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October, 2009

*Health, Homes and Jobs for Homeless New Yorkers*

**E News for:**

**Don't Miss ScanVan, LIVE, on Friday, October 23! Channel 11 at: 6:00 am, 7:00 am, and 8:00 am. Miss USA will be providing a live weather update from the ScanVan!**

**Friends of Project Renewal**

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**Miss USA Partners with ScanVan**

Miss USA Kristen Dalton has partnered with our ScanVan to spread awareness about Breast Health. Last week, Kristen joined ScanVan in Manhattan, promoting the van and the importance of screening for early detection of breast cancer. Watch Kristen and Mary Solomon, director of ScanVan, on Fox's Strategy Room. You can also read Kristen's blog, detailing her experiences aboard the ScanVan, by clicking [here...](#)

**Meet Miss USA at our ScanVan!**

Kristen joins us at 4 locations in October. Stop by if you're in the neighborhood!

Oct. 21	8-11 am	Queens Family Court	151-20 Jamaica Avenue
Oct. 23	9-11 am	Brooklyn Family Court	330 Jay Street
Oct. 27	9 am - 12 pm	Harlem Community Justice Center	170 East 121st Street
Oct.30	10 am - 12 pm	Bronx Housing Court	1118 Grand Concourse

**Help Us Win  
America's  
Giving  
Challenge!**

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### **A Unique Partnership Improves the Lives of**

**Homeless...and Students!** As a full time faculty member at St. John's University, Dr. John Conry sends two Doctor of Pharmacy students from his program to Project Renewal each month. The students spend approximately 40 hours per week over four weeks learning about primary care, the role of pharmacists in this arena, and assisting on Project Renewal's MedVan and medical clinics. The students are supervised by Dr. Conry. "I am proud to say that we have had this affiliation since 2002 (7 years + and going strong)," he says. "We are thrilled to partner with Project

Renewal, particularly because of our shared mission of providing quality care for the underserved."

Recently Dr. Conry's team received a \$20,000 grant from the Rite Aid Foundation to assist in their work to help improve the blood sugar control of our uninsured diabetic population. We are looking forward to initiating this program in the next few months. As Dr. Conry has noted, "This is a great example of how the College and Project Renewal can improve the care of our patients."

### **Students Share Their Stories**

During the spring 2009 semester at St. John's University, students were asked to participate in the University-wide annual Academic Service-Learning Essay Contest. In this contest, students compete for the best essay that illustrates how a course has helped them understand and act on the University's Vincentian mission, which places special emphasis on assisting the poor/indigent. This year, both the first and second places winners of the contest were Project Renewal interns. The following are excerpts from their winning essays.



#### **Fernando Delossa, First Place**

*"After 5 years of St. John's University education in my 6 year pharmacy program, I have to ask myself: "Have I been able to put into practice what I have learned in a useful and effective manner?"*

*My answer would have been a flat out "no," up until I was able to participate in Project Renewal. This was a clinical rotation site which entailed providing healthcare to the homeless in Manhattan. As informative and intellectually stimulating as my classes and briefings on this rotation have been, these, in no way, have fully prepared me for what I was to partake of in Project Renewal.*

*The people who came on board all had this in common: they were human and poor. Despite the perfumed body or the smelly feet, the clean-cut look or the "Oscar the Grouch" chic, every person had in them an inherent dignity that warranted respect enough to care for through action. One face of poor that I've seen is one of neglect. And how did we remedy that? We paid attention. We gave away bags, medication, toothpaste, vitamins, and shampoo, mere objects which spelled out "WE PAID ATTENTION."*



#### **Maria Fatima Torres, Second Place**

*During my years at the University, I volunteered by preparing meals for soup kitchens, participating in food and clothing drives, and making bag lunches and distributing them to the homeless during Midnight Run. However, despite the gratifying feeling that I received after each community service involvement, I still did not fully comprehend the daily struggles of the poor. It was not until the Fall semester of my sixth year of pharmacy school, when I had the opportunity to participate in an academic service learning experiential rotation at Project Renewal, that I began to grasp and recognize the endeavors of the indigent and the importance of accepting my Vincentian duty to act on behalf the "poorest of the poor."*

*The completion of my academic service learning rotation at Project Renewal was beneficial and inspirational. Just as the patients were thankful for our services and for impacting their life, they too influenced my life and have become part of my professional growth. It was a privilege to represent the "poorest of the poor" and further bridge my passions of pharmacy and community service. I no longer viewed*

*them as poor or discounted people, but saw them as individual patients with dignity who deserve good, trustworthy healthcare as much as any other social class. Therefore, teaching the indigent about the importance of taking a proactive role of their health is vital. Project Renewal was truly a life-changing experience that has allowed me to grow personally, spiritually, and intellectually, and will stay with me throughout my pharmacy profession.*

**Not to be missed!**  
**The hottest party in the city! Click image for details...**



please join  
**PROJECT Renewal**  
as we host an evening to help the homeless  
men and women of New York City

third annual  
*Fall Ball*

friday november 6, 2009  
9 pm - 1 am  
studio 450  
450 west 31st street btwn 9th & 10th ave  
ticket price: \$85; \$150/pair

cocktail attire | open bar sponsored by:  
diageo liquors | raffle prizes

hosted by the project renewal junior advisory board

**[Yes, I wish to make a gift and help end homelessness.](#)**

**Contact Us:**

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