Get Out the Moving Vans

School of Social Work moves on up the East Side
When students and faculty of the Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College return to school this fall, they won’t be complaining about tight quarters and long elevator waits. They’ll be heading to a brand new building on East 119th. With $48 million in proceeds from the sale of the school’s former home on 79th Street by The Trust’s Silberman Fund, we made a $30 million grant to CUNY to help pay for construction, and put the remaining $18 million in an endowed fund to benefit the field of social work. This complex and artfully managed real-estate transaction took four years to complete, but was well worth the time and effort.

Moving uptown puts the school closer to neighborhoods that need social services. “It’s a chance to live our mission,” Jacqueline Mondros, dean of the school, said in a statement.

“We are honored that the Silbermans chose The Trust to carry out their legacy,” says Lorie Slutsky, president of The Trust. “This new building rewards students and faculty who have chosen to devote themselves to public service, thanks to donors who share that devotion.”

The new Silberman School of Social Work on 119th Street.

SI Museum breaks ground on new home with great neighbors
In March 2011, the Staten Island Museum began a long-awaited renovation of its new home in the heart of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center campus. Three buildings, including two landmarked 1879 Greek-revival structures, will house the Museum’s archives and its natural science, fine art, and library collections—a big improvement from its cramped 3,000 sq. ft. space near the Staten Island Ferry terminal. The Museum will join a children’s museum, botanical garden, and music hall in this burgeoning cultural destination. Its former home will house an exhibit on New York ferries and an auditorium.

“As a National Historic Landmark District that houses a number of Trust grantees, we knew that Snug Harbor was a great fit for the museum,” says Kerry McCarthy, program officer for arts and culture at The Trust. “Since 2001, we’ve made grants totaling $110,000 to help raise money for the renovation, pay architect’s fees, and organize the art collection in preparation for the move. We’re happy the collection moved into a worthy space, equipped with an impressive conservation studio, and are even more excited to know that more families and school groups will be able to visit the galleries.”

One of two Greek-revival buildings in Snug Harbor that will house the relocated Staten Island Museum. Photo by Bill Higgins.
You know that good feeling you get when you help make things better?
It happens every day at The Trust. This newsletter looks at the results of grants that were made possible by generous New Yorkers who wanted to make a difference—and set up endowed funds with us. To find out how you can leave your own legacy, contact our general counsel, Jane Wilton at (212) 686–2563 or janewilton@nyct-cfi.org.

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Gay Marriage: A Victory for Us All

Wedding bells are ringing and caterers are working overtime thanks to the work of Empire State Pride Agenda, advocates, and other groups that helped make it legal for gays and lesbians to marry in New York State. Trust grants totaling $135,000 helped the group advocate the issue, bringing to light the injustice of denying spousal health insurance; survivor Social Security and pension payments; visiting rights in hospitals; and legal residency for immigrants in committed same-sex couples. Our heartfelt congratulations go to all the couples who can now officially tie the knot—or not.

Newlyweds Carol Anastasio and Mimi Brown with Empire State Pride Agenda’s executive director, Ross D. Levi, outside City Hall on July 24th—the first day same-sex couples could legally marry in New York State. Photo by Timothy Farrell