









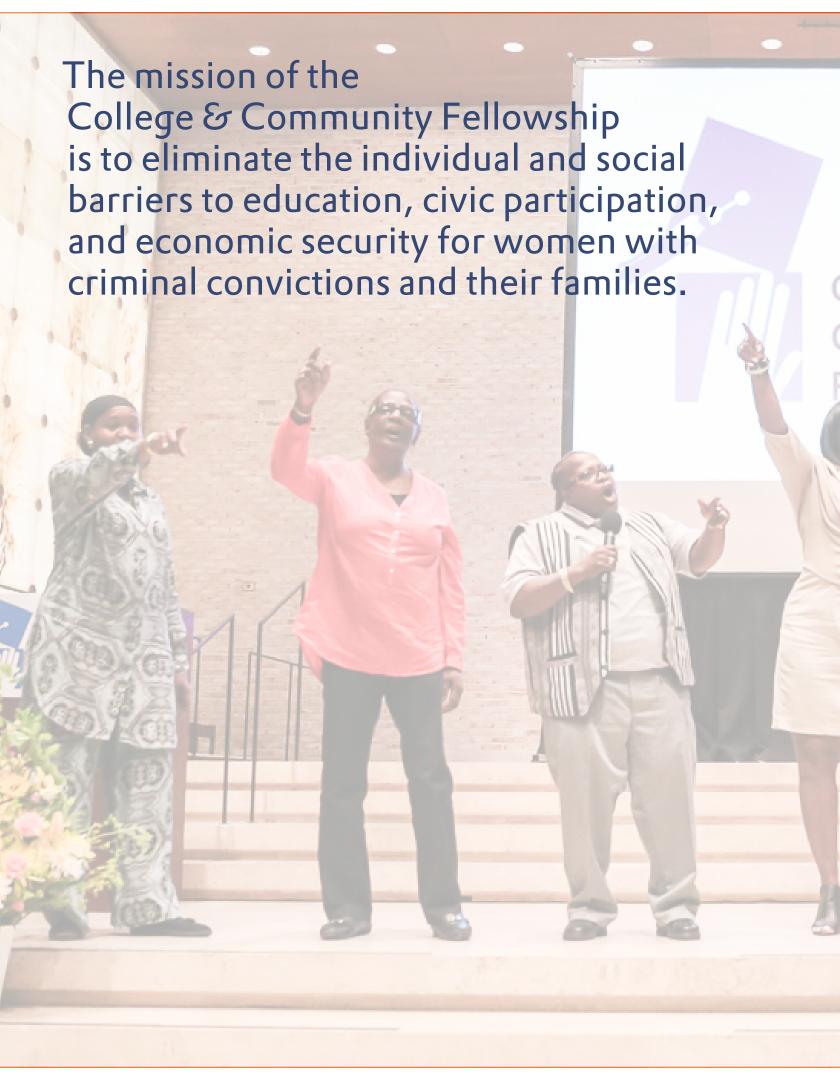






College & Community Fellowship

www.collegeandcommunity.org | (646) 390-7777 | 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1626 New York, NY 10115





brings her daughter to a Community Meeting; Theater for Social Change Ensemble members perform at the 15th Anniversary Gala with the Tonight Show's Ian Hendrickson-Smith; CCF Fellow Zaida poses at the 2015 Graduation; NYS Senator Velmanette Montgomery presents a Legislative Resolution to a CCF Fellow; 2015 valedictorian Tiheba Bain delivers an impassioned address; CCF staff throw our first annual Back to School Block Party; Theater for Social Change Ensemble performs at the 15th Anniversary Gala.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

COMMUNITY
FELLOWSHIP (CCF)
was founded in
2000 to help women with
criminal justice histories
attain a higher education.
During our first year, we
helped six women attend
college after leaving prison.
Since then, we have made it



possible for hundreds more to advance academically. We have also expanded our advocacy work; today, our efforts to increase access to higher education for currently and criminal justice-involved students have reached a national scale.

This year, I am proud to tell you that in our 16 years of service, our Fellows have earned 65 Associate's, 160 Bachelor's, 87 Master's degrees, one Ph.D, and one J.D. Such achievement is evidence that education is a potent antidote to incarceration. The tenacity of our students speaks to their commitment to reentering their communities as fully engaged citizens. The rest of the report contains more details on our students' accomplishments!

