Off to College! Thanks, Henry Street

“Henry Street has given me so many opportunities,” says 18-year-old Jessica Ramos, a freshman at her top college choice—SUNY Stony Brook.

Henry Street’s Expanded Horizons college prep program provided the counseling and support Jessica needed to choose schools that matched her goals and to stay motivated during a high-pressure time. Henry Street staff encouraged her to consider options where she could become more independent by living away from home. “This was the most important advice that Henry Street gave me,” says Jessica.

Expanded Horizons wasn’t Jessica’s first encounter with Henry Street’s youth programs; three years ago, she participated in the summer counselors-in-training/leadership program. Henry Street then linked Jessica to an internship in the marketing department at Bloomberg LP, which piqued her interest in a career in business or marketing. Jessica also worked in Henry Street’s after-school program and day camp, where she served as a leader for younger children. Now pursuing a degree in business and marketing, Jessica looks forward to returning to Henry Street during her vacations to visit the staff who helped her so much.

Back to School with Henry Street

What do rocket science, rugby tournaments, youth employment and a college prep program have in common? They’re all happening at Henry Street Settlement this fall.

Regardless of age or interests, there’s something for every young person at Henry Street. Programming is in full swing at the early childhood education centers, after-school programs, and adolescent programs, and planning is already underway for the 2008 summer camp season.

After School

Exciting activities in after-school programs this year include a new rocket science class, swimming at the local Y and a new community service project in partnership with the ACA Gallery. Through the project, children will create bookmarks that will be exhibited in Toronto to raise funds to restock libraries in Afghanistan. Also back by popular demand is “High School is a Big Deal,” which pairs middle school students with high school mentors who help them develop positive expectations of high school and prepare for this transition. After-school programs—which serve hundreds of children ages six to 14—began on September 10 at four partner school sites and Henry Street’s two community centers (the Helen Hall Youth Center at 301 Henry Street and the Boys and Girls Republic at 888 East Sixth Street).

Adolescent Services

The school year is off to a busy start with a full slate of activities, including SAT preparatory classes, individual and group college counseling, college trips, tutoring, work readiness workshops and internship placements. All teens receive a comprehensive assessment by a case manager to match them with services that will help them meet their goals. New this year, Henry Street is bringing its Expanded Horizons college counseling services directly into a local public high school. Now, students at the Urban Assembly Academy for Government and Law receive college prep services, including SAT courses and tutoring right in their own school, and have the opportunity to visit college campuses.

Sports & Recreation

Track and cross country, rugby, basketball, flag football, and open gym activities for youth of all ages are on the menu in Henry Street’s fall sports and recreation program. After building their skills through coaching and practice sessions, youth will participate in friendly competition through tournaments and leagues with other community and citywide organizations.
Henry Street Settlement enriches the lives of Lower East Side residents and all New Yorkers through innovative social services, arts programs and health care services. Here’s a snapshot of some current programs:

**Registered Nurses ENHANCE Housekeeping Services**

Henry Street’s housekeeping services have been enhanced with a new staff of registered nurses who will travel throughout the city to assess clients’ needs and help connect them to necessary services. The housekeeping program assists approximately 800 individuals, including the elderly and disabled, with critical household tasks, enabling them to remain safe and independent.

**Serving Up GROUP THERAPY with Dinner**

The Community Consultation Center’s Family Mental Health program, which provides therapeutic services to adults living with HIV/AIDS and their families, has launched two new support groups — a Wednesday dinner group and a Saturday brunch group — to engage new clients. In addition to enjoying delicious home-cooked meals, individuals participate in group activities designed to build coping skills and self-esteem, foster healthy social interactions and alleviate the isolation and stress that often accompany HIV/AIDS. They can also access case management, vocational counseling and other services.

**CELEBRATING Employment**

Nearly 50 “graduates” of Henry Street’s Workforce Development Center programs attended a recent Alumni Night to celebrate their achievement and to connect with a wealth of services (free or reduced cost health insurance, checking accounts and more) that can support them in their new careers and help them retain employment. Alumni nights are held four times annually.

Kevin Heredia, a Workforce Development alumnus, on the job.

**Stellar Performers at ABRONS ARTS CENTER**

An exciting line-up of performers will take the stage at the Abrons Arts Center this fall. Two-time Obie Award winner Danny Hoch will premiere his new play “Till the Break of Dawn” (presented with the Culture Project) on August 28th. Performances will run through October 20th. The Crown Point Festival, a three-week multimedia international extravaganza will bring the best new music, theater and film to the Lower East Side from October 27th to November 18th. Urban Youth Theatre will present Susan Lori Parks’ “365 Plays/365 Days” on October 26th and 27th and the Samhain Carnival will host a spooktacular festival of puppetry, music and theater from November 1st through 4th. Returning November 24 to December 5th is the Henry Street perennial favorite, the Nutcracker on the Lower, and the Lower East Side Film Festival will fill the center from December 7th to 9th. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.henrystreet.org/arts.

