The Tow Foundation envisions a society where all people have the opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life and have a voice in their community. We strive for this by supporting nonprofit organizations and the systems that affect them to help vulnerable populations and individuals become positive contributors to society. We fund projects and create collaborative ventures where we see opportunities for reform and benefits for underserved populations. We feel it is our obligation to help others achieve success in their own lives. We hope to provide leverage and make possible far greater things than we could achieve alone.
where we are now

As we face another year of lean times and intensive needs, the country continues to look to philanthropy to fill the funding gaps and support the social services and innovations on which society depends. Those of us who work in the nonprofit field know that there has never been enough funding for all we dream of doing. The financial shortfalls of today are not new to us, just a more extreme version of business as usual. Our work has always required us to stretch every dollar in order to help as many people as we can.
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Even when much of the country was flush with resources, those who worked with the neediest were already forced to set lean budgets. They didn’t have the luxury of large bank accounts, but continued the practices that have kept them strong all along – most notably, utilizing the power of partnership, working in nonprofit networks, seizing collaborative opportunities and leveraging every dollar. The organizations that did not work in this essential way are the ones that didn’t make it. Despite having to make some painful choices and getting by with less, our highest impact nonprofit allies continue to be effective, largely because they are a vital and valued partner in their communities.

Partnership is an essential survival tool and, for the best nonprofits, is a well-practiced art.

Partnership is an essential survival tool and, for the best nonprofits, is a well-practiced art. So now, as we find that new opportunities for collaborative work are being presented from an administration that sees the benefit of public/private partnership, we are ready and able to seize the moment. The nonprofit sector is now being tapped for innovative ideas and evidence of success that for so long have gone unnoticed by those controlling government spending. Our hope at The Tow Foundation is that these new opportunities at the state and federal levels will grow and expand the amazing organizations and projects we have been privileged to support.
Over the past decade, Connecticut has reformed legislation, improved practices and staff training, and increased investments in family-based interventions for its juvenile justice population. The result is stronger public/private partnerships, more cost-effective services at the community level, and significantly fewer adolescents being referred to court and detained or incarcerated.

Money invested by Connecticut in family-based services for court-involved youth:
- 2000: $300,000
- 2009: $38,882,354

Number of cases referred to Juvenile Court:
- 2000: 20,330
- 2009: 13,211

Number of youth convicted and removed from their communities:
- 2000: 473
- 2009: 164

See footnotes on page 25 for detailed references.
we can partner as a community

Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force

More than 30 community leaders meet monthly to learn about state and local policies and practices, identify issues impacting youth and families, and share information about effective interventions. Relationships initiated and strengthened here have resulted in collaborative services for youth and helped to attract sizeable private, state and federal funding to Bridgeport.

By acting with one strong voice, this task force became the model that the state used to create 13 Local Implementation Service Teams throughout Connecticut that it hopes will serve as partners at the community level in implementing system reforms for the benefit of vulnerable youth.

Joseph Gaudett, Jr.
Chief of Police, Bridgeport, CT

I feel that it’s important for the police to be part of the community conversation about the issues facing youth in Bridgeport. My participation with this task force has enabled me to partner with community agencies and become better informed about alternatives for youth involved with the juvenile justice system while also giving me an outlet to get the police department’s needs heard and met.
we can partner with individuals

Family ReEntry’s Beacon Ex-Offender Mentoring Program

Ex-offenders who have built successful lives in the Bridgeport community are trained to serve as positive role models and mentors for former inmates returning to the community and for high risk youth, many of whom are court-involved.

By partnering with the judicial system, community providers, local businesses and schools, the ex-offenders strengthen their own self-worth, influence other ex-offenders to pursue positive paths, and inspire vulnerable youth to remain in school, resolve conflicts peacefully, stay out of trouble, and have hope for the future.

Family ReEntry’s Fresh Start Program

When I came out of prison, I felt overwhelmed and wondered, how am I going to make it? While getting my act together, I never thought I could also do something positive for others. At the Beacon Program, we do everything with the boys, from homework to playing games. Most of them don’t have a dad at home. I realized that what they need most is someone they can count on to always be there for them. Failure is not an option. I live by that motto and pass it on to the kids.

