Recognizing individuals
who are addressing some of America’s
most difficult social problems
The Manhattan Institute's Social Entrepreneurship Awards honor nonprofit leaders who have founded innovative, private organizations to help address some of America's most pressing social problems. The Awards include two prizes. The William E. Simon Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship is presented to the leader of an organization that has been both demonstrably effective and widely influential. An honorarium of $100,000 accompanies the Simon Prize.

The Richard Cornuelle Award for Social Entrepreneurship is given each year to up to five organizations that have demonstrated both effectiveness and the promise of significant impact. A prize of $25,000 is presented to the organization founded or led by the award winner.

The William E. Simon Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship

The Simon Prize recognizes individuals who have founded and led organizations that have been clearly effective in their work and who have emerged as prominent public leaders in their fields. Past winners include Geoffrey Canada, whose Harlem Children's Zone has helped thousands of families break the cycle of intergenerational poverty; Brian Lamb, whose C-SPAN networks have brought the business of the American government into the homes of ordinary citizens; Eunice Kennedy Shriver, whose key role in the Special Olympics helped change how the developmentally disabled are viewed; and Daniel Biederman, founder of the Bryant Park Corporation, 34th Street Partnership, and Grand Cent-

The Manhattan Institute Social Entrepreneurship Awards are supported by funds from the William E. Simon Foundation, the J. M. Kaplan Fund, and Nick Ohnell. Howard Husock, vice president for policy research at the Manhattan Institute, is director of the program.

For both the Cornuelle Award and the Simon Prize, nominations may be submitted by anyone familiar with a person's or group's activities except for a current employee of that person or group. Award applications for 2014 will be available online at www.manhattan-institute.org/se after January 1, 2014, and will be accepted until March 1, 2014. Winners are selected by the Manhattan Institute with the assistance of the following selection committee: Anne Marie Burgoyne, formerly of the Draper Richards Foundation; Howard Husock, Manhattan Institute; Cheryl Keller, foundation consultant; Leslie Lenkowsky, Indiana University; Adam Meyerson, The Philanthropy Roundtable; Lawrence Mone, Manhattan Institute; James Piereson, William E. Simon Foundation/Manhattan Institute; and William Schambra, Bradley Center for Philanthropy and Civic Renewal at the Hudson Institute.
but acceptance of some government funding does not, in itself, preclude consideration. The Cornuelle Award recognizes the creative energy of the nonprofit sector by highlighting new ideas and approaches even in mature organizations.

Any nonprofit organization that provides a direct service to address a public problem can be nominated for this award. Examples of such organizations include:

• Private social-services groups that assist the poor and disadvantaged with services designed to improve their prospects for success and upward mobility in American society;
• Reformative organizations that help people cope with moral or psychological problems, such as drug addiction and criminal behavior;
• Education groups that improve children’s educational achievement and possibilities through mentoring, counseling, or other after-school programs;
• Community groups that improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods; and
• Conservancies that use private donations from corporations or individuals to purchase land and preserve it from development.

As many as 10 organizations may qualify for site visits, the impressions and information from which will augment that provided by written nominations. Nonprofit organizations that engage in political advocacy or that bring legal actions, or whose primary activities are in response to government grants are not eligible for this award. Individual schools are not considered for the award, but novel approaches to education may be considered.

A complete list of award winners, 2001-13, can be found at http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/se_winners.htm.
The Man Who Named the ‘Independent Sector’: the Legacy of Richard Cornuelle
By William Schambra  May 5, 2011

With the death of Richard Cornuelle last week at the age of 84, America’s “independent sector” has lost one of its most faithful and vigorous champions.

Indeed, one of his claims to fame was the very invention of the term “independent sector,” deployed in his landmark 1965 volume Reclaiming the American Dream as a way to describe, in the words of the book’s subtitle, “the role of private individuals and voluntary associations” in our national life.

Richard Cornuelle was a life-long libertarian, convinced that “man’s power over man should be strictly limited and that any design for social improvement that depended on government for its execution was ill-advised.”

He developed this political outlook in his studies with one of its pioneers, Ludwig von Mises, then teaching at the Graduate School of Business at New York University. It was the only job, Mr. Cornuelle noted, that even a libertarian economic genius like Mr. von Mises could find in the late 1940s, when big-government devotees utterly dominated the American academy.

Mr. Cornuelle became a program officer at one of the early foundations on the right, the William Volker Fund, where he mined economics journals for telltale indications of libertarian tendencies. Once he discovered these scholars—typically scattered and disconnected loners at lower-tier colleges—the foundation would offer them what modest financial support it could afford.

In a time when lurid headlines tell stories of behemoth conservative foundations buying and selling public policy at will, it is hard indeed to imagine these hard-scrabble origins. As Mr. Cornuelle put it, free-market advocates could fit in a phone booth, possessed by the “haunting, subliminal suspicion that we were fighting not just a losing battle but a war already lost.”

In a sentiment familiar to any foundation program officer, Mr. Cornuelle soon cast covetous glances at the Volker grants going not to his projects but rather to the small, local humanitarian groups that William Volker, who created the foundation, said his philanthropy should also support. Instead of converting those grants to his cause, however, they soon converted Mr. Cornuelle to theirs—the notion that human suffering was best reduced by local voluntary efforts. Mr. Cornuelle’s abstract intellectual inclinations could not efface his origins as the son of a Midwestern Presbyterian minister, called to a life of purpose and service.

Libertarianism may have offered a philosophically devastating analysis of the failures of government social programs and the superiority of free markets, in his view. But it failed to speak to our irrepressible humanitarian impulses, for which government programs, however faulty, seemed to be the only politically plausible expression.

In Reclaiming the American Dream, Mr. Cornuelle outlined a way to deal with urgent social needs in a manner both humane and free. Drawing on Alexis de Tocqueville (by no means as commonly cited then as today), he noted that “as a frontier people, accustomed to interdependence, we developed a genius for solving common problems. People joined together in bewildering combinations to found schools, churches, opera houses, co-ops, hospitals, to build bridges and canals, to help the poor.”

Mr. Cornuelle maintained that we had all but forgotten this vast array of voluntary civic associations—an “important third force” which he termed “the independent sector”—in our growing reliance on government-financed, centrally administered, professionally delivered social services.

But he insisted that the human “desire to serve” was just as primal and powerful as the yearning for political power or material gain, and once unleashed, it could re-energize our voluntary associations and address our problems without oppressive bureaucracies.

Even 50 years ago, Mr. Cornuelle understood that America’s nonprofits had all too readily become servile adjuncts of govern-
ment. But he looked to the “revival of a lively competition” between government and nonprofits, even though that very idea “is by a weird public myth, thought to be illegitimate, disruptive, divisive, unproductive, and perhaps immoral.”

