



MATTERS

Renewing lives.
Reclaiming hope.

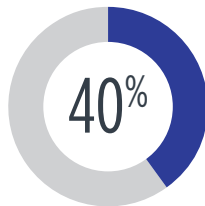
HOPE FOR LGBTQ YOUNG ADULTS



Amanda Westcott

Residents of Marsha's House have access to support services tailored to their needs.

LGBTQ young adults who are homeless in New York City have never had housing resources tailored to their needs. But that changed in February, when we proudly opened **Marsha's House**, the City's first shelter to fill this gap and serve LGBTQ individuals ages 18 to 30.



40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Our new shelter is the first in NYC to serve LGBTQ young adults.

Named for local LGBTQ activist Marsha P. Johnson who died in 1992, Marsha's House has 81 beds and a wide array of programs to help clients overcome the unique vulnerabilities and discrimination that homeless LGBTQ individuals face. Services include referrals to education and employment programs, group counseling, and healthcare including HIV and transgender care.

Our staff is committed to ensuring that each person who comes through our shelter, regardless of their sexual identity or gender, has the full opportunity to renew their life and reclaim hope for the future. If you are interested in getting involved, contact us at volunteer@projectrenewal.org.



THE BRONX EMBRACES LGBTQ SHELTER

“It is well-documented that LGBTQ homeless youth face extraordinary challenges without many resources available at their disposable. I’m proud to have partnered with Project Renewal and the City’s Department of Homeless Services to open the City’s first LGBTQ youth shelter, Marsha’s House, in my district in the Central Bronx. This shelter addresses the need for a safe space for homeless LGBTQ young adults in New York City, a group that experiences homelessness at much higher rates than their straight peers. This shelter can mean the difference between life and death for homeless LGBTQ young adults, who frequently face discrimination and violence. I am grateful that Project Renewal is running Marsha’s House and providing targeted support services for this vulnerable population.”

RITCHIE TORRES, Bronx Council Member



Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

Commissioner Steven Banks, First Lady Chirlane McCray, Project Renewal President & CEO Mitchell Netburn, and Council Member Ritchie Torres at the opening of Marsha's House.



Amanda Westcott

The Next Step for Michael

GIVING BACK

Michael has a full-time job, a home, and he looks forward to the future—but that wasn't always the case.

When he was younger, drug addiction led the Bronx native to homelessness and incarceration. Seven years into his 10-year prison term, optimism gradually overcame his hopelessness. "I started taking it one day at a time, kept myself busy, and got my associate degree."

After his release in 2016, struggling to find permanent employment, he attended a workforce development workshop. There he learned about Project Renewal's Next Step Internship Program (NSIP), which provides on-the-job training for unemployed men and women interested in homeless services work. The opportunity for a career helping others resonated with him.

"I learned so much in the program and got certifications like Mental Health First Aid, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, and the F80 Fire Guard Certification."



Michael, a graduate of Project Renewal's Next Step Internship Program, works at Marsha's House as a Residential Aide.

Through NSIP, Michael received intensive vocational and life skills training, plus a six-week paid internship at a Project Renewal shelter. "I learned so much in the program and got certifications like Mental Health First Aid, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, and the F80 Fire Guard Certification," he says. "I also learned that what you give, you get back."

Today, he is a Residential Aide at our new Bronx shelter for LGBTQ young adults, the first of its kind in the City. "I make sure our clients get the support they need," he says proudly. "I tell them their situation is only temporary. Believe me, I know." In a few years, Michael wants to be an assistant shelter director at Project Renewal—his future is indeed looking bright.

LIFE AT MARSHA'S HOUSE

Kristian is a 25-year-old trans man who became homeless during his transition. Kristian found safety and security at Marsha's House, the City's first shelter for LGBTQ young adults. "Being surrounded by like-minded people has been really helpful. The staff at Marsha's House are allies and are respectful of pronouns," Kristian says.

Kristian has been using the support services at Marsha's House to secure personal identification that reflects his gender identity and to look for a second job to supplement his part-time work. "If I weren't at Marsha's House, I would be struggling a whole lot more," he reflects. "I feel stable and I have faith in the future."

