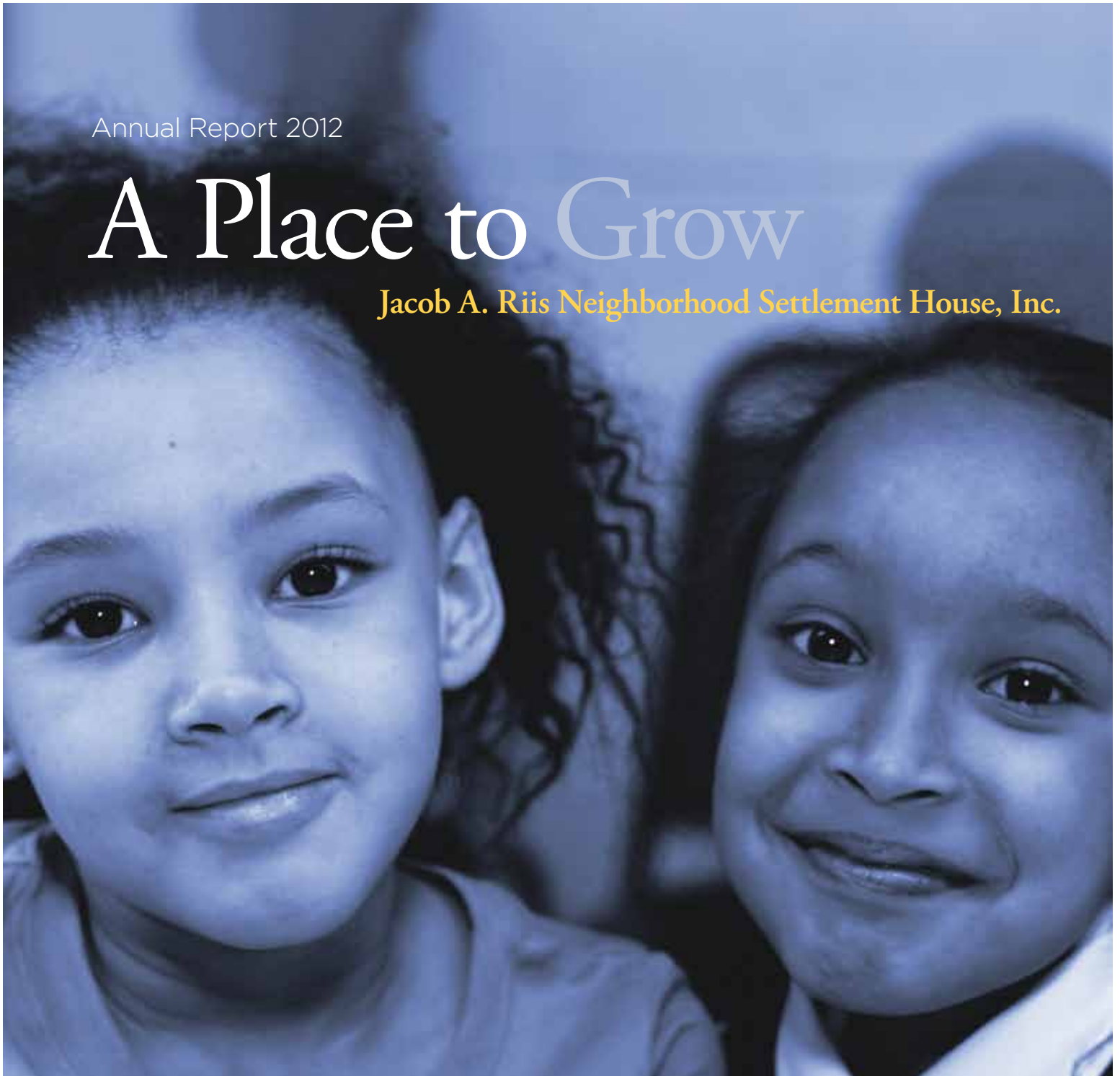


Annual Report 2012

A Place to Grow

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House, Inc.



Who We Are

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House is a community-centered non-profit organization that offers educational, cultural, social and legal services to youth, seniors, immigrants and families throughout Western Queens, New York. The crux of our mission is a comprehensive strategy that addresses the whole person; providing the resources, opportunities and supports that serve as a *catalyst* for community members to reach their greatest potential and achieve social and economic self-sufficiency.

