

CNJG

COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS
Harnessing Philanthropy's Potential



2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Serving New Jersey's Philanthropic Sector

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers' mission is to strengthen and promote effective philanthropy throughout the State of New Jersey. To assist grantmakers in their work, CNJG programs and services provide members with valuable resources, networking opportunities, educational programs, collaborative opportunities, and links to a national network of organized philanthropy.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, CNJG programs bring together all types and sizes of grantmakers with leaders from government, business, academia, and New Jersey's nonprofit community. The COVID-19 pandemic largely drove the Council's programming docket for the year. In 2020, we offered over 110 programs, including COVID-19 funder briefings, Newark-focused briefings, affinity group meetings, partner programs, skill-building webinars, and our first virtual Conversation with the Cabinet. This was the CNJG team on overdrive, ensuring New Jersey's philanthropic sector was fully informed, connected, and engaged.

See selected highlights on the following pages.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

As the coronavirus pandemic gripped the nation, and took its toll on New Jersey communities, CNJG implemented a broad set of strategies to support our members. Recognizing this was a time for extraordinary action by the philanthropic community, the Council's overall plan was to provide a wide range of programs and services to help inform funders' decision-making; help funders understand what was happening on the ground; connect and encourage funders to communicate often with one another; and work closely with partners to advocate for policies that move forward the social sector's work to address the coronavirus crisis.

We developed a special one-stop web area on the CNJG site for funders with links to webinars, members' actions, government resources, tools and information from philanthropy-serving organizations, articles of interest, and other materials.

We created a COVID-19 funders listserv so grantmakers could share news, ask questions, and tap into expertise. The listserv was open to nonmember funders in order to ensure philanthropists focused on New Jersey communities could leverage CNJG members' efforts and experience.

The Council organized and hosted COVID-19 Funder Briefings to inform grantmakers' decision-making in response to the coronavirus crisis. The briefings heard from government officials, disaster recovery and health experts, nonprofit leaders, funders, and other stakeholders dealing with the pandemic. Topics ranged from how the pandemic differs from natural disasters, recommendations to "frontload" funding and plan for upticks, how systemic racism has been exacerbated throughout the pandemic, and how and why immigrant communities, people with disabilities, and others are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Series I ran from March to May, and Series II began in September and concluded in December. Special Newark-focused briefings were also convened and geared towards Newark funders. In addition to providing critical information and intel, the briefings helped build connections and relationships between CNJG, our members, and an impressive array of experts and stakeholders.

As part of this work, CNJG served as convener for the state's response and relief funds, and engaged a special advisor to help lead these efforts. We coordinated regular meetings for fund principals to update colleagues about their work and hear from disaster experts and other

speakers, built a framework to convene funders as a learning group that can collectively deploy resources to communities as they respond to the coronavirus crisis, created a mission statement to guide the learning community, and gathered grant data to map funders' investments in New Jersey communities.

The Council partnered with the Center for Non-Profits on 3 rapid-response surveys in March, April and July. The surveys found the majority of New Jersey nonprofits reported "experiencing significant or moderate disruptions to their programs or operations as a result of the crisis." The surveys were disseminated far and wide, and helped inform funders, policy makers and other stakeholders. This work continues and builds upon our long-standing partnership with the Center.

CNJG actively encouraged members to sign on to the "Call to Action" pledge presented by the Council on Foundations, and designed to free philanthropy to move quickly and nimbly to support grantee partners in a manner that would be impactful and equitable. We signed on to the pledge, along with 700+ foundations and philanthropic-serving organizations throughout the nation.



