

FY2011 Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee

Federal Funding Requests

Senator Charles E. Schumer

Agudath Israel of America Community Services Inc.; New York, NY; \$ 500,000

Funds would be used in mentoring and educating parents, teachers, and school administrators on how to positively care for at-risk youth, and also to offset cost of mental health professionals

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would help keep children out of jail and off the streets.

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc.; New York, NY; \$125,000

Funds would be used to help at-risk inner-city youth stay off the streets and build discipline, self-confidence, and communications skills through writing, arts and personal development activities.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because AileyCamp New York keeps roughly 200 at-risk youth off the streets and offers them classes in communication, personal development, and arts education. The program helps underserved young people engage in positive activities and stay out of trouble during the summer and select Saturdays during the year. AileyCamp teaches students the importance of teamwork, goal-setting, and discipline that will help them at home, in school, and later in life.

Ballet Theatre Foundation (aka American Ballet Theatre); New York, NY; \$300,000

Funds would support ABT performance programs, space rental and travel for its arts education program for at-risk youth.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because Make a Ballet provides at-risk youth a structured, skill-building and life-enhancing arts education program in the school setting. Evaluations of Make a Ballet have demonstrated reduced truancy and delinquency in the youth who have participated in the program.

Boys & Girls Club of Sidney; Sidney, NY; \$ 35,000

Funds would be used for mentoring, a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because rural youth face the same hurdles and pitfalls associated with low-income families, drugs & alcohol, sexual and criminal activities as those in the urban areas. However, rural youth's problems are often compounded by the lack of available outside resources and geographically isolationism.

For hundreds of youth, the Boys & Girls Club of Sidney is their only afterschool and summer enrichment option.

Buffalo State College; Buffalo, NY; \$ 500,000

Funding would provide enhanced research capabilities in the Great Lakes, their tributaries and watersheds, and would help initiate multiple research projects examining the environmental, social, and economic impacts on and of the Great Lakes.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would expand this Great Lakes research and monitoring program which is supported by regional state and federal stakeholders and would provide critical information on water quality, fish food base and invasive species in the lower Great Lakes. This data would be a valuable source for the local community and all stakeholders, including lake managers and policy makers.

Center for Court Innovation; New York, NY; \$ 500,000

Funding would be used to expand an on-site workforce development program to provide vocational/educational training, job placement, and retention services for 200 people annually

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it seeks to reduce both crime and incarceration. The job training initiative would give low-level ex-offenders the tools they need to become law-abiding, tax-paying productive citizens.

City of Albany Police Department; Albany, NY; \$ 1,500,000

Funding would be used to purchase the ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System. Network sensors would be able to detect and calculate the position where a gun was fired and send the data to a central server accessible by law-enforcement agencies.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because agencies using ShotSpotter systems have seen gunfire related violent crime rates fall by at least 30%, more than a 50% increase in gunfire arrests, and gunfire rates dropped dramatically, by as much as 60 to 80%, depending on the location of the system. ShotSpotter has also been responsible for producing arrests, decreasing police response time, increasing officer safety, pinpointing key forensic evidence, and saving numerous lives.

City of Auburn, NY; \$6,288,536

Funds would be used for the installation of a waste heat line from the City's Co-Generation Facility, along with infrastructure and telecommunication upgrades at Technology Park to support expansion and job creation.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it will help with road, sewer and water infrastructure upgrades that are critical to job creation in the area.

City of Buffalo - Buffalo Police Department, NY; \$ 360,000

Currently, the City has 109 operational video surveillance camera units and requested funds would be used to purchase an additional 8 cameras that would help to reduce all kinds of criminal activity, especially violent crime.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because Buffalo has initiated a video surveillance system in order to prevent and respond to crime, to protect critical infrastructure, and to promote economic development. This new high tech camera system serves as a crime prevention strategy being employed by the Buffalo Police Department to bring real-time video in emergency situations and evidence in criminal proceedings. Existing equipment has been effective in providing real-time video to the Mobile Response Unit at a 21% improvement rate, and serves as a deterrent to violent crime, enforcement tool, and in the capture of potential criminals.