To drive home the point, he obtained financing from several foundations to start private programs that worked to provide housing, urban renewal, employment, and especially low-income college loans that proved to be at once more effective and less expensive than their government counterparts.

“The notion that a conservative is indifferent to human problems is part of a myth—the same myth that says that the government is the only instrument that can solve social problems,” Mr. Cornuelle insisted in a Life magazine article on his efforts in June 1968.

It is entirely forgotten today, but well before other conservative presidents in the 1980s extolled the virtues of “private-sector initiatives” or “a thousand points of light,” Richard Nixon eagerly embraced Mr. Cornuelle’s voluntarist notions.

In his 1969 inaugural address, President Nixon insisted that “to match the magnitude of our tasks, we need the energies of our people—enlisted not only in grand enterprises but more importantly in those small, splendid efforts that make headlines in the neighborhood newspaper instead of the national journal.”

President Nixon started both a Cabinet committee and a White House office on voluntary action to cultivate this approach.

The rapid and quiet demise of President Nixon’s volunteerism program, as well as similar experiences with civil-society efforts in subsequent administrations, taught Mr. Cornuelle that the “independent sector”—in his understanding, nonpolitical or even counterpolitical—was not likely to be revived by any political figure.

But in his later years, with the collapse of Soviet totalitarianism abroad and the decline of centralized, command-and-control corporate organization at home, Mr. Cornuelle came to the optimistic view that completely without elite guidance, everyday citizens were beginning to reorganize themselves into small, self-governing communities.

No longer satisfied with the roles of passive voter and taxpayer or pliant corporate employee, they wanted to have a larger and more immediate say in their own lives through their own, freely organized, self-administered associations.

Mr. Cornuelle suggested that libertarian thinkers—who had so accurately described the theoretical superiority of free markets to government management but who had so little to say about solving social problems—now needed to turn their minds to this new phenomenon.

So he organized financial support for efforts by Lenore Ealy at the journal Conversations on Philanthropy, as well as scholars associated with George Mason University and the New York City think tank the Manhattan Institute, to document, celebrate, and provide a secure theoretical footing for these new civic examples of what libertarians call “spontaneous order.”

Leaders of today’s nonprofit organizations will look at Richard Cornuelle’s call for competition, rather than collaboration, with government agencies as hopelessly naïve, given their massive reliance on government money.

Yet with governments at all levels today resolved to balance their budgets on the backs of nonprofits, it is no longer so evident that “public-private partnership” is the path recommended by realism.

At any rate, it is a continuing source of sadness for any champion of civil society to see its once-proud and self-sustaining institutions engaged in such vigorous denial of their own capacity to meet society’s problems were they forced to rely on voluntary contributions rather than mandatory taxation.

But Mr. Cornuelle’s life and message should be even more compelling and perhaps troubling for his conservative colleagues today, who seem to devote their political energies almost exclusively to engineering a decline in government spending.

Mr. Cornuelle maintained that it is not enough to show that government programs are too expensive or ineffective. Champions of a free society must also demonstrate, both in thought and in practice, that it too can provide ways to satisfy the human impulse to serve others and to alleviate their suffering.

Conservative donors today seem to be more focused on securing electoral victory for their ideas than on nurturing their concrete expression in the resuscitation of local civic associations.

Richard Cornuelle’s life and work remind us that for friends of liberty, no momentary political triumph is an adequate substitute for the painstaking, immediate, hands-on work of reconstituting, in thought and deed, the sector to which he affixed the proud adjective “independent.”

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### 2013 William E. Simon Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

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<td>Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C.</td>
<td>Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE)</td>
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### 2013 Richard Cornuelle Award for Social Entrepreneurship Winners

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### Past Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

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### Past Social Entrepreneurship Award Winners

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Almost 2,000 Catholic schools have been forced to close their doors since 2000. In this bleak context, Father Timothy Scully has led what might be considered a counteroffensive, aimed at giving Catholic schools in some of the nation’s poorest neighborhoods and regions the teachers they need—and developing new institutions to revivify the system broadly.

Inspiration for the ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education) program came through happenstance—and midlife crisis. Father Scully was a new priest in 1979 and happily serving in Chile, where he not only built a church and taught religion but also got into trouble with the government for speaking out for human rights. After five years, he left Chile to pursue a Ph.D. in political science at Berkeley; he wrote a book on Chile and became a comparative politics professor at Notre Dame. He went on to write six more books, receive tenure, and become the school’s academic vice president.

But the year he was awarded tenure (1993), he sank into a spiritual funk, wondering if a faculty member’s life of teaching and publication was really what he was called to do. His spiritual adviser, Sister Lourdes Sheehan, challenged him to think about doing something else—specifically, something about the crisis of Catholic schools. She was originally from the South and knew firsthand how difficult it was for Catholic schools there to recruit teachers—and how significant the challenge was to improve minority education. Father Scully recalls asking her, “If I find some teachers, where will they teach?” Sister Sheehan replied, “Leave that to me.”

Some 40 students responded to an ad Father Scully placed in a Notre Dame student newspaper: “Tired of Doing Homework? Why Not Give Some?” Thanks to the personal ties of Sister Sheehan, the students were placed in eight diocesan schools in five Southern states.

Twenty years later, ACE is linked to a network of 110 schools in 26 Catholic dioceses—from Atlanta to Mobile, Pensacola to Brownsville, Phoenix to South Central Los Angeles. In sharp contrast to the staffing shortfalls with which Catholic schools have struggled, the ACE teachers program is selective, attracting some 400 applications from new college graduates for just 90 openings, in the process serving the disadvantaged and fulfilling training requirements for a master’s degree in education awarded by Notre Dame, at no cost to the student. Some 1,500 teachers have volunteered for the program since its inception; in the 2012–13 academic year, there were 173 from 37 colleges.

Demand is high, notwithstanding the demands placed on those accepted.
The program requires a two-year commitment, a willingness to accept a particular school assignment, and a promise to live “in community” with selected fellow ACErs in accordance with Catholic principles. They don’t begin to teach until they’ve completed a summer of academic preparation tailored to the teacher’s assignment: elementary, middle, or high school, with specific classes in science, math, and language arts. Such oversight and preparation is ongoing: second-year teachers help train the first-year teachers, and each ACE teacher can turn to a senior adviser for help, especially with the challenges of the first year in the classroom. Academic staff from ACE visit each teacher twice a year and plan conference calls and online evaluation forms with each teacher and principal. The process is designed to train and equip teachers for a very difficult job.

ACE teachers are volunteers but are paid a small stipend and can go on to complete, without charge, education courses at Notre Dame over two summers and then receive an M.Ed. and an Indiana state teacher certification (transferable for teaching privileges in more than 40 states). Since the program’s inception, a portion of the stipend and graduate program tuition is covered by the Corporation for National Service (a recognition of the fact that they are teaching English, math, and science, not religion) which approved this use of its “Americorps” funds so long as the ACE teachers provided enough service hours per week that any time teaching religious subjects could be exempt from the stipend. (The issue was tested in court.)

