



**HENRY STREET
SETTLEMENT**

NEWS from HENRY STREET

FALL/WINTER 2009

265 HENRY STREET, NEW YORK NY 10002

212.766.9200

WWW.HENRYSTREET.ORG

Real Life Stories

After the deaths of several friends, **Roger Barth**, 77, sought help coping with grief and loneliness. He came to Henry Street where he meets weekly with a Senior Services social worker — and discovered a new way to stay active. Roger



now volunteers with the Settlement's Senior Companion Program, providing homebound, elderly people with friendship and helping them live independently. "This is one of the best senior programs in the city," he says. "There's so much activity and so many people."

Roger visits three Senior Companion clients weekly and serves on the program's advisory panel. Henry Street, he says, has given him a sense of fulfillment and purpose. "Someone told me when you retire to never put on slippers," Roger says, smiling. "I don't own a pair."

After moving to New York in 1991, **Mei Juan Zhao**, 45, struggled to find and keep a job — mostly because she knew little English. In 2007, Mei, formerly a housekeeper in her native China and a mother of one, enrolled in the



Workforce Development Center's ESL Job Training, a 10-week course that helps participants plan for success and increase confidence while learning English. Using her new skills, Mei found part-time work in Henry Street's Meals on Wheels program, delivering meals to seniors. She was soon hired full-time. "It was very hard to find work before learning more English and taking classes," Mei said. "I couldn't have gotten this job without Henry Street."

When Times are Tough, Henry Street Gets Tougher— But Still Needs Your Help!

"Across the city, nonprofit groups that provide social services to New Yorkers are reeling, trying to fulfill their core missions as demand for those services rises and their ability to provide them shrinks," wrote Diane Cardwell in the August 22, 2009, issue of *The New York Times*.

Henry Street was featured prominently in the article. "We have experienced cutbacks at all levels of funding — government, corporate, foundation and individual," said Verona Middleton-Jeter, Executive Director of Henry Street. "For example, individual giving, and money raised from events, is down 60 percent from last year and our endowment has decreased 24 percent during this same period."

What's happening at Henry Street is echoed in nearly every social service agency. On September 9, 2009, a report called "heartbreaking" revealed that more than half of all human services organizations in New York City face severe financial hardship. The report, released by the Human Service Council and the Baruch College School of Public Affairs, showed that more than 60 percent of organizations surveyed have experienced decreases in public funding; 80 percent said they face major reductions in private funding.

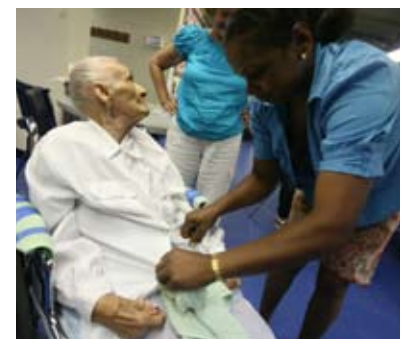
This is a worst case scenario for social service agencies and the clients they serve. Essentially, the economic crisis responsible for funding cuts is, at the same time, increasing the numbers of individuals who need social service programs as poverty levels rise. Indeed, the Settlement's Workforce Development Center and Neighborhood Resource Center have seen unprecedented numbers of clients since the economy began to fail last year.

Since its founding in 1893, Henry Street — which offers health care, social services and arts programs to more than 50,000 individuals each year — has survived dozens of recessions and depressions. But today, drastic steps are being taken to provide services to all in need, as well as to communicate the needs of our clients to the public.

Declines in revenue have been steep at Henry Street, and Middleton-Jeter expects the situation to get worse next year. Steps taken so far include a hiring freeze for non-essential positions, consolidating and streamlining programs which have resulted in approximately 30 staff lay-offs, delaying all non-essential capital projects, reducing strategic plan initiatives and, on a more positive note, working diligently to identify new revenue-generating opportunities.



Students in the ATTAIN Computer Lab.



The Good Companions Senior Center

HENRY STREET happenings

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:

HENRY STREET in the *News*...and the *Times* and MORE

The important work done at Henry Street is making headlines.

A *New York Times* story in January on the Home Planning Workshop brought in a donation generous enough to keep the endangered program open and brought recognition to Ruth Taube, the Workshop's director, who was also profiled on the NBC Nightly News website and received the President's Award from the Fashion Institute of Technology.

In April, *The New York Times* published a column that featured an unusual connection between the family of Robert Harrison, the agency's board chairman, and a young mother whom Henry Street sheltered and then helped find permanent housing. Jay Wegman, artistic director of the Abrons Arts Center, was profiled in a *New York Times* column in May, and the *New York Daily News* ran a two-page story in June about Shaquana Gardner, a youth client whose moving essay about being a first-generation college student secured her a ticket to a speech by President Obama. Ms. Gardner was also honored by State Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, an event covered in the *Daily News* and other media. In August, the *Daily News* wrote about the seniors at the Settlement's Good Companion Senior Center enjoying pieces of the world's largest matzo ball (267 pounds), which was donated to the Center and served in chicken soup.

