

## **Morningside Heights Community Fund Round One Grants August 2020**

**The Morningside Heights Community Fund provided \$5000 each to the following groups. Each organization describes in its own words how it used the funding.**

### **America Scores New York**

We launched a monthlong virtual summer program to continue supporting Morningside Heights youth virtually, with a focus on racial equity and social justice through the lens of sport, poetry, and community. Methods for engaging with youth have been similar to the spring season: a combination of packages sent directly to homes, video instruction, independent learning, and phone support.

### **Behind the Book:**

We used this funding to create a customized literacy program plan that will allow students to interact with an author, explore a book's themes in depth, and lead them to a final writing and art project. Once the anchor text is identified and the author has agreed to participate, Behind the Book will create a series of activities designed to fully immerse students in the experience of the book, deepen their connection to the author, and support them in the production of their own written work.

### **Broadway Community:**

The need for extra funds arises from the shift to take-out rather than communal meals. In order to maintain safety for shelter residents, medical patients, and those we feed, we began providing take-out meals on March 11. This required the purchase of large quantities of pre-packaged single servings of such items as juice, fruit, and grain bars, as well items like paper bags for packaging, to-go containers for soup and salads, and disposable utensils. While breakfast bagels and pastries are usually donated, they now must be purchased, as donor businesses are closed.

### **Brotherhood Sister Sol:**

We pride ourselves on providing holistic and wrap-around support, mentorship, and love to our community. Our needs and subsequent programmatic responses will continue to grow in the coming months, and support from Morningside Heights Community Coalition is crucial in enabling that work. All of this is in addition to our regular programming and organizing efforts, which will also continue. 8

### **St. Mary's Episcopal Church:**

Our grant will support our Food Bank of NYC and Uber/Lyft Delivery Assistance programs. It will allow us to double the amount of Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen services and enhance safety gear and sanitation. It will also allow us to increase the number of clients we can deliver food to.

**Legal Outreach:**

Our 2020 virtual Summer Law Institute (SLI) serviced rising low-income ninth grade students, including 14 youths residing in Morningside Heights/West Harlem. This program helped students to not succumb to the trend of low-income minority youth falling behind during mandatory online learning. Our instructors and speakers include Columbia Law School students and professors.

**Harlem Wellness Center:**

Due to Covid-19 related closures, our revenue-generating streams have been disrupted. We have adapted to our space closure by providing virtual yoga, mindfulness meditation, nutrition, dance, and supportive holistic wellness circles.

**The Reading Team:**

We will apply a grant toward the costs of program instructional materials, such as pens, pencils, notebooks, iPads, and books, and to pay for student evaluations, parent conversations, and staff professional development. Our enrolment keeps growing, and our free Book Distribution Program is especially popular and impactful, bridging classroom and independent learning

**Friends of Morningside Park**

We are seeking funds to support a free Nature Discovery Program over four weeks this summer for up to 12 children. The program will be best for ages 6- 10 with caretakers or parents in attendance. Our plan is to facilitate and hire an educator and an assistant to develop and facilitate an age-appropriate, science-focused curriculum.