



Homes for the
Homeless



Putting children first...

Serving NYC's Neediest Families Since 1986

Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report





...supporting their **Success**
...with a focus on **education**

A Message from Our President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends of Homes for the Homeless,

More than a quarter of a century ago, New York City's most vulnerable families started becoming homeless in record numbers. The plight of these mostly young mothers with children led to the founding of Homes for the Homeless in 1986 as a response to what was thought to be a temporary problem.

Twenty-five years of experience later, we understand so much more about family homelessness and the factors that lead to families becoming homeless. More importantly, over those 25 years we have developed programs and strategies that help families move beyond homelessness to create and maintain stable, healthy households with thriving, successful children.

For more than two decades, we have assisted over 41,000 families and 70,000 children with emergency shelter, transitional housing, employment and education services, childcare, case management, and health care services. Our early childhood education centers, after-school programs, summer camps, and family support center have a recognized track record of success. We have touched the lives of thousands of young people, helping them to succeed in school and achieve their educational goals. This is the only way to permanently break the cycle of family homelessness. In sum, the communities of opportunity we have created in our facilities have resulted in thousands of positive outcomes, from improved literacy levels to stable employment to positive parenting to strong families.

As we celebrated our 25th anniversary and looked toward the future, we introduced Milk from the Heart, an expansion of our mission to include the nutritional needs and overall well-being of children living in not just homeless shelters, but in poor neighborhoods across New York City.

As we continue to fulfill our mission well into our third decade of operation, we will strive to continually improve and refine the ways that we work with and for families. Our programs are described herein. I encourage you to read, reflect, and reach out with your questions and ideas. If we have learned anything from our experience since our founding, it is simply that it takes a community to end homelessness. Today's homeless children are counting on us.



Ralph da Costa Nunez



HFH provides homework help
to nearly **125** children each
weeknight at our American Family Inns.

A background photograph of children in a park. In the foreground, a child in a red shirt is partially visible. In the background, another child in a green shirt is seen. The scene is outdoors with trees and grass.

Mission and History

At Homes for the Homeless, our mission is to provide homeless families with the opportunities and support necessary to move out of shelter and live independently.

With the knowledge that family homelessness is first and foremost a poverty issue that disproportionately affects children, Homes for the Homeless has adopted a family-based, child-centered, education-focused approach to all its programs and services.

Homes for the Homeless was founded by business leader and philanthropist Leonard N. Stern in 1986. These were tumultuous times. Government, nonprofit, and business leaders alike were desperate for solutions to stem the increasing numbers of families appearing at the city's doorstep with nowhere to live and no means of support. Homes for the Homeless was founded on the premise that homelessness is often a symptom of deeper, more complex family issues. As such, we developed the American Family Inn model to address the many challenges that families experience. Our American Family Inns enable us to provide both short-term services to families who are experiencing temporary, situational poverty, as well as to serve the more intensive, longer-term needs of families experiencing a deep, sometimes generational, poverty.

Prospect Family Inn

The Prospect Family Inn opened in 1986 and was the first American Family Inn. The Prospect has the capacity to serve 88 families with children and also is the home to the Prospect Family Support Center. It is located in the Mott Haven/Hunts Point section of the South Bronx, in the 16th district—the poorest Congressional district in the United States.

Saratoga Family Inn

The Saratoga Family Inn has been operating since 1987 and is the largest of Homes for the Homeless' American Family Inns, serving 255 families at any given time. Located in Jamaica, Queens, the Saratoga serves families of all compositions, from single mothers with young children to couples with children and extended families. A Camelot Counseling Services office is on-site to provide substance abuse counseling, related services, and referrals to adults, adolescents, and families at the Saratoga.

Clinton Family Inn

The Clinton Family Inn is located on the west side of Manhattan and has been in operation since 1992. The Clinton serves mothers with young children, with a variety of services tailored to their specific needs, including child development workshops, parenting education, and career and life-planning support groups. It has the capacity to serve 81 families with children. The Clinton utilizes a robust network of individual volunteers and service organizations to enhance programming opportunities for children and their parents during their stay.

