















Self Sufficiency, Education & Employment	Philanthropy/Grantmaking
<p> Schools in Erie, Niagara face aid cuts Nineteen Buffalo Niagara region school districts face double-digit state aid cuts under Gov. Paterson's proposed budget, raising the possibility of staff cuts, property tax hikes and the extensive use of reserve funds. Another 18 school systems in Erie and Niagara counties would face cuts ranging from 2.9% in Lackawanna to 9.8% in Alden.</p>	<p> Benchmarking 2009: Trends in Education Philanthropy Based on a survey of GFE members, examines how the economic crisis and expanded federal investments in education have affected funding, priorities, strategies, and challenges.</p>
Regional Assets	
<p> Wrangling in Albany Pushes State's Request for School Aid to the Wire Handing in its homework at almost the last minute, New York submitted an application to compete for \$4 billion in federal education grants Tuesday, but without a charter school plan considered important to the bid.</p> <p> 7 Buffalo schools on state list face reforms Seven Buffalo schools were identified Thursday as among the "persistently lowest achieving" in the state, requiring the school system to choose from four dramatic reform plans to improve student achievement.</p> <p> United front is targeting illiteracy In a groundbreaking collaboration, Project Flight and Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie County will move to the Central Library on Lafayette Square downtown, where leaders of all three groups feel they can better coordinate efforts.</p>	<p> NYPA puts money behind Greenway NYPA presented a \$1 million check payable to the Greenway Ecological Fund, symbolizing a portion of the Power Authority's annual funding in support of Niagara River Greenway, from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.</p> <p> Niagara U. picks up \$1M gift The planned \$33 million science complex at Niagara U. got a financial lift with the announcement of a \$1 million donation from the family of the late Lawrence Jacobs, M.D., a Buffalo neurology researcher who graduated from the university in 1961.</p> <p> National Arts Index Reveals Lower Health and Vitality of Arts Industries in 2008 Due to losses in charitable giving and declining attendance at larger cultural institutions, the health and vitality of arts in the United States was lower in 2008 .</p>
Strengthening Neighborhoods	
<p> City Mission, Cephaz House win grants totaling \$482,000 The Federal Home Loan Bank of New York has awarded \$482,000 in grants that will benefit affordable housing programs in Buffalo. The Buffalo City Mission will receive a \$406,000 grant for the renovation of shower and bath facilities. The Cephaz House will receive \$76,000 to convert transitional housing for men re-entering society from incarceration.</p> <p> Obama Proposes \$1.35 Billion Expansion to Race to the Top Fund President Obama called for a \$1.35 billion expansion of the school reform program known as Race to the Top as part of his fiscal 2011 budget. The funding would be in addition to \$4.35 billion that states already are competing for under the program, which is designed to encourage and support ideas that address the problems of a public education system which most people agree is failing too many students.</p>	<p> Demolitions, rehabs are focus of Brown's plan for anti-poverty funds Mayor Brown's new plan for spending federal anti-poverty money would dramatically increase funding for building demolitions and rehabs while launching a new effort to improve neighborhood parks and recreation.</p> <p> City basks in glow of 'Extreme Makeover' Viewers of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" watched as Buffalo shattered the show's record for volunteers. More than 6,300 people spent 53,544 hours fixing homes, landscaping properties, planting trees, and building community gardens.</p>
Community Health	
<p> Public Hearing on Erie County day care funding cuts Earlier this month the Collins administration announced that it would raise the income level for parents to qualify for child care subsidies. About 1,500 children are affected by the decision. The decision came suddenly, with parents given only 30 days to make up the difference.</p>	<p> Buffalo researcher lands \$1.7M grant Andrei Gudkov won \$1.7 million grant from Nat'l Institute for Allergies and Infectious Disease to study human therapeutics targeting acute radiation syndrome.</p> <p> Mercy to make \$12M upgrade Mercy Hospital of Buffalo is planning a \$12 million upgrade to its imaging department. Plans call for installing a new CT scanner, another MRI as well as new and expanded interventional radiology facilities.</p>