George Thompson
Supervisor Counselor, Beacon Program
Bridgeport, CT

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George Thompson
Supervisor Counselor, Beacon Program
Bridgeport, CT

George Thompson with Justice, age 12
Attorneys partner with clinicians, judges, and two Hartford schools. Youth who have 15 or more absences are provided a range of academic and other supports to help them stay in school, improve their educational outcomes, and divert them from the justice system.

By joining forces, these partners identify the personal and family issues that contribute to truancy problems and address them comprehensively, in a coordinated way. Youth and their families feel connected to the process and judges gain a more personal understanding of the young people and the issues they face.

Judge Norko
Presiding Judge, Community Court
Hartford, CT

My schedule doesn’t allow me to take on just any volunteer opportunity. My deep respect for the partners in this collaborative project was what drove me to say yes to the Truancy Court Prevention Project. I admit I have wondered if my participation really makes a difference. But when I went to the graduation and saw the parents beaming with pride about their kids’ progress, I realized how important this program has been to these families.
When I first came to this program, I didn’t know where I would be in the future. Mike, the program coordinator, is connected with people in the construction trades and other local businesses. He helped me come up with a plan for my career and has taught me the importance of honesty, loyalty, trust and respect, both in work and in life. These qualities have helped me become a leader and now I am a supervisor for the kids going through the program and am well on my way to getting my HVAC license.

Erica Hurdle
Entrepreneurial Program Assistant
Waterbury, CT
INVESTING IN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

2009 GRANTS

AFRICAN CARIBBEAN AMERICAN PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (AFCAMP)
Hartford, CT
www.AFCAMP.org
$40,000
Advocacy Training & Support to Families
To support outreach and training activities to help parents of children involved in or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice, education, mental health or child welfare systems learn about and advocate on behalf of their rights and those of their children. This grant enables the staff to facilitate individual cases and to conduct monthly trainings and workshops in Hartford, Waterbury and New Haven designed to inform parents about state and federal education, juvenile justice and mental health policies and practices.

Key Partners: community providers, local mental health collaboratives, legislators, families, state agencies, and local schools

BRIDGEPORT CHILD ADVOCACY COALITION (BCAC)
Bridgeport, CT
www.bcacct.org
$50,000
Unrestricted Funding
To provide general support for this advocacy agency, which is a coalition of 80 area organizations committed to improving the lives of Bridgeport’s 35,000 children and their families through research, community planning, education and mobilization. BCAC’s three task forces identify gaps in services and propose solutions relating to issues faced by Bridgeport’s children. Priorities for 2010 include family access to health care, and health insurance, teacher recruitment and turnover, and affordable housing. BCAC publishes an annual report called “State of the Child in Bridgeport” and hosts an annual Bridgeport Children’s Issues Forum to help influence public policies and improve services for children.

Key Partners: community providers, Bridgeport Mayor’s Office, state agencies, Bridgeport public schools, and local and statewide networks and coalitions

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE
Washington, D.C.
www.campaign4youthjustice.org
$10,000
Unrestricted Funding
To support advocacy efforts to end the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youthful offenders under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system and to win support of the U.S. Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act.

Key Partners: National Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Coalition, A 4 Juvenile Justice Campaign, and the National Juvenile Justice Network

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL (CREC)
Hartford, CT
www.crec.org
$40,000
Truancy Court Prevention Project
To support a truancy court and case management services for youth with significant absences who attend two middle schools in Hartford with high truancy rates. An educational specialist evaluates the needs of targeted truant youth and prepares their individual education plans. Case managers from the Village for Families and Children (The Village) in Hartford work directly with these students and their families. An attorney from the Center for Children’s Advocacy (CCA) at the University of Connecticut School of Law represents students who have legal and special education issues.

Key Partners: The Village, CCA, Hartford Juvenile Court, volunteer judges, and Hartford public schools

CENTER FOR CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY (CCA)
Hartford, CT
www.kidscounsel.org
$15,000
Juvenile Justice Advocacy
To support CCA’s advocacy and oversight efforts on behalf of all children in the juvenile justice system, with particular emphasis on mental health, school discipline policies, truancy and guns issues.

