



July 3, 2013

NORTH STAR FUND *News*



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Fireworks and Fighting On

What a month! As we look to our national holiday celebrating revolutionary change, we've seen significant organizing victories including the Supreme Court rulings on marriage equality and the New York City Council vote to rein in the New York Police Department's abusive and discriminatory "stop and frisk" policy. Meanwhile, we also had major setbacks and scary news on voting rights, racial justice, and government surveillance.

In this edition of North Star Fund News, we share how investing in activism and grassroots organizing advances progressive change on these tough issues and upholds the best traditions of an authentic democracy. We begin with news of the **historic vote in the City Council on "stop and frisk."** Then please **read about our recent donor van tour** that connected philanthropic activists with organizers on the ground leading the Communities United for Police Reform Campaign (CPR). North Star Fund is proud to be CPR's fiscal sponsor.

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Cynthia Nixon Speaks Out For Education Justice Fund



Parent, actor, and activist Cynthia Nixon welcomed everyone to the recent launch of North Star Fund's **Education Justice Fund** and called the quality of our public schools "a measure of economic justice." She thanked North Star Fund for supporting the **Urban Youth Collaborative** and the **Coalition for Educational Justice**, dynamic organizations that represent parents, students, and advocates for better schools. "The school system only works when everyone's voice is heard," Nixon continued. "We don't need top-down leadership and committees with no power. We need a grassroots movement."

[Read more](#)

North Star Fund Brings More Dollars To LGBTQ Groups



In celebration of Pride month, congratulations to all the LGBTQ groups that benefited from **Give Out Day**, which also marked North Star Fund's first sponsorship of a national online donor organizing effort. Organized and hosted by **Bolder Giving**, Give Out Day was a 24-hour fundraising campaign that raised over \$550,000 using crowd-sourcing. Thanks to the success of the **Activism's Future Campaign**, we had the resources to provide a last-minute prize of \$10,000 to the winners of this exciting new effort that brought new resources and donors to grassroots LGBTQ organizing and activism.

[Read more](#)

Citywide Coalition Demands Better Post-Sandy Recovery Plan

On the day Superstorm Sandy hit, Jorge Gonzalo of Far Rockaway watched eight feet of water cascade in waves down his street, uprooting trees and overturning cars in its path. Jorge's home of 32 years was severely flooded in the storm. As he worked to clean



up in the days that followed, he noticed mold growing on the drywall in the basement. Though he and his son removed the drywall, the mold quickly spread to the foundation of his home. After attempting to remove the mold, he and his son began to feel ill, and as the mold continued to grow, they realized they were ill-equipped for the task.

[Read more](#)

Spring 2013 Grants Announced



In our Spring 2013 cycle, North Star Fund made grants in the **Innovative Activism** category, which recognizes how creativity can add energy and clarity to move reform forward. We also continued our commitment to new and emerging groups through our **Grassroots Action grants**.

[Read more](#)

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North Star Fund is New York City's community foundation supporting grassroots groups leading the movement for equality, economic justice, and peace.

North Star Fund news is a regular email compendium of news, announcements, and photos from North Star Fund and its grantee groups. If you have news or photos that you would like to share with North Star Fund's community, email them to news@northstarfund.org.