This past year has been a pivotal one for CCF. We've enjoyed ongoing national media coverage of our work, our students have taken the lead in advocating for their peers, and we have attracted major foundation support for a national technical assistance pilot programand we celebrated our 15th anniversary with a blowout gala!



This year, our work has been featured in widely read publications like The Atlantic, The Huffington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and The Guardian. We have also enjoyed extensive TV coverage on MSNBC, Capital Tonight, and Univision. With this ongoing media presence, we have influenced the national conversation about criminal justice reform and the critical role of higher education in reentry. We are so excited to see developments at the city, state, and federal levels to make higher education available to people involved with the criminal justice system- learn more about recent initiatives on page 11!

Our students have also made us proud with their tireless work ethic and dedication to helping others. CCF Fellow Angela spoke about her experiences with education and personal finance at the prestigious CFED What It's Worth conference in Washington, DC. Another Fellow, Topeka, has begun to pull together resources to help formerly incarcerated women find housing, educational opportunities, and entrepreneurial support-all within a year of her own release from prison. And Fellows Tiheba (CCF's 2015 Valedictorian) and Leyla have been heavily involved with our advocacy work on the state level. Here at CCF, we've always known the amazing things that can happen when we harness women's inherent strength and capability.

Looking toward the future, we will launch a national technical assistance pilot program (read more on p. 16), move forward with our strategic planning, and continue to provide the quality services that have helped more than 300 women achieve their dreams. We are so grateful for the financial support that makes this work possible, and we thank our major funders: Barbara Martinsons, Ford Foundation, ECMC Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, US Department of Justice, New York Community Trust, Open Society Foundations, and the Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation. We also thank our Board of Directors, whose financial support and professional expertise move our work forward. A full list of supporters can be found at the end of this report.

I trust that, after reading this annual report, you'll become a supporter too. With a growing network of passionate and dedicated individuals, we are working together to ensure the best possible future for our women, their families, and their communities.

Vivian Nixon

COLLEGE & COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

CCF transforms futures for people with criminal justice histories.

The national conversation about criminal justice reform has shifted from focusing on punishment to promoting opportunity for reentering citizens.

OR 15 years, CCF has been investing in the hopes and dreams of our students. For women returning from prison, the obstacles to economic stability range from housing struggles to social stigma to barriers to education. At CCF, we believe that earning a college degree opens the mind, the imagination, and countless doors to a life of long-term self-sufficiency and civic engagement.

VER THE last several years, the national conversation about criminal justice has shifted from a tough-on-crime approach to a more compassionate angle. After decades of community devastation wrought by mass incarceration, criminal justice reform has made headlines as one of the few issues with strong bipartisan support. The tireless work of the CCF team and our allies has made access to education a key element of criminal justice reform conversations. CCF is proud to have been at the forefront of this field for 15 years. Our hope, ultimately, is that we eliminate barriers to higher education so that our services are no longer needed.

From 1980-2014, the total US prison population grew 275%

In that time, imprisonment of women jumped over 7006

Female incarceration rates in New York State

Women represent the fastest growing segment of the state's prison population, and the number of women incarcerated in New York State has grown >700% since 1980. Most are sentenced for non-violent crimes stemming from drug abuse and poverty. Almost three out of four of the state's incarcerated women are mothers.²



CCF Students by the Numbers



New York State formerly imprisoned females after 3 years vs. CCF Fellows after 15 years



Two-Year Graduation Numbers³

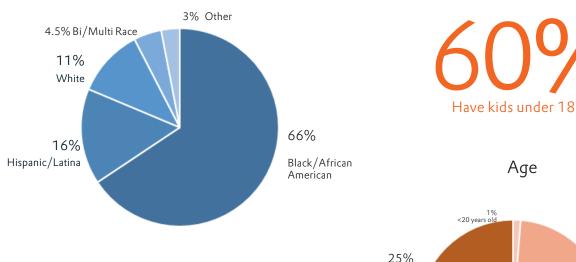
In 2001, the end of our first year, six women graduated with undergraduate degrees. By 2005, all of them had gone on to earn post-graduate degrees. In 2016, our students have earned a total of 314 degrees, including dozens of Master's, a Ph.D, and a J.D.

of CCF students live at or below poverty level when they first enroll in our programs.

