





## RECENT LICF GRANTS

Listed below is a sampling of recent grants made with income from those funds contributed for the broad purpose of responding to the community's needs. The LICF Advisory Board uses these general purpose funds to make grants to nonprofit organizations. Proposals are accepted year-round. Since grant requests always far exceed the Foundation's ability to respond positively, grant seekers are urged to read the LICF's Grantmaking Guidelines (available upon request) before submitting a proposal.

### PROGRAM START-UP

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES/  
FOCUS ON AFFORDABLE  
RENTAL HOUSING  
\$5,000

*"Breaking the Logjam"*

Nassau-Suffolk has become the fourth most expensive rental area in the country, pricing out of the rental market young people, singles, low-wage workers, single-parent families, large families, and people on fixed incomes. Companies struggle to fill positions because employees

*"tackling the  
rental housing shortage"*

cannot afford to live on Long Island. Homelessness, even after a decade of prosperity, remains high.

To address this crisis, 70 organizations and individuals came together at the invitation of the Nassau-Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless and began to plan for a large-scale initiative called Focus on Affordable Rental Housing. Community Advocates, the organizational home for the new initiative, has long been an invaluable information resource on housing matters and a persuasive public advocate for policies that increase the availability of low-cost housing.

Modeled on a similar massive campaign in New York City called Housing First!, the Long Island campaign is mobilizing task forces to tackle key aspects of the rental housing shortage. LICF's \$5,000 start-up grant is an investment in a long-term, large-scale effort to bring together the Island's major political, business, community and nonprofit leaders to break the region's housing logjam.

PERSONS UNITED LIMITING  
SUBSTANDARDS AND ERRORS  
IN HEALTH CARE (PULSE)  
\$10,000

*"Making Healthcare Healthier"*

When her two-year-old son died of a routine tonsillectomy in 1998, Ilene Corina went looking for a "better business bureau" of the medical industry to report the doctor whose error had cost her son's life. She found, after extensive investigation, that no such entity existed, and that the doctor could continue practicing medicine with an unmarred record.

Persons United Limiting Substandards and Errors in Health Care (PULSE) was begun both as a support group for herself and the many others Ms. Corina met who had been affected by medical error, and as an advocacy group to bring public accountability for medical error into the medical industry. Fueled by figures showing a shockingly high incidence of medical error nationwide, the organization grew rapidly. They gathered thousands of signatures to support a New York State bill to establish a watchdog agency, lobbied in Albany, organized several demonstrations and a candlelight vigil, and launched an e-mail petitioning campaign. Their efforts reached fruition when The Patient Information and Quality Improvement Act of 2000 was signed into law, enabling patients to review profiles of physicians and establishing a Patient Safety Center in New York to deal with patient complaints.

Each week PULSE responds to approximately two to four new callers seeking advice and support, and many more when notices are placed in the newspaper. Until now

systematic records of these calls have not been kept. LICF's \$5,000 grant to launch the first consumer-generated database on medical errors in the country is enabling PULSE to collect and analyze records of consumer complaints, moving us toward a safer health care system.

UNITED PEOPLE FOR  
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND  
RACIAL JUSTICE (UPSERJ)  
\$15,000

*"Gathering Collective Strength"*

Despite the extraordinary economic boom of the last decade, when the nation's poverty rate dropped to a level not seen since the 1970s, a staggering 32.2 million people still live in poverty. The correlation between race and economic class is evident in the fact that nearly a quarter of African Americans and Hispanics live below the poverty line.

On Long Island, this correlation is intensified by the high cost of living, the lack of affordable housing, de facto residential segregation, regressive funding of public education through property taxes, and an inaccessible and cumbersome public transportation system.

United People for Social, Economic and Racial Justice (UPSERJ) was founded to build an organizing and leadership training coalition that could use the strength of its members to achieve social, economic and racial justice on Long Island. The coalition has drawn together 35 nonprofit organizations, 15 religious institutions, and over 100 individual members to work toward this end, and is organizing in Nassau County around issues of education, housing, and criminal justice.

