The Tow Foundation
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Juvenile Justice Initiative
The Tow Foundation envisions a society where all people have the opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life and have a voice in their community. We strive for this by supporting nonprofit organizations and the systems that affect them to help vulnerable populations and individuals become positive contributors to society. We fund projects and create collaborative ventures where we see opportunities for reform and benefits for underserved populations. We feel it is our obligation to help others achieve success in their own lives. We hope to provide leverage and make possible far greater things than we could achieve alone.
where we are now

As we face another year of lean times and intensive needs, the country continues to look to philanthropy to fill the funding gaps and support the social services and innovations on which society depends. Those of us who work in the nonprofit field know that there has never been enough funding for all we dream of doing. The financial shortfalls of today are not new to us, just a more extreme version of business as usual. Our work has always required us to stretch every dollar in order to help as many people as we can.
Our work has always required us to stretch every dollar in order to help as many people as we can. Even when much of the country was flush with resources, those who worked with the neediest were already forced to set lean budgets. They didn’t have the luxury of large bank accounts, but continued the practices that have kept them strong all along – most notably, utilizing the power of partnership, working in nonprofit networks, seizing collaborative opportunities and leveraging every dollar. The organizations that did not work in this essential way are the ones that didn’t make it. Despite having to make some painful choices and getting by with less, our highest impact nonprofit allies continue to be effective, largely because they are a vital and valued partner in their communities.

Partnership is an essential survival tool and, for the best nonprofits, is a well-practiced art. So now, as we find that new opportunities for collaborative work are being presented from an administration that sees the benefit of public/private partnership, we are ready and able to seize the moment. The nonprofit sector is now being tapped for innovative ideas and evidence of success that for so long have gone unnoticed by those controlling government spending. Our hope at The Tow Foundation is that these new opportunities at the state and federal levels will grow and expand the amazing organizations and projects we have been privileged to support.
Over the past decade, Connecticut has reformed legislation, improved practices and staff training, and increased investments in family-based interventions for its juvenile justice population.

The result is stronger public/private partnerships, more cost-effective services at the community level, and significantly fewer adolescents being referred to court and detained or incarcerated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Money Invested $</th>
<th>Number of Cases Referred</th>
<th>Number of Youth Convicted and Removed</th>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>20,330</td>
<td>473</td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$38,882,354</td>
<td>13,211</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See footnotes on page 25 for detailed references.
we can partner as a community

Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force

More than 30 community leaders meet monthly to learn about state and local policies and practices, identify issues impacting youth and families, and share information about effective interventions. Relationships initiated and strengthened here have resulted in collaborative services for youth and helped to attract sizeable private, state and federal funding to Bridgeport.

By acting with one strong voice, this task force became the model that the state used to create 13 Local Implementation Service Teams throughout Connecticut that it hopes will serve as partners at the community level in implementing system reforms for the benefit of vulnerable youth.

I feel that it’s important for the police to be part of the community conversation about the issues facing youth in Bridgeport. My participation with this task force has enabled me to partner with community agencies and become better informed about alternatives for youth involved with the juvenile justice system while also giving me an outlet to get the police department’s needs heard and met.

Joseph Gaudett, Jr.
Chief of Police
Bridgeport, CT

Schools
Police
Juvenile Court
Mental Health Providers
Tow Foundation
After-school Programs
Legal Services
Advocates
we can partner with individuals

**Family ReEntry’s Beacon Ex-Offender Mentoring Program**

Ex-offenders who have built successful lives in the Bridgeport community are trained to serve as positive role models and mentors for former inmates returning to the community and for high risk youth, many of whom are court-involved.

By partnering with the judicial system, community providers, local businesses and schools, the ex-offenders strengthen their own self-worth, influence other ex-offenders to pursue positive paths, and inspire vulnerable youth to remain in school, resolve conflicts peacefully, stay out of trouble, and have hope for the future.

“When I came out of prison, I felt overwhelmed and wondered, how am I going to make it? While getting my act together, I never thought I could also do something positive for others. At the Beacon Program, we do everything with the boys, from homework to playing games. Most of them don’t have a dad at home. I realized that what they need most is someone they can count on to always be there for them. Failure is not an option. I live by that motto and pass it on to the kids.”

