



## NYC Nurse-Family Partnership E-News

March 2017

[www.nyc.gov/health/nfp](http://www.nyc.gov/health/nfp)

### Heart's Desire Awards Granted to 44 NYC NFP Clients

As we reported last year, in 2015 two members of the NYC NFP Community Advisory Board, Susan Orkin and Christine Wasserstein, founded the Friends of NYC NFP (“the Friends”), a nonprofit affinity group created to support the work of NYC NFP through fundraising and volunteer programming to enrich the experience of clients in the program.

Showing some remarkable fundraising prowess, the Friends raised over \$70,000 in its first year, enabling it to launch its first project: reinstating the Heart’s Desire Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was created in 2008 with funding from private foundations, and until 2014, when this funding came to an end, had assisted more than 300 NYC NFP clients with education- and employment-related expenses, including tuition, books, laptops, transportation and child care.

Now known as the Heart’s Desire Fund (HDF), the initiative is administered by the Friends and funded through contributions from individual donors, but retains its original goal: helping clients advance their education and employment goals and, in so doing, paving the way for them to achieve their “heart’s desire.”

In order to apply, in addition to stating her funding request, the client must write an essay explaining how a Heart’s Desire Fund award will help her further her career goals. A letter of recommendation from the client’s nurse is also required.

“Many NYC NFP mothers want to pursue college, technical school, or professional credentials, but they struggle with inadequate or unavailable tuition support, limited access to laptops and printers, or even sufficient money for subway fare. That is where Heart’s Desire comes in,” says Friends Board President Susan Orkin.

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#### NYC NFP IS EXPANDING. COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

NYC NFP's expansion means that we are hiring for new positions. Do you or does someone you know want to be part of the NYC NFP team? Please see below for listings of all open positions at the NYC NFP Central Office as well as at our sites around the city, and please share the links with anyone who may be interested. Thank you!

All **Central Office, Jamaica, Manhattan** and **Targeted Citywide Initiative (TCI)** positions can be found on the [NYC Jobs website](#). Just click on “Health & Mental Hygiene” on the agency drop-down menu and search by the job IDs listed below.

NYC NFP Central Office  
*Outreach Coordinator*  
Job ID 281199

*Principal Administrative Associate (Level 1)*  
Job IDs 280168



Melaine Veloz, shown here with husband Solomon Sandy and their son, Mesiyah Sandy, received an award of approximately \$1,200 to pay for a laptop, MetroCards and college tuition.

Without the financial assistance provided by HDF, many NYC NFP moms would have had to defer their dreams of educational and career advancement—or even forgo them altogether. Others might have taken on unhealthy levels of debt. Everyone touched by the NYC NFP program knows of the extraordinary support, both emotional and practical, its nurses provide their clients—from having a healthy pregnancy to being the best parent they can be to assisting them in defining and working toward their goals. An HDF award can bolster this support in a more tangible way by helping the client advance her career goals and achieve her heart's desire.

The first round of HDF began this fall. Of 50 applications, 44 NYC NFP clients were awarded a total of more than \$37,000 worth of assistance. This included everything from laptops and printers to MetroCards, CPR training and tuition for ESL classes, secondary school, college and technical schools. The award amounts ranged from \$200 to \$1,600.



Zoie Philpott, pictured here with daughter Seiko, received an award of \$1,600 to enroll in a phlebotomy course.

#### HDF Awardees' Stories

Melaine Veloz has overcome many challenges during her time in NFP, including living in at least eight different homeless shelters and seeing her son through a serious eight-hour eye operation. Despite these challenges, Melaine is pursuing a degree in early

*Social Worker*  
Job ID 282732

Jamaica NFP  
*Nurse Home Visitor*  
Job ID 264443

*Principal Administrative Associate (Level 2)*  
Job ID 282243

Manhattan and Brooklyn NFP  
*Nurse Home Visitor*  
Job ID 268457

Targeted Citywide Initiative (TCI)  
*Nurse Home Visitor*  
Job ID 274683

Brooklyn NFP  
*Nurse Home Visitor*  
Visit the [SCO Family of Services website](#) and search for "Nurse Home Visitor."

Northern Queens NFP  
*Nurse Home Visitor*  
Visit the [Public Health Solutions website](#) and search for "Nurse Home Visitor."