City of Troy Police Department; Troy, NY; \$ 1,500,000

Funding is being requested to purchase the ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System (GLS).

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because agencies using ShotSpotter systems have seen gunfire related violent crime rates fall by at least 30%, more than a 50% increase in gunfire arrests, and gunfire rates dropped dramatically, by as much as 60 to 80%, depending on the location of the system. ShotSpotter has also been responsible for producing arrests, decreasing police response time, increasing officer safety, pinpointing key forensic evidence, and saving numerous lives.

City of Yonkers Police Department; Yonkers, NY; \$2,579,004

Funding would be used to expand the Westside Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE) program, to strategically target school and domestic violence, and robberies and other violent crime on the west side.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would expand Westside Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE) program, which will include: 1) intensive patrols on the west side of Yonkers, 2) precinct Anti-Robbery Units, 3) School Units to respond to crime in the schools and coordinate crime and gang prevention curriculum with the Yonkers Public Schools, and 4) Precinct Domestic Violence Units.

City University of New York (CUNY); New York, NY; \$1,900,000

Funds would support an advanced regional decision-support system for sustainable water resources, integrating high technology environmental surveillance assets, ecosystem-based management tools and engagement with decision makers.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because regional environmental surveillance and planning tools intrinsic to the Consortium are in the National interest. Optimal use of water is linked to efficient uses of landscapes, energy, and other environmental assets that help to ensure 21st century economic competitiveness based on sound environmental principles. Designs for new regional ecosystem-based water stewardship, climate monitoring, and adaptation systems will require retro-fitted infrastructure and services

which, as they have historically, net substantial numbers of job opportunities at all levels of the workforce.

Coalition for the Homeless; New York, NY; \$500,000

Funding would allow the Coalition for the Homeless to meet the increased demand for support by providing programs for homeless youth and critical services for homeless and at-risk families, including eviction prevention and crisis intervention.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would enable the Eviction Prevention and Comprehensive Services for Homeless Families program to continue serving over 5,000 unduplicated NYC households annually. This would include keeping 500 families at-risk of homelessness in their homes, thus saving millions of taxpayer dollars in averted shelter costs. It would also provide educational and crisis intervention services for homeless youth and their families, and underwrite two new positions that would provide intensive housing and shelter placement services to families.

Community Center of the Rockaway Peninsula, Inc.; Far Rockaway, NY; \$ 200,000

Funding would be used for after school vocational program for academically challenged teenagers at risk of dropping out of school.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would help keep teenagers with academic and social challenges off of the streets, while at the same time providing them with valuable job training and workplace readiness skills.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County; Riverhead, NY; \$ 100,000

Funding would be used to quantify and qualify the socio-economic impacts of regulatory actions in New York and determine how these impacts affect individuals & communities.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because fisheries-related resources are uniquely important contributors to the economy of the marine district of New York, principally because economies generated from the harvest of fisheries resources occur without the expenditure of funds to purchase raw materials and/or other production material costs. Maintaining and fostering the growth and development of new fishery dependent industries has the potential for the greatest comparative economic regional benefit.

Cornell University; Ithaca, NY; \$ 500,000

Funds would support Cornell University's membership in an 8-university consortium (the National Textile Center) that conducts a textile and fiber science research, education, and technology transfer program.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer the National Textile Center maximizes fundamental research and development for the fiber, textile and apparel sectors by coordinating the efforts of eight leading textile research universities. The value of new textile products and processes that have been created by NTC research is over \$300 million -- more than three times the federal investment in NTC to date.