Williamsbridge Family Inn

The Williamsbridge Family Inn is the newest of our American Family Inns, operating since 2004 and located in the Gun Hill Road neighborhood of the North Bronx. The Williamsbridge serves 88 families with case management, housing assistance, and early childhood education and care. It also is the staging center for the Milk from the Heart program, serving as the hub for warehousing and distributing thousands of quarts of free, fresh milk to New York City children each week.

A close-up photograph of a young Black girl with a joyful expression, holding a large, ripe orange pumpkin. She is wearing a pink shirt. The background is a lush field of green leaves, suggesting an outdoor setting like a pumpkin patch. The lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the textures of the pumpkin and the girl's skin.

512

Number of
families with children who live
in Homes for the Homeless
American Family Inns at
any given time



4,000

Number of hours
volunteered



Communities of Opportunity and Learning

Homes for the Homeless developed the American Family Inn model as an efficient and effective approach to comprehensively serve homeless families within the context of the existing shelter infrastructure. Rather than assume parents will have the opportunity to obtain services once they have procured permanent housing, Homes for the Homeless ensures that a family's future can begin as soon as they walk through the doors of an American Family Inn.

The American Family Inns combine the basic services of food, shelter, and housing assistance required of typical city shelters along with a full range of programs designed to meet the specific needs of homeless children and their parents, ranging from after-school programs to financial literacy workshops. The community at large has worked alongside us over the years with countless volunteer hours and an immeasurable amount of in-kind donations. This has resulted in a network that ranges from established service organizations like long-time partners New York Cares to caring individuals like dentist Priscilla Tepper and her teen daughter, Julia, to emerging philanthropic leaders like KidCare. In addition, American Family Inns support the surrounding community by offering access to daycare, after-school programming, and other resources to families outside the shelter but within the neighborhood, creating true communities of opportunity.

In this way, we are helping to change the larger community's perception of a shelter. An American Family Inn is not only a place that houses and serves the families living there; it is a resource to community members and their families who might also need such services.

Early Childhood Education

Homes for the Homeless operates early childhood education and care programs in all four American Family Inns. Our early childhood education centers serve children from six months to six years old and serve families living in the Inns, as well as the surrounding community. We use the Creative Curriculum, a nationally recognized early childhood curriculum that helps children develop the social and emotional skills so essential to school readiness. Our expert teaching staff ensures that the children in our care continue to learn and grow, even as their families are working to create safe, stable households. Our continued support from volunteers and organizations, such as the Children's Museum of Manhattan (CMOM), enables us to offer enriching field trips and activities outside of the Inns and throughout New York City and its surrounding areas.





102

Number of early childhood
education/daycare slots available
at our American Family Inns



“Less than **10%** of students participating in our after-school programs had to attend summer school this past summer, a sure sign that our after-school and summer educational program is paying big dividends.”

—Tinnyqua Williams
Education Programs Coordinator
Saratoga Family Inn

K–12 Programs

The K–12 programming at American Family Inns takes many different forms to serve children from 5 to 17 years old five days a week and on many weekends. With 167 after-school “seats” available, all of our programming is designed to help children to succeed in school, to learn new skills, and take advantage of the same opportunities available to their housed peers. Program staff, volunteers, and partner organizations provide the variety of services and programming recognized by the New York State Afterschool Network as vital for a quality after-school experience.

During the summer, program staff operate full-day programming using project-based learning strategies to give children the opportunity to participate in more in-depth activities. From planting a community garden thanks to a grant from the National Gardening Association—Kid’s Gardening to learning about the culture, food, and languages of other countries, children practice new skills in a literacy-rich environment that helps to eliminate the summer learning gap so common to families living in poverty.




Adult Education and Services

Homes for the Homeless, in cooperation with community partners, offers many different services to adults living in our American Family Inns. Opportunities range from critical life skills classes like financial literacy taught by Credit Advocate Counseling Corp. to career and life planning groups such as the Coffee Club at the Clinton Family Inn. Employment training and job search assistance includes basics like resume writing as well as more advanced techniques. GED preparation and parenting classes are also offered.