The free income tax preparation workshops offered at the Workforce Development Center were the subject of several news reports on 1010WINS Radio, and Matthew Phifer of Youth Services appeared on Fox News *Good Day Street Talk* to discuss summer youth employment. A feature story about the Senior Companion Program appeared in the *Queens Courier*.

Verona Middleton-Jeter, Henry Street's Executive Director, was profiled in July by *The Lo-Down*, a Lower East Side website.

Most recently, Henry Street was featured in a *New York Times* story about how social service agencies are holding on during the recession; the article also featured two photographs of Settlement programs.



▲
Teresa Chan, M.D., medical
director of Health Unlimited

Bringing HEALTH CARE to Shelter Residents

A unique collaboration between two Henry Street programs — the Health Unlimited Medical Clinic (HUL) and the East Third Street Women's Shelter — is bringing health services where they are most needed. "This program, an important integration of Henry Street services, brings vital care to the medically vulnerable shelter population," said Lorraine Ahto, Chief Officer for Planning and Integration at Henry Street.

Three afternoons each week, health care providers from HUL set up shop in the shelter, where they perform health screenings, and provide medical consultation and coordination of care. "This wonderful program brings the health care into the shelter, removing a barrier faced by chronically homeless individuals," said Geniria Armstrong, Henry Street's Deputy Program Officer for Transitional and Supportive Housing.

The program has already saved lives. When a blood test revealed significant anemia, Teresa Chan, M.D., HUL's Medical Director, immediately sent the patient to the hospital for a lifesaving blood transfusion.

Plans are underway to expand services in the shelter. For services not yet available on-site, patients are seen at HUL. "Because we now have electronic medical records, I can access a patient's medical records at both locations," said Dr. Chan. "Many residents have chronic medical conditions, and now because of the trusting relationship that develops between us and the residents, they are more likely to seek help."



Coming up at the ABRONS: Nikolais: A Centennial Celebration

Modern dance pioneer Alwin Nikolais (b. 1910), artistic director of Henry Street's Playhouse from 1948 to 1967, will be honored with a festival of events on April 30 and May 1 and 2, 2010, at the Abrons Arts Center.

The centerpiece of the celebration is the remounting of four landmark works in the same theater where the dances were originally created and performed. The internationally renowned Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company will present

three of the dances; the fourth will be performed by the Abrons Arts Center Dance Ensemble, a pre-professional training program for youth, who will rehearse with Alberto del Saz, co-director of the Nikolais/Louis Foundation for Dance, and under whose direction the landmark works will be presented.

Nikolais is recognized as an innovator who has inspired generations of choreographers. Under his direction, Phyllis Lamhut, Twyla Tharp and Paul Taylor studied and performed at Henry Street.



◀ Meals on Wheels drivers, from left, Raquel Lopez, Robert Oliver and Yanming Lamiau

Henry Street REALLY DELIVERS – Just Ask 1,000 Seniors

"I live alone and receive very little public assistance. I don't know what I would do without these delicious meals — they are a big contribution to my life," said Mrs. Q, 81, and a resident of midtown Manhattan. "My deliverer is wonderful, and I look forward to seeing him every morning."

Mrs. Q. is just one of the 1,000 seniors who receive home-delivered meals each day through Henry Street Settlement's Meals on Wheels program. While the Settlement has had a Meals on Wheels program for many years, it was recently expanded when New York City's Department for the Aging awarded Henry Street (and its subcontractors University Settlement, United Jewish Council of the LES, the Chinese American Planning Council and Encore) a large contract to expand the program. Seven new meal deliverers, an additional driver and three additional trucks were added to make this expansion possible.

Meals on Wheels is vitally important because many seniors have limited access to nutritious meals. They are often too frail or have health complications that prevent them from preparing meals for themselves or participating in a lunch program at a senior center (like Henry Street's Good Companions Senior Center).

Henry Street delivers hot meals Monday through Friday (or frozen meals twice weekly) to seniors living in specific areas in Manhattan. For more information about the program, please call 212.349.2770.

Workforce Development Center: NOW, MORE THAN EVER

All of Henry Street's programs have felt the effects of the economic recession, especially the agency's Workforce Development Center (WDC), which comes "face to face" with casualties of declining employment every day.

