



# neighborhood coalition for shelter

HELPING NEW YORKERS FIND THEIR WAY HOME

## Louis Nine House Anniversary Party

Louis Nine House, a 46-unit studio apartment residence in the Bronx for youth aging out of foster care, opened last April. This April 22nd, NCS board members, staff, collaborators and supporters joined with Louis Nine House residents to celebrate their one year anniversary. Our guests enjoyed tours of the building and wonderful food in an atmosphere of great joy and accomplishment.



**Melissa, NCS's first Scholarship Fund recipient**

Many of our colleague organizations were represented at the party. Also enjoying the event were artists from Art Connects New York who were responsible for the art work hanging in the public spaces; and, the Parsons School of Design, whose annual design workshop was responsible for the design and building of the "green roof," 3500 square feet of communal rooftop space.

We were especially pleased to recognize some amazing volunteers who make a big difference at NCS including Geoffrey Grossman, who helps residents navigate the on-line GED prep program, and our youngest volunteer, 10-year-old Chloe Kallenberg, and her parents, board member Stacie Kallenberg and her husband David Kallenberg, who all participate in various activities with the men and women who live at the NCS Residence.

But above all, this was a party for and by the residents. James McFarlane, Director of Louise Nine House, spoke to our guests about the tenants who he described as some of the most resourceful, talented survivors he'd ever had the pleasure of meeting. He explained that in spite of their personal obstacles, these are young people who want for themselves what we all want—to be successful, to be self-sufficient, to be productive.

James then introduced four young residents who told their stories, sang their songs, read their poems and opened themselves up to their fellow residents and guests. They were an amazing and resilient group, two of whom are working with OPTIONS staff to obtain their GEDs, and the other two of whom are attending college. One of those, Melissa, is the first of NCS's Scholarship Fund recipients. This was a particularly talented and moving group of young people whose music, humor and insight touched all of our guests and reminded us all of why we do this work.

## NCS Spring Benefit

On May 20th, NCS friends and supporters gathered to honor four remarkable women: Sarah A.W. Fitts (former board member and pro bono counsel at Debevoise



**CEO and Honoree Anne Teicher with longtime supporter Russ Carson**

& Plimpton), Alice F. Greif, (board member), New York State Senator Liz Krueger, and outgoing CEO Anne R. Teicher.

We were also lucky to have wonderful Benefit Committee Chairs—from our religious community, board membership, and colleague organizations.

Over 200 people came together to recognize and celebrate our honorees for their dedication and commitment to the organization. They exemplified the work of Celine Marcus for whom the Community Service Award which they received was named. Celine was a founding, long-term NCS board member and past President who served her community with distinction, and like our honorees, made an enormous difference in the work NCS does to help men, women and young adults in our community transform their lives.

Guests witnessed first hand the profound impact that NCS's services can have when one of those young adults, William, a resident of Louis Nine House, told the audience that he had been living in a shelter and was desperate to turn his life around. He had heard about Louis Nine House and was determined to get in. In spite of the obstacles he faces, with the help of NCS staff, he has been working towards his GED, is getting his driver's license, and has secured a job with the Parks Department, which recently recruited him to be part of the Million Trees program in New York City.

Eli Zabar and his wife Devon Fredericks very generously underwrote much of the evening's festivities at their great space, the Vinegar Factory, on the Upper East Side. While guests ate fantastic fried chicken with all the fixings, John Redgate and Glen Roethel played Beatles music, Josh Beckerman did his "walk around" magic and Nick Dawes, formerly of Sotheby's, led the live auction. Our emcee, Michaela Watkins (a SNL alum) kept the evening light and fun and was joined by fellow comedian Adam Harrington in some comic patter with the audience.

NCS thanks all of the Benefit Committee members, guests, and donors for helping to make the evening such a huge success.



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**NCS PROGRAMS**

- NCS Residence
  - Louis Nine House
  - New Vistas
  - Transitions
- OPTIONS**
- Emporium Online
  - Chance for Change
  - Research

**NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION FOR SHELTER** is dedicated to providing housing and support that can transform lives and to working with community partners to reduce, prevent and ultimately end homelessness.

## Letter from the President



**David Oliver**

Anne Teicher is retiring from her current position as CEO of NCS after 15 years of dedicated and inspired service. I know I speak for all of my fellow Directors in stating that Anne has done a remarkable job in her tenure. She also made a very generous offer, which we took her up on—she continues to provide leadership and management of NCS as we undergo our search for a new Executive Director.