Family health can have an impact on a family's ability to sustain independence when they leave shelter. With this in mind, our American Family Inns also provide services that focus on physical and mental well-being. Throughout the year, families can access workshops on healthy relationships, health care and family planning, and substance abuse services through partners like Camelot Counseling.





"The Coffee Club is community driven so that the women can support each other, through shared experiences and the desire to break out of poverty."

—Bershan Shaw
Businesswoman and Life Coach Volunteer
at the Clinton Family Inn

A woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark turtleneck, is seated at a desk. She is looking down at a document. A young girl with braided hair and white hair ties is sitting next to her, also looking at the document. The desk is cluttered with papers, a red pen, and a blue pen. In the background, there is a red fire extinguisher mounted on the wall and a colorful poster with the letters 'COM' in large, stylized fonts.

"We have been dealing with a personal crisis, and without the Prospect Family Support Center we would not have been able to receive the services we needed."

—The Corniel/Resto family

Prospect Family Support Center

The Prospect Family Support Center (PFSC) offers respite services 24 hours per day, seven days per week to families across New York City in a friendly, nurturing environment. We serve families who are in immediate crisis who tend to be socially isolated with nowhere else to go. The Family Support Center can serve ten children during the day and six during the overnight hours.

We offer emergency childcare to families in crisis, intensive case management and referrals, 12-week-long parenting education classes, family social events, and parent peer support groups with the aim of strengthening families, keeping them together, and protecting children from abuse and neglect.

Homes for the Homeless partners with more than 40 agencies throughout the Bronx and New York City, including the New York City Administration for Children's Services, local hospitals, and groups such as the New York Foundling Mott Haven Prevention Program and the Harlem Children's Zone Family Development Program. Families with needs beyond the scope of the PFSC are referred to partner agencies, which include but are not limited to Addiction Research and Treatment Corp for substance abuse counseling; the Violence Intervention program for domestic violence counseling; Visiting Nurse Services for health care; and the Queens Child Advocacy Center for child welfare issues. We also work with organizations like Women in Need for housing services and a host of other groups for supportive services to assist families in crisis.



