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April, 2009

Health, Homes and Jobs for Homeless New Yorkers

E News for:

Jennifer Trehar

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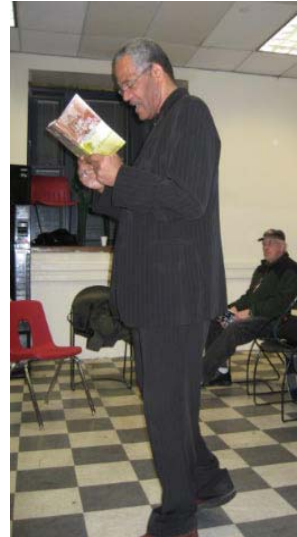
Annual Gala Benefit &
Auction



**Authors Share their
Stories of
Life on the Streets**

What do two published writers have in common with the residents of our Third Street Shelter? Years of hardship, hurt and struggle. When authors Lee Stringer and "Cadillac Man" stopped by the Shelter, their stories rang true for all the men listening.

Former client and current Project Renewal Board Member, Lee Stringer, is perhaps best known for his book, *Grand Central Winter*, an autobiographical account of the twelve years he spent living on the streets.



Lee reads an excerpt from his book, *Grand Central Winter*.
To learn more [click here](#).

Similarly, "Cadillac Man", spent 16 years living under the Hells Gate Bridge in Queens. In April, his memoir, *Land of the Lost Souls*, recounting his time on the streets, was published.

The two men stopped at our Third Street Shelter, to read excerpts from their books and speak with clients. The men listened intently as Stringer read a chapter from *Grand Central Winter* and spoke about how writing saved his life. Cadillac Man, accompanied by his girlfriend, whom he credits with saving his life, read an excerpt from his just-published *Land of the Lost Souls*.

The writers engaged clients in an open discussion, recounting the highs and lows, the friendships and the fights that are part of every street person's story. Clients were impressed by the fact that men living on the streets for so long could end up as published writers. The clients were especially interested in the writers' feelings about people as equal humans, no one better than the next, and that homeless people should not be judged. Many stated that they often felt "less than" and seemed to find solace and comfort in the words of the two writers. As one resident put it, "These guys really understand us because they know where we've been."



Cadillac Man shares his stories with out clients.
Click here to [learn more](#).

Recreational Programs Matter

Programs like the one featured above are a part of Project Renewal's recreational services. In our continuum of care, beyond providing food, shelter, healthcare and employment services, our shelters are staffed with Recreation Directors, for creating social events where men and women can participate in activities that do not involve drugs or alcohol.



Clients participating in recreational programming activities

Studies find that recreational programs such as these fill a gaping hole in the services provided to the homeless and they can help improve health, bring clients fun, and generally boost their quality of life. Additionally, they provide opportunities for goal-setting, self-esteem building and reconnecting with the community.

Another example of the recreational programs provided by Project Renewal is our Play in a Day workshop, sponsored by Theatre for a New Audience. The workshop teaches clients how to create a plot, characters and dialogue to create their own play. Upon completion, professional actors join the clients for a special performance in which they act out each play. Workshops like these to help our clients express themselves in a new way, actively involving them in creative communication.

Unfortunately, budget cuts being proposed by the Department of Homeless Services, include elimination of recreation staffing. We need your help more than ever to keep programs like these running. [Click here to donate now.](#)

GALA BENEFIT & AUCTION

Thursday, June 11, 2009
6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Cocktails & Light Buffet

The Waldorf=Astoria
301 Park Avenue at 50th Street
New York New York

Auctioneer: Hugh C. Hildesley,
Executive Vice President, Sotheby's

*Don't miss Project Renewal's Gala Benefit
and Auction!*



A Slice of Life...NYC by Project Renewal Safe Haven Graduate, Anthony Newton, will be sold during the Silent Auction.

The Gala raises much-needed funds to support services, like our recreational programs, for homeless New Yorkers.

Some of this year's Auction highlights include:

Luxury vacations in San Francisco, Colorado, France and Hilton Head

*Membership to Quintessentially,
a private club with 24 hour global concierge services, A Broadway Adventure including
two theater tickets to the show of your choice, a walking tour of Times Square and Lunch
at the National Arts Club, Yankees Tickets , Tickets to the Daily Show and much, much
more!*

To purchase event tickets, [click here...](#)

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Yes, I wish to make a gift and help end homelessness.

Contact Us:

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