#### **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER**



For news and updates on NYC NFP, please follow Dr. George Askew, the Division of Family and Child Health's Deputy Commissioner, at [@DrGeorgeLAskew](#). And keep up on all the NYC Health Department's news and program updates at [@nycHealthy](#).

childhood education, and applied for an award of approximately \$1,400 to pay for a laptop, MetroCards and part of her tuition. "I travel so much on a daily basis, and I constantly have to bring my son to the library with me to type my papers," she wrote in her application essay. "Sometimes I have to type them on my phone. I would be grateful to have any bit of help on this long but great journey."

Having gone through a difficult childhood, Zoie Philpott is determined to create a different life for her daughter. In addition to taking community college classes and holding down a part-time job, Zoie applied for \$1,600 to take a phlebotomy course. "People always doubt young teen moms," she says. "but what they fail to realize is that we are strong and can make it through and that is what I am going to do."

Steffany Bello was a full-time student when she became pregnant with her son. In her HDF application she wrote, "I'm trying to figure out how to manage my school assignments and still spend quality time with my son. I have to go back and forth between school and home just to do assignments in the school library. This is extra challenging because I live in Manhattan and my school is in Queens. Sometimes I take 4 trains each way." Steffany requested tuition assistance, a laptop computer, and MetroCards to help with transportation costs. "When my nurse first told me about the scholarship, I thought she was an angel. I thought that I would have to take out a student loan to finish paying for school or take a semester off to look for a job."



Steffany Bello, pictured here with son Michael, received a Heart's Desire award in the amount of \$1,000 for tuition assistance, a laptop and MetroCards.

These first-time moms made a powerful impression on Orkin and her fellow board members, as well as the donors who support the Friends' work. "Together, the determination of these mothers and the generosity of our donors are a powerful combined force," says Orkin.

The Friends' fundraising goal for the next round of Heart's Desire is \$50,000, and the group projects that the number of applications could more than double this year, as awareness of the opportunity increases among NYC NFP nurses

## FACEBOOK PAGE: OUR LITTLEST NEW YORKERS



Keep up with NYC NFP and all of the Division of Family and Child Health on the "[Our Littlest New Yorkers](#)" [Facebook page](#), where NYC parents and families are talking about the joys and challenges of raising young children. Visit it daily for tips, events, photos and more: [www.facebook.com/LittlestNYers!](http://www.facebook.com/LittlestNYers/)

## ABOUT US

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based nationwide nurse home visiting program committed to improving the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income first-time mothers and their children ([national NFP website](#)). The program is voluntary and there is no cost to the client. NYC NFP is the largest urban program in the country, having served more than 14,000 clients since its inception in 2003 and currently serving more than 1,600 clients across all five boroughs.



and clients. An increase in funding will be especially important to NYC NFP as it expands to serve approximately 3,000 clients. “In 2008, New York City became the only NFP site in the country to offer financial assistance to clients to help them work toward their career goals,” says NYC NFP Director Roberta Holder-Mosley. “Thanks to the Friends of NYC NFP, we are once again able to provide our clients with this unique and invaluable opportunity—one whose value far outweighs and outlasts the dollar amount of the award.”

Writes Orkin in the Friends’ first annual report, “Throughout 2016, I have been touched and humbled in my role with the Friends of New York City Nurse-Family Partnership, an organization with a hands-on impact that indisputably changes TWO generations of lives. From the New York City Health Department’s thoughtful management of this evidence-based program, to the tireless dedication of approximately 100 nurses, to the extraordinary stories of resilient mothers and their babies, I’m reminded every day of how the Nurse-Family Partnership program is deeply worthy of our support.”

NYC NFP is inspired by the phenomenal work done by the Friends thus far, and is grateful to be able to continue enhancing its clients’ NFP experience in this very special way!

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*The New York City Nurse-Family Partnership is administered by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which contracts with the following agencies to provide services: **Harlem Hospital Center, Public Health Solutions, Richmond Home Need Services, SCO Family of Services and Visiting Nurse Service of New York.** The program is funded by New York City and State as well as with federal Medicaid, MIECHV (Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program) and TANF dollars. In addition, since 2003 it has received generous support from dedicated individual donors and private foundations, including the **Altman Foundation, The Arthur Foundation, The Dunn Foundation, the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, the New York State Health Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation, The Pinkerton Foundation, Robin Hood, the Samberg Family Foundation, Schwartz Cousins Fund, The Edith Glick Shoolman Children's Foundation and Starr International Foundation.** All private grants for NYC NFP are managed by the Fund for Public Health in New York, a nonprofit organization that works with the NYC Health Department to develop innovative, valuable and lasting public-private partnerships that increase the agency's capacity and reach.*