Dear Friends,

In 2008 the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation celebrated several successes and faced unprecedented challenges. It was a tough year economically and although total assets remained stagnant and year end giving was down, the contributions of many new donors within our community made it the second most successful giving year in our history. More and more individuals are discovering the ease and power of giving to the community through the GMCF.

Last year we saw the biggest granting year in the history of the Foundation. More than 190 grants, totaling $834,033 were given to support local projects and scholarships. Twenty two (22) new donors establish funds at the Foundation and more than $2.2 million in new contributions came into the Foundation’s 127 funds.

The GMCF is made up of local volunteers, many of whom have created family funds or supported the Community Foundation through annual gifts. Others are involved in an organization that has received a grant or are part of a project or collaborative effort to help make our community an even better place to live, work and raise a family. We live in a unique community, with a proud history, an energetic present, and a future full of promise.

We sincerely thank the many individuals that generously give their time, talents and financial support to our community through the Community Foundation.

S. Lee Taylor
Board President

Sarah Saueressig
Executive Director

GMCF Has A New & Improved Website!

www.mcfks.org

Please check it out for the latest GMCF news and stories and the most up to date foundation information.

Meeting National Standards ~ Why Is That Important?

In 2008 the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation received notification that it met the nation’s highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability. This is critically important to our donors. When people make a charitable bequest, establish a fund or set up an annuity, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely, honor their charitable wishes and, in some cases, provide lifetime income to a loved one. The National Standards confirmation says our house is in order. It provides quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.
Last year 9-year old Jessica came to school on Monday mornings with droopy eyes, dragging feet, and a growling stomach. It seemed Jessica struggled to keep up at school and often could not focus her attention in class. You see, the food provided during the week at school was simply not available to Jessica at home over the weekends.

But, thanks to the USD 383 Backpack Food Program offered by the Flinthills Breadbasket, this year is a different story for Jessica, and for many other students across the Manhattan Public School System.

Now Jessica looks forward to the weekends. Each Friday her school gives Jessica a backpack filled with a weekend supply of healthy, kid-friendly foods.

Patsy, Jessica’s single mother, also appreciates the program. She is unemployed so money is scarce. And, with no access to transportation and younger children at home, it is difficult to go to the store for groceries.

Knowing that her children are not hungry is a great relief to Patsy. She says “Jessica is happy and doing well in school, and that makes me happy.”

The Backpack Food Program was partially funded through a GMCF Youth Impacting Community grant.

(Names have been changed so parties may remain anonymous.)

Thank you for giving through GMCF.

Financial Report

As of December 31:

2007 Assets: $8,339,648
2008 Assets: $8,434,275

More financial information can be found at the GMCF website: www.mcfks.org
Many grants to the community come from contributions given by individuals to the Fund for Greater Manhattan Endowment. This unrestricted fund provides maximum flexibility and assure contributions are forever relevant to the needs and opportunities of the community. It allows donors to invest wisely and well in the community both today and for future generations.

Mrs. Lou Beck is a resident at St. Joseph Village. Thanks to balance equipment purchased through Grants For Greater Manhattan funds, Mrs. Beck has regained her balance and has not fallen for over a year.

The local Red Cross needed a reliable vehicle to transport volunteers to emergency sites. This 2007 Chevrolet Suburban was purchased with a grant from the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation.

Don Dodge, a lifelong Manhattan resident, loved a few things: his community, motorcycles, airplanes, animals and kids. It was common to see his Sheltie dog riding with him in his airplane or sitting behind him on his motorcycle. Before he died, Don made a bequest in his will to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation for the establishment of an endowment to support youth and aviation. The income from his fund is distributed annually by the Foundation’s grants committee to charitable programs that support youth enrichment activities in the area of airplane mechanics. Because of his gift to GMCF, Don’s memory will live on forever.

Don’s gift has supported the Wing Nuts, a group of young people working with local mentors to build an actual airplane. Here is what one parent had to say about what the Wing Nuts program has done for her son:

“I want to take the time to thank you so much for what you have done for my son. He is always so excited to go with you and work on the plane. You have no idea how much it means to us that you do this for these boys, especially Jonathan. As you know his dad is often deployed and I believe this program helps fill the void that he feels when his dad is gone. We are preparing for another deployment in April. I just wanted you to know how grateful I am for what you do for Jonathan. Thanks again for all you and the other volunteers do for these kids.”

You help do more good than you think!
Provide for those you love and those whose names you’ll never know.

While personal and family obligations should always come first, a planned gift to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation is a simple way to create an enduring legacy.

An easy way to leave a gift to the community is through your will or trust. If this is your desire, your estate planning attorney can help you include language such as the following:

“I hereby give and bequeath $_____ to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation to be used for its general purpose (or for a specific purpose).”

Or, “I hereby give, devise and bequeath the residue (or _____% of the residue) of my estate to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation to be used for its general purpose (or for a specific purpose).”

Please note that if you are interested in leaving the proceeds of an insurance policy or IRA assets to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation, you will need to indicate this on the insurance or beneficiary form as the proceeds from these assets are disposed by the terms of the insurance policy or IRA document and not by your will.

If you have made provision for a deferred gift to the GMCF or if you would like more information about leaving a planned gift to the community through the Community Foundation, please contact Sarah at (785) 587-8995 or director@mcfks.org.

To everyone who has given through the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation and/or served as a trustee, THANK YOU! Our community is fortunate to have many generous individuals who are willing to give of their talent, time and treasure. You are truly appreciated! Please visit our website where we have recognized all of our donors and trustees.

www.mcfks.org

Simplify your life!
Consider giving to all your favorite local causes by writing one check to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation.

Because A Healthy Little Apple Is Good For All Of Us! ®