OPEN THE DOORS!
The CAMPAIGN for Henry Street Settlement

Henry Street has launched a $12 million capital campaign to keep our doors open for the thousands of New Yorkers who depend on us right now — and for generations to come. These vital funds will enable us to maintain and grow our facilities so that we can continue to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for Lower East Side residents and all New Yorkers.

The campaign will allow us to open the vacant firehouse adjacent to our 265 Henry Street headquarters as the Neighborhood Resource Center and our new “front door”; preserve and retrofit our c. 1830 national landmark headquarters; transform our 301 Henry Street building into the best possible resource for our youth programs; update our Abrons Arts Center’s exterior, reenvision public use of its gallery and amphitheater, and make improvements to the landmark Playhouse; create a building reserve fund to address critical ongoing capital needs; and invest in human resources, technology and programs to enhance staff performance and service delivery.

“The Campaign for Henry Street allows us to preserve our past, keeps us relevant and competitive in today’s challenging environment and positions us for future growth and progress,” explained David Garza, Executive Director of Henry Street. “It is essential that we invest in our facilities and systems so that they match the high quality of our programs.”

All donations of $1,000 and more to the Campaign for Henry Street will be acknowledged in a prominent display in the Settlement’s landmark lobby. Naming opportunities are also available.

For more information, or to make a gift, please call 212.766.9200 or visit www.henrystreet.org/openthedoors.

Artist rendering of the interior of the firehouse (top) and the exterior (bottom). Traditionally an anchor for the community, the firehouse will again play the role of “first responder” — this time for families in crisis when our Neighborhood Resource Center relocates there.
Henry Street Settlement opens doors of opportunity for 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:

The Urban Family Center: 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Opened in 1972 as the first shelter in the nation for homeless families, Henry Street’s Urban Family Center marks its 40th year of service this year. The Urban Family Center (UFC) model — originally a bold social experiment — has proven the most effective solution to house homeless families in New York and in cities across the country.

What distinguished the UFC was that families were housed in clean, self-contained apartments with kitchen facilities, and that social services were offered on site 24 hours a day to help families move into permanent housing. This is still true today.

At a ceremony to be held on November 13, Danny Kronenfeld, former Henry Street Executive Director and the UFC founder, will be given the UFC Founders Award. The UFC Founding Partners award will be given to Robert Doar, Commissioner of the Human Resources Administration, and John B. Rhea, Commissioner of the New York City Housing Authority. Seth Diamond, Commissioner of Department of Homeless Services, will receive the UFC Partner Award, and Henry Street employees will be recognized with UFC Pioneer Staff Awards.

Fresh Start in the KITCHEN with ARTHUR SCHWARTZ

Tomato sauce. Chickpea soup. Stuffed mushrooms. These are just a few of the dishes that residents of Helen’s House, one of Henry Street’s family shelters, are learning to cook in a 10-session course designed to help them stretch their food dollar while preparing delicious and healthy meals. The course, Fresh Start in the Kitchen, is the brainchild of Arthur Schwartz, the author of seven cookbooks, former host of WOR Radio’s Food Talk show, and former food editor of the New York Daily News.

“Even though I’m retired, I am thrilled to find a venue in which to share my culinary knowledge to introduce low-income families to new foods and new ways to save money,” said Schwartz.

Arthur Schwartz in Henry Street’s kitchen.

Dance Star ROBERT LA FOSSE Joins Henry Street

Acclaimed dance star Robert La Fosse has been named Director of Education at the Abrons Arts Center, responsible for training programs in dance, theater, music, and the visual arts, as well as school-based education and public programs.

La Fosse joined American Ballet Theatre in 1977, where he performed as a Principal Dancer for nine years. In addition to his work in ballet, La Fosse has starred in Broadway productions of Bob Fosse’s Dancin’ and Jerome Robbins’ Broadway, for which he received a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor. He has taught dance at institutions including Barnard College and the North Carolina School of the Arts.

“With Robert joining our staff, the Abrons launches into the stratosphere of possibilities,” said Jay Wegman, Director of the Abrons Arts Center. “We’re thrilled to have him.”
After-School FUNDS RESTORED!
When proposed government funding cuts to youth programs were announced last spring, Henry Street took action.

Joining with fellow Lower East Side settlement houses and other groups, Henry Street held a town hall meeting attended by hundreds to demonstrate community outrage over the cuts. Supporting the cause were State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, City Council Members Margaret Chin and Rosie Mendez, State Senator Daniel Squadron and Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh.

And through advocacy efforts by Henry Street’s staff and Board of Directors, some 1,500 letters, petition signatures, and children’s drawings were delivered to City Hall in protest.

Good news was delivered this summer: New York’s mayor and City Council announced they would restore funding for one year to selected youth programs, including the Settlement’s vital after-school services, which are an invaluable resource for low-income working families.

Henry Street UNIVERSITY
For high school seniors, autumn means it’s time to apply to colleges, and Henry Street’s Expanded Horizons college prep program is doing more this year than ever to ensure that students are prepared.

In August, students completed Henry Street University, an intensive summer program that provides assistance with college applications and financial aid and offers college visits. Some 64 of those students also completed an SAT preparation course, and all participants benefited from a roundtable discussion with the admissions directors of SUNY and CUNY.

“I was supposed to be in North Carolina on vacation, but I decided to be a part of this instead,” said Dave Antoine, 16, an Expanded Horizons participant who aspires to be a pediatrician. “Henry Street had made the process easier and much less stressful.”

Expanded Horizons also offers tutoring, individual counseling, and preparation for the New York State Regents exams. Services are offered at the Youth Services headquarters, as well as at several local high schools.
Henry Street Wins PRESERVATION GRANT

Henry Street received a $175,000 grant from Partners in Preservation (PIP) after a lively four-week social media competition. Henry Street placed fifth out of 40 organizations competing in New York City. Funds will be used to make the Settlement’s historic headquarters more energy efficient.

In addition to the online campaign, Henry Street hosted a community birthday party for agency founder Lillian Wald (she turned 145 this year) to get out the vote. More than 600 people attended the event, which featured old-time street games, a cake baking contest, Zumba, refreshments and more.

PIP is a program in which American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation awards preservation grants to historic places to increase the public’s awareness of historic preservation and to preserve America’s historic and cultural places.

JEWELS FOR HOPE Auction = $1 MILLION GIFT for Henry Street

Thanks to the generosity of philanthropist Lily Safra — and an auction held an ocean away — Henry Street will be able to help many more New Yorkers. On May 14, 2012, part of Safra’s renowned jewelry collection was sold at the auction “Jewels For Hope” at Christie’s Geneva in Switzerland, breaking two auction records and raising nearly $32 million for charity; $1 million of which has been donated to the Settlement.

“Henry Street Settlement is an extraordinary organization that helps thousands of people in need every day,” said Lily Safra. “It is a great privilege to be able to support them.”

The gift will support Settlement programs like after-school and college prep services, health insurance enrollment, job readiness training, benefits screening and legal and financial counseling. More than 10,000 individuals will benefit from these services.

“We are truly grateful to Lily Safra for this generous — and truly transformational — gift that will provide vital resources for our most vulnerable neighbors,” said David Garza, Executive Director of Henry Street.