

A place to grow

TOGETHER
WE
CAN
DO
GREAT
THINGS

Annual Report 2019

GROUP
2

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A collage of children's drawings. In the center is a large, hand-drawn globe with green continents and blue oceans. Overlaid on the globe is the text "TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS" in colorful, blocky letters. Above the globe, the title "A place to grow" is written in a large, elegant, purple script font. The background is filled with various children's drawings, including several figures with dreadlocks, a sailboat with the text "I AM SPECIAL", and various colorful shapes and patterns. The overall theme is diversity and community.

A collage of children's drawings. In the center is a large, hand-drawn globe with green continents and blue oceans. Overlaid on the globe is the text "TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS" in colorful, blocky letters. Above the globe, the title "A place to grow" is written in a large, elegant, cursive font, with "A place to" in white and "grow" in purple. The background is filled with various children's drawings, including several figures with dreadlocks, a sailboat with the text "I AM SPECIAL", and various colorful shapes and patterns. Some of the drawings have names written on them, such as "Jackson", "Scarlet", "Angelo", "Sach", "Tobias", "Grace", "Harvey", and "Tiana". At the bottom, the words "Annual Report 2019" and "GROUP 2" are written in a simple, sans-serif font.

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Annual Report 2019

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Who We Are

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement is a community-based non-profit organization providing comprehensive services and programs to youth, families, immigrants and seniors in western Queens. The organization was founded in 1889 by the renowned Danish social reformer Jacob Riis. Today, Riis Settlement provides integrated social, cultural, educational and health programs to a yearly average of 2,500 individuals across eight sites. Our goal is to ensure that community members have the tools and resources they need to achieve social and economic success.

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Director of Senior Services

A Message from Riis Settlement

Fiscal year 2019 was another year of growth and achievement for Riis Settlement. It was also a period that brought a lot of excitement and anticipation to our community, when corporate giant Amazon announced that Long Island City was the winner of its nationwide search for the location of its second American headquarters. As a longstanding community stakeholder, Riis was invited to join the Amazon advisory committee to help inform Amazon's community engagement strategy. We worked alongside fellow CBOs and resident leaders to advocate for meaningful community investment from Amazon that would have a tangible impact on the lives of those we serve. From job training and career-ladder job opportunities for local adults to investments in STEM education for local youth, our hope was that Amazon's presence would truly benefit those most in need. While Amazon eventually chose to relocate their new headquarters, we are proud of the constructive discourse and positive collaboration that arose during that time. The prospect of having the world's largest corporation move next door inspired many residents and community leaders to reflect on what is really needed to build equitable and sustainable communities. We are proud to have played a part in those conversations, which we believe will have a positive impact on western Queens for years to come.

While there was increased advocacy across western Queens in response to Amazon's pending arrival, advocacy also continued to play a bigger role within our programs. We expanded our community organizing program to provide a series of intensive advocacy and leadership trainings to local immigrants and identified community leaders that could lead the work. With the support of our community organizer, cohorts of ESOL students and local immigrant residents met weekly to learn new skills, discuss issues of concern, and devise actionable plans to effect change in the community. We are proud to say that they were effective in their work, securing long-awaited and much-needed apartment repairs for tens of NYCHA residents.

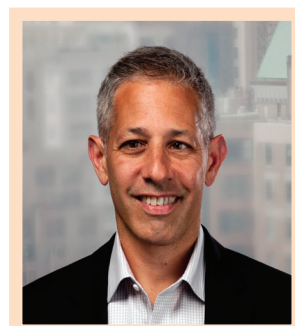
There was also a heightened focus on mental health this year. We partnered with the Thrive NYC initiative to facilitate several mental health first aid trainings for staff and community members. The trainings were designed to teach individuals how to identify signs of mental health distress, or substance use issues in their community, and give them the tools to respond effectively to a person in crisis.