George Thompson
Supervisor Counselor, Beacon Program
Bridgeport, CT
Attorneys partner with clinicians, judges, and two Hartford schools. Youth who have 15 or more absences are provided a range of academic and other supports to help them stay in school, improve their educational outcomes, and divert them from the justice system.

By joining forces, these partners identify the personal and family issues that contribute to truancy problems and address them comprehensively, in a coordinated way. Youth and their families feel connected to the process and judges gain a more personal understanding of the young people and the issues they face.

Judge Norko with Chevonne, age 14

Honorable Raymond R. Norko
Presiding Judge, Community Court
Hartford, CT

My schedule doesn’t allow me to take on just any volunteer opportunity. My deep respect for the partners in this collaborative project was what drove me to say yes to the Truancy Court Prevention Project. I admit I have wondered if my participation really makes a difference. But when I went to the graduation and saw the parents beaming with pride about their kids’ progress, I realized how important this program has been to these families.
When I first came to this program, I didn’t know where I would be in the future. Mike, the program coordinator, is connected with people in the construction trades and other local businesses. He helped me come up with a plan for my career and has taught me the importance of honesty, loyalty, trust and respect, both in work and in life. These qualities have helped me become a leader and now I am a supervisor for the kids going through the program and am well on my way to getting my HVAC license.

Erica Hurdle
Entrepreneurial Program Assistant
Waterbury, CT
INVESTING IN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

2009 GRANTS

AFRICAN CARIBBEAN AMERICAN PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (AFCAMP)
Hartford, CT
www.AFCAMP.org
$40,000
Advocacy Training & Support to Families
To support outreach and training activities to help parents of children involved in or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice, education, mental health or child welfare systems learn about and advocate on behalf of their rights and those of their children. This grant enables the staff to familiarize individual cases and to conduct monthly trainings and workshops in Hartford, Waterbury and New Haven designed to inform parents about state and federal education, juvenile justice and mental health policies and practices.

Key Partners: community providers, local mental health collaboratives, legislators, families, state agencies, and local schools

BRIDGEPORT CHILD ADVOCACY COALITION (BCAC)
Bridgeport, CT
www.bcacct.org
$50,000
Unrestricted Funding
To provide general support for this advocacy agency, which is a coalition of 80 area organizations committed to improving the lives of Bridgeport’s 35,000 children and their families through research, community planning, education and mobilization. BCAC’s three task forces identify gaps in services and propose solutions relating to issues faced by Bridgeport’s children. Priorities for 2010 include family access to health care, and health insurance, teacher recruitment and turnover, and affordable housing. BCAC publishes an annual report called “State of the Child in Bridgeport” and hosts an annual Bridgeport Children’s Issues Forum to help influence public policies and improve services for children.

Key Partners: community providers, Bridgeport Mayor’s Office, state agencies, Bridgeport public schools, and local and statewide networks and coalitions

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE
Washington, D.C.
www.campaign4youthjustice.org
$10,000
Unrestricted Funding
To support advocacy efforts to end the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youthful offenders under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system and to win support of the U.S. Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act.

Key Partners: National Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Coalition, Art & a Juvenile Justice Campaign, and the National Juvenile Justice Network

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL (CREC)
Hartford, CT
www.crec.org
$40,000
Truancy Court Prevention Project
To support a truancy court and case management services for youth with significant absences who attend two middle schools in Hartford with high truancy rates. An educational specialist evaluates the needs of targeted truant youth and prepares their individual education plans. Case managers from the Village for Families and Children (The Village) in Hartford work directly with these students and their families. An attorney from the Center for Children’s Advocacy (CCA) at the University of Connecticut School of Law represents students who have legal and special education issues.

Key Partners: The Village, CCA, Hartford Juvenile Court, volunteer judges, and Hartford public schools

CENTER FOR CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY (CCA)
Hartford, CT
www.kidscounsel.org
$55,000
Juvenile Justice Advocacy
To support CCA’s advocacy and oversight efforts on behalf of all children in the juvenile justice system, with particular emphasis on mental health, school discipline policies, truancy and gifts issues.