The board retained an executive search firm a few months ago. The process has proceeded as planned and we are confident that it is one that will enable the best possible transition from Anne's leadership to a new stage of development in NCS's history.

This is a time of great transition for NCS with new leadership at both the staff and board levels and expansion of our programming in new directions. We are proud to introduce to you in this issue of our newsletter three new board members, Abby Elbaum, Tom Kilkenny and Sophie Kramer. We know they will all make excellent additions to our board. We are also quite proud to report on the celebration of the one year anniversary of Louis Nine House, our residence in the Bronx for youth aging out of foster care. This new program epitomizes our ability to recognize new opportunities for service where the need is great, collaborate, as we did with WHEDCO, our developer and partner in this project, and create cutting-edge programming.

All of us in the NCS community want to thank Anne Teicher for all she has done at NCS for homeless people, and wish her great success in her next endeavor. And, we look forward to introducing you soon to our new Executive Director.

## A Letter to the Community from the CEO



**Anne R. Teicher**

It's hard to believe that I will soon be leaving NCS after more than 15 years of leadership. A new Executive Director will be chosen to lead NCS and I will be entering a new chapter in my life. I have been so lucky to be a part of the NCS community. NCS gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dreams: to do work that I love, that makes a difference in people's lives and to have fun doing it. But I did none of it alone. We are all partners in this work and I have had some incredible partners.

First, I have worked with an exceptional board of directors. Truly compassionate people who are driven by our mission, are caring, smart and have been tremendously supportive of NCS and of me personally. I have been especially fortunate to work with three wonderful board presidents: Stephanie Shuman who hired me and was president for my first four years, Stephanie Guest and now David Oliver. They have all been extraordinary in their roles and in lending their good sense and sense of humor to every situation. I thank them for their trust and confidence in me and for all that I have learned from them.

The NCS community is comprised of so many different people and groups. None is more critical to the success of its work than its incredible staff. I particularly want to thank Stephen Lisner, who was the CFO and my partner-

in-chief for so many years; Patricia Cobb Richardson, whose creativity and deep understanding of people and their needs resulted in many of the programs we have today; and my left and right hands, Liza Ragoobeer, who has worked with me from day one, and Iris Weiss.

NCS is an organization with deep roots in its community—the religious community who helped start NCS and is still integral to its work, our comrades on the Upper East Side like Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and Yorkville Common Pantry who share our passion for this work, our government funders who continue the fight to end homelessness against great odds, and the many volunteers who make such a difference to the people we serve.

And then there are the people we serve. I see what a difference having a home makes in their lives; a real home that's part of a community of caring people. That is what we try to provide for our residents. It's what NCS is about and I am very, very proud to have been part of such a wonderful community of people.

A night on Broadway to benefit NCS

### The Pitmen Painters

Tuesday, October 5, 2010 — 7:00pm

Join us afterwards for a dessert reception and Q&A with members of the Creative Team!

For more information, contact Kerri Anderson at (212) 537-5142 or kanderson@ncsinc.org.

# New Board Members

*NCS is pleased to announce that three new members have joined its Board of Directors. All have already shown their commitment to NCS and its mission and promise to be great additions.*



**Abby Elbaum** is a principal of Ogden CAP Properties, LLC, which she founded in 2003 with her mother Constance Milstein, a member of the NCS board, and her uncle Philip Milstein. Ogden currently manages residential, commercial and hotel properties in New York City and Washington, D.C. Ms. Elbaum is a member of the Board of Governors of the Real Estate Board of New York, the Association of Real Estate Women, the Lincoln Center Real Estate and Construction Council, and is on the board of the Lincoln Square BID. She is active at New York Presbyterian Hospital as a member of the Heart Center Steering Committee, a board member of Women At Risk and a member of the Health Sciences Advisory Council. Ms. Elbaum has twice served as co-chair of the NCS spring gala—first when her mother was honored and then again this spring. Ms. Elbaum received a B.A. from Columbia College and an MBA in Finance from Columbia's Graduate School of Business. She lives in Manhattan with her husband and daughter.



