

PROJECT
RENEWAL

Renewing lives. Reclaiming hope.

MATTERS



OPEN!

Learn how Bedford Green House's rooftop garden helped Dez heal.





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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

This year, as spring arrives, it brings not just new beginnings, but a moment of deep uncertainty for New York City. The season of renewal is overshadowed by an overall feeling of unrest. Now more than ever, it is crucial to empower those we serve as they transform their lives.

Whether through enrolling in job training, transitioning into stable housing, or improving health and well-being, every step forward is a testament to resilience and determination. The stories of Kevin, Dez, and Katrina—just three of the remarkable individuals we are honored to support—highlight the urgent need for our collective action.

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support of Project Renewal. Your partnership helps ensure that every New Yorker has access to the resources they need to rebuild their lives and secure a brighter future.

Thank you for standing with us in this critical moment.

Warmly,

Eric Rosenbaum, President & CEO



KEVIN FINDS THE PERFECT FIT

Kevin’s enthusiasm for learning and life are evident to everyone he meets. A few years ago, he enrolled in Project Renewal’s Next Step Internship Program (NSIP), which combines classroom education and paid on-the-job training to prepare participants for a career in social services. He remembers his NSIP course fondly.

“It was fun and it was active. What I love about NSIP is that it teaches everyday tools that can be used for life—from resume writing, to credit building, to Narcan training, and even computer skills,” says Kevin. “After my internship, I was hired. As a matter of fact, all of us that were in the internship at the shelter were hired—our cohort was the best! We came in there and got what we needed, and we went out and used what we were taught.”

After graduating, Kevin continued to develop his professional skills through our Career Advancement Program (CAP). He never missed a single day of class, and earned an ‘A’ in the six-month human services training course.

Today, Kevin is a peer counselor at a New York City hospital and says the skills he learned through Project Renewal serve him well. He still works with New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and substance use, and is passionate about connecting them to the resources they need.

Kevin is proud to use his life experiences to help those around him. “My past helped me play this profound role that I have now. I remember a counselor saying to me years ago, and I’ll never forget it, ‘Let your past work for you.’ I never knew what he meant until I got into this field.

For me to be able to turn around and be successful at what I do? That’s huge for me.” ■

DEZ'S ROOFTOP OASIS

Most mornings you can find Dez in the rooftop garden of Bedford Green House, one of Project Renewal's supportive housing residences. With his warm smile and sparkling optimism, you might not guess that he has navigated immense hardship, including a battle with stage four cancer.

During his recovery, Dez found sanctuary among the plants, spending hours nurturing them—and his own well-being. "This is a beautiful place to heal myself. I can be with my own thoughts. It's a serene and regenerative space. I am giving life to something, which is a purpose I'd never had. I love seeing things grow."

A skilled cook, Dez takes joy in using the fresh herbs, spices, and vegetables he grows in the greenhouse to create delicious meals. "I get to enjoy the literal fruits of my labor," he says.

With his health on the mend, Dez is preparing to re-enter the workforce. He sees a bright future for himself, but is not afraid to look back. "I am not ashamed of my past, whether it's drug use, whether it's homelessness, no matter what it is, I refuse to be ashamed of myself anymore. Because I learned from it. I overcame it."

He recently completed Project Renewal's Human Services Training course and is eager to become a peer specialist. "I don't want to go back to a very empty job of cash, career, whatever. I really want to give back to society. I want to help out people that are going through something that I went through, and I want to let them know that you can recover if you want to. I am an example of that." ■



KATRINA BUILDS A LEGACY

Growing up, Katrina spent her free time in the kitchen, watching her father and grandmother make delicious meals that sustained the whole family.

"My dad, amazing cook. My grandma, amazing cook. On Sundays before church, she was always up making those grits with some fish or some salmon cakes. And my dad, he's from South Carolina, so, I mean, pan fried cornbread, collard greens, stuff like that."

In 2015, Katrina tragically lost her brother. Channeling her grief into something positive, she enrolled in Project Renewal's Culinary Arts Training Program (CATP). The program enveloped her with support and became a second family. "The CATP team are great people to talk to, non-judgmental. You could spill your story to them, and they listen with understanding and compassion, and really work with you."

But classes proved to be too much at the time. "I thought I was ready mentally, but I wasn't ready to be around people. I couldn't continue, not the way I was feeling." She promised herself that she would come back and finish, no matter how long it took.

Six years later, she returned, and was welcomed with open arms, this time graduating with flying colors. "I'm in my glory. Graduating is a goal accomplished. It's my biggest accomplishment since my brother passed."

Today, Katrina works under the mentorship of another CATP alum at NYU's Palladium Hall. She also plans to open a restaurant and pass on her passion for cooking. "It's called Kodi's Kitchen."



I named it after my granddaughter who has been in the kitchen with me since she was two years old. I teach her what I learned from my family, because it's tradition. I want to leave something that will hopefully be passed down to generations and generations and generations." ■

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

NEW BUILDINGS, NEW FUTURES



Project Renewal and Monadnock Development broke ground on the redevelopment of a seven-story shelter that Project Renewal has operated in Midtown Manhattan since 1998. The new 21-story, 133,000-square-foot building is a testament to Project Renewal's commitment to creating visionary, sustainable solutions for New Yorkers in need.

New Providence will combine transitional shelter and permanent, affordable, and supportive housing, with an on-site primary care clinic open to residents and the community. Providing essential services such as case management, counseling, and medical and psychiatric services, New Providence is a perfect example of what a modern, integrated shelter and supportive housing facility should be at a time when more housing of all kinds is desperately needed. ■

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

SAVING LIVES TOGETHER



We're thankful to partner with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to offer substance user health programs that center harm reduction and support New Yorkers on their recovery journeys.

Because of Anthem's investment in our mission, we've been able to expand HIV and hepatitis C testing and education, train additional staff and program participants to reverse overdoses using Narcan, and offer enhanced individualized support to clients who have survived an overdose. Our interdisciplinary team is dedicated to helping individuals reduce harm associated with drug use and support recovery to lead full, self-sufficient lives. Thank you, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation. ■

SAVE THE DATE

RENEWAL FOR NEW YORK 2025

You are invited to Renewal for New York, Project Renewal's Annual Benefit + Auction. The event will take place on **May 14, 2025** from **6-10pm** at **Pier Sixty**. We hope you will join us for a night celebrating The Hudson Companies and Broadway Builders, innovative housing solutions, and the work you make possible everyday.

 **BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR**
projectrenewal.org

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volunteer@projectrenewal.org

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nextstep@projectrenewal.org

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MATTERS

SPRING 2025: THE POWER OF RENEWAL ISSUE

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