JOBS PLUS: Boosting Employment on the Lower East Side

Henry Street’s Jobs Plus program — an employment service for residents of the Jacob Riis and Lillian Wald Houses on the Lower East Side— opened in March, 2013.

Already, some 138 individuals have undergone orientation, 50 have been placed in jobs, 30 are enrolled in GED classes and 85 have received financial coaching services. Most of these participants are also attending job readiness workshops.

In a supportive and encouraging environment, Henry Street’s dedicated staff and close community partners work one-on-one with participants to help them achieve success and financial independence.

The program provides opportunities for residents to improve skills and build confidence so they can find and keep a job. Services are also available to those already employed who want to advance in their careers.

Among the services offered are job placement assistance, financial literacy workshops, GED classes, career advancement assistance, free income tax preparation, access to legal services, and benefit and entitlement screening.

“Henry Street knows that the best way to support a community is to become deeply involved in the area — to provide social services where people live and work. It’s a founding tenet of the Settlement House system and a guiding principle today,” said David Garza, Executive Director of Henry Street. “The Jobs Plus program allows us to work directly with residents of the Riis and Wald Houses, and help them achieve financial independence and success.”

Jobs Plus is located at 24 Avenue D (at East Third Street). Residents of the Wald or Riis Houses can walk in or call 212.254.4333.

Real Life Stories

In April, Mr. J., 45, walked into Henry Street’s new Jobs Plus center looking for help. Two months earlier, he had been laid off from his job as a porter, where he had earned $10 per hour. This was a blow. The father of three — a 16-year-old and 10-year-old twins — fell into debt as he struggled to support his children.

The Jobs Plus staff welcomed Mr. J. and immediately began to work on an action plan. First they helped him gain control of his finances. With the help of the team, Mr. J. applied for unemployment benefits (for the first time ever), opened his first bank account, and together they created a plan for him to pay off his debt. Once this groundwork was established, the Jobs Plus team helped him embark on a focused job hunt. It didn’t take long for Mr. J. to find a job as a construction worker, one that pays $24 per hour.

Today, thanks to Jobs Plus, Mr. J. has his finances under control and a job that pays more than double his previous one. He can now support his children and provide for their future.

Thanks to Jobs Plus, Mr. J. has a well-paying job and can support his children.

265 HENRY STREET, NEW YORK NY 10002       212.766.9200        WWW.HENRYSTREET.ORG
HENRY STREET happenings

Henry Street Settlement opens doors of opportunity for Lower East Side residents and all New Yorkers through innovative social service, arts and health care programs. Here’s a snapshot of some latest news:

A RAIN GARDEN Grows on Henry Street

The Henry Street Rain Garden — the newest project in Henry Street’s green infrastructure initiative — debuted this past summer in Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Park, adjacent to the Settlement’s historic headquarters. The rain garden supports sustainability by collecting rainwater from the roof of 263-276 Henry Street and diverting it to the garden, thereby easing the strain on New York City’s already taxed sewage system, and eliminating the need to use city water to nourish the garden. “The rain garden is a way for Henry Street Settlement to maximize our green infrastructure initiative and help the community by creating a safer New York City,” said David Garza, Executive Director of Henry Street Settlement.

Seniors Benefit from NEW HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGY

Elderly clients of Henry Street’s NORC/Vladeck Cares program are receiving high-tech health management services as part of a pilot project launched by Pace University and eCaring (an in-home health care management system) to use new technology to address gaps in health care provision.

Randomly selected NORC/Vladeck Cares clients and their caregivers will receive six months of eCaring’s unique web-based health care management and monitoring system. The technology will track health care needs and compliance on the web in real time, relaying essential information to caregivers while clients remain at home. “This project is another way that Henry Street’s senior services division brings innovative services to our community,” said Janet Fischer, Henry Street Settlement’s Chief Administrator of Senior Services.

Off To COLLEGE

Some 68 college and college-bound students who participated in Henry Street’s programs received scholarships at the eleventh Annual Youth Scholarship Awards Ceremony held on June 20. The scholarships, ranging from $500 to $1,400, were made possible with generous support from the Abrons/Aranow Scholarship Fund. The students are heading off to New York University, Northeastern University, Wesleyan College, Swarthmore College, Binghamton University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Barnard College, University of Chicago, Columbia University and more.

Tatiana Fernandez, Barnard College, Class of 2017, and Timothy Delgado, NYC College of Technology, Class of 2017, were the student speakers at the scholarship ceremony.

Carmen Rondon, NORC/Vladeck Cares member, is one of the pilot program participants.

DAVID GARZA Honored for his Contributions

Henry Street Executive Director David Garza was honored by two downtown organizations this year. On March 21, The Asian Americans for Equality presented Garza with a 2013 Dream of Equality Award for his work promoting equality for Lower East Side residents. On June 20, the Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES) honored him for his commitment to community-building and workforce development. “It’s always nice to have one’s contributions acknowledged, but the real honor is the opportunity to work in our community daily, providing innovative and essential services,” said Garza.
The Art Show
The 26th annual Art Show Gala Preview — a dazzling event on New York’s social and cultural calendars — will be held on March 4, 2014, at the Park Avenue Armory. The Gala Preview will be followed by a five-day run of show from March 5 to 9, 2014. The Art Show, organized annually by the Art Dealers Association of America to benefit Henry Street, brings together 72 of the country’s leading art dealers to showcase the season’s most important artwork. Last year’s Art Show raised $1.1 million to support the Settlement’s vital social service, arts and health care programs.

