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November, 2009

Health, Homes and Jobs for Homeless New Yorkers



**E News for:**

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**Holland House Resident Named  
Tenant of the Year!**

At the 2009 Supportive Housing Network of New York's (SHNNY) Annual Gala, Holland House tenant Arron Smith received the Tenant of the Year Award. "[His] perseverance in overcoming his personal challenges, his commitment to the Holland House Community, and his advocacy for all supportive housing are inspiring," said members of SHNNY, "We are proud to honor him."



**Arron Smith: Getting Back my  
Self-Confidence**

*I came to Project Renewal in February 2005 after a six month stay in the hospital. My HIV had deteriorated. Before that I was actually arrested for dealing crystal meth. I was let out of jail to go to a hospital because they thought I was going to die, but I got better. I moved into [Holland House](#) and have been here since then.*

*I chose this place because I was unsure if I could actually take care of myself on my own. I liked the fact that they have a kitchen here and a nurse, and they have counselors to help you navigate through the system. Those were very important things, just to have that kind of support. It was rather hard the first couple years to get up and go to the store, to just do the basic things. You don't think about these things, but a lot of the time they really wore me down. I was sick a lot.*

*The case management services here have been so helpful. Navigating life when you have a chronic illness is near to impossible. Where do you go to find housing? Where do you go to find supportive services, a dentist who takes Medicaid, or a doctor? How do you know that stuff? I sure didn't.*



These guys here that do it are so fantastic. And I'm lucky enough to know Morgan Pepper, who's the Clinical Director here, so I've got the best of the best. To learn more about Arron and see what he's up to now, [click here...](#)



**ScanVan in the News**

Mary Solomon, Director of the [ScanVan](#), shares concerns over New York State Funding Cuts in a recent AP newswire. "We have women that are crying on the phone," said Mary... "It is emotional, you have to understand, we serve these women year in and year out, and now we're just basically pulling the rug out from under them." To read the full article, [click here...](#)

Project Renewal would like to extend our thanks to the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA) who sponsors ScanVan visits throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Pictured above are Kristen Dalton, Miss USA, who spent the month of October promoting the ScanVan, along with members of The Association of Secretaries to Supreme Court Justices (New York County Chapter). Thanks to all of you for your support!

**Fall Ball a Success!**

The Junior Advisory Board hosted its third annual Fall Ball on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Studio 450. It was a huge success raising close to \$17,000. Thanks to the Junior Board for spreading awareness about our important mission. And a very special thank you to our liquor sponsor, Diageo! For more information about the Junior Board, call Herina Ayot at 212-620-0340.



*Jr. Board Member Vijay Desiraju with Jen Nelson, and Scott Botsford*



*Jr. Board Members Jeffrey Kirshenbaum and Robin Lee with Herina Ayot*



*Jr. Board Member Brandl Frey with Emanuel Moosbrugger*

## How You Can Help!

*This holiday season, show Project Renewal's clients they are not alone. Show our clients that you support their recovery and want to give them hope for a better new year! Here are some ideas:*

**1. Start a food or clothing drive.** Our Holland House residents pay a portion of their income towards rent and they're on a tight budget. Help our residents celebrate the holiday season by having a food or clothing drive where you work. We'll help you create signage and coordinate a pick-up. Please, non-perishable food items only and clothing must be new (hats, scarves, and gloves in size L, XL or one-size-fits-all.) Call Herina Ayot at 212-620-0340 for more information.

**2. Have Project Renewal's Comfort Foods Catering Service cater your next party.** Comfort Foods provides training experience for our Culinary Arts Training Program students and jobs for program graduates while offering low-cost, nutritious meals to shelters, senior citizen centers and other not-for-profits as well as catering services for parties and conferences. For more information click [here...](#)

**3. Donate Now!** [Click here](#). Your gift helps homeless New Yorkers leave the streets for good.



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

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