



**More than Income: Defining and Measuring Poverty in  
New York City**

**Tuesday, October 30, 2007**

## More than Income: Defining and Measuring Poverty in New York City

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2007

9 am to 12:30 pm; program will begin promptly at 9:30 am

*Continental breakfast will be provided.*

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service  
New York University  
295 Lafayette Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (at Houston Street)  
New York, NY

The New York Women's Foundation, in partnership with Women of Color Policy Network at NYU Wagner and New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, invites you to join us in discussing:

- Different definitions and measurements of poverty, including the Self-Sufficiency Standard and the United Nations Human Development Index;
- How social exclusion compounds poverty;
- Opportunities and challenges for policymakers and advocates;
- Ways that individuals and communities are taking action to make change.

Welcome: **Ana L. Oliveira**, President and CEO, The New York Women's Foundation  
**Ellen Schall**, Dean, and Martin Cherkasky Professor of Health Policy and Management, New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Special Remarks: **Linda I. Gibbs**, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, City of New York

Moderator: **Gail B. Nayowith**, Executive Director, Laurie M. Tisch Foundation

*Poverty: how we think about it*

- **Sarah Burd-Sharps**, Co-Director, American Human Development Index Report
- **Merble Reagon**, Executive Director, Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement
- **Walter Stafford, Ph.D.**, Professor of Urban Planning and Policy, NYU Wagner, and Principal Investigator, Women of Color Policy Network, New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
- **Veronica M. White**, Executive Director, NYC Center for Economic Opportunity

*Poverty: how we are trying to dismantle it*

- **Ilna Berger**, Executive Director, Families United for Racial and Economic Equality
- **Marvell Cruickshank**, Community Organizer, Families United for Racial and Economic Equality
- **Roxanna Henry**, Legal Advocate Organizer, Welfare Rights Initiative
- **Alexie Torres-Fleming**, Founder and Executive Director, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

The New York Women's Foundation is a cross-cultural alliance of women helping low-income women and girls in the five boroughs to achieve sustained economic security through expanded opportunities. We work together to transform the conditions of poverty and to create an equitable and just future for low-income women and girls. [www.nywf.org](http://www.nywf.org)



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New York University  
295 Lafayette Street

October 30, 2007  
9 am – 12:30 pm

9-9:30 am	Breakfast & Registration
9:30-9:50 am	Welcome & Introductions
9:50-10:45 am	Poverty: How we think about it
10:45-10:50 am	Break
10:50-11:40 am	Poverty: How we are trying to dismantle it
11:40-11:50 am	Break
11:50 am-12:25 pm	Q & A
12:25-12:30 pm	Closing Remarks

The New York Women's Foundation, in partnership with Women of Color Policy Network at NYU Wagner and New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, presents:

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**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Ilana Berger**

Ilana Berger, Director of Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE) has over ten years of community organizing experience. She started organizing as a precinct organizer in Oakland, California against the anti-affirmative action Proposition 209. After that, she was as Lead Organizer with People Organized to Win Employment Rights in San Francisco, creating an organization of people fighting for real jobs in the City's workfare program. She began working as the Senior Welfare Rights Organizer at the Fifth Avenue Committee in 2000, and worked with members to start FUREE. She is the recent recipient of the Union Square Award along with FUREE Members Brenda Stewart, Rosa Rodriguez and Nitza Nieves.

Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE) is a Brooklyn-based multi-racial organization that mobilizes low-income and working families to promote equality, improve economic conditions, and build collective power to win systemic changes at the local, state and national level. Primarily led by women of color with an emphasis on community and family, FUREE uses leadership development, community organizing, and political education to achieve our vision and goals. FUREE recently received the New York Times Award for Non Profit Excellence in Emerging Issues in New York City.