Key Partners: Connecticut JuvenileJustice Alliance, The Village, Judicial Branch, and Hartford Juvenile Public Defenders Office

CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT
Bridgeport, CT
www.cgcgb.org
$30,000
Strategic Intervention for High Risk Youth (SIHRY) Program
To support a family mentoring and enrichment program for youth ages 11 to 13 from the East Side of Bridgeport who are at risk of academic failure, truancy, criminal behavior and substance abuse. SIHRY family mentors provide a minimum of six months of services to youth, mostly Latino, identified by school staff, probation officers or police. They make home visits, monitor the youth’s academic performance and behavior in school, communicate with and support parents, and attend school and treatment planning meetings. The University of Colorado’s Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence is evaluating SIHRY as a potential evidence-based “Blueprint Model Program.”

Key Partners: Administrators and social workers at Luis Munoz Marin School, the Bridgeport Board of Education, and school-based police officers

INVESTING IN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

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Key Partners: Administrators and social workers at Luis Munoz Marin School, the Bridgeport Board of Education, and school-based police officers
To provide transportation for prison visits and activities for the youths' parents and sponsors, including the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the state's most secure facility for youth under age 17. This grant also supported accelerated community-based training and mentorships for a select group of talented youth offenders serving time in the correctional system, to assist families of court-involved youth at the community level. Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) serves as the host and fiduciary for the Alliance.

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The Children's Center at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
Bedford Hills, NY
$40,000

The Teen Program
To provide transportation for prison visits and activities for the adolescent children of inmates at this women's prison. The program is designed to preserve and strengthen the family ties between incarcerated mothers and their children. Staff and volunteers address the youths' educational needs to help them stay in school, provide recreation and counseling services for the youth, and conduct parenting classes for the mothers. Staff also support the children's caregivers and refer them for services. Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services (CCNS) of the Brooklyn Diocese serves as the for The Teen Program.

Key Partners: New York State Department of Correctional Services, local volunteers and host families, Frost Valley YMCA camp, Sharpe Reservation Youth Camp, and Prison Families of New York

Curtis W. Beeks Guidance Clinic
New Haven, CT
www.cwbcounseling.org
$50,000

Intensive Outpatient Services for Youth with Problem Sexual Behavior
To support the Director of Education, who oversees this outreach program, and to disseminate the program by offering performances and dance and drumming classes at five state-funded juvenile residential facilities, including the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the state's most secure facility for youth under age 17. This grant also supports accelerated community-based training and mentorships for a select group of talented youth offenders serving time in the correctional system, to assist families of court-involved youth at the community level. Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) serves as the host and fiduciary for the Alliance.

Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (CTJJA)
New York, CT
www.ctjja.org
$50,000

Unrestricted Funding
To strengthen CTJJA's advocacy, communications and youth and family organizing efforts to promote juvenile justice reform in Connecticut. CTJJA's priorities include monitoring the implementation of the Raise the Age law that returned 16-year olds to the juvenile system in January 2010, addressing the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system, and advocating for changes in school discipline policies and expansion of the Family Support Center model across the state to assist families of court-involved youth at the community level. Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) serves as the host and fiduciary for the Alliance.

Key Partners: Connecticut Voices for Children, Center for Children's Advocacy, the New York Legal Assistance Association, and the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance.

Connecticut Voices for Children
New Haven, CT
www.cvc.org
$35,000

Fellowship in Juvenile Justice and Related Issues
To support a fellowship for a recent college graduate that offers hands-on policy work experience in the areas of juvenile justice, foster care, mental health, and education. The fellow conducts research on critical juvenile justice, child welfare, and school discipline policies and practices to help inform legislators, government officials, and advocates; develops materials for the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance meetings, and helps Connecticut Voices' staff prepare and present testimony before the Connecticut legislature.

Key Partners: Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, Connecticut Legal Services, state legislators, and state agencies

Connecticut Voices for Children
New Haven, CT
www.cvc.org
$50,000

Bridgeport, CT
CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES
www.connlegalservices.org
$25,000

Stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline (STOPP) Project
To provide legal representation for youth with disabilities ages 3 to 21 who are suspended, expelled or referred to Juvenile Court for disciplinary issues by Westerly or New Haven schools and to advocate for reform of school discipline policies and practices to help inform legislators, government officials, and advocates; develops materials for the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance meetings, and helps Connecticut Voices' staff prepare and present testimony before the Connecticut legislature.

Key Partners: Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, Connecticut Legal Services, state legislators, and state agencies

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
Bridgeport, CT
www.ccgb.org
$25,000

James Center for Youth in Crisis
To provide short-term shelter, counseling and other services to youth ages 11 to 17 at risk of involvement with the judicial system. Critical issues include truancy, defiance of school rules, indecent or immoral conduct, delinquency, and involvement in gang activities. This diversion program was created to address the families' needs and prevent commitment of the youth to detention or other out-of-home placements.