For information, please call 212.766.9200 x247 or visit henrystreet.org/artshow.

2013 GALA DINNER DANCE
If Mrs. Astor’s “Four Hundred” were considered the best of society during the Gilded Age in New York, that distinction now belongs to the 400 guests who attended Henry Street’s Gala Dinner Dance at the Plaza Hotel on April 4, 2013.

The annual event, which raises critical funds to support the Settlement’s programs, honored Reed Krakoff, President and Executive Creative Director of Coach and Reed Krakoff; Alexandra Lebenthal, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lebenthal & Company LLC; and Carolina Gonzales-Bunster, Co-Founder of the Walkabout Foundation (pictured below).

Co-chairs for the event were Natalia Gottret Eschavarria, Kaliope Karela, Angela Mariani, Melissa Melling, Anna Pinheiro, Pilar Crespi Robert, Lesley Schulhof and Barbara von Bismark.

The 2014 Gala Dinner Dance will be held on April 8 at The Plaza Hotel. Please call 212.766.9200 x260 to receive an invitation.

UFC Commemorates 40 YEARS OF SERVICE
Nearly 200 people — among them government officials, shelter workers, advocates for the homeless and others — gathered at Henry Street’s Abrons Arts Center on May 21, 2013, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Settlement’s Urban Family Center (UFC). When the UFC opened in 1972, it was the first family shelter in the nation to house families in individual apartments and offer round-the-clock social services to clients; it has since become the national model for family shelters.

The Abrons Arts Center fall season is jam packed with performances, arts training classes, exhibits and more.

SELECT PERFORMANCES
A fully-staged workshop production of Mandy Patinkin and Taylor Mac’s The Last Two People on Earth: An Apocalyptic Vaudeville, featuring direction and choreography by Tony winner Susan Stroman, will be presented December 14-31. Tony winner Patinkin’s Broadway credits include Evita and Sunday in the Park With George, among others, and he currently stars in the Showtime series “Homeland.” Other notable productions include Pavel Zustiak/Palisissimo’s Endangered Pieces; Miguel Gutierrez’s myendlesslove; New York City Players’ House of Dance, written and directed by Tina Satter; and Performa 13, a biennial presenting new visual art performances.

EXHIBITS
Among the exhibits opening this fall are Activate NY, which explores the role of art in the current resurgence of populist activism, and Guts, co-curated by George Terry and Jonathan Durham.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS
Ballet à La Fosse, a dance class with Robert La Fosse, former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, is just one among dozens of dance, visual arts, theater and music classes for children and adults offered at the Abrons this year.

For information and tickets, visit abronsartscenter.org.
OPEN THE DOORS! Capital Campaign News

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our Board of Directors, New York City and State government agencies and officials, and several foundations and individuals, we have raised more than $8 million toward the $12 million goal of our capital campaign. The campaign, Open the Doors!, was launched to enable the agency to acquire and renovate the vacant firehouse adjacent to Settlement headquarters, enhance our historic buildings, create a building reserve fund and to support human resources, information technology and program services. “We are overwhelmed by the generous response from so many of our stakeholders,” said David Garza, Executive Director. “Reaching our goal will allow us to better serve our community.”

To make a gift, call 212.766.9200, or visit henrystreet.org/openthedoors. All donations of $1,000 or more will be acknowledged prominently in the Settlement’s landmark headquarters. Naming opportunities are also available.

Like What We Do? SUPPORT OUR WORK!

Henry Street Settlement relies on the generous support of individuals to help us provide vital social service, arts and health care programs to 50,000 individuals each year. When you support the Settlement, you can be confident your money goes where it is most needed: 89 cents of every dollar donated goes directly towards helping our clients.

GIVE A GIFT: Your donation to our general operating fund, to support a specific program, to honor an individual or life event, can make a difference today. Ask about our planned giving program to create a lasting legacy.

ATTEND A SPECIAL EVENT: The Art Show, Gala Dinner Dance and other events allow you to enjoy arts, social and cultural events while directly supporting our programs.

VOLUNTEER: Donate your time and expertise (serve meals to seniors, paint a day care classroom, etc.) to have meaningful impact on Henry Street’s programs, clients and facilities.

DONATE GOODS AND SERVICES: Your donation of items (bicycles, art supplies, toys, books and office furniture) or services (photography, printing, etc.) allows us to better meet our clients’ needs.

For more information on ways to support Henry Street, please contact the Development and External Relations Department at 212.766.9200 or visit henrystreet.org/donate. Checks may be made payable to Henry Street Settlement, 265 Henry Street, New York, NY 10002.

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KATZ’S Deli Birthday Party Benefits Henry Street

A once-in-a-lifetime Shabbat dinner to celebrate Katz’s Deli’s 125th anniversary was held on May 31st, with proceeds benefiting Henry Street (which began assisting the poor just five years after Katz’s grilled its first hot dog). Gilbert Gottfried served as master-of-ceremonies as the 200 guests dined on celebrity chef interpretations of Katz’s classics. Chefs included Joey Campanaro (Little Owl, Market Table, Quality Clam), Bill Telepan (Telepan), Danny Bowien (Mission Chinese), and pastry chef Sarabeth Levine. Guests, who watched a video about Henry Street and were entertained by a rap performed by Executive Director David Garza, included U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney; New York City Comptroller John Lui; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate Levin; mayoral candidates Joseph Lhota and Adolfo Carrion, Jr.; Community Board 3 chair and district manager Gigi Li and Susan Stetzer; and entertainer Marilyn Michaels.