

CHILDREN/FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS

Advocates for Children (AFC)

Advocates for Children (AFC) is a not-for-profit organization which provides advocacy for students and their families on a wide array of educational issues affecting public school students in New York City.

Pro Bono Project

The Pro Bono Project assists AFC in its work in the areas of school suspension and special education administrative hearings. Pro bono lawyers provide representation to families who have children with disabilities and students who are suspended from high school. Required training is provided in the areas of special education and suspension.

All Stars Project, Inc.

The All Stars Project, Inc. (ASP) is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting human development through the use of an innovative performance and development based model. The ASP creates outside of school, educational and performing arts activities for tens of thousands of poor and minority young people. It sponsors community and experimental theatre, develops leadership training and pursues volunteer initiatives that build and strengthen communities. The ASP actively promotes supplementary education and the performance learning model in academic and civic arenas.

Association for the Help of Retarded Children (AHRC)

The Association for the Help of Retarded Children provides a wide variety of services to mentally retarded individuals and their families, including adult day services, evaluation services, home health care, and legal services, particularly in the areas of disability, guardianship issues and future care planning.

Guardianship of Mentally Disabled

There is a tremendous need for lawyers to take on pro bono cases helping parents file for SCPA Art. 17-A guardianships of their mentally disabled children. AHRC has an extremely long waiting list for individuals seeking representation in guardianship petitions.

Boys and Girls Republic (BGR)

In 1997 the Boys and Girls Republic (BGR), formerly named the Boys Brotherhood Republic, became a program of the Henry Street Settlement. Serving more than 700 students a year. BGR is a comprehensive, co-ed youth program addressing each child's academic achievement, social development, and emotional wellbeing. During the school year, BGR offers afternoon and evening activities for students ages 6-18, including homework help and tutoring, computer learning, recreation and athletics, arts education, and individual and group counseling services. In the summer, BGR hosts a sleep-away camp in Harriman State Park, New York. BGR's signature self-government model encourages young people to take an active role in shaping their society and becoming responsible citizens.

Break the Cycle

Break the Cycle is an innovative, national nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage, educate, and empower youth to build lives and communities free from dating and domestic violence. Break the Cycle furthers this mission by providing young people, ages 12 to 22, with preventive education, free legal services, and peer leadership opportunities. Break the Cycle is the only organization in New York City focused exclusively on preventing domestic violence among youth.

Building Excellent Schools (BES)

Building Excellent Schools (BES) is a small non-profit organization that supports the design and start-up of high performing urban charter schools across the country. Its core program, the BES Fellowship, trains highly skilled and dedicated school founders to build charter schools tailored to the needs of individual communities while maintaining a commitment to student achievement.

Building Excellent Schools Fellowship

Serve as a Board Member

BES is currently seeking individuals to serve on the Founding Boards of these schools. The role of the Founding Board is to assist in the development of the school. Members of the Founding Boards help to prepare and submit the charter application; review the school's financial, legal, personnel, etc. policies; create a network of strategic partnerships; cultivate meaningful relationships with local organizations and community groups; and develop the Governing Board upon receipt of the public school charter (Founding Board members will be the first candidates for the school's Governing Board).

Cancer Care

Cancer Care is a 56-year-old social services agency that provides support to cancer patients and their families. Cancer Care also has a small advocacy and legislative affairs project.

CARE

CARE is one of the world's largest private international humanitarian organizations, committed to helping families in poor communities improve their lives and achieve lasting victories over poverty. They look at the big picture of poverty and go beyond the symptoms to confront the underlying causes. With a broad range of programs based in empowerment, equity and sustainability, CARE seeks to tap human potential, to leverage the power of people and, in doing so, to unleash a vast force for progress.

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS)

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS), a national association of faith-based volunteer programs, provides marketing, training, networking and technical assistance in order to help member programs accomplish their missions.

CNVS promotes opportunities for men and women of all backgrounds and skills to respond to the Gospel through domestic and international volunteer service to people in need.

The Center for Attention & Learning Disorders at Lenox Hill Hospital (CALD)

Located in the Outpatient Center for Mental Health, the Center for Attention and Learning Disorders (CALD) is directed by a renowned clinical neurophysiologist. The Center serves children who may be suffering from multifaceted difficulties such as attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) and learning disabilities. Evaluations take into account emotional, biological and/or environmental factors. Personalized treatment programs may include remediation, psychotherapy, family counseling, behavioral and play therapies, as well as recommendations for appropriate educational settings. The mission of CALD is to empower children with learning disorders and ADHD and their families by (1) helping them understand the nature of their cognitive strengths and weaknesses and (2) helping them to address their weaknesses by making use of their strengths. Additionally, CALD is committed to training professionals in the evaluation and remediation of learning disorders and ADHD.

The Center for Family Representation (CFR)

The Center for Family Representation (CFR) is a not-for-profit law and policy organization whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness of the Family Court and child welfare system in serving families, primarily by supporting and strengthening legal representation for parents who are involved in these venues. CFR's goals are to provide additional opportunities for training, legal support and other types of practice assistance to attorneys representing parents and to ensure that the perspectives of parents and their advocates are increasingly represented in the many venues where child welfare reform is being addressed.

The Chelsea-Elliott "I Have A Dream"(R) Program (IHAD)

"I Have A Dream" is a national long-term education intervention program for disadvantaged children. Projects are created by sponsors who adopt entire grades from public elementary schools or entire age groups from public housing developments from the beginning of sponsorship through high school graduation. The sponsors, trained Project Director, staff and other volunteers provide "Dreamers" with comprehensive academic, social, cultural and recreational activities throughout their school years. Upon graduation from high school, all Dreamers are provided with tuition assistance to attend college or vocational school.

The Chelsea-Elliott project began in 1993 when the children were second and third graders. The program was open to all children that met such criteria in the Chelsea-Elliott housing development. They are now college freshmen, sophomores, or juniors, and this program is now over. The Project Coordinator has been with the program since the Dreamers were in fifth & sixth grade, but now works at the National "I Have a Dream" Foundation as Director of Project Management.

There is a new program, Chelsea-Elliott II that started with first graders in Fall 2004. Similar to the first Chelsea-Elliott program, Chelsea-Elliott II is an after-school program that combines academic tutoring, mentoring, athletic, community, social and cultural activities to create a comprehensive educational experience.

Workshop Instructor

The program is looking for volunteers to teach a group of Dreamers about the law or the juvenile justice system. The class can either be a one-time occurrence or an ongoing seminar. Volunteers would work with Project Coordinator to develop an age appropriate curriculum. The school year program begins on September 27. Workshops can take place after school on Monday and Wednesdays from 5 - 6:30 p.m. The Summer program is six weeks long.

Mentor

Through Chelsea-Elliott II, volunteers would develop a mentoring relationship with one of the children in the program. A yearlong commitment is required. Mentoring occurs every other Tuesday for two hours at the after-school site (the Dream Annex, located at the NE corner of 26th St. & 8th Ave). Potential mentors must fill out an application and be interviewed. Training and screening of mentors is provided through Mentoring USA.

Tutor

Through Chelsea-Elliott II, the volunteer would tutor a first grader to help develop literacy and a strong academic foundation. The tutoring takes place on-site (the Dream Annex, located at the NE corner of 26th St. & 8th Ave) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for one school year.

Project Development

Volunteers are needed to develop a cultural, recreational, or educational outing for a group of Dreamers. The volunteer is expected to expose a child to the world of music, dance, fine arts, drama or sports through on and off-site activities. Volunteers would coordinate the outing through working with the chosen organization to solicit tickets, arranging for volunteers to chaperone, and working out all of the details with the Project Coordinator.