Cornell University; Ithaca, NY; \$ 6,000,000

Funding would support The Regional Climate Center, a program that works cooperatively with the National Climatic Data Center, state climate offices, and other interested scientists to acquire and disseminate accurate, up-to-date climate data and information.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because the mission of the Northeast Regional Climate Center is to facilitate and enhance the collection, dissemination, and use of climate data as well as to monitor and assess climatic conditions and impacts in the northeastern region of the United States. Its activities add to the economic efficiency and promote the general welfare of public and private institutions and individuals in the region.

The Doe Fund, Inc.; New York, NY; \$ 718,322

Funding would be used to support Ready, Willing & Able, which helps permanently break the cycles of incarceration, dependency, and addiction by providing paid transitional work, case management, occupational training, drug testing and counseling, literacy and educational services.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because, by providing paid transitional work for formerly incarcerated individuals, coupled with comprehensive support services (including drug testing and relapse prevention), RWA breaks the cycle of criminal recidivism.

Family Service League, Inc.; Huntington, NY; \$ 1,000,000

Funding would be used to implement a gang prevention program to deter 300 vulnerable youth from joining gangs or participating in gang activities. This program would treat the entire family and would be operated in Brentwood, NY.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because this program would have is an improvement in the quality of life for all members of the local and regional community. The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estimates a single gang-related adolescent criminal career, approximately 10 years in length, can cost taxpayers between \$1.7 and \$2.3 million. Preventing youth from engaging in gang related activity would reduce the tax burden accordingly.

Fulton-Montgomery Community College; Johnstown, NY; \$ 446,555

Funds would be used to expand the Center for Engineering and Technology to include alternative and renewable energy curriculum.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would increase the emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and technology (STEM) education in order to meet advanced manufacturing employment needs. This expansion would be specifically aimed at providing the skills and training necessary to meet the projected employment needs

resulting from economic growth in alternative and renewal energy that the region is experiencing.

Girls Incorporated; New York, NY; \$500,000

Funds would be used to address the obesity and nutrition challenges of at-risk girls and their families.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because one-third of America's children are obese or overweight, threatening their physical and emotional health as they grow up. Our nation spends \$150 billion every year to treat obesity-related conditions, including heart attack, stroke, and diabetes, because of our inability to address the causes of obesity. Girls Inc. is a nationwide nonprofit provider of positive programming for girls that can empower them to form healthy habits for a lifetime, and help build a healthier America.

GMHC; New York, NY; \$ 150,000

Funds would be used to reach at-risk women in New York City, connect them to targeted and tailored workforce development programs that will put them back in the workplace, and ultimately secure their health.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would serve the twin purposes of alleviating NYC's unemployment crisis and reducing HIV infection rates across the city.

Harlem RBI, Inc; New York, NY; \$300,000

Funds would be used to support Harlem RBI, a year-round academic, enrichment and sports youth development organization located in East Harlem, New York.

This program is in the interest of the taxpayer because, in addition to creating and sustaining jobs for New Yorkers, Harlem RBI and Harlem RBI's DREAM Charter School provide East Harlem youth with access to high-quality after-school and school programs with a proven track record of success. In a community where schools are failing and educational achievement is low, access to educational opportunities that dramatically improve participants' chances of graduating from high school and matriculating to college is vital; in 2009, 100% of Harlem RBI's 12th graders graduated high school, compared with only 42% in East Harlem as a whole; 86% were accepted to college, an outstanding achievement considering that only 13% of adults in East Harlem have a college degree.

Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency; Watertown, NY; \$ 1,000,000

Funds would be used to build/deploy an operational demonstration of Ship-Board Rapidly Deployable Wastewater Treatment/Ballast Water Management technology with significant, required commercial, NOAA and Department of Defense uses.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because an aging global commercial surface fleet has been using the oceans as a regular waste and ballast water dumping ground, which threatens every coastal zone in New York and the world with pollution, invasive species and the threat of waterborne disease, and this project is aimed at alleviating this.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice; New York, NY; \$1,740,000

Funding would be used to conduct broad research on integrated responses by local, state, and national responders to large scale disasters for the development of best practices training and education for emergency response personnel.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because, as seen after the September 11th, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, there is intense need for improving the way emergency workers respond to disasters. This initiative would provide for the evaluation and extensive knowledge of first responder operations on a national level to assist in facilitating technology transfer from military or industrial settings to the civil public safety sector.