We are enormously thankful to all the generous individual donors, private foundations, corporations, and city and state agencies that funded and supported our work this year. Our efforts would not be possible without that support, and for that we are truly grateful. On behalf of the entire board and Riis Settlement staff, we are proud to present our fiscal year 2019 annual report.

Sincerely,



Christopher Hanway
Executive Director



David S. Klur
Chairman, Board of Directors

Highlights from FY 2019

Riis Academy Cultural Day



Children from our four Riis Academy summer camp programs came together for a culminating festival to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our community

August

NSTAT Launch



Our NSTAT team attended their first Central NeighborhoodStat meeting at Baruch College where they met with City agency leaders and presented their priorities and strategies to improve public safety in Queensbridge.

October

Fall Family Feast



In partnership with Citibank, we hosted our 13th annual Fall Family Feast and served over 1,000 holiday meals to the community.

November

Black History Month Celebration



Council member Jimmy Van Bramer hosted his Annual Black History Month Celebration, which celebrates dedicated community leaders. Riis's fiscal officer, Carol Nurse, was honored for her nearly three decades of service to the community.

February

Adult Literacy Rally



Our Immigrant Services' ESOL students participated in a rally at Queens Borough Hall to push for greater adult literacy funding from the city.

April

Spring Arts Festival

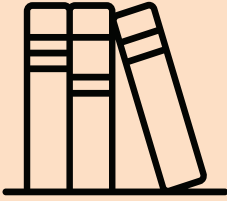


We held our 21st annual Spring Arts Festival, which showcased the creative talents of our program participants and community members.

May

Immigrant Services

Since 2001, our **Immigrant Services** program has strived to meet the needs of a robust and diverse immigrant population in western Queens by offering comprehensive services that promote success in work, education and civic life. Our services include beginner-to-advanced English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes; citizenship classes; case management; immigration legal services; and civic engagement/advocacy activities. Over the past nineteen years, we have served over **10,000** immigrant clients and our program continues to grow.



In FY19, we served **648** students across 37 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes and **3** bi-lingual computer classes: **88%** of students who were post-tested achieved a measurable increase in their level of English proficiency.



96 individuals received a free first-time legal consultation from our immigration attorney, and **41** applications were filed for benefits such as citizenship, DACA renewal, green card renewal, adjustment of status, asylum petitions, and more.



194 participants received support from our case management team for issues ranging from the NYCHA lease recertification process, to accessing health care services, to obtaining essential government benefits like SNAP.



We continued to educate the community on their rights and changing immigration policies, conducting **21** Know Your Rights workshops, at local venues such as schools and libraries, and reaching **454** community members.

Immigrant Services

Program Highlight



While Riis Settlement has long used our position as a community stakeholder to advocate for those we serve on the local and state level, in fiscal year 2019 we also developed a grassroots community organizing initiative to build the advocacy skills of participants in our Immigrant Services program. We hired a community organizer to oversee our community-level organizing efforts and to develop a training program to help our immigrant participants become grassroots leaders. Over 170 participants met with our community organizer individually, and a core team came together through local meetings to identify priority issues and strategies to fight for changes in their community. The participant-led team launched campaigns in Queensbridge to push for apartment repairs for public housing residents and greater access to high quality, affordable healthy food options. In February 2019, 36 immigrant residents attended an intensive 7-hour leadership training and in March 2019, a team of immigrant leaders had their first public action when they met with Lynne Patton, the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. They led Ms. Patton on apartment tours to show the poor living conditions of public housing residents, and two resident leaders, Katia and Ricardo, delivered prepared statements at a town hall event. At the town hall, a team of 20 residents presented Ms. Patton with a list of 130 apartment repairs needed and held enlarged photos showing the needed repairs. The apartment tours and town hall received media coverage from NY1, ABC 7, Pix11, NY Daily News, and the Patch, and two resident leaders gave interviews with the press. As a result of this work and the leadership of our participants, residents won concrete progress: over 30 apartment repairs were made including the complete renovation of one of the worst apartments on the list.

