

Fund for Social Change

Fund for Social Change

666 Broadway, Suite 830

New York, NY 10012

Phone: 212-529-0110

Fax: 212-529-9996

info@fundforsocialchange.org

www.fundforsocialchange.org

Chronology of the Fund for Social Change

1992: Child Welfare Fund (CWF) founded by an anonymous donor in collaboration with David Tobis at Hunter College . For the chronology of the Child Welfare Fund go to the [Child Welfare Fund page](#) of the FSC website or the website of the [Child Welfare Fund](#).

2001: FAR Fund founded by an anonymous donor in collaboration with David Tobis.

2002: CWF and the Open Society Institute create the Partnership for Family Supports and Justice (PFSJ), which becomes a collaboration between ten foundations and the Administration for Children's Services, designed to create a community network of services to prevent foster care placements in Highbridge, the Bronx (the Bridge Builders program).

2002: The Child Welfare Fund, the FAR Fund, and the Partnership for Family Supports and Justice are joined administratively under the Fund for Social Change.

2002: Voices of Youth, with the help of the Fund for Social Change, sends a delegation to Stockholm, Sweden to present its model for youth advocacy at an international conference on alternatives to residential institutions.

2002: Sista II Sista with Downtown Community Television, Inc. produces *You Have the Right to Break the Silence* , a video documenting harassment and violence, including police violence, against young women of color.

2002: The Justice for Youth Coalition's, No More Youth Jails Campaign, successfully stops New York City from spending \$64 million on building 200 youth jail beds in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

2002: The FAR Fund joins the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing, connecting with a group of national, regional and local foundations, and youth organizing practitioners dedicated to advancing youth organizing as a strategy for youth development and social change.

2003: The FAR Fund helps launch a model program at PS 32 in Brooklyn for children with autism who are high functioning. The FAR Fund enables a parent input and support component to be included. The program is designed by NYU's Institute for Education and Social Policy in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education.

2003: The first FAR Fund Fellow, Michael Carley, launches the Global Regional Asperger's Syndrome Partnership, providing much needed support groups for people with high functioning autism.

2003: After a year of organizing parents, students and community members, Girls for Gender Equity successfully prevents the Department of Education from weakening Title IX of the Education Amendment, which states " No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal aid."

2003: Philomena Timmons of CWOP is named to the ACS advisory board. She is the first parent with a child in the system to serve on the board.

2004: The Child Welfare Fund and the FAR Fund convene a forum of advocates and consumers from child welfare and developmental disabilities fields to learn from and support each other.

2004: The FAR Fund and the Fund for Social Change create the Campaign for Real Lives, consisting of advocates, self-advocates, parents, providers and academics to make the reality of the developmental disabilities system catch up to its rhetoric.

2004: Gina Cheron , the second FAR Fund Fellow launches a legal unit within Dwa Fanm, providing legal services to Haitian domestic violence survivors and their families in Brooklyn.

2004: Sista II Sista, El Puente and other Brooklyn-based community organizations, in Bushwick successfully pressure their local police precinct to hire a female officer for their Domestic Violence Task Force.

2004: The Fund for Social Change, in collaboration with the Academy for Educational Development, the Community Resource Exchange, the Empire State Coalition of Youth, the Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health, the New York AIDS Coalition and the Partnership for After School Education convene a "future search" entitled "Creating an HIV-Free Future for NYC's Youth," bringing various stakeholders together to strategize on solutions.

2004: CWF awards first grant to New Yorkers for Children, the non-profit wing of ACS. The grant is used to hire child welfare parents and youth as advocates to increase access to services for families in 11 communities throughout the city.

2004: The Administration for Children's Services joins the The Partnership for Family Supports and Justice as a member of the donors' collaborative in Highbridge.

2004: Child Welfare Fund and David Tobis are honored by CWOP for their work on behalf of families with children in the child welfare system.

2004: Trude Lash, an eminent activist for the rights and well-being of children, dies. The Fund for Social Change creates the Trude Lash Fellowship Program in collaboration with family, colleagues and friends of Trude Lash.

2005: At the *Child Welfare Watch Forum* on redesigning the foster care system, ACS Commissioner John Mattingly says, "The Child Welfare Watch reports, I think, are the most thoughtful, balanced and detailed analysis of a particular set of issues in child welfare, that I have ever seen anywhere."

2005: *Developmental Disabilities Watch* is founded by the FAR Fund and the Campaign for Real Lives, creating an independent journalistic voice to report on the system and drive changes in policy. The *DD Watch* is modeled on the *Child Welfare Watch*.