LeMoyne College; Syracuse, NY; \$ 500,000

Fund would be used to partner with Dewitt/Syracuse PD and Onondaga County Sheriff's Department to demonstrate effectiveness, reliability, interoperability and suitability of wireless/web-enabled sensor and monitoring security technologies to enhance campus security.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would enable expanded capabilities of law enforcement as both a reactive and preventative force.

Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty; New York, NY; \$ 250,000

Federal funds would be spent to conduct a study on at-risk teenagers in New York City.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because, since 2003 when Met Council last studied at-risk youth, the New York metropolitan area has seen a steady influx of immigrants as well as a severe economic downturn. These families face other problems such as unfamiliarity with computers and the Internet, poor job skills, illiteracy, inability to speak English, cultural alienation from teachers and other authority figures, inappropriate and ineffective parenting methods, dearth of positive recreational and social activities, and inadequate study skills. As such, there is a great need to study at-risk youth and identify service gaps as well as proposals on how best to meet the needs of this at-risk population.

Monroe County Department of Public Safety; Rochester, NY; \$ 1,400,000

Funding would be used to monitor 100 High Risk Sex offenders and alert probation officers immediately whenever the sex offender enters and exclusion zone, does not return home when required, or tampers with the device.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because, of the 322 sex offenders released in the County, 100 are deemed High Risk. This program would provide an additional level of security for area citizens.

Nassau County Police Department; Mineola, NY; \$3,372,766

This funding would be used to reduce street level heroin use and dismantle the distribution rings which facilitate this rapidly increasing problem.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would allow the Nassau County Heroin Task Force to remain intact in order to continue its onslaught against heroin. This investment would facilitate a comprehensive solution to rampant heroin use, and in turn, would be a commitment to the health and well being of the citizens of Nassau County.

New York City Outward Bound Center, Inc.; New York, NY; \$750,000

Funds would be used to expand and support NYC Outward Bound's growing network of Expeditionary Learning public schools, which provide at-risk students in NYC's most underserved neighborhoods with a high quality education that prepares them for success in college, work, and life in the 21st century.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because Expeditionary Learning is Outward Bound's nationally-recognized and proven school model that prepares students for success in college, work, and life in the 21st century, which in turn will significantly help decrease the high unemployment rates these underserved neighborhoods have been experiencing.

Office of the Queens County District Attorney; Kew Gardens, NY; \$1,000,000

This project would target crimes of financial exploitation of the elderly through coordinated and targeted efforts including specialized handling of criminal matters, direct victims support services, and aggressive public education and outreach.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because the Office of the Queens County District Attorney would continue to make significant improvements in addressing the overall incidence of financial exploitation of the elderly and related crimes in Queens County, New York with an eye toward crime prevention and better safeguarding the elderly from financial victimization.

Oswego County Emergency Communications; Oswego, NY; \$ 3,000,000

Funds would be used to build a new and improved communications system for all Emergency Services Providers in Oswego County that would coordinate with similar projects in surrounding counties and that will establish much needed interoperable communications within the region.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because interoperable communications for emergency services are essential for the safety and expedient delivery of life saving services to the public. Enhancement of the existing network would carry this technology forward and allow for communications to extend into adjoining counties.

Police Athletic League, Inc; New York, NY; \$ 957,783

Funds would be used for a citywide crime prevention, truancy intervention, alternative-to-detention, re-entry & workforce development program for 7,150 NYC youth.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would work to reduce juvenile crime and victimization in the most at-risk communities in New York City as identified by the New York Police Department.

