

*...taking responsibility for things that matter*

# *Fresh Youth Initiatives* **Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2006: June 1, 2005-May 31, 2006



# Mission Statement

To support and encourage the efforts of young people in Washington Heights/Inwood to design and carry out community service projects, develop leadership skills, fulfill their potential and realize their dreams.



Page 2



# What's Inside

FYI Mission Statement.....page 2

What's Inside.....page 3

From Our Leaders.....page 4

Helping Hands Food Pantry- 10 Years of Service.....page 5

Bringing People Together.....page 6-7



FYI Participants in Action.....page 8-9

Financial Statements.....page 10-11

Friends & Supporters.....page 12-13

Board of Directors.....page 14

FYI Staff in Action.....page 15



Page 3

## From Our Leaders...

At long last, we're writing to you not from the corner of Amsterdam & 169th Street, but from 2 short blocks away, on 171st Street. For us, the distance between these two spots is far greater than that. Moving to our new home represents both the effectiveness with which FYI has carried out its mission over its 13 years, and our maturation as an organization.

There are many possibilities as to how we might fully utilize our new youth-oriented community meeting house. Of course, we will continue to engage local youth in positive activities in the non-school hours, keeping our focus on community service activities and projects. We're blessed with a terrific staff, a strong and active Board of Directors, and a reputation for doing solid work and making tangible contributions to the community fabric of Washington Heights-Inwood.

Finally, thank you! FYI is so fortunate to have an extended family of supporters, fans, collaborators, volunteers and donors. We are grateful beyond words to each of you for the ongoing support, energy and contributions that you send our way. We will continue to do our utmost to use your contributions in the most effective manner possible to help FYI youth move themselves forward, in school and as people in the world.

Warmly,

*Robin Henry*  
Board Chair

*Edward Lehmann*  
Board Vice-Chair

*Andrew Rubinson*  
Executive Director

Page 4

## Helping Hands Food Pantry



This year marks the 10th anniversary of a mainstay of our program menu, the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

The history of the HHFP stems from a 1996 Board of Directors retreat, where our youngest board member at that time, 17-

year-old Monalisa Fermin, originally voiced the idea for a project that would give neighborhood young people an opportunity to help meet the needs of hungry families in our own neighborhood (side note: Monalisa has returned for a second stint as a Board member, after going away to college and graduating).

### 2005-2006 Food Pantry Statistics:

Total number of client visits - **12,093**  
Total number of pounds of food distributed - **52,136 lbs**  
Total value of the canned goods distributed - **\$37,831.09**  
Total number of bags of canned food distributed - **5,916**

The idea found a home at Holy Trinity Church in the Inwood section of the neighborhood. Our twice-monthly distributions began with only 25 families each month, and now serve over 1,000 families each year. The pantry's many accolades over the years include the "Model Project" Award from the Food Bank for New York City, and the Citizen's Committee for New York City's prestigious "New Yorker for New York" Community Award.



In recent years FYI has trained 2 teams of Food Pantry Managers, veteran participants who guide younger FYIers in the tasks of stocking the shelves, making the bags of canned goods, and making sure the pantry is well-kept.

The HHFP reflects FYI's commitment to addressing community needs such as hunger, as well as our commitment to helping youth develop into strong, capable community leaders. We are grateful to Holy Trinity Church – Inwood for their 10 years of partnering with FYI on this important effort.

Page 5

# Bringing People Together

## Serve-a-Thon

FYI's 11th annual Serve-a-Thon saw 220 people come together for a full day of service, food, fun, and community building. The 15 projects on this September day included graffiti removal, working



in 3 community gardens, finishing a mural that was started in the summer, and repainting the floor of our Helping Hands Food Pantry. Some of the groups attending were from Hunter College, Building with Books, Grand Street Settlement, Horace Mann School, and medical

students from Columbia University. FYI youth leaders Carlos Penzo, Angela Abreu, and Zinadry Peralta spent their summer making all of the arrangements, including setting up the service sites, recruiting participants, and arranging for refreshments.