Key Partners: Judicial Branch, CT Department of Children and Families, area schools, families, community providers, and the Bridgeport Juvenile Review Board

Creative Alternatives of New York (CANY)
New York, NY
www.cany.org
$30,000

Drama, Therapy and Training Program at The Children's Center
To support a therapeutic drama program for youth ages 11 to 17 receiving residential substance abuse and/or mental health services at The Children's Center of Hamden, Connecticut. This therapeutic program combines theatre arts with group counseling to help these troubled youth develop and strengthen interpersonal relationships, express feelings, recognize negative emotional states, and build self-esteem and confidence. In addition, this grant supports trainings for The Children's Center staff. A six-week training program in the CANY's drama therapy model for child care workers in the region is also planned for Spring 2010.

Key Partners: The Children's Center and a local performing artist
The Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center

Danbury, CT

$45,000

Parent Aides/Family Enrichment Specialist Program

To provide weekly home visits and regular telephone contact by trained mentors for low-income parents or other adult caregivers who are identified by state and local sources as at risk of child abuse or neglect.

Key Partners: Stamford, CT

$50,000

Family Advocacy Program

To support the director of the high school family advocates.

Key Partners: CT Department of Children and Families, United Way, and community providers

Dispute Settlement Center

Wilton, CT

$45,000

Juvenile Mediation Program

To provide mediation services at four juvenile courts and for two Juvenile Review Boards around Connecticut to resolve conflicts between low-level offenders and victims.

Key Partners: Stamford, CT

$55,000

Juvenile Case Management Collaborative

To provide case management, career exploration opportunities, and job-readiness and financial literacy training to youth ages 12 to 18 or probation or parole or at high risk of delinquent behavior.

Key Partners: Bridgeport, CT

$40,000

Beacon Ex-O-Fennder Monitoring Program

To support one-on-one and group mentoring by trained ex-offenders with youth ages 8 to 17 who are involved in or at risk of involvement with the justice system. The mentors are successful participants in the Fresh Start prisoner reentry program who have a growing interest in community leadership and want to divert young people from a life of crime.

Key Partners: Beacon, CT

$50,000

Fatherhood Initiative

To support a caseworker to provide parenting classes and individual counseling for fathers ages 16 to 21 committed to the Mission Youth Institution in Cheshire, an adult prison, and to provide aftercare services when they transition back to their communities from prison.

Key Partners: CT Department of Corrections, the Fatherhood Advisory Council, and community providers

Families in Crisis

Hartford, CT

$50,000

FAMILY REENTRY

Norwalk, CT

$40,000

Green Team

Justice for Juveniles Behavioral Health Treatment Program

To provide mental health and family support services to youth involved with the juvenile justice system who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Hall Brook conducts a two-week, state-funded, intensive mental health evaluation of detained youth. This grant enables the agency to provide eight weeks of additional counseling and case management to youth for whom appropriate follow-up services could not be found elsewhere in the community. The youth are monitored on the graduated basis for two years in resocialization, hospitalization, school performance and compliance with court orders.

Key Partners: Bridgeport area mental health providers, Bridgeport Hospital, the Greater Bridgeport Pregnancy Prevention Program, the Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force, the CT Department of Children and Families, and local school-based health centers
HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL OF MID-FAIRFIELD
Norwalk, CT
www.hsnc.org
$40,000
Briggs High School Health Center
To support the health and mental health staff at the school-based health center at Briggs High School, an alternative school primarily serving at-risk, uninsured and court-involved youth in Norwalk. Services include physical exams, immunizations, dispensation of medication, crisis intervention, counseling, and nutrition classes. This grant enables the health center to provide services for 25 hours a week, including before and after school. Approximately 1,500 student visits are documented annually. Staff also provides medical care to babies in the school-based nursery.
Key Partners: Norwalk Department of Public Health, the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Family & Children’s Agency, Hall-Brook Hospital, Norwalk schools, and community providers.

JINGLES FOR JUVENILES
New Haven, CT
$1,500
Holiday Gifts for Children in Detention Centers
To purchase gifts for children detained during the holiday season at three state-operated juvenile detention centers and two community-based, privately operated juvenile detention centers for girls.
Key Partners: Judicial Branch and private donors.

