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# 2018 NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WINNERS OF THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST 2018 NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE AWARDS SHARE SECRETS TO THEIR SUCCESS

New York, NY, December 10, 2018 – The Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCC) celebrated the winners of The New York Community Trust 2018 Nonprofit Excellence Awards on Thursday, December 6th, at the inaugural *Best Nonprofit Conference*.

The Overall Nonprofit Excellence Award winner, **Safe Horizon**, provides support, prevents violence and promotes justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families, and communities. It is recognized with a second award for its practices in **Information Technology**, which Safe Horizon uses to forward its mission in innovative ways. For instance, it created a customized dashboard for its shelters to measure bed vacancies and track possible causes, ultimately this was able to make more beds available to survivors of violence in need of shelter. With its team of 16 Information Technology pros to support staff at 116 locations in five boroughs, it created and maintains customized client management system that enables a single database that can be used by multiple programs, while providing safeguards for privacy.

Including Safe Horizon, eight nonprofits won awards in the following Key Areas:

**The Osborne Association** (Bronx) is dedicated to transforming the criminal justice system and to reducing crime and its human and economic costs. It is recognized for its practices in **Results and Impact**, because of its unique approach to using Key Performance Indicators to propel management and program decisions. It uses evidence from its programs to advocate for providing more services – not less – to individuals at high risk of recidivism and as a result, better serve these individuals, their loved ones, and the community.

**St. Nicks Alliance** (Brooklyn) transforms the lives of low and moderate income people through employment, education, housing, and health care; delivering services that change the lives of children, adults, and the elderly. It is recognized for its practices in **Governance** because its board engages in risk assessment and fiscal oversight that forwards the mission of the organization responsibly. Its board was critical in rebuilding the 110-year-old School Settlement Association community center in Williamsburg, despite market forces that threatened it. It also used a merger to save the 211 Ainslie Street property that houses a senior center and child care center while serving as the Williamsburg Town Hall. It is also provided leadership to the Greenpoint Renaissance Enterprise Corporation, a coalition of 11 organizations that plans to build new housing and a health center on the former Greenpoint Hospital campus.

**Literacy Inc.** (Manhattan) engages families and community members to support young readers in high need neighborhoods. It is recognized for its practices in **Financial Management** because it works hard to ensure grant pricing is accurate and reflects true costs, which allows Literacy Inc. to responsibly assess its revenue needs for current programming and the risks and opportunities of taking on new programming, such as its new Young Men's Initiative "My Brothers' Keeper."

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**Grand St. Settlement** (Manhattan) expands opportunities for low-income families and individuals by providing culturally relevant services that support community-building, advocacy, self-determination, and an enriched quality of life. It is recognized for its practices in **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** for “finding strength in the communities we serve,” by recruiting and hiring from the communities it serves, and centers its organizational leadership development on shared power, supporting and promoting promising minority employees, and encouraging and training its employees to take on leadership positions and increasing responsibilities.

**Day One** (Manhattan) partners with youth to end dating abuse and domestic violence through community education, supportive services, legal advocacy, and leadership development. It is recognized for its practices in **Human Resources**, where it includes teen leaders and survivors in hiring processes. It also is transparent with staff about budgets and salary, supports a fun, quirky and productive work environment, and takes care of staff with its office community care table, which provides communally provided treats and personal care items.

**Education Through Music** (Manhattan) partners with under-resourced schools to provide music as a core subject for all children, and utilizes music education as a catalyst to improve academic achievement, motivation for school, and self-confidence. It is recognized for its practices in **Communications** because of its data-driven approach to the field. For example, based on the success of its viral Facebook post, “A Music Teacher Made a Difference in My Life. Share if a music teacher made a difference in your life,” it created a campaign to create brand awareness and promote a broader mission of providing music education.

**Center for Urban Pedagogy** (Brooklyn) uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, particularly among historically underrepresented communities. It is recognized for its practices in **Fundraising**, where every member of its staff understands that their role and work presents an opportunity to raise awareness and support, including financial support. It also values advice or expertise equally with financial gifts and invites its supporters to annual plan roundtables to be Center for Urban Pedagogy project jurors, and to attend free events such as Youth Education project debuts, where board members and supporters bring guests to learn more about its work.

The *Best Nonprofit Conference*, held at the Faculty House at Columbia University, was attended by nearly 250 people and featured panels and talks framed by NPCC’s standards in *Eight Key Areas of Nonprofit Excellence*. The conference provided attendees with tips, tools, and templates that helps them to implement best nonprofit management practices.

“NPCC appreciates everyone who attended and we thank all of the generous support for an event for nonprofit professionals to learn innovative management practices from the winners’ best practices,” said Sharon Stapel, president of NPCC.

“As part of our work to strengthen the region’s nonprofit sector, The New York Community Trust supports this awards program to celebrate excellence in the field, and provide an opportunity for the winning groups to share their successful practices with other organizations,” said Lorie Slutsky, president of The New York Community Trust, one of the region’s leading funders of nonprofits.

“The Clark Foundation is proud to support nonprofit excellence through the awards program,” said Doug Bauer, executive director of The Clark Foundation. “All of the winners demonstrate excellent management practices for the nonprofit community to model and support.”

An expert 31-member selection committee chose the winners from a pool of [14 qualified semi-finalists](#), following a readiness assessment, in-depth application, and 360-degree review of all management practices. Applicants demonstrate how their practices mirror the best practices represented in NPCC's *Eight Key Areas of Nonprofit Excellence*.

[NPCC](#) manages this program in collaboration with [The New York Community Trust](#) and The Clark Foundation. [WNYC](#) is the media partner. Additional financial and in-kind support is provided by [Philanthropy New York](#), [Ford Foundation](#), [JPMorgan Chase & Co.](#), [RSM US LLP](#), and [Columbia Business School Executive Education Programs in Social Enterprise](#). Learn more about the [Nonprofit Excellence Awards](#), NPCC's guiding [Eight Key Areas of Nonprofit Excellence](#), [2018 finalists](#), [past winners](#), and the [selection process](#) by visiting [NPCC's website](#).

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