A significant number of ACE teacher program graduates have gone on to important education careers. Jen Beltrano is the assistant superintendent of all Archdiocese of Los Angeles schools—215 elementary and 50 high schools—with 10,000 students. Her mission remains to “break the cycle of poverty.” Scott Morgan has become in-house counsel for the nation’s largest network of charter schools, the California-based ASPIRE group, where he continues, he says, to be inspired both by the values and methods of ACE. “I learned how much talent is needed not just at the classroom and principal level but at the CFO, COO leadership level.”

The challenges of its students notwithstanding, ACE boasts an annual retention rate of 93 percent—an impressive figure, given that the teachers do not select their school and are told only that their assigned school will stretch them out of their comfort zone. None of them has had any teaching experience before joining the program. Since 1993, 75 percent of ACE teachers remain “actively involved in education,” with more than half still serving as classroom teachers, 15 percent serving in school administration, and others in research or nonprofit work in support of Catholic schools.

“It is one of the greatest inspirations of my life to witness the diversity of ways that ACE graduates are becoming leaders in all fields, and all around the world, truly making a difference in the world,” says Father Scully.

As a result, the programmatic fruit of Father Scully’s midlife crisis will be a powerful force in the lives of children for decades to come.
The water from the storm converged on the Christian Missionary Light Baptist Church in Long Beach, Long Island, from two directions—the open Atlantic to the south of the thin barrier island and the boiling bay to the north. Quickly, the chapel of the historic, African-American church was inundated with salt water. It was not at all clear, recalls the Rev. Isaac Milton, whether his congregation could repair the structure. Within a week of the storm, however, the minister was approached by someone asking if a corps of volunteers could sleep on the still-dry second floor of the church and use its small kitchen to cook.

A month after the storm, no fewer than 150 volunteers used the church as a base camp for helping clear debris from the surrounding neighborhood and beginning to assist homeowners. Not until June 2013—eight months after the storm—did volunteers from the group known as All Hands Volunteers (AHV) finally leave the church. And they didn’t leave until after they had installed new dry wall and painstakingly removed mold, a scourge of areas victimized by flooding. The church had begun regular services once again.

To an outside observer, it may not seem as if Superstorm Sandy had much, if anything, to do with the deadly Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, which claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. David Campbell, who would go on to found AHV, was then just a successful middle-aged business executive. He was surprised to learn that Internet service had continued to work even as the disaster unfolded. He wondered whether the web could be used to organize volunteers to help in the tasks of disaster relief. Campbell not only asked the question—he sought to answer it himself by packing up and traveling to Thailand.

His question, and subsequent trip, turned out to be a life-changing moment for Campbell. Like many other volunteers who showed up in the wake of the 2004 tsunami, Campbell was turned away by established charities. Yet he met people there who, like himself, just wanted to help. So a group of them started doing basic chores such as clearing debris, building simple shelters, and trying to restore some sense of normalcy to the area. He ended up enlisting more than 200 volunteers and raising over $100,000 in what became Hands on Thailand. He came to a key realization: there were a great many people who were inspired to do more than send money. And there were clean-up and repair tasks which major disaster relief organizations were not getting to—or didn’t consider part of their job. He found that the lesson applied, moreover, not just in.
developing countries but in the U.S., as well. When Hurricane Katrina hit in 2006, Campbell flew to Mississippi and very quickly enlisted a group that grew to 1,500 people doing basic cleanup and rebuilding tasks.

In the years since, Campbell’s volunteers have mounted disaster relief in Haiti (2010), Oklahoma (2013), and metropolitan New York City, where Superstorm Sandy brought tsunami-like damage. All Hands Volunteers has become a formal, ongoing organization fueled by private donors (at first, Campbell’s own circle of friends) and providing a means to channel the energy and idealism of spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers (a.k.a.: “SUVs”). It turns out that there are lots of such people. In 2012 alone—in response in no small part to Sandy—some 4,300 adults volunteered for All Hands in exchange for nothing more than room and board. Over the course of nine months on Long Island and Staten Island, All Hands Volunteers not only cleaned up what Campbell calls the “muck and gut” of the storm’s aftermath but stuck around to perform the otherwise expensive and time-consuming task of eradicating mold for lower-income homeowners. All of this was done on a total annual budget (for 2012) of just $660,000—a pittance in the world of disaster relief.

AHV limits its efforts to locations (domestic and international) where, as Campbell puts it, “the size of the disaster overwhelms the community’s ability to respond.” AHV will take on almost anything that can be alleviated by immediate physical labor and that no one else is doing. Homes damaged by seawater need not just a good cleaning but costly mold remediation that entails removing all flooring and affected walls, spraying of fungicide, and a time-consuming drying-out process before rebuilding. After consulting with scientists, AHV brought in commercial dehumidifiers and heaters to dry out each house over a 72-hour period. The resulting process has since been adopted by FEMA.

Campbell continues to think big, considering such ideas as working directly with governments around the world on “disaster mitigation”—such as tree planting in areas vulnerable to flooding—that willing volunteers might take on. But AHV will continue as a rapid response force, assembling instant armies to assist overmatched communities hit by natural disasters. Even while still on the scene on Long Island, AHV mobilized to send volunteers to help out in the wake of the deadly May 2013 tornado in Oklahoma City.

Campbell himself will take a more strategic and less operational role. Like the best entrepreneurs in any sector, he’s passing the torch to a successor—based on his own insight that “good leaders are good leavers.” Among the things Dave Campbell leaves behind is a church in Long Beach, New York, that’s in much better shape than when he found it.
It was ten o’clock on a Saturday night when Monique Jaramillo, then a tenth-grader at Abraham Lincoln High School in southwest Denver, made an unusual call. Could her “teacher-mentor” meet her at a local coffee shop to help her study for her chemistry exam? She needed the help and she desperately needed to study someplace other than home, where a raucous party was going on, led by family members involved in dealing drugs.

If the call was unusual by most standards, it was not for the program known as Colorado Uplift. “Uplift,” as both its staff and the students it helps call it, not only looks to its staff of “teacher-mentors” to be a regular part of the school day at the 28 Denver schools in which it works, but expects them to be on call 24/7. The program calls for its staff to be a deep and regular presence in the lives of its students, the vast majority of whom are low-income Latinos. It has established relationships with more than 30,000 Denver public school students over the life of the organization.

Uplift is the product of the vision of one man. Kent Hutcheson returned to his native Denver in 1981 after nearly a decade overseas with Campus Crusade for Christ, International, where he worked mainly in the Philippines, helping to establish a program to bring medicine to the squatter camps which had sprung up around Manila’s famous garbage
dumps. Upon his return to Denver, he observed, among that city’s poor African-American neighborhoods, conditions he feared might lead to Third World-style disorder—and set out on the course that would lead to Colorado Uplift.