Senior Services

Our **Senior Services** program offers a wide range of support services to help the older adults in the local community maintain good health, remain socially connected, and have the opportunity to successfully “age in place.” Services include health management and education, case management and assistance, home visits, daily meal service, educational/recreational activities, and cultural outings. On a yearly average, we serve over **600** older adults from Queensbridge and the surrounding community.



We served **21,009** meals to our seniors and provided **2,208** nutritious take-home weekend meals to our most food-insecure seniors.



We provided **241** education/recreation sessions, as well as **243** art/culture sessions that included visual art classes, cultural celebrations, and trips to museums and galleries



As part of our collaboration with Older Adults Technology Services’ (OATS) Senior Planet, we provided **300** technology classes on topics ranging from iPad and Chromebook basics to digital financial literacy skills.



We conducted **6,358** health management sessions, **2,933** physical health/exercise sessions, and **186** nutrition sessions as part of our goal to ensure greater health outcomes for our seniors.

Senior Services

Program Highlight

Our Senior Services program has a long tradition of partnering with arts-based and cultural organizations to provide older adults in the community with opportunities to foster their creativity and learn new skills. In 2019, we partnered with the Josephine Herrick Project on the F-Stop Project—an initiative that provided free photography classes to Queensbridge seniors, youth and English language learners to help them use photography to talk about their community.



Photo by Clovia Thomas

A group of our seniors attended weekly evening classes where professional teaching artists taught them the basics of photography and equipped them with cameras so they could document their surroundings in their own unique way. While many of the seniors had never held a camera before, the teaching artists shared their knowledge in a manner that was accessible for all skill levels. They made sure that each student felt confident in their ability to express themselves creatively.

The F-stop project aimed to give residents the tools and platforms to frame the narrative about their community, and our seniors rose to the occasion. They spent months photographing their life and community—ultimately presenting very intimate perspectives of friends, family, and communal life in Queensbridge and challenging the false stereotypes that often overshadow public housing. For the culminating event, the teaching artists selected 122 photographs, which were enlarged and exhibited along 41st Avenue and Vernon Boulevard during the month of November. The exhibition was a homage to a rich and vibrant community, and a testimony to the dedication of the Josephine Herrick Project and its teaching artists.



Photo by Nafisa Mahdi

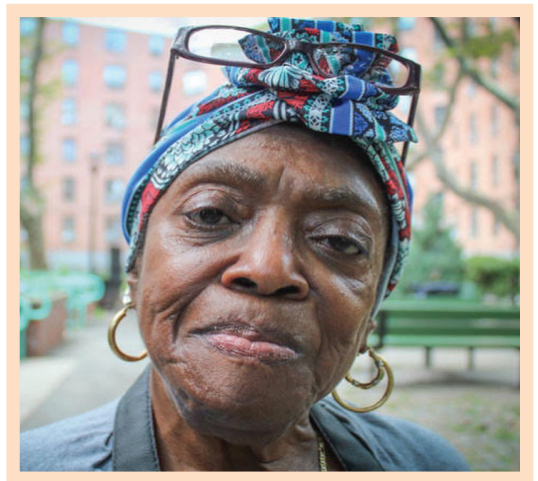


Photo by Marilyn Jones

Riis Academy is our largest program, providing high-quality after school and summer programming to hundreds of youth each year at five local public schools (PS 76 William Hallett, PS 166 Henry Gradstein, PS 171 Peter G. Van Alst, CS 111 Jacob Blackwell, and Information Technology High School) and two center-based sites (Queensbridge and Ravenswood). Our programs provide youth with academic enrichment, project-based STEM activities, visual arts, health and wellness activities, life skills and leadership development, and college readiness programming. Our staff follows an asset-based approach in all components to empower participants to improve school attendance and performance, remain on track, and achieve postsecondary success.



Our Summer Youth Employment Program offered paid project-based learning and work experience to **325** young people between the ages of 14 and 24 at our Queensbridge and Ravenswood community centers.



We served over **1,100** youth (grades K-12) across our **7** after-school program sites with academic, enrichment, and recreational activities.