Child Care, Inc. (CCI)

Child Care, Inc. (CCI) is a non-profit early education and childcare resource and referral agency and a part of a national network of referral agencies. CCI strives to make high quality childcare and early education opportunities a reality for every child in New York City. Each year, CCI's referral service helps thousands of families make informed decisions about childcare. CCI promotes quality childcare by offering training to all types of childcare programs, including infant and preschool services, family childcare, and school-age care, as well as Head Start and Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs. CCI provides technical and financial assistance to start-up and expanded childcare programs. Grants and loans are also available for family childcare providers. CCI is recognized as a leader in the field with the in-depth knowledge of childcare programs and the vision necessary to promote public policies that support quality early care and education.

Influencing Public Policy

Serve as a Board Member

CCI is looking for a volunteer to serve on its Board of Directors. Candidates should be interested in childcare and early education issues. Currently CCI has twelve board members and the board meets approximately 5-6 times per annum. Each board member also serves on at least one committee of the board.

The Children's Aid Society (CAS)

The Children's Aid Society (CAS) is a voluntary, nonsectarian agency that provides a broad spectrum of health, education, recreation, and emergency services to New York City's neediest children and families. It is one of the oldest and largest welfare agencies in the country, founded in 1853 by Charles Loring Brace. The Society's services include: adoption & foster care; arts; camps; community centers; community schools; the After-School Corporation programs; counseling; education; health; housing immigration services; jobs; mentoring; nutrition; prevention; and youth mediation and court diversion.

Children's Defense Fund New York (CDF-NY)

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF-NY), founded in 1973, is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundations, corporations, and individual donations. In 1992, CDF established an office in New York City, a city where 42% of children live in poverty and children account for 39% of the homeless population. CDF-NY seeks to protect children and strengthen families by combining research, public education, policy development, community organizing and advocacy activities.

The Children's Law Center (CLC)

The Children's Law Center (CLC) is a not-for-profit law firm that provides legal representation to children in custody/visitation, guardianship, and family offense (domestic violence) cases. CLC is appointed by the judges of the Brooklyn and Bronx Family Courts and the Integrated Domestic Violence Parts in the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island. CLC is funded by the Office of Court Administration. Most cases involve disputes between parents as to custody and/or visitation. In some cases the dispute is between a parent and non-parent. Most cases involve issues of domestic violence and child neglect and abuse. Each child is interviewed by an attorney, which is often done multiple times. The parties are also interviewed and an investigation is conducted. In some cases, a CLC social worker works with the lawyer on the case. The Children's Law Center strives to represent the child's interests and wishes effectively and aggressively and to insure that the child's voice is heard and that his/her interests are placed before the court.

Appellate Practice

CLC files appellate briefs on behalf of children in a number of Family Court matters. Volunteers are needed to draft respondents' briefs to be submitted to the Appellate Division. Areas of law include child custody, visitation and domestic violence. Extensive supervision by CLC staff attorneys is provided and required. The volunteer can work at CLC or out of office but should be available for occasional meetings at CLC's offices. Good legal writing skills required and prior experience in appellate brief writing preferred. Background in family law preferred but not required.

Attorneys

Volunteer would work with the staff at the Children's Law Center taking cases and representing the children. Volunteers should have some litigation experience. The Children's Law Center staff will train all volunteers in substantive areas of the law, trial techniques, interviewing children, child development, and the psychological impact of separation, divorce, and family violence on children.

Case Referral

A volunteer is needed to work with the social work unit to locate and contact appropriate social service and mental health agencies to provide treatment for the children and families in a particular case.

Family Resource Guide

The volunteer is needed to develop a guide of resources to the families served by the Children's Law Center. The volunteer will research local service organizations such as substance abuse, education resource, early intervention, mental health treatment, domestic violence, victim and batterer programs.

Interpreters

The Children's Law Center serves a very diverse community. Clients speak Russian, Arabic, Creole, Spanish and Hebrew. CLC needs interpreters who will work with the attorneys and social workers to communicate with the children and families.

Playroom

A volunteer is needed to supervise children (under 8) in playroom while parents or guardians are meeting with lawyers and social workers. Most families are seen from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Children's Rights Inc. (CRI)

Children's Rights Inc. (CRI) is a national organization that works to improve the child welfare system and the lives of children dependent upon governmental social services. CRI works through litigation, advocacy and public education programs. They work with organizations and government to facilitate change in the child welfare system, which includes court-mandated solutions.

Citizens' Committee for Children (CCC)

Citizen's Committee for Children (CCC) advocates for children and families through its relationship with policy makers and community leaders; by analyzing and monitoring programs and policies to find out what works and what doesn't; through public education about children's issues; by providing opportunities for New Yorkers to get involved; and by building networks of service providers, parents and other New Yorkers to forge stronger relationships among diverse community groups and individuals who are determined to improve the quality of life for children and families.

Citizens Committee for New York

The Citizens Committee for New York seeks to stimulate and support self-help and civic action by resident volunteers to improve the quality of life in New York City and its neighborhoods. The Committee helps New Yorkers to become active partners in solving some of the city's toughest problems: relieving poverty, connecting youth with opportunities, combating drugs and crime, promoting diversity and understanding, protecting the environment, and beautifying public spaces.

City Harvest, Inc.

City Harvest is the largest food rescue program in the U.S., and also one of the oldest. Founded in 1982, City Harvest's mission is to feed hungry New Yorkers, primarily by harvesting donated excess food and distributing it free to New York City emergency food programs.

Community Works

Community Works is a nonprofit arts organization founded in 1990 with the mission to forge links between diverse cultures and communities, to improve educational attainment, and to extend the benefits of the arts to all people. Community Works serves over 100,000 students and community members through its highly acclaimed performances, workshops, exhibits, mentoring, and other model programs.

The Constitution Works (TCW)

The Constitution Works (TCW) is an after-school mentoring program that invites junior and senior students from the law-focused high schools to participate in this three-month program. The students work with legal professionals to critically examine the Constitution and various amendments. The program consists of two units that focus on the judicial and legislative branches of government. Students confront many issues within these units, such as permitting the police to conduct searches and seizures in precarious circumstances, a proposed legislative mandate banning the sale or distribution of "obscene" lyrics, and the death penalty for minors. The students work through the issues with a team of attorney mentors using critical thinking, writing, discussions, and role play as they develop respect for the law and legal professionals. The after-school program culminates in a mock trial or a mock senate floor debate.

Council on Adoptable Children (COAC)

The Council on Adoptable Children (COAC) is an adoption services agency, which offers programs to parents interested in adopting abused, neglected, and hard to place children in the New York City foster care system.

Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. (CASA)

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), established in 1979, is a non-profit organization that advocates for children in foster care by serving as a liaison and facilitator between the Family Court, city agencies, and families. With 23,000 children in foster care in New York City, CASA works to make foster care a temporary situation rather than a permanent way of life for children by ensuring that cases get adequate attention and don't get lost in the system's bureaucracy. There are more than 900 CASA programs nationwide.

CASA-trained volunteer advocates are assigned to cases by the Family Court to shepherd cases through the system by investigating the facts of the case through interviews with social workers, biological and foster parents, and foster children; recommending a course of action to the court; facilitating the resolution of problems; and monitoring the progress of the case.

Case Advocate

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are appointed by the Family Court to foster child cases to guide them through the system. Advocates monitor the case, including interviewing parties involved, making reports to agencies and to the court, tracking the progress of the case, and appearing in court. Volunteers receive 30 hours of training, including discussions on the child welfare system, legal issues and court procedure, child development issues, interviewing and casework skills, and cultural awareness issues.

