



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Photo by Andy Tzanidakis
Current NYFC Scholars

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As the nonprofit partner of the NYC Administration for Children's Services, New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) does so much to promote the safety and well-being of the tens of thousands of children and families served by ACS. NYFC's programs enhance the lives of youth in care, and who are transitioning out of care.

Since I took the helm of New Yorkers For Children's Board of Directors in early 2018 I have been proud of the impact we have made together to improve the lives of young people in our city. As you will see in this report, our programs have exceeded our expectations – more back-to-school care packages for young people; more emergency funding for college students who find themselves in a bind; and more university scholarships for youth transitioning out of care.

Thanks to support from individuals, corporations and foundations, New Yorkers For Children is giving hope to children and families throughout NYC. I am truly grateful that you have opened your heart to our most vulnerable youth, ensuring they will have bright futures of which we can all be proud.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "David Hansell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Hansell" clearly legible.

DAVID A. HANSELL

COMMISSIONER OF THE NYC ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S
SERVICES & BOARD PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect back on 2017 and the work of New Yorkers For Children (NYFC), I am most proud of the nearly 1000 students we have served directly through our signature scholarship programs.

Against all odds, these inspiring young adults persevere in school, working hard towards their goal of graduation. 90 percent of our Nick's Scholars remain enrolled in college and 75 percent have graduated within 10 semesters. These incredible outcomes are not only a testament to the determination of the youth, but also to New Yorkers like yourself, because our work would not be possible without your support.

I am proud to share that in 2017, New Yorkers For Children:

- Awarded over \$178,879 worth in scholarship funds to 25 students through our signature Nick's Scholars Program.
- Distributed 748 Back to School packages worth over \$220,570 to college or vocational-bound youth.
- Provided over \$25,000 through our Emergency Fund to 15 youth facing unforeseen financial crises, without which they would not have been able to remain in school.
- Expanded Nick's Scholars' partnership with New York City colleges from 4 CUNY schools to 16, plus two private colleges, in order to provide more options for our students.

I am also thrilled to share that in 2017, NYFC was selected to bring YV LifeSet – a community-based program for older youth in foster care – to New York City. This innovative program aims to improve outcomes across the board for older youth transitioning out of foster care by providing them with the resources and tools they need to reach their full potential, including daily living skills, financial literacy training, and social supports to help them establish strong adult relationships.

NYFC is building on our past accomplishments, innovating at every turn to improve the lives of children and families, and redoubling our efforts to ensure that our work is filling the gaps in the child welfare system.

Our donors and supporters are the lifeblood of New Yorkers For Children. Please accept my tremendous gratitude for all you do for the children and families of NYC. Your support has made a huge difference in 2017. THANK YOU!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saroya'.

SAROYA FRIEDMAN-GONZALEZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

As the nonprofit partner to the Administration for Children's Services, New Yorkers For Children protects, ensures, and promotes the safety and well-being of NYC's children and families, with an emphasis on youth in foster care.

WE ARE:

- **GRANTMAKERS** who manage the fiscal and data aspects of funding
- **PROGRAM INCUBATORS** who test strategies with promising outcomes
- **DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS** who serve youth in foster care, court-involved youth, and those who have aged out of child welfare
- **PROGRAM MANAGERS** who provide program design support, including fiscal and data management of grants
- **FUNDRAISERS** who engage New Yorkers through multiple philanthropic channels

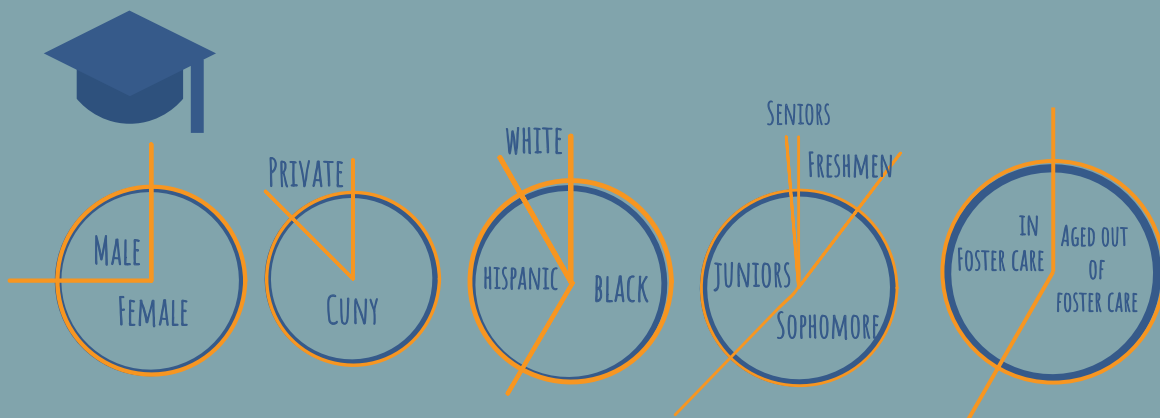
Our work falls into two areas:

- Providing direct services to youth in foster care through our **SIGNATURE PROGRAMS** that help youth transitioning out of foster care live independently, enroll and graduate from college with unprecedented success. Examples include **The Back-To-School Package Program**, **The Nicholas Scoppetta Scholarship Program**, and **The Emergency Educational Fund**.
- Funding **INNOVATIVE PROJECTS**, often in partnership with ACS, that help children, young adults, and their families thrive through compassionate juvenile justice, educational, and career-focused activities for youth in foster care, curricula that support LGBTQ youth, and pilots that test new ways to tackle some of the most pressing issues that children and their families face day-to-day.

OUR SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH

Nick's Scholars in 2017, 18 newly awarded scholarships; 24 Scholars total



In 2017 we expanded to **13**  NYC colleges

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PACKAGE PROGRAM

In 2017 we distributed 748 packages to students attending over 100 unique institutions across the country



27

FOSTER CARE
AGENCIES REPRESENTED



499

were gift card
packages

249

were laptop
packages

EMERGENCY EDUCATIONAL FUND

\$25,415.62 in grants disbursed to 15 students

68% of applications received were awarded

47% of applications were for tuition assistance

33% for housing

20% other

67% of applicants were from CUNY

20% were from private schools

13% from SUNY schools



OUR INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

SPOTLIGHT ON PILOT PROGRAMS

DDAP - Detention Diversion Advocacy Project

New Yorkers For Children provided seed money to fund the Detention Diversion Advocacy Project (DDAP) at Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) in the Bronx. The goal of the program is to keep low-risk juvenile offenders out of overnight detention centers by instead connecting them to a parent coach and peer mentor from the community for support. The proven model connects young people and families with natural supports in their own community to ensure they receive much needed services and resources in the hopes that youth will stay out of the justice system for good.

The pilot is already getting great results! 90% of youth and families involved were accompanied through court by a “credible messenger” (parent coach and peer mentor). Out of 18 youth, only two returned to detention within the first four months. These are incredible statistics for justice-involved youth who are typically very vulnerable to re-arrest. **Based on the success of the pilot, ACS and the Department of Probation have identified additional funding in the city’s budget to scale the program to all five boroughs.** New York City has now achieved historic low numbers of youth in secure detention.

RTA - Raise the Age Grant

A New Yorkers For Children subgrant to the Children’s Defense Fund New York supported efforts for the Raise the Age (RTA) NY Campaign. Specifically, **our support increased participation of the faith-based community in this campaign’s efforts to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18.** New York State was one of the few states that still tried minors as adults for certain crimes. In April 2017, the State of New York passed legislation that gives minors who have committed a crime the opportunity to turn their lives around without being incarcerated. This was a monumental victory for the Raise the Age NY campaign and all its partners, and for the youth and families we serve.

“The generous support from New Yorkers For Children enabled us to mobilize key faith leaders and partners across New York City and the State to amplify the rallying cry to raise the age of criminal responsibility, finally ensuring that justice involved adolescents will receive age-appropriate treatment and services.”