**Sarah Burd-Sharps**

Sarah Burd-Sharps is Co-Director of the independent advocacy and research project to produce the first-ever *American Human Development Report*. The report is slated to launch in early 2008 and will contain a human development index ranked by state and by other groupings. Prior to this, she has worked for the United Nations since 1987, with a focus on gender issues and human development. Most recently, she was Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report Office. She has worked on four global *Human Development Reports* (HDR) and has contributed to national HDR's in every developing region. Sarah was founding Managing Editor of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Human Development* and the highest ranking official in NY representing the *Human Development Report* for political negotiations and as media spokesperson. In 2001, Sarah was Adviser and Editor to the anti-corruption organization Transparency International for their first *Global Corruption Report*. She is on their Editorial Board.

In the year leading up to the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference, Sarah headed UNIFEM's office in China where she carried out a global media campaign on gender issues, and supported the nascent NGO movement in China. Prior to this position, Sarah worked for UNIFEM's Africa Section on food security issues, and from 1998-90 in UNDP China as a Programme Officer. She has worked in 17 African countries, lived and worked in China for four years, speaks fluent French and is proficient in Spanish and Chinese. She received her M.I.A. from Columbia University.

**Marvell Cruickshank**

My name is Marvell Cruickshank. I'm a mother, a wife, and a community organizer. I've been organizing with FUREE (Families United for Racial and Economic Equality), for the past 2 years. I've been an organizer all of my life, but I never knew it. I've always wanted exits from poverty, and naturally it showed through my rebellion. In this system, they want us to feel guilty and become overwhelmed through their affliction that has been imposed on us. When I think about poverty, I think of every aspect that it comes with, and then I realize that we are definitely under attack. I feel to myself, if smallpox can be eradicated, why can't poverty? Why is it that those who have all the money still desire more, could it be that there's a sickness that they have that has never been talked about with side effects titled: greed, gluttony, excess corporate fondling; they're fixated and psychologically obsessed with control and power. But what do I know? I'm just a teenage mother that got herself "knocked up" at an early age. And now labeled a statistic or am I?

**Linda I. Gibbs**

Linda I. Gibbs was appointed Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in January, 2006. Linda most recently served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Homeless Services and was the chief administrator of the Mayor's ambitious strategy to end chronic homelessness. During the Giuliani Administration, Linda served as the Deputy Commissioner for Management and Planning for the New York City Administration for Children's Services. Since her graduation from SUNY Buffalo School of Law in 1985, Linda has served in various city government positions. She has also served in the New York City Council as Special Advisor to the Director of the Finance Division and at the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget as Deputy Director for Social Services. Linda and her husband Thomas McMahon live in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn with their two children, Ryann and Leo.

**Roxanna Henry**

Roxanna Henry is a part-time undergraduate student at Hunter College and a graduate of Welfare Rights Initiative's Community Leadership Program. Roxanna started her educational journey when New York City Human Resources Administration told her that she would not be allowed to attend school. Since that time, Roxanna has attended LaGuardia Community College where she majored in Human Services. Roxanna is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and continues at Hunter College where she is completing her bachelor's degree in Sociology. Currently, Roxanna works as Legal Advocate Organizer. She advises students from NYC's five boroughs on their right to education and training. Roxanna's experience and values inspires her to declare, "Education is a RIGHT, not a privilege. That's WRI's motto and the heart of my soul existence."

**Gail B. Nayowith**

Gail B. Nayowith became Executive Director of the Laurie M. Tisch Foundation in September 2007. Prior to coming to the Foundation, Ms. Nayowith was the Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC) for 15 years. She is a recognized leader in the field of child and family policy and in the design and operations of children's service systems. Ms. Nayowith received a B.S. from New York University and a M.S. from Columbia University School of Social Work. In the early years of her career, Ms. Nayowith worked for the City of New York in four health and human services agencies – the New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services; the Department of Health; the Human Resources Administration; and the Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Among her accomplishments Ms. Nayowith is credited with: developing a new shelter intake facility and eligibility process for the New York City Department of Homeless Services; securing the establishment and enactment of the NYC Earned Income Tax Credit and the nation's first local Child Care Tax Credit and with developing the framework for a New York City Renter's Tax Credit; moving New York State to implement the federal Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with or at-risk of Developmental Delays; and, designing a statewide initiative to increase the availability of children's outpatient clinical treatment services called "Achieving the Promise". She is a frequently called upon public speaker, content expert and opinion leader by state and local government, the New York City press corps, and civic and professional organizations. She resides in New York City.

