

Cities on a Hill

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Social Entrepreneurship Awards Recognize Five Nonprofit Leaders

The Manhattan Institute honored five nonprofit leaders at its 2006 Social Entrepreneurship Awards Dinner in New York on November 14.

The awards honor innovators who have established privately-funded programs that address America's most pressing social problems. Recipients of this year's awards represented a variety of nonprofit services for children, the uninsured, and even other nonprofits.

- Richard Liebich established Project Lead the Way (PLTW) in 1997 to help schools give students the knowledge and skills to excel in today's high-tech fields. PLTW offers middle school courses and high school pre-engineering programs, which immerse students in real-world



Howard Husock presents the award to Richard Liebich

engineering problems. One key to the program's success has been its focus on training teachers and providing vocational education for kids who are training for jobs rather than college. Seventeen hundred schools currently use PLTW curriculum in 46 states, reaching over 200,000 students.

- In 1994, Sister Mary Lou Kownacki opened the Inner City Neighborhood Art House (NAH), in Erie Pennsylvania, to give disadvantaged youth access to high culture and art. Established in an abandoned Goodyear tire repair garage, NAH has enrolled some 3,000 children – at least 50 each day – in a variety of visual, performing and literary arts classes with accomplished teachers. The classes are



Sister Mary Lou Kownacki (L) and Sister Mary Miller

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Connecticut State Program Reduces Homelessness, Wins 2006 "Innovations in Affordable Housing" Award

More than 200 American cities have unveiled ambitious plans to reduce homelessness. Most cities are now experimenting with supportive housing, or "Housing First," a new approach to ending chronic homelessness by providing subsidized housing and social and mental health services on the same site. The popularity of this approach represents a movement away from the expensive shelter-system model towards a more ambitious goal of supporting people who are most likely to live in a cycle of chronic homelessness.

At the state level, Connecticut formally established its own supportive housing program, the Connecticut Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative, in 2000. Designed by the Connecticut Office of Policy and

Management in partnership with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the initiative received the 2006 Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations in Affordable Housing Award.

The award is administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

On January 18, CCI hosted a luncheon forum to discuss this new approach, "Supportive Housing: The Solution for Chronic Homelessness?" The event was

one of a series of lunches with government agencies honored by the Innovations in American Government and Fannie Mae

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Philip Mangano (L) and Stephen Goldsmith



Social Entrepreneurship Awards

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free, thanks to the support of local donors, foundations and volunteers. At least 30 other cities are looking to the NAH as a model.



Paige Ellison-Smith

• Days after Hurricane Katrina struck the coast, Paige Ellison-Smith, a pharmaceutical sales representative in Fairhope, Alabama, realized recovery would not be immediate and was concerned about children at risk. She started Project K.I.D.:

Responding to Kids in Devastation. Ellison-Smith built an outdoor “PlayCare” site, which provided a safe zone for supervised play while parents were consumed with finding shelter, employment and emergency aid. The original “PlayCare” site in Bayou La Batre, Alabama reached some 5,600 children, and Project K.I.D. opened a total of 12 sites in Mississippi. Ellison-Smith is promoting the Project K.I.D. and “PlayCare” model in states including Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Indiana, and Florida, and is working closely with child-care resource and referral agencies nationwide.

- The Taproot Foundation (TF) was founded by Aaron Hurst in San Francisco in 2001 to help nonprofits “go to scale” by supporting their critical infrastructure-building needs. TF engages volunteer professionals and emulates leading professional-services organizations to deliver high-quality services at no cost to qualified local nonprofit organizations. With offices in NYC, Chicago, Boston and Seattle, TF has made a dramatic impact, awarding over 400 service grants to 980 nonprofits since 2001, providing an estimated \$20 million in services.
- The Volunteers in Medicine Institute (VIM) promotes and guides the development of free clinics for working people without health

insurance. In 1994, retired physician Jack McConnell started a clinic by recruiting other retired doctors and nurses to serve the poor of Hilton Head, South Carolina, whose tourism economy and seasonal unemployment left many without health insurance. The emphasis of the VIM-style clinic is on primary care, substituting for expensive and often-ineffective emergency room service. Clinics are staffed by retired medical and lay volunteers. Amy Hamlin, a former nurse practitioner from Burlington, Vermont, has played the role of entrepreneurial chief executive for more than a decade and is dedicated to scaling up the idea.