Key Partners: Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, The Village, Judicial Branch, and Hartford Juvenile Public Defenders Office

CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT
Bridgeport, CT
www.cgcgb.org
$30,000
Strategic Intervention for High Risk Youth (SIHRY) Program
To support a family mentoring and enrichment program for youth ages 11 to 13 from the East Side of Bridgeport who are at risk of academic failure, truancy, criminal behavior and substance abuse. SIHRY family mentors provide a minimum of six months of services to youth, mostly Latino, identified by school staff, probation officers or police. They make home visits, monitor the youths’ academic performance and behavior in school, communicate with and support parents, and attend school and treatment planning meetings. The University of Colorado’s Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence is evaluating SIHRY as a potential evidence-based “Blueprint Model Program.”

Key Partners: Administrators and social workers at Luis Munoz Marin School, the Bridgeport Board of Education, and school-based police officers

16

17
The Teen Program is designed to preserve and strengthen the family ties between parents and their children. Staff and volunteers address the youth's educational needs to help them stay in school, provide recreation and counseling services for the youth, and conduct visits with youth in prison. Staff also support the children's caregivers and refer them for services. Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services of Brooklyn, NY serves as the Fiduciary for The Teen Program. Key Partners: New York State Department of Correctional Services, local volunteers and host families, Frost Valley YMCA camp, Share's Reservation Youth Camp, and Prison Families of New York

CONNECTICUT BALLET
Philadelphia, PA
$25,000
Dramatic Outreach Program
To support the Drama Outreach Program for at-risk youth ages 11 to 17 involved with Juvenile Justice or juvenile court, or who need services and accommodations to which they are entitled, and, wherever possible, help to overturn suspensions and expulsions. They also represent youth and young adults served by Juvenile Justice on disciplinary matters related to their school issues and advocate for statewide reform of zero tolerance policies and disparate treatment of minorities.


CONNECTICUT BALLET
Philadelphia, PA
$25,000
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CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES
Stamford, CT
$25,000
Juvenile Justice Outreach Program
To support the Director of Education, who oversees this outreach program, and to develop the program by offering performances and dance and drumming classes at five state-funded juvenile residential facilities, including the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the state's most secure facility for youth under age 17. This grant also supports accelerated community-based training and mentorships for a select group of talented youth who are being stretched back to their communities.

Key Partners: CT Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Detention, residential programs, and local artists.

CONNECTICUT JUVENILE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (CCTJJA)
New Haven, CT
$50,000
Unrestricted Funding
To strengthen CCTJJA's advocacy, communications and youth and family organizing efforts to promote juvenile justice reform in Connecticut. CCTJJA's priorities include monitoring the implementation of the Raise the Age law that returned 16-year olds to the juvenile system in January 2010, addressing the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system, and advocating for changes in school discipline policies and expansion of the Family Support Center model across the state to assist families of court-involved youth at the community level. Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) serves as the host and staff coordinating body for this project.


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Stamford, CT
$25,000
Juvenile Justice Outreach Program
To support the Director of Education, who oversees this outreach program, and to develop the program by offering performances and dance and drumming classes at five state-funded juvenile residential facilities, including the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the state's most secure facility for youth under age 17. This grant also supports accelerated community-based training and mentorships for a select group of talented youth who are being stretched back to their communities.

Key Partners: CT Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Detention, residential programs, and local artists.

CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN
New Haven, CT
$35,000
Fellowship in Juvenile Justice and Related Issues
To support a fellowship program for a recent college graduate that offers hands-on policy work experience in the areas of juvenile justice, foster care, mental health, and education. The fellow conducts research on critical juvenile justice, child welfare, and school discipline policies and practices to help inform legislators, government officials, and advocates; conducts legal advocacy for the Center; assists Connecticut JuvenileJustice Alliance meetings, and helps Connecticut Voices' staff prepare and present testimony before the Connecticut legislatures.


