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June, 2009

*Health, Homes and Jobs for Homeless New Yorkers*



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### **19th Annual Gala Benefit and Auction: Another Project Renewal Success Story!**

On June 11, 2009, Project Renewal was pleased to host our 19th Annual Gala Benefit and Auction at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel in New York City. The annual event helped raise over \$650,000 to support Project Renewal's programs and services for homeless New Yorkers.

New to this year's gala was a special, [pre-recorded message from our friends at The Daily Show with Jon Stewart](#). Guests were delighted to see the support of The Daily Show's cast and all were truly moved to be a recipient of the show's generosity. Special thanks to our friend JR Havlan for making the video possible.

Following the video, guests were pleased to welcome this year's co-chairs, Claudia Rosen and Mark Minter, who worked tirelessly with the entire [Gala Committee](#) to ensure the success of this year's event. "We've all been affected by the downturn of the past year, and it's no surprise that homeless men and women in our city have felt the impact, too," Minter remarked. "Your past support has helped us reach thousands of men and women with life-saving services. You have made many success stories possible."



Gala Co-Chairs Mark Minter and Claudia Rosen



Anthony Newton  
sharing  
his story.

One success story made possible by our supporters was that of Anthony Newton. A graduate of Project Renewal's Safe Haven and the artist behind this year's cover art, Newton spoke eloquently to guests about the impact Project Renewal has had on his life. After struggling with years of addiction and alcoholism and moving in and out of treatment programs, he was finally diagnosed with bipolar, schizoaffective disorder. He made his way to Project Renewal's Safe Haven. "Safe Haven makes you think about your next step," he said, "This was a down home place I could relate to. This is what recovery was all about." [Click here to read Anthony's speech...](#)



Guests bidding generously during the live and reverse auction

Guests were eager to make more success stories like Anthony's possible. Over 250 guests bid generously as Gala Auctioneer Hugh Hildesley, Executive Vice President of Sothebys, skillfully conducted the live auction. This year's prizes featured a trip to Las Vegas to see the one and only Bette Midler in her new production "The Showgirl Must Go On," memberships to Quintessentially and Tour GCX, vacation homes in Italy and France and much more! But the true spirit and generosity of our guests was clear as they placed their bids on our "Fund-a-Need" Auction. Fund-a-Need levels included \$20,000 to fund 2 clients for one year in Project

Renewal's Safe Haven, \$10,000 to provide job training and placement for 5 men, \$5,000 to bring 25 clients to our MedVan, \$2,500 to furnish an apartment and \$1,000 to provide radiology services aboard our ScanVan. Especially in light of the economic downturn, we are grateful for the loyal support of our friends and donors. A special thank you to all of this year's [volunteers](#), who helped us run the event so smoothly. Thanks to all of our [in-kind donors](#) who made our Live and Silent Auctions possible. And thanks to all of our donors who made this year's gala another Project Renewal success story.

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

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