



PROJECT
RENEWAL

Renewing lives. Reclaiming hope.

MATTERS



A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR NYC'S MIGRANT COMMUNITY

Amid New York City's unprecedented influx of migrants, Project Renewal quickly stepped up to welcome newly-arriving individuals and connect them to vital health care.

In the fall of 2022, we shifted our operations at a shelter-based medical clinic in Brooklyn to serve as a health intake center for migrants arriving in New York City. Our team provided triage services to 3,350 individuals over the past year, made possible by a generous grant from Trinity Church Wall Street.

Project Renewal's staff tirelessly assessed up to 40 people a day—double the number of patients typically seen at the clinic. All new arrivals received tuberculosis testing and were given access to HIV screenings, vaccinations, medication refills, and referrals to longer-term treatment.

"I'm proud to have been there to support people as they start their new lives in New York City," says Lortashia Smith,

Clinic Office Manager. "Many of them left homes and careers, walked 10,000 miles with sores on their feet, and dealt with traumatic circumstances—yet they arrived with palpable energy, eagerness to work, and hope for the future," added Naquan White, Clinic Outreach Specialist.

The team offered a listening ear and compassionate care, using Google Translate to overcome language barriers when needed. In addition to health resources, they provided shoes, clothing, and other basic necessities. "Our staff rose to the occasion. I am so proud of their resourcefulness and flexibility," said Dr. Miranda Von Dornum, Project Renewal's Chief Medical Officer.

The clinic has recently returned to regular operations, but Project Renewal continues to provide migrants with housing, health care, and case management services. ■

FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

RESPONDING TO EMERGING HEALTH NEEDS



Dear Friends,

Throughout our history, Project Renewal has been committed to breaking down barriers to quality medical care so New Yorkers experiencing homelessness can achieve health and wellbeing. Our

programs lead to impressive results, in part because we are keenly attuned to the evolving needs of the communities we serve. We pride ourselves in meeting the moment with tailored and responsive services.

This approach can be traced back to the 1960s and our earliest days on the Bowery, when it was clear that the commonly-accepted approach of arresting individuals who were publicly intoxicated was not working. We became the first organization to provide an alternative by supporting the health needs of these New Yorkers struggling with substance use.

Today, whether it's providing health screenings for newly-arriving migrants (see front page); addressing the overdose crisis with harm reduction resources (see page 2); or delivering integrated occupational therapy interventions (see page 3), we continue to react to emerging needs quickly, compassionately, and effectively.

Your support enables us to adapt and innovate to deliver impactful health programs—as well as housing and job training—to our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

On behalf of our clients and staff, thank you!

Sincerely,

Eric Rosenbaum
President & CEO



"At the SCC, I am able to take care of myself."
—America

A STORY OF RENEWAL

AMERICA'S SUCCESS AT THE SCC

America is a voracious reader who loves learning about a wide range of topics, from medicine to the military. She has big dreams for her future, including enrolling in Project Renewal's Culinary Arts Training Program and seeking independent housing.

To help her achieve her goals, America is working with the interdisciplinary team of providers at our Support and Connection Center (SCC), which opened in 2020 as the first program of its kind in the city. The SCC provides stabilization and treatment services for adults experiencing mental health or substance use crises.

When America first came to the SCC she was experiencing challenges in her relationship with her mother, who she lives with in Harlem. "This is exactly what I was looking for—a place to clear my mind," says America. "At the SCC, I am able to take care of myself."

While initial stays at the SCC are only five to ten days, guests can return for aftercare services. America comes back regularly and especially enjoys occupational therapy, which helps participants build skills for daily living.

Through the occupational therapy program, she attends a cooking group, creates craft projects, and spends time in the sensory room, which has taught her how to remain calm and feel safe in her surroundings. "I like being productive and expressing myself through the activities. I feel happy and complete." ■

STAFF MEMBER Q&A

DR. MARIYA MASYUKOVA, MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF DRUG USER HEALTH

Dr. Mariya Masyukova provides drug user health services and primary care for patients at Third Street Medical Clinic and clients of the 820 Residential Program. She works directly with patients and offers support and supervision to staff.