SIGNATURE EVENT

The virtual **2020 Annual Meeting & Holiday Gathering** welcomed over 150 members over 2 days on December 7 and 8, for shared learning focused on "Reimagining Philanthropy: Data for Social Impact." The skill-building workshop on day 1 was led by Equal Measure, an organization dedicated to teaching nonprofits, foundations and government how to create and plan equitable evaluation strategies. The session discussed culturally responsive evaluation, developing social impact goals, and equity approaches to evaluation. Day 2 opened with the business portion of the Annual Meeting and included



Community Foundation of South Jersey's Erik Estrada volunteers at the Operation Warm event distributing coats and food.

various reports, as well as the election of new trustees, Margarethe Laurenzi, Community Foundation of New Jersey, Priti Mehta, Investors Foundation, Maisha Simmons, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Atiya Weiss, The Burke Foundation. We said good-bye to Ari Kramer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Deborah Smith, Wells Fargo Foundation as they rotated off the board. And while William V. Engel will remain on the Board of Trustees for another year, we thank him for his leadership and service as board chair during this challenging year.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Dr. Teri Behrens, Executive Director of the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy moderated a fascinating conversation between Shena Ashley, Vice President of Philanthropy and Nonprofits at the Urban Institute and Chapin Flynn, Senior Advisor and Senior Vice President of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. The discussion explored how the social sector can leverage data science to build capacity and empower communities, connect people to resources, and address widening inequities in the face of COVID-19. Data science is a powerful tool to address housing and food insecurity, education inequality, health disparities, civic injustice, and other longstanding social issues that continue to intensify during the pandemic. Building data capacity equips local leaders with information to develop and advocate for more effective policies.

The Council thanks our generous sponsors for supporting this event: Signature Sponsors – Novartis and PSEG; Sustaining Sponsors – Prudential and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey; Collaborating Sponsor – Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; and Performance Sponsor – The Provident Bank Foundation.

PROGRAMS

Funder Briefings

Throughout the year, CNJG funder briefings provide a forum to exchange knowledge and insights related to pressing societal issues that affect our communities. These sessions included panel discussions, virtual meetings and webinars. Once again, many of the funder briefings in 2020 were dominated by COVID-19. We highlight the following:

Series I of the COVID-19 Funder Briefings began in March and concluded in May. The Council covered a range of topics during these eight briefings. Among our sessions, NJ VOAD shared how members and partners are addressing community needs and where they see gaps, Governor Murphy's Deputy Chief of Staff outlined how the administration is responding and how philanthropy can partner with local and state government, and New Jersey Policy Perspective provided an overview of COVID-related federal and state policy and legislation. The series helped grantmakers understand how the coronavirus is disproportionately impacting communities of color, immigrants, seniors, and other vulnerable populations. The series was well received and highly attended by CNJG members.



Series II of the COVID-19 Funder Briefings ran from September to December. The Center for Disaster Philanthropy kicked off the series urging grantmakers to “frontload” funding for COVID-19, that is putting all extensive resources into immediate relief, rather than holding back as foundations typically have done when responding to weather disasters. The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice session outlined how funders could advance racial justice during these uncertain pandemic times. We also learned how the NJ HUD Field Office worked on the ground with local and state government on relief and recovery efforts. Series I and II ensured our state's philanthropic sector was informed on a broad range of issues to effectively address the considerable hardships people and communities were experiencing in the wake of this multi-layered crisis.

Trust-based philanthropy has gained sector-wide attention as a strategy to alleviate power imbalances between funders and grantee partners. August's **Pathways to Equity: Trust-Based Philanthropy** heard from Executive Director Hanh Le, Weissberg Foundation, and Shaady Salehi, Director of the Trust-Based Philanthropy Project, who shared how institutional practices can contribute to (in)equity, along with practical examples of how a trust-based approach can help philanthropy repair the structural inequities holding us back. Driven by the central philosophy that funders should approach grantee relationships as learning partnerships, the trust-based approach encourages multi-year unrestricted funding, streamlined reporting, and transparent and responsive communication.