Advocates have ongoing review meetings and staff supervision, and are asked to attend at least 12 hours of in-service trainings each year. Participation in this program requires a one-year commitment and volunteers are expected to take 3-5 cases. Casework can be done almost exclusively from a volunteer's home or office, with occasional court visits, and CASA's offices that are open to volunteers as well.

This project is open to non-attorneys.

Training Development

Volunteers with experience in or an interest in learning about family law are needed to work with the Advocate Director to develop trainings for volunteer CASAs. The volunteer could assist in researching recent developments in family court (i.e. 1055 A's; steps of termination; and the Adoption Safe Families Act (ASFA)) and presenting the information at volunteer training sessions. Another training method that CASA is interested in using is a courtroom simulation. Volunteers could be used to develop the structure of the training as well as serve as actors in the roles of family court attorneys, judges, etc.

Data Analysis

CASA has a case management system with two years of data. A volunteer is needed to analyze the data, e.g. number of children assisted, when they entered care, how long they stayed in care, etc. Potentially, analysis of case data could lead to a more substantial evaluative and/or policy related project.

Development Assistance

CASA is looking for volunteers to assist with marketing, PR, fundraising, event planning, and other development needs.

Law Firm Liaison

CASA is interested in developing relationships with law firms who would volunteer support by way of supplies, printing services, underwriting of events, or as a resource for potential volunteers. A volunteer with ties to a law firm could help in facilitating such a relationship.

The Door - A Center for Alternatives

The Door's Legal Services Center was established in 1992 to address the critical lack of free legal assistance for youth in New York City. The Center provides a broad range of counsel and advocacy services in civil matters to young people between the ages of 12 and 21. This highly vulnerable population often has no voice and The Center attempts to provide one through representation in a wide variety of civil legal issues. Cases may be pursued through Federal and state courts as well as in administrative hearings. Generally, the Center refers criminal or juvenile delinquency matters.

Most of the cases handled by the Center involve:

- family law issues, such as emancipation, foster care, paternity, child support, divorce, domestic violence;
- child custody and visitation rights;
- immigration matters involving undocumented clients and human trafficking cases;
- public benefits issues, including welfare, Medicaid, Food Stamps; or
- employment matters.

Services are provided through individual counsel, advocacy, and/or representation. Center staff conducts legal education workshops at The Door and other youth agencies. The Center distributes publications on the rights of young people at The Door and throughout New York City. Clients can also avail themselves of a range of programming at The Door, including health services, counseling, nutritional programs, and arts and recreation programs.

Intake Worker

Law students and volunteers are needed to assist with intake, research, writing, and educational workshops. The time commitment is flexible. Experience in the areas of family, immigration or public benefits law is preferred. Volunteers must have an interest in working with adolescents. Training is provided.

Research and Writing

Volunteers are needed to assist with legal and policy research and writing.

Educational Workshops

Volunteers are needed to assist with educational workshops. The time commitment for each project is flexible. Experience in the areas of family, immigration or public benefits law is preferred. Volunteers must have an interest in working with adolescents. Training is provided and required.

Dwa Fanm

Dwa Fanm is New York's leading nonprofit community based domestic violence service organization working with Haitian, Caribbean and African immigrants. Dwa Fanm's mission is to promote and participate in a comprehensive and compassionate response to domestic violence through community education for increased understanding and prevention of domestic violence, advocacy for public responsibility and services that improve the quality of life for victims of domestic violence and their families. Dwa Fanm is committed to empowering all women and girls with the freedom to define and control their own lives. Dwa Fanm works to end discrimination, violence and other forms of injustice through its many programs.

Client services include individual and group counseling, case management, housing and financial assistance and legal assistance. Education services include awareness education, targeted prevention programs for men, women and youth, and materials distribution. All services and programs at Dwa Fanm are provided free of charge.

Jistis Pou Fanm

Assist with Contested Divorce and Child Custody

Dwa Fanm is seeking volunteer attorneys to represent clients in filing for contested divorce and custody matters. Supervision is available, but currently there is no formal training program, so this project is best suited for attorneys with experience in matrimonial law. French or Creole language skills preferred but not required.

East Side House Settlement

The MBCC is a local non-profit organization located in Mott Haven that offers a number of programs for almost 130 of the community's children and about 60 families. Currently, MBCC operates a federally funded Head Start program providing a wide array of social services to children between the ages of 2 and 5 years and their parents. Such services include home visits, social service referrals by an individually appointed case worker, preventative health care including routine physical and dental exams, immunizations and appropriate follow-up care, family and individual mental health counseling and educational and parenting workshops.

Education Priorities Panel

The goal of the Educational Priorities Panel (EPP) is to improve the quality of public education for New York City's children so that there is no longer a performance gap between city schools and those in the rest of the state.

EPP pursues this goal by seeking reforms of federal, state and city budget and administrative practices affecting children. Its objectives are: to bring badly needed resources to New York City and other urban school districts; to ensure that funds are distributed fairly; and to advocate that funds are effectively used for the benefit of students, especially those with the greatest needs for high-quality instruction.

Educational Equity Concepts, Inc. (EEC)

Educational Equity Concepts (EEC) is a national nonprofit organization that promotes a bias-free learning environment through the development of programs and educational materials for elementary school children. It aims to decrease discrimination in education based on gender, race/ethnicity and disability. It provides staff development, workshops, consultations and trainings for teachers, parents and educational administrators. It also conducts research on various issues concerning sex equity. Programs developed by Educational Equity Concepts include: a bias-free curriculum that discusses family structure, sexuality, AIDS, adoption and other topics; an equity based parent/child science program; sex role stereotyping and teen parents programs; disability awareness and inclusion; and a teacher's guide on teasing and bullying.

Edwin Gould Foundation for Children

The Edwin Gould Foundation supports institutions that serve young people and programs developed with the foundation promoting child welfare.

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute (Adoption Institute)

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, founded in 1996, is the pre-eminent research, policy and education organization in its field. Its mission is: to provide leadership that improves adoption laws, policies and practices – through sound research, education and advocacy – in order to better the lives of everyone touched by adoption. The Adoption Institute pursues this mission with a concern for all participants in adoption: birth families, adoptive parents, adopted persons and adoption professionals.

The Adoption Institute improves the lives of millions of families through many avenues: providing legislators, policymakers and practitioners with reliable, research-based information and practical perspectives to improve adoption laws, policies and practices; providing the media with a trusted source of information; encouraging greater understanding about adoption and its issues by employers, educators and others who affect the lives of children and their families; reducing barriers that impede the adoption of children who need permanent, loving homes; and providing leadership that results in more practical, thoughtful and ethical adoption-related policies and practices.

Review Organization's Bylaws

The Adoption Institute is revising its by-laws and is looking for an attorney conversant with New York statutes to review the revisions to ensure they comply with New York State Law.

The Family Center

The Family Center (TFC) works to create a more secure present and future for children whose parents have a life-threatening illness by providing comprehensive legal and social services, education and research. TFC's work is fueled by the belief that every child deserves an answer to the question: Who Will Take Care of Me?

The Family Center evolved from the vision of four women, who, while working at the Department of Social Services in New York City, focused on the needs of primarily healthy children in families affected by AIDS. They were moved by the sentiments of the ill mothers they served and by their children. The biggest concern of the parents with whom they worked was not for themselves, but for their children. However, little was being done to prepare the children for death, mourning and rebuilding their lives. With these families in mind, the Family Center was founded in 1994 to help families remain stable and cope with the implications and gravity of their health situation.

TFC works with the children, the parents and the caregivers. Filling the gap that exists in other organizations, the founders decided to offer comprehensive legal and social services under one umbrella. TFC lawyers work with families to establish custodial/legal guardianship plans, health care proxies, wills and power of attorney. Trained social workers and family coordinators provide individual and family counseling, mediation services, benefits assistance and cross referrals to other support services.