THE CHILDREN’S CENTER AT THE BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY Bedford Hills, NY $40,000

The Teen Program
To provide transportation for prison visits and activities for the adolescent children of inmates at this women’s prison. The program is designed to preserve and strengthen the family ties between parents and their children. Staff and volunteers address the youth’s educational needs to help them stay in school, provide recreation and counseling services for the youth, and conduct visits with youth in prison. Staff also support the children’s caregivers and refer them for services. Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services of Brooklyn, NY serves as the Fiduciary for The Teen Program. Key Partners: New York State Department of Correctional Services, local volunteers and host families, Frost Valley YMCA camp, Share's Reservation Youth Camp, and Prison Families of New York

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$25,000
Juvenile Justice Outreach Program
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Key Partners: CT Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Detention, residential programs, and local artists.

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New Haven, CT
$50,000
Unrestricted Funding
To strengthen CCTJJA's advocacy, communications and youth and family organizing efforts to promote juvenile justice reform in Connecticut. CCTJJA's priorities include monitoring the implementation of the Raise the Age law that returned 16-year olds to the juvenile system in January 2010, addressing the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system, and advocating for changes in school discipline policies and expansion of the Family Support Center model across the state to assist families of court-involved youth at the community level. Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYSAP) serves as the host and staff coordinating body for this project.


CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES
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$25,000
Juvenile Justice Outreach Program
To support the Director of Education, who oversees this outreach program, and to develop the program by offering performances and dance and drumming classes at five state-funded juvenile residential facilities, including the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the state's most secure facility for youth under age 17. This grant also supports accelerated community-based training and mentorships for a select group of talented youth who are being stretched back to their communities.

Key Partners: CT Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Detention, residential programs, and local artists.

CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN
New Haven, CT
$35,000
Fellowship in Juvenile Justice and Related Issues
To support a fellowship program for a recent college graduate that offers hands-on policy work experience in the areas of juvenile justice, foster care, mental health, and education. The fellow conducts research on critical juvenile justice, child welfare, and school discipline policies and practices to help inform legislators, government officials, and advocates; conducts legal advocacy for the Center; assists Connecticut JuvenileJustice Alliance meetings, and helps Connecticut Voices' staff prepare and present testimony before the Connecticut legislatures.


THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT Bridgeport, CT
$45,000
James Center for Youth in Crisis
To provide short-term shelter, counseling and other services to youth ages 11 to 17 at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice. Crucial issues include truancy, defiance of school rules, indecent or immoral conduct, running away, and conduct that is beyond the control of the family. This diversion program was created to address the families' needs and prevent commitment of the youth to detention or other out-of-home placements.

Key Partners: Judicial Branch, CT Department of Children and Families, area schools, families, community providers, and the Bridgeport Juvenile Review Board

CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES OF NEW YORK (CANY) New York, NY
$30,000
Drama, Theater and Training Program at The Children's Center
To support a therapeutic drama program for youth ages 11 to 17 receiving residential substance abuse and/or mental health services at The Children’s Center of Hamden, Connecticut. This drama therapy combines theatre arts with group counseling to help these troubled youth develop and strengthen interpersonal relationships, express feelings, recognize negative emotional states, and build self-esteem and confidence. In addition, this grant provides trainings for The Children’s Center staff. A six-week training program in the CANY drama therapy model for child care workers in the region is planned for Spring 2010.

Key Partners: The Children’s Center and a local performing artist
DOMUS FOUNDATION
Stanford, CT
www.domuskids.org
$50,000
Family Advocate Program
To support the director of the high school family advocates.
The Domus Family Advocate Model is a school/family/advocate partnership that helps youth make successful life transitions by providing early intervention for at-risk students, preparing them for academic success. Family advocates provide youth-centered, family-focused support to parents and students with needed wrap-around services provided by Domus and its community partners. Family advocate teams identify and make progress toward goals they set so they can get back on track to success and help students reengage in the educational process while developing vital social and emotional skills.
Key Partners: Stanford schools, community providers, and the CT Department of Children and Families

THE DANBURY REGIONAL CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
Danbury, CT
www.danburychildadvocacy.org
$25,000
Dispute Resolution Center
To provide mediation services at four juvenile courts and for two Juvenile Mediation programs ($15,000) and to support the mediation program at the Juvenile Detention ($10,000).
Key Partners: Juvenile Court, local schools, state agencies, Juvenile Review Boards, community providers, and advocacy coalitions