Affinity and Interest Group Meetings

CNJG affinity and interest groups provide a valued forum through which New Jersey grantmakers can connect, exchange information, and learn from experts in a wide range of fields and sectors. We highlight a few:

The Environmental Grantmakers Affinity Group explored how funders can respond to New Jersey's climate crisis on January 15. The panel featured Jeanne Herb of the Bloustein School of Planning and Policy at Rutgers University, Amanda Devecka-Rinear of New Jersey Organizing Project/New Jersey Resource Project, Dan Fatton of Energy Foundation, and Maria Lopez-Nunez of Ironbound Community Corporation. Participants learned how to align grantmaking with state goals and policies for climate resilience, discussed working with grassroots organizations to protect vulnerable communities and address gaps in climate change information, and heard about the excellent work of research and community organizations in preventing future climate disasters. Many thanks to the affinity group co-chairs, Stephanie Greenwood of Victoria Foundation, Lucy Vandenberg of The Fund for New Jersey, and Margaret Waldock of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, for organizing this meeting.

The Trenton and Mercer County Funders Affinity Group met with Mayor Reed Gusciora in March to learn about his vision for the city and how philanthropic partnership can drive change. The meeting also heard from Katherine Nunnally, Executive Director of the Smith Family Foundation outlining the *Trenton Kids Count 2019: A City Profile of Child Well-Being*. Following the presentations, grantmakers engaged in conversation about how the Kids Count report can inform their grantmaking and how philanthropy might collaborate with the city of Trenton. Many thanks to The Burke

CNJG AFFINITY GROUP CHAIRS

Camden Funders Affinity Group

- Kate Barrett, *Campbell Soup Foundation*
- Erik Estrada, *Community Foundation of South Jersey*

Culture Funders Affinity Group

- Tammy Herman, *New Jersey State Council on the Arts*
- Sharnita Johnson, *Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*

Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy Affinity Group

- Naeema Campbell, *Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*

Environmental Grantmakers Affinity Group

- Lucy Vandenberg, *The Fund for New Jersey*
- Stephanie Greenwood, *Victoria Foundation*
- Margaret Waldock, *Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*

Funders for New Jersey Education Affinity Group

- Melissa Litwin, *The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation*
- Lenora Green, *ETS*

Funders for Strong & Thriving Communities Affinity Group

- Craig Drinkard, *Victoria Foundation*
- Lois Greco, *Community Foundation of South Jersey*

Finance and Investment Affinity Group

- Bill Gibson, *The Leavens Foundation*

Health and Aging Funders Affinity Group

- Renie Carniol, *The Grotta Fund for Senior Care*
- Diane Hagerman, *New Jersey Health Initiatives*

Newark Funders Affinity Group

- Nicole Butler, *The Prudential Foundation*
- Craig Drinkard, *Victoria Foundation*

Newark Funders Subcommittee on Education Subcommittee

- Irene Cooper-Basch, *Victoria Foundation*
- Sarah Keh, *The Prudential Foundation*

New Jersey Corporate Philanthropy Network

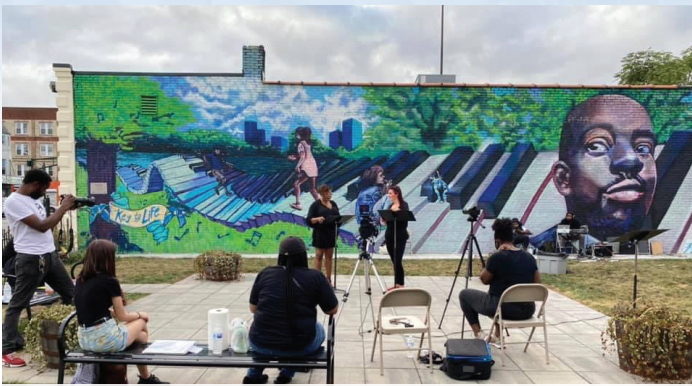
- Pat Hartpence, *New Jersey Manufacturers*
- Marion O'Neill, *PSEG*

Paterson Funders Affinity Group

- Barbara Lawrence, *The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation*

Trenton and Mercer County Funders Affinity Group

- Rita Nini, *ETS*
- Jeffrey Vega, *Princeton Area Community Foundation*



Many CNJG members invest in Newark. This mural “Key to Life” by artist Camille Coté (aka FABS) and supported by The Prudential Foundation, is located at the Urban League of Essex County, a Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation grantee partner.

