



## Philanthropic Leadership for a Thriving New Jersey

**THE COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS'** mission is to support and elevate New Jersey's philanthropic community through shared learning, collaborative and trusting relationships, network building, and leadership. CNJG offers a range of programs and services that provide valuable resources to grantmakers, including networking opportunities, educational programs, collaborative opportunities, and links to a national network of organized philanthropy.

By strengthening their members' capacity to address society's most complex problems, CNJG is helping to build a more resilient and equitable New Jersey.

This report serves as a testament to CNJG's dedication, highlighting the progress made and showcasing the work CNJG committed to in alignment with the strategic plan. It reflects CNJG's ongoing efforts to turn the vision into action, ensuring that the initiatives continue to drive meaningful and lasting impact across the state. CNJG is pleased to present a comprehensive overview of our activities and achievements in 2024.

See selected highlights on the following pages.

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

The **2024 Spring Colloquium for the Social Sector: Empowering the Future—Harnessing AI and Data for Philanthropic Social Impact** welcomed 150 attendees and explored the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and data in philanthropy. The main session, moderated by Jean Westrick, Executive Director of the Technology Association of Grantmakers, featured panelists Don Chen, President, Surdna Foundation; David Cole, Chief Innovation Officer, State of New Jersey; and Rachel Kimber, Managing Director, Full Circle Impact Solutions. The panelists expressed the urgent need for investment in AI tools specifically designed for the philanthropic sector, emphasizing that without proactive funding, the development of these technologies could lead to unintended consequences for nonprofits.

They highlighted how AI could unlock the full potential of our data, enabling us to accelerate impact and improve decision-making. At the same time, the discussion also addressed the challenges surrounding AI, stressing the importance of transparency and trust in its adoption to ensure that these solutions align with our values and goals.

Following the main panel discussion and luncheon conversations, two additional sessions provided guided walkthroughs of different frameworks to understand the practical applications of AI for foundations and nonprofit organizations. Jean led the **AI Framework for Philanthropy** session for foundation leaders, while CEO Tiloma Jayasinghe and Jared Carroll, Senior Consultant, Community Resource Exchange, led the **AI Nonprofit Guide** session for nonprofit leaders.

Panelists expressed that by proactively funding and shaping AI solutions tailored to our unique needs, we can maintain control over our valuable data, enhance our decision-making processes, and ultimately amplify our impact on society. The importance of acting now is to develop and secure technology that supports our work and upholds our values.

The event ended with a delightful ice cream social, offering attendees a chance to connect and share insights from the day. The overwhelming feedback and success of this event confirmed that members are eager to learn more about this critical topic and its implications for their work and the broader social sector.

CNJG extends deep gratitude to our sponsors—PSE&G, Wells Fargo, The Campbell’s Company, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Sixers Youth Foundation, and PKF O’Connor Davies—and to the Signature Programs Committee, co-chaired by Christine Healey and Kortney Swanson Davis, for their leadership.

In August, CNJG and the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits hosted over 150 foundations and nonprofit leaders for the inaugural **2024 Summer Joint Policy Forum: Nonprofit and Philanthropic Champions for New Jersey**. This landmark event brought together a diverse group of advocates and changemakers committed to amplifying the impact of nonprofits across the state.



2024 Spring Colloquium for the Social Sector

The forum featured an outstanding lineup of speakers, including Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, who delivered a powerful keynote address, urging collaboration among all sectors: “We succeed the most when we work together with you.”

Other distinguished speakers included Theresa Jacks, President and CEO, CNJG; Linda Czipo, President and CEO, New Jersey Center for Nonprofits; Dan Harris, Chief of Staff and Deputy Executive Director, New Jersey General Assembly; Lucy Vandenberg, co-chair of the CNJG Policy Committee/Executive Director of the Schumann Fund for New Jersey and CNJG Board Member; David Thompson, Acting CEO and Vice President of Public Policy, National Council of Nonprofits; Jesse Burns, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of New Jersey; and Brian Miller, Executive Director, Nonprofit VOTE.

Panel discussions centered on the critical importance of advocacy and public policy work in advancing nonprofit missions and serving the communities we care so much about. They emphasized how vital it is for nonprofits to center diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in all facets of their operations, and to remain vigilant against efforts that might undermine or reverse progress in these areas. In light of legal challenges to DEI initiatives, panelists cautioned that these developments are creating a chilling effect, reinforcing the need for nonprofits and philanthropies to stay informed, engaged, and united in defense of these values.

