

Volunteers Negotiate Contracts and Help Provide Stability Amidst Uncertainty

Nonprofits have long coped with high demand from those in need, operating fund shortfalls, lean staffing, and the rising cost of providing services. However, no one predicted the challenges that would result from the COVID-19 disruption. Adaptability is essential. Nonprofits have had to reexamine their relationships with funders, lenders, vendors, program participants, and community partners to continue their services while maintaining their workforce. Drawing on Lawyers Alliance's experience providing legal assistance in the aftermath of 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy, we are organizing and supporting pro bono attorneys with contract and negotiating skills to help nonprofits through the current crisis and beyond.

Legal Consultations Bring Financial Relief to Nonprofits

Case Example: In late March, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which included the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) authorizing an initial \$349 billion in potentially forgivable loans to for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Anticipating that the PPP application process would be a legal moving target, Lawyers Alliance created a portal through which nonprofits could obtain limited-scope virtual consultations with attorneys.

Firms, including **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP**; **Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP**; **Dechert LLP**; **DLA Piper LLP (US)**; **Linklaters LLP**; and **Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP**, quickly mobilized teams of volunteers to assist. Lawyers Alliance and the firms kept abreast of fast-moving changes in the law, guidance from the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) and Treasury, the addition of \$484 billion in lending authorized in April, and PPP amendments in June. They reviewed loan agreements and helped nonprofits understand complex issues related to loan eligibility, classification of employees, the impact of mergers or spinoffs on PPP, and loan acceptance.

More than a dozen clients ultimately received SBA loans. Dechert assisted **Riverdale Neighborhood House**, a settlement house in the Bronx with programs serving children, teens, families, and senior citizens, with its application. A representative says, "Riverdale Neighborhood House was able to provide a summer camp for Bronx youth thanks

to Lawyers Alliance's assistance with contracts and agreements."

Compliance with the PPP provisions unlocks loan forgiveness, and this fall our volunteers continue to provide legal information to assist with the forgiveness process.

Program Agreement Makes Virtual Summer Camp a Reality

Case Example: When many parents did not feel comfortable sending their children to camp during the height of the pandemic, directors at the **YM & YWHA of Washington Heights & Inwood** (the Y), began brainstorming with their peers at the Marlene Meyerson JCC of New York and the 14th Street Y run by The Educational Alliance. This creative collaboration led to a virtual summer camp for children in grades K through 6 called "Summer in the Cloud." While the agencies had initiated discussions about the terms, lawyers were needed to memorialize the agreement.

Lawyers from **Lowenstein Sandler LLP** volunteered to prepare the program agreement and provide legal help so the Y could launch the summer program in partnership with other community centers. The Lowenstein team worked quickly and diligently to guide the organizations through the deal terms so that "Summer in the Cloud" could be launched as targeted on July 6, serving children from 20 camps across the City. Michael Fermaglich, Chief Operating Officer of the Y, says, "During a challenging time for families, our community centers wanted to be there to provide stimulating experiences for children with amazing instructors teaching activities ranging from digital comic design to martial arts to podcasting. Lawyers Alliance provided us with the necessary legal support to achieve our goals."

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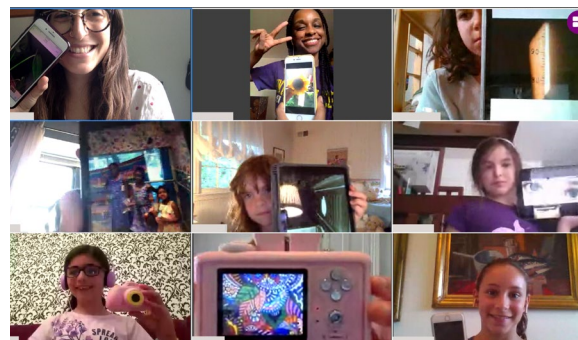


Photo Credit: YM & YWHA of Washington Heights & Inwood

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YM & YWHA of Washington Heights & Inwood collaborated with other organizations to create a virtual summer camp for children in grades K through 6.

Business Law & Leadership Gala

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Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo, The New York State Mentoring Program

Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo has dedicated decades of service and leadership to the nonprofit sector. A former teacher, her advocacy work and volunteerism for the advancement of rights for women, children, and families has transcended local, national, and international boundaries. As First Lady of New York State from 1983 to 1995, Mrs. Cuomo chaired several education initiatives including the Decade of the Child Initiative, the Governor's Commission on Child Care, and the Citizens Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. She also led New York State in the United Nation's World Summit for Children.

In 1984, Mrs. Cuomo established The New York State Mentoring Program, the nation's first statewide one-to-one school-based mentoring program to prevent school dropout. She continued this work by founding Mentoring USA in 1995, a nonprofit child advocacy and mentoring program. In 2015, the New York State Mentoring Program was reinstated. It continues to be chaired by Mrs. Cuomo and engage volunteer mentors to provide students the tools necessary to succeed both academically and professionally. In 2017 Mrs. Cuomo was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Lawyers Alliance is proud to honor Mrs. Cuomo in 2020 for her personal and longstanding commitment to quality education and the well-being of all New Yorkers.

Lawyers Alliance especially thanks our Platinum sponsor American International Group, Inc.; and Gold sponsors Dentons; HSBC; O'Melveny & Myers LLP; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP; and Sullivan & Cromwell LLP.



Click above to view the virtual gala on YouTube.

Volunteers Negotiate Contracts

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"Great Jazz on the Great Hill" Is Streamed Online

Case Example: Summer after summer, people of all ages have enjoyed outdoor concerts in New York City parks sponsored by **Jazzmobile**, an organization that produces free jazz programs. This year, COVID-19 social distancing restrictions meant that Jazzmobile and the Central Park Conservancy (CPC) needed to produce their annual "Great Jazz on the Great Hill" concert for streaming online. To accomplish that involved amending the terms of Jazzmobile's agreement with CPC so that it could record the concert in Central Park.

Lawyers from **Loeb & Loeb LLP** volunteered on one day's notice to review Jazzmobile's contract with CPC in order to enable the recording. Thanks

to the Loeb & Loeb volunteers and the wonderful jazz musicians, jazz lovers enjoyed **"Great Jazz on the Great Hill"** and the beautiful Central Park setting safely from home. Robin Bell-Stevens, Jazzmobile's Director, says, "Jazzmobile is pleased that we can always count on Lawyers Alliance for high quality pro bono legal counsel. Additional legal services open the door to prestigious firms such as Loeb & Loeb LLP. Their lawyers were easy to work with and fully knowledgeable in this ever-changing area of the law!"

To volunteer to assist nonprofits on contracts or other matters, please visit [the Lawyers section of Lawyers Alliance's website](#).

Because of the pandemic, Jazzmobile produced one of its annual concerts for online streaming.

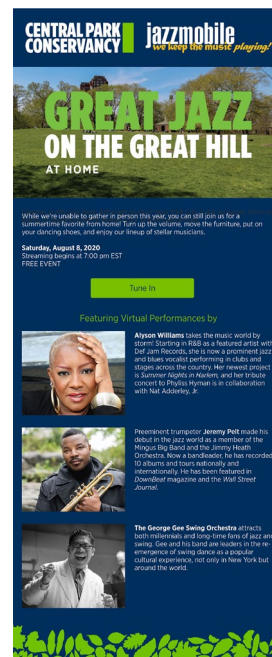


Photo Credit: Jazzmobile