2005: The Fund for Social Change with the Independence Community Foundation, the Spin Gold Foundation, and the New York City Department of Education, creates a donors' collaborative both to identify the special education needs of preschool children and to provide services to meet those needs. The State Department of Education, the Administration for Children's Services, the Human Resources Administration and the New York City Mayor's Office soon join the collaborative.

2005: The New York City Department of Education agrees to replicate the PS 32 model program for high functioning children on the autistic spectrum.

2005: Diana Mc Court, the third FAR Fund Fellow launches One Person at a Time, to secure sustainable, self-directed housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, including those on the autistic spectrum..

2005: The FAR Fund provides its fourth Fellowship, to Lawrence James, who launches the Rallying, Educating and Building Effective Leadership (R.E.B.E.L.) program to teach people of color basic organizing, self-determination, and leadership skills.

2006: The Trude Lash Fellowship Program, administered by the Fund for Social Change, awards fellowships to Kallen Tsikasas and Regine Romain

2006: The FAR Fund provides its fifth Fellowship to Jonathan Cooper to create a program to reduce bullying of school children on the autistic spectrum.

2006: Nixmary Brown is killed by her step-father. The number of foster care placements increases by 53% from fewer than 4,800 in 2005 to more than 7,200 in 2006.

2006: Fostering Connection, an agency that provides psychotherapy to children in foster care "for as long as it takes" honors David Tobis as the first recipient of its Silver Nest Award.

2006: David Tobis addresses UNICEF's senior policy staff at Maastricht University about strategies to create community services as an alternative to residential institutions for children.

2006: UNICEF invites David Tobis to Tajikistan to advise on ways to convert its pilot projects for child protection into a national program.

2007: Fifteen foundations and the Administration for Children's Services are members of the Bridge Builders collaborative in Highbridge, the Bronx. The evaluation by Chapin Hall reports "...what we are hearing and seeing is a type of synergy, a breakthrough in thinking and action that has changed the way collaborative members work and the way that they think about their work."

2007: The Administration for Children's Services selects Bridge Builders to receive public funding as part of the Community Partnership Initiative.

2007: The FAR Fund selects the Fund for Social Change to administer the OMRDD/FAR Fund Collaborative to promote more individualized lives for people on the autistic spectrum. Ten agencies and the FAR Fund are part of the collaboration. The administration of the FAR Fund relocates.

2007: Bridge Builders expands the role of the Store Front with trained parents from the community and social work supervision. Over 1000 families are served in 2007.

2007: The Administration for Children's Services convenes a forum for Lessons Learned from its three Community Partnership Initiatives. Bridge Builders is hailed as the "model to emulate."

2008: With groundwork laid by Bridge Builders, Judge Clark Richardson creates a Designated Part in Bronx Family Court for families from Highbridge. It is the first geographically based court in New York City.

2008: The Fund for Social Change creates the Parent Advocates Initiative to promote the hiring of parent advocates by foster care agencies. The collaborative includes the Administration for Children's Services, the New York State Office of Family and Children's Services, the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies, CWOP and six foundations.

2008: Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT) asks the FSC to evaluate its court-based information and referral program. LIFT incorporates the recommendations of the evaluation.

2008: David Tobis travels to Tajikistan as part of a team from the University of Maastricht to conduct a cost-benefit analysis comparing a new system of child protection with the country's current child welfare system which relies on large residential institutions.

2008: David Tobis, through the FSC, works as an advisor to the GHR Foundation and travels to Ukraine and Azerbaijan to assess two NGOs that will receive grants from the foundation as part of its Children in Families Initiative.

2008: The Administration for Children's Services asks the Fund for Social Change to collaborate on creating the START Program in the Bronx. The FSC will hire five family mentors to work

with families in which a child is born with a positive toxicology. The program is funded by Casey Family Programs via New Yorkers for Children.

2008: The Administration for Children's Services asks the Fund for Social Change to collaborate on creating the START Program in the Bronx. The FSC will hire five family mentors to work with families in which a child is born with a positive toxicology. The program is funded by Casey Family Programs via New Yorkers for Children.

2009: Chapin Hall's evaluation of Bridge Builders concludes "The data suggest that in the fourth year of the Project, Highbridge begins to stand out from the comparison sites in several ways. Highbridge experienced an unadjusted decline in the number and rate of maltreatment reports and in the indication of those reports that was ahead of what was seen in the other sites. When averaging across the pre-project years and across the Project years, Highbridge also saw the higher rates of children exiting care to family among all the sites.

2009: The FSC, in cooperation the Schott Foundation, the Booth Ferris Foundation, and the Ira W. DeCamp Foundation, organizes a forum at NYRAG: "Working with Government: Four Donor Collaboratives.

2009: After 18 years of collaboration, the Child Welfare Fund reconsiders its focus. The FSC no longer administers the Child Welfare Fund.