Founded in 1899, Riis Settlement is named in honor of Jacob Riis, the Danish-American social reformer and photo-journalist who advocated for grassroots reforms in New York's poorest communities through the work of settlement houses. Today Riis Settlement serves more than 1,200 participants daily through senior health and wellness programs, English language classes, afterschool activities and college access workshops.



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Patron of Riis Settlement

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Neda Yagan, M.D.

Staff

Leadership

William T. Newlin
Executive Director

Carol Nurse
Fiscal Officer

Development & Communications

Christopher Hanway
Director of Development & Communications

Maureen Ahmed
Development & Communications Associate

Programs

Robert Madison
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Director of Adolescent Services

Karina Wegman
Director of Immigrant Services

Kevin Dunn
Coordinator, Riis Academy Ravenswood

Veronica Franklin
Coordinator, Riis Academy Queensbridge

Ifrikhar Mahmoud
Acting Coordinator, Riis Academy, I.S. 126

Lavern Maison
Coordinator, Riis Academy, P.S. 166

Albert Pollard
Coordinator, Riis Academy, InfoTech H.S.

Letters from the Chairman and Executive Director



A Message from the Executive Director

As I approach the end of my 23-year tenure as Executive Director of Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House, I am extremely proud of the growth and change that has taken place over the last two decades. Our budget has increased 30-fold and we now operate at five campuses in Long Island City and Astoria. Riis Settlement has successfully weathered the most difficult financial crisis in recent memory and come out stronger than ever- fiscally, programmatically and administratively. We are a trusted fixture in Western Queens, serving thousands of individuals and families each year, and our programs and staff have been recognized with numerous awards and commendations.

Despite these past accomplishments, it is the future of our organization and our community that is most significant to me. Riis Settlement is now well-placed to tackle the challenges faced by changing demographic, social and economic realities in Western Queens and I am confident that we will meet these challenges with great success in the service of the most important assets in the neighborhoods we serve- our local residents. From Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities that teach young people 21st century skills, to civic engagement initiatives that transform local immigrants from recipients of services to advocates for change, to wellness and cultural programs that keep our seniors healthy and independent, the future looks to be a bright one filled with educational, economic, and social self-sufficiency.

Of course, there is much work still to be done. But with the continued support of donors, friends, community partners and participants, I know that Riis Settlement will continue to act as a catalyst for change. I thank all of you for your partnership over the past year and, indeed, over the past 23 years, and wish you happiness, health and success in the future.

William T. Newlin
Executive Director



A Letter from our Chairman

Before I offer you a preview of Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House's Annual Report for fiscal year 2012, I wish to say thank you to our Executive Director William T. Newlin for his years of dedicated service and for the incredible work he has done in transforming the organization into a thriving beacon of hope for Western Queens. Our Board has chosen Christopher Hanway as his successor and we are confident that Chris will dynamically build on this growth and change in the future. Community transformation lies at the heart of Riis Settlement's work and I am delighted to report that this past year was no exception.

We continued our upward trend with a second-straight economic surplus and a diversification of revenue brought in by new corporate and foundation partners. We held our first ever Riis Legacy Awards Gala honoring Chairman Emeritus C. Flemming Heilmann and long-time supporter the Joan Mitchell Foundation. We put the finishing touches on our brand-new organizational website featuring improved graphics, user-friendly navigation, a sharper focus on programs and results, and enhanced analytics. We instituted a formal volunteer management system that includes codified procedures for engaging, evaluating and acknowledging the volunteers who make so many of our life-changing programs possible.

Our Riis Academy instituted three Councils- for youth, parents and alumni- in order to offer a stronger decision-making role to all our participants and the community-at-large. We welcomed six young people from Denmark as we completed the sixth year of our popular Danish Cultural Exchange Program. Our senior-led Queensbridge Community Garden grew from 350 to 1200 square feet and included an intergenerational project focusing on the ethnography of food. And over 20 immigrant participants achieved U.S. citizenship through our language education, legal, civics, and case management services. As we embark on the next chapter of Riis Settlement's development, I express our sincere gratitude to all of our partners on behalf of the Board, staff, and most importantly, the participants of Riis Settlement.

Michael Bingold
Chairman, Board of Directors

A PLACE TO HONOR OUR PAST

Seeds of change planted
over a century ago continue
to inform our mission.



