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Contact: Anat Gerstein, anat@anatgerstein.com, 718-793-2211

 Zac Roy, zac@anatgerstein.com, 917-822-7203

**Project Renewal to Serve its Two Millionth Meal this Year to Homeless New Yorkers and Others In Need**

***-- Project Renewal Culinary Programs Serve Nutritious Meals and Provide Employment Opportunities to Homeless and Formerly Homeless New Yorkers --***

**(New York, NY)** – Project Renewal, the nonprofit organization that empowers homeless New Yorkers to renew their lives through comprehensive medical, housing and job programs, will celebrate serving its two millionth meal of the year – a new record – at a special event in Brooklyn on June 23.

Project Renewal serves nutritious meals to people in shelters, senior centers, and mental health facilities through Comfort Foods, the organization’s catering company that provides institutional, corporate and private catering. Through its programs, Project Renewal provides culinary training to 200 individuals and employment opportunities for 50 formerly homeless New Yorkers each year.

**WHEN:** Monday, June 23, 2014 from 12 noon to 1:00 PM

**WHERE:** Concern Rochester CR/SRO

 151-167 Rochester Ave

 Brooklyn, NY 11213

**WHO:** Project Renewal President and CEO Mitchell Netburn

 Chefs and staff from Project Renewal’s Comfort Foods

 Concern Rochester residents

The meals Project Renewal serves are prepared by its Culinary Arts Training Program participants, and by graduates of the program who work for the organization’s Comfort Foods catering business. Project Renewal serves meals at 28 locations citywide.

Comfort Foods has operated the kitchen at Concern Rochester, a Concern for Independent Living supportive housing building, seven days a week since 2011. They cook and serve dinner nightly to 39 residents, and prepare breakfast each morning. The kitchen’s two chefs are full-time Comfort Foods employees who graduated from the Culinary Arts Training Program.

Compared to other culinary programs, Project Renewal’s is unique in scope: it entails three months of classes, followed by a three month internship as well as job placement assistance.  In 2013, the program won one of the "Top 10 Innovative Nonprofit Awards" from NYC’s Center for Economic Opportunity.

**About Project Renewal**

Project Renewal is a New York City-based nonprofit organization that works to end the cycle of homelessness by empowering men, women and children to renew their lives with health, homes and jobs.  Project Renewal’s innovative programs are designed to end the revolving door of emergency rooms, jails, shelters and the streets.  For over 45 years, Project Renewal’s pioneering approach has created uniquely integrated and comprehensive solutions.  Its programs are replicated around the nation, helping even beyond the 16,000 homeless New Yorkers Project Renewal serves every year.

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