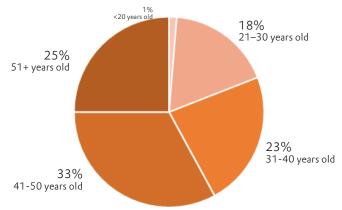
number drops to only

After completing just one semester of college, that

Race/Ethnicity



More than 95% of the people released from prison eventually will return to their communities.'5 The women who participate in CCF represent a demographic snapshot of the state's population of incarcerated females.



Academic Support Program

Individual and community support from intake to graduation.

S INCE our founding in 2000, College and Community Fellowship's unique educational mission has placed the attainment of higher education at the center of services that sustain formerly incarcerated women as they re-enter their communities as thriving, fully participating citizens.

Our services begin with outreach within New York State's women's prisons and among the various community-based organizations that serve women in the process of re-entry. Women interested in our program receive a free College Readiness Consultation to ensure that they have the support and resources to succeed in college. From the time a woman enrolls in the Academic Support Program, she receives regular individual counseling, financial coaching, community support, and opportunities for leadership and scholarships from CCF. Our tight-knit community of new students, CCF Fellows, and alumnae help us share resources and build social capital within the CCF network.

CCF staff actively partner with parole and probation officers to ensure the removal of barriers, such as curfews and travel restrictions that might impede a client or fellow's ability to attend college classes. We also help students navigate admissions offices and financial aid procedures by advocating for them on college campuses. Students receive any necessary referrals for health, mental health, housing, and legal issues, and we provide complementary childcare at every community meeting!

To date, CCF students have earned 314 degrees, including a Ph.D and a J.D.

From June 2015 - June 2016, CCF helped 28 women graduate with their Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees.

The majority of these women pursue careers in community-strengthening fields like social work, public policy, and counseling.



CCF Academic Counselor, Lettisha, runs a community workshop for our students.



L'Oreal sponsors a makeover event, teaching CCF students how to best present themselves for a job interview.

Peer Mentoring Program

Helping women work higher education into their reentry planning.

HE TRANSITION from incarceration back to life in the community requires profound personal transformation of mind and will. CCF envelops women in support services that help them rebuild their sense of self-worth and develop leadership skills while they complete their higher education. Since our founding, CCF has provided an environment that allows women to envision life beyond incarceration and reinforces their belief that higher education, and not time spent in prison, will define their future.

In March 2015, CCF launched its Peer Mentoring Program, fully funded by the United States Department of Justice through its Second Chance Act. The Peer Mentoring Program matches women soon to be released from prison with CCF alumnae. The mentors guide their mentees through the process of reentry, meeting them first in prison and then in the community once they have returned home. Mentors encourage their mentees to work higher education into their reentry planning, helping to form a pipeline of students into the Academic Support Program while continuing to build up the CCF community.

"We've found that even after students get some college credits they still need individual services. These are often the most vulnerable years and this is where CCF comes in and stays to help."

—Maria Santangelo, CCF DIrector of Programs

Our dedicated staff and mentors travel monthly to Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities to speak to women who will be released from these facilities within 90 days. From there, women can apply to become part of our Peer Mentoring Program and are matched with a CCF alumna. Mentors and mentees stay together for a year following the match, attending CCF community meetings and building their relationship. Mentees also receive financial support in their first few months at home.



CCF Fellow Amy gives a presentation to new mentors and mentees at the Navigating Systems Workshop.

Theater for Social Change

Changing hearts and minds through inspiring personal stories

HE THEATER for Social Change Ensemble is comprised of CCF alumnae who write and perform original pieces about their experiences with education post-incarceration. We find that theater is a great tool to inspire community dialogue, to raise awareness and build knowledge about our issues, and even to recruit new students to our programs! By using this ancient art form to convey the transformative power of education, the Theater for Social Change Ensemble makes our work accessible to everyone.

Despite the TSC's increasing popularity, CCF still seeks targeted program funding for its activities. If you're interested in funding TSC, please contact our office for more information!