JUVENILE MEDICATION PROGRAM
Bridgeport, CT
www.fwinc.org
$55,000
Juvenile Care Management Collaborative
To provide case management, in-home exploration opportunities, and job-readiness and financial literacy training to youth ages 12 to 18 who are probation or parole or at high risk of delinquent behavior. The youth participate in and receive stipends for apprenticeships at the Youth Business Center in such areas as house-building, guitar-making, music and video production, cosmetology, photography, and computer design. Youth learn how to fill out job applications and properly conduct themselves on job interviews and in the workplace. Those who advance in the program are offered paid apprenticeships or employment.
Key Partners: Juvenile Court, local schools, state agencies, Juvenile Review Boards, community providers, and advocacy coalitions

FAMILIES IN CRISIS
Hartford, CT
www.familiesincrisis.org
$45,000
Fatherhood Initiative
To support a caseworker to provide parenting classes and individual counseling for fathers ages 15 to 20 commissioned to the Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire, an adult prison, and to provide aftercare services to those returning back to their communities from prison. The caseworker meets with families during the incarceration and also accompanies the fathers on visits with their children after they leave the institution. Case management services are provided for a minimum three months pre-release and three months post-discharge.
Key Partners: CT Department of Correction, the Fatherhood Advisory Council, and the CT Department of Social Services, and community providers

FAMILY REUNITED
Norwalk, CT
www.familyreunited.org
$40,000
Beacon Ex-O-Felon Mentoring Program
To support one-on-one and group mentoring by trained ex-offenders with youth ages 8 to 17 who are involved in or at risk of involvement with the justice system. The mentors are successful participants in the Fresh Start prisoner reentry program who have a growing interest in working with youth. They participate in a 20-hour training program to prepare them to work with youth and serve as positive role models.
Key Partners: Bridgeport Juvenile Court & Detention Institution, Bridgeport schools, the Bridgeport Juvenile Review Board, HYASC, and state agencies

GROUNDWORK BRIDGEPORT
Bridgeport, CT
www.groundworkbpt.org
$45,000
Green Team
To support the summer component of this landscape maintenance training program for high-risk high school students. The program aims to keep youth in school, advance their life and job-readiness skills, and prepare them for employment in the horticultural field. The summer internships are part of a two-year, school-based horticulture program that provides motivated youth with teaching and service learning opportunities and hands-on landscaping and landscaping experiences through projects designed to enhance public spaces.
Key Partners: National Park Service, Harding and Oxford high schools, and community providers

HALL-BROOKE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
WESTPORT, CT
www.hallbrooke.org
$40,000
Justice for Juveniles Behavioral Health Treatment Program
To provide mental health and family support services to youth involved with the juvenile justice system who have a history of substance abuse issues. Hall-Brooke conducts a two-week, state-funded, intensive mental health evaluation of detained youth. This grant enables the agency to provide eight weeks of additional counseling and case management to youth for whom appropriate follow-up services could not be found elsewhere in the community. The youth are monitored on a graduated basis for two years for recidivism, hospitalization, school performance, and compliance with court orders.
Key Partners: Bridgeport area mental health providers, Bridgeport Hospital, the Greater Bridgeport Pregnancy Prevention Program, the Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force, the CT Department of Children and Families, and local school-based health centers
HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL OF MID-FAIRFIELD
Norwalk, CT
www.hsccf.org
$40,000
Briggs High School Health Center
To support the health and mental health staff at the school-based health center at Briggs High School, an alternative school primarily serving at-risk, uninsured and court-involved youth in Norwalk. Services include physical exams, immunizations, dispensation of medication, crisis intervention, counseling, and nutrition classes. This grant enables the health center to provide services for 25 hours a week, including before and after school. Approximately 1,500 students are documented annually. Staff also provides medical care to babies in the school-based nursery.
Key Partners: Norwalk Department of Public Health, the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Family & Children’s Agency, Hall-Brook Hospital, Norwalk schools, and community providers

JUNIOR LAW CENTER
Philadelphia, PA
www.jlc.org
$100,000
Juvenile Life Without Parole Advocacy Campaign
To support the work of the communications strategist on a national campaign to influence the U.S. Supreme Court on cases being heard to abolish the sentence of life without parole for juveniles and to allow their cases to be reviewed later in life to give them the opportunity to prove that they have been rehabilitated. The Juvenile Life Center is partnering with other capital litigators, advocacy organizations and communication strategists to establish a coordinated advocacy campaign that mirrors their similar successful efforts in 2005 to influence the Supreme Court to abolish the juvenile death penalty.

