



Volunteer Newsletter

Spring 2015
Volume 1 Issue 4

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
"Not just a place to go, but a place to grow"

Spring 2015 Volunteer Recognition Event

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The mission of Riis Settlement House is "to build and strengthen underserved communities in Western Queens and act as a catalyst for change." Volunteers are the driving force behind every effort to fulfill this mission. We believe that every initiative we undertake would not be successful without the amazing talents and skills that each volunteer brings to our doors.

In order to recognize and thank volunteers for their amazing contributions, the Volunteer Management office holds Volunteer Recognition events throughout the year.

Last month, we held our Spring Volunteer recognition event. Riis Settlement Executive Director, Chris Hanway, and Senior Services' Director, Bob Madison, joined the event to personally thank Vanessa Mack and Joseph Williger for their amazing service to our community. Here is a picture of them proudly displaying their certificate.



Turn to Page 2 to read more about our most recent events!



From left to right: Senior Services Director, Bob Madison, Joseph Williger, and Vanessa Mack

Since we know that not all of you were able to attend, Riis Settlement staff, program participants, and the Volunteer Management office takes this time to deeply thank each of the 120 talented individuals who have served our community members since January 2015. Thank you after-school tutors, conversation partners, civics tutors, kitchen aides, and all NY Cares volunteers! You are the reason why Jacob A. Riis Settlement House continues to strive as a catalyst for change for over 125 years.

West Point Cadets Visit Riis for a Day of Service



On April 17th, sixteen cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point visited Riis Settlement House for an unforgettable day of service. Cadets came fully equipped with sand paper, paint brushes, and brooms to give our community garden a new look.

During their day of service, cadets, along with community garden leaders, cleaned, sanded, and painted benches. They also helped revitalize the soil of the garden's raised beds and in-ground garden. In the afternoon, cadets transitioned to read to our K-5th grade scholars during our Read for Riis! Read-A-Thon.

It was truly an honor to have had such a disciplined and dedicated group decide to give their time to benefit others. We deeply thank the West Point Cadets for their amazing service to our Western Queens Community!

Read for Riis! Read-A-Thon



Riis Settlement celebrated its second annual Read for Riis! Read-A-Thon. As a community more than 80 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade engaged in reading the most books and collect the most sponsors to earn first place. The Final Stretch Reading Events were held at Queensbridge, P.S. 166, P.S. 171 and Ravenswood. Our young scholars and volunteers were given the opportunity to share time together while reading exciting children's stories.

We thank community members, local authors, volunteers and West Point Cadets for helping encourage literacy among our young scholars!

Volunteer Orientations



Beginning in January, the Volunteer Management office started holding Volunteer Orientations in an effort to provide our volunteers a broader perspective on the history, initiatives, and support system at Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House.

Each orientation provides the chance for volunteers to learn about the impact which their volunteer service has in the lives of those they serve. Volunteers also learn about other initiatives and projects that might interest them. Lastly, orientations allow volunteers to learn about policies and procedures to guide them during their time of service.

While we thank those of you who have attended one of our Volunteer Orientations, we take this time to encourage those of you interested in acting as catalyst for change to attend one of our upcoming volunteer orientations. We hope to see you at our next orientation!

Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Volunteer Events...

- [Tuesday, May 5th: Cinco de Mayo](#)
Help with set up, serve and distribute food, and participate in other fun activities with our seniors!
- [Thursday, May 7th: Mother's Day Celebration](#)
Celebrate Mother's Day with our senior citizens! Help with set up and clean up, serving, and distributing food to our seniors.
- [Saturday, May 16th: Spring Arts Festival](#)
Event set up, clean up, arts and crafts, serving food, and ushering people during the event.

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To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit:

<http://riisvolunteers.blogspot.com/>

THANK YOU RIIS SETTLEMENT VOLUNTEERS!