**You Can ATTAIN FREE Computer Training**

The Henry Street ATTAIN (Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking) Lab has introduced a Microsoft certification training to assist community members in gaining valuable credentials that can help them secure work in the technology field. The ATTAIN Lab offers beginner and intermediate level classes in a variety of computer applications throughout the year. Please visit www.henrystreet.org for a schedule of current classes.

Henry Street’s ATTAIN Lab offers free computer training and internet access to all community residents.

Photos: Left & Bottom/David Grossman; Top/Shirley Miranda-Rodriguez, Somos Artes
The 19TH ANNUAL ART SHOW: Record-Breaking Support for Henry Street

The 19th Annual Art Show raised a record-breaking $1.7 million to support Henry Street Settlement’s programs and services. The show, organized by the Art Dealers Association of America to benefit Henry Street, was held at the Park Avenue Armory from February 22–26, 2007. The gala preview opening event on February 21, run-of-show ticket sales, the silent auction of a Matisse drawing and the sale of a limited edition Gregory Crewdson print all contributed to the unprecedented total. Nearly 13,000 art enthusiasts and friends of Henry Street attended the show.

The Art Show received generous support from lead underwriter Lehman Brothers and from Fairfield Greenwich Group. Co-Chairs were Kathy and Richard Fuld, Ulla and Kevin Parker, and Byron and Anita Volz Wien. Art world notables Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, Kitty Carlisle Hart and Richard J. Schwartz served as Honorary Co-Chairs. Among the celebrities and noted New Yorkers spotted browsing the show galleries were Mikhail Baryshnikov, Yoko Ono, Martha Stewart and actresses Elizabeth Berkeley and Leelee Sobieski.


Home SWEET Home, At Last

The New York City Department of Homeless Services recognized two Henry Street transitional shelters for their success in transitioning homeless individuals and families to stable, permanent housing. Helen’s House, which serves single mothers and their preschool-age children, received accolades for helping 25 families make this transition last year, and the Third Street Women’s Residence was noted for relocating 90 single adult women.

Today, You are NO LONGER a Puppy

On one of spring’s first warm days, Henry Street’s seniors gathered outdoors to help Janet Fisher, chief of senior services, celebrate her dog Sonora’s 13th birthday. The “Bark-Mitzvah” drew several dogs and their owners from the surrounding Vladeck Houses apartments for some sniffs and handshakes, salsa music, birthday cake and party favors. “Interacting with animals can be very therapeutic for seniors,” said Fisher. “Using pets to reach out to seniors is an effective way to reduce isolation and loneliness and increase social interaction.”

Young New Yorkers Support Henry Street at the 2007 MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE

The Mardi Gras Masquerade, held on March 10, 2007, drew 222 young New York philanthropists to the Prince George Ballroom for a glamorous soiree to raise funds for Henry Street’s programs. The partygoers, many in festive masks, enjoyed a night of dancing and fun that featured casino gaming, Motown hits and modern tunes by a live band, specialty cocktails and culinary delights. At midnight, festivities peaked with the entrance of the 29-member Krewe d’Henri parade, led by committee member and former committee chair Lydia Fenet as the Mardi Gras Queen. Guests also had the chance to cash in their casino winnings for fabulous prizes like a pair of David Yurman earrings, an Angel Feet reflexology gift certificate and a stay at Madison Avenue’s Carlton Hotel. More than $40,000 was raised to support the social services and community arts programs offered at Henry Street.
Ways to Give: BEQUESTS

Bequests provide vital funding that assist the Settlement in sustaining many of its programs and services in the long-term. Leaving a gift in your will allows you to support Henry Street without depleting current assets, and may also reduce estate taxes. Bequests also enable many donors to make more substantial donations than they would be able to contribute during their lifetimes.

To learn more about making a bequest to Henry Street Settlement or how your support would impact our community, please contact the Henry Street Settlement Development Office at 212.766.9200. Your attorney can help you make estate plans, and determine whether such a gift might reduce your estate taxes.

The Story of One Bequest

A recent major bequest from the Estate of Rita Markus is now supporting two essential programs: the Neighborhood Resource Center and the Parent Center. At the Neighborhood Resource Center, located at 281 East Broadway, community residents can access benefits screening, financial counseling, legal advice and case management, as well as entry to the array of programs at Henry Street. Just downstairs at the Parent Center, small group workshops, information and referral services, and special events help parents become well-prepared and confident in the challenging role of caregiver.