Key Partners: Violence Crisis Center, Family & Children’s Agency, Hall-Brooke Hospital, New Haven, CT

KIDS IN CRISIS
New Haven, CT
$30,000
Safe Haven for Teens
To support the Teen House emergency shelter for youth ages 14 to 17 dealing with such issues as family conflict, abandonment, abuse, neglect or court involvement. Youth who reside at the 12-bed short-term shelter receive education, health, counseling, advocacy with the court, and other services.

Key Partners: CT Department of Children and Families, Judicial Branch, local schools, community providers, Family Centers, Family & Children’s Agency, and the Center for Children’s Advocacy

MUTNECK BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
Hartford, CT
www.mutneckbigbrothersbigsisters.com
$40,000
Mentoring Program for Children with Incarcerated Parents
To support a one-on-one mentoring program for children whose mothers or fathers are incarcerated. This grant provides the local match of a federal grant.

Key Partners: CT Department of Correction, CT Department of Children and Families, Families in Crisis, Central Connecticut State University, and community and faith-based providers

PUBLIC ALLIES CONNECTICUT
Bridgeport, CT
www.publicallies.org
$30,000
Nonprofit Leadership Program
To provide leadership training and nonprofit work experience to young adults ages 18 to 30 through a 10-month apprenticeship. Allies also participate in weekly leadership trainings and conduct team service projects that help to build the capacity of their host organizations and benefit the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport communities. The Public Allies program was designed to help train the next generation of nonprofit leaders. BYASAP serves as the host and fiduciary for this organization.
Key Partners: nonprofit host agencies, the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, and the Public Allies national office

REGIONAL YOUTH ADULT SOCIAL ACTION PARTNERSHIP (BYASAP)
Bridgeport, CT
www.ryasap.org
Unrestricted Funding
To enable BYASAP to strengthen its leadership team, implement a strategic plan and better lead its community partners in efforts to address critical issues impacting youth and families. BYASAP is the host of many local initiatives, including the Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force.
Key Partners: nonprofit host agencies, the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance
SERVING ALL VESSELS EQUALLY
Norwalk, CT
$50,000
Life Coping Skills Development Program
To support a faith-based program for youth ages 14 to 18 who are struggling in school and involved with juvenile court, adult probation or the foster care system. The program offers life, social and job-readiness skills, and community service. When youth graduate from the classroom part of the program, they are offered jobs in general maintenance, landscaping, and interior painting at participating churches. Clergy are trained to mentor the youth and assist their families. S.A.V.E. was created by Canaan Institutional Baptist Church in Norwalk to promote and develop programs that reduce youth and gang-related violence.
Key Partners: Norwalk Juvenile Court, police, local high schools, local parishes, the Norwalk After-School Alliance, and Norwalk Community College

WATERBURY YOUTH SERVICE SYSTEM
Waterbury, CT
www.waterburyyouthservices.org
$50,000
Entrepreneurial Program
To support tutoring, graphic arts, journalism, life skills, and job-readiness training in organic gardening and the construction trades for high risk youth ages 14 to 18, some of whom are truant or first-time juvenile offenders. The youth learn the basics of the commercial construction trades, including sheetrocking, plumbing, electrical work, woodworking and painting. In addition, they design and sell original products and invest the profits back into the program.
Key Partners: Waterbury schools, local businesses, state agencies, the Stepping Stone girls juvenile residential program, the Beacon Communities senior residential community, and the Workforce Investment Board

