



# neighborhood coalition for shelter

HELPING NEW YORKERS FIND THEIR WAY HOME

## NCS Shelter Serving the Street Homeless of the Upper East Side

In January of 2010, with a few short weeks' notice from the City, NCS, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (MAPC), and Manhattan Outreach Consortium (MOC) responded to community need and opened a shelter for homeless people. MOC did outreach and housing, MAPC provided the space, and NCS operated the shelter. We were doing something new: our beds, food, and showers were for those who were not using drop-in centers, were not "screened" for access to our city's Church-Synagogue volunteer emergency shelter system, and were sleeping on church steps, in doorways, under scaffolding, and elsewhere on the streets.

Our guests were the most alienated from our shelter and homeless services system and their mental illness and substance abuse problems were too challenging for volunteer-based shelter programs. The NCS-MAPC shelter took advantage of NCS's years of experience with street homeless people. We trained shelter staff, provided professional supervision, and the shelter was an oasis on the way to stable housing: all our regular guests were ultimately connected to permanent or transitional housing. City funding ended in June and, without resources, our shelter closed.



**The Shelter at MAPC; and, two Shelter residents.**

This year, with winter approaching and no City funding available, MAPC and St. James' Church sponsored a November fundraising event, raised the money privately, and the collaborators again came together (along with Grand Central Neighborhood's Mainchance Drop-In Center which provides housing services) to re-open the shelter. In an unusually harsh and snowy New York winter, we have been providing not just shelter—but the warmth of human caring, food, showers and other donated amenities to people who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets. Seven have already been housed this year. Using a "Housing First" approach, we expect that they will be more amenable to other needed services, and hope that they will leave their homelessness behind. This is a prime example of the impact of collaboration, experience, and neighbors helping neighbors.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Spring Into Summer  
**A Night To Party For NCS**  
Tuesday, May 24, 2011 6:30 PM

Central Park Boathouse • East 72nd Street and Park Drive North

Honoring: Carl Goldman, CCC Resources, former NCS board member;  
Alexandra and Frederick Peters; Warburg Realty

For more information, please contact Diane Rush at 212.537.5140 or drush@ncsinc.org



Administrative Office  
157 East 86<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10028  
Phone: (212) 537-5100  
Fax: (212) 860-2301  
ncs@ncsinc.org  
www.ncsinc.org

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**NCS PROGRAMS**

- NCS Residence
- Louis Nine House
- New Vistas
- Transitions
- NCS Shelter
- 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.

# A Letter from the Executive Director



**Ira Mandelker**

I am so pleased to be writing my first “Executive Director’s Letter” for the NCS Newsletter. Becoming NCS’s E.D. has been a bit like jumping into the engineer’s cab on a moving Lexington Avenue subway—the train has speed and momentum, and I’ve got to learn the controls, how they operate, who’s on the train, and what’s coming down the line. Thankfully, I have plenty of assistance. NCS has an active and helpful board of directors, and a great staff helping me get up to speed. I can’t say enough about my predecessor—Anne Teicher. Anne has done a fine job of agency stewardship. She has prepared the management and staff for the transition, and I can count on her for counsel and organizational history. The community has been equally welcoming: religious leaders, human service providers, advocates, and Upper East Siders have all been generous with their time and ideas.

I spent the last 10 years in Albany as Executive Director of the Homeless and Travelers Aid Society. Although HATAS is smaller, its mission and programs are similar to NCS—housing, shelter, employment and support services for homeless people. Although I moved downstate, I am returning downstate. Aside from my Albany experience, I have spent most of my life working and/or living in NYC. Before moving to Albany, I spent 12 years at Grand Central Neighborhood’s Mainchance Drop-In Center.

The size and scope of the NYC homeless problem is certainly different from Albany’s, but there are common issues and challenges. Whether it is Albany, NYC, or any other urban area, there is a shortage of affordable housing, not enough community mental health treatment, too few rental subsidies for low-income and disabled people, and scant income support or livable-wage employment for the people in our shelters, drop-in centers, and on our streets. Nearly everyone I have spoken to since returning to NYC said the same thing: “We need to do more for the growing number of homeless people on our streets.” Local clergy and congregations are torn by the community and moral conflicts that arise when homeless people sleep on church steps, and our community programs are over-taxed and under-resourced.

This is the most challenging environment I have experienced in my 20+ years in homeless services. Government, corporate, and personal finances were hammered by recession and we will live with the effects for years. The idea that homelessness is the whole community’s responsibility has never been truer. Acting alone, government, the faith community, non-profits, foundations, and private citizens can have an effect, but collaboration, community involvement, and concerted effort will have real IMPACT. Before you put down this newsletter, think about what you can do. No matter your resources, skills and experience, we can find a way to get you involved.

## Volunteer Highlight: Sandra Small

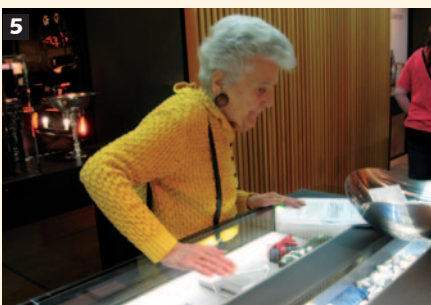
Sandra Small has held more jobs at NCS than anyone else in its 29 year history. But she’s not an employee, has never been paid, and the only benefits she receives are the good feelings she gets by helping others in need. In other words, she’s a volunteer!



