

**THE NEW YORK REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRANTMAKERS  
HONORS LEADING NONPROFITS AT ITS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT  
GRACIE MANSION**

*Award recipients include Robert Span Browne, Girls Incorporated,  
Central Brooklyn Churches, the Israel Trauma Coalition, the Community Food Resource  
Center, and Hip-Hop Theater Junction*

NEW YORK- October 26, 2004- The New York Regional Association of Grantmakers (NYRAG), the metropolitan area's leading philanthropic membership organization, marked its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary yesterday with an awards presentation and reception at Gracie Mansion, the historic residence of New York City mayors. Furthering its commitment to promote philanthropy in the region, NYRAG used the occasion of its anniversary to honor five outstanding nonprofit organizations and present its first award for lifetime achievement posthumously to Robert Span Browne, a pioneer in organized philanthropy among African Americans.

Deputy Mayor Patricia Harris opened the awards program. Also joining members of nonprofits, grantmakers, and corporations to salute the special partnerships between NYRAG members and nonprofit organizations were commissioners and other city officials from departments and agencies including Parks and Recreation, Youth and Community Development, Cultural Affairs, Correction and Probation, Landmarks Preservation, the Office to Combat Domestic Violence, and the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

Five NYRAG members—Time Warner Inc., the Trinity Grants Program, UJA- Federation of New York, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and The Nathan Cummings Foundation— were chosen by their peers to honor one of their most innovative and most successful grantee organizations. The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, also a NYRAG member, generously donated the crystal awards for the ceremony.

“Highlighting the work of our nonprofit partners is the most appropriate way to celebrate our anniversary. It is their work that enables our members to advance their charitable mission,” said NYRAG’s President Michael Seltzer. “It was also important to recognize Robert Browne’s contributions to the field of philanthropy and his lifelong commitment to the betterment of society.”

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

NYRAG honored Robert Span Browne (1924-2004) with a lifetime achievement award. Browne was the founder of The Twenty-First Century Foundation, a NYRAG member and one of the country's premier African-American philanthropic institutions. The award was accepted by Charles Sheffield, a partner at the Carthage Group and President of The Twenty-First Century Foundation's Board of Directors. Browne was a leading economist, philanthropist, foreign aid advisor, professor, and writer, and a particularly strong voice in opposing the war in Vietnam and in pushing for social and economic equality for African Americans.

### **Corporate Foundation Grantee Award**

The Time Warner Foundation, featured NYRAG member in the corporate foundation category, presented its award to Girls Incorporated, an organization that works to encourage young girls to develop strong values and reach their full potential. Pamela Stevens, Vice President of Youth Programs at Time Warner Inc., presented the award to Joyce Roche, CEO of Girls Incorporated. Time Warner Inc. focuses its grantmaking on helping young people acquire the literacy skills necessary to excel at school, in the workforce, and in the community.

### **Religious Grantmaker Grantee Award**

The Trinity Grants Program, featured NYRAG member in the religious grantmaker category, selected Central Brooklyn Churches, a multi-denominational community organization of more than 25 churches, working in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Trinity Church Rector Reverend Dr. James Cooper, of the Trinity Grants Program, presented the award to Le' Roi Gill of Central Brooklyn Churches. The Trinity Grants Program focuses its grantmaking on religious and spiritual community outreach in New York City, the U.S., and abroad.

### **Public Foundation Grantee Award**

UJA-Federation of New York, featured NYRAG member in the public foundation category, chose to award the Israel Trauma Coalition, an alliance of trauma-related service providers working to improve the trauma response capacity of the Israeli mental health system. Lousie B. Greilsheimer, Vice President for Agency and External Relations at UJA-Federation, presented the award to Dr. Danny Brom, Chair of the Israel Trauma Coalition and Director of the Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, and Talia Levanon, Coordinator of the Israel Trauma Coalition and Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma. UJA-Federation of New York funds more than 100 health, human service, educational, and community agencies in the New York area and around the world, and it supports a network of organizations that renew and strengthen the Jewish people in the U.S. and abroad.

### **Independent Foundation Grantee Award**

**The Annie E. Casey Foundation, featured NYRAG member in the independent foundation category, selected the Community Food Resource Center, an organization that helps combat poverty through job training in food services and raising awareness about the Federal Food Stamp program and tax credits for low-income families. Janice M. Nittoli, Director of the Human Services Workforce Improvement Project at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, presented the award to Richard Murphy, Executive Director of the Community Food Resource Center. Since 1948, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has worked to foster public policies, human service reforms, and community support that meet the needs of disadvantaged children and their families in the United States.**

### **Family Foundation Grantee Award**

The Nathan Cummings Foundation, featured NYRAG member in the family foundation category, chose to honor Hip-Hop Theater Junction, an organization that creates and produces theater that addresses socio-political issues of particular relevance to urban young people. Claudine K. Brown, Arts Program Director for the Nathan Cummings Foundation, presented the award to Clyde Valentin, Managing Director of Hip-Hop Theater Junction. The Nathan Cummings Foundation works toward building a socially and economically just society through grantmaking focused on ecological balance, health care, and arts and culture.

### **New York Regional Association of Grantmakers**

Founded in 1979, the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers (NYRAG) is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes and supports the practice of effective philanthropy for the public good. NYRAG members comprise more than 270 public and private grantmakers in the metropolitan area, including independent, family, corporate, community, public, and operating foundations; corporate contributions programs; federated funds; and religious grantmakers. NYRAG members contribute more than \$3.5 billion in grants annually to thousands of nonprofit organizations in the city, region, nation, and around the globe. Collectively, they represent the largest concentration of philanthropic capital in the world. The association provides professional development programs, peer networks, member briefings, collaborative reports, and listservs, all of which help professionals connect to each other and subject experts in various fields. NYRAG also promotes the development of new philanthropic resources and stimulates partnerships between government, nonprofit organizations, and grantmakers. For more information about NYRAG, please visit [www.nyrag.org](http://www.nyrag.org).

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