Responding to the increased numbers of individuals who walk in for job training and job placement services, and anticipating those numbers will continue to grow, the WDC has increased both the size and frequency of its Job Essentials Training class. "In the past, we have offered a new cycle every three weeks," said David Garza, Chief Administrator of the WDC. "But now, to accommodate more clients, we are offering the program every two weeks."

Job Essentials Training is WDC's introductory program that helps community residents improve their skills and increase employment opportunities. The program focuses on employment as a goal and provides the resources and tools to help people find and keep jobs. Activities in the program include resume writing, interview practice, career planning and job search assistance. "In addition to our workshops and vocational counseling, what's of equal value is the confidence and support that we provide to our clients when they need it the most," said Garza. For more information about the WDC, please call 212.478.5400 or stop in at 99 Essex Street (corner of Delancey Street).

◀ Carol Ng, WDC staffer, left, working with a client.



Top, left to right: Lucy Mitchell-Innes, Roland Augustine, Dale Burch. Right and below: Scenes from 2009 gala opening.



The 2010 ART SHOW: A NEW DATE for this "Don't Miss" Event

Start planning now to join Henry Street at the 2010 Art Show, one of New York City's most exciting early spring events. For the first time, the show will be held in March — from Tuesday, March 2, through Sunday, March 7, 2010.

On Tuesday, March 2, the always lively Art Show Gala Preview at the Park Avenue Armory, a "don't-miss" event on New York's social and cultural calendars, will launch the Art Show and an entire week of city-wide arts events. Esty and Dan Brodsky, Alexandra Lebenthal, and Byron and Anita Volz Wien will co-chair this event, which attracts an exclusive gathering of art world, business, entertainment and media leaders.

The Art Show will be open to the public from March 3-7, 2010. Described last year by Roberta Smith in *The New York Times* as "a fair loaded with work that you will be grateful to see," The Art Show is organized annually by the Art Dealers Association of America to benefit Henry Street Settlement. Seventy of the nation's leading art dealers will come together to present an outstanding five-day exhibition of museum-quality works for sale, from old masters to modern and contemporary art.

Sponsorship opportunities, which provide recognition and benefits, are still available.

For more information about sponsorship or to purchase tickets to the Gala Preview, please call 212.766.9200 x248 or visit henrystreet.org/artshow.



PAYING IT FORWARD: Youth Scholarships at Henry Street

This is the story of how an act of kindness in 1896, family generosity, a birthday tribute and, most recently, a group of church employees, all have contributed to helping hundreds of low-income youth go to college.

Henry Street's Youth Scholarships, funded traditionally by the Abrons/Aranow Fund and, for the first time this year, by Trinity Wall Street as well, provides needy college students with money — up to \$1,100 each — to help them purchase textbooks and offset other school-related expenses.

The scholarships have been awarded since 1997, but their origin can be traced back to 1896 when Henry Street's founder, Lillian Wald saved a mother of five from destitution by giving her work sewing uniforms for visiting nurses.

Fast forward to 1996, when nine cousins — all great-grandchildren of that mother helped by Henry Street — wanted to honor their parents, Herbert Abrons, Rita Aranow and Richard Abrons, her grandchildren.

"The Abrons/Aranow Scholarship Fund was formed as a tribute on the occasion of our parents' birthdays, 85, 80 and 70, respectively," said Anne Abrons, one of the nine cousins who conceived the tribute. She, and her uncle Richard Abrons, are both current Henry Street board members.

"The Settlement has a bedrock place of importance in Abrons family history," said Abrons, explaining that she and her cousins asked former Henry Street Executive Director Danny Kronenfeld for funding ideas for the tribute, and he suggested the scholarship fund.

"It was especially thrilling to learn that Trinity Wall Street contributed this year — that was new," said Abrons.

Trinity Wall Street contributed toward the youth scholarships as part of an effort among church employees to become more involved with youth services at the Settlement. In addition to the monetary gift, the employees contribute their time mentoring youth, participating in career night and other initiatives for adolescents enrolled in Henry Street programs.



In GOOD Company

Lillian Wald, Henry Street's founder, has been named to The New York 400 — the first-ever list of the city's ultimate movers and shakers since the city's founding 400 years ago, in 1609. Miss Wald joins a group of diverse and illustrious New Yorkers including Robert Moses, Grandmaster Flash, Pete Hamill, Henry Hudson, Nellie Bly and more.

KEEP UP with Henry Street

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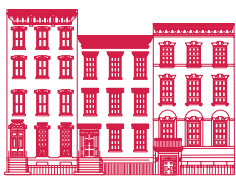
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Writers: Susan LaRosa, Ryan Wenzel
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Photos: p.1: left, Ryan Wenzel
p. 2: left, Brent Herridge;
right, David Grossman
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265 Henry Street
New York, NY 10002
212.766.9200
henrystreet.org