



**INSIDE FJC**

**MEGAN HEANING JOINS  
FJC AS GRANTS  
ADMINISTRATOR**

Megan received her B.A. in History with honors from Loyola University in May 2015. She studied abroad in Ireland and was a research assistant at Loyola-Notre Dame's library.

Previous to FJC, Megan was a Volunteer Management Intern at AARP. She also was an immigration assistant at the IRC, providing paralegal services to diverse populations.



**GIVING USA: AMERICANS  
DONATED AN ESTIMATED  
\$358.38 BILLION TO CHARITY  
IN 2014; HIGHEST TOTAL IN  
REPORT'S 60-YEAR HISTORY**

**\$500 REFERRAL  
PROGRAM**

In honor of FJC's 20 years of service to the philanthropic community, FJC is continuing the referral program! Donor advised fund account holders who successfully refer a friend or non-immediate family member who opens a new donor advised fund will receive \$500.

The \$500 can be credited to the donor's account, awarded as FJC charitable gift certificates that can be given for special occasions, or even credited to the new account. New accounts must be opened with FJC's \$5,000 minimum for donor advised funds.

The annual Giving USA report attributes an improved American economy, as measured by multiple indicators, as the engine for last year's 7.1 percent growth in charitable giving.

Americans gave an estimated \$358.38 billion to charity in 2014, surpassing the peak last seen before the Great Recession, according to the 60th anniversary edition of Giving USA released today. That total slightly exceeded the benchmark year of 2007, when giving hit an estimated inflation-adjusted total of \$355.17 billion.

The 2014 total jumped 7.1 percent in current dollars and 5.4 percent when inflation-adjusted over the revised estimate of \$339.94 billion that Americans donated in 2013, according to Giving USA 2015: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2014.

In addition, 2014 marked the fifth year in a row where giving went up; the average annual increase was 5.5 percent in current dollars (3.4 percent when inflation-adjusted).

All four sources that comprise total giving -- individuals (72 percent of the total); corporations (5 percent); foundations (15 percent); and bequests (8 percent) -- upped their 2014 donations to America's 1-million-plus charities, says the report, which is the longest-running and most comprehensive of its kind in America. Giving USA is published by Giving USA Foundation, which was established by The Giving Institute to advance philanthropy through research and education. The report is researched and written by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

[Source: Press Release The Giving Institute, June 2015]



**CHARITY  
SPOTLIGHT**

**HELPING CLEAR AN HISTORIC  
BACKLOGGED COURT SYSTEM**

Our overriding goal must be to ensure that pre-trial detention is reserved only for those defendants who cannot safely be released or who cannot be relied upon to return to court — and to do all we can to eliminate the risk that New Yorkers are incarcerated simply because they lack the financial means to make bail. More than simply being unfair, incarcerating indigent defendants for no other reason than that they cannot meet even a minimum bail amount strips our justice system of its credibility and distorts its operation. Jailing defendants before trial can subject them to economic and psychological hardship, limit their ability to assist in their defense and place them at a serious disadvantage in the plea bargaining process.

---NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM, THE STATE of the JUDICIARY 2013

The Bronx Freedom Fund, which is managed by FJC, is the first charitable bail organization licensed in New York State. The Fund is a revolutionary program designed to help poor Bronx residents avoid the devastating costs of short jail sentences. The Fund works with clients and families represented by The Bronx Defenders, a holistic public defender office in the South Bronx.

The Fund was established by an FJC donor who requested that any monies withdrawn from the fund be used solely to help low-income people facing misdemeanor charges. Nearly every client has shown up in court meaning the funds can be used again for others in similar situations.

The Bronx Freedom Fund is the winner of the National Criminal Justice Association’s 2015 Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award for the Northeast Region!

The fund meets the bail obligations of people facing misdemeanor charges who lack the funds to secure their freedom. Clients assisted by the bail fund are connected to services and support for the duration of their cases, ensuring that they not only meet their court obligations but also get assistance to stabilize their lives in the long term. The model is innovative, fiscally responsible and urgently needed. The Bronx Freedom Fund also works with organizations and practitioners in other jurisdictions who are interested in starting bail funds of their own.

**WHAT THE FUND HAS ACHIEVED:**

- The Freedom Fund posts bail for nearly 150 clients a year.
- We’ve paid bail for more than 200 clients since opening.
- 97% of our clients return to all scheduled court dates.
- 56% of our client’s cases result in a dismissal of all charges.
- 23% of cases resulted in a non-criminal disposition.
- Only 9% of clients pled guilty to a misdemeanor.

Since opening in October 2013, ninety-seven percent of our clients have returned to their court appearances, a compliance rate higher than that of defendants released on their own recognizance by judges. This means that nearly every dollar of bail money is reused more than once to assist clients. More than three out of four Freedom Fund clients’ cases are dismissed or result in a non-criminal disposition. Our clients are able to keep their jobs, go to school, stay in their homes and enroll in needed treatment and services while their cases are pending. This decrease in incarceration on both ends of a criminal case results in enormous savings to taxpayers. A dollar spent by the bail fund saves more than six dollars in incarceration costs. When a client’s case closes, the bail is refunded into our revolving fund to help others in need.

For more information about the fund: 360 East 161st St. Bronx, NY 10451 (347) 842-1263  
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