Family Justice

In 1996, the Vera Institute for Justice created La Bodega de la Familia, a neighborhood support center for families struggling with addiction. Having served almost 500 families, La Bodega has demonstrated that the innovative techniques of Family Case Management enhance outcomes for everyone involved: fewer re-arrests, improved treatment outcomes, and enhanced well-being for family members, among others. Family Justice was created to take on the challenge to expand and disseminate the Bodega model to a wide variety of settings around the country.

Family Case Management (FCM) is a method by which a family's inherent strengths and resources are identified and mobilized including integration and coordinator of other community-based supports, which are often underutilized and even at odds with each other. Preliminary research indicates that these techniques do, in fact, engage families, increase their cohesion and support for drug users, and help them marshal their internal strengths to combat problems like addiction, domestic violence, mental illness, and HIV/AIDS.

The goal of Family Justice is the identification, application and dissemination of best practices by operating three core programs: La Bodega, the storefront, will continue to provide family-focused services to residents of New York City's Lower East Side; an innovative program will provide local and national training and technical assistance; and a new research component will focus on the interrelationship between families and the criminal justice system.

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA)

FPWA is an umbrella organization of more than 212 not-for-profit agencies that provide social service programs. Member agencies provide services across the life cycle, from early childhood centers to nursing homes. FPWA provides assistance to its members, such as board and staff training, advocacy, programmatic consultation, volunteer training and placement, specialized training for member agencies, fundraising, legal counseling, group purchasing and development assistance.

Holiday Toy Drive

Each year, FPWA distributes toys and gifts to thousands of children who might otherwise go without for the holidays. Volunteers are needed to sponsor a toy drive at their workplace. Assistance is also needed to pack and sort toys at FPWA during the days prior to distribution.

Floating the Apple

Since 1992, Floating the Apple, a non-profit boating and boat-building organization, has been advocating universal access to New York City's waterways. By involving teenagers citywide in the construction and racing of 25-foot Whitehall rowing gigs - New York's original ferries and recreational water craft - Floating the Apple is using the city's largest open space, our waterways, as a setting for youth recreation and team-building program. Last year, more than 150 12 to 18 year-olds participated in the free program, which is now constructing its 19th vessel.

The Fortune Society

The Fortune Society exists to help prisoners and those facing jail or prison time. The Fortune Society works to improve prison conditions and protect the rights of prisoners. Staffed primarily by ex-prisoners, Fortune is committed to providing the foundation from which new lives can be launched. The Fortune Society seeks to reverse current punitive criminal justice policy and to address the root causes of crime through outreach and advocacy. Fortune is committed to having its services and advocacy shaped by the prison and transition experiences of ex-offenders. The Fortune Society recognizes the importance of prevention by developing services that reflect the needs of our clients and their families. Fortune acts to reverse the current plague of prison construction and mass incarceration by changing minds and building lives.

Legal Advice - Family Issues

Fortune clients often are in need of assistance in the areas of child custody and/or support. Volunteer attorneys could set up a regular time each week to come into Fortune's offices, meet with clients and give them brief advice in a clinic-type setting.

Alternatively, a volunteer could work with Fortune to develop "Know Your Rights" presentations for both clients and staff about family issues.

Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI)

Recognizing that young people in Washington Heights lack safe, structured, and engaging ways to spend time in the non-school hours of the day, Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI) was launched in 1993 as a community-based youth development organization. FYI supports and encourages the efforts of young people in Washington Heights to design and carry out community service projects, develop leadership skills and fulfill their maximum potential.

Pro Bono General Counsel

FYI seeks a pro bono general counsel to assist them with a wide variety of legal issues as they arise.

Corporate Partner

FYI is seeking a "Corporate Partner" who will commit to working together with FYI in a structured manner that helps both organizations. Some examples include setting up summer job placements and year-round internships for FYI youth at the company, and having FYI organize community service opportunities for the employees of the company.

Institutional History

FYI would be interested in working with a volunteer to develop an "institutional history" documenting the development of the organization since its inception. The history could include photos, newsletters and stories from FYI participants.

Mentor Program

Mentor

FYI is looking for a volunteer to develop a one-on-one mentoring relationship with an FYI participant.

Community Youth in Action

Community Service Projects

FYI is looking for individuals to volunteer in one of FYI's weekly community service groups or at one of FYI's "one-shot" service outings; host an FYI youth on special career days (e.g. Take Our Daughters/Sons to Work); host a group of older FYI youth on a Career Awareness Day

Friends of Island Academy (FOIA)

Friends of Island Academy (FOIA) is a not for profit-organization that reaches out to incarcerated youth in Riker's Island and convinces them that they have an alternative in life. Its name is derived from the Board of Education high school, Island Academy, which is attended by the majority of these youth. Once released, FOIA provides job training, counseling, education, and mentoring as well as the support and guidance they need to break the cycle of incarceration. FOIA is built on the belief that young people need to be welcomed and guided, but they also need to be empowered and challenged. Each youth becomes a FOIA member and in doing so takes responsibility, first for themselves, and later for their peers and community. FOIA is the only organization of its kind in New York City focused solely on adolescent ex-offenders.

Fund for the City of New York (FCNY)

The Fund for the City of New York (FCNY) is a private operating foundation launched by the Ford Foundation in 1968 with the mandate to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Through centers on youth, government and technology as well as core organizational assistance, the Fund introduces and helps to implement innovations in policy, programs, practice and technology in order to advance the functioning of government and nonprofit organizations in New York City and beyond.

The Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc. (GMHC)

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-supported and community-based organization committed to national leadership in the fight against AIDS. Its mission is to reduce the spread of HIV disease, help people with HIV maintain and improve their health and independence, and keep the prevention, treatment and cure of HIV an urgent national and local priority.

Volunteer Attorney

GMHC is seeking volunteer attorneys to assist the Legal Services Department in the following areas: Family Law, Tax, Employment, and Medical Malpractice. The volunteer attorney would be able to provide pro bono legal consultation or pro bono legal representation on cases referred directly from the Legal Services Department. The volunteer would also be able to offer expert advice to Legal Services attorneys about specific legal research questions in the above-mentioned practice areas.

Greenwich House

Greenwich House settlement was founded in 1902 to ameliorate conditions in the neighborhood for the immigrant population. Today, Greenwich House is a comprehensive social services agency operating fifteen different programs which serve about 5,000 clients a year in the areas of: child care, senior services, the arts, substance abuse services (including full-service treatment programs and a halfway house for recovering alcoholics), and HIV/AIDS services (including testing, counseling, public education and comprehensive primary care services). Greenwich operates on a \$14 million budget with 300 salaried employees and an additional 300 hourly employees.

Hale House

Hale House is a not-for-profit child care agency specializing in nurturing and caring for babies born addicted to drugs and alcohol and those born infected with the HIV virus.

Affiliated programs include: Children Helping Children; Hale Have; Time Out for Moms; Homeward Bound; Mainliner Newsletter; and The Respite.

The High School for Public Service (HSPS)

The mission of the High School for Public Service (HSPS) is to enable each student to develop the academic and social skills necessary to be an active participant in their communities and their society. Students are exposed to a rigorous, standards-based curriculum that will prepare them to assume positions in public service. HSPS's specially-designed Social Action/Community Service course helps students understand the reasons for community involvement and motivates them to become agents for social change. Students participating in the Law Academy have demonstrated both academic excellence and an interest in a career in the law.

After School Program

HSPS is looking for volunteer attorneys to participate in their after school program. Volunteers typically give presentations to students on law and law-related subjects, although HSPS is flexible and open to suggestions on speaker topics based on volunteer interest.

inMotion, Inc.

