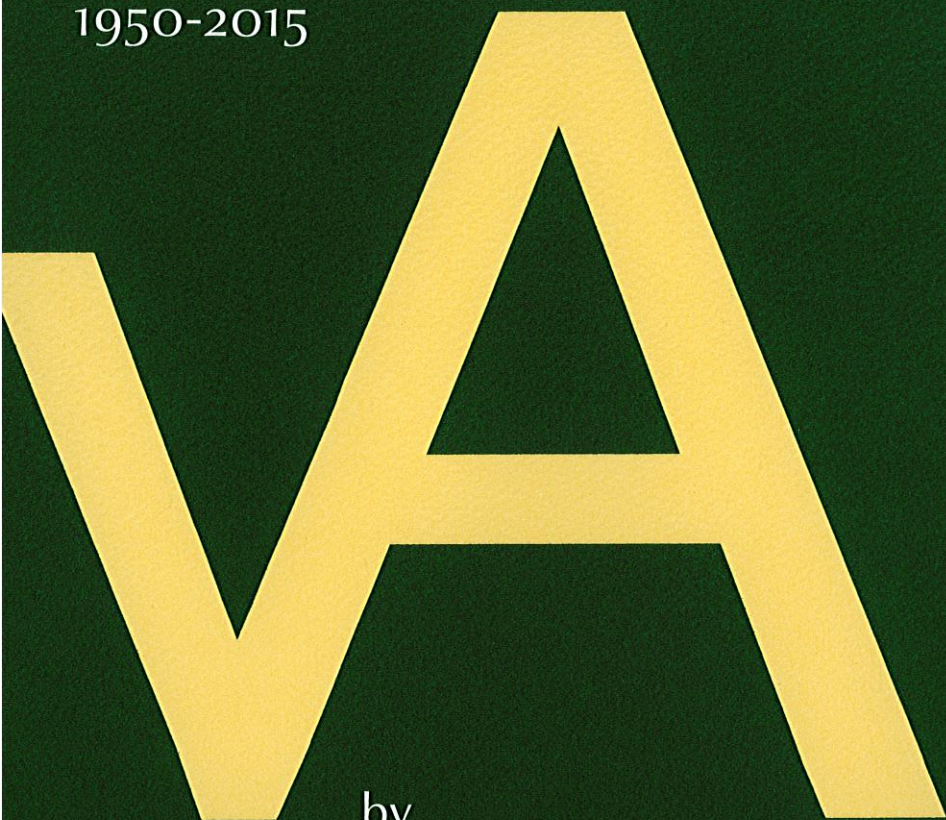


A History of
the van Ameringen Foundation:
1950-2015



by
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Arnold Louis van Ameringen

For 65 years, the van Ameringen Foundation (the vAF) has consistently maintained an interest in and made grants to programs for the mentally ill and emotionally disturbed, following the mandate set forth by its founder, Arnold Louis van Ameringen, and respected by the second and third generations of his family. The impact of the Foundation, guided by its mission to support innovative and practical programs which increase the accessibility of the poor and needy to mental-health services, which offer preventive and early intervention strategies, and which advocate for systemic change with national import, has been steady, pioneering, and reformative.

Arnold Louis van Ameringen was born in 1891 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, served in the Dutch army during World War I and came to the US in 1917 as the representative of a Dutch perfume material concern. In 1918 he opened his own perfume and flavor supply business in the US and in 1929 he combined it with Morana, Inc. and was President of a new entity van Ameringen-Haebler, Inc. from 1929-1956. After the merger in 1958 of van Ameringen-Haebler with Polak and Schwartz Essences-fabrieken NV of the Netherlands, he served as Chairman of the Board of the newly formed International Flavors and Fragrances. From the beginning, Mr. van, through the dint of his personality and vision, presided over the world-wide growth of his company. He was the first in

the industry to consider perfumers as creative artists, not hired help.

In 1917, when Mr. van Ameringen stepped off the boat from Rotterdam, in Hoboken, NJ, he spotted on shore the lovely sister of a fellow passenger—Hedwig Adele Pfaltz, and soon married her. The van Ameringens produced three children: Lily, Patricia, and Henry. Lily's one child Alexandra Auchincloss Herzan and Patricia's five—Kenneth A. Kind, Laura McKenna, Christina Kind, Valerie Kind-Rubin, and Andrew Kindfuller are all currently on the board of the Foundation.