**The Settlement House Movement –
Forging Strong Communities**

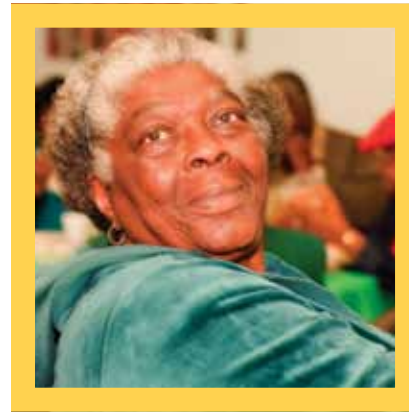
Beginning in London in the mid-19th century, the settlement movement aimed to bring the rich and poor closer together in an interdependent community. Due to increasing concerns about urban poverty in England, middle-class volunteers moved to impoverished areas in order to share knowledge, culture and resources with their low-income neighbors.

The movement was quickly adopted by other countries, including the United States, where settlement houses were established to alleviate the effects of poverty in crowded immigrant neighborhoods. By the end of the century, there were more than 100 settlement houses nationwide offering local residents access to educational, recreational and arts programs.

In 1911 American settlement house leaders united to found the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers of America. Now known as the United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA), the national organization has a membership of 160 settlement houses in 20 states. UNH, a member of UNCA, is the umbrella organization for New York City settlement houses, providing capacity building and maintaining a transcending culture of community engagement.

For more than 100 years, settlement houses have been warm, welcoming places where community residents can find opportunities to improve their lives through education, housing, health care, employment, recreational activities and the arts. Although times have changed, the commitment to the community remains the hallmark of the settlement house.





Jacob A. Riis—A Catalyst for Change

A native of Ribe, Denmark, Jacob A. Riis immigrated to the United States in 1870 and began a career in journalism with the New York News Association. Through his work as a journalist, Riis discovered the squalid conditions of tenement houses in Manhattan's Lower East Side and devoted the rest of his life to social reform. In 1890 he published his seminal work in photojournalism, *How the Other Half Lives*, which documents the squalid living conditions of New York slums. His work created unprecedented public awareness about the reality of urban poverty.

In his role as a social reformer, Riis had a profound effect on the settlement house movement. In 1901, two Lower East Side settlement houses – the New York Tenement House Chapter for the King's Daughters and Sons and the King's Daughters Settlement – consolidated under the

name Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House. During its early years, the settlement house aimed to meet the needs of recently immigrated Europeans in the city's tenement houses.

In 1950, Riis Settlement relocated to the Queensbridge Houses in Western Queens, the largest public housing development in the country, to address the needs of a changing population.

Today, we continue the legacy of the settlement house as not only a place to go, but a place to grow for the community.

DELIVERING RELEVANT, MEASURABLE RESULTS

Riis Settlement strives to produce enduring, positive change in the communities we serve. Recognizing that the needs of the community are constantly shifting, we employ a 'theory of change' that reveals short, intermediate and long term outcomes for our participants; giving us information in 'real time' that can be used to better serve our youth, seniors, immigrants and families. This strategy uses a clear description of the demographics and baseline characteristics of each individual to help us better evaluate our programming including: how our K-12 continuum affects positive change in youth, the impacts of our activities on the overall well-being of our adult seniors and ways to better integrate civic engagement, advocacy and community organizing within our Immigrant Services department.

A PLACE TO MAKE THE GRADE

When we create an environment for success, youth thrive.



Motivating Youth through a Holistic Approach

Riis Settlement's Riis Academy offers programs designed to expand and elevate how youth see themselves and the world around them. Each year we serve over 500 youth through our after-school programs across five campuses, enroll 310 young adults in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and engage over 350 elementary and middle school summer participants. Our after-school programs provide safe, high quality child care services to working parents in the Long Island City/Astoria neighborhoods. Working from a theory of change model initiated in 2011, our plan for fiscal year 2012 was to streamline the services and activities provided in the after-school program to present a more holistic approach to learning. Facilitators for our STEM, college access and gender-specific programming rotated among our campuses to create a sense of stability and helped ensure youth development principles permeated all program offerings.