### **Ana L. Oliveira**

Ana L. Oliveira became the President & CEO of The New York Women's Foundation in February 2006, on the eve of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She has worked in the health and human services field for over 20 years, developing programs for vulnerable populations throughout NYC. She served as the first woman and Latina Executive Director of Gay Men's Health Crisis for over seven years, overseeing a complete turn-around of the agency. Before working at GMHC, Ana directed innovative community-based programs at Samaritan Village, the Osborne Association, Kings County and at Lincoln Hospitals. Ana was a member of the New York City HIV Planning Council and was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg to the New York City Commission on AIDS in 2004. She continues to serve on the HIV Commission's advisory Board.

Ana serves on the boards of the Women's Funding Network, The LGBT Center and The New York Foundation. In 2007, Ana joined the Selection Committee of the newly formed New York Times Nonprofit Excellence Awards. In June 2007 she was a panelist for the AARP Conference on Women's Aging and Diversity. In 2005, Ana was profiled in *Newsweek* as "America's Best," a series highlighting ordinary individuals using their extraordinary vision on behalf of others. Her awards feature: *Mutual Welfare League Certificate*, (Osborne Association); *Liberty Award*, (Lambda Legal & Education Defense Fund); *Community Service Award* (Empire State Pride Agenda); and *Rosie Perez Fuerza Award*, (Latino Commission on AIDS).

Ana was born and raised in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and resides in Manhattan. She has an M.A. in Medical Anthropology from the New School for Social Research and is a Licensed Acupuncturist.

### **Merble Reagon**

Merble Reagon is Executive Director of the Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement in New York City. The Women's Center was established in 1970 to meet the workforce development needs of women who had a marginal relationship to the paid work force and continues to serve low-income women and their families through a variety of programs and services designed to help them achieve economic self-sufficiency. Ms Reagon has worked for more than 35 years to create greater opportunities for low-wage workers in the business and public sectors; she has developed and conducted workplace training on a variety of subjects for non-profit, legal and women's organizations, government agencies and others. Her current work includes introduction and promotion of the groundbreaking *Self-Sufficiency Standard for the City of New York* (2000 and 2004) and the enthusiastically welcomed web-based New York City Self-Sufficiency Calculator.

Ms. Reagon has held leadership positions with national, regional, state and local employment and training organizations. She has received numerous awards including the Ellen Lurie Award from the Community Service Society in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the poor and the Wisner Hero Award from the Women's Institute for Secure Economic Retirement. She is a graduate of Smith

College and the New York University School of Law. Ms Reagon has been appointed to the NYC Mayor's Commission on Women's Issues. Current community involvement includes the boards of Wider Opportunities for Women, the New York State Defenders Association, the Justice Fund, Westbeth Artists Housing, the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York, and the Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund.

### **Dean Ellen Schall**

Ellen Schall is the Dean of New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She began her career at the Wagner School in 1992 as the Martin Cherkasky Professor of Health Policy after a distinguished twenty-year career in public service. Dean Schall's academic work focuses on leadership, innovation, and organizational development. She created a partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's to help create its Children and Family Fellowship, a year-long full-time program geared to increasing the capacity of mid-career professionals to lead transformational change in the conditions facing poor children and families. She also served as co-director of the research and documentation effort in partnership with the Ford Foundation and the Advocacy Institute on *Leadership for a Changing World*, an awards program for social change leaders.

Dean Schall also has extensive experience in nonprofit management and governance. She served as the President of the National Center for Health Education from 1990 to 1992. She has been an active board member of University Settlement House since 1973, and served as Board President there from 1977 to 1986. From 1991 to 1999, Dean Schall co-chaired, with NYS Court of Appeals Chief Judge Judith Kaye, the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. In 1995, she was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. She is also a past president of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM). Most recently, Dean Schall served on New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's transition team as a member of the Human Services Policy Advisory Committee.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2001 NYU Distinguished Teaching Medal, the 1997 Public Service Award from the NYU School of Law Alumni Association, the 1990 Osborne Medal given by the Osborne and Correctional Associations for achievement in criminal justice, and the 1989 Florence E. Allen Award for exceptional attainment in the law given by the Women's Bar Association and NYU Law School.

### **Walter Stafford, Ph.D.**

Walter Stafford is a professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University. In addition, Walter Stafford serves as the principal investigator for the Women of Color Policy Network at NYU Wagner. Before joining the faculty at NYU, Professor Stafford taught Hunter College and Old Westbury. He has been active in politics and community advocacy. He was a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960s, worked as an Assistant to United States Senator Richard Schweiker in the 1970s, and for the National Urban League and the Community Service Society in the 1980s.

His articles, which number over one-hundred, have reflected his commitment to research and action. The main thrust of his early work was race relations and cities. He subsequently developed articles around racial labor market segmentation, poverty and the plight of Black and Puerto Rican men. Most recently, his research and labor market segmentation and the invisibility of women of color in policy. The most recent published study, *Gender, Race, Class and Welfare Reform: The Need for Targeted Support*. Other pending works include a report on education advocacy and organizing among nonprofits in communities of color, and a study that uses United Nations Development Programme

Human Development Index to divide New York City into developed, developing and underdeveloped areas.

### **Alexie Torres-Fleming**

Alexie Torres-Fleming is the founder and Executive Director of Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ), a center for urban ministry dedicated to fostering peace and justice through youth and community development and organizing. Ms. Torres-Fleming has a strong and extensive background in the area of faith based youth development and community organizing. She has traveled throughout the country advocating a new paradigm of faith based youth development and community organizing. Ms. Torres-Fleming aims to convey that a congregation that is truly alive provides not just a refuge, but also an active voice in the community, challenging its member to take responsibility for the well being of their neighbors. She has most notably led young people and her community in a six-point campaign to reclaim the Bronx River in their neighborhood.

Ms. Torres-Fleming is a recipient of numerous awards and honors including the Young Adult in Ministry Award from the Latino Pastoral Action Center, the Sowing Hope Award from Bruised Reed Ministry, the 1998 Union Square Award for work in activism and human rights, the 2000 Heroes Award from the Robin Hood Foundation, and the 2001 Local Peacemaker Award from Pax Christi. She is also a 2001 Leadership for a Changing World National Finalist, a 2001 Bronx Women Moving Our World Award recipient and was, in 2001, bestowed the title “Servitor Pacis—Servant of Peace” by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Vatican to the United Nations. In 2005 she received the Helen LaKelly Hunt Neighborhood Leadership Award from the New York Women’s Foundation and the Comité Noviembre “Mejor de Nuestra Comunidad” (Best of Our Community) Award in honor of Puerto Rican Heritage Month.

Ms. Torres-Fleming was born and raised in the South Bronx in the same neighborhood where she established YMPJ. She and her husband continue to live in the community where they are raising their son John Patrick and daughter Grace.

### **Veronica M. White**

Veronica M. White is the Executive Director of the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity, established by Mayor Bloomberg under Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs. As the Executive Director of CEO, Ms. White oversees the work of the Center to implement the recommendations from the Commission for Economic Opportunity. Ms. White most recently worked as a consultant specializing in strategic business planning and management for non-profits, real estate development and environmental issues, and public-private partnerships. She has served in various executive positions, including as Chief Operating Officer of the New York City Partnership and President and CEO of the New York City Housing Partnership. Ms. White has also served as Deputy Commissioner of Planning, Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. She practiced law at the firms of Brown & Wood and Sidley & Austin. Ms. White received a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a Juris Doctorate from the Harvard Law School. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Taconic Foundation and served for eight years on the New York Advisory Council of the Trust for Public Land.