Mr. van Ameringen became interested in funding programs for the mentally ill through family members and through Dr. James Plant, his neighbor in South Orange, NJ, who had been board chairman of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene

To formalize this interest, in 1950, he established the van Ameringen Foundation to support services for the mentally ill and other causes, and he continued to add to its assets during his life, as did his widow at her death. He served as President of the Board of Fountain House, was Governor of the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas, Treasurer of the National Association for Mental Health and a Vice Chairman of the National Mental Health Fund Campaign.

After Mr. van Ameringen's death in 1966, at age 74, his son Henry became President from 1966–68, followed by

his elder daughter, Lily van Ameringen Auchincloss, from 1969-1972, then by his younger daughter Patricia van Ameringen Kind from 1973–1991. Henry van Ameringen succeeded his sister and served as President and Treasurer from 1991–2014, when Kenneth A. Kind, the eldest grandchild of Mr. van Ameringen and son of Patricia Kind, became President and Treasurer from 2014 to the present.

In 1950, the first officers of the van Ameringen Foundation were Arnold Louis van Ameringen, Hedwig van Ameringen, Oren Root, John F. Condon, and Jack M. Evans. In 1974 (the first year an annual report was published), the Officers and Directors were: Patricia Kind, President and Treasurer; Lily Auchincloss, Vice President; Harmon Duncombe, Esq., Secretary; Hedwig van Ameringen, Honorary Chair of the Board; also Barrett Brown, Henry van Ameringen, and Henry Walter, Esq. In 1977, Patricia Kind took on the added responsibility of Chief Executive Officer, combining the duties of President and Executive Director; and in 1981, William Beatty was appointed a consultant to Mrs. Kind.

From 1975–1990 Board members included: Hedwig van Ameringen, Honorary Chair, Patricia Kind, President and Treasurer, Lily Auchincloss, Vice President, Harmon Duncombe, Secretary, Henry van Ameringen and Henry Walter. In 1991 Henry van Ameringen became President and Treasurer, and Eleanor Sypher, PhD, hired in 1990 as Assistant to the President, was appointed

Executive Director. In 1992, Alexandra Auchincloss Herzan and Kenneth A. Kind came on the Board. In 1993, George Rowe, Jr., Esq., replaced Harmon Duncombe as Secretary; in 1996 Valerie Kind-Rubin and Clarence Sundram, Esq., became trustees; in 1997 Laura Kind McKenna joined the Board, followed in 2000 by Andrew Kindfuller, in 2002 by Christina Kind, and in 2005 by Dr. Judith Beck. In 2013 George Rowe was replaced by Steadman Westergaard, Esq., as Vice President and Secretary and he was succeeded in 2015 by Maurizio Morello, Esq., in the same position. The current trustees are the seven family members listed above and non-family trustees: Dr. Beck, Mr. Morello, and Mr. Sundram.

Within the mental health field, in its 65-year history, the Foundation has not promoted any single method or approach, rather it attempts to assist preventive, rehabilitative, and evidence-based efforts across a wide programmatic range. In the turbulent 1960s and 1970s, the grants reflect the problems of the mentally ill and others in urban living, when the issues were drug abuse, family problems, needs of children and the aging, and education. Examples of grants include: the ACLU, the American Psychiatric Association, Board of Corrections of New York City, Children's Aid Society, Children's Television Workshop, Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Channel 13, Fountain House, Harvard Medical School, Henry Street Settlement House, the Menninger Foundation, The

Mental-Health Law Project (Bazelon Center), the NAACP, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Planned Parenthood, United Negro College Fund, and the Women's Prison Association.

In the 1980s, when the full effects of the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill were acknowledged and the homeless mentally ill population increased, the vAF responded with grants to the founders of supportive housing: Ellen Baxter and Kim Hopper, "The New Mendicancy—Homeless in New York City" (September 1981), \$70,000 over two years to Community Service Society, as well as with grants to providers: Bethesda Project and Goddard-Riverside. In addition, it recognized the usefulness of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, with a grant to The Center for Cognitive Therapy, established by Aaron Beck, MD, the creator of CBT. In 1985, the Foundation was one of the first funders to support AIDS patients (a hospice program at St. Vincent's Hospital), and it helped the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill at its beginning so that families with mentally ill children could meet and support each other. In 1986, it addressed staff burnout at Gay Men's Health Crisis; in 1987, it recognized the need for therapeutic counseling for the police, with support for the Police Executive Research Forum; and funded one of the first mobile medical outreach vans at the Bowery Corporation. Prevention and treatment programs for babies and children were always an interest in these years,

expressed through grants given to counseling, education, camps, and parent training. The problems of adolescents received attention through suicide prevention services, day rehabilitation centers, special schools, and outward bound activities.