## Sleeping-Bag-a-Thon

For the 8th year, FYI held its Sleeping-Bag-a-Thon community service event in early February. We again crowded into the cafeteria of PS 128, where a combination of 160 youth and adults finished 14 sleeping bags, 22 sets of mittens, and several pillows that FYI participants later distributed to the homeless. Media coverage included NY 1 television and the *Manhattan Times* newspaper.

Page 6

## Parents in Action



FYI's parent body continues to meet monthly, now with 27 active members. This year parents not only took part in service activities alongside their children, but also received information and workshops on topics such as healthy eating, child abuse, tax preparation, and communication strategies between parent and child.

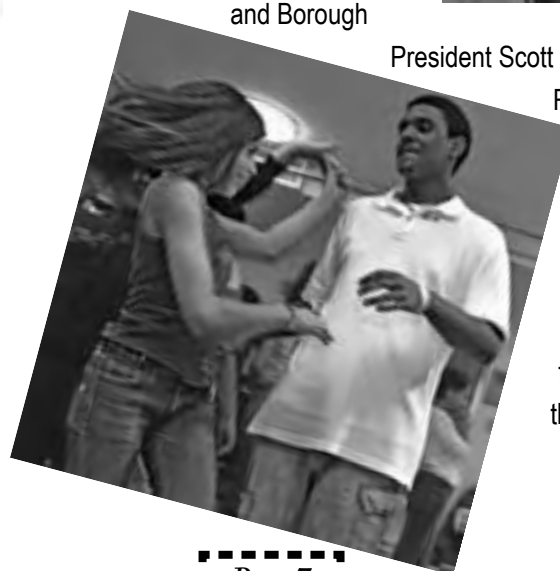
On May 15th, FYI cut the ribbon on the new building. A rainy morning didn't stop 120 people from gathering to hear the inspirational words of Councilmember Miguel Martinez, Councilmember Robert Jackson, and Borough

## Ribbon Cutting Celebration



President Scott Stringer. Congressman Charles Rangel stopped by to add his blessing as well.

The celebration continued into the evening, when we again cut the ribbon, this time with an audience of youth participants, their families, and many other members of the extended FYI family.



Page 7

# FYI Youth in Action



Neighborhood Beautification



Operation PB&J



Keepin' it Real at Community Presentations



Working in the Secret Garden



in the Courtyard of PS 128



184th Street and Fort Washington Avenue



Fixing up the Community Garden on



Sewing Sleeping Bags



Celebrating Thanksgiving



Making Home Deliveries to Food Pantry Clients

# Financial Statement

**Fiscal Year '06**  
 June 1, 2005-May 31, 2006
                         
 **Fiscal Year '05**  
 June 1, 2004-May 31, 2005

**Assets:**

Cash & Equivalents	\$628,897	\$56,293
Fixed Assets / Other	\$4,083,686	\$3,752,381
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$4,712,583</b>	<b>\$3,808,674</b>

**Liabilities:**

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$17,877	\$18,140
Mortgage Payable	-	\$147,231
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$17,877</b>	<b>\$165,371</b>

**Net Assets:**

Unrestricted	\$4,240,445	\$3,022,794
Temporarily Restricted	\$454,261	\$620,509
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$4,694,706</b>	<b>\$3,643,303</b>

Page 10

**Statement of Activities / Income:**

Private Grants & Contributions	\$582,602	\$672,108
other	\$97,117	\$93,289
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support:</b>	<b>\$679,719</b>	<b>\$765,397</b>

Program Expenses	\$578,476	\$593,360
Management & General Fundraising	\$145,739	\$142,970
	\$25,260	\$4,049