Our elementary after-school programs serve as the foundation and starting point for our continuum of services. At P.S. 166, we piloted a tutoring program targeting students who performed poorly on the NYS English Language Arts (ELA) and Math exams and who were on the verge of grade demotion. Out of thirty-six students in the program, 35 were promoted to the next grade, a 97% success rate. At Riis Academy-Ravenswood, the Beyond the Music and Mighty Milers programs strengthened our

commitment to the arts and fitness education. For our middle-school participants, we emulated the success of the GIRL (Girls Inspiring in Real Life) program by piloting the BOYS (Boys of a Youthful Society) program in 2012. Our gender-specific programs focus on sexuality, health and wellness education that is not provided in schools or by any other organization in the immediate area. For high-school students, our College Access Program provided college visits, workshops and one-on-one guidance to participants. Participants toured the campuses of and engaged in information sessions with a number of colleges and universities including Adelphi University, CUNY schools, St. John's University and Temple University, among others.

Our civic engagement initiatives provided youth with the chance to learn more about their community. To learn about the city's transportation resources, participants at Riis Academy-Queensbridge explored the NYC transit system through scavenger hunts and hands-on learning activities. The intergenerational gardening project was also a success. It used scrap books, photography and interview sessions to provide an opportunity for youth to learn from seniors about their community's past and present. We hope to continue offering a continuum of services to foster positive social and emotional development and help students meet and exceed state and local standards in core academic areas.



2012 Key Accomplishments

- 93% of our 12th grade participants graduated high school and ALL of these graduates have gone on to college, as opposed to 40% of local youth overall
- Over 25 high school seniors matriculated at colleges and universities such as: CUNY campuses at City College, City Tech, College of Staten Island, John Jay, Queens College, York College, Dowling College, LaGuardia Community College, Long Island University, St. Bonaventure University, SUNY Buffalo State University, and SUNY Oswego, among others
- 2012 marked our 6th annual Danish Cultural Exchange Program. Six high-school youth from Denmark and their chaperone visited the Riis community from June 30, 2012- July 7, 2012 and were hosted in the homes of six Riis Academy high-school participants. During the visit, Riis Settlement and Danish teens participated in many cultural trips, events and activities.
- We enrolled 310 teens and young adults in our Summer Youth Employment Program at over 49 worksites throughout NYC. The seven-week program included workshops in career exploration, financial literacy, health, higher education and work readiness
- Riis Academy piloted the BOYS (Boys of a Youthful Society) program to foster health and sexuality awareness for our middle-school male participants

2012 HIGHLIGHT: STEM PROGRAM

Our Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative, which began over two years ago, engaged youth in interactive activities and gave them exposure to future career options in science and technology. This year, Riis Academy at P.S. 166 introduced Lego Robotics on Fridays, led by a PhD student and Lego robotics enthusiast. The Robotics Club met weekly to build a robot that would compete against other after-school teams in the city. In March, a group of eight students entered the NYAS/DYCD first annual FIRST LEGO League Robotics Scrimmage. The Riis Academy-P.S. 166 Robotics Team took the 1st place trophy for fastest robot in the Robot Runway competition with a time of 21 seconds. At Riis Academy-Queensbridge, the Ready, Set, GROW! summer program used STEM to teach young people about the development of plants, insects and animals. Youth engaged in hands-on activities such as planting marigolds, recording observations of plant growth and exploring the life cycles of butterflies and frogs. They utilized technology to research ways to engineer a butterfly garden, green house, and terrarium for frogs. During summer camp, children and youth visited the New York Aquarium and the New York Hall of Science to reinforce learning in a fun, educational environment.

A PLACE TO PUT DOWN ROOTS

We reach a common ground by helping others find their voice.



Encouraging Immigrants to Succeed

In response to the growing needs of the immigrant community in Western Queens, our Immigrant Services program continued to offer comprehensive services to help immigrants be successful in work, education and civic life. Bringing together over 400 individuals who speak 14 languages and come from 35 countries, we served the community through beginner to advanced English classes for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), citizenship classes, individual case management, civic engagement opportunities, and immigration legal services. Our award-winning program made a profound impact in helping immigrants become self-sufficient members of the community.

Operating at our main site in the Queensbridge Houses, I.S. 126 in Astoria, and P.S. 166 in Long Island City, we offered 26 ESOL classes throughout the year. These classes helped nearly 400 students improve English proficiency in preparation for employment, higher education and community involvement at all levels. Through creative and engaging instruction, students learned reading, writing, speaking and listening skills with a focus on family, health, employment, community, transportation, education, safety, civic engagement and other important issues. In addition, we offered five computer classes to over 60 students to help them be better prepared to enter the workforce.

