

OPPORTUNITIES IN FUNDRAISING, GRANTWRITING, PR AND OUTREACH

For more information or to get involved with any of the following organizations, contact the CityBar Public Service Network at (212) 382-4713 or cpsn@abcny.org

Community Legal Resources Network (CLRN)

The Community Legal Resources Network (CLRN) is a project of CUNY School of Law designed to increase access to civil justice by resourcing solo and small firm practitioners who assist individuals and organizations in underserved communities throughout New York City. These practitioners serve people who are not eligible for help from legal services nonprofits, or who cannot generally afford other representation. When necessary, the attorneys are willing to slide fees and provide "low bono" or pro bono services.

The Network supports their members in much the same way a law firm supports its lawyers: technical and professional support, assistance with law firm management issues, CLE classes at very low cost, mentoring, and a listserv that allows them to get advice and direction from more expert colleagues.

Assist with Day-to-Day Operations

CLRN is looking for senior/retired attorneys who would be available a few days per week to work in their offices assisting with the day-to-day operations of the project. This could include the following projects: development of a board of advisors; identifying potential fee-generating programs for network members; assisting with the mentoring program; helping design relevant CLE programming; leading discussions on the many facets of lawyering; helping to identify potential funding sources; assisting with legal research; identifying and initiating dialog with similarly-designed programs; and generating materials on the crisis in access to justice.

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.

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.

Fair Hearing Assistance, Information and Referrals (Project FAIR)

In collaboration with a number of advocacy groups, chaired by CfRC, this program works to ensure that low-income New Yorkers experience a fair hearing concerning their public assistance, Food Stamp or Medicaid benefits. Project FAIR (Fair hearing Assistance, Information & Referral) operates an information table at 14 Boerum Place in Brooklyn, where most state fair hearings are held. Advocates help appellants understand their procedural rights and the types of evidence that might be most useful for them at the hearing. In its first year, Project FAIR served over 1,000 clients.

The organization currently staffs the table from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM five days a week. Advocates staffing the table are trained by experienced staff from Legal Services, The Legal Aid Society and other organizations that regularly engage in welfare and food stamps advocacy. The advocates at the table provide information about hearing procedures, various informational materials, information about the specific issues and evidentiary requirements pertinent to the individual's pending hearing, and, when appropriate, referrals to Legal Services, Legal Aid, or other organizations.

Assist with Community Outreach

Project FAIR is looking for attorneys to contact and train staff and members of community-based, social service, legal service, and advocacy organizations.

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.

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.

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (FAF)

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (FAF) is a nonprofit cultural service agency. Founded by Fulbright Scholar Harry Morgan, FAF has facilitated international travel and exchange programs as an independent foundation since 1973 - and for more than 15 years prior to that as an informal program supported in large part by Lila and Dewitt Wallace (founders, Readers Digest). Starting as a project of Reader's Digest and later becoming an independent organization, FAF has built many support communities worldwide. They remain loyal to FAF's mission and encourage American groups wishing to visit, exchange and positively affect the cultural landscape. Close to 100,000 people have traveled through FAF since its inception.

FAF plans and facilitates people-to-people arts exchanges, youth reconciliation seminars, and post-traumatic healing programs, all as parts of a concerted effort that it calls 'Cultural Diplomacy.' Through the universal language of art and culture, FAF seeks to advance mutual understanding, global cooperation and goodwill among nations; to foster sustainable development; and to promote and preserve the values of civil society.

Louisiana Finding New Hope Campaign

Serve as a Board Advisor

FAF needs a volunteer to serve as a member of the organization's Board of Advisors. Advisors donate service, help generate media and diplomatic attention, and create and organize events at which FAF staff can speak about their international projects and UN activities. Additionally, Advisors work with families of terror victims, and connect the FAF with further opportunities for service through their own contacts worldwide. Advisors have no fiduciary responsibility; their role is to add to FAF's good works with their private efforts.

General Volunteering

FAF needs volunteers to assist with its various international cultural exchanges and global peace-based public relations and fund development initiatives. Projects can be tailored to individual 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.

Community Outreach

Presentation Preparation

Volunteers are needed to assist inMotion staff in organizing and implementing presentations (written and oral) to both the staff and clients of agencies serving immigrant women, often in languages other than English.

National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC)

The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) is a First Amendment education and advocacy organization. Founded in 1974, it is an alliance of 50 national non-profit organizations, including literary, artistic, religious, educational, professional, labor, and civil liberties groups. United by a conviction that freedom of thought, inquiry, and expression must be defended, NCAC works to educate its members and the public at large about the dangers of censorship and how to oppose them.

Some knowledge of First Amendment law is necessary for most positions. Ideally, volunteers would work in the NCAC offices 2-3 days per week. NCAC has limited staff available for volunteer supervision so relevant experience and an ability to work independently are a must.

Web Editing

NCAC needs volunteers to assist in updating its website to inform readers about new controversies, decisions, and resources relating to the First Amendment, censorship, free expression, etc.

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.

Event Planning

New Heights is looking for volunteers to help coordinate and attend basketball tournaments, school and career fairs, cocktail parties and fundraising events.

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.

Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood Association (PLGNA)

Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood Association (PLGNA) is aimed at creating positive change in the Prospect Lefferts Gardens neighborhood through services, activities and collective action. PLGNA achieves these goals by: (1) identifying community needs and initiating programs and activities to address those needs and (2) assisting the formation of block and tenant associations and uniting those that exist in the interest of creating a cohesive and organized neighborhood group. PLGNA is a multiracial, grassroots, community-led project and seeks to have membership that represents and unifies a cross-section of the community's ethnicity, income and age.