InMotion seeks to expand the availability of quality pro bono legal counsel to indigent and working-poor women in New York City. Women find assistance with matrimonial and family court cases through pro bono direct representation, pro se and technical assistance, legal clinics, policy initiatives, and community outreach. In addition to the 1,000+ women who have been represented in both Supreme and Family Court by inMotion volunteers, InMotion staff in Manhattan and the Bronx helps hundreds of additional women each year with advice, counsel and brief services. InMotion also has an annual Pro Se Workshop that teaches women with uncontested cases how to file for and obtain divorces pro se.

Traditional Pro Bono

Uncontested Divorce/VAWA Attorney

A volunteer is needed to take major responsibility for uncontested divorce cases and/or Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petition matters. This may include drafting pleadings, filing papers, and conferencing with clients regarding the content of divorce pleadings and supporting affidavits in connection with self-petitions to BCIS (the former INS).

Direct Representation

Lawyers can represent individual clients in litigated matters: divorces with issues (financial and/or child-related) in Supreme Court and orders of protection, custody/visitation and child and spousal support matters in Family Court. These cases often involve motion practice and extensive discovery. Many cases result in hearings and a few proceed to full trial, requiring witness preparation, the delivery of oral arguments and the chance to conduct direct and cross examinations.

Training Development

Volunteers are needed to assist inMotion staff in preparing for pro bono CLE training programs by updating manuals, editing and revising text, adding recent case law, and incorporating recent legislative pronouncements.

RITE Workshop - Realizing Independence Through Empowerment

Prepare Legal Documents

Volunteers are needed to assist at each of the RITE Workshops. Paired in teams of two, the volunteers are partnered with a participant. The volunteers learn how to interview their client and prepare all the legal documents she needs to file, and they support her throughout the pro se process.

Legal Clinics

Client Intake and Assistance

Volunteers are needed to participate in conducting intake of new clients and advising callers on various issues pertaining to divorce and family matters, and in making helpful referrals, where necessary, to other agencies.

Community Outreach

Translation Coordinator

inMotion needs a Translation Coordinator to oversee the translations of a pro se law library (the Cross Borough Collaboration) into various languages used throughout New York City. The pro se library addresses the limited availability of representation for an increasing number of women who cannot afford legal assistance. The Library consists of 12 booklets that cover the following subject matters: Paternity Proceedings, Adoption, Custody and Visitation, Guardianship, Divorce, Spousal Support, Child Support, Orders of Protection, Domestic Violence and Immigrant Women, Social Security Number and Name Changes, and New York City Courts. The library will be translated into numerous languages so that they can be used by pro se litigants, volunteer attorneys and community organizations that deal with clients whose first language is not English. Finished translations will be posted on the internet and made available to community-based organizations.

The Translation Coordinator will work under the direction of inMotion's staff attorneys and Legal Director. Responsibilities include overseeing the current volunteers translating documents, arranging for review of the translations, recruiting new volunteer translators and editors in various languages, posting translations on the internet, disseminating the materials to community based organizations, and updating materials as needed. If the Translation Coordinator has foreign language skills, he or she could translate and review materials. In addition, the Translation Coordinator could assist with inMotion's ongoing community outreach presentations to immigrant communities.

Knowledge of NYC immigrant communities helpful. Good interpersonal and organization skills and ability to work collaboratively and independently is required. Knowledge of family, matrimonial and/or immigration law or domestic violence helpful but not required. Foreign language skills are useful but not required. This position will require 10-20 hours per week.

International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

The International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA) is a non-profit organization committed to advancing the health and wellbeing of adolescents throughout the world. By entering into partnerships with individuals, groups and community-based organizations, IOFA strives to improve the lives of young people through programming, advocacy and progressive social/organizational change at the local, regional and international levels. Major initiatives include Girls Leadership Development and International Youth Trafficking Prevention.

Jumpstart New York

Jumpstart was founded in 1994 at the intersection of two national trends -public need for quality early childhood programs and the emerging national service movement, recruiting thousands of college students to community service. Jumpstart connects these trends by recruiting, training, supervising, and supporting college students to work with Head Start and other early childhood programs to provide one-to-one attention to young children struggling in preschool. Jumpstart is an outcome-based model that offers both summer and school year programs for children. During the school year Corps members work one-to-one with young children for individual attention twice a week. Over the summer, Jumpstart runs a full-time program designed to reach children who would have no other summer learning opportunities.

The Justice Resource Center (JRC)

The Justice Resource Center (JRC), located in the Law Advocacy and Community Justice School in the Martin Luther King High School, works to develop, implement, replicate, and evaluate law-related education with a positive impact on youth. Originally started in New York City, the Justice Resource Center's focus has broadened to the national level. The structure of the program enables students to learn about the functions of government, familiarize themselves with their role and responsibilities as citizens, and develop a heightened respect for the law. The JRC administers and/or facilitates the following programs: The National Mentor Program, Law-Related Teacher Training and Curriculum Development, Student Projects, Partnerships, and Replication of the Law & Justice School.

Individual Mentor Program of the Law and Justice Institute

Individual Mentor

JRC is looking for volunteer attorneys to serve as Mentors. Mentors are selectively paired with 9th grade students (Mentees) at Martin Luther King's Law and Justice Institute. A Mentor works with his/her Mentee, developing an on-going relationship. This relationship could include providing counseling on law-related questions, or offering advice on teenage issues. Examples of mentor activities include office visits, court visits, sports events, hobbies, cultural events, museums, plays or walking tours.

Lawyer's Alliance for New York (LANY)

Founded in 1969, Lawyers Alliance for New York is the leading provider of free and low-cost business and transactional legal services to nonprofit and community development organizations that are working to improve the quality of life in New York City's low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

With assistance of a staff of twenty, including eleven attorneys, and a network of over 650 volunteer attorneys from over 115 law firms and corporate legal departments, Lawyers Alliance uses its \$1.5 million annual budget to leverage many millions worth of legal services to over 440 nonprofit groups each year.

In 2002, our staff and volunteer attorneys provided 36,000 hours in legal services to nonprofit organizations, including corporate, tax, real estate, employment and other services crucial to their business operations while ensuring their legal compliance. In addition, Lawyers Alliance staff attorneys and volunteers delivered dozens of workshops and distributed twenty different publications, all designed to educate nonprofit managers in the legal issues they confront when pursuing their missions.

Lawyers For Children (LFC)

Lawyers For Children (LFC) was founded in 1984 and remains one of the leading professional, not-for-profit organizations in New York City dedicated to representing children in foster care. In addition, LFC provides free legal and social work services to children who are the subject of abuse, neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption, guardianship, paternity, custody and visitation proceedings. LFC's unique, multi-disciplinary approach to advocacy on behalf of individual children is enhanced by LFC's commitment to continually explore new and innovative ways to protect and advocate for children on a system-wide basis. Their endeavors include: Impact Litigation, Policy Advocacy, Child Sexual Abuse Evaluation and Education Project, Child-Centered Evaluative Visiting, Immigration Rights Project for Children in Foster Care, Groundbreaking Handbooks for Children in Foster Care.

Litigation

Volunteers who are able to contribute twenty-four hours per week over a minimum three-month period of time are eligible to participate in LFC's pro bono direct legal services program. In addition, LFC frequently uses the services of pro bono attorneys to handle appeals. Appellate work is subject to entirely different time commitments and is the most common form of pro bono assistance provided to LFC. Training is provided and required.