Prospect Park Alliance; Brooklyn, NY; \$500,000

Funds would be used to support the Youth Training and Education Program, which provides environmental job training and teaches disadvantaged young people about the natural world and its stewardship in Brooklyn, through youth employment, BASE high-school, and public education programs.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it provides job training and teaches young people about the natural world and its stewardship in Brooklyn, helping to support the Alliance's mission to maintain the Park as a resource for New York City, especially those New Yorkers from under-resourced and low- to mid-income neighborhoods. Prospect Park's Youth Employment Training Program involves teenagers in the life of the Park, providing rewarding employment opportunities for Brooklyn's youth. In addition, the Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment (BASE) High School is helping to prepare disadvantaged teens for careers in environmental sciences, while programs at the Prospect Park Audubon Center and the Lefferts Historic House provide free public programming during key after-school hours and weekends.

Public Utility Law Project of New York, Inc.; New York, NY; \$ 325,000

Funds would be used to increase the organization's presence in federal forums (e.g., FERC and the FCC) to address affordability, universal service, and consumer protection issues affecting low income utility customers.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because funds would bring PULP's expertise in low income utility issues to federal forums (FERC and the FCC), where the voice of New York's poor often are unheard.

Roundabout Theater Company; New York, NY; \$250,000

Funds would be used to support Education@Roundabout, including professional development workshops for educators, artist residencies in the public schools, student matinees, and our internship program.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it works in 246 classrooms, reaching nearly 6,000 New York City public school students and teachers. The program includes an after-school component called Student Production Workshop, which brings together at-risk students from partner schools to form a student theatre company. From the school-wide partnerships to the Career Development Program, the goal is to instill in students the skills and abilities that will help them succeed in the future through the integration of theatre into classroom activities.

Sanctuary for Families, Inc.; New York, NY; \$235,000

Funds would be used for counseling and legal services at the New York City Family Justice Centers, which co-locate domestic violence services (lawyers, DAs, counselors, police, etc.) under one roof in a secure, walk-in facility.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would help address the high rates of domestic violence and family homicides in New York City with cost-effective non-shelter services including legal, counseling, and case management services to domestic violence victims and their at-risk children—complemented by a broad program of prevention-focused community outreach—which would save a great deal of taxpayer money that would otherwise go to emergency room services, criminal court expenses, and shelter placements.

Schenectady County DA on behalf of the Upstate New York Law Enforcement/Forensic Science Integration Partnership; Schenectady, NY; \$ 975,000

Funds would be used to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of State and local law enforcement agencies in Upstate New York through the application of advanced forensic technologies and integrated information management systems.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of evidence management and inventory control.

Simon Wiesenthal Center; New York, NY; \$1,000,000

Fund would support the Tools for Tolerance programs, which offer law enforcement, criminal justice professionals, teachers, and teens training on hate crimes and civil rights, diversity, tolerance, prejudices, and the challenges facing law enforcement in a post 9/11 world.

These programs are in the interest of the taxpayer because they provide training to law enforcement and other professionals to improve hate crimes comprehension and enhance the interaction of public safety personnel with the general public. The goal is to provide training to enhance their capacity to proactively prevent the spread of hate crimes in their communities and to vigilantly identify and address potential terrorist threats. Past and ongoing participants include the New York and New Jersey State Police Departments, NYPD, New York City Parks Department, District Attorney's offices of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island, Grand Central Partnership and various other corporate and Jewish groups.

St. Bonaventure University; St. Bonaventure, NY; \$750,000

Funds would be used to create an initiative that would harness the efforts and resources of several community partners, resulting in a continuum of service and community engagement throughout the Southern Tier of Western New York.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because, upon full implementation, the entire community would reap the benefits of a more fully engaged SBU that is positioned to assist in remedying the myriad of social, economic, and educational challenges that face

the Southern Tier of Western New York. This project would also serve as a model for other regions of the country that are in need of a more collaborative approach to harnessing area expertise to address community challenges.