Q: Dr. Masyukova, what is the current status of the overdose crisis?

"We are in the fourth wave of the overdose crisis. It started with the over-prescription of opioids, which led to people turning to heroin. Recent years have been marked by the rise of synthetics like fentanyl in the illicit drug supply, including in stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine.

Due to this unstable and unreliable supply, deaths are rising. In New York City, 2,668 people died of drug overdoses in 2021, a 78% increase since 2019. Our clients are disproportionately impacted: drug overdoses account for about half the deaths among New Yorkers experiencing homelessness."

Q: How is Project Renewal responding to the crisis?

"Project Renewal is working toward implementing a harm reduction approach. We try to give people the resources they need to be as safe as possible. We provide fentanyl and xylazine testing strips so they can make an informed decision about their use, and medication for opioid use disorder to reduce their risk of dying from overdose. We train clients to recognize signs of an overdose and use the opioid reversal agent naloxone so they can respond if a friend or someone in the community is in need.

Harm reduction goes beyond these practical tools. We also value providing non-judgmental care and appreciate the sense of community clients create among themselves. For folks who have been isolated and cut off from support systems, fostering connections can make all the difference in their health outcomes."



"First and foremost, success starts with not dying of an overdose."
—Dr. Mariya Masyukova

Q: What does client success look like?

"First and foremost, success starts with not dying from an overdose. We are here to partner with each person in working toward their own goals, which could include using more safely, reducing use or side effects by taking medication, not using drugs at all, and/or feeling more connected to themselves or their community."

Q: What is the best part of your job?

"Our clients are resilient, amazing, kind, and creative. It's incredibly rewarding to get to know them, to hear their stories, and to work with them to achieve their goals." ■

GET THE FACTS



10,232

people received services across all Project Renewal health programs.

3,350

migrants received triage nursing services from fall 2022 to summer 2023.

3.35

the average number of times we saw each patient through our mobile medical and shelter-based clinics.

823

clients and 597 staff were trained to save lives using the overdose reversal medication naloxone.

1,936

clients were served by occupational therapy across our shelter, substance use treatment, transitional housing, and permanent housing programs.

*Fiscal year 2023 unless otherwise noted

HOUSING SPOTLIGHT

BEDFORD GREEN HOUSE II TO PROVIDE PERMANENT HOMES

Project Renewal is deeply committed to providing permanent supportive housing for people transitioning out of shelter, families impacted by mental health challenges, people living with HIV, and low-income older adults. This past summer, we celebrated the “topping off” of Bedford Green House Phase II, which will create an additional 116 units of permanent and affordable housing in the Bronx. We were honored to welcome Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, who presented Project Renewal with a check for \$300,000, representing the Bronx’s investment in supportive housing. Bedford Green House I and II, a LEED-certified development, will together comprise 234 units and feature a rooftop greenhouse and aquaponics system, medical clinic, playground, and The Molly B. Kronick Library and Learning Center. On-site resources will include case managers, medical and psychiatric providers, and recreation therapists. ■



📍 Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson presents Project Renewal with a \$300,000 check to support Bedford Green House Phase II.



JOB TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

CATP CELEBRATES 109TH GRADUATION

Since 1995, Project Renewal's Culinary Arts Training Program (CATP) has created opportunities for people to renew their lives through promising careers in the food industry. The groundbreaking program recently celebrated its 109th cohort graduation! Family and friends gathered to taste food prepared by current CATP students, hear encouragement from CATP alumni, and celebrate their loved ones' accomplishments. This session's cohort was filled with bright and tenacious individuals, including five veterans, whose hard work and commitment to the program has set them up for success! ■

SAVE THE DATE

RENEWAL *for* NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH 2024
6-10PM, PIER SIXTY, NEW YORK CITY

Help homeless New Yorkers renew their lives
with health, homes, and jobs

For more information or to reserve your place now,
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