Through a year of unprecedented events, CTY students reflect the concerns of others, while also displaying unfazed optimism and a love of learning that has characterized CTYers since 1979.
The first major steps in this direction occurred in 1999, when the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation agreed to fund the first urban initiative in Newark. Considering that not a single student from the Newark Public Schools had participated in a CTY program in summer 1998, this effort appeared almost quixotic to some. The Dodge Foundation provided the funding for the first outreach to include a half-time local recruiter, no-cost testing for students in federal lunch programs and scholarships for qualifiers from low-income families. It also arranged several key introductions to Newark school officials and community leaders to make the program known.

The Newark numbers tell part of the story: 19 students from Newark in 1999, 31 in 2000, and 52 in 2001. Another part of the program’s success was the impact these students had on their middle school classes. Returning CTY students were greeted with cheers in more than one Newark classroom. After all, they had competed successfully to join a program that enrolls many of the brightest students in the US.

Another part of the story concerns publicity. The New York Times published a favorable article on the project in fall 1999, and that story interested new institutional donors in other cities. Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) in Washington, D.C. became the first business funder for CTY students in its area, and Baltimore’s Goldsmith Family Foundation was the first foundation donor outside the pilot. The Goldman Sachs Foundation became the first national funder of CTY in early 2000. Its goal was to design an innovative partnership that involved CTY, Goldman Sachs, and several non-profit organizations in a year-round, high-quality enrichment program. Key components of the CTY/Goldman Sachs Scholars Program include summer academic courses, in-person and online mentoring, entrepreneurship and leadership curriculum, distance courses and participation in academic conferences. Goldman Sachs professionals serve as volunteer mentors. This initiative began in New York in spring 2000 and expanded to Philadelphia, Los Angeles and San Francisco in 2001. The Foundation’s approach is a good example of venture philanthropy at work.

One measure of the success of all these funders and several individuals, mostly CTY parents who wish to remain anonymous, is that overall participation in CTY programs by underrepresented students has increased from around 1% in 1998 to over 8% in 2001. Another measure of success shines through in the letters the scholarship students write after their summer experiences. Many of these reflect a new vision of where hard work and academic achievement may take them. They also validate Thomas Jefferson’s famous observation that talent is “sown as liberally among the poor as the rich, but perishes without use if not sought for and cultivated.” Seeking this talent and cultivating it is what CTY and its donors have been doing the last three years and with considerable success.

“I am so grateful for being able to participate in the CTY Summer Program. Not only did it enrich my summer, it also enriched my life.” Scholarship student

A key CTY goal is to ensure that all students who qualify for CTY and wish to attend our programs may do so, regardless of economic circumstances.
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Other important funders in this effort were the Ahmanson and Michael Eisner foundations in Los Angeles, Redback Networks of Sunnyvale, CA and, most recently, the Victoria Foundation and Prudential Foundations in Newark.

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Toyota Funds Math Program

Toyota USA Foundation concerns itself primarily with improving mathematics and science teaching and learning in grades K-12. CTY was delighted to receive a $250,000 grant awarded in November to complete work on Descartes’ CoVE, an innovative mathematics software for middle-school classrooms and students. Toyota USA joins AT&T in funding the development of this groundbreaking classroom tool.

Generous Donor Continues Support

Charles D. Miller, Chairman of Avery Dennison Corp., and Johns Hopkins alumnus and Trustee Emeritus, has increased from 10 to 20 the number of scholarships per year that he is providing to enable qualifying students from the west coast to attend CTY Summer Programs. An additional gift from Mr. Miller has established an endowment to ensure future scholarships. Mr. Miller describes the students he helps as the Hopkins “farm team” in California, intending that they consider applying to Johns Hopkins when they become high school seniors.

Anonymous Donors Generously Contribute to CTY

Our grateful thanks to:

- A family foundation in Greenwich, CT for providing scholarships to 10 Connecticut girls interested in science, mathematics and engineering.
- CTY parents in New York who donated $55,000 to endow a scholarship to let another student have the wonderful CTY experience that their son enjoyed.
- CTY parents in Washington, DC who opened their hearts to 80 CTY students in the DC area last year. None of these students could have attended without their help.
- CTY parents and friends in a Los Angeles firm who contributed enough last year to provide scholarships for 50 Los Angeles students.
- And the many other anonymous donors whose gifts helped send so many deserving students to CTY last summer.

New Foundations Help CTY Students

The Michael Eisner Foundation committed $120,000 to help very bright students from low-income families in Los Angeles attend CTY programs. The final funding decisions are made by Mr. Eisner and family members. CTY is very appreciative of the family’s interest in its urban initiative in Los Angeles.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation supported some 50 CTY students in the Middle Atlantic States during 2001 who competed for scholarship awards. At the end of 2001, the Foundation committed to a project that involves CTY counselors in developing individual learning plans for up to 100 CTY students from low-income families. The Foundation will then consider funding items in those plans ranging from private schools to violin lessons, with the aim of helping these children develop their talents to the fullest extent possible.

Prudential Foundation joins the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, original funder of CTY’s urban initiative in Newark, and the Victoria Foundation, in supporting the outreach and scholarship effort in the Newark schools. The aim of the Newark program in 2002 is to identify and recruit 70 students from low-income families into CTY programs toward a goal of 100.

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Development Highlights 2001

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We extend our warmest thanks to every donor who has contributed to the Center for Talented Youth. This generous support makes us better able to meet the needs of highly able students, particularly students whose families cannot afford to send them to CTY.

Below, we recognize all donors who made a gift of $100 or more to our 2001 Annual Giving Campaign, between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001.
2001 CTY Annual Giving

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CTY recognizes with gratitude the families, friends, corporations and foundations who supported CTY’s named scholarships in 2001.

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