2015-16 Notable Performance Venues:

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation in North

The Nuyorican Cafe in New York City

Columbia University in New York City

Brandeis University in Massachusetts

Wellesley College in Massachusetts

New York University in New York City

The Rose M. Singer Center on Rikers Island

"I feel like there's
hope for
everyone no
matter what your
past has been."

"Sky's the limit. I can leave here and still pursue my dream as a teacher."

Reactions to TSC Performance at Metropolitan Correctional Facility

Below: The Theater for Social Change Ensemble, including CCF Executive Director Vivian D. Nixon, perform at our 15th Anniversary Gala in October 2015. Accompanying them are Peter Hartmann and The Tonight Show's Ian Hendrickson-Smith. Opposite page: (L) Vivian D. Nixon front and center, at the US Education Department's announcement of guidance to Ban the Box. (R) EIO Coalition members rally to ask Gov. Cuomo to Ban the Box.









Advocating for access to higher education, for students inside and outside of prison.

O-LED by College & Community Fellowship, JustLeadershipUSA, and the Center for Community Alternatives, the Education from the Inside Out Coalition (EIO) is a national nonpartisan advocacy group focused on increased access to higher education for currently and formerly incarcerated students. Founded in 2008 the EIO Coalition has grown into a formidable group. To date, the EIO Coalition includes 52 organizational members, 111 individual members, and thousands of supporters who have signed on to our petitions and follow our work.

CAMPAIGN TO REINSTATE PELL GRANT ACCESS TO INCARCERATED STUDENTS

In 1994, the omnibus tough-on-crime bill signed into law by President Clinton revoked federal Pell grant eligibility from students in prison. The EIO Coalition has been at the forefront of advocacy efforts to reinstate Pell eligibility since 2008.

In the last year, EIO Coalition leadership consulted with the US Departments of Education and Justice to help develop their Pell Grants Experimental Sites Initiative, which temporarily reinstates access to Pell funding for incarcerated students. We also support Rep. Donna Edwards' (D-MD) legislation, the REAL Act, which would permanently restore Pell access to incarcerated students.



CAMPAIGN TO REINSTATE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) ACCESS TO INCARCERATED STUDENTS

The New York State counterpart to federal Pell grants, TAP grants, are currently inaccessible to incarcerated students. Soon after the EIO Coalition led a rally to restore TAP access in front of the Governor's office, NYS Gov. Cuomo announced his \$15 million plan to put college programs back in prison.

The EIO Coalition also joined forces with Human Impact Partners to release a report titled "Turning on the TAP: How Returning Access to Tuition Assistance for Incarcerated Students Improves the Health of New Yorkers."

CAMPAIGN TO BAN THE BOX ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Most college applications include the criminal history screening question "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?" While studies show that there is no correlation between screenings and campus safety, there IS a correlation between screenings and incomplete applications. The chilling effect of this question results in 2/3 of those with criminal justice histories never completing their applications.

In 2015-16, the EIO Coalition held rallies and organized member attendance at city and state public hearings about "Banning the Box." Our community organizer, Dionna King, helped the SUNY Student Assembly pass a resolution to ban the box on all SUNY college applications. And in May 2016, EIO co-founder Vivian D. Nixon attended the US Department of Education's "Beyond the Box" press conference as a guest of the US Secretary of Education, John B. King. This work would not have reached a national scale if not for the tireless efforts of the EIO Coalition.



FREEDOM SCHOOLS

The brainchild of EIO Coalition community organizer Dionna King, Freedom Schools are radical pop-up teach-ins in communities most affected by incarceration. The EIO Coalition hosted two Freedom Schools in Bed-Stuy and Harlem in 2015, covering topics like financial literacy, knowing your rights, self-care, and educational opportunity.

College & Community Fellowship

Year in Review | June 2015-June 2016

Graduation 2015

In June 2015, 15 CCF students graduated with Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees. We held a beautiful graduation ceremony featuring a keynote speech from Robert Kim, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Operations and Outreach Office for Civil Rights in the US Department of Education. New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery presented each CCF graduate with an acknowledgement of her hard work in earning a college degree despite the barriers she has faced. And our valedictorian, CCF Fellow Tiheba Bain, inspired the audience with her speech about transformation and the power of change.



Senator Velmanette Montgomery presents a resolution to a CCF graduate.