Foundation, Educational Testing Service, Princeton Area Community Foundation, and the Smith Family Foundation for helping to make this gathering possible.

The **Culture Funders Affinity Group** convened in April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the New Jersey arts and culture sector. The group heard from the Nonprofit Finance Fund about their success in bringing funders together in collaborative recovery efforts on the local, regional and national level, followed by a discussion to brainstorm how funders could support the artists and art organizations during these difficult times. As a direct result of this conversation, a number of funders created the **New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund**. Many thanks to the affinity group co-chairs, Sharnita Johnson, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Tammy Herman, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, for organizing this meeting.

The **Health and Aging Funders Affinity Group** learned about New Jersey’s multisector approach to contact tracing, the importance of clear communication and cultural humility when collecting data, and local pandemic-fighting efforts during a June 26 virtual discussion. Attendees took away ideas about how philanthropy can support public health information and capacity on the ground, as well as funding research and programming in such areas as aging and

isolation, telemedicine, and antibody testing. Many thanks to the affinity group co-chairs, Renie Carniol, The Grotta Fund for Senior Care and Diane Hagerman, New Jersey Health Initiatives, for organizing this meeting.

Skill Building Workshops

Skill-building workshops are an integral part of the Council’s educational programming for members. These workshops offer a range of topics to develop new skills and acquire knowledge to further inform members’ grantmaking.

Practiced in over 3,000 cities around the world, “participatory budgeting” is a democratic process that enables community members to decide together how to spend public money. In January, funders learned about the **Participatory Budgeting Project (PB)**, and an effort to expand this practice across New Jersey communities and governments. The webinar provided an introduction to the PB process, examined two case studies in New York and California where participatory budgeting is already being implemented, and informed funders about an exploratory scan happening in our state. Participatory budgeting can advance equity and civic engagement by making public participation more accessible, inclusive, and empowering.

The 3-part **Cyber Security Series** helped grantmakers understand how to assess, identify, and mitigate vulnerabilities arising from so many people being forced to work remotely at a time when cybercrime is on the rise. Session 1, “Intro to Cybersecurity: Risk Assessment for Foundations” heard from CGNET. Topics included why cybersecurity is essential for foundations and how to conduct a risk assessment. “Cybersecurity Best Practices for Foundations: Tools, Policies, and Training Staff” outlined the essential components of a robust cybersecurity plan for foundations, how to train staff, tools for secure virtual communication, and how to safely continue working remotely during the pandemic. The final session, “Supporting the Cybersecurity of Nonprofit Partners” featured speakers from Tech Impact and TechSoup, who discussed specialized services and effective cybersecurity practices in grantee organizations.

CNJG was proud to welcome the following new members in 2020:

- Bogota Saving Bank Charitable Foundation
- Community Chest of Englewood
- Fidelity Foundation
- Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation
- New Jersey Economic Development Authority
- Northern New Jersey Community Foundation
- Tenacre Foundation

CNJG 2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William V. Engel, Chair

The Hyde and Watson Foundation

Jeffrey Vega, 1st Vice Chair

Princeton Area Community Foundation

Christine Healey, 2nd Vice Chair

The Healey Education Foundation, Inc.

Annette Strickland, Secretary

The Schumann Fund for New Jersey

Michael Unger, Treasurer

The Atlantic Foundation

Kimberly Boller, The Nicholson Foundation

René Déida, The Prudential Foundation

Craig Drinkard, Victoria Foundation

Andy Fraizer, Community Foundation of South Jersey

Jeremy Grunin, Grunin Foundation

Diane Hagerman, New Jersey Health Initiatives

Patricia Hartpence, NJM Insurance Group

Ari Kramer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Melissa Litwin, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation

Marion O'Neill, PSEG Foundation

Jonathan Pearson, Horizon BCBSNJ

Deborah Smith, Wells Fargo Foundation

Paul Stierhoff, The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation

Lucy Vandenberg, The Fund for New Jersey

Atiya Weiss, The Burke Foundation

Council's program docket tremendously and ensures CNJG members have unlimited access to a full range of expertise.

