

**NRF**



NATIONAL RECREATION FOUNDATION

# RECREATION

IGNITING THE PASSION TO EXPLORE. PROVIDING THE SPARK FOR CHANGE.



CELEBRATING

1965



2015

FIFTY YEARS!

# NATIONAL RECREATION FOUNDATION

## INTRODUCTION

The National Recreation Foundation is a nonprofit charitable foundation administered by a Board of Trustees. The Foundation supports the development of recreation programs and facilities that promote and advance the Foundation's mission by providing guidance and resources critical for changing outcomes, whether related to reducing anti-social behavior and developing a strong citizenship, or increasing activity levels and promoting proper nutrition in youth and young adults.

### **Mission**

*The National Recreation Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the role of recreation as a positive force in improving the quality of life of youth. We do this by investing in recreation programs directed at those who are economically, physically or mentally disadvantaged.*

*This annual report provides a brief summary of our work. Please visit [nationalrecreationfoundation.org](http://nationalrecreationfoundation.org) for more detailed information.*

# 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

### WELCOME MESSAGE

This is our mission: to enhance the role of recreation as a positive force in improving the quality of life of youth. We do this by investing in recreation programs directed at those who are economically, physically or mentally disadvantaged.

It's appropriate to look at this mission as we celebrate our fiftieth year of granting funds because, over those fifty years, our nation has changed a great deal. There are clearly new reasons and pressing problems to examine as we investigate how to best conduct our grantmaking over the next fifty years. There is enormous unrest and discomfort among young people with limited opportunities in our country, and the ways they express their frustration and anger with their situations create major issues for our society.

There is no one, single solution to the problems that create unrest among our youth. Likewise there is no one, single organization that can create all of the change necessary to move forward. In our country today we need to create better educational opportunities, more job opportunities, more stable family environments, and this can only be done by government, nonprofits, corporations, faith communities and many others working TOGETHER.

We believe we have an important role to play in solving these problems. While the National Recreation Foundation is neither a school nor a church, neither a corporation providing job opportunities nor a government creating public works projects, we can create and support opportunities for underserved youth that will provide exciting and interesting ways for them to engage in society outside of the worlds of boredom, drugs and violence. Recreation takes a great many forms, and it is an important part of the solution that allows youth to build life skills, better their circumstances, improve their health and see opportunities for their future that may never have occurred to them.

We look forward to a future where the Foundation plays a meaningful role in igniting a passion or interest in young people that then translates into a healthier future, as well as a productive and satisfying connection with our broader society.



*Sincerely,*

**FRANCIS P. PANDOLFI**  
*President*



**SOPHIA B. TWICHELL**  
*Executive Director*



# HISTORY



## GRANT SELECTION PROCESS

The foundation's roots go back to 1919 when the War Camp Community Services, Inc. (WCCS) was established. WCCS was created in response to a need for recreation and other services on the homefront during World War I. By war's end, the WCCS fund contained nearly \$1.5 million. These funds were subsequently invested in an endowment portfolio that has grown to over \$40 million supporting the organization now known as the National Recreation Foundation (NRF). Today, the NRF operates as a private foundation dedicated to working with organizations that use recreation as a tool for improving mental, physical, social and spiritual health.

The NRF Board of Trustees represents diverse geographic areas of the U.S. in order to represent the diverse population of America. Members of the Board have always shared three common bonds: a love of recreation, a deep respect for its value in all our lives, and the belief that high quality recreation programs are vital to fostering social stability and healthy lifestyles in our communities.



Since its inception in 1965, the NRF has funded grants in two ways: as a Trustee Grant or a Special Grant. Every year, each Trustee selects a project they believe fulfills the goals of the NRF. The sponsoring Trustee must propose the project to the Board, and recommendations are made for funding the grant. Trustee Grants are limited to \$30,000. **The Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals.** A special grant may be up to \$100,000, and they are subject to stricter granting criteria. Special Grants are limited to three years.

### The NRF generally uses the following criteria for evaluating proposals for projects:

1. Grants must be consistent with the NRF mission statement.
2. Grants are made only to organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or to governmental agencies. Grants are not made to individuals.
3. Grants are normally not made for (1) capital expenses; (2) overhead costs beyond those needed for effective and efficient administration of the grant programs; or (3) research.
4. Programs that are supported should be innovative within the context in which the recipient organization operates, and should have the potential to contribute to life transformation for disadvantaged youth.
5. Programs must have leverage potential, such as matching funds or the development of partnerships or collaborations, that will enhance a grant's effectiveness.
6. Programs should be capable of being replicated in other communities or agencies. Grants can be made to facilitate such replication.
7. Grant proposals should show how a program will be sustained at the end of the grant period when it becomes the exclusive responsibility of the grantee.
8. Evaluation measures are required. Outcome rather than output measures are preferred and are expected for larger grants.