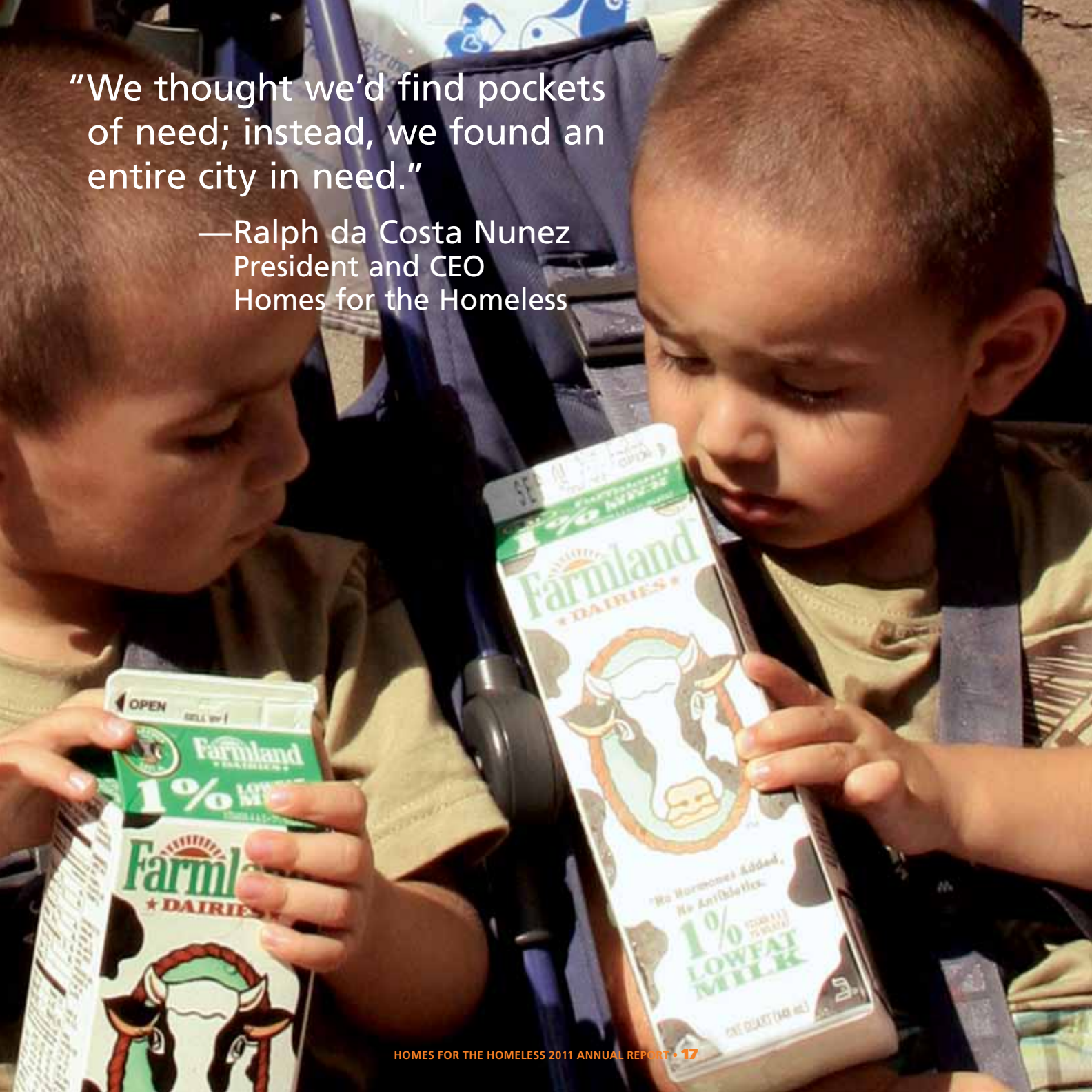
Milk from the Heart

Milk from the Heart is the latest Homes for the Homeless initiative to serve children in need. In New York City's poorest neighborhoods, milk is often priced out of reach of low-income families. As a result, parents have no alternative but to provide their children with cheaper, less nutritious substitutes. To address this need, in 2011 Milk from the Heart distributed over 100,000 quarts of free, fresh milk from our mobile truck at 16 sites throughout Manhattan and the South Bronx. Families often lined up around the block regardless of the weather.

Thanks to a generous expansion grant from our board chair, Leonard N. Stern, and his wife, Allison Stern, Milk from the Heart will be able to expand coverage in the Bronx and will encompass 19 distribution sites before year's end. Still, we have received ongoing inquiries from organizations in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens requesting that Milk from the Heart establish a distribution site in their community. Since our ability to meet this growing demand exceeds our current capacity, we are pursuing additional funding to expand this much-needed program across the city.

"We thought we'd find pockets of need; instead, we found an entire city in need."

—Ralph da Costa Nunez
President and CEO
Homes for the Homeless





"My favorite memory of Camp Lanowa was sleeping under the stars on our overnight trip."

—Wilfredo
Camp Lanowa camper, 12

"My favorite activities at camp are the Learning Center and s'mores."

—Crystal
Camp Wakonda camper, 9

Homes for the Homeless Summer Camps

Homes for the Homeless Summer Camps in Harriman State Park in Upstate New York have provided a fun and enriching experience to over 12,000 homeless and low-income New York City children since 1987. A camp schedule that includes sports, nature education, arts and crafts, swimming and boating, music and dance, drama, and overnight camping trips gives campers the chance to experience a new environment, filled with the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the great outdoors. For most campers this is their first time experiencing nature outside of New York City. Learning happens for the entire two-week session, ensuring that children return home ready not only to share their adventures with friends and family, but also to learn when they return to school.