A long-time partner, the **National Center for Family Philanthropy** offers CNJG members monthly family philanthropy webinars exclusively designed with the family foundation in mind. Topics ranged from February's **Tying Grantmaking Practices to Shared Values to Financial Stewardship in Troubled Times** in April, followed by **Supporting Resiliency and Recovery** in June, and **Families Funding Advocacy and Policy Change** in September. The Council subscribes to NCFP's deep bench of programs and services on behalf of CNJG's family foundation members.

The **Center for Disaster Philanthropy** hosted a full range of programs focused on how funders can mobilize resources to strengthen communities and recover from disasters. Through our partnership with the Center, we offered CNJG members **Grantmaking to Support Children and Older Adults** and **How Funders Can Support Bereavement and Grief**.

MEMBER SERVICES

To keep members informed, the Council provides a number of e-newsletters. Distributed at the beginning of each month, **CNJG News** is a members-only newsletter. Already in its 15th year of production, the e-news provides timely information on members, member benefits, job announcements, and more. First launched in 2009, **Family Ties** is an e-publication specifically for CNJG's family foundation members offering helpful articles, news, and tips for managing the unique needs of family philanthropy. The monthly publication, **For the Field**, highlights must-know news, policy information, research, and resources of interest to the broader philanthropic sector. The **Corporate Brief** offers articles, information, news, and resources to help corporate members learn more about CSR and how best to optimize their giving. Year after year these e-newsletters continue to have a higher than industry average open rate among subscribers.

CNJG is partnering with Candid to help **philanthropy map COVID-19 funding from New Jersey foundations**. An extension of the **Get on the Map** campaign, the worldwide coronavirus funding map can help grantmakers "see" where funds are being directed, and where potential gaps might be for funders to assist.

Responding to members' needs, CNJG launched a new **communications-focused listserve** open to all staff that

Programs with Partners

The Council partnered with **United Philanthropy Forum** and a number of regional and national philanthropy-serving organizations throughout the year to provide special briefings and knowledge-building programs for CNJG members. We highlight a few: In partnership with **Philanthropy Northwest**, the Council offered the **Advocacy in Action Series** to help funders understand how they could support grantee partners and engage in advocacy efforts. **Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees** helped us learn **What's Next for DACA**. And the **Center for Effective Philanthropy** explored how foundation staff can work more closely with their boards in **Foundations Influencing Policy: Engaging Boards and Building Buy-In**. The Council is grateful to our Forum partners for sharing their expertise with us. Partnering with and across philanthropy-serving organizations has expanded the

have any type of communications assignments at their organization. These responsibilities may include media relations, social media, communicating with grantees, press releases, grant award announcements, newsletters (print or digital), and more. Listserve subscribers can directly connect with peers to ask questions, brainstorm ideas and share best practices.

CNJG held two **New Member Orientations** via Zoom in June and December, enabling new members from across New Jersey - and even outside the state - to easily convene, meet new-to-CNJG members, hear about what colleagues are working on, and learn about CNJG's work. Any member can download our "Making the Most of your Membership" document from our website to read about all the benefits of membership, and take advantage of all that CNJG has to offer.

LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

Hosted by United Philanthropy Forum, the **March Foundations on the Hill** event brings foundation leaders from throughout the country to Washington DC for meetings with Congress about key issues of importance to foundations and philanthropy. The overall goal is to communicate the important role that foundations and philanthropy play in serving the public good. It is also an opportunity for CNJG to reinforce and strengthen the relationships we have developed with our representatives and their staff in the past. This year, our CNJG delegation included Kimberly Boller, The Nicholson Foundation, William V. Engel, The Hyde and Watson Foundation, Andy Fraizer, Community Foundation of South Jersey, Jeremy Grunin, the Grunin Foundation, Brianna Suarez, Victoria Foundation, Michael Unger, The Atlantic Foundation, Nelida Valentin, Princeton Area Community Foundation, Lucy Vandenberg, The Fund for New Jersey, and CNJG staff Maria Vizcarrondo and Theresa Jacks. We were also pleased President and CEO Linda Czipo, Center for Non-Profits, joined our delegation once again. Linda's voice helps elevate our discussions about the nonprofit sector and philanthropy's work to support the sector.