Turnaround for Children, Inc.; New York, NY; \$600,000

Funds would be used for programmatic support (principally salary support and limited training and technical assistance) to implement Turnaround for Children's school turn-around intervention model in high-need NYC public schools.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would support the implementation of Turnaround for Children's school turn-around intervention in high-poverty, low performing New York City public schools. Unlike other programs, Turnaround's approach is unique in that it addresses the direct effects of poverty and adversity on school climate and learning in high-need populations. Through its powerful intervention model, Turnaround partners with schools and helps transform them into thriving educational environments with high expectations for student achievement and development. The Turnaround intervention has proven successful and has proven results in 64 high-need schools in New York. For example, in the 2008-2009 school year, Turnaround schools outpaced city gains in double digits on statewide standardized tests in English and Math. Turnaround schools also experienced significant improvements in school climate, including a 63% decrease in referrals to special education, a 25% decrease in suspensions, a 43% decrease in police-reported incidents, and a 48% decrease in teacher absences.

Utica Police Department; Utica, NY; \$ 1,000,000

Funds would be used by the Police Department to increase the analytical capacity of its Computer Forensics Lab to expedite investigations and prosecution of cybercrimes as well as expand and accelerate its cybersecurity outreach initiatives to regional law enforcement agencies.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because the Utica Police Department (UPD) aims to not only increase the analytical capacity of its laboratory, but to also research, develop, test and deploy cutting edge technologies that can be brought to bear in major criminal cases, terrorism investigations and even petit crimes impacting our community that involve the use of computers, the Internet and cellular phones as tools of criminality. In addition, this project would enable the UPD to expand its outreach capabilities to regional law enforcement agencies where computer forensic investigative abilities and technologies are critically lacking.

Veterans Outreach Center, Inc.; Rochester, NY; \$247,200

Funds would be used for a program that gets substance-abusing veterans off drugs, off the streets and out of jail, and gives them job skills to earn an honest living, helping them rebuild their lives as stable, productive members of our community.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would help veterans in need of services and new job skills.

Village of Nyack, NY; \$300,000

Funds would be used to provide services to the Nyack Center, an organization serving the lower income community in Nyack by providing a safe haven for 115 school-aged children from 7am until 6pm.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would benefit Nyack's lower income families and their needs. It is the only affordable place for working families of limited means to take their children, it is the only place actively providing counseling, gang prevention, mentoring and drug education to the lower income community and consistently helps make a positive dent in the population most at risk for this activities.

Westchester Jewish Community Services; White Plains, NY; \$ 275,000

Funds would be used to expand prevention programming to the middle school population, formalize evaluation, and sustain and enhance services.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would help prevent first pregnancies among the general teen population and second pregnancies among pregnant and parenting teens. Additionally, providing such comprehensive support to pregnant and parenting teens promotes positive personal, social and educational outcomes over the long-term that benefits participants, their children and society.

Wildlife Conservation Society / New York Aquarium; Brooklyn, New York; \$ 950,000

Funds would be used for The Sea Change Initiative, which would entail design and construction support for the Ocean Wonders exhibit and promote local conservation and education through training of research fellows, developing curriculum and research programs with local partners.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because, beyond its increasingly green urban core, New York City is profoundly connected to the Atlantic Ocean, boasting nearly 600 miles of coastland within the city limits. The Wildlife Conservation Society and the New York Aquarium play a vital role building awareness and engaging in direct conservation efforts to protect and restore the marine wilderness of New York City. The Sea Change Initiative would leverage the existing 4 million annual visitors to WCS managed facilities—including the hundreds of thousands that come from outside the metro region—for increased ocean awareness and conservation of the New York seascape.

YWCA of Western New York, Inc.; Buffalo, NY; \$475,000

Funds would be used to grow YWCA's Girls Inc program to include more at-risk girls and expand the Girls Inc program to at-risk women and boys.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because at-risk girls with no guidance in their lives often end up as teenage moms and fail to get an education. Breaking that cycle gives these girls a chance to become independent, productive women.