By the early 1990s, the Foundation was supporting advocacy for crisis intervention, housing, employment, and integration into their communities of the mentally ill (Alliance for the Mentally Ill of PA, The Carter Center, Compeer, and Homes for the Homeless) and began its continuous series of grants to the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression/NARSAD (now renamed The Brain and Behavior Research Foundation). It also funded programs to prevent child abuse, to foster bereavement services, to treat the elderly with dementia and to counsel with bilingual therapy Latinos, Koreans, and Chinese, who were emotionally disturbed (often through the effects of immigration and of poverty). In addition, in 1991, Patricia Kind and Brooke Astor together established Furnish a Future, a warehouse in Brooklyn which distributed furnishings and furniture for free and delivered the goods at no cost to the newly housed homeless. One of the larger grants in 1993 (three years for a total of \$197,817) was to The Foundation for Long Term Care for the development of interventions with nursing home patients, with their families, and with the nursing home staff through contracts, training, and,

later, dissemination of the results. In 1993, the vAF awarded its first grant for mental-health services to veterans and in 1994 gave its first support to the recruitment and training of mentally ill outreach workers for the homeless mentally ill. Throughout its history, the vAF was supporting Fountain House, and in 1995 awarded start-up money to the International Center for Clubhouse Development (\$300,000 over three years) so that the Center could certify new clubhouses and advocate for more clubhouses internationally. As of 2015, there are 322 clubhouses worldwide.

Hedwig van Ameringen, Vice President of the Board from 1950-1973 and Honorary Chair of the Board from 1973-1996, died in 1996. Because of her bequest to the Foundation in 1996, its assets nearly doubled from \$43,393,417 in early 1996 to \$85,760,810 at the end of 1996. By 1997, grants awarded jumped from \$5,721,308 in 1996 to \$6,420,747 in 1997, to \$8,199,699 in 1998, \$8,041,078 in 1999, and then tapered off in the following years to an average of between \$3.5 and \$4 million a year through 2014 because of the fluctuation in its holdings, including stock in International Flavors and Fragrances. From 2001 to 2002, in fact, grants were generally limited to one year at \$25,000

The year 1996 also saw the death of Lily Auchincloss, President and Treasurer of the Board from 1969-1972 and Vice President of the Board from 1973-1996.

The Foundation funded advocacy for more supportive housing apartments (\$50,000 to Corporation for Supportive Housing); an innovative program to train consumers to become advocates for the mentally ill in the emergency room and inpatient units at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, NY (\$197,795 over three years); on-site medical services in three supportive housing residences (\$67,500 over three years) to Saint Francis Friends of the Poor; and mental-health services to Vietnam and Persian Gulf vets (\$450,000 over three years) to Vietnam Veterans Family Service Center—all in 1996.

In the years 1997-1999, the vAF gave start-up money (\$60,000 over two years) to Pathways to Housing (founded by Sam Tsemberis, the creator of the housing first model, later copied nationwide); supported a program at Penn's School of Nursing to keep emotionally disturbed old people at home by giving them access to counseling and medical care (\$300,000 over three years); funded Center for Elimination of Violence in the Family (\$328,086 over three years) for a date violence prevention program in eight alternative high schools in Brooklyn, which was later adopted city-wide; also a bilingual program to integrate primary health care and mental-health services, \$368,313 over three years to the Chinatown Health Clinic. Other grants included \$500,000 to Fountain House's capital campaign; \$135,000 over three years to Friends of Island Academy for counseling to teenaged boys at Rikers

before and after discharge; a two-year grant of \$261,169 to Bellevue Hospital/Survivors of Torture for mental-health services to refugees and asylum seekers who had been tortured in their homelands; a three-year grant of \$300,000 to Disability Advocates for a staff lawyer dedicated to improving mental-health services to mentally ill inmates in New York State prisons; a three-year grant of \$300,000 to the Urban Justice Center for upgrading its infrastructure so as to better serve the mentally ill, the homeless, battered women and children and lesbian and gay youth. And, in 1997, each trustee was allotted \$15,000 to award each year to the non-profit of his or her choice.