Alongside educational programming, immigrant community members received support navigating essential services, benefits and institutions here in

New York City. Our program's full-time Case Manager provided individualized help to 175 participants with accessing health insurance, research on education and job training opportunities, work readiness, employment and a better understanding of the social and political systems in New York City.

Community members also received immigration legal services from our experienced Immigration Attorney, supporting participants and their families with citizenship, family petitions, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, adjustments of status, visas and other cases with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Those seeking to become U.S. citizens also attended weekly citizenship classes facilitated by our attorney to gain the knowledge of U.S. civics and history required to pass their naturalization exam.

In addition, for the first time since the program's inception, we hired a Community Organizer to facilitate civic engagement and advocacy activities. Over 80 students participated in the weekly Community Action Group (CAG) meetings to inform themselves on systems of local government, budget cuts, immigrant rights and other issues relevant to the immigrant community.



2012 Key Accomplishments

- Over 85 students participated in the Community Action Group by rallying at City Hall to protest cuts to adult literacy, participating in Riis Settlement's community garden, traveling to Albany for Immigrants' Day of Action, and/or by attending weekly meetings.
- 70% of ESOL students' pre- and post-tests showed improved English proficiency.
- 175 participants received support from our Case Manager toward reaching goals beyond learning English.
- 292 individuals received a free legal consultation with our Immigration Attorney.
- 20 participants became new U.S. citizens with the help of our Immigration Attorney.

2012 HIGHLIGHT: FOSTERING CIVIC ACTION FOR IMMIGRANTS

Beginning in March of 2012, we were pleased to offer our students increased opportunities for civic engagement and collective empowerment through the formation of a 'Community Action Group' (CAG). The group meets weekly and is open to all Riis Settlement ESOL students who seek to be more informed of their rights and of issues affecting immigrant communities. By connecting our students to community leaders, like-minded organizations and grassroots campaigns, we believe they will be better equipped to advocate for themselves and the issues they are committed to.

Just weeks after the groups' inception, 21 CAG members and other Riis Settlement ESOL students traveled to Albany for the New York Immigration Coalition's (NYIC) Immigrant Day of Action, where we joined hundreds of other students and immigrants' rights organizations to promote the immigration priorities of the NYIC such as passing the DREAM Act. Later in the spring, the CAG undertook an initiative to oppose significant cuts to municipal funding allocated for adult literacy programs. Members met with elected officials, gave speeches at a Riis Settlement Town Hall meeting and rallied at City Hall. That the final adopted budget included 100% restoration of level-funding for adult literacy was a tangible demonstration of the effectiveness of advocacy efforts such as ours.

In particular, the CAG has been very active this year in Riis Settlement's community garden. Immigrant gardeners worked with senior gardeners to grow flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Gardening transcends language barriers, and cross-cultural knowledge sharing between immigrants and seniors was one of the garden highlights.

A PLACE TO STAY YOUNG AT HEART

A flourishing senior community stems from sharp minds and active lives.



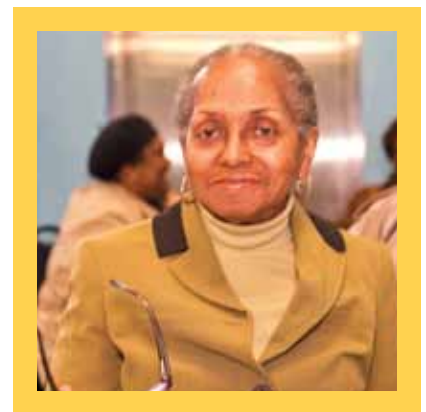
Engaging Our Seniors in an Active Community

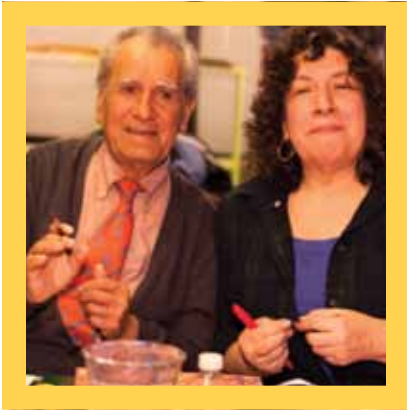
In 2012, Senior Services remained the foundation for a growing number of senior residents in Western Queens. Our vision- making sure our seniors are socially connected, physically healthy and able to age in place- has continued to be in the forefront.

