

THE

UNION SETTLEMENT

CHRONICLE

Creating Change in East Harlem



Spring 2017

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends of Union Settlement:

Union Settlement is best known for our comprehensive and high-quality programs and services for children, teens, adults and seniors here in East Harlem. Those programs form the core of our efforts, but there are two other aspects of our work that are also vitally important – being a community leader, and advocating for citywide policy changes.

This newsletter highlights two great examples of those other components of our efforts.

First, we have been selected by the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office to lead a coalition of over 25 community-based organizations to create a “Youth Opportunity Hub” addressing the needs of at-risk youth in East Harlem.

Second, Union Settlement issued a major report revealing glaring inequities in the funding of senior centers throughout New York City, and we are leading the effort to convince the Mayor to eliminate those disparities.

Although the two initiatives serve very different age groups – youth and seniors – the efforts arise from Union Settlement’s singular mission of addressing the needs of the individuals we serve here in East Harlem.

Sometimes that is accomplished through a par-

ticular service that we offer – such as an English language class for a recent immigrant, or a meal delivered to a homebound senior. Other times we bring together groups of community partners to work together on an issue, such as the new Youth Community Hub. And sometimes we must advocate for sweeping policy changes that will benefit an entire generation – such as our vulnerable seniors – not just here in East Harlem, but across New York City.

All three approaches – individual service, community collaboration, and citywide advocacy – are needed at different times to address the needs of those we serve. And none of these efforts would be possible without your support.

Thank you for supporting Union Settlement, and for allowing us to continue our comprehensive and vital efforts on behalf of children and families here in East Harlem.

David Nocenti
Executive Director

Union Settlement Awarded Multi-Million Dollar Grant to Help East Harlem's At-Risk Youth

After an extremely competitive process, Union Settlement won an impressive award of up to \$10.3 million over four years to create a "Youth Opportunity Hub" in East Harlem. The Hub will become a comprehensive support network for at-risk children, teens and young adults to prevent them from becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

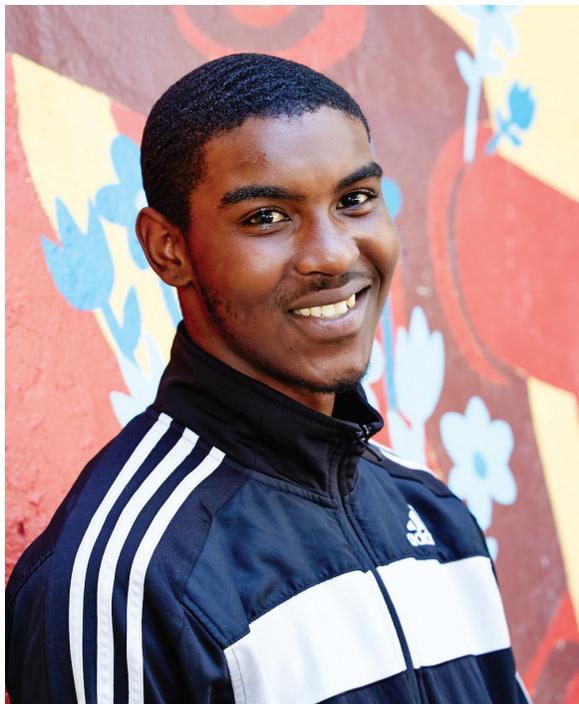
The grant is part of the Manhattan District Attorney's larger \$58 million Criminal Justice Investment Initiative (CJII). The CJII is an innovative approach to comprehensively address issues faced by New York City's at-risk youth.

Union Settlement is one of five organizations chosen to oversee the creation of Youth Opportunity Hubs in specific neighborhoods throughout New York City. "By creating attractive spaces offering one-stop resources and serving thousands of additional young people and families, we can help build the strongest generation of New Yorkers yet," explained Manhattan DA Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.

Union Settlement will work with more than 25 social services providers to establish the East Harlem Youth Opportunity Hub. "I want to thank District Attorney Vance for his leadership and vision, and for clearly understanding that real progress requires a collaborative multi-year approach," said David Nocenti,

Executive Director of Union Settlement. "We have a broad coalition of community partners who will be working together to help youth overcome the obstacles they face, and set them on a path to success."

"We are grateful for the opportunity to lead the East Harlem hub, and look forward to getting started and having a long-term positive impact on the youth we serve, their families, and the entire community."



