



### ***HK Community Fund of Maplewood and South Orange:***

HK Community Fund, Inc. (“HKCF”), which is also known as HK Community Fund of Maplewood and South Orange, is a 501(c)(3) charitable institution whose mission is to enhance the sense of community through educational programs, cultural activities, and other community focused non-profit organizations. HKCF defines community-building as any project or initiative that:

- builds relationships among and between residents through engagement with, and participation in the group experience,
- promotes and embraces diversity while celebrating shared history and common identity,
- supports those who are isolated, disenfranchised, or in need,
- provides cultural and educational enrichment, and
- organizes residents around a common cause or community need.

### ***Background:***

The establishment of the Fund is a response to public budgetary restrictions brought on by the economic downturn combined with the desire to *enhance the sense of belonging and unity* for all of the residents of the community. HKCF believes that a challenging future lies ahead; one that requires a more significant commitment to community-building programs. As communities in Northern New Jersey with long histories and tightly knit neighborhoods become larger and/or more diverse, and financial resources become less, bonds of friendship and understanding will fracture. Residents of Maplewood and South Orange, and other communities in Northern New Jersey can no longer depend solely on religious institutions and old cultural traditions to be the center of community life. Vision, leadership, and resources are necessary in order to create new opportunities for shared experiences and fellowship among an ever-growing number of people with different religious, cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. The Fund will seek to enlist members of the community to augment dwindling public resources and support efforts among local organizations that similarly protect, strengthen, celebrate, and enrich the community.



### *Areas of Focus:*

#### **Education**

- Scholarships, and
- Sports and Extra-curricular programs.

#### **Focus on Teenage Community Members**

- Teen volunteerism, and
- Community activism.

#### **Arts and Culture**

- Performing and Visual Arts
- Multi-cultural Community Events

#### **Crisis Response**

- Resources for Emergencies

### *HK Community Fund Programs:*

*In addition to the support that HKCF gives to existing community programs, it has established its own community focused initiatives:*

#### **HK Community Scholar**

One High School senior will be selected as the HK Community Scholar and will receive a scholarship (\$1,000 to \$5,000) to pursue an undergraduate degree at the college of his/her choice.

#### **HK Community Teen Volunteer**

The Fund maintains a database of community service opportunities for high school age teenagers, designed to recruit volunteers and match them with local organizations, projects, and initiatives. The program will cultivate, track, and recognize volunteer efforts by teens with events and activity reports that document service activities.

#### **HK Entertainment Networking Program**

The Fund will assist local community organizations that facilitate dances, movies, concerts, event parties, open mic nights, and other events that allow teens to have organizational oversight, leadership, and management responsibilities.



**HK Community Assistance and Resources for Emergencies, (HK C.A.R.E), Program**

The Fund will offer funding for clothing, food, temporary housing and other needs. In addition the Fund will also liaise with existing assistance programs to provide social services for the community members in need of emergency assistance.

***The Organization:***

*HKCF is governed by a Board of Trustees who drive the vision, oversee funds, and manage paid and unpaid program facilitators from within the communities in which it serves.*

**Board Member and President: Thomas E. Kerns**

Tom was responsible for the accounting and operations of a \$20 billion-plus investment management company, and was the head of product and business development for a major international bank. He co-developed the Maplewood/South Orange Girls softball program, after the previous program had suffered from neglect. The program has grown to over 20 teams with an enrollment of more than 300 school-aged players. In addition, Tom volunteers as a guest lecturer for an Advanced Placement: Economics course at a local high school.

**Board Member and Vice President: Jeanmarie Hargrave**

Jeanmarie holds a Masters of Science degree from Columbia University's School of Social Work. She has worked to serve mentally ill homeless women in New York City and has worked for many years as a volunteer at local schools and local community service organizations.

**Board Member: Steven Tugentman**

Steven is a senior vice president and deputy general counsel for a major telecommunications company, responsible for marketing, branding, sponsorships, products and services, and business development. He is also a member of the National Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the non-profit Council of Better Business Bureaus.



**Board Member: John Kuhn**

John is a member of the US Department of Veterans' Affairs' (VA) Homeless Services management group. He is responsible for conducting the VA's national assessment of homelessness and currently leads the VA's efforts to develop prevention services for low-income veterans and their families. Mr. Kuhn has a BA in Psychology from Brown University, a Masters of Science degree from Columbia University's School of Social Work and a Masters of Public Health from Rutgers University. Three times John has testified as an expert witness on homelessness before the US House of Representatives, Veterans Affairs Committee.

***Contact:***

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