JUVENILE LAW CENTER
Philadelphia, PA
www.jlc.org
$15,000
Juvenile Life Without Parole Advocacy Campaign
To support the work of the communications strategist on a national campaign to influence the U.S. Supreme Court on cases being heard to abolish the sentence of life without parole for juveniles and to allow their cases to be reviewed later in life to give them the opportunity to prove that they have been rehabilitated. The Juvenile Law Center is partnering with other capital litigators, advocacy organizations and communication strategists to establish a coordinated advocacy campaign that mirrors their similar successful efforts in 2005 to influence the Supreme Court to abolish the juvenile death penalty.

KIDS IN CRISIS
Cos Cob, CT
www.kidsincrisis.org
$30,000
Safe Haven for Teens
To provide academic, job-readiness and support services for high risk youth ages 14 to 24, many of whom have been out of school or involved in the juvenile justice system. Youth development specialists work one-on-one with the youth to help them with their long-terms plans to complete high school, go to college or trade school, graduate from a two or four year college, receive a vocational certification and/or secure and retain a job.
Key Partners: Judicial Branch, CT Department of Children and Families, Hartford Office of Youth Services, and Hartford schools.

MUTWEK BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
Hartford, CT
www.mutwekbigbrothersbigsisterson.com
$40,000
Mentoring Program for Children with Incarcerated Parents
To support a one-on-one mentoring program for children whose mothers or fathers are incarcerated. This grant provides the local match of a federal grant.
Key Partners: CT Department of Correction, CT Department of Children and Families, Families in Crisis, Central Connecticut State University, and community and faith-based providers.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS
Hartford, CT
www.opp.org
$40,000
Pathways to Success Program
To provide academic, job-readiness and support services for high risk youth ages 14 to 24, many of whom have been out of school or involved in the juvenile justice system. Youth development specialists work one-on-one with the youth to help them with their long-terms plans to complete high school, go to college or trade school, graduate from a two or four year college, receive a vocational certification and/or secure and retain a job.
Key Partners: Judicial Branch, CT Department of Children and Families, Hartford Office of Youth Services, and Hartford schools.

MENTORS BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
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www.mentorsbigbrothersbigsisterson.com
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PUBLIC ALLIES CONNECTICUT
Bridgeport, CT
www.publicallies.org
$30,000
Nonprofit Leadership Program
To provide leadership training and nonprofit work experience to young adults ages 18 to 30 through a 10-month apprenticeship. Allies also participate in weekly leadership trainings and conduct team service projects that help to build the capacity of their host organizations and benefit the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport communities. The Public Allies program was designed to help train the next generation of nonprofit leaders. RYASAP serves as the host and fiduciary for this organization.
Key Partners: nonprofit host agencies, the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, and the Public Allies national office.

REGIONAL YOUTH ADULT SOCIAL ACTION PARTNERSHIP (RYASAP)
Bridgeport, CT
www.ryasap.org
Unrestricted Funding
To enable RYASAP to strengthen its leadership team, implement a strategic plan and better lead its community partners in efforts to address critical issues impacting youth and families. RYASAP is the host of many local initiatives, including the Greater Bridgeport Juvenile Justice Task Force.
Key Partners: neighborhood councils, grassroots and faith-based organizations, foundations, police, state agencies, area schools, and the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance.

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Bridgeport, CT
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SERVING ALL VESSELS EQUALLY (S.A.V.E.)
Norwalk, CT
$50,000
Life Coping Skills Development Program
To support a faith-based program for youth ages 14 to 18 who are struggling in school and involved with juvenile court, adult probation or the foster care system. The program offers life, social and job-readiness skills, and community service. When youth graduate from the classroom part of the program, they are offered jobs in general maintenance, landscaping, and interior painting at participating churches. Clergy are trained to mentor the youth and assist their families. S.A.V.E. was created by Canaan Institutional Baptist Church in Norwalk to promote and develop programs that reduce youth and gang-related violence.

Key Partners: Norwalk Juvenile Court, police, local high schools, local parishes, the Norwalk After-School Alliance, and Norwalk Community College

WATERBURY YOUTH SERVICE SYSTEM
Waterbury, CT
www.waterburyyouthservices.org
$50,000
Entrepreneurial Program
To support tutoring, graphic arts, journalism, life skills, and job-readiness training in organic gardening and the construction trades for high risk youth ages 14 to 18, some of whom are truant or first-time juvenile or youthful offenders. The youth learn the basics of the commercial construction trades, including sheetrocking, plumbing, electrical work, woodworking and painting. In addition, they design and sell original products and invest the profits back into the program.

