charitable impact of their donors.

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**A BRIEF HISTORY**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>The first community foundation is created in Cleveland.</td>
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<td>1924</td>
<td>Bankers and donors create The New York Community Trust.</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>The Trust pioneers the nation’s first donor-advised fund.</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>Community foundations mobilize nearly <strong>$1.4 billion</strong> for COVID-19 relief nationwide.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TODAY</td>
<td>750+ community foundations nationwide grant <strong>$8 billion</strong> annually.</td>
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