Legal Aid Society

The Legal Aid Society in New York City is the nation's oldest and largest provider of legal services to the indigent. The Society's diverse practice in the areas of civil legal work, criminal defense and juvenile justice make it a truly unique, full-service institution. Each year, Legal Aid Staff of approximately 900 lawyers and 800 support personnel provide comprehensive legal services to approximately 300,000 poor individuals and families throughout New York City's five boroughs.

A crucial component of this work is the more than 1,000 attorneys and paralegals in the private bar who join with the society to ensure equal access to justice.

Juvenile Rights Appeals

The Juvenile Rights Division represents New York City's abused and neglected children and is the public defender for children accused of committing criminal acts. The division's appeals unit represents children who have been freed for adoption or have been adjudicated juvenile delinquents. Volunteer attorneys receive expert appellate counsel to break down the transcript for appellate issues, review their appellate briefs, and oversee the final submission of papers.

Adoptions

A child cannot be adopted in New York without the adoptive parent being represented by counsel. This requirement makes adoption economically prohibitive for many stepparents and relatives who are raising the children. Pro bono counsel will complete the necessary adoption forms, draft supplemental supporting affidavits, obtain vital records, and appear in court to obtain an Order of Adoption. Legal Aid staff lawyers will provide training materials and review the papers to be submitted to the court.

Early Intervention Project

The Juvenile Rights Division represents many foster children under the age of three who are entitled to services under the federal Early Intervention Program to address delays in childhood development. Properly administered, this unique enrichment program can provide a varied menu of services critical to a child's healthy development and success in school. The volunteer attorney will interview the child and his/her caregiver, facilitate the referral process, monitor the applicable agency, and represent the child at the Individualized Family Service Plan Meeting. The process calls for skillful negotiation and advocacy on behalf of the child. Ongoing supervision by an expert children's rights attorney includes training and assistance in interviewing children.

The Legal Aid Society-Juvenile Rights Division

The Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Division represents children in child protective (abuse and neglect), juvenile delinquency, persons in need of supervision and termination of parental rights proceedings.

Legal Outreach, Inc.

In 1982, Legal Outreach Co-Founder and Executive Director, James O'Neal, graduated from Harvard Law School and came to New York as Harvard's first Public Interest Law Fellowship recipient. Determined to serve at-risk teens, he taught law to students in Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant and the South Bronx. In the classroom, O'Neal discovered that he could sustain interest and develop skills by discussing legal issues prevalent in their communities, including child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and police use of force. O'Neal then designed and wrote four innovative law-related curricula which continue to serve as the foundation of the organization's work in New York City's middle schools.

For the past 24 years, Legal Outreach has used the appeal of the law as a vehicle for motivating urban teens to strive for academic success. During that 24 year span, Legal Outreach has relied heavily on the strength of commitments from several New York institutions to supplement the curriculum and bring the law to life for young people. Partnerships with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, Columbia Law School, the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York have provided NYC classrooms with guest speakers from the legal profession. Law students from NYU and Columbia have provided instruction in trial practice to Harlem middle school students participating in a Mock-Trial Competition, and partnerships with Columbia and Brooklyn Law Schools have led to the establishment of unique and rigorous summer law programs for eighth graders, known as the Summer Law Institutes.

This combination of law instruction, professional exposure, and simulated professional activities inspired many participants in the middle school programs to strive for more. Many, however, lacked the support and skills necessary to achieve their goals. To meet this need, in 1989 Legal Outreach established College Bound, a comprehensive, four-year program designed to equip students from underserved communities with the tools they would need to succeed. Since the graduation of the first College Bound class in 1993, 176 students have completed the program, and 100 percent have attended college! In fact, more than half of the program's graduates have matriculated to top-ranked colleges and universities including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Swarthmore, Cornell, NYU, Bryn Mawr and many more.

Today, Legal Outreach annually provides law-related education programs to more than 2,600 junior high school students during the school year throughout the five boroughs. Sixty students each year participate in the Summer Law Institutes at Columbia and Brooklyn Law Schools, and fifty students are accepted each year into College Bound. Presently, 144 students participate in the four-year College Bound program at two sites: one in Harlem and one in Brooklyn.

Legal Services for Children (LSC)

Legal Services for Children (LSC) is a legal assistance organization that represents children in civil legal matters, including special education disputes and Social Security disability benefits. LSC also conducts outreach to poor and underserved communities about the rights of children and sources of help when their rights are violated.

Represent Children

To dramatically increase the number of people being served while keeping costs low, LSC has created a model for recruiting and training volunteer attorneys.

LSC welcomes on a full- or part-time basis, as associates, lawyers who have retired, or otherwise left the profession, who wish to join LSC in helping children who cannot help themselves. Associates are given extensive training in the major LSC practice areas. Attorneys who are experts in their areas supervise and co-counsel with them until they become fully familiar with our practice.

Training is provided and required.

Lower Eastside Girls Club

Lower Eastside Girls Club is a multi-service nonprofit serving girls and their families. Services include after school programs, mentor programs, sport activities and educational programs.

Make the Road by Walking (MRBW)

Make the Road by Walking (MRBW) is a membership-led organization based in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Its members are primarily low-income Latino immigrants. The organization promotes economic opportunity and participatory democracy by increasing residents' power to achieve self-determination through collective action. MRBW's multi-faceted approach incorporates the following elements; organization and Activism to build a stronger community, to subject governing institutions to democratic community control, and to mobilize resistance to oppression; collaborative learning to share ideas and experiences, to analyze the root causes of the problems we face, and to strategize about how we can take action together to resolve these problems in a way that values the voice, perspective, and contribution of every person; a Community of Support to provide badly-needed educational and legal services to members and leaders, to draw people into our educational and organizing activities, and to affirm an ethic of cooperation, mutual help, and dignity.

Attorney Referrals

MRBW is in need of pro bono attorneys to whom they can refer cases, or with whom they can co-counsel cases. There is a particular need for attorneys to handle the following types of cases: Family law and custody issues (for clients who are not necessarily victims of domestic violence); consumer law; small business issues (not usually litigation); torts - assault & battery cases, lead paint poisoning cases, occasional toxic/chemical exposure cases, medical malpractice cases, etc.; criminal defense cases; housing cases.

MFY Legal Services

MFY has a forty-year history of providing high quality, direct civil legal services to low-income individuals, families, and community-based organizations. MFY has a professional staff of twenty attorneys. MFY is located near the courthouses in Lower Manhattan and is convenient to the subway.

Pro Bono Adoption Project

Adoptive Parent Representation

MFY Legal Services is looking for law firms to participate in their Pro Bono Adoption Project, representing prospective adoptive parents throughout the adoptive process. MFY provides training, support and assistance to the pro bono lawyers.

The National Center for Law and Economic Studies (f/ka/ Welfare Law Center)

The Welfare Law Center is a national legal and policy organization that works to advance the cause of economic justice for low-income families, individuals, and communities in New York City and across the country. The Center achieves its goals through legal and policy analysis, legal representation, public education, training, and aid and support to advocates. The Center has recently brought landmark cases in New York City on issues including protection of welfare recipients' access to education, the systemic turning away of needy people from welfare centers, providing assistance for persons moving from welfare to work, and failures to implement due process procedures for foster parents and persons wrongfully denied or terminated from food stamps, Medicaid, and cash assistance. This litigation has created a model for litigation across the country.

Access to Childcare

The Center works to assure that childcare is provided in an efficient and dignified manner for low-income parents pursuing education, training, and employment. Volunteers could help with various research and writing aspects of this project.

New Destiny Housing Corporation

New Destiny Housing Corporation was established in 1994 with the mission of assisting low-income domestic violence survivors and other groups at risk of homelessness to create more stable and secure lives by providing housing and related services. New Destiny pursues its mission through three primary activities: (1) developing new units and beds for low-income abused women and their families, (2) managing residential facilities for this population, and (3) operating programs that address the needs of domestic violence survivors.

