



Fact Sheet

Union Settlement Association is an on-the-ground resource for East Harlem residents of all ages, and a passionate advocate for the needs of underserved communities. Since opening our doors in 1895, we have brought education, wellness and community-building programs to our neighborhood, empowering New Yorkers with opportunities to better their lives. By helping our neighbors realize their goals, we build the vitality and success of East Harlem.

❖ Union Settlement **serves more than 10,000 East Harlem residents each year** through a variety of programs, including:

- Early Childhood Education
- Youth Afterschool Programs
- Adult Education
- Senior Services
- Mental Health Counseling
- College Readiness
- Meals on Wheels
- Job Training
- Public Advocacy

❖ Union Settlement's talented staff of over 350 provide high impact services in education, wellness, and community-building from **more than a dozen locations spanning the neighborhood.**

East Harlem Neighborhood and Needs

❖ East Harlem, with over 127,000 residents, is larger in population than cities such as Albany, NY, and **is home to many of the neediest New Yorkers.**

- 38% of East Harlem residents and 47% of its children live in poverty
- 21% of East Harlem adults 25 and up did not complete the 8th grade and another 25% did not graduate from high school
- 35% of households are headed by persons 62 or older
- East Harlem's median household income in 2010 was \$30,330
- Teen pregnancy and STD rates in East Harlem are among the highest in New York City

❖ **Union Settlement has provided life lines to East Harlem families since its founding, and continues to do so each and every day.** From the Irish, German, Eastern European and Italian immigrant populations of the neighborhood a century ago – to the large numbers of African Americans and immigrants from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean who moved to East Harlem in the mid-twentieth century – to our newest neighbors from West Africa, East Asia and the Middle East, **Union Settlement Association has welcomed each wave of new New Yorkers, helping them to build safe and productive lives.**

Union Settlement's programs enable community members to overcome challenges and to create paths to stable and successful lives for themselves and their families.



Program Highlights

- ❖ **Union Settlement is transforming lives** and empowering our neighbors generation-by-generation:
 - **Early Childhood Education** for more than 600 children
 - **Over 200,000 healthy meals** delivered to homebound senior citizens each year
 - **After-school and summer youth programs** at low or no cost
 - **Mental health services** for children and adults
 - **Free tax preparation** for thousands of area residents
 - **Innovative education and job training programs** for unemployed youth in our community who lack high school diplomas
- ❖ **Union Settlement helps young people find paths to success.** Our College Readiness Program helps over 300 young people gain admission to college every year, many of whom are the first in their family to go to college.
- ❖ **We are a community leader**, bringing together non-profits, businesses and religious congregations to work together to enhance the vitality and well-being of East Harlem.
- ❖ **Our Adult Education Program helps over 400 residents each year** improve their English and literacy skills, gain their High School Equivalency diplomas, obtain citizenship, learn computer skills, and achieve their educational and career goals.
- ❖ **Union Settlement has spearheaded efforts to combat pediatric asthma** in East and Central Harlem. The systems we helped develop are being replicated by 180 childcare centers throughout the city. We have enrolled nearly 6,000 children in our asthma tracking program, and trained nearly 900 parents and staff in asthma awareness and prevention.
- ❖ **The arts enrich many of our programs.** Our youth take dance classes, write and perform poetry and make music; our adult education students publish creative writing; and our seniors create jewelry.
- ❖ **Union Settlement contributes to the cultural life of the community** by hosting readings, musical events, a street fair, a farmer's market, a Día de los Muertos celebration, and a beautiful community garden.

We believe in the strength of community—that positive change comes from all of us building our neighborhood together. At Union Settlement friends and neighbors, families and mentors, teachers and volunteers are identifying the needs that matter most to them and coming together to advocate for lasting change.