Key Partners: Waterbury schools, local businesses, state agencies, the Stepping Stone girls’ juvenile residential program, the Beacon Communities tenant residential community, and the Workforce Investment Board

WESTCHESTER MEDIATION CENTER
Yonkers, NY
www.clusterinc.org
$30,000
Restorative Justice Project
To provide group conferences to mediate disputes between adolescent offenders and the victims of their crimes and divert these cases from the court. This grant also supports a Parent/Teen mediation program to help resolve family conflicts before they require court involvement.

Key Partners: White Plains, Yonkers and New Rochelle family courts and probation departments, area schools and police departments, community providers, and the Yonkers Guardian’s Association

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS
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Emily Tow Jackson, President
Claire Tow, Vice President
Frank Tow, Vice President
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Scott Schneider, Treasurer
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FOOTNOTES
Detailed references from pages 6-7
2. Juvenile Court data from Court Support Services Division of Connecticut’s Judicial Branch for fiscal years 1999-00, 2002-03, 2005-06 and 2008-09.

Special thanks to Julie Revaz, MSW, CSSD Center for Best Practices and Anne McIntyre-Lahner, MS, DCF Bureau of Juvenile Services

TRUSTEES STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION
The Tow Foundation
43 Denbury Road, 2nd Floor
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Phone: 203.761.6604
Fax: 203.761.6605
www.towfoundation.org

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The Tow Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals. If your organization fits the criteria outlined in our Juvenile Justice Funding Guidelines, please send a letter of inquiry (maximum two pages) with an explanation of your organization’s mission and a brief description of the project for which you seek funding. Foundation staff will contact you by mail or phone to discuss your project’s eligibility, seek additional information or arrange an introductory meeting before you are invited to submit a full proposal. Once invited to do so, applications must be completed using our online format. The Tow Foundation Board of Trustees meets quarterly. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, but cannot be timed for review at a specific board meeting. Letters of inquiry will be accepted by mail only. Unless requested, please do not email, overnight mail or fax your information.

To be eligible for a grant, organizations must comply with the following:

- Have tax-exempt status under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
- Serve the community without discrimination by race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability

The foundation will not provide support for the following:

- Individuals
- Organizations lacking tax-exempt status
- Political causes, candidates or campaigns
- Capital campaigns
- Government

Address all correspondence as follows:

Emily Tow Jackson
Executive Director
The Tow Foundation
43 Danbury Road, 2nd Floor
Wilton, CT 06897-4400

how to apply

GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

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JUVENILE JUSTICE FUNDING GUIDELINES

The Tow Foundation’s investments are targeted toward projects and initiatives that hold the promise of improving the lives and prospects of youth involved in or at risk of involvement with the Connecticut juvenile justice system and their families, as well as influencing the reform of the public systems with which they may be involved.

To apply to The Tow Foundation, organizations must seek to achieve one or more of the following results for court-involved youth:

- Diversion from entering or going deeper into the justice system **
- Identification or development of a skill or interest that would improve their self-image and increase the likelihood of their success in the future
- Improved connection to and engagement with existing resources in their communities that can best help them address the issues they face
- Reduction in the number of youth removed from school or otherwise denied a quality education
- Improvement in the quality, coordination and breadth of the community-based programs that serve them
- Increased advocacy by and on behalf of these youth and their families that aims to build awareness and influence change in public policy related to the issues listed above

** Not all prevention programs will qualify for consideration.

We look for the following characteristics in the organizations in which we invest:

- Ability to produce measurable, long-term results
- Sustainability
- Potential for program replication
- Strong commitment to advocates and lobby policymakers within legal limits on behalf of their clients and services
- A track record of networking and collaborating with other nonprofits, government and the business community
- Strong leadership and a history of adapting to changing societal needs
- Engagement of staff and volunteers as ambassadors to advance their mission

The foundation encourages the use of innovative and leveraged funding strategies, such as challenge or matching grants, and other types of collaborative efforts. As a general rule, multiple-year grants will be considered only for prior grantees.
no child is beyond help