



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW YORKERS FOR CHILDREN LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO HELP NEW YORK CITY YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE PURSUE & ACHIEVE COLLEGE DEGREES

New Yorkers For Children honors CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken for developing supportive programs for foster youth

New York- New Yorkers For Children (NYCF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of foster care youth, today announced that it received \$1.187 million dollars from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to create and launch the Nicholas Scoppetta Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund will support academic scholarships covering tuition, books and essential living expenses for students in foster care pursuing undergraduate degrees at the City University of New York (CUNY), as well as private colleges and universities in New York City.

Both the scholarship fund and award are named after NYFC founder Nicholas Scoppetta, who grew up in foster care and died in March 2016 after a distinguished career in public service that included serving as Commissioner for three New York City agencies, NYC Fire Department, NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and NYC Department of Investigation (DOI). Scoppetta founded New Yorkers For Children in 1996 to work in partnership with ACS to help youth in foster care with education, career development, and life skills.

"New Yorkers For Children is thrilled to expand its partnership with CUNY under the visionary leadership of Chancellor Milliken," said **Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez, executive director of New Yorkers For Children**. "Through the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's generous investment and our partnership with the Administration for Children's Services, we will follow in Nick Scoppetta's footsteps and ensure youth in foster care have the resources they need to attain a degree and the skills they need to thrive."

"Nick taught all of us that one of our greatest callings is to create opportunities and support for children who, through no fault of their own, have not had stable homes but who, like all of us, have dreams," said **City University of New York Chancellor, James B. Milliken**. "We see the enormous potential in the young people we're serving and know that they will build great careers and contribute to making this city vibrant and successful." New Yorkers For Children recently awarded James B. Milliken with the 2016 Scoppetta Award for his leadership in developing programs at CUNY to help foster youth pursue college degrees.

To help New York City youth in or aging out of foster care achieve a degree in higher education, CUNY and NYFC have developed several supportive pipelines into and through CUNY degree programs. These include life skills and academic training in high school as well as providing MetroCards, meal vouchers, tutoring, and, in some instances, housing to college students. These programs are funded through a variety of private foundations, as well as city and state support.

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About New Yorkers For Children

New Yorkers For Children is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of youth in and aging out of care through access to education and opportunity. New Yorkers For Children works in partnership with the Administration for Children's Services to improve the lives of youth in foster care and to engage New Yorkers in that effort. To learn more, visit www.newyorkersforchildren.org

About the City University of New York

The City University of New York is the nation's leading urban public university. Founded in New York City in 1847, the University comprises 25 institutions: 11 senior colleges, seven community colleges, the William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, the CUNY School of Medicine, the CUNY Graduate School and University Center, the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, the CUNY School of Law, the CUNY School of Professional Studies and the CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy. The University serves more than 274,350 degree-seeking students and 260,000 adult and continuing education students. College Now, the University's academic enrichment program, is offered at CUNY campuses and more than 300 high schools throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The University offers online baccalaureate and master's degrees through the School of Professional Studies.

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The foundation's Child Well-being Program aims to promote children's healthy development and protect them from abuse and neglect. To learn more about the program, visit www.ddcf.org.