While the coronavirus was just beginning to shut down Washington, we were able to connect with the majority of our representatives' offices including meeting directly with Congresswoman Watson Coleman, Congressmen Malinowski and Smith, and Senator Menendez. During our meetings we discussed our support for tax policy that encourages charitable giving, including the universal charitable deduction; philanthropy cannot fill the gaps left



CNJG Foundations on the Hill delegates have a few minutes with Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman.

by changing government policy and funding; and the need to ensure census data is secured and protected as required by law. We also thanked our representatives for supporting simplification of the private foundation excise tax on net investment income and repealing the tax on transportation/parking benefits for nonprofits as part of the year-end passage of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020.

Conversations with the Cabinet went virtual on October 5. CNJG members heard from Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Community Affairs during a 2-hour online conversation. The Lt. Governor provided a full overview of DCA's programs and services, discussed how funding from the CARES Act is being deployed throughout NJ's communities, and introduced participants to lesser known programs such as the Local Assistance Bureau. In turn, grantmakers were able to share some of their work, including how philanthropy is responding to communities hard hit by COVID. A signature program of CNJG, Conversations with the Cabinet offer representatives of NJ's philanthropic community with the opportunity to learn first-hand the priorities, activities, and goals of various departments of the Governor's administration.

The Center for Non-Profits and CNJG hosted a **joint virtual press event** on September 30. Maria Vizcarrondo and Linda Czipo opened the event and welcomed speakers, Ann Marie Miller (ArtPride NJ), Karen Andrade-Mims (The Father Center), and Lorraine Goodman and Graciela Leal (Latin American Legal Defense Fund) to urge state and federal lawmakers to provide additional coronavirus relief to NJ nonprofits. The event was a call to our U.S. Senators and Representatives and the State Legislature "to act quickly to help New Jerseyans meet their basic needs during extremely challenging times; to ensure that non-profits are able to help people weather and recover from this unprecedented crisis; and facilitate an equitable and faster

economic recovery.” The press event built on the Center’s sign-on letter, “Urgent Relief Needed for Charitable Non-Profits” signed by 150 nonprofits and allies, including CNJG.

Hosted by CNJG and the NJ ACEs Collaborative, a **virtual reception** was held on October 1 to welcome Dave Ellis, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Office of Resilience at the NJ Department of Children and Families. The position was created to drive forward transformational change throughout state government and in communities to prevent, protect against, and heal from the effects of ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) in our state. With the urgent needs and increasing inequities exacerbated by COVID-19, it is increasingly important for philanthropy to understand ACEs and the impact this work can have on our communities. Over 50 foundation leaders and special guests attended the meeting, including Christine Beyer, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Children and Families.



The Burke Foundation supports Reach Out and Read New Jersey, a nonprofit organization distributing books during pediatric care visits, and encouraging families to read aloud together.

The Office of the **Newark Philanthropic Liaison** is an innovative collaboration between the city of Newark and the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers. The project is tasked with harnessing interest, fostering greater effectiveness, and attracting resources to Newark that will ultimately improve the lives and futures of its residents. Kevin Callaghan has served as the Newark Philanthropic Liaison since 2016, and works closely with Mayor Ras Baraka’s administration.

We highlight some of this work.

- The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) offers work experience, teaches employment skills, financial literacy, and provides participants with a summer income. The Liaison assists with convening university, philanthropic and business leaders to advise the city

on the program, which continues to draw record participation and funding year after year. The Liaison worked with a number of partners, including the Newark Alliance, Schools that Can, Newark Thrives! and Newark Public Schools to design a career pathways component. The Liaison facilitated a process to reimagine SYEP for today’s COVID-19 reality. Newark became a leader in NJ and nationally by implementing a virtual program, and raised a record \$1.78 million from 20 different grants for the 2020 program.

