Love what we do? There are so many ways to get involved, including:

DONATE TODAY by returning the enclosed envelope or going to henrystreet.org/donate.

BUY A BRICK in our historic Firehouse — the Dale Jones Burch Neighborhood Center—for yourself or a loved one.

JOIN FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS, our young leadership group.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME in any of our programs.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY and include Henry Street in your will or trust, impacting future generations.

For more information, please go to henrystreet.org/ways-to-give or reach out to Ellen Schneiderman at eschneiderman@henrystreet.org or 212.766.9200 x2260.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

265 HENRY STREET

November 19, 6:30 p.m.
Power and Policy on the Lower East Side: Panel discussion with Perfect City

AT ABRONS ART CENTER, 466 GRAND STREET

October 24
November 24
Welcome to the Idiot World: A Shanzhai Lyric
An installation of Shanzhai (counterfeit) garments and related programming

November 7-9
U.S. Premiere: Sanaa
Sound, light, and movement come together in exploration of diasporic geographies, ancestral knowledge, and visibility/invisibility of marginalized voices in Western-dominated history.

BECOME A HERO OF HENRY STREET

Henry Street’s monthly donors are our heroes. Their generosity and dedication give us much-needed consistent support each month. We can do our work knowing that our monthly donors will be here for Henry Street now and in the future. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all our donors for caring so deeply and are honored to highlight a few individuals who shared their inspiration to give back to the Settlement:

“I love everything about Henry Street Settlement and its unique mission to provide help to people and support the arts.” — Mervell

“I came across Henry Street by volunteering with my company. The story and its role over the years inspired me to take a more active role.” — Rajat

“Since 9/11, I’ve made donations to Henry Street to thank the organization for its kindness, as well as for the support it provides others every day.” — William

Join our Heroes of Henry Street monthly giving program and become part of this special community of committed and passionate donors who care about providing vital services for people in need. Go to henrystreet.org/heroes to sign up and learn more.

THE ART SHOW
TO BENEFIT HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT
Organized by the Art Dealers Association of America

GALA PREVIEW PARTY
Wednesday, February 26
5:00, 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 p.m. ticket entry

RUN-OF-SHOW
Thursday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1

Buy Your Ticket Today!
THEARTSHOW.TIXTAC.COM or call 212.766.9200 ext. 2248

The Art Show
Featuring 72 of the nation’s most respected art galleries to create this defining event on New York City’s cultural calendar. The Gala Preview—a fabulous party in a beautiful setting—offers an exclusive first look at The Art Show’s intimately scaled and thoughtfully curated presentations.

Purchasing a ticket or making a contribution to this extraordinary cultural event has a direct impact on the 50,000 people who come to Henry Street’s employment, education, shelter, health & wellness, and arts programs each year.

As a 10-year-old, Kianna Flowers took cooking lessons at Henry Street’s Boys & Girls Republic youth community center. Now 27, she is the sole weekday chef at the Kaplan House residential treatment home, operated by the Jewish Board, where she cooks three meals a day for 45 boys ages 17 to 21.

It is the third job Flowers has secured through Jobs Plus, Henry Street’s workforce-development program for people who live in or near the Jacob Riis II and Ellsirl Wall Houses.

“I have complete control over the menus, so I have the freedom to explore and experiment and to hone my skills,” says Flowers, whose favorite meal to cook is breakfast, which typically includes a fruit spread, eggs, waffles, and chicken.

Flowers is among 610 workers that Jobs Plus has placed in jobs over the past three years, surpassing its contracted goal of 560. Top occupations include building maintenance, human services, hospitality, construction, and retail—as well as a variety of positions at Henry Street Settlement itself.

Jobs Plus is a central component of the Settlement’s employment services. Located at 24 Avenue D in the Jacob Riis II Houses, where Flowers grew up, it makes essential connections between those who wish to work (but may lack the skills or confidence to do so) and employers who are hiring.

JOBS PLUS SURPASSES GOAL!
Henry Street Settlement deeply mourns our beloved friend, board member of 52 years, and fierce champion of our mission, Richard Abrons, who, with his family, made transformative contributions to the Settlement and to New York City.

The story of Richard Abrons and his family’s impact is intrinsically woven into the fabric of our community. Richard’s parents, Louis Abrons and Addie Schuler, met at a Henry Street Settlement dance in 1940. Five years earlier, our founder, Lillian Wald had hired Addie as a summer nurse, and Addie was later to hire by her to sew nurses’ uniforms so she could support her family. Remarkably, Richard was born in Lillian Wald in fifth grade, was the only person to have known all of Henry Street’s executive directors through David Garza. Richard started as a volunteer counselor and swimming teacher at Camp Henry in the 1940s and became a member of our board in 1967. He founded First Manhattan Company, an investment firm, in 1964, but started a second career in midlife, earning his MFA and publishing some 30 short stories—none of which won a prestigious National Magazine Fiction Award. Richard detailed his life to societal justice, bringing critical services, cultural programs, and vibrant green spaces to New York City’s underserved communities, particularly through support of settlement houses.

With his wife of 50 years, Iris, and family foundations, Richard became our greatest individual financial supporter. He helped secure a founding gift from his beloved sister, Rita Aragon, to create Henry Street’s Workforce Development Center, and under his leadership Henry Street also expanded its homeless service programs, acquired the Boys & Girls Republic youth center, and worked to transform two vacant lots next to 465 Henry Street into Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Richard’s special love was the Settlement’s Arts and Culture Center, named after his family. And he inspired the next generation of the family, with his erstwhile students and late siblings, Herbert and Rita, by establishing the Abrons-Aragon Scholarship Fund to help Henry Street youth attend college.

