



# Investing in Our Communities

THE AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM



*an operating company of GATX Corporation*



## American Steamship Company

American Steamship Company (ASC) throughout its history, has been a pioneer in Great Lakes vessel transportation. ASC's 10 self-unloading vessels represent the largest cargo capacity of any U.S. fleet on the Great Lakes. Vessels range in size from 635 feet to 1,000 feet, are capable of transporting cargoes from 17,000 to 70,000 net tons, and can self-discharge cargoes at speeds up to 10,000 tons per hour. During the navigation season, vessels operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and require no shoreside personnel to unload cargo.

Coastwise Bulk Transport Company, ASC's off-lakes subsidiary, operates the tug OCEAN VENTURE and the ocean barge AMERICAN FREEDOM. The tug/barge transports dry bulk commodities on the East Coast of the United States and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Today, under the ownership of the GATX Corporation, ASC continues to deliver safe and efficient waterborne transportation.

## Mission Statement

Through the American Steamship Company Community Partnerships Program, American Steamship's Community Relations programs will help improve communities by proactively selecting and supporting significant issues relevant to the socioeconomic viability of communities where American Steamship has a significant presence. Our programs will be built around those issues which best advance relationships with customers or prospects, raise employee morale, build visibility among key socioeconomic groups, advance the Company's human resources and business interests, and enhance American Steamship's position as a community leader.

## Program Strategies include:

- Increase public awareness
- Add value to ASC/GATX and its stakeholders
- Make an impact in ASC's communities
- Promote employee volunteerism

Just as American Steamship Company's key goals are to be the premier supplier of waterborne dry-bulk transportation services, these strategies will enable ASC to strive for leadership on issues which affect the continued viability of our communities within the three strategic issues identified on the following pages.

## Three Strategic Issues

### Caring for our Environment

American Steamship Company is an integral part of the communities where its employees live and work. As a leader in our industry, we are committed to being an environmentally responsible citizen. American Steamship Company will consider funding programs that:

- Prevent water and air pollution
- Provide water conservation solutions
- Develop urban environments

## Success through Education

Education is key to our childrens' future. It is also the best investment that a company can make to develop tomorrow's competitive workforce. American Steamship Company supports a variety of educational programs for economically disadvantaged families in our local communities. To promote excellence in our children and communities, American Steamship Company will consider funding programs that:

- Provide literacy education
- Provide water safety education
- Provide maritime technological education
- Offer comprehensive arts education
- Address technological education in our communities
- Provide after school programs, such as;
  - Academic activities
  - Recreational activities



## Strengthening Families

Families and communities have undergone great change in recent years. Unfortunately, more and more families are finding themselves vulnerable to social and economic trends that erode family support. To help families achieve self-sufficiency and provide their children with a safe and nurturing environment; American Steamship Company supports programs that contribute to the preservation or restoration of strong, healthy families. American Steamship Company will consider funding programs that:

- Provide families with counseling services
- Enable families to access quality health care services
- Provide parents with access to quality child care services
- Improve parental capabilities through education

## Geographic Focus



## Grantmaking Criteria

Priority will be given to requests from nonprofit organizations in communities where ASC has a significant presence, with innovative programs that address ASC's three strategic issues and include ASC employee volunteerism. Other criteria include:

- ability to develop or implement programs which impact ASC's strategic issues
- clear, reasonable goals and measurable outcomes for the proposed project
- effectiveness of current programs
- efficiency of the organization's structure and management
- potential for partnership with other groups
- ability to leverage additional support for the project from other funders
- previous history of support from ASC, and the quality of the programs resulting from such support
- involvement of American Steamship Company volunteers

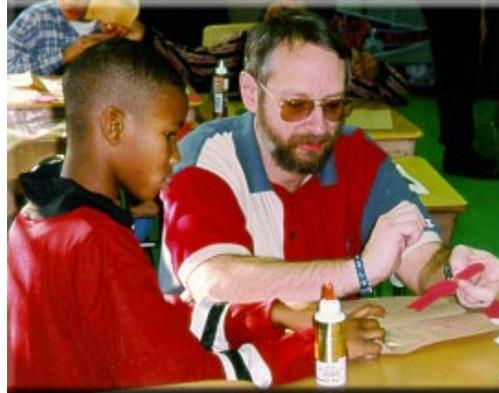
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While ASC's director of communications will proactively seek to identify nonprofit organizations with experience or potential in developing programs in our strategic issues, unsolicited proposals will also be reviewed. Grants will be restricted to program or project funding.

## Application Process

All requests for support must use the ASC Grant Application form. Answers must be brief, using the space provided on the form, and demonstrate how the applicant and its program meet ASC grantmaking objective. Attachments should include a copy of the following:

- Statement of purpose and history of the organization
- Current program activities and goals
- Specifics regarding the particular project to be funded
- Itemized budget for the organization, with both projected revenues and expenses for the current fiscal year
- Program budget for the current fiscal year, as applicable
- Grantee report using the ASC Report form, if funded in the prior year
- IRS determination letter indicating the applicant's status as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- A list of members of the board of directors and their affiliations
- Current annual report, if available
- Audited financial statement or Form 990 for the most recent completed fiscal year
- Other current funding sources, with amounts



The ASC Community Partnerships Committee reviews grants on a quarterly basis. Qualified nonprofits must submit their application according to the timetable outlined below. Only completed applications will be reviewed.

<i>Application Deadline</i>	<i>Committee Review</i>
January 15	February
April 15	May
July 15	August
October 15	November

Completed applications will be acknowledged in writing. A representative from the Community Partnerships Committee may schedule a site visit or an interview, although this may not always be required.

## Funding Limitations

American Steamship Company receives far more funding requests than can be supported. A decision to decline a request does not necessarily imply that the program is not needed or valued. It simply reflects the reality of ASC's fiscal limitations and our objective to support community-based efforts that can advance our goals in each of our strategic issue areas.

**ASC will not make grants to any of the following:**

- Individuals
- Organizations which lack status as a 501(c)(3) organization or equivalent
- Athletic Associations and sporting events
- Land Acquisition
- Political Causes, candidates or legislative, lobbying or advocacy efforts
- National organizations
- Religious or theological schools or other religion-related groups training individuals for religious professions
- Social, labor, veteran, alumni or fraternal organizations serving a limited constituency
- Organizations seeking goodwill advertisements for fundraising benefits or program books
- Tickets for testimonials or similar benefit events for which only a fraction of the ticket prices goes to the designated nonprofit sponsor, as well as trip, tours or conferences
- Organizations or programs which pose a potential conflict of interest

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Applications and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

Community Partnerships  
**American Steamship Company**  
500 Essjay Road - Williamsville, New York 14221  
Phone: (800) 828-7230 Fax: (716) 635-0220  
E-mail: [communitypartnerships@gatx.com](mailto:communitypartnerships@gatx.com)

The information presented in this brochure is also available from the ASC website at [www.americansteamship.com/steamship](http://www.americansteamship.com/steamship)