- The Liaison worked with the city and Advocates for Children of New Jersey to create a Newark Complete Count Committee to ensure the city has a full and accurate count. He also collaborated with the Fund for New Jersey, Essex County, and other funding sources to raise over \$150,000 to conduct resident outreach. These coordinated efforts have put Newark on a path to exceed its 2010 self-response rate despite unprecedented times.
- The Liaison led a task force on behalf of Mayor Baraka to explore a guaranteed income policy for Newark residents. The group’s final report was released in early June and received significant coverage nationally. At the end of June, Mayor Baraka became one of 11 founding mayors of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income. The groundwork laid by this work has placed Newark at the center of a growing national conversation. An effort is now underway to raise funds for Newark to implement a guaranteed income pilot.

The Liaison represents one of the nation’s first formal partnerships between a city and the philanthropic community, and has become a national model for public-private alliances. The non-partisan Liaison position, based in Newark City Hall, serves as a bridge between Newark funders, the 130+ members of the Council and Newark’s administration. The Liaison serves as the eyes and ears of the grantmaking community and the city in cross-cutting initiatives. The Newark Philanthropic Liaison’s overall primary goals are to convene, connect, leverage, and raise resources through partnerships between New Jersey’s philanthropic community and the Mayor’s Office. The project has leveraged over \$65+ million in public-private support for Newark since its inception in 2007.

CNJG’s Board of Trustees endorsed the creation of the **Racial Equity Taskforce** to design an equity framework that supports the work of philanthropy in the new normal. Working with skilled consultants, the taskforce will

create a blueprint that can assist members in examining all aspects of its philanthropic culture through the lens of equity, and outline a roadmap for action to help New Jersey's philanthropic sector take steps to eliminate structural racism. The taskforce will be a forum for thought leaders and a vehicle for change makers to explore and determine how funders can best support the hard work leading to long overdue systemic change. Board member Annette Strickland, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey, is chairing the taskforce, joined by Kimberly Boller, The

Nicholson Foundation, Craig Drinkard, Victoria Foundation, René Déida, The Prudential Foundation, Jeremy Grunin, the Grunin Foundation, Kiki Jamieson, The Fund for New Jersey, Sharnita Johnson, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Melissa Litwin, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, Jeff Vega, Princeton Area Community Foundation, and Maria Vizcarrondo.

OPERATIONS

The year 2020 brought a number of changes to the CNJG staff. Anna D'Elia was promoted to Manager of Programs and Learning in January. Anna is a consummate professional, and her hard work and dedication throughout the previous year was clearly evident in every program, meeting, briefing and workshop she planned. Congratulations Anna! We also said good-bye to Office Manager and Assistant to the President Pat Foo who retired in July. Pat's attention to detail and superior organizing skills kept the CNJG team on course over her 7-year tenure. Finally, the Council was pleased to welcome Ilene Cutroneo, as our new Office Manager and Assistant to the President. Joining a new organization during a pandemic easily poses special challenges, but Ilene hit the ground running making the transition seamless.



The Turrell Fund's Evan Delgado receives a violin lesson from a talented young man with grantee and nonprofit partner, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

CNJG

COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS
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CNJG STAFF

- Kevin Callaghan**, Newark Philanthropic Liaison
- Ilene Cutroneo**, Office Manager and Assistant to the President
- Anna D'Elia**, Manager of Programs and Learning
- Theresa Jacks**, Deputy Director
- Maria Vizcarrondo**, President and CEO
- Kari Williams**, Finance Manager
- Craig Weinrich**, Director of Member Services

CNJG was established as an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 1997. Member dues and leadership grants from CNJG members support the Council's operations. CNJG is a member of United Philanthropy Forum a national network of regional and national philanthropy-serving organizations consisting of more than 70 organizations across the United States that represent more than 7,000 foundations and other philanthropic groups, making it the largest network serving philanthropy in America. CNJG gratefully acknowledges generous in-kind support from Thomas Edison State University.

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