At first, Uplift would be a job training and placement program, focused on preparing young adults for the social norms of a workplace and placing them in the firms of the organization’s financial backers. A chance encounter with a high school principal convinced Hutcheson that “starting earlier” was the key—and, over time, that would mean working directly in the lowest-performing Denver public schools.

The program would center on for-credit elective classes focused on character development, toward which guidance counselors would steer students known for fighting, absenteeism, and troubled family backgrounds. Classes would come to be complemented by “adventure” outings, a summer day camp and, crucially, ongoing relationships with teacher-mentors—the same people students know as their class teachers—outside of school.

As Monique Jaramillo—now an Uplift teacher-mentor herself—puts it, “You need someone who cares when you’re successful.” The high school students themselves are called upon to mentor Uplift’s elementary school students.

The adult teacher-mentors are part of a full-time staff of 34. Many stay in touch with their students even after graduation; most live in the same neighborhoods as the kids they’re helping and routinely see student show up on their doorsteps at odd hours. The teacher-mentors see their role as both offering counsel during crises and modeling, as one staff member put it to me, “what a good family is like; how a husband speaks with his wife; what it’s like to have a conversation at the family dinner table.”

A quarter of all Uplift staff were once Uplift kids themselves.

Of those students who remain in the program three years or more, some 90 percent graduate high school. The overall, system-wide graduation rate is just 58 percent. Uplift reports, as well, that 86 percent of the same “three years or more” group go on to post-secondary education—whether four-year or two-year-college, trade schools, or vocational programs.

Although Uplift is in the public schools, it accepts no government funding. “You simply can’t count on it continuing to be there, and there are always strings attached,” says Hutcheson. Intent on pursuing its own approach, Uplift will not even accept United Way funds. It can afford to do this because of a deep and varied base of donors in the Denver business and foundation communities. A recent fundraising drive aimed to deepen the group’s involvement in middle schools—and help provide the resources for it to advise those in other cities looking to establish or expand Uplift-style programs. There are currently four such programs, in Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR) and New York (a fledgling program of 200 in the Bronx). In all cases, notes Kent Hutcheson, Uplift is responding to the enthusiasm of “local champions”; it does not itself seek to own and operate programs elsewhere but, rather, to inspire others—as well it should.
Gospel for Teens began when founder Vy Higginsen’s daughter Noel was admitted to New York’s well-known Professional Performing Arts High School. Higginsen expected Noel would be exposed to the full range of musical styles and history. She was disappointed to learn that some of the core African-American contributions to American music were not well-represented. In particular, this daughter of a Pentecostal minister was disappointed that students were not being introduced to black gospel music, itself an inspiring art form which in many ways lies at the heart of much contemporary American popular music.

Higginsen’s inspiration, however, was artistic, not religious. Her goal was to foster an appreciation and continuation of gospel music as an art form not connected to any one specific religious denomination. A longtime Harlem radio host, musical theater producer, and Ebony magazine advertising sales executive, Vigginsen put her entrepreneurial skills to use by starting the program that has become Gospel for Teens.

In the years since its establishment in 2005, Gospel for Teens has not only created a structure for passing on the gospel music tradition, it has become a haven and engine of uplift for African-American adolescents throughout the New York area. On Saturday mornings during the school year, teenagers (many with their parents) from the Bronx,
Brooklyn, New Jersey, and even eastern Pennsylvania, come to the small brownstone on the block where Higginsen’s family has lived for 100 years. They come first to audition for a freshman beginners’ choir. This past year there were 145 applicants for 72 spots. Veterans of the program continue in the Advanced and Performing choirs. A two-part feature about the organization on 60 Minutes led to national acclaim (the segments themselves won an Emmy award for CBS) and interest from cities around the country.

Gospel for Teens has become a way for teenagers, including some from troubled families, to find both encouragement for their talent and a family-style group of peers and mentors. What’s more, Gospel for Teens requires members to agree to its “terms of engagement,” to which those who get through the audition program (about one in two) must agree, at the risk of expulsion or suspension.

Fourteen-year-old Lorna Courtney, a student at LaGuardia High School, says Gospel for Teens “helps me get through my days. Without it, I don’t know what I would be doing.” She now dreams of Broadway. Setena Turner credits the program with helping her to become an honor student thanks to its offering “a safe haven and a home away from home.”

None of this is to say that there are not a good many participants from strong middle-class families here. Parents attend rehearsals and performances, and, like suburban soccer moms and dads, plan who’ll bring the drinks and snacks next week. These parents appreciate that there’s more than music in all of this. A Columbia University representative meets with students to assist, says Higginsen, “in directing them to appropriate colleges and universities and helping them understand how to finance their education.”

Still, the music is the key. The quality of the vocal and performance instruction here is of the highest caliber, with rehearsals aiming at teaching choir members such techniques as how to project their voices effectively and present themselves publicly. As a result, Gospel for Teens choirs have toured the U.S. and Europe—earning pocket money and gaining invaluable experience. Some of the best singers get to perform at the famed Sunday gospel brunch offered by Harlem’s Red Rooster restaurant, where community residents and tourists alike line up. Some join another project of the Mama Foundation for the Arts: the gospel-based, off-Broadway musical entitled Mama, I Want to Sing, based on the life of Higginsen’s father, a Pentecostal minister, and her sister Doris Troy, a legendary rhythm-and-blues singer of the 1960s and 1970s. The show has played more than 2,500 performances in New York and another 1,000 performances throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan. Along with concerts and private grant support, Mama, I Want to Sing helps finance Gospel for Teens.

This is not a program where one looks narrowly to measurement of specific results—whether the number of paid performances or the number of college admissions. It has, already, clearly accomplished the goal Vy Higginsen set out to reach—the preservation of gospel music within the black community itself, not just as an aspect of religious worship in a specific church but as an art form that engages and inspires.
When Jennifer, who joined the Army in 2000 at the age of 20, came home from Afghanistan, she quickly realized that she was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She was reluctant so seek the help of the Veterans Administration (VA), which devotes more than $6 billion annually to providing mental health services for veterans, because she feared repercussions were she ever to re-enlist. Once she overcame that reluctance, however, Jennifer was dissatisfied with the therapist to whom she was assigned. Her downward spiral continued into homelessness and drug use, finally bringing her into the legal system. It was through a special drug court that she was finally referred to an organization that would link her to someone who could actually help and would one day offer her a job.

Give an Hour, the organization founded in 2005 by Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, a Washington, D.C.-area clinical psychologist, was built on the idea that mental health professionals would be willing to volunteer their time and services to help veterans like Jennifer if offered a way to do so. At first, Van Dahlen worked outside the system, but Give an Hour, based only on Van Dahlen’s insight and those drawn to it, has gone on to gain the official cooperation of the Department of Defense and to gain special recognition from the White House.