Homes for the Homeless and all its programs benefit tremendously from the support of donors, community organizations, and volunteers from across the city and the United States. This annual report recognizes the generosity of those who provided vital support to the families and children during FY 2011. Every effort has been made to provide an accurate listing. We apologize in advance for any inadvertent error or omission, and would appreciate you notifying us of such.

Program Partners and Volunteers

Adam Turkewitz

Alex Alvelo

Alongy Balcazar

Anne Morgan

Ari Palley

ART Start

Asher Osborne

Bank of Tokyo—Mitsubishi
UFJ, Ltd.

Bershan Shaw

Bess Knox

Brian Morgan

Brittani Hanson

Camelot Counseling

Camp Kiwago Alumni

Camp Manitou Alumni

Cara Stephenson-Hunter

Caribbean American Center
of New York

Chapin School

Children's Museum
of Manhattan

City Harvest

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Columbia University
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Columbia University Peace
by PEACE

Concourse House

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Credit Advocate
Counseling Corp.

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Dana Ayers

Danny Mishkin

Darrell Simeon

Dashing Whippets
Running Club

De Phillips Athletic Club

Deneia Freeman

Deray Spence

Devindra Persaud

Dr. Priscilla Konecky Tepper

Dustee Hullinger

East Side House Settlement

Eric Katz

Ethical Culture Fieldston School
2010–2011 5th Grade Class

Farragut Children's Center

First Presbyterian Church of
Springfield Gardens

Fit 4 Life

Genevieve Berretta

Gifted Hands NYC

Golden Krust

Harlem Children's Zone

Henry Popovic

Henry Street Settlement

Hofstra University

Indiana University

International Order
of Odd Fellows,
Mineola-Pacific Lodge

Jackie Demarest

Jacqueline Rodriguez

Jamal Davis

Jennifer Croson

John Spivey

Jolette Jones

Jon Dorfman

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JP Morgan Chase employees

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Julia Tepper

June Burstein

Jung Joo Ko

Karl Akoko

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Keisha Lomax

Kenneth John

Lenora Hopkins

Leslie Moore

Lydia Ennis

Manna of Life Ministries

Maracas Club and Restaurant

Marene Ajaj

Mark Chapman

Maryknoll Tauro

Megana Ballal

Montefiore Medical Center

Morgan Turkewitz

Mount Carmel AME Church

Mount Carmel Youth
Development Corporation

M.S. 206

Naomi Ceasar

New York Cares

New York Cares Book Club

New York Cares
Financial Literacy

New York Cares Mad Science

New York Cares Mom's Club

New York Cares Play and Read

New York Cares Urban
Adventures

New York Children's Health
Project

New York Junior League

New York-Presbyterian
Ambulatory Care Network,
The CHALK Center

NFL Flag Football
Nicole Marcs
Northern Manhattan
Improvement Corporation
Nourishing USA
NYPD—105th Precinct
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Peter Mahoney
Peter Menghini
P.S. / M.S. 96
Queensborough Community
College
Rebecca Morgan
Renee Millner
Roseanne Flores
Rosedale Little League
Ryan Chelsea Clinton
Community Health Center
Sara Tillart
Sarah Rogers
Shanna Brathwaite
Shena Delgado
SISTAH Program
Steve Burman
St. John's Episcopal Church
of McLean, Virginia
St. John's University
Strawtown/HEnRI Summer
Arts and Sciences Program

Students of P.S./I.S. 50
Students of P.S. 119—
Amersfort School of
Social Awareness
Temple Emanu-El
The American Dairy
Association and Dairy
Council, Inc.
The Barbarian Group
The Educational Alliance
The New York City Coalition
Against Hunger
The Studio School
Tishawn Smith
Trunatcher Clasablanca
Tunis Sweetman Dairy Farm
Union Settlement Association
University Settlement
Beacon Program
University Settlement Society
of New York
Urban Girl Squad
Victoria Stein
West Side Campaign
Against Hunger
York College

