

# Stephen & May Cavin Leeman Foundation, Inc.

Annual Report

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Last year's report featured the two outstanding organizations which have been our grantees longer than any other agencies. This year we would like to highlight our newest regular grantee.

**Friends of the Children New York (FOC)**, based in Harlem, is a unique early-intervention program dedicated to helping some of New York City's most at-risk children become productive, contributing members of their community. Modeled after a program in Portland, Oregon, it was founded in 2001 by Howard Clyman, who served as Executive Director until 2007. FOC deliberately selects those children in its community's kindergarten and first-grade classes whom its staff, in cooperation with teachers and other school personnel, assesses to be the most in danger of school failure, abuse, neglect, juvenile delinquency, gang and drug involvement, and teenage pregnancy. Each child is assigned to a full-time, paid, professional college-graduate mentor, a positive, consistent, and supportive adult, with whom he or she spends at least four hours a week, mostly one-to-one. The first cohort of children selected is now in the tenth grade, and the expectation is that each child will remain in the program through high school. The target outcomes are to finish high school with a plan for the future, to avoid the criminal justice system, and to avoid teen parenthood.

Mr. Clyman early recognized the need of the children and their families for mental health and social work support services, and the grants from the Leeman Foundation, beginning in 2006, have been directed to this part of the program.

Robert Houck, the current Executive Director, has increased the number of children served by FOC, and has enrolled the organization in a national study of the effectiveness of the mentoring program provided by FOC in New York and by several affiliated organizations around the country.

Besides its important mission, this worthwhile program exemplifies several highly commendable attributes: first, from the beginning, it recognized and addressed the needs of its children comprehensively, not solely in terms of academic achievement; second, and also from the start, it built in ways of evaluating the work it was doing with the children; third, it accomplished an unusually successful transition from a founding Executive Director to one who is leading the organization through its next stage of growth; and, fourth, it has shown flexibility in modifying its program to serve the changing needs of its clients as they develop into adolescents.

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The past year was a challenging one for the Foundation, because of the difficult financial climate, which has only deteriorated since June 30<sup>th</sup>. We took on no new grantees, and the total amount of our grants declined 13% from the year before. In contrast to its growth during the previous four years, the value of our endowment declined 13% during the past year, and now is 24% smaller than at its peak eight years ago.

We have continued to augment the grants we make with other forms of assistance to our grantees. One forum for doing this is our Annual Grantees' Breakfast Meetings, designed to keep our grantees in touch with one another, and to facilitate the exchange of ideas, the identification of common issues, and the exploration of new ways in which all of us can help one another. The Tenth Annual Meeting, held in February 2008, was a particularly lively one, which led to two follow-up symposia, one on social work and mental health

services, the other on software intended to assist with outcome evaluation.

Because we try hard to provide ongoing support to a limited number of outstanding organizations, we take on very few new grantees, and Friends of the Children New York is the only one of the last five years. While we are committed to that way of operating, we also want the Foundation and its grantees to be exposed to new approaches from time to time. For that reason, we hope to take on at least one new grantee in the coming fiscal year, in spite of the adverse economic climate.

### **History and Mission:**

The Stephen and May Cavin Leeman Foundation is a family foundation established in 1969 by Stephen and May Cavin Leeman. It was originally called the SEARCH Foundation (Science, Education, Art, Research, Conservation, and History), reflecting the broad interests of the founders.

In its early years, the Foundation focused its activities in Rockland County, NY, the founders' home community. Significant projects included the preservation of the birthplace of Edward Hopper in Nyack, NY, the development and publication of a historical **Portrait of West Nyack**, the giving of Nyack and West Nyack Community Awards, the promotion of a Rockland County anti-litter campaign, and the support of a Bias Awareness Workshop in Upper Nyack.

From 1988 to 1994 the Foundation funded a free cardiovascular screening program operated by Nyack Hospital, and from 1991 to 1994 the Foundation supported the Fellowship of Reconciliation, based in Rockland County, in several of its peace-promoting activities, including the establishment of the F.O.R. Peace Library.

Following the deaths of Stephen Leeman in 1993 and May Cavin Leeman in 1995, the leadership of the Foundation passed to the next generation of the family. The headquarters of the Foundation were moved to New York City. The Directors decided to shift the Foundation's focus to programs serving needy children and youths in New York City, with an emphasis on relatively small agencies, with grants for projects where we believe that our limited resources can make a tangible, demonstrable difference.