Harlem Block Party

In August 2015, CCF hosted its first Annual Harlem Block Party at the Adam Clayton Powell State House. We brought together 13 community organizations, showing Harlem residents the services available in their own neighborhood.

Our dance competition was a hit among the kids, who all received backpacks filled with school supplies, compliments of CCF. A special thanks to Drive Change, whose food truck employing only formerly incarcerated people donated 200 grilled cheese sandwiches!

Top left: CCF staff comes together for the Block Party!

Bottom left: Community members and their children pose after participating in the dance competition.

JustChange

In December 2015, CCF partnered with several reentry organizations for JustChange: a gathering of formerly incarcerated people and US federal officials under one roof. Attendees enjoyed a workshop on the best ways to present their personal narratives, and then had the chance to tell their stories to representatives from the US Departments of Justice, Education, Housing & Urban Development, and more. In total, 17 officials and over 70 formerly incarcerated people attended. Since then, there has been a noticeable upswing in federal-level initiatives for education and criminal justice reform. CCF is proud to have hosted this landmark event, creating a platform for the voices of formerly incarcerated people. Thank you to all of the federal officials who took the time to listen!





Holiday Party

Just a few short weeks after Just Change, CCF hosted its annual Holiday Party for students and their families. Staff dressed as elves to hand out gifts to every child of every student! Volunteers from New York Cares ran arts-and-crafts stations for the younger kids, while CCF staff and board played games with parents and children alike. About 100 students and family members attended. This event is always open to the public, so if your interest is piqued, join us next year! Rumor has it that Santa Claus may be making an appearance....





Top: Community leaders address an audience of formerly incarcerated people at the JustChange regional convening. Bottom: CCF staff and guests celebrate at the Annual Holiday Party.

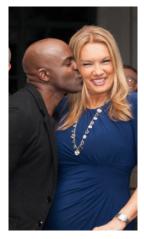
CCF's Anniversary Gala

15 Years of Educat ion and Innovation

Our 15th Anniversary Gala on October 22, 2015, honored the Ford Foundation for its pioneering philanthropic work in social justice and higher education. But the real star of the night was our other honoree, CCF founder Barbara Martinsons, whose tenacious spirit and visionary attitude created an organization ten times bigger than anyone imagined. Barbara still sits on the Board of Directors and is an active participant in CCF's work. We thank her for her generosity and commitment to CCF!

With Hot 97's Lisa Evers as our MC, and special performances by Bryonn Bain and the Theater for Social Change Ensemble,

together we raised \$100,000 for CCF!







Clockwise from top left:

Bryonn Bain and Lisa Evers share a joyful moment.

CCF Ambassadors Kathy Boudin, Marsha Muneerah Greene, and Cheryl Wilkins celebrate our 15th Anniversary.

Founder Barbara Martinsons poses with the entire TSC Ensemble 15 years after she launches CCF!

Student Spotlight

East Side of Manhattan when New York's drug epidemic was in full force. As one of five children, Diana's childhood was far from ideal. Despite struggles with abuse and alcoholism in her home, Diana always excelled in school. In fact, she managed to graduate high school at 15, going directly in the workforce with a series of retail jobs.



Eventually, Diana found work as an office aide at Harlem Hospital, which made her realize her true potential. Her ability to speak both English

and Spanish made Diana a valuable hospital employee: she was often called to speak to patients and their families. Her work at the hospital inspired a sense of purpose in Diana, and she soon realized that she wanted to become a nurse. Diana earned her Associate's degree at Bronx Community College and began working as a Registered Nurse shortly after. By this point, Diana was a single mother to three children and had lost her sister and cousin to AIDS. As a nurse, she specialized in helping HIV/AIDS patients.

After a patient attacked her while she was at work, Diana began using drugs to cope with the trauma. She was arrested several times on drug-related offenses, and was finally able to turn her life around following her last arrest in 2007. Diana attended an inpatient program to help with her addiction, and has been clean ever since. Diana decided to go back to school to earn her Bachelor's Degree; at first, she believed that her contact with the criminal justice system barred her from working as a nurse again. College & Community Fellowship connected Diana to a lawyer who helped with her reinstatement, and who offered her the necessary support to finish her degree.

In May 2016, Diana graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a degree in Forensic Psychology, and a certificate in substance abuse counseling. She is considering going on to earn her Master's to help encourage her children to keep pursuing their education.