Richard was fond of clever sayings, such as “never stress a gentle impulse”—and he followed his own advice. We will all surely miss Richard, one of the most important and influential voices in the history of Henry Street Settlement.

Helen and Robert Resnick are our endowment funders and have a special affinity with our mission to make the Settlement one of the most innovative and effective organizations in the nation. Their support is vital, and we are deeply grateful for their generosity.

Clay Imitates Life: Ceramics Class Serves as a Rehearsal

Making things out of clay can be soothing for anyone, but at Henry Street’s Community Consultation Center (CCC), a ceramics class is helping participants work through material processes, often unexplored for decades.

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Making things out of clay can be soothing for anyone, but at Henry Street’s Community Consultation Center (CCC), a ceramics class is helping participants work through material processes, often unexplored for decades.

Before sitting down to take the two-day exam, students must prepare in subject areas like math and social studies that might have gone unexplored for decades.

This year, 24 Henry Street HSE students passed the exam—the largest cohort in the history of the Settlement’s preparation program. Almost half succeeded on their first try. The graduates gathered in celebration at a ceremony on August 16, 2019.

They ranged in age from 18 to older adults and had a variety of reasons for taking the test. Some wanted to go to college; others hope to advance in their careers; and still others see a high school diploma as an emotional milestone.

In addition to tackling the nuts and bolts of the test, Settlement teachers address a number of academic challenges: test anxiety, and performance anxiety often come up, explains Lisa Diomande, program coordinator. So does the complicated nature of returning to a school-like setting as an adult.

Ashleigh Staples, part of this year’s cohort, passed the exam on her first try: she had been unable to complete high school for medical reasons. Staples is looking forward to taking her SATs and will start applying to college in the fall. Reflecting on her Henry Street journey, she offered up advice to students preparing for the exam: “Just keep going, even if it feels pointless. Even if you’re sitting in class, feeling like you already know everything or like you don’t need it, you’re developing an endurance that will help you when it’s time to take the exam—everything is working to prepare you,” she said. “So, keep going.”

People’s Permit Lets the Community Take Back the Outdoors

Dancing in the street is among the greatest joys of summer, but Henry Street had to fight—and win—a battle for blocks. A Vigilante shines a light on a subject little addressed in film—A Vigilante, March 2019, directed and written by Sarah Daggar-Nickson cast in Henry Streeter—participating in girls softball and after-school at Boys & Girls Republic and in the Young Adult Internship Program. Attending the New York College of Technology, she supported herself as a baker and restaurant worker. When a particularly difficult restaurant job left her feeling burned out, Flowers knew she needed a change. But the thought of applying for jobs made her anxious. “I felt like I was a terrible interviewer because I panic,” she says.

Senior Employment Coordinator Ravin David helped Flowers update her resume and then moved on to interview preparation. The key factor was David’s insistence that Flowers come to the Jobs Plus office every day for a week for mock interviews with various team members, so she could get used to multiple interview styles. When Flowers was hired to work with Columbia University’s Events & Catering department, she was hired on the spot. She got a part-time job working at Boys & Girls Republic in the afternoons.

“When I go to Jobs Plus, I get what I need,” Flowers says. “It helps me—nudging me to do more. When I was scared, she pushed me and motivated me.”

After several years working for Columbia and Boys & Girls Republic, Flowers was ready for a job with room for growth, better pay, and a consistent schedule. Again she turned to Jobs Plus which connected her to Kaplan House. Though the work is difficult, she enjoys the chance to mentor the young men—especially when they get frustrated and lose their tempers—and to teach them to cool.

For Flowers, Jobs Plus was a logical step in an upward trajectory for Henry Street. “The community changes, but Henry Street stays the same,” she says.

Photos of Kunst Flowers by Nicole Fogarty

Jobs Plus Surpasses Goal!

Often, their first step in connecting with potential members is to ask one crucial question. “Will you have a cup of coffee and chat with us a bit?” Before Flowers came to Jobs Plus, she was a lifetime Henry Streeter—participating in girls softball and after-school at Boys & Girls Republic and in the Young Adult Internship Program. Attending the New York College of Technology, she supported herself as a baker and restaurant worker. When a particularly difficult restaurant job left her feeling burned out, Flowers knew she needed a change. But the thought of applying for jobs made her anxious. “I felt like I was a terrible interviewer because I panic,” she says.

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Photos of Kunsta Flowers by Nicole Fogarty

Shelter Team Advises Filmmakers on Domestic Violence

Henry Street’s Domestic Violence Program team have always been our all-stars, but now they’ve actually movie stars, cast in A Vigilante, a film about domestic abuse released in March 2019, directed and written by Sarah Daggar-Nickson and starring Olivia Wilde.

A Vigilante shines a light on a subject little addressed in film and demonstrates the strength it takes to both survive and leave such circumstances.

The main character’s experience was based on accounts that residents of Henry Street’s Domestic Violence Program shared with the filmmakers. Daggar-Nickson and Wilde visited the program and consulted with team members Beverly Atkinson and Theater technician Tasha Rice to learn about the film’s subject matter on Henry Streeter’s how to depict survivors’ support groups. Adoption and Muppies, as well as Estrella Telustra and Easter Haines, former clients of Henry Street’s program, appear in the film.

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