With a sophisticated organizing

model, a well-thought-out program, early success in recruiting organizational and individual members, and a commitment to empowering the people most affected by poverty and racism, UPSEJ is one of the most hope-inspiring grassroots initiatives to be launched on Long Island in recent years. LICF's \$8,000 grant is an initial investment in a long-term effort to combat racism on Long Island.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

TRAINING ORCHESTRA, INC./  
GEMINI YOUTH  
ORCHESTRA (GYO)  
\$5,300  
*"Fairy Tales Can Come True"*

Here's one that sounds too good to be true: An arts group that serves young people receives a gift from a defunct sister arts organization. Rather than hoard its new treasure, the group shares it with other arts

organizations. Still buoyed by its good fortune, the organization envisions an even larger collaborative effort to make inexpensive music available up and down the Island. To implement its vision of building Long Island's arts community, the group comes to the Long Island Community Foundation.

When the Long Island Music Association closed its doors, Gemini Youth Orchestra received a music library that had been collected over three decades: choral music, orchestral-choral accompaniment, religious music and popular music including Broadway shows, Berlin, Gershwin and the like. The cost of acquiring printed music for performances is one of the major expenses confronting any music group. So Gemini Youth Orchestra proposed combining this major new acquisition with its own collections into a single library, and then making that library available at minimal cost to arts groups all over Long Island. Future ideas include using the library to foster a greater sense of

community among the Island's many music organizations, and especially among youth orchestras.

LICF's \$5,300 grant supports the cost of cataloguing the collections and housing them until the library becomes self-supporting.

JEWISH ASSOCIATION FOR  
SERVICES FOR THE AGED  
\$10,000

*"Caregivers Also Need Care"*

Family caregivers of the homebound frail elderly face enormous, daunting difficulties. Often elderly themselves, they must tackle the exhausting physical demands of round-the-clock care, as well as the emotional complexities of dealing with the deterioration of a loved one. All too frequently, they become isolated from the larger community, unaware of services that might be of help to them.

The Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA) is the largest geriatric social service agency in the New York area. JASA has put

## SITE VISITS HIGHLIGHT LICF GRANTEES

"An excellent opportunity to see firsthand, and connect with, real people and their real needs." "Well done and much appreciated." "Very interesting and worthwhile." Those were some of the comments made by donors who participated in the visit to LICF grantees on October 19, 2001.

The twenty-three people who boarded the bus at the LICF offices that morning were treated to an in-depth look at the exciting work being done by four of LICF's grantees. On-site presentations highlighted the effectiveness of their activities in: developing low-income housing (Bellport Hagerman East Patchogue Alliance); converting waste into material resources (Materials Resource Center of the Association for Resource



*Helen Martin, Director of the Bellport Hagerman East Patchogue Alliance, shows one of the homes her group has rehabilitated to provide decent low-cost housing.*

Conservation); empowering immigrant workers (The Workplace Project); and organizing low-income tenants (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now—Long Island ACORN).

A lunchtime presentation by Jim Claffey, Director of the Fight For Families Coalition, underscored the needs of Nassau County's most vulnerable residents in the face of dramatic cuts in social services that have resulted from the continuing budget crisis.

"I suggest we have such a day at least twice a year," said one of the participants. We listened: a future visit is being planned to focus on East End grantees. If you are interested in participating, please call Wini Freund at the Foundation. ▲

together the Plainview Area Caregiver Support Initiative, a collaborative effort that includes the Mid-Island Jewish Community Center, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health Systems at Plainview, and the Manetto Hill Jewish Center. Staff of the initiative identify vulnerable elderly caregivers, arrange individually tailored assistance, and coordinate volunteers from the surrounding community to provide help unobtainable elsewhere.

LICF's grant of \$10,000 enables family caregivers to provide better care for their homebound loved ones while taking better care of themselves.

