



**E News for:
Friend
of Project
Renewal**

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Clothing Drive**

**Giving Back: Supporters Tell Us
Why They Want to Make a Difference**

Holiday Clothing Drive at Accenture

This holiday season, staff from Accenture wanted to find a new way to "give back" to their community. When Project Renewal Trustee Claudia Rosen told her co-workers about our Next Step Employment Program, they organized a clothing drive to help our formerly homeless and low-income clients make a good first impression during interviews. Staff donated men's business clothing in clean, ready-to-wear condition. George Avent, from our Next Step Program, joined the staff at Accenture for their annual holiday party to thank them and say a few words on behalf of our clients. Thank you Accenture employees! You have helped so many of our clients who are eager to take the next step to employment.

**Ilka
Peck**

**Dana
McCarren**

Larry Quinlan

Peter Theron

**2008 Annual
Report**



From left to right: Speranta Cristache (Accenture), Trustee Claudia Rosen, George Avent (NextStep Coordinator) and Vijay Desiraju (Accenture)

Ilka Peck, Clinton Residence Volunteer

I knew nothing about Project Renewal until my brother, Mark Minter, who is a very civic-minded man, joined its board. He began talking about what a terrific job was being done by the agency and his enthusiasm was infectious. As I was just finishing up another volunteer job, I called Project Renewal to see if there was anything useful that I could do as a volunteer. I was invited to the Clinton Residence. I understood my brother's excitement about the place. People were actually making lives for themselves with the many tools that Project Renewal provides! Because I am a social worker and psychotherapist in private practice, I'm often asked to do volunteer work in those areas.



In talking over what I might do, I mentioned that I speak Spanish. I was thrilled when I heard there were several clients who were interested in learning Spanish, which is one of my major loves. So we began to put together a class.

Every Monday afternoon we had between four and seven students who gathered in a meeting room in the basement. Each student was a fascinating individual, and I was reminded again of the amazing ability of human beings to make something substantial out of their lives when they have people like those at Project Renewal who believe in them, provide

tools, and expect success. I was also impressed by the eagerness of the clients to learn and their loyalty and gratitude.

I certainly hope that many people spend time with the Project Renewal clients, doing something as volunteers that they love to do generally. The clients are eager to “catch” the infectious enthusiasm of people who are sharing something they love and are good at.



Dana McCarren, Donor Since 1999

...I asked my local church for a good charity they might recommend and the nun pointed out the window to the MedVan parked in front and said, “How about Project Renewal. They help homeless men and women.” So I called for information, read the brochure and wear the money goes, and started giving—that was almost 10 years ago. Giving to Project Renewal makes me feel better about myself, makes me feel part of a team. I’ve been blessed. I’ve enjoyed support in my life—from parents, schools, communities—this is my chance to give back. I’m helping others who have the potential but just need a helping hand.

Larry Quinlan, Donor Since 2004

...I found out about Project Renewal when a Trustee, Chuck Pol, invited me to a charity dinner he was hosting to benefit Project Renewal. I liked the whole concept. It’s old hat to give someone a handout on the street. It’s more effective—it makes more sense—to give people a real hand-up so they can do what they need to do instead of waiting for the next handout. I’m a big believer in education. I support charities like United Way, United Negro College Fund and Project Renewal because they’re all about self-help—about helping people make their own way forward.



Peter Theron, Clinton Residence Volunteer

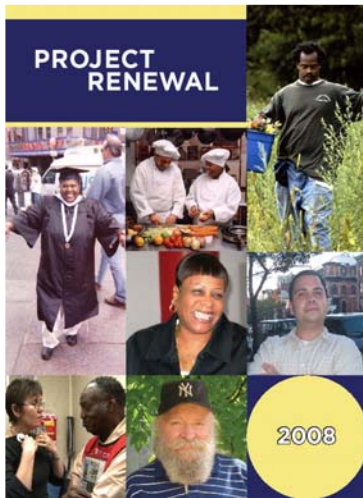
Yoga changed my life. The only way I can try to explain it rationally is; I believe the body and mind are connected, and by alleviating the mind of the body (pain or discomfort), it frees the mind.

After experiencing this I knew this was something I would do for the rest of my life. When I did my yoga certification, one of our options to fulfill credits was to volunteer. I knew immediately what I wanted to do. I was aware of Project Renewal's Clinton Residence - I live in the neighborhood.

I started teaching the class in the beginning of September. It has definitely been a positive experience. I was only required to volunteer for six classes. But I keep doing it because I enjoy it. The people there have been very receptive, and I think, enjoyed having a yoga class.



Peter demonstrates a yoga position



Project Renewal's 2008 Annual Report Is Here!

Read the struggles and triumphs of our clients, learn about the programs and services we offer and view a list of our funders and supporters.

Click on the cover at left to download a pdf.

Yes, I want to give back, too, and help end homelessness.

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