

Giving

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Eva Kastan Grove '58, right, with her late husband, Andy, and daughter Robie Spector (2nd left), meets students (from left) Da In (Grace) Kim '18; Chika Onyejiukwa '17; Darline Bertil '17, and Rehab Mohammed '20 at Roosevelt House.

OPEN ARMS, OPEN HEARTS

Eva Grove's Family Gives \$9 Million to Immigrant Students

“**H**unter opened the doors to America for me.” Those words of Eva Kastan Grove '58, who was 18 when she arrived in the United States, could easily be spoken by any of Hunter's immigrant students. And thanks to the \$9 million Eva Kastan Grove Scholarship and Internship Endowment Fund, given by the Grove family to celebrate Eva's 80th birthday, Hunter can open many more doors.

Of the total, \$4 million will go to Roosevelt House to establish a scholars program and support student activities and programs in public policy and human rights.

The \$5 million balance will go toward scholarships and internships, with a preference to students who are immigrants, the children of immigrants, or are undocumented. Such funding can be life-changing for Dreamers, undocumented immigrants brought here as children. “Because they exist in a kind of legal limbo, the Dreamers aren't eligible for government help,”

says President Jennifer J. Raab, “but the Grove scholarships lend a hand that government can't.”

In 1954, Eva Kastan came from Bolivia, where her family had found refuge from the Nazis. She embraced New York and her new school, graduating with a degree in pre-social work. While her husband, Andy Grove, who died in March, became CEO of the Intel Corp., Eva became a voice for people in need. “She worked for Consumers Union,” says her daughter Robie Spector, a member of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees. “She worked for Planned Parenthood, and she worked with reading groups.”

As her mother's big birthday grew near, Spector approached her father. “I said, ‘Is it possible that we could honor this place that had such an influence on her sense of community?’ Hunter was part of our family narrative. For instance, Roosevelt House was their lunch place; they would eat their pumpernickel sandwiches there. It meant enough to her that I knew about it when I was a child.”

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A New York Legend Is Remembered With a Roosevelt House Fellowship

Famous as New York City's premier labor arbitrator, the late Theodore Kheel was also known for his contributions to transportation policy. He once wrote that transportation "is as much a civil rights issue as housing and education and jobs."

In the Kheel family tradition of public service, Ted's son, Robert, and daughter Jane Stanley have made a \$450,000 donation through the Nurture Nature Foundation (their father was also an environmentalist) to establish the Theodore Kheel Fellowship in Transportation Policy at Hunter College. The first Kheel Fellow: urban traffic guru Sam Schwartz, better known as Gridlock Sam. "I am truly honored to be associated with Ted Kheel, who was among the first to recognize the connection between social equity and transport policy," Schwartz told *Giving@Hunter*.

The fellowship will be based at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, which is fitting: Kheel was named after Theodore Roosevelt, greatly admired Franklin and Eleanor, and had deep connections to Hunter. Thanks to his vision and financial support, CUNY was able to create The Institute for Sustainable Cities, based at Hunter. His daughter Jane remembers



The late Theodore Kheel

how thrilled he was to see the newly refurbished Roosevelt House shortly before his death. "It's a very meaningful place for our family," she says.

The Kheel Fellowship will focus on creation of balanced urban transportation systems, using New York as a case model. This is very much in keeping with Kheel's forceful advocacy for using bridge tolls and congestion pricing to fund affordable mass transit – this at a time when the automobile ruled transportation policy.

Jane Stanley believes her father's vision came from being at the center of labor disputes: "He would always say, 'There's a third way. There has to be a way to fund it better.'"

At Silberman, Strell Fellows Learn How to Lead



Front row (from left): Yuen Shan Manna Chan, Simone Thompson; Kerry Moles; Back row: Aaron Shmueli, Jennifer Tine, Karen Davis, Jeremy Babb. Not shown: Sharmeela Mediratta and Shyvonno Noboa.

To move up the career ladder, a social-service executive needs a set of "hard" business skills; they range from managing a budget to developing a mission, to determining when a goal has been reached. For many MSWs who want to be CEOs, lacking those skills can seem like an insuperable barrier.

That's why, thanks to the Belle and George Strell Executive Leadership Fellows Program,

the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College offers exactly the combination of business training and collaborative work experience needed to climb the ladder into the executive ranks.

The fellowship, named for her parents, is funded by Joan Glade de Pontet, MSW '77. The nine-month program includes intensive seminars, high-level networking events and personal coaching, and each fellow is matched with a prominent mentor.

Jennifer Tine LCSW, a senior vice president at Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ Inc., is delighted at what she's getting out of the program. "They tailor the work to the individual fellows, who come with a wide array of skills and backgrounds," she says. "I think this program will give me the skills – and help me make the connections – to become a CEO."

And that, of course, is what Joan de Pontet has in mind. "Social workers should be a vital force in leading human-service agencies," she says. "My hope is that the Strell Fellowship program will bring in experts in areas such as finance and resource development to foster skills and build a network of social workers serving as CEOs and top managers."