

NEW  
YORKERS  
FOR  
CHILDREN

Annual  
Report  
2016



## Message from the Board President

As we celebrate more than twenty years of New Yorkers For Children, **I am so pleased to share this report with you, our steadfast supporters.**

Tremendous thanks to our partners, funders, and other stakeholders who fuel our efforts to improve the lives of an estimated 50,000 youth in New York's child welfare system. Together, we are providing a promising future for so many children and families in New York City.

New Yorkers For Children is thrilled to serve as the nonprofit partner to the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS). We have a track record of bolstering ACS' initiatives to protect and promote the well being of youth and families. We are poised to do the same in the years to come, especially with new Commissioner David Hansell at the helm.

I have spent my entire career in child welfare and human services, and I am proud of my 19 years of service with New Yorkers For Children. As I retire as Board President and pass the baton, I am confident that I am leaving this growing organization in the capable hands of our dedicated board, staff, and supporters like you.

**Thank you for your unwavering belief that every child deserves the right to be safe, happy, healthy, and educated.** We owe our success to you.



Eric Brettschneider  
Board President

*Be A  
New Yorker  
For Children*

# Message from the Executive Director

Thanks to you, New Yorkers For Children has served thousands of youth and families through our unique partnership with the city's child welfare agency. We could not do this work without your generosity.

**As I look back at our more than twenty years of serving NYC youth, I take immense pride in our accomplishments,** which include:

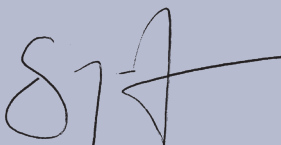
- supporting the college graduation of over 24 students since 2006, many of whom have gone on to pursue graduate studies in public service careers
- providing Back-to-School support to over 8,000 youth attending post-secondary education institutions

2016 was a special year for me because it's the year that I joined New Yorkers For Children to serve as the Executive Director. We are building on the legacy of our beloved founder, Nicholas Scoppetta, who changed so many lives for the better. **Our organization continues to change lives.** Just last year we:

- piloted six NEW projects on behalf of ACS, while managing 32 unique grants for ACS
- disbursed over \$534,000 in scholarship funds to older youth in foster care
- served close to 1,000 youth attending college at over 47 unique post-secondary education institutions around the country through our Back-To-School Package Program
- received a \$1.2 million grant from Doris Duke Charitable Fund that will allow us to triple our number of scholars by 2021.
- rebranded our signature Guardian Scholars as the new Nick's Scholars Program (named after our late founder).
- expanded the number of New York City college partners from 4 to 16.

Today, building on our wealth of experience, New Yorkers for Children is uplifting youth in new and innovative ways through our unique programs and collaborations, which you will see throughout this report.

Together, we have accomplished so much, and we look forward to doing even more in the years to come. **I am a proud New Yorker for Children and hope you will be, too!**



Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez  
Executive Director

*“New Yorkers For Children helped me when I was in a pit of despair. They put me on the right path, and now I have a vision to help foster children who are often left unheard or are pushed to the side. I want to help change this by becoming a social worker who stands up for foster kids who do not have a voice of their own.”*

Rodrigo, NYFC Scholar, age 20



## Cumulative Program Impact



Since 1996, we have raised and awarded over **\$55 million** in funding for ACS programs and services that have been replicated around the country



Since 1999, we have distributed over **8,000** Back-to-School packages



Since 2006, **24** youth have successfully graduated college



Since 2013, more than **\$250,000** was disbursed to youth who have aged out of foster care for emergency related grants



In 2016, NYFC gave out approximately **\$540,000** to youth in foster care through our signature scholarship programs

## New Yorkers For Children Signature Programs 2016 Program Impact

The **Back-to-School Package Program** provides youth in foster care enrolled in college or an accredited vocational program with up to \$2,500 in essential materials, including gift cards for textbooks and school supplies, transit cards, and a laptop computer.

**IMPACT:** In 2016, NYFC distributed approximately 800 Back to School packages for foster youth enrolled in higher education programs.

