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Together in Health

Newsletter of The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey

Issue 2 - September, 2022

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2021 Annual Report



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Farewell to the Dog Days of Summer



Although we both have been out of school for many years, September is always a month of anticipation of change for us both. It is a time when we leave the "dog days of summer" behind to usher in the crisp mornings and nights of fall, special to the Garden State. For adults, it signals the end of summer vacations and getting back to routine. For children, it is the beginning of the new school year; a time to start friendships and engage in exposure to fresh ideas and wonder.

Although this is also a time of renewal, it still poses many challenges, especially considering balancing lingering Covid-19 concerns with a desire to return to a sense of normalcy. Indeed, just recently, the Newark Public School System announced that all students returning to school will be required to wear face masks out of an abundance of caution.

of a century. Especially during these recent years, the Foundation has responded with emergency and special grants to fund school nurses, social workers, early childhood interventionists and community programs to assist in keeping school communities healthy in the face of Covid-19 and to build resilience in the pandemic's aftermath. Below you can read some highlights on a few of these projects.

September also brings the Jewish High Holy days. We wish all who celebrate a *Shana Tovah U'Metukah*--a healthy and sweet Jewish New Year. May this coming year be one filled with good health, joy, and a renewal of spirit and activities.

In good health!

-Amy Schechner, Board Chair

-Michael Schmidt, HFNJ Executive Director and CEO

Facts and Figures: Grantees in Action

Thank you to our community partners who are making such a positive impact. As a result of their work over the past year:



School-based Mental Health Projects Among HFNJ's Third-Quarter Grants

In our third quarterly giving cycle of 2022, The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey awarded **\$2,886,777 to 21 non-profit organizations**. Two of the grants in particular will focus on school-based programs that support mental health, as schools are increasingly called upon to address children's mental health challenges which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

A \$102,140 grant to **Youth Development Clinic** will support weekly individual and group counseling sessions at Avon Avenue School in Newark.

Imagine: A Center For Coping With Loss will receive a \$75,000 grant to train teachers, students, parents, and administrators in three Newark K-12 school in order to change the culture of grief and help students who are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Bringing Better Care to Trinitas Patients



On June 16, 2022, HFNJ was honored to join our friends at Trinitas Regional Medical Center for the opening celebration of the Nadine Brechner Interventional Radiology Suite. A \$750,000 grant from HFNJ helped fund the construction of the suite, and an additional \$250,000 grant funded the installation of a new, state-of-the-art MRI machine. The suite will allow Trinitas to offer world-class diagnostics in-house to an estimated 1,200 patients annually and tens of thousands of patients over the course of its life.

Grantee Spotlight: Gottesman RTW Academy

Gottesman RTW Academy is a coeducational Jewish day school in Randolph, New Jersey serving approximately 225 children in nursery school through grade eight. We talked with Dean of General Studies Cheryl Bahar about how the school has handled their community's mental health in the wake of the pandemic. .



Q: Tell us, Cheryl, about the impact COVID-19 had on your school community - students, staff, and families?

The impact of COVID has been far reaching on so many levels. As far as our students, the lack of in-person social interaction (at the beginning of the pandemic) was devastating. The isolation was concerning, and the level of fear was palpable as the pandemic wore on. The staff was juggling online learning and as we opened in the Fall of 2020, and they adjusted to a hybrid model. This was both stressful and uncharted territory. Our families are dealing with financial uncertainty and the stress of balancing careers with taking care of children who were supposed to be in school. As the school moved towards more in person learning we realized that students were delayed in their level of emotional intelligence.

2) What impact have the two social workers funded by the HFNJ grant had on the Gottesman RTW Academy community?

Our social workers began in the fall prior to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were getting to know our student population and the families. As soon as the pandemic hit, they focused on meeting with students remotely and helping support parents who were under a tremendous amount of stress. They helped connect parents to various resources and services and were a valued ear to teachers who were stretched to the limit.

What We Are Reading

- **How Schools Will Be Dealing With Students' Mental Health Challenges**
With students returning back to school, this article from *NJ Spotlight News* looks out how nurses, counselors, and staff are preparing to help students deal with their mental health.
- **The Future of Public Safety**
This report describes Newark's community-based ecosystem of public safety, identifying key components of its systems of support. Several HFNJ-funded programs are highlighted.
- **Maternity Action Plan**
From the NJ Health Care Quality Institute and RWJF, this report contains 11 policy recommendations to make NJ the safest, most equitable state in which to deliver and raise a baby.
- **Listening vs. Transformation: Is Philanthropy Changing in the Ways Nonprofits Need Most?**
From the Center for Effective Philanthropy, thoughts on how funders can listen to their grantees in ways that will translate into successful partnerships.

About Our Grantmaking Process

We welcome applications by **November 18, 2022** for consideration in our Q4 (December 2022) grant cycle.

Due to the extraordinarily high number of requests for funding we are receiving, we encourage you to speak to our **Grants Administrator** before beginning your application, to make sure your project concept aligns with our current priorities.

All applications are screened, researched, and evaluated by HFNJ staff to determine eligibility. HFNJ's Board of Trustees makes the final decisions on funding requests, and proposals are approved quarterly.

Visit our website for full application instructions



Visiting the Hawthorne Ave. Farm in Newark's Clinton Hill neighborhood

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