The event underscored that the work of nonprofit leaders is more important than ever—both as a force for positive change and as a powerful advocate for social justice. Through collective action and a steadfast commitment to DEIB principles, the sector can continue to drive transformative impact for New Jersey and beyond.

• **“A collaborative and informed philanthropy sector is critical to sustainable change. A strong philanthropy-serving organization provides vital infrastructure for philanthropy to do its work. CNJG knits people and ideas together to help local philanthropy expand its impact and thoughtfully invest in New Jersey communities.”**



The **2024 Annual Meeting & Holiday Gathering**, themed **Inspiring Change through Leadership: Maximizing Philanthropic Impact**, brought together over 130 members on December 14th. Members engaged in a thought-provoking plenary discussion, deepened their knowledge at the Leadership in Action workshop, and enjoyed networking with colleagues.



CNJG Members at the 2024 Annual Meeting & Holiday Gathering

The **Leadership in Action: New Jersey Principles for Philanthropy** workshop, a framework approved by the Board last year, sets forth an aspiration for each of the principles: ethical leadership, stewardship, values, equity and justice, community engagement, public voice, continuous learning, and transparency and accountability. The panel led by CNJG members: Jasmyne Beckford, Program Manager, Prudential Financial; Sharif Braxton, Community Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Jeremy Grunin, President, Grunin Foundation; and Sharnita C. Johnson, VP of Strategy Impact & Communication, Victoria Foundation, and moderated by Catherine Wilson, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Newark, dove deep into the principles and how CNJG members can infuse them in their respective organizations.

As part of the business portion of the Annual Meeting, members elected Tammy Rice Herman, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and Aaron Turner, Community Foundation for New Jersey, for their first 3-year term, and re-elected Kate Barrett, The Campbell's Foundation, and Catherine Wilson, United Way of Greater Newark, for a second term. The Board of Trustees elected their 2025 officers: Craig Drinkard, Victoria Foundation as Chair, Justin Kiczek, F. M. Kirby Foundation as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Christine Healey, The Healey Education Foundation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, and Catherine Wilson as Treasurer. We wished Paul Stierhoff, The Henry S and Agnes M Truzack Foundation, well, as he rotated off the Board.

After the business meeting, we moved into the luncheon, where we heard the keynote presentation, **Leadership for Thriving Communities**, delivered by Amalia Brindis Delgado, Chief Strategy Officer of the Panta Rhea Foundation. In her insightful talk, Amalia highlighted several critical areas for fostering effective leadership. She emphasized the vital role that funders play in supporting succession planning to ensure long-term sustainability. She also stressed the importance of continued education for nonprofit leaders to help them stay adaptable and innovative in an ever-changing landscape.

Lastly, Amalia spoke passionately about the necessity of prioritizing well-being as an intentional, everyday practice, encouraging leaders to cultivate a healthy work-life balance to sustain their effectiveness and passion for their work.

CNJG acknowledges the generous support of its sponsors, whose contributions are vital to the organization's success. A special thank-you goes to Signature Sponsor – Prudential; Contributing Sponsors – The Campbell's Company, Devils Youth Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Victoria Foundation; Supporting Sponsors – Grunin Foundation, LISC New Jersey, Pincus Family Foundation, and WSFS Bank; and Colleague Sponsor – Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Thank you also to NJM Insurance Group for an additional donation to support the event.

## PROGRAMS

### FUNDER BRIEFINGS

CNJG fosters knowledge exchange and collaboration throughout the year through its funder briefings. These sessions tackle pressing societal issues impacting our communities, providing a platform for funders to share insights and strategies. Here's a glimpse into some of the key funder briefings held in 2024:

#### Summer EBT Federal Program for Students and School Meal

**Applications** brought together philanthropic leaders, policymakers, and advocates to discuss the rollout and implementation of the new federal initiative. Mark Dinglasan, Executive Director, NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate, and Dan Dychtwald, Program Manager/Government Representative, provided insights into the collaborative efforts between the Departments of Agriculture, Human Services, and Education to ensure a seamless implementation of New Jersey's Summer EBT program. They emphasized the importance of data-sharing, targeted outreach, and community partnerships to maximize enrollment, particularly among historically underserved populations. The Summer EBT program, a newly launched USDA program, aimed to combat child food insecurity by providing \$120 per eligible child per summer to families whose children qualify for free or reduced-price meals. The briefing focused on the role of data-sharing, outreach strategies, and multi-agency collaboration to ensure that all eligible families are aware of and able to access this critical benefit.