“The idea,” recalls Van Dahlen, “was that we could each do a little” to advance what she movingly describes as a “mission to heal.” It’s a mission she believed could not be served, or served fully, by the VA. Van Dahlen has, with a volunteer “staff” of just 14—mainly military spouses scattered around the country—built a network of more than 6,000 psychiatrists and psychologists. They have collectively provided a staggering 400,000 in volunteer hours.

The size of the need is also staggering: 2.3 million troops have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001, and more than 1 million active-duty troops will be transitioning back to civilian life as these wars wind down over the next five years. Not all veterans struggle with the stress disorders which tend to garner disproportionate attention. But, for some, the problem is real. The VA estimates a PTSD rate of 20 percent among veterans returning from combat duty. In addition, 20 percent of troops have suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Nearly 550,000 of these troops have been deployed more than once. Yet returning veterans are not routinely seeking mental health treatment for combat-related stress. A RAND study reports that only 53 percent of service members with PTSD or depression sought help over the past year.
Many veterans avoid going to the VA because they fear being stigmatized. With an unemployment rate for veterans (12 percent) which exceeds that of the general population, veterans may well be focused on finding or keeping a job and have little time to join the formal VA system. But, even for those who would seek the VA’s services, often the wait for care through a VA hospital is just too long. And it could be that it is not the veterans themselves but those close to them who need help. Family members typically do not qualify for government help. Give an Hour not only guarantees confidentiality but will provide help to both veterans and their families. The overall goal goes beyond providing counseling for an individual to building a healthy support system for returning troops to lower the risk of prolonged dysfunction within military families.

The VA, says Brenna, is “overwhelmed and can’t meet the immense need” among vets. She adds, though, that the Give an Hour model may have implications beyond the veterans population—that, once medical confidentiality issues are worked out, Give an Hour will be in the forefront of “tele-mental-health,” utilizing providers to counsel people via Skype all over the world. This will complement the “beautiful simplicity” of the Give an Hour model and get more help to those who need it.

Van Dahlen believes the stakes in the relationships being forged are high and she has focused Give an Hour specifically on preventing suicide among veterans struggling with depression and PTSD. She puts it this way: “We need to be able to recognize when someone is struggling or in emotional pain, and we need to know what to do to ensure their safety. I am absolutely positive that we can save many. And that opportunity is worth fighting for.”

Van Dahlen, and the volunteers who choose to “give an hour,” are doing just that. To reach veterans, Give an Hour uses its very modest budget ($1.6 million) to work “outside” and “inside” the military for maximum visibility. It studiously avoids being associated with any views about the wisdom of Iraq and Afghanistan wars themselves. The organization’s admiration for and support of veterans and their families has earned the group many fans within the Department of Defense. With institutional buy-in, Van Dahlen has built many avenues to reach vets in need.

Barbara Van Dahlen, in the tradition of Clara Barton and so many Americans who have come up with their own approaches to addressing our common problems, has something distinct to give.
C-SPAN is a private, nonprofit organization created in 1979 by the cable television industry as a public service to broadcast many proceedings of the federal government, as well as other public affairs programming. Over three decades the network has grown to include C-SPAN2, covering the Senate, C-SPAN3, devoted to history, C-SPAN Radio, and C-SPAN.org. It was built by Brian Lamb on an original vision that successfully marshals private support for its public-spirited goals.

Geoffrey Canada’s Harlem Children’s Zone (HCZ) began as a modest pilot project on a single block. It now serves over 8,000 children and 6,000 adults on nearly 100 blocks. HCZ surrounds neighborhood children with an enriching environment of college-oriented peers and supportive adults as a counterweight to “the street.” Students at HCZ’s nationally known Promise Academy charter schools have consistently outperformed their public school peers. HCZ’s success is driven by Canada’s deep belief that all children can succeed, regardless of race, wealth, or zip code.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History’s purpose is to support the love and study of American history. Originally founded by Dick Gilder and Lew Lehrman as a repository for rare and invaluable historical documents—including original copies of the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation, and numerous letters written by the Founding Fathers—the Institute has expanded dramatically. The Gilder Lehrman Institute now dispatches travelling expositions to schools, libraries, historical sites, and other venues across the country.

KIPP, the Knowledge Is Power Program, is a national network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public schools with a track record of preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and in life. Founded by Mike Feinberg and David Levin, the KIPP network now boasts ninety-nine schools in twenty states and the District of Columbia serving more than 26,000 students.
In twenty years, George McDonald’s Doe Fund has graduated more than 3,500 of the hardest-to-help from the streets to work, changing the face of New York City in the process. The Doe Fund’s guiding premise is that the homeless are neither victims nor enemies but human beings with “the potential to be contributing members of society.” The Fund’s Ready, Willing & Able program is the manifestation of McDonald’s straightforward philosophy, shared by the Manhattan Institute: that people can rebuild their lives through the structure and sense of accomplishment that employment provides.

The work of Daniel Biederman, founder of the Bryant Park Corporation, 4th Street Partnership, and Grand Central Partnership, is known to virtually all New Yorkers. Mr. Biederman has used private, nonprofit management and finance to restore and maintain some of New York City’s—and the world’s—greatest public spaces. The rescue of Bryant Park from crime and degradation sparked and symbolized the renaissance of New York.
BUILD
Suzanne McKechnie Klahr
www.BUILD.org
2385 Bay Road
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 688-5840

BUILD uses the teaching of entrepreneurship, the development of business plans, and the operation of actual small businesses to encourage adolescents to stay in school. Serving disadvantaged youth has been at the heart of BUILD's efforts since the organization was founded by attorney Suzanne McKechnie Klahr in 1999. On average, 80 percent of those enrolled in the BUILD ninth-grade class continue on to the tenth grade. Of those who do stay in the program for a full four years—a period that includes academic help and college application assistance in the junior and senior years provided by volunteer mentors from prominent businesses such as Google and Cisco—virtually all go on to postsecondary education or training programs.

THE HARRY AND JEANETTE WEINBERG CENTER FOR ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION
Daniel Reingold
http://www.hebrewhome.org/abuserecovery.asp
5901 Palisade Avenue
Riverdale, New York 10471
(718) 581-1000

The Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale provides emergency shelter for victims of elder abuse and to enhance public awareness and knowledge about elder abuse. It is the nation's first comprehensive regional elder abuse shelter. A unique model based within an existing long-term care facility, the Weinberg Center takes in a population group with special and significant problems into one of the nation's premier nursing homes. These are people who often require assistance in arranging for payment should they become residents and who, demographically, are likely to differ from the elderly Jewish population that the Hebrew Home was established to serve.