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Alana Zinn
Alexandrina Chetreanu
Alix Pascotto
Allison Stern
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American Legion Continental
Post 1424
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Amy Smitherman
Amy Weber
Andrea Stern
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Ann-Laurel Grant
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Annette Jolles-Van Bergen
Annette Williams
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April Hannah-Hooker
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Balfour Smith
Bank of Tokyo—Mitsubishi
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Bernard Goldberg
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Borders Store #597
Bridgeman Art Library
Broncksland Chapter of AARP
Brooke Effron
Bryson Ricks
Butler Memorial United
Methodist Church
Camp Kiwago Alumni
Camp Manitou Alumni
Cargeta Williamson
Caribbean American Center
Carla Fattal

Carmen Santaella
Carolann Bracey-Miller
Cassandra Williamson
Cassidel Plummer
Castle Senior Living—
Forest Hills
Cecelia Cox
Charlene Peartree
Cheryl Bracey-Allen
Cheryl Bradford
Cheryl Jones
Cheryll Grice
Chi Eta Phi Sorority
Children Anvouet
International, Inc.
Chloe Anello
Chris Staples
Chris Traumer and NYPD 49th
Precinct Explorers
Christopher Clark
Christopher Mercado
Church of Saint Joseph
Claudia Tucci
Colleen Schwimmer
Columbia Grammar and
Prep School
Congregation Habonim
Costco Wholesale—
New York City

Craig Kligfeld
Crystal Lawrence
Cynthia Hinton
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Damon Jones
Dana Ayers
Danit Almog
David Chu
David Johnson
David and Harriet Kliegman
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Dolores Hoelle

Donovan Dunwell
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Eddie and Liana Agosto
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Ethlin Montaluan Martin
Euradene Speed
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First Calvary Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church of
Springfield Gardens
Fran Comeau
Frances Anderson
Frances Blaske
Frances Santiago
Francois Trahan
Frank Martarella
Friends of Brookville Park
Gail Harrison
Geneva Maynard
Gentle Hearts
George Mack

Geraldine Nelson
God Wright
Graham Gibbs
Greater Allen AME Cathedral
Greater Deliverance Church
Ministries
Gregory Lewis
Gretchen Valera
Gwenn Merritt
Hasbro—Gift of Play Program
Heidi Segell
Hitha Prabhaker
Holly Freidsam
Holly Peterson
Hope Tri State
House of Bread Ministries, Inc.
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Ink48: A Kimpton Hotel
International Dance Commission
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Jackie Ortiz
Jacob Sher
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Joanne Meikle
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Jodi Maggio
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Julia Amoroso
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Kelle Gamble

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Kenneth Darpoh
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Kerry Hyre
KeyShauna Harrison
KidCare
K.I.D.S.—Kids In Distressed
Situations
Kim Glover
Kings and Queens SUV Club
Konnte Lilns
Lance Lilly
Lancelyn McKenzie
Latisha Chester
Latisha Conyers
Lauren Manheim
Lavesa Valentine
Linda Bazerjian
Linda Crisci
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Marguerite Young
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Marie Anthony
Marie Piazza
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Mary Wallace
Maryum Busby
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Michelle Sibblies
Milton Branch
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Mount Zion CME Church
N. Parchment

Nadege McRae
Nadhimet Crosby
Nancy Salwen
Natalie J. Jamerson
New York Cares
New York Cares—Winter
Wishes Program
New York Mets
Nicole Aeyman
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Nirvana Humanitarian
Foundation
Nisha Browne
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NY Liberty
NY Kids Club—various locations
NYPD—105th Precinct
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Oksana Vodyanyuk
Ola Carr
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P.S. / I.S. 266
P.S. 41
P.S. 92Q
Quintess
Rachel Parker
Rafael Costes
Rafael Perez
Raul B. Rodriguez
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Richard Gray
Richard Wright
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Robin Duncan
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Rosedale Little League
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Rudolph Diton
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Homes for the
Homeless

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