

Destiny

Our Past, Present, & Future Support Is Making a Difference



Photo: Gregg Richards

Reverend Gary V. Simpson, board member, National Grid Foundation, with children at Summer Reading Program.

Brooklyn Public Library's

Summer Reading Program

■ Hot (Reading) Fun ...



Photo: Gregg Richards

National Grid Foundation supported the Bookmobile and volunteers

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National Grid Foundation's New Executive Director

Edward H. White Jr.

Edward H. White, Jr. has been named executive director of National Grid Foundation. After 34 years with National Grid and the last 14 years with National Grid Foundation, Bob Keller has decided to retire. Bob will serve as a consultant to the Foundation in order to support Ed and to insure a seamless transition and the continued success of the Foundation.

Ed's responsibilities include serving as chief administrative officer, setting and managing the annual gifting and operating budgets, developing and implementing grant making criteria, creating brand strategies while working with non-profit organizations to create compelling grant proposals.

"When presented with the opportunity, I didn't hesitate to join the National Grid Foundation team. Spanning nearly two decades, the Foundation has a long track record of philanthropic contributions that help the communities we serve," said Ed. "I'm excited to help the Foundation grow in new, exciting ways that will ultimately improve the lives of more people and make our communities better places to live."

Al Wiltshire, Chairman, National Grid Foundation, said, "Ed brings a wealth of experience from working within different areas of National Grid. He brings a new and welcomed enthusiasm for the work we do."

Prior to joining National Grid Foundation, Ed worked as National Grid's Vice President/US Program Lead for The Shaping Our Future Strategic Review. Prior to that, he was Vice President of New Energy Solutions. Ed has been with National Grid for more than 23 years.

Destiny newsletter is a quarterly publication created to give you a glimpse into the stories of some of the wonderful organizations and programs National Grid Foundation supports.

Editor **Christine Berardi**
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Executive Director **Edward H. White Jr.**

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National Grid Foundation's Board Member Highlight

Louis Elisa, II

After working for a number of governmental agencies including FEMA, Louis Elisa, II brings his passion for helping people to the National Grid Foundation. He has served on the Board of Directors for two years.

Louis is presently the co-founder and Director of International Outreach for Africa and European Affairs for World Disaster Management LLC since March 2001. He is a consultant to Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. In addition, he serves as a Deacon at his church and volunteers as a mentor in a K-6 elementary school.

What is your vision for National Grid Foundation?

My view of the Foundation is that it is a potentially powerful and useful tool for social growth and change within our society today. Given the human and fiscal resources at its disposal, the Foundation can become a mechanism by which fair and quality minded people can reach out to those members of society who are struggling.

My vision is that we will step-up to meet those societal challenges and employ all the talents, skills and resources we can afford to make available, while maintaining the core functions and values under which we were established.

What makes the Foundation's mission powerful?

The commitment of its members. The depth and knowledge of their understanding of society and what tools can be applied to make a positive difference in the lives of their fellow citizens and neighbors. Understanding that the time, efforts and resources we employ in providing solutions to the problems of equity and fairness in our society is returned in value added for the next generation. The reality that we can apply our knowledge, skill, ability and more importantly fiscal resources, which we help manage, in a positive and productive way, for the betterment of the world around us.

What does the mission mean to you?

The "mission" as I see it, allows me to continue to my life's work of trying to assist those less fortunate. Everyone has a struggle of some kind or another and can use a helping hand to improve their lives. My goal is to level the playing field for those most in need. This also affords me an opportunity to give back some of the tremendous blessings and benefits which I have received and which have made such a difference in my life and the lives of my family and friends.

Brooklyn Public Library's**Hot (Reading) Fun in the Summertime**

Photo: Gregg Richards, Brooklyn Public Library

Hundreds of children along with their families enjoyed a fun and educational day as the Brooklyn Public Library kicked off its annual Summer Reading Program in front of the Central Library June 8.

The goal of Summer Reading is to prevent the “summer slide” and encourage young people of all ages to continue reading and visit the library during the summer months. Students who take a vacation from reading in the summer may lose up to one month of instruction per year.

“Only by reading over the summer can students preserve and build upon the gains in literacy and comprehension they made during the previous school year,” said Brooklyn Public Library President and CEO Linda Johnson.

“We are proud to help Brooklyn Public Library ensure that summer break does not become a vacation from reading for the borough’s students,” said National Grid Foundation Board Member

Reverend Gary V. Simpson. “Summer Reading is an effective solution to a very real threat to young people’s success in and out of the classroom.”

National Grid Foundation is the leading supporter of Brooklyn Public Library’s 2017 Summer Reading Program.



Photo: Gregg Richards, Brooklyn Public Library

True Life Story

Brooklyn Public Library thanks National Grid Foundation for its support of the Summer Reading Program.

Read this mother's testimony of how her children's lives are transformed as they improve their reading skills.



Two years ago I came to New York from Lebanon with my husband and my twin children, Aya and Iwan. They were 6 years old at the time. English was their third language and they used to take class a few hours a week.

The first thing we located in our neighborhood was the library. With the help of a wonderful librarian team, the kids quickly felt at home and loved the place.

The librarians helped us choose books and the kids started reading in English. It was hard at the beginning but with the help of the variety of programs my kids were excited to come to the library, read and play.

We left New York for home in early 2017 but came back in June for a two month visit. The first thing the kids asked was, "Can we go to the library, please, please, pleaaaaase?" This time they were more confident to choose the books they liked.

The librarian told me about the Summer Reading program and the kids once again were excited to take part.

The programs offered at the library have guided us. It has been two years since the kids started reading books in English, enjoying the activities at the library and sharing their knowledge with

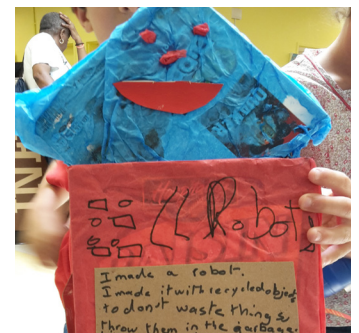
their friends back home. It has given them the confidence to continue learning and to be open to others.

Here is their feedback:



Aya:

"It was hard for me to read big books. Mom and the librarian helped me. I got the idea to draw a summary and later write about it. After that I started reading and reading alone. It is fun doing all the categories [on the Summer Reading game board]. I volunteered, invented a doll and music instrument, wrote songs and played."



Iwan:

"I love reading, playing with the computers, doing arts and crafts, and building with Legos. The first summary I prepared for the reading competition was so hard but when I continued reading and doing summaries it became easier and faster. I loved the invention category and I enjoyed sharing with others and getting likes [on the Beanstack website]."

National Grid Foundation supports the potential of intelligent, hard-working young people.

On-Point for College Summer Orientation Program



Photo: Fritz Diddle, On-Point for College

Melanie Littlejohn, board member, National Grid Foundation, with the students

In 2016, more than 460 Syracuse and Utica students were better prepared for college thanks to On Point for College and National Grid Foundation. On Point for College offered pre-college orientations to help students transition to a college environment. The orientations provided the students the information on financial aid, study skills and time management.

Melanie Littlejohn, board member, National Grid Foundation, joined the students last summer. National Grid Foundation supports On Point for College and along with a program grant provided backpacks for the students so they may be better equipped for a successful transition to college.