Henry Walter, Esq., long-time trustee of the Board and former Chairman and Chief Executive of International Flavors and Fragrances, died in 2000.

From the years 1995 to 2000, foundation-sponsored publications and documentaries included:

Lichtenstein Creative Media, a radio program, "Depression: Voices of an Illness" and the film, "Broken Minds/Healed Lives"; Fountain House, "What Is a Clubhouse?"; National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, translation of the newsletter, "The Advocate," into Spanish; New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, "The Professionals' Handbook on Providing Supervised Visitation"; and Interfaith Neighbors, "Finding Life after All: Group Work with Grieving Adolescents."

In 2001, the vAF awarded its first grant for advocacy for the mentally ill living in adult homes (\$25,000 to MFY Legal Services) and in 2002, the first grant to the National Prison Project of the ACLU to improve mental-health services for prisoners (\$25,000). It was an early supporter, as well, of mental health services in the pioneer non-profit, Citiwide Harm Reduction (\$11,000).

In 2002, the Board hired Lauren Katzowitz, a consultant to Family and Private Foundations, to help the trustees plan the future of the vAF. At the meeting with her in early September, the trustees reaffirmed their desire to continue the mission of the Foundation, with its focus on mental health, and rejected spending down the Foundation. It was also agreed that the direct services grants should be concentrated in Metropolitan New York and Philadelphia (no longer in the whole Northeast Corridor) and that advocacy would be supported in both cities, as well as nationally. The large grants, given to NARSAD, Fountain House (which Arnold van Ameringen had led in its first years and which his family has continued to fund since then), and to the International Center for Clubhouse Development, were to be continued. And increased attention should be given to advocacy for systemic changes through legislation, public policy, and litigation. The trustees decided, as well, to discontinue the category of funding termed "Related Social Issues" and to award grants solely to programs serving the mentally ill and emotionally disturbed.

Grants in 2002 included Child Guidance Resource Centers (\$25,000) for multisystemic therapy for young people who were emotionally disturbed and in juvenile court; The Education Law Center in Philadelphia (\$25,000) for a project to educate parents of mentally ill children in public schools on their rights and on the funds available to them; \$25,000 to Healing Works for stress-reduction workshops for non-profits offering mental-health services; \$50,000 over two years to Minnesota Public Radio for "Troubles in Mind": radio and internet documentaries on mental illness in children and adolescents, on cultural taboos to mental-health care and on barriers to treatment; \$25,000 to New Destiny Housing Corp. for counseling and case management in Project Superwomen which trains and places women who are survivors of domestic violence in maintenance and construction work.

By 2003 assets had increased to \$79,344,697. Nearly one quarter of the grants were disbursed to programs for children and adolescents. The average award of \$25,000 was raised to an average of \$50,000. To the National Senior Citizens' Law Center, the grant of \$50,000 was the first for advocacy for the fleeing felons who were mentally ill and denied benefits because of old and insignificant arrest warrants. Another first was the award to Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (\$200,000 over two years) for a mental-health advocate concentrating state-

wide on four issues: adult homes, early education, parity in insurance benefits and higher salaries for mental-health workers. The \$30,000 given to Steps to End Family Violence supported an Alternative to Incarceration Program, counseling women who had been arrested or were in prison for retaliation against their abusers.

Many advocacy grants came to the fore in 2004: one example was \$79,684 to Center for Public Representation for establishing guidelines for and enforcing the rights of psychiatric patients in the emergency room. First grants were also out to The Horticultural Society of New York for its collaboration with Kingsboro Psychiatric Center in a vocational gardening initiative at Rikers (\$35,000); \$50,000 for the partnership of Columbia University's Department of Psychiatry and The Police Foundation to provide bereavement and stress management free of charge to the NYPD after the trauma of 9/11; and \$25,000 for start-up of a new center, staffed by psychiatric nurse practitioners, for the mentally ill homeless (St. Paul's Center of New York).