#### New Jersey's Latest Affordable Housing Reforms: Implications for Philanthropy

In September welcomed over 25 CNJG members to explore the impact of significant legislative changes signed into law by Governor Murphy in March 2024. These reforms aim to enhance affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households while streamlining the development process and reducing legal costs. Adam Gordon, Executive Director, and Emily Devenney, Grants and Development Manager, Fair Share Housing Center, led the discussion, highlighting how the legislation seeks to close the state's

substantial affordable housing gap, particularly for very low-income residents. Key provisions include a streamlined methodology for determining housing obligations, increased transparency, the repeal of the Council on Affordable Housing, and the prohibition of regional contribution agreements that allowed wealthier towns to sidestep their responsibilities. The session underscored the vital role philanthropy can play in addressing New Jersey's ongoing affordable housing challenges.

In November **United for ALICE: Empowering Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed Families** provided a compelling exploration of the challenges faced by ALICE families, households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed, who work diligently yet struggle to meet basic needs. The session highlighted the economic pressures on these families, shared impactful success stories from the United for ALICE initiative, and discussed actionable strategies to expand support and opportunities. Attendees gained valuable insights into how targeted funding and collaborative approaches can address the barriers ALICE households face, driving progress toward greater financial stability and equity. The event emphasized the importance of philanthropy in fostering innovative solutions to empower these marginalized members of the community.

## FUNDER EDUCATION SERIES

In collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Victoria Foundation, we offered a three-part series titled, **Impact Investing Bootcamp: Fundamentals for Driving Sustainable Philanthropy in New Jersey**. Led by John Duong and Sarah Baner Shin of Kind Capital, the series provided members with foundational knowledge and practical insights into impact investing. Session I introduced impact investing fundamentals and provided real-life examples of impact investing projects. Session II focused on case studies and examples of impact investing projects from John, Annie Seelaus, CEO, R. Seelaus & Co., and Camilio Mendez, CFO, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, followed by a fun, interactive quiz to distinguish between different investment types—grant, Mission-Related Investment, or Program-Related Investment. It also included a presentation on the partnerships and capital investments that led to Hinchliffe Stadium's revitalization by Baye Adofe-Wilson, BAW Development, and Brian LoPinto, Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium. The day ended with a tour of the stadium. Session III shared additional examples of impact investing projects and facilitated discussions about how CNJG members could continue these conversations and engage in impact investing opportunities. This program provided a solid foundation on impact investing, and it is hoped that the series will encourage members to consider pursuing impact investing partnerships and collaborations. Appreciation is extended to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Victoria Foundation for underwriting the series.

***"Great networking opportunities — would like to see more of this"***

## AFFINITY GROUP MEETINGS

CNJG fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange through member-led affinity and interest groups. These groups cater to specific geographic areas, funding interests, or professional roles, providing a valuable space for New Jersey grantmakers to connect and learn from leading practitioners and each other.

The **Environmental Funders Affinity Group** hosted a highly engaging early morning discussion titled, **Rethinking New Jersey Environmental Funding: A Conversation with Chris Daggett**.



*Members at the Rethinking NJ Environmental Funding Program*

The event attracted a diverse group of CNJG members interested in environmental advocacy, public health, social justice, urban development, and policy. Daggett, former Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and CEO, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, offered valuable insights on the evolving landscape of environmental funding in the state. The discussion centered on how philanthropic investments can address urgent environmental challenges while integrating broader issues of public health, equity, and social justice. He also highlighted the growing role of private foundations and collaborations in advancing environmental sustainability, emphasizing the need for strategic funding that supports innovative solutions and cross-sector partnerships. The session concluded with a bike tour of Duke Farms, a 2,700-acre environmental center. The tour took participants along 20 miles of trails, allowing them to experience firsthand the efforts being made in land conservation, sustainability, and ecological restoration. This unique combination of discussion and outdoor exploration offered a deeper understanding of New Jersey's environmental priorities and provided attendees with opportunities to connect and engage with the landscape in meaningful ways.