# KHARY LAZZARRE-WHITE

## 2015 ROBERT W. CRAWFORD PRIZE AWARD WINNER

*We are delighted to present the 2015 Robert W. Crawford Achievement Prize to Khary Lazzarre-White. With this prize, the Foundation recognizes Khary's dedication to the youth of Harlem.*

**B**orn and raised in New York City, Khary is a social entrepreneur, educator, nonprofit leader, writer and attorney. From his college dorm room in 1995 at the age of 21, Khary made a solemn personal pledge to make a difference for the children of his Harlem neighborhood. It was then that he co-founded The Brotherhood/Sister Sol and began the work of helping young people to transform their lives. The young people Khary worked with were unlikely to receive this guidance, modeling and support any other way. The Brotherhood/SisterSol was Khary's answer.

Since 1995, Khary has devoted himself to leading The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (Bro/Sis), a nonprofit year-round youth development and mentoring program for 8-to-22 year olds. Khary serves as the executive director and co-founder of Bro/Sis.

Bro/Sis provides a "safe-place" after-school program where recreation, academic support, mentoring, world exposures and training change the course of teen lives. This exciting change is occurring in communities where many teens are struggling to survive. By providing teens with tools, skills and discipline, these teens can envision a positive future. Khary's work with Bro/Sis demonstrates that when afforded opportunity, these young people can soar.

Khary received a BA with honors in Africana Studies from Brown University and a JD from Yale Law School where he focused on international human rights law and constitutional law.

### **Robert W. Crawford Achievement Prize**

The purpose of the prize is to recognize a living person who has dedicated him or herself to enhancing recreation opportunities for youth, making it possible for more young Americans to live healthy, participatory lives, thus reinforcing the work of the Foundation. Each year, the prize is awarded to that person, whether professional or volunteer, who has made an extraordinary contribution in advancing recreation programs for at-risk youth.

For 60 years, Robert W. Crawford served others through his role as Commissioner of Recreation in Philadelphia and as Executive Director of the National Recreation Foundation. As the Commissioner of Recreation, Mr. Crawford established a national model for local government's provision of recreational services for all citizens. His creativity and innovative ideas won him international recognition. He also played an important role in the development and growth of the National Recreation Foundation during his time as Executive Director. Mr. Crawford personified those qualities of leadership and commitment that the Foundation seeks to foster, which is why this Achievement Prize was named in his honor.

The prize consists of a \$50,000 cash award, \$40,000 of which will support the recreation-related project of the recipient's choice. The award is presented at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees.

*Visit [nationalrecreationfoundation.org](http://nationalrecreationfoundation.org) for a complete list of prior Robert W. Crawford Achievement Prize recipients.*



# GRANTS



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Overview

In 2015, the National Recreation Foundation donated \$1,818,370 in support of charities providing recreational opportunities for at-risk youth. Of this amount, 22 grants totaling \$624,300 were provided in Trustee Grants, and 16 grants totaling \$1,194,070 were awarded as Special Grants.

### Special Grants

American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division  
Camp Joy  
Cranbrook Educational Community/Horizons-Upward Bound  
ELEVATE Orlando  
Frost Valley YMCA  
Haven for Hope of Bexar County  
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes  
National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy  
National Recreation and Park Association  
Neighborhood Youth Association  
Outdoors Empowered Network  
Russell Byers Charter School  
SOS Outreach  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation  
The Trust for Public Land  
USTA Serves Incorporated

### Trustee Grants

Afro Latin Jazz Alliance  
American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division  
Anne Springs Close Greenway  
Baltimore Tree Trust  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan  
Chicago Youth Centers  
Cincinnati Squash Academy  
Colorado Discover Ability  
Community Servings, Inc.  
Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center  
ELEVATE Orlando  
Haven for Hope of Bexar County  
Homeboy Industries  
Jubilee Consortium  
Junior Achievement of Southern California  
Kids on Bikes  
Orchards Children's Services  
Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals  
Rippleffect, Inc.  
The Night Ministry  
Voices for Children, Inc.  
Young Chicago Authors

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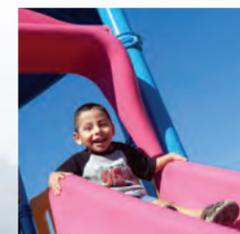
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Sophia B. Twichell  
Executive Director

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# NRF



NATIONAL RECREATION FOUNDATION

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