In the year 2005, the trustees awarded a larger grant to MFY Legal Services (\$200,000 over two years) to continue its efforts of advocacy and litigation for the mentally ill in adult homes and awarded grants as well on two other pressing issues: training of police in crisis intervention with the mentally ill (\$50,000 over one year to Montgomery County Mental Health Emergency Ser-

vice); and advocacy for parity in insurance benefits for the mentally and physically ill (\$70,000 over two years to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of New York City). In 2006, responding to the new drug legislation for Medicare (Part D), the Foundation awarded \$50,000 to Medicare Rights Center to train mental health providers to enroll clients. In addition, in that year, grants were made to Philadelphia Children's Alliance (\$100,000 over two years) for a bilingual, bicultural child interviewer for the Latino population involved in allegations of child abuse and to Project Fair (\$120,000 over two years) for the creation of the Mental Health Advocacy Project to inform low-income people with psychiatric disabilities of their rights and benefits in the fair hearing system.

The year 2007 showed continued support for The National Center for Law and Economic Justice (\$150,000 over two years) for the Legal Education and Advocacy Project for welfare applicants and recipients with psychiatric disabilities; and \$50,000 to WLIW (public TV) for thirteen 30-minute programs, "Healthy Minds," on psychiatric conditions, which were broadcast nationally.

Assets were down after the recession of 2008 to \$65,811,989, from \$87,855,203 in 2007, but grants in 2008 totaled \$3,974,235 and included \$150,000 over three years to The Correctional Association to monitor Disability Advocates' settlement with New York State to ensure implementation of policies which provide safer

and more humane services to prisoners with mental illness; the introduction of the trauma-focused Sanctuary Model (means all staff from the janitor on up to the CEO are taught not to react negatively when a client is acting out) – \$65,000 to Good Shepherd Services; start-up funds to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (\$150,000 over three years) for mental-health advocacy and outreach nationwide to vets affected by depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury; training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for staff treating veterans and their families to the Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services (\$150,000 over three years); and \$100,000 over two years to the Supportive Housing Network of New York for advocacy, training and technical assistance to providers of supportive housing.

Assets increased to \$73,654,268 in 2009 as International Flavors and Flavors stock increased in value, and, again, the awards were robust: to The Center of Court Innovation (\$100,000 over two years) for mental-health treatment of young people at risk of detention or in detention; to Community Access (\$55,000) for the Forensic Peer Specialist Training Program at Rikers, placing mentally ill ex-offenders in the jail as interns to help mentally ill inmates through the discharge process; \$150,000 over two years to Fred Friendly Seminars at Columbia University for support of post-production outreach for “Minds on the Edge: Facing Mental Illness”: what became an award-

winning and widely viewed TV and website program; and \$50,000 to Project for Psychiatric Outreach to the Homeless which places community psychiatrists for a below-market rate at agencies serving the mentally ill homeless.

In 2009, the vAF also awarded its first Program Related Investments to Common Ground (\$1,000,000) to develop affordable homes for low-income emotionally disturbed, homeless veterans in New York City; to Corporation for Supportive Housing (\$550,000) for Mental Health Housing Equity Loans to entities borrowing from the New York City Acquisition Fund in order to develop supportive housing units; and to The Reinvestment Fund (\$1,500,000) for affordable housing loans to developers in Greater Philadelphia with priority given to housing for special-needs populations.

Assets grew by another \$8 million in 2010. The vAF continued to fund Disability Advocates, Inc. (\$200,000 over two years) for ongoing advocacy and litigation on behalf of the mentally ill in adult homes; and granted \$50,000 to Mount Sinai’s Adolescent Health Center for free counseling to low-income adolescents from the five boroughs of New York; \$100,000 over two years to Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. for a case manager to prevent eviction and homelessness for the dually diagnosed elderly; \$50,000 to Women for Afghan Women for treating the clients who are subject to domestic violence, poverty, isolation, and illiteracy.

The vAF website (www.vanamfound.org) was introduced in 2011 and these categories for funding were reaffirmed by the Board: Education and Media; Emotionally Disturbed Children and Adolescents; Frail and Isolated Elderly; Housing; Medically Ill/Dually Diagnosed; Prisons and Jails; Recent Immigrants; Rehabilitation Centers; Research and Training; Structural Reform and Advocacy; Victims of Domestic Abuse; and Vocational Services. The most heavily funded categories were then and are now: Emotionally Disturbed Children and Adolescents; Rehabilitation Centers; and Structural Reform and Advocacy.

Grants in 2011 awarded: \$104,000 over two years to Comunilife for continued support of a suicide prevention program for Latina adolescents; \$50,000 to the Fortune Society for a part-time psychiatric nurse practitioner to assess ex-offenders and to get them immediate access to treatment; \$45,000 to the Lexington Center for Mental Health Services for the Bicultural Deaf Therapeutic Family Program for deaf parents with hearing children; \$90,000 over two years to the Mental Health Association in New Jersey for training and advocacy so that both consumers and providers use Psychiatric Advance Directives; \$50,000 over two years for bridge funding for the Tourette Syndrome Clinic at Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology.