We continued to work with many partner organizations to enhance our services, including the following new partners: Wide Rainbow, Circle of Security, Shape Up NYC, DIA Chelsea, and the Hunter's Point Civic Association.

Riis Academy

Program Highlight

Riis Settlement is enormously proud of its ties to Denmark—the birthplace of our founder, Jacob A. Riis. For years, both the Danish diaspora here in New York City and the people of Denmark have supported our mission and work with great dedication. In May, we were honored to receive a visit from our long-time patron, HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark. The Princess met with staff and had the opportunity to tour our community center and see our Riis Academy-Queensbridge after-school program in action. The children were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet a real-life princess.



2019 also marked year-two of the 7th cycle of our Danish Youth Exchange Program. The program, which operates on a two-year cycle, offers select Riis youth and their Danish peers from the Ribe Cathedral School the wonderful opportunity to travel abroad, explore new cultures, and broaden their worldview. In late June, six Riis Academy seniors and two Riis chaperones traveled to Denmark for a week-long excursion

They traveled first to Jacob Riis's hometown of Ribe, where they were hosted by their Danish peers and their families. They spent five days in Ribe, the oldest town in Denmark. They visited the Wadden Sea, toured the Ribe Viking Center, and explored the local countryside by bicycle, dirt bike and horseback. This trip was particularly special as it coincided with the opening of the Jacob Riis Museum in Ribe. The group received a private tour of the museum and attended a celebratory dinner at the Ribe Rotary Club, where they had the opportunity to meet the great granddaughter of Jacob Riis, Lela Riis Agnew. At the end of the week, the group returned to Copenhagen where they spent the last two days of the trip exploring the capital.

Statement of Activities

Revenue, Gains, and Other Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2019	2018	2017
Public Support and Revenue					
Government Grants	3,899,869	26,000	3,925,869	3,818,635	3,686,109
Foundation Contributions	341,810	127,500	469,310	560,897	207,500
Other Contributions	187,747	-	187,747	213,457	190,721
Event Income	0	-	0	0	33,558
In-Kind Rent	132,332	-	132,332	86,822	86,822
In-Kind Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
Participant Activities	15,523	-	15,523	18,673	19,400
Rental Income	29,750	-	29,750	22,786	41,788
Total Support from the Public	\$4,607,031	\$153,500	\$4,760,531	\$4,721,270	\$4,232,340
Investment Income					
Interest and Dividends, Net	85	-	85	1,661	2,239
Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	0	-	0	659	0
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	1,340	-	1,340	3,719	3,741
Total Investment Income	1,425	-	1,425	6,039	5,980
Net Assets Restriction Transfers	198,482	(198,482)	0	0	0
Total Revenue, Gains and Other Supports	\$4,608,456	(\$198,482)	\$4,761,956	\$4,727,309	\$4,238,320

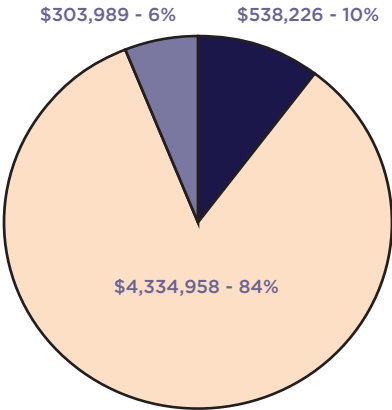
Expenses	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2019	2018	2017
Program Services					
Youth Services	2,552,109	-	2,552,109	2,501,156	2,348,944
Adult and Community Services	1,094,721	-	1,094,721	883,986	794,535
Senior Services	688,128	-	688,128	626,548	593,831
Total Program Services	4,334,958	-	4,334,958 (84%)	4,011,690 (87%)	3,737,310 (89%)
Supporting Services					
Management and General	538,226	-	538,226	388,880	310,858
Fundraising	303,898	-	303,898	225,796	170,101
Total Supporting Services	842,124	-	842,124 (16%)	614,676 (13%)	480,959 (11%)
Total Program and Supporting Services Expenses	\$5,177,082	-	\$5,177,082	\$4,626,366	\$4,218,269
Changes in Net Assets	(370,144)	(44,982)	(415,126)	100,943	20,051
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	(27,651)	755,825	728,174	627,231	607,180
Net Assets, End of Year	(397,795)	710,843	313,048	728,174	627,231

