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## **Three Exceptional New York Nonprofits Win 2015 Nonprofit Excellence Awards**

*– America Needs You, BRC and New York Common Pantry win for exemplary  
management practices –*

*– Gold, Silver and Bronze Prize winners to be revealed at the November 18 ceremony  
at CUNY Graduate Center –*

**(New York, NY)** – Three nonprofit groups have been chosen as winners of the 2015 New York Community Trust [Nonprofit Excellence Awards](#), which include a total of \$60,000 in prizes as well as tuition scholarships for the Columbia Business School Executive Education Programs in Social Enterprise.

The announcement of the three winning organizations – America Needs You, BRC and New York Common Pantry – was made by the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCC), which created and manages the nine-year-old Awards program.

A selection committee of 34 nonprofit management experts chose the three winners from a group of [six finalists](#) – which were previously selected from among [10 semifinalists](#) – following an intensive application and vetting process that identifies excellent and replicable management practices among nonprofits in New York City, Long Island and Westchester.

A total of 56 organizations applied for the 2015 Awards. The three organizations will be honored for their excellence at a [November 18<sup>th</sup> Awards presentation](#) at which the Gold, Silver and Bronze Prize winners will be revealed. The Awards will follow a special best practices workshop where the winners will engage in a panel discussion about the management practices that led to their selection.

**America Needs You** fights for economic mobility for ambitious, first-generation college students by providing transformative mentorship and intensive career development. **BRC** helps people reclaim lives lost by restoring hope and dignity and offering opportunities for health and self-sufficiency. **New York Common Pantry** is dedicated to reducing hunger throughout New York City while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency.

“We are thrilled to honor these three outstanding organizations with this year’s Awards,” said **Sharon Stapel, President of NPCC**. “Through exemplary

management practices, these nonprofits achieve incredible results for the people and causes they serve.”

“These groups have demonstrated exceptional management practices that should inspire the more than 40,000 nonprofits in New York City and its suburbs,” said **Lorie Slutsky, President of The New York Community Trust**, the sponsor of the award and one of the region’s leading funders of nonprofits.

“We celebrate all of the 2015 Award applicants, especially the three winning organizations, which represent the best of our sector,” said **Ronna Brown, President of Philanthropy New York**, the regional association of grantmakers representing the interests of over 280 of the most prominent private, corporate and community foundations across the region. “We will be out in force at the Awards ceremony because it’s such a great opportunity for the entire sector to come together and learn from these remarkable organizations.”

“America Needs You is deeply honored to be a 2015 winner of The New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards,” said **Kimberly A. Harris, CEO of America Needs You**. “We are eager to share our management strategies and best practices and to learn from our peers, as we continue our fight for economic mobility for first-generation college students.”

“All of us at BRC are honored to be recognized as a medal-winning finalist in this year’s Nonprofit Excellence Awards,” said **Muzzy Rosenblatt, Executive Director of BRC**. “BRC is proud that our effort and success at achieving management excellence is being recognized by leaders in our philanthropic community, who rightly set the bar high for what nonprofits should and do achieve. BRC uses the best management practices to provide solutions to homelessness that are not only caring, they are effective, and we are grateful for the recognition.”

“To be recognized as a leader in our sector by The New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards is an honor and we are thrilled to be chosen as one of the three winning nonprofits for the 2015 award,” said **Stephen Grimaldi, Executive Director of New York Common Pantry**. “As we continue to expand our work, New York Common Pantry remains steadfast in our mission to continue to improve the lives New Yorkers in need by providing dignity and self-sufficiency and determined to maintain our level of excellence.”

The Excellence Awards program has attracted more than 685 applicants from across the city and its suburbs in its first nine years. The Awards recognize outstanding management practices in eight key performance areas identified by thousands of nonprofit leaders across the country.

The eight areas of excellence are: management focus on results; strong governance; excellent financial management; diversity and culturally competent organizational

practices; enlightened human resources; model IT practices; effective communications; and, exemplary fundraising and resource development.

NPCC created the Nonprofit Excellence Awards in 2007 and serves as the program's tax-exempt manager, in collaboration with The New York Community Trust and Philanthropy New York. WNYC sponsors the program, which is also supported by The Clark Foundation, Ford Foundation, RSM US LLP, and Columbia Business School Executive Education Programs in Social Enterprise.

More about the Nonprofit Excellence Awards, including the Awards' guiding document, *Eight Key Areas of Nonprofit Excellence*; past winners; funders; and Selection Committee members, is available at [www.npccny.org/info/awards.htm](http://www.npccny.org/info/awards.htm).

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The **Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York** (NPCC) serves as the voice and information source for New York nonprofits. An umbrella organization representing and serving over 1,400 member nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations throughout New York City, Long Island, and Westchester, NPCC is the largest such organization in the New York City area. It represents all types of nonprofits on sector-wide issues. Established in 1984, NPCC informs and connects nonprofit leaders, saves nonprofits money, helps them manage and govern themselves better, and protects and strengthens the entire nonprofit community's relations with all levels of government. ([www.npccny.org](http://www.npccny.org))

Since 1924, **The New York Community Trust** has been the home of charitable New Yorkers who share a passion for the City and the suburbs—and who are committed to improving them. The Trust supports an array of effective nonprofits that help make the City a vital and secure place to live, learn, work and play, while building permanent resources for the future. The New York Community Trust ended 2014 with assets of \$2.6 billion in more than 2,000 charitable funds, and made grants totaling \$165 million. The Trust welcomes new donors. ([www.nycommunitytrust.org](http://www.nycommunitytrust.org))

Created as a nonprofit organization in 1979 by New York City-based foundations, **Philanthropy New York's** primary mission is to support its members' work to serve the public good. Philanthropy New York began as the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers (NYRAG). Philanthropy New York is the principal professional community of approximately 285 private, corporate, family and public grantmaking organizations based in the New York City region, and provides a broad range of services to over 3,500 individual philanthropic professionals and trustees of those organizations. Taken together, PNY members provide support totaling over \$7 billion each year to thousands of nonprofit organizations located in New York and around the world, which in turn focus on an almost endless range of issues and concerns. PNY fosters educational conversations between grantmakers and public officials, and this in

turn helps inform policymakers about the important role the philanthropic community plays in our region and beyond. PNY offers policy-focused programs and convenings so members can exchange information about policy engagement and develop public/private partnerships with policymakers designed to achieve common goals. PNY is also the publisher of the [\*New York PhilanthroPost\*](#), a source for aggregated news and original content focused on the New York region's philanthropic and nonprofit sectors launched in June 2014. ([www.philanthropynewyork.org](http://www.philanthropynewyork.org))