Throughout this past year, educational and social opportunities continued to grow at our Senior Center. We launched a year-long series of expanded art classes thanks to great partnerships with the Joan Mitchell Foundation, Elders Share the Arts, the Noguchi Museum and our celebrated resident quilter Ms. Nellie Pettway. Thanks to the McManus Foundation's support, we continued our tradition of offering cultural events and outings, including trips to Broadway Shows, the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular and our popular Jazz at Riis summer concert series. Outside of the center, seniors also participated in field trips to cultural landmarks, city parks, libraries and shopping centers. These initiatives encouraged social

interaction and mental-health wellness and kept local seniors engaged in their community.

In addition, health and wellness awareness continued serving as a critical resource for our seniors. Through collaborations with organizations such as the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, we were able to provide over 180 hours of health care case management. The Senior Center engaged in short- and long-term assistance to older adults and provided over 765 hours of support including help with benefits and entitlements, document preparation, crisis intervention, housing issues and more. We also expanded our efforts to incorporate more fresh fruits and vegetables into our healthy and nutritious meals, instituting one vegetarian meal a week. Our ongoing exercise, walking and Tai Chi classes have been fun and plans are afoot to expand to even more low impact mobility activities.





2012 Key Accomplishments

- Grants from the New York State Office for the Aging (SOFA) and The New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA), which awarded Riis Settlement one of their new Neighborhood Senior Center grants, continued to support our endeavors
- Saw a 35% increase in trips for seniors to food pantries, farmers' markets and community events, reaching 2,694.
- Served over 18,193 healthy meals to seniors at the Senior Center, an increase of 20% from 2011
- Provided over 800 hours of telephone reassurance to ensure that our seniors are connected to the Center when at home alone or when a crisis arises.
- As a testament to their popularity, over 469 seniors participated in our cultural event programs.
- Registration at the Queensbridge Riis Senior Center increased by 13%, and now includes approximately 20% of the senior population of the Queensbridge Housing Developments.
- Over 117 people were transported by the Riis Settlement van on a monthly basis.
- Five of our senior garden representatives were recognized in local media for their Riis Community Garden activities.

2012 HIGHLIGHT: THE COMMUNITY GARDEN TAKES ROOT

The senior-led Queensbridge Community Garden, made possible with the generous support of the Greening Western Queens Fund of the North Star Fund and other partners, now covers 1200 sq. ft. and has 4 raised beds, some with hoop houses for late harvesting. Now in its second active year, the senior leadership team has played a prominent role in directing the project. 15 Riis seniors participated in the gardening project, along with our Riis immigrant service participants and youth. We have coordinated numerous workshops, trainings and demonstrations throughout the growing seasons to educate our community. One particularly engaging component was the intergenerational "Ethnography of Food" program, in which the seniors shared their personal knowledge of gardening and gave young people a foundation to learn about food and culture. As we did last year, Riis Settlement has utilized many of the vegetables and herbs grown in the garden to make healthy dishes served at the Senior Center.

A PLACE TO GIVE AND RECEIVE

We cultivate opportunity by making every donation count.



Statement of Activities with Summarized Financial Information for 2012 (in Thousands)

Revenue, Gains, and Other Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2012	2011	2010
Public Support and Revenue					
Government Grants	2,410,696	-	2,410,696	2,319,347	2,272,445
Foundation Contributions	190,000	382,068	572,068	404,968	310,691
Other Contributions	104,592	-	104,592	135,691	135,034
Event Income	56,785	-	56,785	0	0
In-Kind Rent	86,822	-	86,822	86,822	86,822
In-Kind Contributions	80,865	-	80,865	57,094	57,094
Participant Activities	16,469	-	16,469	15,183	16,957
Rental Income	490	-	490	0	1,825
Total Support from the Public	\$2,946,719	\$382,068	\$3,328,787	\$3,019,105	\$2,880,868
Investment income					
Interest and Dividends, Net	312	-	312	400	271
Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	4,240	-	4,240	4,441	16,068
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	10,547	-	10,547	3,077	351
Total Investment Income	15,099	-	15,099	7,918	16,690
Net Assets Restriction Transfers	317,335	(317,335)	0	0	0
Total Revenue, Gains, and Other Supports	\$3,279,153	\$64,733	\$3,027,023	3,027,023	\$2,975,598