Balance Sheet

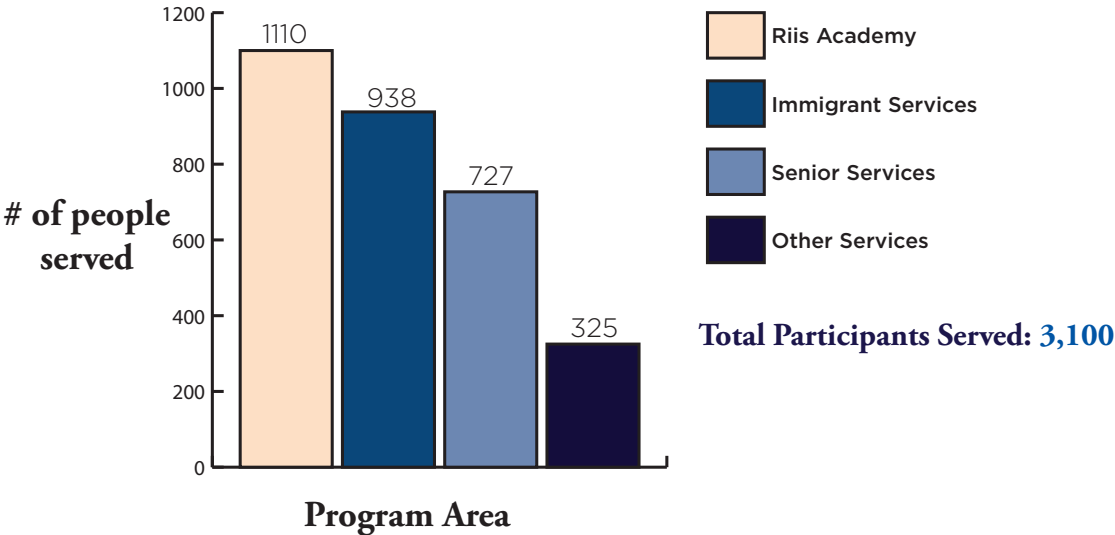
Assets	2019	2018	2017
Cash and Cash Equivalents	59,200	198,573	108,713
Pledges and Grants Receivables, Net	713,345	860,696	705,265
Investments, at Fair Value	21,934	20,509	33,486
Fixed Assets, Net	30,311	44,579	58,847
Total Assets	824,790	1,124,357	906,311
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	352,205	313,699	194,502
Refundable Advances	159,537	82,484	84,578
Total Liabilities	511,742	396,183	279,080
Commitments and Contingencies			
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	-397,795	-27,651	164,146
Temporarily Restricted	710,843	755,825	463,085
Total Net Assets	\$313,048	\$728,174	\$627,231
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$824,790	\$1,124,357	\$906,311

Expenses FY19

- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL
- PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
- FUNDRAISING



Participants Served in FY19



Government, Foundation & Corporate Supporters

(July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

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Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan
Berley Family Foundation Inc.
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New York State Office for the Aging
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
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The Pinkerton Foundation
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The Stamford Denmark Friendship Committee, Inc.
The Teagle Foundation
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(July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

\$5000 +

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\$1000 - \$4,999

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(July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

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 New York City Office of Emergency Management
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 Sadie Nash Leadership Project
 Suryaside Yoga
 The Floating Hospital
 The Leadership Program
 The Sylvia Center
 Urban Upbound
 Visiting Nurse Service of New York
 Zone 126



Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement

*“Not just a place to go,
but a place to grow”*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:

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www.riissettlement.org*