WESTCHESTER MEDIATION CENTER
Yonkers, NY
www.clusterinc.org
$30,000
Restorative Justice Project
To provide group conferences to mediate disputes between adolescent offenders and the victims of their crimes and divert these cases from the court. This grant also supports a Parent/Teen mediation program to help resolve family issues before they require court involvement.
Key Partners: White Plains, Yonkers and New Rochelle family courts and probation departments, area schools and police departments, community providers, and the Yonkers Guardianship Association

WESTCHESTER YOUTH TRANSITION FUNDERS GROUP
Chicago, IL
www.ytfung.org
$10,000
Unrestricted Funding
To support this coalition of national and regional foundations and its Juvenile Justice Workgroup. YTFG’s mission is to improve the lives of our nation’s most vulnerable young people ages 14 to 24 and to help them become successful adults. YTFG’s three workgroups focus on juvenile justice, foster care, and out-of-school and struggling students. The group advocates reform of the public systems that impact these young people’s lives. The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region in Washington, D.C. serves as the fiduciary for this organization.
Key Partners: national and regional foundations; Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families, and Grantmakers for Education

CONTACT INFORMATION
The Tow Foundation
43 Denbury Road, 2nd Floor
Wilton, CT 06897-4400
Phone: 203.761.6604
Fax: 203.761.6605
www.towfoundation.org

FOOTNOTES
Detailed references from pages 6-7
1. Combined investments by Connecticut Department of Children, and Families (DCF) and Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch for fiscal years 1999-00, 2002-03, 2005-06 and 2008-09
2. Juvenile Court data from Court Support Services Division of Connecticut’s Judicial Branch for fiscal years 1999-00, 2002-03, 2005-06 and 2008-09
Special thanks to: Julia Rosich, MSH, CSSD Center for Best Practices and Anne McIntyre-Lahner, M.D., DCF Bureau of Juvenile Services
The Tow Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals. If your organization fits the criteria outlined in our Juvenile Justice Funding Guidelines, please send a letter of inquiry (maximum two pages) with an explanation of your organization’s mission and a brief description of the project for which you seek funding.

Foundation staff will contact you by mail or phone to discuss your project’s eligibility, seek additional information or arrange an introductory meeting before you are invited to submit a full proposal. Once invited to do so, applications must be completed using our online format.

The Tow Foundation Board of Trustees meets quarterly. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, but cannot be timed for review at a specific board meeting. Letters of inquiry will be accepted by mail only. Unless requested, please do not email, overnight mail or fax your information.

To be eligible for a grant, organizations must comply with the following:

- Have tax-exempt status under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
- Serve the community without discrimination by race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability

The foundation will not provide support for the following:

- Individuals
- Organizations lacking tax-exempt status
- Political causes, candidates or campaigns
- Capital campaigns
- Government

The foundation encourages the use of innovative and leveraged funding strategies, such as challenge or matching grants, and other types of collaborative efforts. As a general rule, multiple-year grants will be considered only for prior grantees.

To apply to The Tow Foundation, organizations must seek to achieve one or more of the following results for court-involved youth:

- Diversion from entering or going deeper into the justice system **
- Identification or development of a skill or interest that would improve their self-image and increase the likelihood of their success in the future
- Improved connection to and engagement with existing resources in their communities that can best help them address the issues they face
- Reduction in the number of youth removed from school or otherwise denied a quality education
- Improvement in the quality, coordination and breadth of the community-based programs that serve them
- Increased advocacy by and on behalf of these youth and their families that aims to build awareness and influence change in public policy related to the issues listed above

** Not all prevention programs will qualify for consideration

We look for the following characteristics in the organizations in which we invest:

- Ability to produce measurable, long-term results
- Sustainability
- Potential for program replication
- Strong commitment to advocate and lobby policymakers within legal limits on behalf of their clients and services
- A track record of networking and collaborating with other nonprofits, government and the business community
- Strong leadership and a history of adapting to changing societal needs
- Engagement of staff and volunteers as ambassadors to advance their mission

The Tow Foundation’s investments are targeted toward projects and initiatives that hold the promise of improving the lives and prospects of youth involved in or at risk of involvement with the Connecticut juvenile justice system and their families, as well as influencing the reform of the public systems with which they may be involved.
no child is beyond help