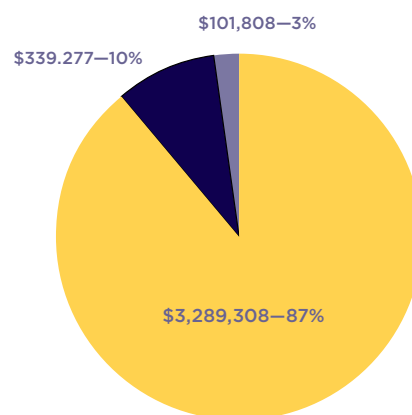
Expenses	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2012	2011	2010
Program Services					
Youth Services	2,118,141	-	2,118,141	1,933,112	1,997,721
Adult and Community Services	297,194	-	297,194	307,037	142,153
Senior Services	432,888	-	432,888	389,082	397,035
Total Program Services*	2,848,223	-	2,848,223 (86%)	2,629,231 (89%)	2,536,909 (82%)
Supporting Services					
Management and General	339,277	-	339,277	269,574	400,667
Fundraising	101,808	-	101,808	56,942	65,359
Total Supporting Services**	441,085	-	441,085 (13%)	326,516 (9%)	466,026 (16%)
Total Program and Supporting Services Expenses	\$3,289,308	-	\$3,289,308	\$2,955,747	\$3,022,935
Change in Net Assets	(10,155)	64,733	54,578	71,276	(105,377)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	389	911,084	911,473	840,197	945,574
Net Assets, End of Year	(9,766)	975,817	966,051	911,473	840,197

Balance Sheet

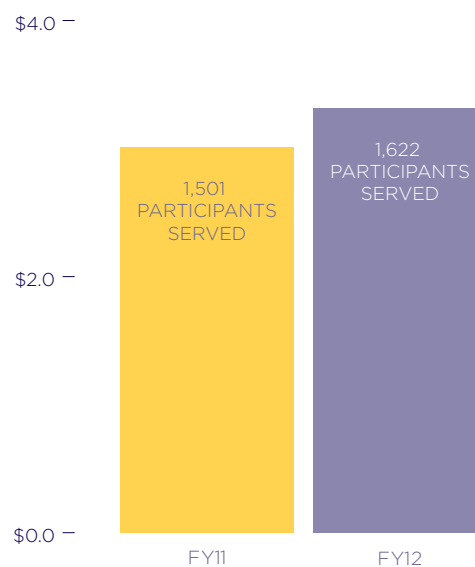
Assets	2012	2011	2010
Cash and Cash Equivalents	542,612	580,680	581,624
Pledges and Grants Receivable, Net	398,815	315,057	299,418
Investments, at Fair Value	56,446	46,444	29,058
Fixed Assets, Net	41,437	48,426	56,512
Total Assets	\$1,039,310	\$990,607	\$966,612
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	15,267	23,127	12,229
Refundable Advances	57,992	56,007	114,186
Total Liabilities	\$73,259	\$79,134	\$126,415
Commitments and Contingencies			2010
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	(9,766)	389	(68,069)
Temporarily Restricted	975,817	911,084	908,266
Total Net Assets	\$966,051	\$911,473	\$840,197
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,039,310	\$990,607	\$966,612

Expenses FY12

- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL
- PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
- FUNDRAISING



Community Members Served vs. Dollars Raised (in millions)



A Place to Say Thanks

With the support of individuals and the community, Riis Settlement continues to forge a path for change in Western Queens.



Government, Foundation and Corporate Supporters

(July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012)

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 Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan
 Astoria/Long Island City NAACP
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 New York Community Trust
 New York Foundation
 New York State Department of Education
 New York State Department of State
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 New York State Office for the Aging
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 The Summer Matters Fund
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 United Neighborhood Houses of New York
 United Way of New York City
 UPS Foundation
 Verizon Foundation

Visiting Nurse Service of New York
 Laura B. Vogler Foundation, Inc.
 WTAS, LLC

Individual Donors

(July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012)

\$5,000+

Mr. & Mrs. D. Euan Baird
 Mr. Kenneth DeRegt & Ms. Alison Overseth
 Mr. & Mrs. C. Flemming Heilmann
 Mr. & Mrs. David Klur
 Ms. Ann Gorski LoBue & Mr. Bob LoBue
 Mr. Michael Saliba

\$1,000–\$4,499

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bingold
 Mr. & Mrs. Gennaro Crisci
 Mrs. Giovanna Cugnasca & Mr. Paolo Cugnasca
 Ms. Michelle Del Rosario
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