



Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo

Increasing Economic Self-sufficiency for low-income individuals and families

Community Impact Report

FOCUS AREAS

Increasing Self-sufficiency

Reducing Racial Disparities
Environment & Architecture
Arts & Culture



Improving educational attainment and school readiness

The Community Foundation is committed to engaging our community to increase economic self-sufficiency for low-income individuals and families. Successful strategies that create and support economic self-sufficiency include **improving educational attainment and increasing the assets of low-income families**. The Foundation focuses on five key solutions within self-sufficiency to address this tremendous need in our community:

1. Increase educational attainment for low-income children and adults
2. Improve the overall health status and school readiness of children living in communities of poverty
3. Increase the number of low-income residents obtaining jobs that support economic self-sufficiency
4. Increase financial assets for low-income residents
5. Research and advocacy related to the above solutions

Although the Foundation has invested in all of these solutions in 2006-2007, this report will focus on the first two solutions: **to improve educational attainment for low-income children and adults by strengthening parenting skills, school readiness, and grade level achievement including high school graduation and post-secondary education**. With its emphasis on education, this report includes information on the Foundation's scholarship program.

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Fall 2008

WHY IT MATTERS

- The under-18 poverty rate is 42% in Buffalo and 30.2% in Niagara Falls.
- 30% or 65,000 adults in the City of Buffalo are illiterate.
- In Buffalo's Public Schools, one in three students entering ninth grade won't graduate with their classmates in four years.
- A young person who does not graduate from high school is twice as likely to be unemployed in the future.
- A high school graduate earns approximately \$6,700 more annually than someone who did not complete high school.
- A college graduate earns approximately \$10.00 more per hour than a high school graduate.
- In Erie County, 22.5% of all families living in poverty had a head of household with less than a high school diploma; 38% for Buffalo.

IMPACT IN ACTION: *Read to Succeed Campaign*

Early Success for Early Reading First Program

The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has awarded its largest grants in recent years to support Good School for All's *Read to Succeed* campaign, **a comprehensive campaign designed to address our community's staggering literacy problems.**

One of the programs that the Read to Succeed initiative is implementing is "Early Reading First," funded from a \$4.1 million three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

In December 2007, a baseline study was completed of the children in the Early Reading First Program. The program implementation began January 7, 2008.

Preliminary outcome data collected in May and June of 2008, **after just 5½ months of implementation**, is extremely promising. To have moved the needle in these areas so quickly is an excellent testament of the effectiveness to the Early Reading First approach!

Here's a snapshot of the results so far.

Other activities generated by the Read to Succeed program include:

- A six-week summer day camp for 180 Bethel Head Start* children in order to provide additional instructional time for children with the greatest instructional needs.
- A summer institute for Bethel Head Start staff to ensure continuous program and process improvement.

For more details and information on these and other Good Schools for all initiatives, visit www.Readtosucceedbuffalo.org.

* Bethel Head Start is a child development program for three to five year olds which collaborates with Good Schools and the Buffalo Board of Education Universal Pre-K to prepare children from low-income households for kindergarten by promoting necessary language and early reading skills.



Good Schools for All: Read to Succeed

Student Performance	BEFORE Early Reading First	AFTER JUST 5½ MONTHS in Early Reading First program
Letter recognition of 4-year olds	30% recognize 18 or more letters of the alphabet	72% recognize 18 or more letters of the alphabet
Receptive to oral language – 4-year olds (Ability to understand spoken language)	26% were highly receptive	45% were highly receptive
Receptive to oral language – 3-year olds (Ability to understand spoken language)	9% were highly receptive	27% were highly receptive

CFGB Scholarship Program

Total awarded for scholarships 2006-2007: \$1,678,215

For over 80 years, the Foundation has been awarding scholarships to students from Western New York. Since 2000 the Foundation has awarded **over \$7 million in college scholarships** to thousands of local students. Scholarships are based primarily on financial need, although certain awards are also based on scholastic achievement, service or specific requirements. Awards range from approximately \$500 to \$5,500. Strong preference is given to those applicants who are Pell eligible. The Pell Grant is a federal student aid program

that provides grant assistance for college to the neediest students. (Pell eligibility was the recommended indicator of students from lower income families as per the advice of financial aid experts.) Current CFGB selection criteria states an applicant must be a permanent resident of one of the eight counties of WNY, attending school on a full-time basis at an accredited nonprofit school in the US.

The average scholarship award in 2007 was \$2,456 and the total number of scholarships awarded in 2006-2007 was 873.

2006-2007 CFGB Grants in Increasing Educational Attainment

Total: \$506,350

Read to Succeed Campaign

\$350,000

To support a comprehensive literacy campaign in Buffalo focused in zip code 14215, where more than 260 children will become better prepared to enter school.



Buffalo Prep

\$12,500



To ensure that academically talented, low-income minority students from up to 100 families in WNY are prepared to succeed in high school and college.