The **NJ Corporate Philanthropy Network** hosted a workshop titled: **Sponsorship: How to Maximize Your ROI**, presented by Etta Rudolf Denk, Bank of America, and Pat Hartpence, NJM Insurance Group, which explored how companies can strategically evaluate and maximize the impact of sponsorships. Attendees learned how to assess potential sponsorship opportunities—from local events like AAA ball team to large-scale ones like the 2026 World Cup—and develop a strategy that aligns with business goals and strengthens brand presence. The workshop covered key topics including the creation, activation, and evaluation of sponsorships.





Members at the Jersey Shore BlueClaws for the PEEP Event

In July, CNJG served as the fiscal sponsor for the Monmouth & Ocean County Funder's **PEEP Event at the Jersey Shore BlueClaws**. PEEP, which stands for Party to Enhance Equity in Philanthropy, is a nationally celebrated movement to bring together nonprofit and philanthropic leaders to help break down the pervasive power dynamics in our work and help us see each other in our full humanity. The family-friendly event was well attended by several members and their families, and it was an excellent opportunity to connect in a relaxed environment. Thank you to the Grunin Foundation for your vision for this program.

## PROGRAMS WITH PARTNERS

One of the goals in our strategic plan is to leverage partnerships to strengthen the social sector. CNJG partnered with a diverse range of organizations throughout 2024 to offer enriching programs for our members. Collaborations with United Philanthropy Forum, regional and national philanthropy-serving organizations, and other valued partners, provided access to special briefings and knowledge-building programs. Here's a glimpse of some of these offerings:

One of the highlights was our collaboration with long-term partner National Center for Family Philanthropy (NCFP), which provides CNJG members with exclusive monthly webinars focused on family foundations.

NCFP's **Fundamentals of Family Philanthropy** 2024 webinar series covered essential aspects of effective family philanthropy. Topics included January's session on **Participatory and Collaborative Operations and Strategies**, February's **Cultural and Faith-Based Funding Approaches in Family Philanthropy**, and March's **Equity in Rural and Place-Based Funding**. Other sessions included **Family Philanthropies as Stewards of a Public Trust** in May, **Trust-Based and Participatory Practices** in October, and **A Racial Reparations Framework for Family Philanthropy** in December. As part of our subscription to NCFP, CNJG offers our family foundation members additional and exclusive benefits from NCFP's wide array of programs and services. Thank you to the F. M. Kirby Foundation for a grant to support this partnership.

In partnership with the Disability & Philanthropy Forum, CNJG also hosted a monthly webinar series exploring topics such as Disability Pride, Inclusive Hiring, and LGBTQIA+ Funding. The series began in February with **Disability Justice and Labor Rights** and continued through the year with key sessions, including **Disability Rights Activism and Organizing** in April, **Grantmaking for Disability: LGBTQIA+ Funding** in May, **Disability Pride, Joy, and Visions for the Future** in July, **Disability and the Care Economy** in September, **Disability-Inclusive Hiring** in October, and **Disability in Indigenous Communities** in November.

In addition to our collaborations with NCFP and the Disability & Philanthropy Forum, CNJG also partnered with Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) to offer an impactful series of webinars for our members. GCIR's programs provided valuable insights into the evolving landscape of immigration and refugee issues, equipping funders with the tools they need to support marginalized communities. The series kicked off in January with **Strategic Responses to Forced Displacement**, which explored effective strategies to address the global refugee crisis. In February we hosted **Advancing Dignity and Justice through Universal Representation**, focusing on the vital role of legal representation in ensuring dignity and justice for immigrants. Subsequent sessions included **Supporting Resistance at the Border and Beyond: Frontline Efforts to Oppose Anti-Immigrant Legislation** in May, **The Value of Learning in Grantmaking to Migrant Communities** in July, which explored how funders can build more responsive and impactful strategies.

These partner programs reflect CNJG's ongoing dedication to providing our members with timely, relevant, and impactful resources to enhance their philanthropic efforts.

## MEMBER SERVICES

CNJG hosted quarterly **New Member Orientation** zoom meetings for new staff and trustees of both newly joined and veteran member organizations. This engaging session provided a chance to connect, share experiences, and explore the valuable resources CNJG offers. During the meeting, attendees had the opportunity to introduce themselves and discuss their organizations' funding strategies in a relaxed yet professional atmosphere. This exchange facilitated a lively dialogue, enabling members to share insights and best practices, while fostering a deeper understanding of the diverse approaches to philanthropy within the network.