Vision

Scaling CCF's model to increase access to higher education nationwide

T CCF, we believe that the road to successful reentry for anyone involved with the criminal justice system begins with access to education. In the last few years, policymakers, philanthropists, and activists have all begun to consider higher education a priority for reentry efforts. With the US Education Department's launch of the Pell Grant Experimental Sites Initiative and NYS Governor Cuomo's announcement of his plan to put college programs back in prisons, we're excited to see a jump in college enrollment for currently and formerly

jump in college enrollment for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals.

But our experience after 15 years of doing this work tells us that those who begin their degrees in prison need individual and community support in their transition to college post-prison. These new state and national initiatives will result in more and more students returning home from prison, and in need of the kind of support CCF provides.

That's why we're excited to announce the launch of our new College Achievement in Reentry Technical Assistance Project (CARTAP), generously funded by the ECMC Foundation!



CARTAP will allow CCF to create a curriculum based on our current service delivery model that can be customized for different types of criminal justice-involved populations. With a suite of handbooks, webinars, toolkits, and other resources, CCF will begin this pilot project to help other reentry organizations do the work we know is necessary to help formerly incarcerated students succeed. We'll begin by providing technical assistance to organizations that have already requested it. We hope to provide assistance to 20 organizations over the next 5 years, including reentry service providers, educators, and correctional gatekeepers. Knowledge is power!

"When you are released from prison you have a sense of loss and you think you have to fix everything right away. CCF helps you take one step at a time and create a new purpose in life.

They help you to use incarceration as a stepping stone, not as a weight on your ankle.

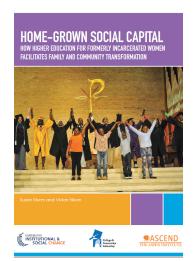
-Gay Le, CCF Fellow

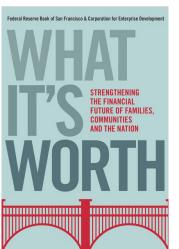




"By simultaneously running direct service programs, advocating for systemic change, and contributing research to the field, CCF powerfully impacts criminal justice reform and reentry efforts at all levels."

—Melanie Steinhardt, Senior Associate of Development









As we continue to work at the intersection of criminal justice reform and education, CCF is committed to contributing our research to the field. Featured here:

"Home-Grown Social Capital: How Higher Education for Formerly Incarcerated Women Facilitates Family and Community

Transformation." Produced in partnership with the founding director of

Columbia's Center for Institutional and Social Change, Susan Sturm.

"What It's Worth: Strengthening the Financial Future of Families, Communities, and the Nation." Chapter by Nixon and Sturm, produced by CFED.

"Turning on the TAP: How Returning Access to Tuition Assistance for Incarcerated People Improves the Health of New Yorkers." Produced in partnership with Human Impact Partners.

"Boxed Out: Criminal History Screening and College Application Attrition." Produced in partnership with the Center for Community Alternatives.

Supporting CCF

How you can help

OLLEGE & Community Fellowship relies on public and private support to carry out our work. The continued support of individuals and foundations underpins our ability help formerly incarcerated women complete their college education.

Make a financial contribution. No donation is too small.

Ask your employer to support us

Many companies offer matching programs that augment the charitable donations made by their employees. Others allow their employees to nominate non-profit organizations for grants or other types of giving.

Consider planned giving

Gifts made as a result of estate planning or testamentary awards often enable donors to make larger contributions to a worthwhile and satisfying endeavor. We are building on an endowment that was started by our founder, Barbara Martinsons. This will allow us to reduce our dependence on annual donations.

Become a volunteer

Your passion, expertise and time would add to our success. We welcome volunteers who would like to help our staff in various ways, including administrative support, policy research, mentoring and tutoring.

Hire our alumnae

Employers should talk to us about qualified and skilled candidates from our pool of alumnae.

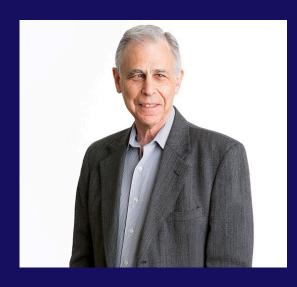
To learn more about supporting College & Community Fellowship, please call the Senior Associate of Development at (646) 380-7775.