Homespace Corporation

\$10,000

To help homeless, single parents between 18-25 acquire the life skills necessary to break the cycle of dependency, obtaining permanent housing, increasing life and child management skills, completing vocational and educational training and obtaining employment.

Reach Out and Read

\$12,700



To provide early literacy intervention to over 13,000 low-income children in the region through pediatric offices by increasing the number of books in the home, training physicians and staff, and increasing parents' support of early literacy.

Boys & Girls Club of Buffalo

\$12,208

To implement Bridging the Gap, an intensive after-school academic intervention program at the Community Charter School Clubhouse which enhances the scholastic skills of 60 youth. Goals include the development of new friendships/social skills, increasing ELA/math grade by at least one letter and increasing school attendance.



Gateway-Longview

\$24,587

To hire a Life Skills Specialist stationed at the existing Family Resource Center on E. Ferry in Buffalo to work on various life skills and decrease risk factors by teaching hands-on parenting skills to 35 families per year; increasing youth school and job readiness through on-site tutoring, skills assessments, and goal setting.

Every Person Influences Children (EPIC)

\$16,480

To support five local agencies to receive training on the teen parenting program, Just for Teens. The high school graduation rate of the 90 teens who participated in 2006/2007 was 100%. Teen parents will receive life skills and parenting skills on confidence, isolation, parent/child relationships; and resources for family literacy to increase school readiness.



Polish Community Center of Buffalo

\$15,470



Capital improvements to serve more than 8,000 low-income community residents at the Matt Urban Center including after school mentoring and tutoring, recreational services, housing and weatherization services for East Side residents.

People and Possibilities

\$8,850

More than 450 children received books in Niagara Falls to promote literacy. 58 children participated in Universal Pre-K classes, and 98% of the participants were assessed as "greatly improving" their reading skills.



Trocaire College

\$20,000

To introduce up to 100 disadvantaged, minority students to nursing as a career, improving retention and graduation rates by 20-30%; increasing cultural competence in the program and enhancing students' academic performance.

D'Youville College

\$23,555



To develop and implement a summer pre-college program for 15 academically disadvantaged minority freshman nursing students in order to reduce attrition rate.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

CFGB IMPACT SUMMARY: BY THE NUMBERS

CFGB Investment (06-07)= \$2,184,565

- 873 low-income students receive college scholarships
- 100 low-income minority students will build critical reading and writing skills
- 400 youth will participate in intensive afterschool programming to enhance scholastic skills
- 750 children under 5 will be better prepared for pre-K
- 13,450 low-income families will receive books and training to encourage reading
- 35 low-income families will increase school readiness and life skills
- 5 Agencies will support 100 teen parents with training
- 115 low income minority students will build skills for nursing careers

Total 2006-2007 CFGB grants = \$ 2,184,565

Total leveraged dollars = \$4,787,500

Total financial impact = \$6,792,065

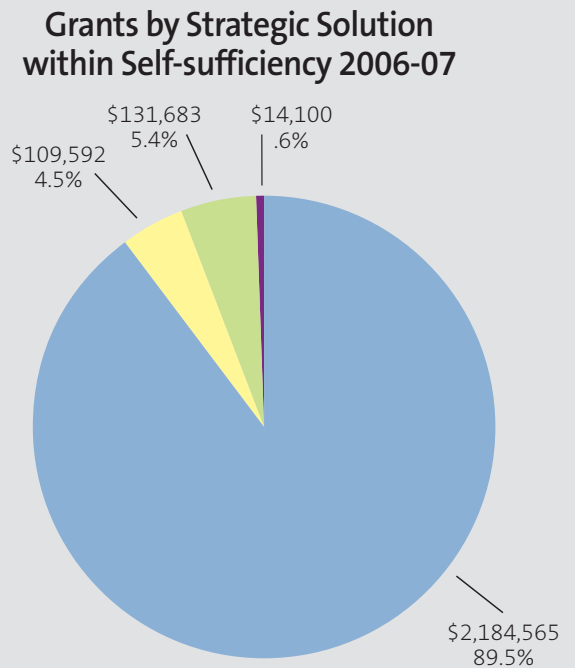
Your Feedback

Please let us know your thoughts on our Community Impact Reports, our leadership efforts or our grant making by contacting Cara Matteliano at caram@cfgb.org or (716) 852-2857. Thanks for your interest!

2006-07 INVESTMENTS IN SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Total grants awarded in self-sufficiency focus area in 2006-2007: \$2,439,940

Total grants awarded in CFGB solutions: Increase educational attainment and school readiness for low-income children and adults: \$2,184,565



- Increase **educational attainment and school readiness** for low-income children and adults (including CFGB Scholarship Program)
- Increase the number of low-income residents **obtaining jobs** that support economic self-sufficiency as defined by the Self-Sufficiency Standard
- Increase **financial assets** for low-income residents
- **Research and advocacy**

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OUR MISSION:
Connecting people, ideas and resources to improve lives in Western New York.

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Community Foundation
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