PLGNA was founded in 1968 by a coalition of community members inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of an integrated and vibrant society. Since that time, the organization has been instrumental in creating change that has benefited the community. Major campaigns in PLGNA's history have had long-lasting impact and gained national attention. In its first decade, the organization successfully fought racial steering in the neighborhood to achieve a diversity of residents and effectively organized to ensure that neighborhood banks invested directly into the community. In its more recent history, PLGNA has provided housing services; organized street patrols, street fairs, area beautification and programs for seniors; and opened a computer lab. With a focus on youth empowerment, upcoming PLGNA programs include: after-school workshops; summer institute; youth film collective; intergenerational oral history project; and teen mother projects.

Grant Writing

PLGNA would like assistance with grant writing. The organization is willing to train volunteers who are committed to working with them.

Risa Jaroslow & Dancers (f/k/a High Tide Dance, Inc.)

Risa Jaroslow & Dancers (f/k/a High Tide Dance, Inc.) creates new dance that reflects and speaks to people's lives; uses dance-making to forge connections between people; and includes people of different ages, backgrounds and skills in the dance-making process. The Company is devoted to exploring the ways performance and community work can be merged, each nourishing the other. Risa Jaroslow's lush choreography and stunning visual landscapes are alive with compassion and humor. Jaroslow examines the questions at the core of human experience, threading the answers through choreography that is at once earthy and soaring, transcendent and rooted in the everyday. Communities emerge and dissolve, a simple gesture blooms into a magnificent metaphor, and stories of ordinary and extraordinary people welcome the audience. The company's critically acclaimed evening-length performances are created from material gathered in the community and developed in the studio. What sets the company apart is its ability to weave together the stories of all kinds of people -- from firefighters and midwives to survivors of domestic violence to Jaroslow's company of exquisite dancers -- into works that speak to a wide range of audiences.

Corporate Outreach Project

Risa Jaroslow & Dancers is reaching out to NYC corporations to offer team-building workshops and other opportunities. The organization sees it as a way to build audiences for dance while strengthening workplace communities, and creating an earned income revenue stream for its Company. The Corporate Outreach volunteer will work closely with a Board member, the Managing Director, and the Artistic Director. A detailed plan for this program has been created, but has not yet been implemented. Volunteer duties include establishing a project implementation timeline using program plan; working with Board member to break plan down into tasks; implementing plan, with assistance from Managing Director; and reporting to Artistic Director and Managing Director on progress.

Fundraising Volunteer

The organization is looking for volunteers to help it research funding prospects, draft proposal narratives, draft budgets, and/or assemble proposal backup materials. This is a terrific opportunity to learn how to research grant prospects and prepare a proposal for government, foundation and corporate donors. It's also a great opportunity for an experienced writer to use his or her skills in a different way.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a private, nonprofit land conservation organization that works nation-wide to protect and enhance open space for public use. To date, TPL has preserved over two million acres valued at more than \$4 billion. Founded in 1972 in San Francisco, TPL specializes in conservation real estate, applying its expertise in negotiation, public finance, and law to protect land for people. Working with private landowners, communities and government agencies, TPL has helped to protect nearly 2,700 special places across the country. TPL has also generated over \$35 billion in new public dollars for open space purchase. From Walden Woods in Massachusetts to Denali National Park in Alaska, TPL has been conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, playgrounds, community gardens, recreation areas, historic landmarks and wilderness areas for more than 25 years.

General Research

TPL is looking for volunteers to locate and research ownership profiles, using public records for areas of land that are of particular interest to TPL, and then transcribe information to a map.

Volunteers would be responsible for tracking trends, facts, and statistics on land use patterns to develop and maintain current information for TPL's outreach, especially PR and speeches by the executive director.

Community Outreach

ATPL is looking for volunteers to assist it with outreach to low-income housing groups and area schools in order to design and implement curriculum and other activities centered on community gardens.

Women's Rights at Work (WRW)

Women's Rights at Work is a sexual harassment and gender discrimination outreach and education project sponsored by Citizen Action of New York. WRW serves workers who are dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace. WRW operates a toll-free help line, sponsors monthly forums for workers seeking support and information about workplace harassment, and educates the community about this issue.

Fundraising

WRW could use volunteer attorneys to help fundraise in the community of employment attorneys. For example, a volunteer could help to organize a breakfast law firm event, or do one-on-one meetings. Also, a volunteer could get involved with grant researching, including identifying and reaching out to possible funders.

Workers' Awaaz

Workers' Awaaz (Workers' Voice) is a membership-based workers' center. It was the first organization in the U.S. organizing South Asian domestic workers. Now it also organizes South Asian workers from other industries. Workers' Awaaz comes together with other workers in NYC and the U.S. to fight for rights to a living wage, freedom from long hours, and healthy and safe working conditions. South Asian workers include those of Bangladeshi, Indian, Nepali, Pakistani and Sri Lankan origin; as well as those from the Caribbean, Fiji, Guyana, Africa, Southeast Asia and other parts of the Diaspora.

ESL Classes

Event Planning/Public Relations

A volunteer is needed to assist the organization with planning and marketing of fundraising events.

Grant Writer

Workers' Awaaz would like a volunteer to assist it with various grant writing projects. Prior experience is preferred but the organization is willing to train someone who will make a meaningful time commitment to the organization (six month minimum).