These sessions also provided a comprehensive overview of the programs and services available through CNJG, ensuring that all attendees are well-equipped to take full advantage of their membership. These meetings not only reinforced existing relationships, but also set the stage for future partnerships and resource sharing, underscoring CNJG's commitment to supporting and enhancing the effectiveness of grantmakers across New Jersey.

*"Your topics and priorities are excellent!"*

## 2024 AFFINITY GROUP CHAIRS

### CAMDEN FUNDERS

- Leslie M. Walker, Sixers Youth Foundation
- Erik Estrada, Community Foundation of South Jersey

### CULTURE FUNDERS

- Tammy Rice Herman, New Jersey State Council on the Arts
- Sharnita C. Johnson, Victoria Foundation

### EMERGING LEADERS IN PHILANTHROPY

- Monica Hall, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

### ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKERS

- Liz Crowley, F.M. Kirby Foundation
- Bill Leavens, William L. Gibson Fund/CFNJ

### FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

- Rich Ribeiro, Turrell Fund
- Paul Stierhoff, The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation

### HEALTH FUNDERS

- Renie Carniol, The Grotta Fund for Senior Care
- Sharif Braxton, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Jessica Nugent, The Burke Foundation

### NEWARK FUNDERS

- Craig Drinkard, Victoria Foundation
- Jasmyne Beckford, The Prudential Foundation
- Nicole Butler, The Prudential Foundation

### NEWARK EDUCATION FUNDERS

- Jasmyne Beckford, The Prudential Foundation
- Jessica McKenzie, Panasonic Foundation

### NEW JERSEY CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY NETWORK

- Pat Hartpence, NJM Insurance Group
- Etta Denk, Bank of America Foundation

### NEW JERSEY FUNDERS FOR EDUCATION

- Melissa Litwin, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation
- Kortney Swanson Davis, Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation

### PATERSON FUNDERS

- Julia Stoumbos, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation
- Julie Holland, Columbia Bank Foundation

### TRENTON AND MERCER COUNTY FUNDERS

- Katherine N. Nunnally, Smith Family Foundation
- Sandra Toussaint, United Way of Greater Mercer County



Program attendees at the Charles J. Muth Museum of Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson for Impact Investing Bootcamp - Session 2

CNJG launched two monthly forums for members. **First Fridays for Philanthropy** is a new virtual opportunity for members to connect, ask questions, and collaborate on solutions. This initiative has been so well received that CNJG is continuing First Fridays for Philanthropy monthly (except July) at 12 PM on the first Friday of each month throughout 2025. And **CNJG CEO to CEO Conversations** provides members who are CEOs with a dedicated space for peer-to-peer engagement, sharing challenges, and building relationships.

To keep members well-informed, CNJG offered several e-newsletters. For 19 years, the monthly **CNJG News** has delivered timely updates on member news, benefits, job announcements, and more. Launched in 2009, **Family Ties** is tailored specifically for CNJG's family foundation members, providing valuable articles, news, and tips for navigating the unique challenges of family philanthropy. The **Corporate Philanthropy Brief** offers insights, articles, and resources to help corporate members deepen their understanding of various corporate social responsibility topics. CNJG collaborates with over a dozen other PSOs to curate and distribute both Family Ties and the Corporate Philanthropy Brief.

In response to the growing interest in our **Impact Investing Series**, CNJG, in partnership with the United Philanthropy Forum, launched ValuesAdvisor, a free, online, searchable database of values-oriented investment advisors. These advisors have been recommended by trusted affinity groups and philanthropic support organizations like CNJG, helping members find investment expertise that aligns with their values. This resource is designed to streamline administrative costs, enabling more funds to be directed toward community grants. Additionally, CNJG provides a job board where members can post open philanthropic-related positions within their organizations. This popular page on our website offers members an easy and effective way to share job opportunities with the broader philanthropic community.

