



November 2014

Nonprofit Excellence Awards Finalists

Six finalists have been announced for the 2014 New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards. The Awards recognize outstanding management practices of nonprofits in New York City, Long Island and Westchester. The six organizations were selected by a panel of 30 nonprofit management experts, from a list of 10 semifinalists recognized earlier this year.

This year's six finalists are:

- **Bowery Residents' Committee:** This Manhattan-based organization is a leading provider of housing and services to more than 10,000 of New York City's neediest individuals.
- **Community Access:** Based in downtown Manhattan, this organization expands opportunities for people to recover from trauma, mental illness and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy and healing-focused services.
- **Graham Windham:** Since its founding in 1806, Graham Windham has been a vital force in providing innovative child welfare, educational, vocational, youth development and other social service programs to help New York City's children and families achieve life-changing outcomes.
- **Leake & Watts, Inc.:** This Yonkers/Bronx-based organization provides services to more than 5,000 individuals in the New York

metropolitan area ranging from poverty assistance to aiding in access to adequate education.

- **Row New York:** Based in Queens and Manhattan, this organization empowers youth from under-resourced communities to build strength, gain confidence, and pursue excellence through the competitive sport of rowing, paired with academic support.
- **Washington Heights CORNER Project:** Based in Washington Heights, this organization seeks to better the lives and health of those who use drugs through outreach programs, education, and referral services.

"With these awards, the New York Community Trust is proud to highlight the nonprofit groups with excellent management," said Lorie Slutsky, President of The New York Community Trust, a leading funder of nonprofits in the region. "For eight years, we've helped share best practices to help the more than 40,000 nonprofit organizations in and around the New York City area."

"These exceptional finalists serve as role models for all organizations. They employ the best management practices, knowing that standard performance is not good enough. These six nonprofits prove that investing in management translates to real results," said Michael Clark, President of the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York.

The 2014 Awards drew a total of 77 organizations – a 25 percent jump over last year. Applicants were asked about their practices in eight key performance areas of nonprofit management identified as crucial by nonprofit professionals nationwide, including: Focus on Results; Board Governance; Financial Management; Diversity and Cultural Competency; Human Resources; Information Technology; Communications; and Fundraising and Resource Development. All of them received 360-degree feedback on their management practices, with the goal of improving organizational performance.

"This year's finalists are an impressive group. They've leveraged innovative management practices to achieve excellent outcomes and improve their organizations. We can't wait to see who wins in November," said Ronna Brown, president of Philanthropy New York.

NPCC created the Nonprofit Excellence Awards in 2007, and serves as the program's tax-exempt manager, in collaboration with The New York Community Trust and Philanthropy New York. Along with sponsor WNYC, the program is also supported by The Clark Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Google, Taconic Foundation, McGladrey LLP, Fund for the City of New York, and Columbia Business School Executive Education Programs in Social Enterprise.