Union Settlement Finds Vast Disparities in NYC Senior Center Funding

Why does one senior center in Manhattan receive just \$3.52 per meal to feed seniors, while a different center in Brooklyn provides *over five times more* - \$18.36 per meal? And why does one contract for a senior center in Brooklyn provide for just \$5.32 in funding per senior served per day while the contract for a center in Queens provides *more than nine times more* - \$50.31 per senior per day?

These questions, and others like them, are the subject of a report issued by Union Settlement in January.

The report, entitled *Separate and Unequal – An Analysis of Disparities in New York City Senior Center Funding*, uncovered extreme inequality in New York City’s methodology for funding senior centers, where older people access services, activities and programs in their neighborhood. The report was the subject of an article in *The New York Times*, dated January 15, 2017.

The New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) funds about 250 senior centers, but the per-person funding changes drastically across each center. As a result, the quality of services a senior receives depends on which neighborhood they live in.

“The level of inequality in the funding

of senior centers is very troubling,” said David Nocenti, Executive Director of Union Settlement. **“Every senior deserves to be treated fairly and equitably, and the quality of their senior center shouldn’t depend on where they happen to live.”** Based on the report’s findings, Union Settlement recommended that DFTA increase funding to underfunded centers, create a working group to determine the cost of operating a quality senior center, and redesign its funding methodology to fund those costs.

DFTA officials acknowledged the disparities in funding, and were receptive to the recommendations. In a statement, the city committed to “taking steps to address inequities in funding for senior centers across the five boroughs.”

David Nocenti expressed hope that the city will take steps to address the disparities, commenting, “I believe the current administration is committed to ensuring that appropriate and equitable levels of funding are provided to every center throughout the city.”

To read *Separate and Unequal – An Analysis of Disparities in New York City Senior Center Funding*, please visit the “News Releases” section of our website.

College Readiness Program Graduate Makes Legacy Gift to Union Settlement

One day in 1972, **George Bryant** was sitting in class at the former Benjamin Franklin High School on 116th Street and Pleasant Avenue when a woman came in to talk about Union Settlement's College Readiness Program. "I wasn't college bound," says George, "and I didn't think I had many prospects but Union Settlement thought otherwise."

Through the College Readiness Program, George attended a summer program and additional classes, visited several colleges and was helped to apply to college. "I was the first one in my family to graduate from college," he says.

After graduating from Ithaca College in 1978, George spent 25 years working for New York City before retiring. He credits Union Settlement for "jumpstarting" his life.

George Bryant decided to make a legacy gift to

Union Settlement by naming us as the beneficiary of one of his savings accounts. **"The people at Union Settlement were the only ones who really believed in me," he explained.** "When I look at the people who really guided me in my life, the people in the College Readiness Program at Union Settlement were the ones who made a difference."

If you would like to support Union Settlement by making a legacy gift, there are many arrangements to choose from. Please contact Union Settlement's Development Department for more information at 212-828-6024, or visit unionsettlement.org/planned-giving.

***Union Settlement** 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. With a staff of 400 and services that impact 10,000 people, Union Settlement is building the vitality and success of East Harlem.*

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PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR IS

HOW YOUR GENEROSITY CAN HELP THE NEIGHBORHOOD



HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED

\$2,500 provides 5 College Readiness students with laptops as they enter college.



SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

\$1,000 buys 100 books for the 451 children in our 29 Early Childhood classrooms.



HELP IMMIGRANTS LEARN ENGLISH

\$500 supplies 25 new immigrants with language workbooks so they can learn English.



PROMOTE ARTS IN SCHOOLS

\$250 gives 344 children in our Rising Stars program access to new art supplies.

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EMPOWER EAST HARLEM BENEFIT

HOPE. OPPORTUNITY. RESULTS.

April 26
Guastavino's

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CEO, Tonio Burgos and Associates

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Housing and Urban Development

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Senior Vice President and Community
Health Investment Officer,
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www.unionsettlement.org/gala

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Union Settlement would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest board members **William Arnold, Laura Colin Klein and Jack Leventhal**. William Arnold is the Chief Financial Officer of Neuberger Berman, Laura Colin Klein is the Executive Director of charitySTRONG, and Jack Leventhal is the Senior Managing Director of Teneo Capital.

UNION SETTLEMENT

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