GETTING OUT AND STAYING OUT
Mark Goldsmith
www.gosonyc.org
91 East 116th St.
New York, NY 10029
(212) 831-5020

Getting Out and Staying Out has established itself as one of the most effective reentry programs in the New York City area for 16 to 24 year-old men at Rikers Island. Fewer than 20 percent of GOSO participants return to jail, as compared to a national average of 67 percent for their age group. Over the last eight years GOSO has proved that early intervention within the prison system, as well as supportive counseling, education, and job readiness training once participants have been released into the community works to reduce recidivism.

IDIGNITY
Michael Dippy
www.idignity.org
424 E. Central Blvd. #199
Orlando, FL 32801
(407) 792-1374

IDignity was created to assist the disadvantaged in Central Florida to navigate the complexities of obtaining their personal identification, such as birth certificates, Florida ID cards, and Social Security cards. Since its founding in 2008, IDignity has served more than 8,000 people, hosting monthly events that pull together volunteers from Orlando churches, as well as representatives from various government agencies such as the Orange County Department of Health, the DMV, Social Security, and legal assistance. IDignity has developed an efficient, cost-effective, and highly successful model for providing a crucial hand to those living on the margins of society.
Based out of Houston, the WorkFaith Connection (WFC) seeks to help those transitioning out of homelessness, prison, or addiction. WFC accepts referrals of clients from 25 other relief organizations, from churches, homeless shelters, and the courts. The goal being to provide the skills, knowledge, relationships, and experience required for building a new life. The program’s successes are clear—54 percent of all graduates have kept their jobs for a year, and earn, on average, $9 per hour. While WFC’s immediate goal for clients is to find and keep an entry-level job for a year, they support the clients further with career-planning, work training, or school opportunities.

ISUS (Improved Solutions for Urban Systems) has built a top-performing school emphasizing career and vocational preparation, focusing on some of the hardest-to-reach students; some 70 percent of ISUS students have previously dropped out of high school, and the majority have been involved with juvenile court. The charter school provides a combination of academic and field-oriented vocational training with a focus on helping students obtain a high school diploma, not just a GED. Through partnerships with local businesses, students are certified in four areas: construction, health care, computer technology, and manufacturing.

MedWish began when Lee Ponsky, then a college student, participated in a faith-based medical-missionary group that led him to the Baptist Missionary Hospital on Ogbomoso, Nigeria. Seeing the staff trying to adapt to a lack of equipment, he recalled the waste of medical supplies he saw as a surgical assistant. He decided to approach nurses whom he knew from his days as a volunteer; they agreed to put out collection bins for surplus equipment. By 2006, the organization hired its first full-time employee—executive director Tish Dahlby. Since then, contributions have increased from 20,000 pounds to 800,000; staff has increased from one full-time member to eight; and relationships with 38 hospitals have been formalized.
The Cristo Rey Network provides a quality, Catholic, college preparatory education to young people who live in urban communities with limited educational options. Every student works five full days a month to fund the majority of his or her education, gain job experience, grow in self-confidence, and realize the relevance of his or her education.

The Mission Continues was founded in 2007 after CEO Eric Greitens returned home from service in Iraq as a Navy SEAL. Upon his return, Eric visited with wounded Marines at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. Inspired, Greitens founded The Mission Continues to build an America where every returning veteran can serve again as a citizen leader, and where together we honor the fallen by living their values through service.

Resources for Educational and Employment Opportunities is committed to empowering community college students with the opportunity to transfer to a four-year university, to earn a college degree, and to obtain a professional position upon graduation. REEO’s partnership model is aimed at creating mutually beneficial relationships between community colleges, community college students, universities, and corporations.

Civic Builders is a nonprofit facilities developer that provides turnkey real estate solutions for high-performing charter schools. By assuming responsibility for building financing, acquisition, design, and construction, Civic Builders relieves charter schools of the burden of navigating a complex real estate market and provides affordable educational facilities.

The SquashBusters/NUSEA mission is to promote squash and education among urban youth. The organization’s ultimate aim is to oversee the creation and longevity of many urban squash programs so that thousands of young people across America benefit every day from athletic, educational, and community enrichment activities. NUSEA acts as a catalyst, organizer, and overseer of urban squash’s improvement and growth.
ROCKING THE BOAT
Adam Green
812 Edgewater Road
Bronx NY 10474
(718) 466-5799
www.rockingtheboat.org

Rocking the Boat uses boats to help young people challenged by severe economic, educational, and social disadvantage develop into empowered and responsible adults. Participating during the school-day, after-school, and summer in hands-on wooden boatbuilding and on-water education programs, young people in the South Bronx develop the self-confidence to set ambitious goals and the skills needed to achieve them. Adam Green launched Rocking the Boat in 1996 as a volunteer project in an East Harlem junior high school. It has since developed into a fully sustainable independent non-profit organization annually serving over 2,500 young people and community members.

NATIONAL KIDNEY REGISTRY
Garet Hil, Founder
P.O. Box 460
Babylon, NY 11702
www.kidneyregistry.org

The mission of the National Kidney Registry is to save and improve the lives of people facing kidney failure by increasing the quality, speed, and number of living donor transplants in the world. The Registry’s vision is that every incompatible or poorly compatible living donor in the world will pass through a common registry—95 percent of these pairs will find a match in less than six months with the majority being age-compatible, six-antigen matches—extending the functioning life of these transplanted kidneys while simultaneously reducing the deceased donor waiting lists.

CINCINNATI WORKS
Dave and Liane Phillips
708 Walnut Street
Floor 2
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 744-9675
www.cincinnatiworks.org

Cincinnati Works offers a holistic approach to eliminating poverty in the Cincinnati Tri-State area through a network of services and partnerships designed to help its members overcome the barriers to stable, long-term employment. Its members include the currently unemployed, and those who are underemployed (i.e. the working poor). The short-term goal for the unemployed is to help them stabilize in a job that pays $7.00 to $10.00 per hour with health benefits. The long-term goal for the underemployed is for them to earn 200 percent of the federal poverty rate and move to economic self-sufficiency. Economically self-sufficient people become taxpayers and productive citizens who no longer require public assistance.

UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION
PATH TO AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP AND ASSIMILATION
Juan Rangel, CEO
954 West Washington Boulevard, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 432-6301
www.uno-online.org

For two decades, the United Neighborhood Organization (UNO) has been challenging Hispanics to play active roles in the development of a vital American community. UNO has carried this mission into an array of major campaigns and initiatives, ranging from Chicago’s school reform movement in the 1980’s, to our naturalization drive—which has serviced over 65,000 new American citizens since the 1990’s—to the establishment of the UNO Charter School Network in 2004.
Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP) is a curriculum enrichment program linking public high school culinary teachers and their students to the foodservice industry and preparing students for careers in hospitality. New York City is the headquarters and flagship program. The C-CAP National Network includes Arizona (statewide); Chicago; Hampton Roads, Virginia; Los Angeles; Philadelphia; and Prince George’s County, MD.

Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS) is the only organization in New York State specifically designed to serve girls and young women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. GEMS was founded in 1999 by Rachel Lloyd, a young woman who had been sexually exploited as a teenager. GEMS has helped hundreds of young women and girls, ages 12-21, who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking to exit the commercial sex industry and to develop to their full potential.

Beacon Hill Village is a membership organization in the heart of Boston. Created in 2001 by a group of long-time Beacon Hill residents as an alternative to moving into retirement or assisted living communities, Beacon Hill Village organizes and delivers programs and services that allow members to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives in their own homes.

The St. Bernard Project creates housing opportunities so that Hurricane Katrina survivors can return to their homes and communities. Started in March 2006 by Zack Rosenberg and Liz McCartney the organization provides vital resources and support to families in a seamless and timely manner. The St. Bernard Project’s programs and goals are directly driven by the needs expressed by the community members.

The Center for Neighborhood Enterprise was founded in 1981 to help residents of low-income neighborhoods address the problems of their communities. CNE has headquarters in Washington, D.C., but operates throughout the nation to help community and faith-based organizations with training, technical assistance, and linkages to sources of support. The Center chronicles and interprets their experiences to make recommendations for public policy and works to remove barriers that hamper their efforts to solve societal problems. CNE has provided training to more than 2,600 leaders of grassroots organizations in thirty-nine states.
2007

MORE THAN WHEELS (BONNIE CLAC)
Robert Chambers
www.bonnieclac.org
89 South Street, Suite 401
Boston, MA 02111
robertchambers@bonnieclac.org
(866) 455-2522

More Than Wheels (formerly Bonnie CLAC) helps people get the best deal on a reliable and fuel-efficient car. Since its establishment in 2001, More Than Wheels has helped nearly 1,200 New England residents get the best deal on a new or nearly new car by negotiating with dealers to secure the lowest price and providing the lowest interest rate available.

A HOME WITHIN, INC.
Toni V. Heineman, DMH
www.ahomewithin.org
2555 Van Ness Ave.
Suite 101
San Francisco, CA 94109
Toni.heineman@ucsf.edu
(888) 898-2249

A Home Within seeks to heal the chronic loss experienced by foster children by providing lasting and caring relationships to current and former foster youth. A Home Within chapters around the country improve the lives of foster youth through direct services, professional training, public awareness, and advocacy.

RECLAIM A YOUTH ORGANIZATION
Addie Mix
ReclaiMayouth.org
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Glenwood, IL 60425
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(708) 757-7293

Reclaim A Youth's mission is to empower youth ages twelve through eighteen with basic values, affirm their individual talents, and help to build a healthy sense of self-worth and community. The vision is to improve the quality of life for our future young leaders and ensure a better tomorrow.

PRISON ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM (PEP)
Catherine F. Rohr
www.prisonentrepreneurship.com
P.O. Box 926274
Houston, TX 77292-6274
info@pep.org
(832) 767-0928

Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP) helps ex-offenders reintegrate into their communities. PEP staff, volunteer business executives, and MBA students teach business concepts, etiquette, writing and grammar, interview technique, team dynamics, even how to offer a firm handshake. Within four weeks of release, 97 percent of PEP graduates have found employment.

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
Rabbi Levi and Bassie Shemtov
www.friendshipcircle.org
6892 West Maple Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
friend@friendshipcircle.org
(248) 788-7878

The Friendship Circle provides assistance and support to the families of children with special needs. In addition to helping those in need, the Friendship Circle enriches its vast network of volunteers by enabling them to reap the rewards of selfless giving, and its affiliate, Friendship House, provides support to individuals and families struggling with addiction, isolation, and other crises.
The Taproot Foundation (TF), founded in San Francisco in 2001, delivers support to organizations through a structured volunteer management process. TF provides “service grant” awards of teams of prescreened volunteers with specific roles. Five volunteers work together for about five hours per week for six months on each project. A Taproot volunteer manager directs the team with a detailed blueprint to deliver a specific product.

Founding benefactor and CEO Richard Liebich established Project Lead the Way in 1997. The mission: to create dynamic partnerships with schools to prepare a diverse group of students for success in science, engineering, and engineering technology. Sadly, Liebich passed away in 2012, but his Project Lead the Way lives on.

Project K.I.D. promotes the development of intentional and integrated community-based capabilities for effectively addressing the needs of children and families in disasters. Project K.I.D. was founded in September 2005 in the days immediately after Hurricane Katrina and successfully developed and deployed its PlayCare response model in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana for six months.

The mission of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie Inner-City Neighborhood Art House is to enable children to experience beauty, grow in positive self-expression and self-discipline, and develop into full and productive human beings. The program provides classes in the visual, performing and literary arts to “at risk” children in Erie, PA in a safe, nourishing and caring environment.
2005

MEXICAN INSTITUTE OF GREATER HOUSTON, INC.
Jose-Pablo Fernandez, Founder

Jose-Pablo Fernandez, with the Houston public schools and the Monterrey (Mexico) Institute of Technology, created a program that helped hundreds of recent immigrants, some barely literate in Spanish, become computer-literate. Through school computer rooms and distance learning, graduates get jobs and start their own businesses. The community learning center program draws immigrants into American life, brings them to their children’s schools, and motivates them for higher education.

PHILADELPHIA FUTURES FOR YOUTH
Joan C. Mazzotti
www.philadelphiafutures.org
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Philadelphia, PA 19102
joanmazzotti@philadelphiafutures.org
(215) 790-1666

Philadelphia Futures prepares students from low-income families to enter and succeed in college, providing mentoring, academic enrichment, college guidance, and financial incentives. The goal is to increase the percentage of Philadelphia graduates prepared for higher education and to reduce the institutional barriers to their academic success. Corporate attorney Joan Mazzotti took charge in 1999.

RISE (RESOURCES FOR INDISPENSABLE SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS)
Temp Keller
2601 Mission Street, Suite 902
San Francisco, CA 94110

Temp Keller, a former teacher, founded Resources for Indispensable Schools and Educators (RISE) to connect job-seeking teachers with dynamic principals and to strengthen work environments. The target clientele are experienced teachers with enthusiasm and a valid teaching credential.

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER COMMUNITY RENEWAL
Reverend Mack McCarter
www.sbcrr.us
P.O. Box 4678
Shreveport, LA 71134
mackmccarter@communityrenewal.us
(318) 425-3222

Grady “Mack” McCarter, a minister without a congregation, revived Jane Addams’s early settlement-house movement in the black neighborhoods of Shreveport and neighboring Bossier, building eight “Friendship Houses” in some of the poorest neighborhoods in America. Some 40,000 people have joined Shreveport-Bossier Community Renewal’s (SBCR) “We Care Team,” paying $2 a year and wearing an SBCR button. Block leaders unite these members and help them become friends as well as neighbors.
BRIDGES TO LIFE
John Sage
www.bridgestolife.org
P.O. Box 570895
Houston, TX 77257
john@bridgestolife.org
(713) 463-7200

The Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship (CTE) was founded fifteen years ago in Milwaukee’s East Side neighborhood by ReDonna Rodgers as an effort to revive the tradition of self-reliance and business skills that she was fortunate to learn as a child. Fundamental to the program philosophy is the “CEO of me”: punctuality, self-discipline, business etiquette, perseverance, motivation, leadership, and money management.

