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Health, Homes and Jobs for Homeless New Yorkers

E News for:

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Street Homelessness Down

Project Renewal's mission is to help homeless New Yorkers move from the streets to health, homes and jobs. So what impact have we made? According to the 2009 [Homeless Outreach Population Estimate](#) (HOPE) conducted by New York's Department of Homeless Services (DHS), street homelessness is down 30% since last year. With our partners at DHS and other organizations, we've worked to set goals for ourselves to measure success. Officials say the drop is due to new performance standards, expanded housing options and improved coordination between agencies.

Behind the numbers:

What it Takes to Move from the Streets

Our partnerships with DHS and organizations doing street outreach help us prepare men and women to find a home and put down roots in the community.

By providing healthcare, addiction treatment, job training and housing placement, we teach clients real-life skills about living independently, including hygiene, time and money management, cooking, cleaning, first aid and more. For men and women, many of whom have never had their own apartment, these are real skills that they may have never learned until now.

We also train our clients on how to prepare for interviews for housing placements and jobs, how to present a resume, and what is and what is not appropriate to reveal in an interview. We even provide a clean shirt and tie and escort clients to and from their interviews! Once a client takes the next step, we make sure they have the right tools so their housing and job placements will stick.



A counselor prepares a client for a job interview

Lastly, we expanded housing options by adding 92 apartments in 2008 to the roster of apartments we manage. In fact, Project Renewal President and CEO Ed Geffner offered his own solution for how the city could provide even *more* housing options to our clients. [Read his letter to the editor of the New York Times here...](#)



Malachi's Story

Malachi has lived at Project Renewal's LeonaBlanche house for the last four years. In his own words, he'll tell you how our strategies work:

"In 1987 I lost my mother and eventually had a nervous breakdown. I ended up in Bronx Lebanon Hospital Psychiatric Unit. They evaluated me and diagnosed me as a paranoid schizophrenic. I didn't know what that meant but the doctor explained it to me in detail. I learned to accept my illness and not down myself like another person would.

I stayed there for seven months. I wasn't sure I was ready to leave. I even asked the doctor to increase my meds but they said "no" and felt I was ready to leave.

When I got back, I was going from place to place. I was too afraid to ever sleep on a bench. I was afraid someone would come up to me and hit me. When I was on the streets I always kept my eyes open. So I always used whatever money I had to find a place to sleep. There were times I ate at pantries and soup kitchens but I always found a place to sleep. Mostly I'd stay in hotels. Back then, my drug of choice was marijuana and alcohol.

Eventually I ended up at Project Renewal's Third Street Detox for two weeks. One day my social worker told me I was moving to Project Renewal's Clinton Residence. At Clinton they had various groups—personal hygiene, arts and crafts and focus groups. In focus group, we talked about finding a job, where you want to go in life. I attended all of the groups. Whenever I wasn't working I was in a group. I lived in Clinton for one year and then one day my case manager told me I was moving to LeonaBlanche House. I've been here for almost four years.

I love this place. So far, since I've been moving around, this is the best place I've been. This is a beautiful place if you are a sick person. The staff is great. They're very dependable. They're always there if you need them. I'm glad I came here instead of just getting an apartment because I wasn't ready for it. This helped me prepare for the next step.

Since I've been here, they help me with my medications. They help me keep all of my appointments. They're the reason I graduated from the Culinary Arts Training Program (CATP). I learned a lot about my strengths and weaknesses. I would recommend it to anyone with a disability who needs somewhere to stay. Coming off the street and coming out of jail, I couldn't ask for more."



Malachi speaking at his graduation from the CATP

Recession's Impact on Healthcare

It won't surprise you to know that this economy is hurting a lot of people. Project Renewal's mobile healthcare clinic, MedVan, travels to partner-sites like soup kitchens and pantries, who have seen a dramatic increase in the number of clients served. In one instance, a soup kitchen and showers facility has seen an increase from 250 clients served a week to 350. This means that the MedVan, too, has seen an increase in the number of patients at these sites. In fact, MedVan has to pull away sometimes before seeing everyone in order to make the next scheduled stop. Also, New York State budget cuts may result in uninsured women being turned away from our ScanVan, our mobile radiology clinic. This will mean that uninsured

women who have been provided with annual, essential, and potentially life saving screening mammography could be turned away.

Now, more than ever, we need your support, to ensure that we can continue to provide these life-saving services.

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

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