The **Nick's Scholars Program** is a scholarship program for college-enrolled youth in foster care that provides essential wraparound services in the form of financial, academic, and emotional support to help students succeed in college. To date, our scholars have a 94% college persistence rate and 90% graduation rate.

**IMPACT:** In 2016, NYFC enrolled 11 new students in to the program and celebrated the graduation of seven Nick's Scholars.

The **Charles Evans Emergency Educational Fund** was launched to assist youth who were formerly involved in the foster care system to complete their educational endeavors. The fund ensures youth who encounter an unforeseen or unusual financial emergency can continue their education without interruption.

**IMPACT:** In 2016, NYFC distributed more than \$100,000 to almost 50 students facing financial emergencies.

NYFC's **Youth Advisory Board** is a peer leadership development initiative that engages youth in foster care who come together to create community, fight stigma and advocate for change in areas that have the greatest impact on their transition from care – improving and expanding access to affordable housing, finding a pathway to post-secondary opportunities and securing funding for college.



# 2016 Supporters

January 1 – December 31, 2016

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Left to Right: Dr. Haskel Fleishaker, Dr. Jennifer H. Mieres,  
Nana G.H. Smith, Susan Burden, Chancellor James B. Milliken



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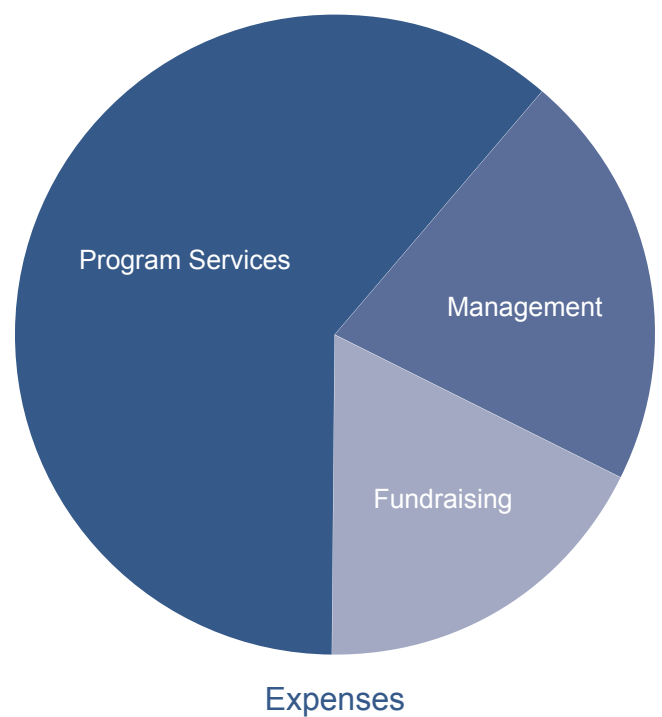
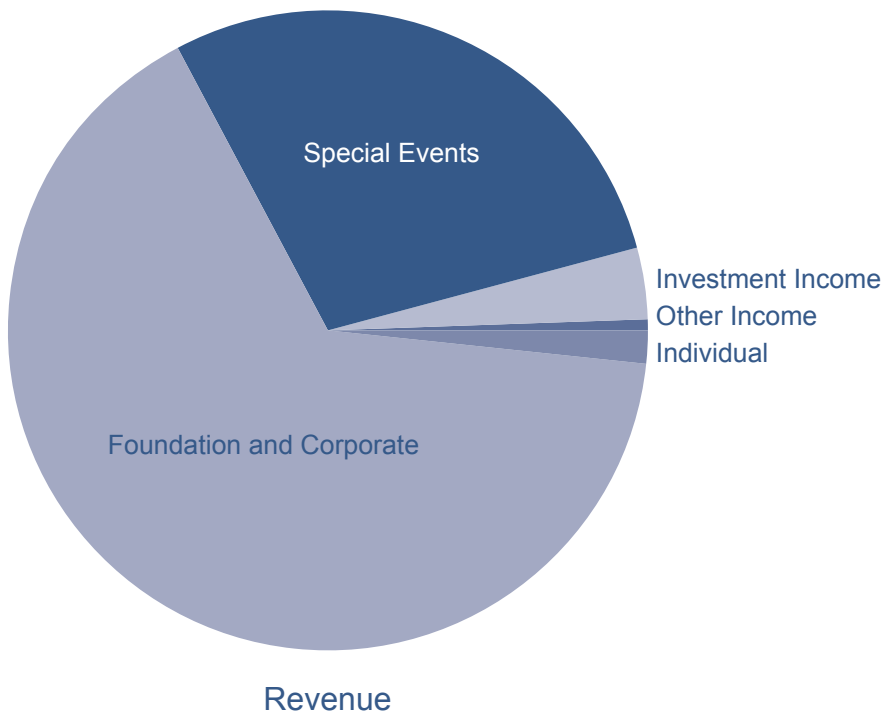
Susan Beachy • Patti Ongman • Joanne Santos

