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RACISM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ERASE Racism Awarded \$20,000 from LICF to Increase Education Equity on Long Island

ERASE Racism has received a \$20,000 grant from the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF) to support the organization's Education Equity Campaign, which was created to identify and address disparities in the resources made available for educational services in low-, average-, and high-need districts. Low-need districts are rich in resources, can provide first-rate learning facilities, technology, and faculty. In contrast, high-need districts are resource-starved. Seventy-six percent of all students in high-need districts are black and Hispanic.

For the past ten years ERASE Racism's work has showed that Long Island schools are both racially segregated and unequal. In 2004 the organization designed a conference (and published a companion monograph) entitled *Brown V. Board of Education: The Unfinished Agenda*, which challenged the widely accepted narrative that schools, including Long Island's, were no longer racially segregated and unequal. In 2009, we premiered our documentary, *A TALE OF TWO SCHOOLS: Race and Education on Long Island*, which shows how the educational success of two black students from Long Island with similar academic motivation and other social characteristics was strongly dependent on where the student attended school, rather than on individual aptitude. ERASE Racism has written opinion articles that appear regularly in the media to demonstrate the failure to provide excellent education to all students.

"With the support of the new LICF grant we will be able to advance the second stage of our Education Equity Campaign, which will focus on identifying intervention strategies, organizing work groups and developing an action plan for creating structural changes to Long Island's public school system," explains ERASE Racism's President Elaine Gross, further adding, "We are thrilled to be supported by a local foundation. This grant from the LICF means that one of the region's most prominent grant makers believe that achieving education equity is a priority for the region and that ERASE Racism can significantly contribute to advancing this goal."

For information on ERASE Racism's work, visit www.eraseracismny.org. For information on the Education Equity Campaign, or to get involved you can contact Olivia Ildefonso at 516-921-4863 x14, email olivia@eraseracismny.org.

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