–Naomi Post, Executive Director, Children’s Defense Fund-New York



SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION FOR EQUITY

New Yorkers For Children is paving the way for equity among LGBTQ youth in NYC Foster Care through the support of two major projects:

- **Population Count Survey:** NYFC funded the design of a survey to better understand why there was an increase in LGBTQ youth entering the NYC foster care system. Currently, NYFC is working with ACS to implement the survey and use findings to inform future work.
- **LIFT Curriculum:** NYFC funded curriculum aimed at training case workers to better serve youth in care facing gender identity and sexual orientation biases. This curriculum will be institutionalized at ACS in 2018.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH SUCCESS

Sitting Down with our Youth Advisory Board President



We talked with Alex J. about his path to success. We're so proud that Alex is a young leader in our organization!

NYFC: Where are you studying now?

Alex: I'm finishing up my degree in business administration and liberal arts at Queensborough Community College.

NYFC: You've been involved with us for a few years. How did NYFC connect you with a new career path?

Alex: I attended Network to Success, which is an annual event where foster youth can meet with professionals in a variety of fields. I met Ronnie Madra, who is an entrepreneur and promoter. He asked me what I did – at the time I worked in retail and I wasn't very happy. He offered me an internship at his company, and is mentoring me in business and marketing. I'll likely renew the job this fall.

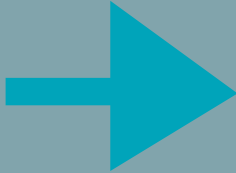
NYFC: What are your plans for the future?

Alex: Before I was connected with my mentor, I wasn't sure where I was going. Now I'm motivated at school and at work. When I graduate next semester, I'll continue working on my career in marketing and I'll be enrolling in a four year university at Baruch or Pratt. The future is bright! I want to continue introducing more young people to NYFC's Youth Advisory Board. It's been really great for me, and it will be really great for them.

NEW YORKERS FOR CHILDREN

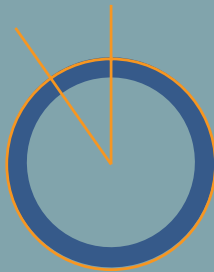
IMPACT AT A GLANCE

1,000
YOUTH

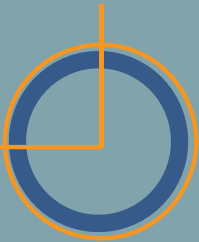


served every year through
our Signature Programs

90% of
SCHOLARS



in college re-enroll
semester after semester



75% of NYFC scholars

graduate on time compared to 3-10% nationwide

8,000

BACK-TO-SCHOOL



packages
distributed to date

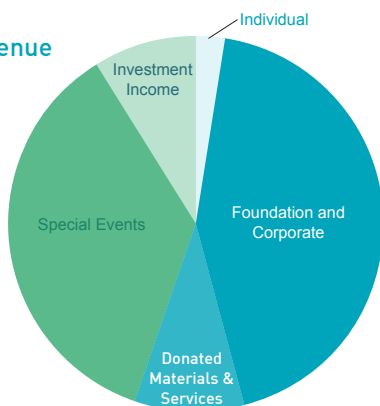
\$58 million distributed to support youth in foster care throughout NYC



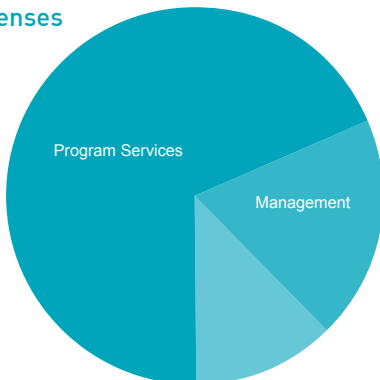
Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2017 and 2016

Revenue



Expenses



Revenue

2017

2016

Individual

82,773

91,385

Foundation and Corporate

1,422,546

3,199,974

Donated Materials & Services

312,100

10,826

Special Events (net)

1,171,045

1,393,585

Investment Income

289,008

179,989

Other Income

-

22,976

Total Revenue

3,277,472

4,898,735

Expenses

Program Services

2,194,054

1,587,879

Management

605,409

547,457

Fundraising

386,467

459,766

Total Expenses

3,185,930

2,595,102

Change in Net Assets

91,542

2,303,633

Net Assets - Beginning of Year

6,860,806

4,557,173

Net Assets - End of Year

6,952,348

6,860,806

2017 SUPPORTERS JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2017

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\$1,000,000+

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* Multi-year funding grant

** Includes in-kind
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Christine Schwarzman
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