CENTER FOR TEACHING ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ReDonna Rodgers
www.ceoofme.biz
2821 N. 4th Street, Suite 305
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rrodgers@ceoofme.biz
(414) 263-1833

READ ALLIANCE
Al Sikes, Chairman
www.readalliance.org
80 Maiden Lane, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10038
aadler@readnyc.org
(646) 867-6100

READ Alliance (the Reading Excellence and Discovery Foundation) was founded in 2000 to help children learn to read. The READ model pairs pool readers in kindergarten, first- and second-grade with academically successful teenagers, to tutor them after school or in an intensive summer program. The program is also designed to provide jobs and encourage teaching careers.

UPWARDLY GLOBAL
Jane Leu, Founder
Nikki Cicerani, Executive Director
www.upwardlyglobal.org
582 Market Street, Suite 1207
San Francisco, CA 94104
janeleu@upwardlyglobal.org
(415) 834-9901

Upwardly Global acculturates immigrants to succeed in America and helps employers understand the skills of the immigrant workforce. Founded in San Francisco, UpGlo opened a second office in New York in 2008, and in 2009, a Chicago office was opened. It serves immigrants of less than five years who have permanent work authorization, a university degree, good English and computer skills but who are unemployed or underemployed because they don’t know how to apply for work in America. UpGlo also enlists corporate partners seeking workplace diversity and immigrants’ job skills.

2004

Bridges to Life believes that understanding the impact of crime will spark remorse in criminals and lessen the chance that they will commit new crimes after being released from prison. Bridges is a fourteen-week project conducted in prison and led by trained volunteers. The curriculum includes victim-impact panels and small-group discussions, typically with five inmates, two victims, and a lay facilitator.
Life in foster care is arduous for children whose parents cannot adequately raise them. A continued concern is the fate of these children as they “age out” of foster care at age eighteen. These teenagers are handed their possessions and sent out into the world with poor academic skills, few life skills, and much psychological damage. Amy Lemley, cofounder of the First Place Fund for Youth in Oakland, created an organization that helps with housing, reading skills, and health care, and prepares these teenagers for self-reliance and independent living.

Living Lands and Waters (LL&W) is a floating recycling center visiting a long list of river towns once a year. The organization has grown from three barges a year (with a fourth for crew quarters and office) to using six or seven barges, visiting nine states in the Midwest and collecting four million pounds of garbage annually from the Mississippi, Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers. LL&W has trained 1,500 teachers in educational workshops on the history and ecology of the rivers.

Mike Tenbusch and Dan Varner founded Think Detroit in 1997. These two University of Michigan law school graduates remembered their own sports teams as children and started a baseball league in a Detroit housing project, appealing to local merchants for funds to renovate the nearby city-owned baseball diamond. By 2003, their nonprofit organization Think Detroit enrolled 4,000 kids in baseball and soccer leagues with 500 volunteers as coaches.

Sara Horowitz founded Working Today in 1995 to address the needs of the growing independent workforce. Working Today seeks to update the nation’s social safety net, developing systems for all working people to access affordable benefits, regardless of their job arrangement. As executive director, Horowitz takes an entrepreneurial approach, pursuing creative, market-based solutions to pressing social problems.

Gerald Chertavian’s Year Up (YU) combines high expectations with marketable job skills, stipends, apprenticeships, college credit, and a behavior management system to place young adults on a path to economic self-sufficiency. YU places participants in information technology help desks and other behind-the-scenes computer-dependent jobs.
In 1996, the Reverend William Barnes, pastor of Saint Luke’s United Methodist Church of Orlando, Florida, felt compelled to help the working men and women in Orlando who had no access to health care. Thinking that some medical professionals in his congregation might be interested in helping, he could not have imagined the network of volunteers that would become Shepherd’s Hope, a consortium of local churches that treats patients free of charge.

Through summer workshops, College Summit motivates and trains students to boost college enrollment in their high schools. College Summit also works with educators to embed postsecondary planning structures and resources into each school. This includes a for-credit College Summit class, teacher training, and application-management tools.

The New Jersey Orators is a volunteer organization founded in 1985 by a small group of New Jersey African-American corporate executives who set out to improve the language skills primarily of African-American youth, from ages seven to eighteen years, in preparation for roles of leadership and employment.
John Dixon, a retired army sergeant, and his wife Catherine knew that the legions of fatherless and undisciplined kids in their Buffalo, NY neighborhood would benefit from a structured military-style program run by former military officers. Sadly, John Dixon passed away, and the Junior Uniformed Mentoring Program (JUMP) is no longer in operation. His legacy is the many lives he touched in Buffalo.

Starting with $85,000 in seed money from the Echoing Green Foundation, Mark Levine established Credit Where Credit Is Due, a nonprofit organization that promotes economic empowerment in upper Manhattan by increasing low-income people’s access to, understanding of, and control over financial services. CWCID runs a bilingual financial education program and in 1997 opened a community development credit union called Neighborhood Trust Federal Credit Union (NTFCU).

Eric Adler and fellow management consultant Rajiv Vinnakota built and manage a boarding school in an impoverished area of southeast Washington, D.C., providing underserved students with a college-prep education. The SEED School opened in 1998, admits all students by lottery, and is the only urban public boarding school in the nation. SEED has a rigorous academic program in a safe and structured environment.

Founded in 1990, Steppingstone develops and implements programs that prepare urban schoolchildren for educational opportunities leading to college. The program began in Boston and Philadelphia and recently expanded to Hartford. Currently, 850 students are enrolled in Boston, 200 in Philadelphia, and thirty in Hartford. Steppingstone “Scholars” participate in a fourteen-month program, from fourth to seventh grade.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Manhattan Institute’s
Social Entrepreneurship Awards

The Manhattan Institute’s Social Entrepreneurship Initiative welcomes nominations for the William E. Simon Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship and the Richard C. Cornuelle Awards for Social Entrepreneurship.

Nominations will be accepted online at www.manhattan-institute.org/se2014 from January 1st until March 1st.

The Social Entrepreneurship Initiative honors non-profit leaders who have found innovative, privately funded solutions for America’s most pressing social problems.

Up to five $25,000 Cornuelle Awards for new program founders and a single $100,000 Simon Prize will be presented.

For information about the Social Entrepreneurship Awards and previous winners, please visit www.manhattan-institute.org/se