A report prepared especially for you.

Dear Donor,

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones healthy, safe, and enjoying our city and region.

It’s a pleasure to share with you the profound impact of The New York Community Trust’s grants—an impact made possible by generations of generous New Yorkers who endowed our grantmaking with legacy gifts.

This report briefly highlights some of this year’s successes across a range of issues, sometimes achieved through a variety of approaches. For example, we helped more than 3 million state residents with disabilities by supporting advocacy that led to the passage of an unprecedented disability rights law and created the first ever state-level chief disability officer. We also helped make it easier for people with vision impairments to vote, and our Long Island Community Foundation funded the creation of a program to improve the education of students with autism.

Thanks to our donors and dedicated nonprofits, these stories and the ones that follow are a small sample of the hundreds of ways we are making life in the region better this year.

We hope that the good work of our community of donors and grantee organizations shines through and that you’ll find their stories a source of joy and hope.

Warmly,

Amy Freitag, President

Marie D’Costa, Vice President & Chief Development Officer
**JOBS**  **Taxi owners saved from drowning in debt**

Taxi medallions, once a coveted investment, became debt-laden yokes around the necks of taxi drivers blindsided by the rise of unregulated app-based ride services. Two grants helped the New York Taxi Workers Alliance strike a deal with the largest medallion creditor to restructure and forgive debt for thousands of taxi owners. The deal reduced the average amount owed by each medallion owner from more than $500,000 to $170,000, and capped interest rates at 7.3 percent over a 25-year term, secured by a city-backed guarantee. The city signed the agreement this year and loan forgiveness has begun.

*Made possible, in part, by the Josephine L. Erwin Fund, established in 1935 for the good of New York City.*

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**EDUCATION**  **CUNY trains job seekers for growing fields**

The new Trust-supported NYC Accelerated Workforce Recovery Hub is enabling two CUNY community colleges to turn **3,000 of their students** into great job candidates in growing fields such as healthcare, building trades, accounting, and technology. The CUNY students receive scholarships, internships with stipends, and career services. The creation of the Hub originated from a Trust-supported report on how to leverage the colleges' continuing education courses to help New Yorkers enter the workforce.

*Made possible, in part, by the Enders M. Voorhees Fund, established in 1973 for the good of New York City.*

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**ENVIRONMENT**  **Stewardship of community gardens has grown**

With a recent Trust grant, New York Restoration Project supported the stewardship of open spaces in the South Bronx and Northern Manhattan, including 13 community gardens and three parks. The group worked with volunteers to build or repair **71 garden beds capable of growing up to 11,360 pounds of produce** every year. Staff and volunteers removed 7,605 pounds of trash from the gardens and over 90,000 pounds of trash from parks; tended to hundreds of trees; planted thousands of bulbs, shrubs, and perennials; and repaired heavily used areas. They also facilitated seven community events with garden members, reaching more than 500 New Yorkers.

*Made possible, in part, by the Philip A. and Carol Bilotti Fund, established in 2010 for community gardens and the performing arts in the Bronx.*

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**OLDER ADULTS**  **Virtual programs brought to homebound New Yorkers**

Even before the pandemic, many older adults had trouble attending social and cultural events. That’s why, in 2016, we made a grant to Selfhelp Community Services to increase its virtual offerings. When the stay-at-home advisories hit, we made another grant to expand this social lifeline. Selfhelp increased the opportunities for virtual connection—through live classes, discussion groups, and chat sessions—by 167 percent, offering **6,761 sessions** over the year. This year, Selfhelp is expanding the service statewide with New York State’s Office for the Aging.

*Made possible, in part, by the H. Rodger and Jessie Graham Elgar Fund, established in 2013 to help homebound infirm older adults.*
HEALTH  Greater autonomy and rights for New Yorkers with disabilities

Until this year, many New Yorkers with developmental and intellectual disabilities lived with restrictive guardianship agreements. These gave others legal control over many aspects of their lives including healthcare, finances, marriage, and employment. The Trust made a grant to Hunter College to advocate for change.

In July, Governor Hochul signed new legislation that gives legal weight to a better model, called Supported Decision-Making, which allows those with disabilities to make their own decisions, with support from others.

Made possible, in part, by the Abe, Lena and Irin Soskis Memorial Fund, established in 1984 to help people with intellectual disabilities, and support medical research, among other areas.

POVERTY  Millions saved from debt collectors

Even in the best of times, low-income New Yorkers must contend with unscrupulous private debt collectors. When COVID-related stimulus checks went out across the nation, many people who were struggling financially saw their checks going straight to debt collectors. With our help, New Economy Project co-drafted and won passage of a strong state bill that prohibits this collection of people's federal stimulus funds, including child-care tax credits and other emergency relief. The legislation has resulted in an estimated 200,000 low-income New Yorkers saving approximately $280 million.

Made possible, in part, by the Jacob Levy Fund, established in 1990 for the good of New York City.

ARTS  Artists connected with houses of worship

Many of the city’s 5,600 houses of worship are expensive to maintain and have space that often sits empty. Meanwhile, artists and community groups need affordable places to perform, rehearse, and meet. We made a grant to Judson Memorial Church and its off-shoot, Bricks and Mortals, to work out a mutually beneficial solution. Earlier this year, in collaboration with Partners for Sacred Places, they launched Venuely.org, a service that opens a new market for affordable rentals, connecting these properties with creative workers and businesses.

Made possible, in part, by the Lila Acheson Wallace Fund for the Arts, established in 1984.

CHILDREN & TEENS  Youth with multiple challenges given more-effective care

Young people with both mental-health issues and substance-use disorders rarely get the coordinated care that has proven most effective. A grant from the Westchester Community Foundation let the harris project create a pilot in which 30 clinicians were trained and certified to combine behavioral health therapies with those for substance misuse. Another 40 clinicians will be added soon, four times more than planned. This will lead to the treatment of more than 700 young people a year.

Made possible, in part, by the Westchester Health Fund, established in 2003 to promote health and access to health care for people living or working in Westchester County.
With a Trust grant, the Staten Island Museum made little-seen genealogical records of local African-American families publicly available online for the first time. The Museum digitized its archives, including handwritten documents and burial records from Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, the only African-American cemetery in the city. Working with the Staten Island Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Museum staff organized events where volunteers helped transcribe handwritten records. The Museum made the information available online to 14 million users worldwide. The digitized records have been viewed an average of more than 400 times each—quadruple the initial estimates—connecting people to their past.

Made possible, in part, by the LuEsther T. Mertz Fund, established in 1995 to support historic preservation, human and civil rights, and other causes.

Photos sourced from stock libraries except as noted. Cover: A New York Restoration Project arborist at work, by Ben Hider; Education: CUNY students practice during a healthcare certification course; Environment: Children planting seeds with New York Restoration Project in a Bronx community garden, by Ben Hider; Arts: Dancers make use of a house of worship thanks to Partners for Sacred Places; Historic Preservation: Volunteers transcribe genealogical records; Staff portraits by Ari Mintz.

Solutions guided by smarts and hearts

As The Trust’s new president, I am proud to share with you the accomplishments highlighted in this report. They are proof positive that, together, we can make big impacts on tough challenges. The key to our success is a strategy that is guided by insight, empathy, and an enduring commitment to our region.

We are here to help you meet your philanthropic goals. Please let us know if you want to include The Trust in your estate through a planned gift, by naming The Trust in your will, or using retirement plan assets. By making this commitment, you can join our Legacy Society and take comfort in knowing your generosity will have an impact long into the future.

Contact me, Marie D’Costa, at md@nyct-cfi.org or (212) 686-2461.