### **Guidelines for Applicants:**

#### **Fields of Interest:**

Our focus is on programs serving needy children and youths in New York City. Consideration also may be given to programs in the arts and humanities, education, environmental preservation, health and human services, and peace, especially when they involve work with young people. Relatively small programs in the New York metropolitan area are favored.

#### **Restrictions:**

No grants are made to individuals.

#### **Application Information:**

A prospective applicant should submit a preliminary letter of interest not more than two pages long. After receiving a favorable response, you may submit an application on the Foundation's Initial Grant Application Form, available on line at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org). Since decisions on grants are made throughout the year, there is no deadline for applications. Reports are expected from grantees at least once a year, and there may be

other requirements.

**Directors, Officers, and Administration:**

Cavin P. Leeman, M.D., President, Treasurer, and Director;  
Diane L. Zimmerman, Esq., Vice-President, Secretary, and Director;  
Gina Trent, Director;  
Gina Holland Waldo, Administrator.

**Donors:**

Stephen Leeman and May Cavin Leeman (both deceased).

**Regular Grants Made During The 2007-2008 Fiscal Year (7/1/07-6/30/08):**

<b>Andrew Glover Youth Program</b> , New York, NY	<b>\$15,000</b>
An eleventh-year grant to support alternatives to incarceration for youthful offenders as well as crime-prevention programs for at-risk youths from New York's Lower East Side and East Harlem neighborhoods.	
<b>Association to Benefit Children</b> , New York, NY	<b>\$15,000</b>
A seventh-year grant to support Fast Break, a mobile mental health program for children.	
<b>The DOME Project</b> , New York, NY	<b>\$15,000</b>
A ninth-year grant to support the Juvenile Justice Program, providing services for severely at-risk youths, including youths involved with the courts.	
<b>Fresh Youth Initiatives</b> , New York, NY	<b>\$15,000</b>
A ninth-year grant to support a community youth development program in New York's Washington Heights and Inwood neighborhoods.	
<b>Friends of the Children New York</b> , New York, NY	<b>\$15,000</b>
A third-year grant to support an intensive professional mentoring program for the most highly at-risk children.	
<b>Global Kids</b> , New York, NY	<b>\$15,000</b>
An eleventh-year grant to support the annual citizenship conference of this program which promotes academic achievement, global awareness, and leadership skills among inner-city high school students.	
<b>The Grace Opportunity Project</b> , New York, NY	<b>\$15,000</b>
An eighth-year grant to support a remedial education program for needy elementary school children.	
<b>The Teak Fellowship</b> , New York, NY	<b>\$15,000</b>
A seventh-year grant to support a program which helps low-income, high-achieving public school students to get into and succeed at top public and independent high schools.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 regular grants</b>
	<b>\$120,000</b>

## **Mini-Grants Made During the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year (7/1/07-6/30/08):**

<b>Amazon Medical Project, Mazomanie, WI</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>
A one-time grant to a rainforest medical clinic in the Peruvian Amazon, to help in the purchase of an electrocardiogram machine.		
<b>Children's Health Fund, New York, NY</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>
A third-year grant to support Operation Assist, a program which provides medical and mental health care to children in Mississippi and Louisiana victimized by Hurricane Katrina.		
<b>Compassion and Choices of New York, New York, NY</b>		<b>\$500</b>
A seventh-year grant to support the New York affiliate of Compassion and Choices Federation, which provides information, counseling, and support for terminally ill adults.		
<b>Training Institute for Mental Health, New York, NY</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>
A first-year grant to support low-fee psychotherapy for adolescents and adults.		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 mini-grants</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12 grants</b>	<b>\$123,500</b>

## **Summarized Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2007-2008:**

<b><u>Value of Endowment at Beginning of Year:</u></b>			<b>\$2,976,213</b>
<b><u>Income:</u></b>			
Dividends and Interest	\$ 158,404		
Net Gain from Sale of Assets	54,351		
Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) of Assets	( 392,384)		
Total		(\$179,629)	
<b><u>Subtotal:</u></b>			<b>\$2,796,584</b>
<b><u>Grants and Expenses:</u></b>			
Grants	\$ 123,500		
Breakfast Meeting and Follow-up Symposia	2,302		
Other Administrative Expenses	43,043		
Investment-related Expenses	<u>27,809</u>		
Total		\$196,654	
<b><u>Value of Endowment at End of Year:</u></b>			<b>\$2,599,930</b>

Report prepared November 2008