In the last three years, New Destiny has developed two projects—a 35-bed emergency shelter in Staten Island and an affordable rental project in Brooklyn. The latter project was a gut rehabilitation of an existing building, which was featured by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in its annual report. Early in 2001, it will begin construction of a 27-unit 30,000 square foot transitional housing facility in the Bronx that will serve 140 women and children a year. New Destiny currently owns and/or manages residential facilities at six sites in three boroughs and operates three programs for domestic violence survivors. Through its housing and various related programs, New Destiny serves over 1,000 domestic violence survivors citywide a year.

New Destiny has an annual operating budget of \$500,000, a staff of seven, and an active Board of Directors composed of 17 members.

New Dimensions for Families

New Dimensions is a non-profit human services agency, which is dedicated to utilizing preventive, holistic and multiphase approaches to help individuals and their families lead healthier and more stable existences. New Dimensions aims to promote a higher level of functioning and strengthen "high-risk" families by providing the following: preventive services, alcohol abuse and addiction education, referral and advocacy services, supported housing, a community ministry for outreach to foster support and extend assistance to those whose family and/or individual functioning are disrupted by poverty, neglect or illness.

New Heights, Inc.

Founded in 2000, New Heights is a full-scale, six-day-a-week program that provides academic, athletic, and leadership-building activities for more than 700 kids in troubled New York City neighborhoods -- preparing them for success in high school, college and life. New Heights uses basketball as a hook to engage kids in a comprehensive educational-athletic-life skills program that guides them away from self-destructive behavior and toward an adulthood of hope, promise and productivity. Through New Heights, young people are growing up to become educated, confident, healthy, self-motivated, inspiring and generous citizens.

New Heights is committed to making the world a better place. The organization works relentlessly to cause positive transformation in individuals, their communities and the educational system at large. To this end, New Heights aims to see: (1) talented youth from poor, educationally underserved communities have legitimate opportunities to become college graduates and live up to their full potential; (2) these individuals return to their communities as leaders, creating a "ripple effect" of opportunities for others and transforming the communities from which they came; and (3) the landscape of learning reconfigured in these communities and elsewhere, so that schools and learning environments are engaging, synergistic, intensive and provide access and opportunities for all. Through partnerships with organizations like the National Basketball Association and Stanford University's Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, New Heights creates opportunities and provides support for urban youth to fulfill their potential in the classroom, on the court and in the community.

Academic Coaches

New Heights is looking for volunteers to support its education and tutoring programs. Volunteers serve as "academic coaches" and help provide homework support, high school and college test preparation as well as student guidance.

New Visions for Public Schools

New Visions for Public Schools works with the New York City school system, the private sector and the community to mobilize resources and develop programs and policies that lead to significant, lasting improvement in the achievement of all children. New Visions and its partners work in the classroom to shape programs that address the fundamental needs of teachers and students. Currently, New Visions is focusing on helping educators address the challenge of the new, higher academic standards for all students, while continuing its efforts to provide what areas of the school system still lack: up-to-date books and technology, working libraries, intimate and rigorous learning environments in small schools and opportunities for educators to learn and grow professionally.

New York Association for New Americans (NYANA)

The New York Association for New Americans, Inc. (NYANA) provides an array of culturally sensitive social service programs to refugees and immigrants in New York City. NYANA's programs work with clients, government agencies, and other organizations to help immigrants and refugees live successfully and independently in America.

As the nation's largest nonprofit refugee resettlement and immigrant services agency, NYANA has helped over 500,000 individuals start new lives in the United States since its founding in 1949. NYANA's clients come from countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hungary, the former Soviet Union, Syria, Tibet and Vietnam. The agency's mission is to help newcomers achieve economic self-sufficiency, social integration, and citizenship in the shortest possible time. To that end, NYANA provides a host of core resettlement services to newcomers, including citizenship-preparation programs, immigration-related legal services, employment assistance, health education, family violence prevention services, substance abuse treatment, and technical assistance to emerging community-based immigrant organizations.

New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

Founded in 1990, the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) is a not-for-profit law office that provides free civil legal services for low income New Yorkers. NYLAG provides a wide range of legal services for low income New Yorkers who would otherwise be unable to afford or receive legal help. Direct legal services offered include representation, consultation and impact litigation. A full service agency, NYLAG offers comprehensive assistance from a single location for clients with more than one legal issue. NYLAG units include General Legal Services, Matrimonial/Family Law, Domestic Violence, Immigration, Special Litigation and Legal Health. NYLAG also offers legal education seminars to social workers, medical professionals, and other advocates, and has volunteer programs for attorneys, students and individuals interested in helping New Yorkers with their legal needs.

General Legal Service Unit

Child Advocacy

Attorneys are needed to assist parents/guardians in accessing special education, homecare services and other entitlements for children with special needs.

Matrimonial/Family Law Unit

Domestic Violence Clinical Center

Volunteer attorneys are needed to represent survivors of domestic violence in family court cases including obtaining orders of protection, custody, and child and/or spousal support.

Partnership for Student Advancement (PSA)

The Partnership for Student Advancement (PSA) assists financially underprivileged and/or minority high school students in making a smooth transition from school to the workplace to ultimately achieve professional success and personal fulfillment. This is accomplished by: identifying qualified, motivated youth in underprivileged communities; evaluating each student's skills, aptitudes and interests through individualized testing; reviewing test results with parents and PSA counselors, including motivation assessment; holding training classes for students for business/office readiness; identifying appropriate career classes to attend; continuing to evaluate student interest after career class sessions; placement in appropriate intern position or job shadowing opportunities with constant guidance of PSA coaches to help the students remain focused on achieving personal goals; providing grant monies for the students for partial support of college or specialized study; working with the Department of Education and the educational, professional and business community in a partnered effort to foster and meet the needs of this program; and solicitation of funding from corporations, foundations, government agencies and individuals.

Fundraising/Grant Writing

PSA needs a volunteer to assist it in developing sources of funding, including grants and fundraising events, and to assist in drafting grant proposals. Prior experience is not required but the appropriate volunteer should be willing to commit to a minimum six-month period with the organization.

The Reach Out and Read - Greater New York (ROR)

Reach Out and Read (ROR) is an innovative national pediatric early literacy program that introduces children to the world of books through the combined efforts of pediatricians, educators and volunteer readers. Parents are provided with the information, support and materials they need to make books a part of their children's lives. ROR trains doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud and to give books to children at pediatric check-ups from six months to five years of age, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. By building on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers, ROR helps families and communities encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading. The program is based on three components: (1) in the examining room, physicians and nurse practitioners offer parents tips and age-appropriate advice about the importance of reading with their young children; (2) trained volunteers share books and stories with children while they wait for their appointments and model reading aloud techniques; and (3) at each well-child check-up from six months through five years, children receive a new, developmentally - and culturally - appropriate children's book from medical providers. By the time they begin school, children acquire a home library of at least 10 beautiful children's books.

Reading Reform Foundation of New York

Reading Reform Foundation of New York is a twenty-three year-old not-for-profit organization whose experience has shown that almost every child, regardless of economic and social status, can learn to read, write and spell if well taught. Its primary commitment is to train teachers to teach reading, writing and spelling in the most effective methods, based on research conducted over the years. Most teachers have not been exposed to this kind of teaching anywhere in their education.

Courses in Orton-Gillingham based, multi-sensory, phonetic approaches to teaching reading are offered in July and at other times of the year, can be taken for graduate reading credit, and are available to any teacher. The courses explain the rules of spelling and pronunciation that makes most of English logical and predictable. The organization also holds an annual conference on the teaching of reading, writing and spelling.

