“We are involved in youth development because we recognize that youth need a safe space to speak their minds, define their beliefs, and reach their full potential. We recognize that young people need holistic support to combat all the emotional and physical challenges of growing and learning in order to become healthy and whole women and men,” explains Khary Lazarre-White, Co-Director of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol. “[We exist] because our children are faced with the daily specter of violence, of pervasive drugs, of destructive images of manhood, of womanhood, of love, of respect, of responsibility. With all these negative pressures, we provide a positive pressure to make informed choices.”

The Brotherhood/Sister Sol was created in 1994 to offer supportive programs for black and Latino youth in impoverished communities. Co-founders Lazarre-White and Jason Warwin established The Brotherhood at the John Hope Community Center in Providence, RI, while they were seniors at Brown University. They believed that the creation of a strong, supportive community could help youth overcome the obstacles and challenges of circumstance and succeed in life. They brought their youth development model to New York City in 1995 and began working with about 45 young men in two area public schools.

In 1998, Dr. Susan Wilcox came on board as a third Co-Director, joining Warwin and Lazarre-White in the Directors Circle, the leadership team that provides organizational vision and echoes the organization’s core ideals: commu-

“I took great delight in visiting The Brotherhood/Sister Sol recently. The place felt more like a family than a youth agency. This organization clearly provides real hope and effective guidance in one of the most needed places today.”

— Jenna Ritter, Assistant Secretary, The Irene Ritter Foundation

In 2001, less than 33 percent of Latino students in New York earned a high school diploma in four years, the worst showing of any state. Thirty-five percent of black students in New York graduated on time, also the worst showing of any state.

In 2001, only 50 percent of all black students and 53 percent of all Hispanic students in the United States graduated from high school.

As of October 2006, 80 percent of Brotherhood/Sister Sol alumni had graduated from high school.

On June 30, 2006, about 4.8 percent of all black men and almost 1.9 percent of all Hispanic men in the United States were in prison, compared to about 0.7 percent of all white men.

Black men ages 20 to 29 comprised 15.5 percent of the more than 2 million men in state, federal, or local custody on June 30, 2006.

As of October 2006, no Brotherhood/Sister Sol alumni were incarcerated.
From the Front Line

The Brotherhood/Sister Sol Rites of Passage is the core program on which the organization was founded. It establishes partnerships with public secondary schools to develop gender-specific (Brotherhood or Sister Sol) chapters, each consisting of 10 to 18 youth members and two adult Chapter Leaders. During an intensive four- to six-year Rites of Passage process, members learn critical thinking and global awareness skills through leadership development, drug awareness, conflict resolution, political education, community service, and other activities. Each chapter develops a Mission Statement and collectively defines what it means to be a sister/brother, woman/man, and leader. Members also create individual Oaths of Dedication—personal testimonies to how they will live their lives. The program is structured around ten curriculum focus issues, incorporating topics such as Pan-African and Latino history, sexism and misogyny, and political education and social justice.

Recommended Restaurants Near the Brotherhood/Sister Sol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Cuisine</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acapulco Caliente Restaurant</td>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>3508 Broadway</td>
<td>212-926-5558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinegar Hill</td>
<td>Sandwiches, Pizza</td>
<td>3385 Broadway</td>
<td>212-281-2083</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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NYRAg Members That Fund The Brotherhood/Sister Sol Include:

- The Clark Foundation
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- The Elias Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Charles Hayden Foundation
- Levitt Foundation
- The Vincent Mulford Foundation
- New York Foundation
- New York Women’s Foundation
- The Ritter Foundation
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- Scherman Foundation
- Surdna Foundation
- Tiger Foundation
- The Twenty-First Century Foundation

As part of NYRAg’s commitment to philanthropy, we have added a new feature to our website. Each week, Voices from the Front Line: Profiles of Our Nonprofit Partners will spotlight an exemplary grantee of one or more NYRAg members.

For more information on a particular grantee, please contact them directly. We rely on you to conduct your own due diligence; NYRAg has not done so. All members are encouraged to submit grantee suggestions—please contact us at talkback@nyrag.org.