**Tom Kilkenny** is the Senior Vice-President & Controller of CKX, Inc. CKX is engaged in the ownership, development and commercial utilization of entertainment content. The Company's primary operations include the rights to the name, image and likeness of Elvis Presley and to Muhammad Ali and proprietary rights to the IDOLS television brand, including the American Idol series. NCS is grateful that Mr. Kilkenny has joined the NCS board as this is his first such formal commitment. He is a supporter of several institutions, including Phoenix House Foundation, the substance abuse services organization, and he has generously supported NCS for several years at its events through his personal and corporate-secured donations. He will be co-chairing NCS's next theater benefit this October. Mr. Kilkenny received a B.S. in Accounting, Magna Cum Laude from Seton Hall University, an MBA in Finance from New York University and is a Certified Public Accountant. A long-time New Jersey resident, he now lives on Manhattan's Upper West Side.



**Sophie Kernan Kramer** is a community volunteer. Trained as a Physician Assistant and Pilates Instructor, she now devotes her time to her two children, a 12 year old daughter and a toddler son, and to volunteer activities. Ms. Kramer started volunteer work during high school and college vacations helping out at a homeless shelter. Since then she's been involved in volunteerism at several education organizations as well as at The Brick Presbyterian Church, where she is on the Mission Outreach Committee, and has served as Chair of the Grants Committee. Ms. Kramer has supported NCS through her work at Brick and this past February co-chaired its theater benefit. Ms. Kramer received a B.A. in Psychology at Scripps College and graduated from the Cornell University Medical College Physician Assistant Program. She lives in Manhattan with her two children.

## Nancy Carr: Board Member Highlight

It's probably possible to trace a good deal of the good work on the Upper East Side through NCS board member Nancy Carr's volunteerism. Though born in Lyons Falls, New York, where there were "more cows than people," Nancy has spent all of her adult life on the UES living with her husband, Dr. Ronald Carr, and volunteering her time to the benefit of others in her community.

A natural caregiver and nurse by training, Nancy is drawn to taking care of others, whether patients, family or friends. Although she describes herself as shy, Nancy has a multitude of friends, many of whom have been "coerced" into joining her in her volunteer efforts, and all of whom recognize in Nancy a caring and generous friend. (Alice Greif, a good friend of Nancy's, states that she is one of those who's been coerced—including into joining the board of NCS.)

After she had her three children, Nancy left nursing and started her volunteer work. She worked for the School Volunteer Program where she tutored children in Harlem and the Parents League of New York where parents of children in private schools helped to plan programs. She went on to volunteer at the Yorkville Civic Council which had been providing a forum for individuals and heads of agencies and

schools to talk about the needs of the community since 1935. She was Chairman of the Council for seven years. The Yorkville Volunteer Center, a program of the Council, eventually turned into the Volunteer Referral Center, where Nancy served as President for 20 years, from 1989 until 2009.

It was during her time at the Yorkville Civic Council that she got involved with NCS in its very early years. She became the NCS Volunteer Director for a few years and was an active volunteer herself working with homeless people and doing medication monitoring at our first residence. She was a founding member of the board and has been a valued member ever since, involving many of her friends in the work of NCS and advocating for permanent solutions to homelessness. Nancy says she's seen NCS evolve over the years from helping people to get off the street for a night to providing the housing and services they need to live more independent lives.



# NCS at Work and at Play at OMEGA Retreat

Who wouldn't want to spend two days and nights at the beautiful OMEGA campus in Rhinebeck, New York, with access to facilities including a lake, walking trails, tennis courts, a meditation sanctuary and delicious healthy food? Fifteen members of the NCS staff, two volunteers, Jean Pendergrast and Sandra Small, and board member Ann Loeb did just that this past June at a working retreat.

As part of OMEGA's effort to help build a more compassionate world, it has created a unique grant program which supports nonprofit organizations committed to improving the well-being of others.

OMEGA covers room and board and use of its facilities (including free yoga, tai-chi and meditation classes). It also provides meeting space and equipment



Lunchtime at the Café



A fierce game of Trivial Pursuit

so that nonprofit groups get a chance to get out of their normal working environments into a fresh and peaceful setting where new ideas will flow and people will revitalize themselves.

After a fun "getting to know you" session, CEO Anne Teicher led the group through issues and feelings connected to organizational change and values. We then had a panel discussion on volunteerism, a session on making the most of our financial resources and then a three-part session on program considerations in the context of the mission, our values and financial resources.

During time off, people took advantage of the beautiful space and weather, going kayaking, swimming, walking and playing board games. We returned to work feeling rejuvenated and re-inspired.

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Contact John Colozzi for pickup at (917) 477-2202 or [jcolozzi@ncsinc.org](mailto:jcolozzi@ncsinc.org)



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