In 2012, grants were given to: The Child Center of New York (\$76,000 over two years) for Open Access

Hours which would place two B.A.-level social workers at two mental-health clinics in Queens to speed intake, free up time for the therapists and reduce the no shows; GEMS/Girls' Education and Monitoring Services (\$100,000 over two years) for counseling young women who have experienced sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking; The Legal Aid Society (\$100,000 over two years) towards the salary of a full-time social worker in the Immigration Law Unit to address the needs of immigrant clients with mental illness, who are often in detention; The Osborne Association (\$100,000 over two years) for expansion of the Therapeutic Tele-Visiting Intervention, which is a direct video hookup between upstate prisons and Osborne's New York City-based sites so that children in the City might regularly communicate with their incarcerated parents; Touro College/Touro Law Center (\$100,000 over two years) for general operating support of the Veterans' and Servicemembers' Rights Clinic, providing free legal work to vets and their families so that they might access benefits for mental and physical problems as well as benefits for jobs and education.

By 2013, assets had climbed up to \$95,099,135 and many of the new grants increased in size: \$100,000 over one year to The Community Health Law Project for the implementation of the Special Navigator Project in New Jersey to enable the mentally ill to enroll in health insurance under the Affordable Care Act; \$150,000 over two

years to Corporation for Supportive Housing for developing housing units for the high-need, high-cost homeless; \$100,000 over two years to Getting Out and Staying Out for counseling young clients just released from jail or prison; and \$120,000 over two years to Youth Communication for a web-based project to market mental-health resources for adult professionals who work with marginalized teens, using stories on emotional disturbance written by the teens.

In March of 2014, Henry van Ameringen resigned as President and Treasurer of the Foundation but kept his seat on the Board. Kenneth A. Kind, son of Patricia Kind and eldest grandchild of Arnold van Ameringen, was appointed President and Treasurer. In Henry van Ameringen's 23 years as the leader of the van Ameringen Foundation, the total of grants awarded was \$103,447,425.

In 2014, grants reached undocumented immigrants and traumatized women: \$125,000 over two years to The Children's Health Fund for a bilingual psychologist to offer additional mental-health services to street youth and to unaccompanied immigrant minors; \$110,880 to Gouverneur Health for a psychiatrist to work with female survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence; \$80,000 over two years to Housing + Solutions for a trauma therapist for female veterans housed transitionally; and \$40,500 to Women's Therapy Center for a post-doctoral psychologist to treat low-income women on a sliding

scale. In addition, each trustee was allotted \$25,000, an increase from the \$15,000 in effect since 1997, in discretionary funds to be awarded to the non-profits of his or her choice.

Grants in 2015 included: \$100,000 over two years to Friends of Firefighters for expansion of mental health services and outreach to firefighters in fire houses and in their neighborhoods; \$50,000 to Mural Arts for involving the dually diagnosed in creating public murals with community-based themes; \$100,000 over two years to Project Hospitality for an Integration of Care Coordinator for at-risk and runaway homeless young people in the Drop-in Center, the Transitional Independent Living Center, and in the Crisis Shelter; and \$50,000 to St. Christopher's for the technology-centered therapeutic treatment and education of adolescents in residential care, half of whom are on the autism spectrum.

At the end of 2015, the Foundation's assets are approximately \$94,000,000, with grants totaling close to \$5,000,000 for the year. The ongoing direction and professional stewardship of the Foundation will be assisted, starting in 2016, by a new Executive Director, as Eleanor Sypher has resigned, effective June 2016 after her 25-years in this position. The Board and her successor will continue to pursue the mission of the Foundation and will attempt to build on the legacy of Arnold van Ameringen and carried forward by his daughters' and son's

leadership. The Board's ongoing dialogue centers on this question with its many-sided answers: how to divide the grants appropriately between requests for advocacy and systemic change (which require more dollars) and between requests from direct service programs, at the local level (with fewer dollars needed). As demand for services swell, the van Ameringen Foundation will remain a steady support for programs and advocacy which positively affect the lives of the mentally ill.

van Ameringen Foundation
509 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022-5501
212/758-6221
www.vanamfound.org