**PARTNERSHIP FOR AFTER SCHOOL EDUCATION (NASSAU PASE)**  
\$10,000

*"Protecting the Next Generation"*

**P**rograms for children when they're not in school—before and after school, during weekends, evenings, and summers—are a crucial link in the overall chain of caring for our community's children. Nassau County has a wide range of such programs for young people, including 40 school-based programs, 20 in community-based agencies, 49 under contract to the County Department of Social Services, and many additional private facilities. The people who staff these programs felt a need to come

*"a crucial link in the overall chain of caring for our community's children"*

together to discuss common issues and concerns and learn from each others' experiences.

A year ago, with support from LICF and a group of funders, Nassau PASE was launched to foster communication among providers that serve youth in their out-of-school time, with the goal of developing a strong peer network.

In its first year, Nassau PASE built a mailing list, started a newsletter, and presented a series of training workshops and mini-conferences that attracted staff from more than 70 youth-serving organizations in the county.

Their next step is to build partnerships between schools and community-based organizations; identify and, through additional training, develop skills and principles to guide practitioners' work with young people; and introduce throughout the network a national literacy enhancement program called KidzLit.

LICF's renewal grant of \$10,000 is an investment in top-quality care and education for the next generation of Long Islanders.

**ENVIRONMENT**

*Grants from the Henry Phillip Kraft Family Fund support work in four environmental program areas: Environmental Health, Wildlife Protection and Habitat Conservation, Drinking Water Protection, and Brownfields Redevelopment.*

**THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES**  
\$12,000  
*"Acting Locally"*

**F**or many Americans, the threats and policies associated with global warming seem to exist at a level that is far beyond the reach of ordinary citizens. When greenhouse gases are being produced on a global scale, what can individuals and small organizations do?

The 11-year old International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) has a powerful set of answers to this question. A membership organization of over 350 local governments around the world, ICLEI provides technical assistance, information, and guidance to cities and counties to implement local environmental projects that together help solve global environmental problems. Its Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

helps local governments make an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in their locality, set target goals for reducing emissions, and develop and implement plans for reaching these goals. One hundred American cities and counties with more than 32 million people currently participate in the U.S. effort. Worldwide, ICLEI has involved over 400 municipal governments in the campaign.

With LICF's \$12,000 grant, ICLEI has placed a graduate-level intern in Suffolk County to complete a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory and begin public education about the County's commitment to climate protection measures. It's our way of helping Suffolk County to "think globally, act locally."



*Nassau County District Attorney, Denis Dillon and LICF Executive Director Suzy D. Sonenberg confer about the Rising Star Fund, a donor-advised fund for crime prevention through youth, family, and community development.*





## THE SEPTEMBER 11TH FUND: A LONG ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

**T**he horrific events of September 11, 2001, shocked and saddened people around the world. The staff of the Long Island Community Foundation extend our deepest sympathies to all those who lost family or friends.

On September 11th, The New York Community Trust and the United Way of New York City established The September 11th Fund to address the immediate and longer-term needs of the victims, their families and affected communities. Former Ford Foundation President Franklin Thomas was appointed Chairman of the Fund, and Joshua Gotbaum, former Executive Associate Director and Controller of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, was named Executive Director and CEO. Members of the Board include recognized leaders from the public and private sectors, among them representatives drawn from the governing bodies of the two sponsoring institutions.

To date, more than \$425 million has been pledged to The September 11th Fund. The Fund's board and staff are determining how best to distribute this money without duplication, in light of the billions of public

and private dollars that are being allocated in response to the events of September 11th.

In the first four months, emergency grants were made to organizations expert in providing direct services, including grief counseling, legal assistance, and financial counseling. As we go to press, the September 11th Fund has made grants for cash assistance and services to victims totalling \$141 million.

On Long Island, the Community Foundation has been working closely with Long Island's United Way to ensure that the immediate needs of individuals and families are addressed and that nonprofit organizations which responded to local emergency needs are reimbursed for their expenses and can continue operating without financial hardship.

One hundred percent of the funds contributed to the September 11th Fund will be used for grantmaking; donations specifically earmarked for Long Island address needs on Long Island stemming from the events of September 11. Administrative costs for the September 11th Fund are supported by funds raised separately and expressly for this purpose. ▲

## Long Island Community Foundation

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