



“40 Hours a year for Five Years”

Request for Funding Parish – School Partnerships

A ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and Trinity Wall Street

“We need, as a community, to work towards the strengthening of our public school education in every way that we can.”

The Right Reverend Mark Sisk
Bishop of New York

Imagine a community where all children are empowered with the skills and self confidence to succeed, a community where adults reach out to inspire youth and help them develop into a whole child. Access to high-quality schools for all our children is a moral imperative. Our goal is for every parish to create a partnership with their local public school-- and build bridges to their community-- to strengthen public schools by educating the whole child.

Parish-School Partnerships – “40 hrs for 5 years”

Support for education is deeply rooted within the Anglican tradition. Anglicans believe faith is a way of life and that we are formed through daily practice of what we believe. God's continuing action as creator means formation occurs in all we learn, inside and outside Church walls. Moreover, the Baptismal Covenant's commitment to seek and serve Christ in all persons calls us to nurture the mind, body, and spirit. As a reflection of this commitment, the Episcopal Church's faith-in-action activities have not only provided food and shelter but also expanded educational opportunities. Congregations in the Diocese of New York have long developed programs for youth in their neighborhoods and their work to raise a generation of leaders is embodied through their support for education.

All Our Children (AOC) provides parishes with an opportunity to renew their support of education. The initiative supports local public schools through (1) parishes volunteering forty hours a year for five years and through (2) building bridges with community organizations that complement hands-on volunteering with the capacity for wider systemic change. We believe partnerships between churches and schools will generate increased resources and more engagement which will lead to the realization of positive developmental outcomes for youth and ultimately a generation of leaders who are healthy, empathetic, and productive.

Join a Movement to Raise the Next Generation

Partnering with a local public school provides a unique opportunity to match a parish's interests and gifts with the needs of school children within the same community. Relationships with schools range from building a community library to help improve reading levels, to high-quality dramatic arts programs, to a school safety curriculum designed in collaboration with a school, and advocacy to the school board on wider budget needs. We understand there will be some challenges in developing a relationship with a school and allow for flexibility in the beginning stages of development.

Each parish-school relationship will look different. In some instances, it could be a group of churches working together to support a local school, in others it could be a church and a school exploring what the relationship means or a church and school in full partnership with each other. We know some of these relationships already exist and the initiative works to uplift those examples by providing support for their work.

A fundamental characteristic of what we do is to commit to **40 hours a year for 5 years** to support local public schools. This is the cornerstone of our ideals for our work. All children should have the opportunity to succeed in life and contribute to society. The presence of a caring adult in a young person's life increases self-esteem, strengthens relationships with peers and adults, and improves academic performance and attendance.

The initiative allows all parishes to join the movement, by providing prescribed guidelines for effective implementation. Parishes should:

- Identify a *point of contact at the school* and discuss what their needs are
- Put together a *leadership team* from the local community when developing program
- Include *common activities* as part of the program:
 - Training for all involved and a learning community to reflect and learn together
 - Organize project work that is direct and safe for volunteers
 - Annual service event with a community partner
- Perform an annual *evaluation* to determine effectiveness of program

All Our Children Grant Details

Trinity Wall Street will **grant up to \$5,000** to no more than twenty-five congregations (within the Diocese of NY) to initiate a partnership with a local public school. AOC grants will be awarded on an annual basis, with existing parishes reapplying every year. The *All Our Children* planning team will help parishes by (1) providing training and support for connecting with local schools; (2) offering connections to organizations experienced in educational change; and (3) regularly gathering pilot parishes for fellowship and networking.

The grants will be offered in two tracks: self-developed parish-school partnerships and Learning Leaders parish-school partnerships. Learning Leaders is NYC's largest non-profit dedicated to public school students and has over fifty years of experience placing volunteers into the NYC public school system.

- **Self-developed parish-school partnerships** – Parishes that already have an existing relationship with a school or a parish that has a school already identified and is in the process of forming a relationship.
- **Learning Leaders parish-school partnership** – Only for parishes in NYC. Learning Leaders will connect your parish to a school and provide the parish with program ideas and training support.

Next Steps

Requests to become a pilot parish should be submitted by **August 14, 2009** and should include:

- narrative of parish-school partnership idea with a possible school partner,
- first-draft budget,
- names of at least one clergy and/or lay leader who will help lead parish involvement.

Once your proposal is received, we will schedule a site visit to your parish.

All Our Children parishes will be notified by the beginning of **October 2009**.

For More Information

To learn more about the initiative, come to an *information session* that will be held at **Donegan Hall in Diocesan House, at Diocesan offices located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, NY on July 28, 2009 at 12:30 PM.**

Also, parishes can schedule a visit to learn more about how they can get involved by emailing allourchildren@trinitywallstreet.org or by contacting an individual listed below.

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