The awards ceremony, led by Howard Husock, Vice President for Programs at the Manhattan Institute and director of the Social Entrepreneurship Initiative, was preceded by a speech on the importance of philanthropic giving in America by Arthur Brooks, Professor of Public Administration and Director of Nonprofit studies at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He is author of the recently published book *Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth about Compassionate Conservatism* (Basic Books 2006). In the book, Professor Brooks documents a charity gap between self-identified conservatives and liberals; he finds, in average dollar amounts donated, conservative-led households give 30 percent more to charity than liberal-led households. He explains the meaning of this divide and also offers a strategy for expanding the ranks of charitable giving in America.



Arthur Brooks (L) and John Krieger

Nominations for the 2007 awards will be accepted until March 15. For more information or to access the online registration form, go to http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/social_entrepreneurship.htm.

Foundation Awards program. The event series is supported by a grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation.

Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the federal official most associated with “Housing First,” provided a national overview of the supportive housing movement for the New York-based audience. The Interagency Council, under Mr. Mangano’s leadership and President Bush’s commitment to ending chronic homelessness, coordinates partnerships among Federal, state, and local governments and campaigns nationwide to encourage and assist local governments in creating their own 10-year plans to end homelessness.

Mr. Mangano said that research increasingly shows that the chronically homeless “ricochet into the mainstream health and law enforcement systems in our country, and in doing so, they are the most expensive population to the public and community.” He argued that cost-benefit analysis proves that supportive housing and “Housing First” initiatives save

taxpayer dollars in the long-run: “Research indicates that the efficacy of the services goes up, and the costs go down in supportive housing.”

Anne Foley, Senior Policy Advisor for the State of Connecticut, who coordinated development of the Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative, discussed the policy innovations underlying the program and how they can be replicated in other states and cities. The forum was moderated by Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Awards Program at the Ash Institute at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and CCI Advisory Board Chairman Emeritus.

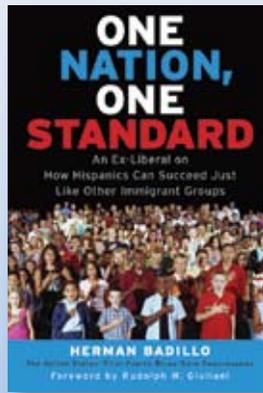
The Supportive Housing Pilots initiative has created more than 400 households for formerly homeless individuals with mental health or addiction problems and their families. It has proven to be a cost-effective model, since access to preventative care reduces use of acute and expensive health and mental health services, and allows beneficiaries to begin to move toward stable and productive lives.

Badillo Urges Greater Focus on Education and Standards in Hispanic Community

Manhattan Institute senior fellow Herman Badillo's new book, *One Nation, One Standard: An Ex-Liberal on How Hispanics Can Succeed Just Like Other Immigrant Groups* (Sentinel, 2007), has ignited a discussion about the future of the Hispanic population in America. He offers his own informed explanation for why Hispanics have fallen behind. Mr. Badillo argues that, in general, Hispanics don't put the same emphasis on education as other immigrant groups.

One Nation, One Standard is a memoir, recounting Mr. Badillo's own rise from an impoverished, orphaned immigrant to becoming the first Puerto Rican born U.S. Congressman, and his political evolution from a Kennedy liberal to a Giuliani conservative. It is also a manifesto calling on the Hispanic community to change its culture from one relying on big government programs to one embracing assimilation and personal responsibility.

Mr. Badillo argues that education is the key to success. He urges Hispanic immigrants to learn English, and hold themselves to high education standards. He suggests that Hispanics should look to other



"The greatest lesson of Herman Badillo's story is that the genius of American life—the upward ladder of opportunity that American freedom at its best provides—is better at solving most any problem than any government program."
— Rudolph W. Giuliani, from the foreword

won control of city schools from the state legislature in 2002.

For more information about *One Nation, One Standard*, including reviews and articles, please visit

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/onenation_onestandard/.

immigrant groups today (such as the Asian community) for lessons on how they have rapidly achieved success and prosperity.

As chairman of the board of the City University of New York, his alma mater, Mr. Badillo initiated efforts to end open admissions and restore rigorous standards and curriculum to the university once considered the "Harvard of the poor." Mr. Badillo also worked with Mayor Rudolf Giuliani in the 1990s to end social promotion – the practice of promoting students to the next grade level without

demonstrating mastery of skills in that grade level – in New York City public schools. Thanks to Mr. Badillo's persistence, social promotion began to be abolished in New York City schools starting in 2003 under Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who

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