*"CNJG has provided myself and my colleagues with access to so many other Program Officers and Philanthropists to co-create and discuss the economic and community impact we all seek to make in Newark through our funder meetings."*



## LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

CNJG members joined over 250 colleagues from across the nation for the annual [Foundations on the Hill \(FOTH\)](#) in Washington, D.C. Hosted by United Philanthropy Forum in partnership with the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector, this gathering brings foundation leaders to Washington D.C. to advocate for key issues impacting philanthropy. The CNJG delegation, led by Theresa Jacks and including representatives from Victoria Foundation, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, The Burke Foundation, Pincus Family Foundation, Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation, and Schumann Fund for New Jersey were a few of the foundations that participated in meetings with members of Congress. We were also fortunate to have Linda Czipo, President and CEO, New Jersey Center for Nonprofits, join the delegation, further amplifying the voice of the nonprofit sector.

Our 16 CNJG delegates met with all 12 New Jersey Congressional offices and both Senate offices, discussing key legislation impacting the philanthropic sector, including the Charitable Act and the Nonprofit SEAT Act. This advocacy strengthens our role as leaders for the sector. In addition to advocating for legislation that supports our work, and educating Congress about the social sector, FOTH helps build relationships with our Congressional delegation and also provides opportunities for CNJG members to get to know one another.

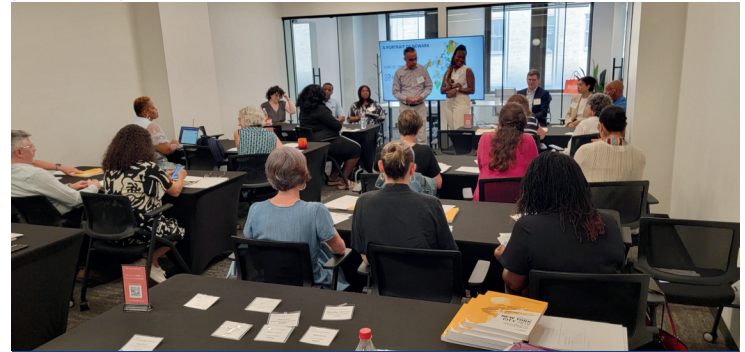
In June, CNJG hosted its first in-person [Conversations with the Cabinet](#) program since the pandemic, bringing together over 25 members to meet with Commissioner Jacqueline Suárez, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. This program offers New Jersey grantmakers a unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the major priorities and goals of various state government departments while sharing their own insights, initiatives, and best practices. The goal is to inform and enhance strategies for addressing key issues facing the state, as well as fostering collaboration between foundations and the public sector. The session featured candid discussions and exchange of ideas on areas of mutual interest, with the potential to spark new opportunities for partnerships.

CNJG partnered with the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits to host an educational briefing at the State House in Trenton for the Office of Legislative Services (OLS), providing an in-depth overview of the state's nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. The first presentation, titled, [Understanding New Jersey's Nonprofit and Philanthropic Community – Role, Impact, Myths & Facts](#), was delivered to nearly 30 OLS staff members. A second briefing, held in May, focused on [Nonprofit Startup and Compliance Issues – A Legal Review](#), presented by William Engel, The Union Foundation, and Fran McElhill of Archer & Greiner, P.C., with an introductory overview from CNJG and the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits. The second briefing was also accredited as a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program and was attended by legal professionals and other OLS staff members.

Attendees came away with a working knowledge of the 501c3 family, state, and federal reporting requirements, tax rules, and an overview of the Center's efforts to convene expert practitioners to recommend updates to the NJ Nonprofit Corporation Act in line with the modernization already done on the NJ Business Corporation Act. These briefings were first offered to OLS by CNJG and the Center in 2014 and 2015. Moving forward, CNJG and the Center plan to offer this valuable program to OLS every three years.

## NEWARK PHILANTHROPIC LIAISON

A testament to successful collaboration, the [Newark Philanthropic Liaison \(NPL\)](#) – a partnership between the City of Newark and CNJG – thrives in its 18th year. Led by NPL Kevin Callaghan, the initiative continues to build on past achievements, attracting national foundations to Newark, and fostering impactful public-private partnerships.



*Newark Funder Affinity Group & Network Education Funder Group Joint Meeting*

NPL's success story reached a national audience in the fall, at the recommendation of Cities for Financial Empowerment. Kevin spoke to over 100 examiners, managers, and senior managers from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) on a panel titled, [Perspectives on Financial Stability of American Consumers](#). This opportunity to bring local perspective to conversations on economic security continued the leadership of NPL in highlighting the power of public-private partnerships to improve economic well-being.