*Please consider joining as a monthly donor.*

# Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016 and 2015

Revenue	2016	2015
Individual	\$91,385	\$111,779
Foundation and corporate	3,210,800	453,326
Special events	1,393,585	1,829,433
Investment income	179,989	409
Other income	<u>22,976</u>	<u>15,005</u>
 Total Revenue	 <u><u>\$4,898,735</u></u>	 <u><u>\$2,409,952</u></u>
 Expenses		
Program services	\$1,587,879	\$1,886,131
Management	547,457	553,564
Fundraising	<u>459,766</u>	<u>550,024</u>
 Total Expenses	 <u><u>\$2,595,102</u></u>	 <u><u>\$2,989,719</u></u>



# 2016 Grantmaking for Innovative Projects

## Our Impact

**In 2016, New Yorkers For Children distributed more than \$273,000 to grant partners across New York City.**

### DETENTION DIVERSION PILOT AT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR YOUTH

A detention release initiative that targets low-risk youth in its release-to-parent option when youth are first brought to detention.



Photo by Kelly Sikkema

**IMPACT:** Engaged **20 youth** and families in the Bronx, with only a 10% detention rate. Building on the success of this pilot, we are working with partners to extend this program to all five boroughs.

### THE LEAP INITIATIVE AT THE DOOR

Helped meet the first year match for an Annie E. Casey grant to The Door for a five-year initiative to increase employment and educational opportunities for young adults ages 14-25 involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and who are homeless.



**IMPACT:** Enrolled **110 participants**, and **88 completed** the program. Additionally, **65 participants** enrolled in college and completed their first semester.

### CROSSOVER YOUTH MODEL

Supported ways in which NYC can implement the Crossover Youth Practice Model for youth who are 16 and older and are entering the adult/criminal justice system and ensured that the integrity of the model was adhered to as it expands to additional boroughs.



Photo by Henry Be

**IMPACT:** Recruited over **150 youth** to participate.

### FIRST STAR YOUTH ACADEMY AT THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

A direct service college-preparatory program that served a cohort of 30 foster youth ages 14-21.



**IMPACT:** Recruited **25 youth** for the inaugural cohort. All students transitioned from the Summer program to the Fall Program and are actively engaged in college preparation sessions.

### YOUTH WORKS PILOT AT HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

A career and education focused initiative with additional one-on-one case management for youth who are engaged with foster care and/or juvenile justice.



Photo by Anthony Ginsbrook

**IMPACT:** **17 youth** completed the pre-program process. **15 were placed** in a 12-week internship, **7 received support** to complete High School, and **2 received assistance** to apply for college (at CUNY).

### LGBTQ INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY THERAPY

A prevention-focused initiative to reduce family rejection by addressing issues that arise when discussing a child's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.



Photo by Warren Wong

**IMPACT:** **35-50 LGBTQ youth participated** in leadership and career development opportunities.

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