**Total Expenses:** \$749,475 \$740,379

**Net Surplus / (deficit)** (\$69,756) \$25,018

**Amount of each dollar going to program** \$.78 \$.81

\*Audited Financial Statements are available upon request from FYI

Page 11

## *Friends/Supporters*



*Pinkerton Foundation  
Pincus Family Fund  
Clark Foundation  
Heckscher Foundation for Children  
Levitt Foundation  
Daphne Foundation  
Charles A. Frueauff Foundation  
Jean & Robert Stern Foundation  
Nina W. Werblow Charitable Trust  
Helena Rubinstein Foundation  
Scherman Foundation*

*Glickenhau Foundation  
Scripps Howard Foundation  
The Vestry of Holy Trinity Church – Inwood  
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development  
NYC Economic Development Corporation  
Louise & Arde Bulova Fund  
Councilmember Miguel Martinez  
Councilmember Robert Jackson  
State Senator Eric Schneiderman  
FJC, a Foundation of Donor-Advised Funds  
Medical Center Neighborhood Fund  
New York Presbyterian Hospital  
Klingenstein-Martell Foundation  
42nd Street Fund*



*Stephen & May Cavin Leeman Foundation  
Rose M. Badgeley Charitable Trust  
Love 4 One Another Foundation  
Barker Welfare Foundation  
Frank J. Antun Foundation  
Clara & Kurt Hellmuth Foundation*



*Metzger-Price Foundation  
Altria Employee Fund  
JPMorgan Chase  
NYMEX Charitable Foundation  
Maxim Charitable Foundation*

*Page 12*



*Colgate Palmolive  
DNB NOR Bank  
Ft. Washington Collegiate Church  
Hyde & Watson Foundation  
Comedy Central  
Isabella Geriatric  
Columbia University  
Anderson-Rogers Foundation  
CNA Foundation  
Robert Bowne Foundation  
Parnassus Investments  
St. James Church  
New York State Oil Spill Recovery Fund*

*Page 13*

# Board of Directors



*Robin Henry, Chair*  
The Rau Foundation

*Ed Lehmann, Vice-Chair*  
Bisys Financial Consulting, Inc.

*Heidi Lopez\*, Secretary*  
FYI Program Graduate  
Countee Cullen Community Center  
Harlem Children's Zone

*Harold Malone, Treasurer*  
Jefferies & Company, Inc.

*Mindee Barham*  
Non-Profit Consultant

*Mona Lisa Fermin\**  
FYI Program Graduate  
Lifespire Job Readiness Program

*Georgianne Fsadni*  
Consultant  
Real Estate/Business Development

*Tal Golomb*  
NYC Department of Law

*Mark Levine\**  
Executive Director  
Center for After School Excellence-TASC

*David Payamps\**  
FYI Program Graduate  
Merkeley & Partners Graphic Arts

*Ziandry Peralta\**  
FYI Program Participant

*Ruben Perez\**  
FYI Program Participant

*Rebecca Rosenthal Sale\**  
Columbia School of Public Health

*Steve Silver*  
Helios Consulting Group

*Luis Tapia\**  
FYI Program Graduate  
St. John's University

*Peter Trimarchi*  
Attorney  
White & Case

\*lives/works in Washington Heights



# FYI Staff in Action



- *Andrew Rubinson*, Executive Director, FYler since '93
- *Esteban "Steve" Ramos*, Associate Executive Director, FYler since '99
- *JoAnn Santiago*, Administrative Director, FYler since '96
- *Maziel Mejia*, Senior Program Director, FYler since '00
- *Dahlia Perry*, Food Specialist & Parent Coordinator, FYler since '97
- *Amauri Torres*, Group Leader, FYler since '96
- *Carlos Cepeda*, Group Leader, FYler since '05
- *Nadya Encarnacion*, Group Leader, FYler since '05
- *Geronimo Ruiz*, Group Leader, FYler since '05



*“I enjoy being a role model for the younger kids. It feels good knowing that they want to be like you. It’s good for all kids to have positive role models.”*

*Ruben Perez, Youth Leader  
& FYI Board Member*



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