Who We Are





L: Board Chair Peter Bakstansky R: Founder Barbara Martinsons

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Isa Johnson
Meg Osborne
Jasmine Perez

As of May 2016

Financial Summary

Statement of financial position as of June 30, 2015

ASSETS	2015*	2014*
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$215,722	\$114,726
Contributions and Grants Receivable	\$105,978	\$135,116
Securities	\$1,227,087	\$1,318,857
Property and Equipment	\$41,911	\$8,439
Other Current Assets	\$14,787	\$3,345
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,438,441	\$1,181,916
Construction in Progress	(148,598)	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$104,257	\$96,044
Refundable Advances	\$5,001	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$109,258	\$96,044
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,077,894	\$1,202,439
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$418,333	\$282,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,496,227	\$1,484,439
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,605,485	\$1,580,483

* Fiscal year ending June 30

Statement of activities and changes in unrestricted net assets

SUPPORT & REVENUE	2015*	2014*
Contributions	\$890,801	\$400,458
Government Grants	\$78,168	\$53,967
Program Service Revenue	\$35,000	\$36,013
Investment Income	(\$20,939)	\$203,840
Other Income	\$2,766	\$126
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$985,796	\$694,404
EXPENSES		
Program	\$863,184	\$805,007
Management and General	\$147,411	\$237,555
Fundraising	\$99,746	\$26,184
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,110,341	\$1,068,746
	(4404545)	(4074040)
Changes in Net Assets	(\$124,545)	(\$374,342)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,202,439	\$1,576,781
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,077,894	\$1,202,439

^{*} Fiscal year ending June 30

Donors

We are grateful for the generous support of the following donors from June 2015-June 2016

\$250,000+

ECMC Foundation
Ford Foundation
United States Department of Justice,
Second Chance Act

\$100,000-\$250,000

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Barbara Martinsons*
New York Community Trust
Open Society Foundation
Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation

\$25,000-\$99,999

Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund Laughing Gull Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Human Impact Partners New Venture Fund Orange County Community Foundation Piper Kerman

\$5,000-\$9,999

Peter Bakstansky*
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John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Jacki and Joe Kelly*
New York Foundation
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To make a donation, please visit our page on www.NYCharities.com or contact Melanie Steinhardt, Senior Associate of Development, at (646) 380-7775

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Notes

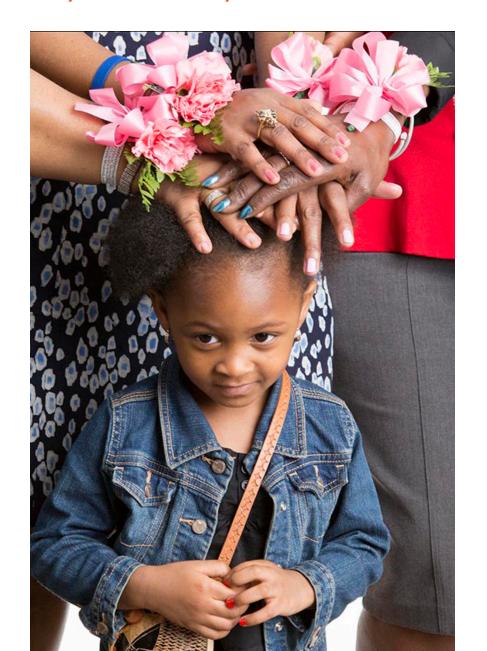
- ¹ The Sentencing Project. Trends in U.S. Corrections, 1925–2014. Washington, D.C., 2014.
- ² The Sentencing Project. Incarcerated Women and Girls, 1980-2014. Washington, D.C., 2014.
- ³ College & Community Fellowship.
- ⁴ College & Community Fellowship.
- ⁵ Petersilia, Joan. When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry (Studies in Crime and Public Policy), Oxford University Press, 2003.

The Theater for Social Change Ensemble poses with Creative Director Beth Mirarchi (second from left) after a performance.



Transforming women's lives and reshaping their futures through higher education.

Limitless possibilities beyond reentry.





475 Riverside Avenue, Suite 1626 New York, NY 10115 www.collegeandcommunity.org 646-380-7777