The NPL continued to work with partners to bring innovative solutions to housing for Newark residents. Examples include building partnerships to create a texting service with [NJ-211](#) to help individuals in need, increasing outreach and housing capacity for homeless residents, improving training for staff at shelters, continuing funding for eviction prevention, and onboarding a housing navigator to assist residents to attain affordable units.

As part of the NPL initiative, the [Newark Movement for Economic Equity](#), and Newark's guaranteed income pilot closed out, and launched a statewide website – [www.newjerseyequity.org](http://www.newjerseyequity.org) – to capture lessons learned with a coalition of local and statewide partners.

The project helped to further crucial education issues in Newark, leveraging leadership and grant funds to facilitate community conversations on literacy and equitable school enrollment.

The Newark Philanthropic Liaison stands as a pioneering collaboration between a city and its philanthropic community. Established in 2007, it has become a national model for effective public-private partnerships. Housed within Newark City Hall, this non-partisan position bridges the gap between Newark's funders (including the 130+ members of CNJG), and the city's administration.

The core mission of NPL is to “convene, connect, leverage, and raise resources” through partnerships between New Jersey's philanthropic sector and the Mayor's Office.

Funding for the NPL project comes from specially designated grants to CNJG. NPL funders, including Bank of America, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Maher Charitable Foundation, The MCJ Amelior Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, Schumann Fund for New Jersey, Turrell Fund, and Victoria Foundation, actively participate as advisors, serve on affinity and task groups, and contribute to programming and events. This deep level of collaboration ensures the program's continued success and strengthens its position as a national model.

GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING MEMBERSHIP

In 2024, CNJG welcomed seven new members: Blue Foundry Charitable Foundation, FirstBank Charitable Foundation, Ittycheria-Thomas Fund, Jersey City Office of Cultural Affairs, Long Arc Foundation, Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, and the Patankar Family. Additionally, CNJG welcomed three members who rejoined: Educational Testing Service Global Philanthropy, KearnyBank Foundation, and Overdeck Foundation. Together CNJG and our members work towards the shared goals of a healthy, thriving, and civically engaged New Jersey.

OPERATIONS

CNJG experienced growth with two new staff members, Manager of Communications, Shakirat Odunsi, and Development Associate, Fortunata Cuomo.

2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Craig Drinkard, Chair, Victoria Foundation
- Christine Healey, 1st Vice Chair, The Healey Education Foundation
- Justin Kiczek, 2nd Vice Chair, F. M. Kirby Foundation
- Maisha Simmons, Secretary, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Catherine Wilson, Treasurer, United Way of Greater Newark
- Kate Barrett, The Campbell's Foundation
- Jasmyne Beckford, The Prudential Foundation
- Kortney Swanson Davis, Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation
- Paul DiLorenzo, Salem Health and Wellness Foundation
- Marcy Felsenfeld, The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey
- Andy Fraizer, Community Foundation of South Jersey
- Jeremy Grunin, Grunin Foundation
- Patricia Hartpence, NJM Insurance Group
- Margarethe Laurenzi, Maher Charitable Foundation
- Melissa Litwin, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation
- Priti Mehta, Investors Foundation
- Marianna Schaffer, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
- Maria Spina, PSE&G Foundation
- Paul Stierhoff, The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation
- Lucy Vandenberg, Schumann Fund for New Jersey
- Theresa Jacks, President & CEO, Council of New Jersey Grantmakers - ex officio

CNJG STAFF

- Theresa Jacks, President and CEO
- Kevin Callaghan, Newark Philanthropic Liaison
- Fortunata Cuomo, Development Associate
- Shakirat Odunsi, Manager of Communications
- Dana Schwartz, Office Manager
- Chanika Svetvilas, Manager of Programs and Learning
- Craig Weinrich, Senior Director, Member Experience
- Mary Trimbach, Webmaster - adjunct staff

ABOUT CNJG



CNJG became a unified project under the Community Foundation of New Jersey in 1990 and was soon established as an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 1997. Member dues, leadership and general operation support grants from CNJG members support the Council's operations. CNJG is a member of United Philanthropy Forum, a national network of regional and national philanthropy-serving organizations consisting of more than 90 organizations across the United States that represent more than 7,000 foundations and other philanthropic groups, making it the largest network serving philanthropy in America. CNJG partners extensively with our sister organization representing New Jersey's nonprofit sector, the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits.