



# Our First 30 Years

1979

The New York Regional Association of Grantmakers is established, with Barrie Pribyl as the first Executive Director.

1982

"Fundamentals of Grantmaking," an annual program for covering core grantmaking skills, begins. (This is now part of a series called "Not for New Grantmakers Only.")

1984

The first collaborative effort begins with the Foundation Center: "Meet the Grantmakers," a series designed to broaden the knowledge of nonprofits about how philanthropy works.

1985

Barbara Bryan joins as Executive Director, later named President.

1987

The association undertakes its first strategic plan with the goal of more public exposure for philanthropy and greater attention to the region outside New York City.

1989

NYRAG celebrates its 10th anniversary with "Looking to the Future, Building on the Past," an all-day conference for grantmakers and nonprofits.

1990

The Board adopts a "Policy on Diversity and Inclusiveness" to "support and encourage greater diversity in NYRAG activities and in all phases of grantmaking."



City Commissioner Emily Lloyd at a City Connect meeting.

Interns mingle at a 2004 SEO networking event.



1991

The "City Connect" initiative begins, bringing together grantmakers and city officials with common interests.

1993

NYRAG spearheads the New York/New Jersey Common Application Form, introduced to improve the grant application process for nonprofits.

1994

The second strategic plan, "To the Next Century," is established for 1994–1999.

1995

NYRAG begins to manage a Diversity Internship Program, now an independent nonprofit organization called Sponsors for Educational Opportunity.

1996

NYRAG tops the 200 member mark and launches its website, [www.nyrag.org](http://www.nyrag.org).

1999

"Philanthropy: Commitment and Change in the New Century" is the theme of NYRAG's 20th anniversary celebration.

2000

The third strategic planning process begins, for "Learning and Leading," 2001–2005.

Photo: Stan Schnier



2001

NYRAG partners with three other regional associations of grantmakers to publish *Building on a Better Foundation: A Toolkit for Creating an Inclusive Grantmaking Organization*.

2001

Particularly in the months after September 11th, NYRAG plays a leadership role in increasing philanthropy, providing information about philanthropy in the region, and facilitating collaborations between funders and other sectors.

2003

Michael Seltzer becomes President, only the third leader in more than two decades.

2004

NYRAG celebrates its 25th anniversary with an awards program at Gracie Mansion honoring exemplary grantmakers and their nonprofit partners.

2005

Following the Indian Ocean tsunami, NYRAG produces a report on preferred practices for funding long-term reconstruction in the wake of massive disasters and humanitarian crises.

2005

Immediately following the devastating impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, NYRAG creates the Gulf Coast Recovery Initiative, which published two editions of a *Donors' Guide to Gulf Coast Relief and Recovery* and a *Best Practices in Disaster Grantmaking* report.

2006

The association moves to Union Square, into "green" offices with conference space for member use.



2007

NYRAG partners with the New York Times Company and the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York to present an annual Nonprofit Excellence Awards.

2007

Ronna D. Brown becomes the association's fourth President.

2008

The Board adopts a new strategic plan for 2008–2010, which outlines principles to guide the association—integrity, effectiveness, impact, inclusion, transparency, and collaboration.

2008

Website is completely revamped and relaunched, making it easier than ever for members to register for events, access members-only resources, and connect with colleagues.

2008

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg speaks at annual meeting.

2008

The association continues its commitment to inclusiveness by launching the New York Diversity Project.

2008

Under the direction of the strategic plan, NYRAG begins a year-long rebranding process, which includes a name change.