When invited by principals, Reading Reform Foundation sends master teachers into public elementary schools on a weekly basis for most of the academic year to train first, second, and third grade regular education teachers in multi-sensory methods of teaching reading, writing and spelling. Principals ask interested teachers, usually two per school, to make a commitment to this program. The teaching consultant holds a private conference weekly in a preparation period with each teacher to plan, model and demonstrate; then the consultant visits each teacher's classroom observing and training the teacher with the children. The organization requires that the teachers with whom it works to take a Reading Reform Foundation introductory course as a good basis for the collaborative work done in the fall. The success of the program depends upon the principals, teachers and Reading Reform Foundation staff working together. The organization serves approximately 60 classrooms and 1,500 students each year and believes that no one else is fulfilling the function of supporting classroom teachers in this way.

Robert Louis Stevenson High School

The Robert Louis Stevenson School serves a broad range of students who can be described as "underachieving," that is, functioning below the levels expected based on their potential. These students may have struggled with adjustment difficulties, problems with peers, mild depression or anxiety. Some have been diagnosed as learning disabled or Attention Deficit Disordered. These adolescents are sometimes at risk of acting out through school avoidance, disruptive and self-defeating behaviors. However, they are often described as bright and potentially capable students.

With a student body of about 75 and a student to staff ratio of 4:1, Stevenson offers a carefully designed program that provides the stimulation and challenge necessary for maturing intellects while offering the individualized instruction, specific help, and supportive community needed to help underachievers succeed. A challenging education program works in tandem with an encouraging and therapeutic environment to provide students with the optimal environment for addressing their special needs.

Ronald McDonald House®

The Ronald McDonald House is a temporary home to pediatric cancer patients and their families from all around the world. With 12 major hospitals in New York City alone, the House was specially created and designed to offer a comfortable, convenient place to live while children undergo therapy at these hospitals.

Room to Grow New York, Inc.

Room To Grow is a not-for-profit organization that provides books, toys, and other material necessities to children in need during their first three years of life. In order to reduce the stigma often associated with charitable donations, clients have their own appointment time to "shop" for what they need and take home their uniquely composed "baby bundle." Each bundle is determined by the level of need, what is requested, and inventory at the time. Clients can return for new bundles every three months up to their children's third year.

Room to Grow's mission focuses on healthy and stimulating early childhood development. An important aspect of a child's healthy development resides in the secure attachment to his or her caregiver. To address the questions, obstacles and stressors that may impact the relationships between caregivers and their young children, the organization's future objective is to create a lecture series, seminars, and parent support groups.

Sanctuary for Families (SFF)

Sanctuary for Families (SFF) is dedicated to meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence, while advocating for societal change and raising public awareness to end violence against all women and their children. Central to Sanctuary's work with individual clients and its efforts to advocate and educate is the belief that this is a crime that must not be tolerated.

Legal Intake Worker

Volunteer would answer questions from women seeking information regarding family law issues and Sanctuary's ability to assist with their needs. Minimum 3-4 hours one morning or afternoon (no evenings) a week commitment is requested. Bi-lingual in English and Spanish is helpful.

Pro Bono Attorney

Sanctuary for Families has volunteer opportunities available for senior or retired attorneys to work in its office on a part-time basis on one or more of its program initiatives. Projects are varied and can be tailored to attorney interest.

Children's Program

Childcare / Tutoring

Volunteers assist the Sanctuary staff in providing childcare, tutoring, leading art and play groups, and spending individual time with each child. Volunteers are needed at the organization's Manhattan Main Office location, its Bronx transitional residence and at one of its Brooklyn safe home locations during daytime hours, late afternoons and evenings Monday through Friday.

Family Law Project

Represent Domestic Violence Victims in Immigration

Volunteer attorneys are needed to represent domestic violence victims in immigration matters.

Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP)/Pro Bono Project

Pro Bono for New Associates

The Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP)/Pro Bono Project trains and mentors new law firms associates not yet admitted to the Bar who advocate for domestic violence victims when they first enter family court seeking orders of protection.

Child Projection Project

Represent Battered Mothers against Child Welfare Agency

Volunteers represent battered mothers in New York City who come to the attention of the City's child welfare agency and face removal of their children from their care due to domestic violence or other coercive governmental actions.

September 11th Legal Initiative

The September 11th Legal Initiative is a massive legal relief effort spearheaded by the City Bar Fund to provide assistance to those directly and adversely impacted by the September 11th attacks. The Initiative consists of a number of projects to address the legal needs of the victims of the disasters.

Urban Justice Center (UJC)

The Urban Justice Center (UJC) serves New York City's most vulnerable residents - survivors of domestic violence; homeless individuals, families, and recipients of mental health services; individuals struggling with addiction; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth - through a unique combination of direct legal services, systemic advocacy, community education, and political organizing.

The Vera Institute for Justice

The Vera Institute of Justice works closely with leaders in government and civil society to improve the services people rely on for safety and justice. Vera develops innovative, affordable programs that often grow into self-sustaining organizations, studies social problems and current responses, and provides practical advice and assistance to government officials in New York and around the world.

Today Vera's staff are leading more than two dozen separate projects that each aim to reveal more about the meaning of justice even as they make a difference in the lives of individuals. Those projects include efforts to improve school safety, reduce violence against women, help men in prison prepare to return home, strengthen police-community relations, and more.

The Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP)

The Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) is a free legal services program for indigent residents of Kings County with cases in Kings County. It is the only program of its kind that operates borough-wide in Brooklyn and provides the critical legal services to solve fundamental problems affecting people's basic rights. The VLP is particularly involved in the representation of those affected with HIV/AIDS, battered women, and the elderly, though the organization attempts to assist any financially eligible client. The Project provides training in the areas of: Uncontested Divorces; Bankruptcy; Wills/Estates; Guardianships (for children); Child and Spousal Support; Adoption; and Custody and Visitation. Live trainings provide up to three free CLE credits. Volunteers must commit to accept at least one case per year in the area trained. Case referrals should be accepted within one year of training.

Battered Women's Project

Volunteers are needed to assist battered women with drafting petitions for orders of protection. They provide representation in custody and visitation cases, child and spousal support cases, and in a limited number of contested divorces. Volunteers also staff the Battered Women's Legal Helpline where they refer clients to appropriate social service organizations.

Child/Spousal Support Panel

Volunteer attorneys are needed to assist clients with a variety of child and spousal support cases, including the enforcement or modification of orders. Members of the private Bar act as mentors to attorneys who are new to the field.

Custody/Visitation Panel

Volunteers are needed to counsel clients on obtaining custody or visitation orders, in addition to modifying or enforcing existing orders.

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS)

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) develops programs to provide free civil legal services to poor people living in New York City, and then recruits volunteer lawyers and law firms to undertake these services. Training and mentors are provided to volunteer lawyers.

VOLS serves as an information and referral source for lawyers interested in doing pro bono work in New York City and works with law firms to develop or expand pro bono programs. Forty-two law firms have taken the VOLS pledge to provide annually at least an average of 30 hours of qualifying pro bono work per attorney. Additional law firms are invited to take the VOLS pledge.

Children's Project

Law Firm Assistance

VOLS is looking for law firms to assist with their Children's Project, working to improve health outcomes for poor children. Projects include commencing a Housing Court action to order apartment repairs for a child with asthma, or assisting with restoring benefits to the family of a pediatric patient.

Incarcerated Mothers Law Project

Pro Bono Assistance

VOLS is looking for volunteer lawyers to assist incarcerated mothers with foster care issues, negotiate with foster guardians to bring children in their care for visits with their mothers, and help mothers to prepare for court hearings.
