



PRESS RELEASE
Date: May 25, 2022
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Rauch Foundation Transitions to New Leadership

New York, New York (June 27, 2022) - The Rauch Foundation announced today that Nancy Rauch Douzinas will be passing on the leadership of the foundation to the next generation of family members. Taking over the leadership of the foundation will be Dr. Douzinas' two daughters, both of whom bring years of experience in the business, engineering, and arts fields. Eva Douzinas will serve as the next president of the foundation and Ruth Douzinas will remain as a member of the executive committee. Patti Schaefer will remain as the foundation's managing director.

Dr. Douzinas became president of the Rauch Foundation in 1990 after a 20-year career as a psychologist and family therapist. She is a nationally recognized advocate for philanthropy's capacity to play a catalytic role by using research to raise awareness of regional needs and then spark real change through cross-sector partnerships and informed public discussion of policy.

While the Foundation will retain a small footprint in the Long Island region, it will be shifting its focus geographically to New England, where the family has a long-standing history. It plans to invest in one main priority area, that of critical life skills education in K-12 schools, focusing on health and wellness, financial literacy, and college and career planning. It will also be looking for partners to help in the development of a comprehensive turnkey model curriculum that can be adopted by schools and districts. The Foundation's vision is to ensure that every member of the rising generation has the practical knowledge and positive mindset they need to navigate a successful future.

According to Eva Douzinas, "The generational transition in leadership presents the opportunity to build on the Rauch Foundation's reputation and outsized influence for a funder of its size." In speaking of the foundation's shift in focus, she added, "My own observations as an employer and a parent are consistent with the research we are finding on the serious health crisis taking place in this country and the lack of preparation among high school graduates for the real world responsibilities of adulthood. We hope to bring together as many leaders and stakeholders as possible to help us improve the health and preparedness of high school graduates. As we have in the past, we'll do this by convening different sectors, seeding partnerships and offering good information for decision makers."

Initially in the 1990s the foundation focused primarily on addressing the needs of Long Island's most disadvantaged children and families and through its grant making it has supported innovative programs in early education, home visiting, and children's health. Docs for Tots executive director, Dr. Liz Isakson, credits the foundation's early support with helping Docs scale its programming and attract the attention of other, national funders. "Organizations count on foundations like Rauch, who can spot potential and are willing to take risks and be among the first investors if a program shows promise."

Anne Brigis, president and CEO of the Y of Long Island, noted that the foundation's readiness to offer support extends well beyond grants alone. "Rauch has been with us since the very beginning as a strategic partner and advisor, learning alongside us, offering technical support, helping us scale important work, opening doors to other funders, and engaging as a true collaborator. Their consistent philanthropic partnership helped sustain our programming during the pandemic and their first-in support of our Wyandanch healthy-living project is helping to make that vision a reality."

While the emphasis on children and families has remained important to its work, the foundation is also known in the environmental space for its investments on Long Island and in the Chesapeake region around land and water preservation. According to Long Island Pine Barrens CEO Dick Amper, "The early and sustained support of the Rauch Foundation played a key role in the preservation of more than 100,000 acres of pine barrens. Nancy's thought leadership and her important role as a convener has helped drive a movement towards greater awareness around regional problem-solving."

The foundation broadened its reach in the early 2000s as it became apparent that making social change of any sort on LI required a wider systemic lens that would address the issue of entrenched local home rule. One of the Foundation's best-known initiatives under Dr. Douzinas' leadership is the *Long Island Index*, which for 15 years provided unbiased, reliable data on key sectors and regional issues. Thanks to research coming out of the Index, the region was able to advance one of the largest infrastructure projects in recent years: the Third Track project on the Long Island Railroad. According to Kevin Law, former CEO of the Long Island Association and Chairman of Empire State Development Corporation, "The Long Island Index was one of the region's most important indicators and its metrics around the LIRR Third Track illustrating what it would mean for labor and economic development convinced law makers that it was a critical project for the region."

Bruce Stillman, President and CEO of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, credits the Long Island Index with giving the region an extraordinary base of objective data. He says, "Under Nancy's leadership, the Rauch Foundation has shone a spotlight on Long Island's many assets, including world-class research institutions, proximity to New York City, and a strong history of innovation. It is incumbent on us to continue the foundation's legacy and generate a powerful consensus among the public and all layers of government so that we can move our region forward."

The Long Island Index was transferred in 2018 to Newsday, under its nextLI project, but the foundation has continued its investment in regional research. In 2021, it commissioned a well-received study on Long Island downtowns in the wake of COVID-19 and most recently, it partnered with the Long Island Community Foundation to convene housing organizations around the issue of affordable housing.

As the transition proceeds, Dr. Douzinas hopes that Long Islanders will see this an opportunity "Now is the time for new generations of Long Islanders to step up and continue the progress that has been made. We have made tremendous strides in the past twenty years and I'm grateful to all of the partners and collaborators with whom the foundation has worked – those from business and labor, the academic community and all of the individuals and organizations that have used our investments to execute exciting new initiatives. I feel confident that other foundations, corporate leaders and political leaders will step up and will continue to work on making Long Island healthy and vibrant place to live."

About the Rauch Foundation:

The Rauch Foundation (www.rauchfoundation.org) was established in 1961 by Louis Rauch and Philip Rauch, Jr. Funding for the Foundation was made possible by the success of the Ideal Corporation, an

auto parts manufacturer founded in 1913 by Philip Rauch, Sr. Since its inception, the Rauch Foundation has been interested in ideas and organizations that spark and sustain systemic change.