

CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION

In 1996, Silda Wall and husband, Eliot Spitzer, wanted to create a way to get children more involved in New York City communities.⁹ They felt there was a growing lack of responsibility and giving in young people. As they discussed their concerns with other parents, they found that a large number of parents felt the same way.¹⁰ Shortly after, this group of parents established the Children for Children Foundation, a nonprofit organization with a mission "to promote hands-on youth volunteering and giving programs that teach and instill the value of community involvement and civic engagement in children from all backgrounds beginning at a young age, with an emphasis on providing resources to underserved schools."¹¹

Children for Children has involved thousands of New York City children and families of all different backgrounds in giving their time and resources. In its first decade, over a million dollars in funds had been raised to benefit more than 120,000 New York school children, and from 1999 to 2004, the number of youth volunteer hours increased from 180 to 7,394.

The service interface—how Children for Children connects with its beneficiaries—has been established through a variety of programs. These programs are run after school or during out-of-school hours. Even though they focus on serving underprivileged children and their schools, they also serve other populations, such as the disabled.¹² There are a variety of ways in which children can get involved. They can pick one of the many Children for Children programs, or they can go to the Children for Children Web site and join an online community of youth volunteer opportunities that are posted from organizations throughout New York City.

Specific programs sponsored by Children for Children include the Children's Action Board, which enables children to volunteer in other schools; and the Grow Involved Kit Making Program, which allows children to pot flower bulbs and distribute them to nonprofits such as nursing homes. The organization also distributes grants to schools and educators in need. These are just a few examples of how Children for Children reaches out to the community and benefits both the volunteers and the recipients of their generosity.

Of course, to make this all possible, strategic resources are needed. As a nonprofit organization, Children for Children depends on the support of individuals, foundations, and corporations to fund their work. There is no funding from the government. In addition to the financial support, partnership networks are