Sandra has been volunteering at NCS for over six years. She has worked in the kitchen of our former drop-in center at 77th Street, serving meals to the street homeless who often had nowhere else to go; participates in holiday celebrations at our 81st Street supportive housing residence, serving and speaking with residents whose only family is often the NCS community, led Karaoke at our Bronx Louis Nine House Residence Thanksgiving Celebration for youth who have aged-out of foster care; organized a “Rock Against Homelessness” concert fundraiser in Central Park; and solicits auction items for our spring benefit.

These are just a few of the many instances of Sandra’s generosity toward NCS and the men, women and young people we serve. You might also remember Sandra from our last newsletter: she was one of two volunteers who collaborated with staff and board members at our Omega Institute retreat. Her team created the idea for a new music and arts program at Louis Nine House and, as a professional musician, she’s eager to get started helping the program get underway.

Growing up in Manhattan’s “Hell’s Kitchen” neighborhood, Sandra saw drugs and homelessness all around her. She started recognizing the homeless people living on the street, learned their names and befriended them. They became people to her, not just stereotypes—people who have stories like the rest of us. And she believes that they all deserve to have a place to call home, with clean clothing, showers and food. Sandra is one of those people who does something about what she believes in. Lucky for NCS and for the many lives she’s touched by volunteering!



# NCS Happenings

**1** Volunteers from Moody's relax after another successful meal service at our 81st Street Residence.

**2** Board Member Brinton Parson with husband Buck Parson and Charlotte and Barry Kingham at the reception for our *Pitmen Painters* theater benefit.

**3** *Pitmen Painters'* star Ian Kelly and longtime NCS supporter Lois Stainman at the post-play reception.

**4** Julie Everette and NCS board member Josie McFadden at our shopping event hosted by our friends at Georg Jensen.

**5** NCS board member Alice Greif checks out the fine collection of jewelry at Georg Jensen.

**6** Resident Patrick Kavanaugh shares his musical talent while wearing one of the hand-made hats he displayed at the 81st Street Residence talent show.

**7** Chloe Kallenberg, one of the talent show judges, tries on a hat made by Patrick, while fellow judges Jennifer Neumaier from Bloomberg LP and former NCS CEO Anne Teicher look on.

**8** Long-time volunteer and musician (see volunteer highlight) Sandra Small and her friend, Brandon Deuralde, prepare for karaoke at the Louis Nine Thanksgiving celebration.

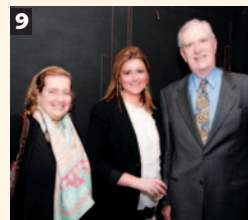
**9** Christine Miller Martin, center, Managing Director at Warburg Realty and co-host at the Mauboussin shopping event, with Alexandra and Frederick Peters, President of Warburg Realty.

**10** Christine Miller Martin and Ira L. Mandelker, NCS Executive Director, at Mauboussin.

**11** NCS volunteers Stacie, David and daughter Chloe Kallenberg serve Christmas dinner to our 81st Street residents.

**12** NCS board member Tom Kilkenny and friends John Yavroyan and Susan Tully attended the reception and Q&A session for our *Good People* theater benefit.

**13** Longtime NCS friend Joseph Ryan and his guest Robin Daily at the *Good People* reception.



# Resident Highlight: Andrew McKee

When Andrew McKee was 14, his mother passed away from breast cancer. He and his younger brothers were moved to New York City to live with relatives, but years of moving from relative to relative brought them into the foster care system. After several separations, the three boys were lucky enough to be placed together with a wonderful foster family. With the support and stability of this family, Andrew graduated high school. Even though Andrew lived with a caring family, once he “aged out” of the foster care system at 21, he would have to move out. With nowhere to go, Andrew was referred by Graham Windham, a child welfare organization, to NCS’s Louis Nine House (LNH) for the housing and the support services he needs to help him become a young adult able to manage on his own. Located in the South Bronx, Louis Nine House is a 46 unit residential program for young adults aging out of the foster care system. Andrew moved in to LNH in July 2009 and quickly got involved in OPTIONS, NCS’s vocational and educational program.

Andrew is a determined young man willing to work hard for his future. With the help of NCS staff, Andrew has been able to apply himself, using the resources available to him to pursue his dreams. He has a passion for photography, is career oriented, and attends Borough of Manhattan Community College where he maintains excellent grades.

In his search for employment, Andrew was referred to Justice Corps, an organization that arranges internships for young adults. His first assignment was performing site visits with the Summer Youth Employment



Andrew McKee (center) with Justice Corps members in D.C.

Program. Once the summer ended, he was placed in a Department of Probation office where he quickly became a valued member of their staff, and helped form their Youth Advisory Council. Andrew’s contribution was not unnoticed and the Justice Corps sent him to Washington D.C. for recognition as “Corps Member of the Year.” He spent five days seeing the sites (including the White House and the Capitol Building), met several elected officials and professional photographers, and networked with other Corps members.

Returning to Louis Nine House, Andrew eagerly shared photos and stories of his trip with his peers and Louis Nine House staff. It was an incredible, well deserved experience for an extraordinary young man with so much potential and determination.

Although he is doing the “heavy lifting,” Andrew credits Louis Nine House programs and staff with providing him the support he needs to help him develop from a young person with little professional experience to an independent person able to get an education, develop relationships, and build a professional career. “Louis Nine House,” says Andrew, “has provided me with stability and assistance to accomplish my educational and employment goals.”

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