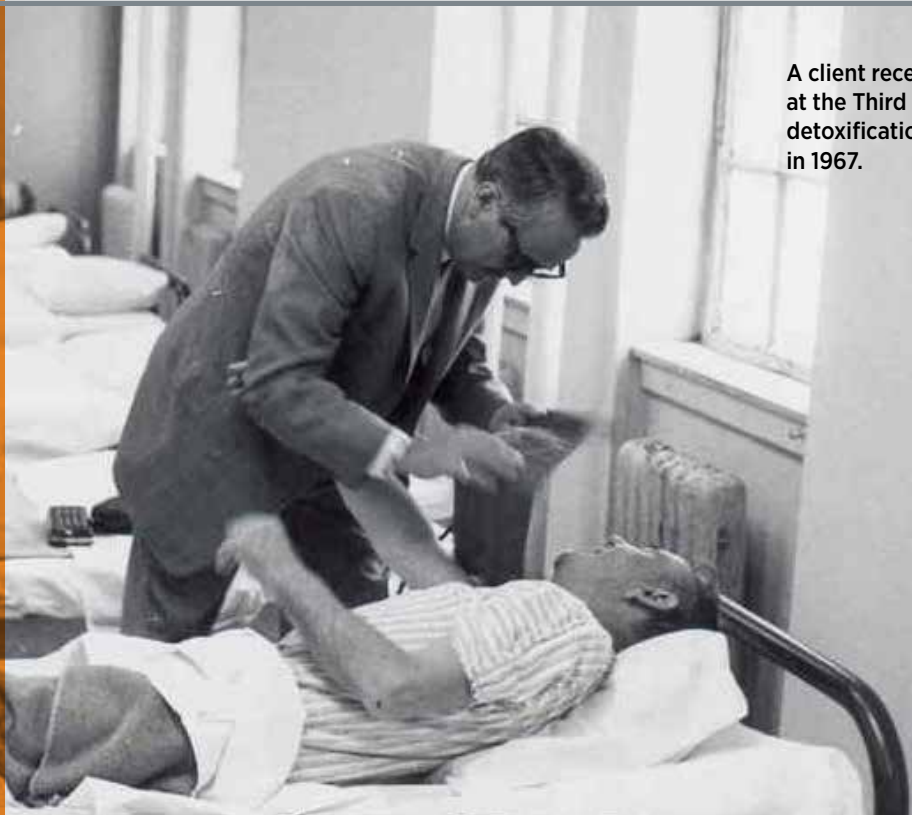
"If I weren't at Marsha's House, I would be struggling a whole lot more."



“What has always made Project Renewal special is that we reach so many people who have nowhere else to get help.”

BETTY KIERNAN

Reflecting on
50 Years of
Project Renewal



A client receives care at the Third Street detoxification clinic in 1967.

Betty Kiernan, a founding member of Project Renewal and a staff nurse for nearly 45 years, shares her memories from her time at the organization.

How did Project Renewal get started?

We opened our doors to the detoxification clinic in November of 1967. We would admit men on the Bowery for a five-day medical detox. At that time, it was a full-fledged 24-hour medical unit, with doctors, nurses and social workers.

Where did it go from there?

We discovered those who participated in medical detox still needed support after getting sober. Our psychiatrist diagnosed one-third of patients with schizophrenia, so the men who we were working with were very vulnerable. Eventually, we opened an outpatient clinic and provided skill-building workshops. After clients got sober, we would help them get a job.

How did Project Renewal change during your time there?

In 1967, alcoholism had only recently been recognized as a disease, and there was a joint effort across the city to manage public intoxication in a more humane way, rather than with jail time. The programs we offered were voluntary and truly innovative, and we gradually expanded into a big agency. We started doing street outreach, managing shelters, working with women, and more.

What has always made Project Renewal special is that we reach so many people who have nowhere else to get help. Project Renewal has adapted to the changing needs of the homeless across the city, and it is a million miles from where we started. The impact that Project Renewal has on the lives of so many New Yorkers is such a tribute to the dedicated people who have been involved over the past 50 years.



**50 YEARS
OF PROJECT
RENEWAL**

Project Renewal is thrilled to celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year! We have been on the frontlines of homelessness in New York City for five decades, creating innovative solutions to address the needs of vulnerable New Yorkers. This has been the hallmark of Project Renewal ever since we provided detoxification treatment, rather than jail time, to men struggling with alcoholism on the Bowery in 1967—a revolutionary approach at the time.

Today, we reach 16,000 adults and children struggling with homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse as well as formerly incarcerated individuals, the elderly, veterans, families, and many others. We could not do our work without the continued support of our donors. On behalf of the Project Renewal Board of Trustees, staff, and those we serve, we thank you.

STAY CONNECTED WITH PROJECT RENEWAL



- 1 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS** More than 600 guests joined us at our Annual Gala Benefit + Auction, which raised over \$1.5 million to support our health, homes, and jobs programs.
- 2 LENDING A HELPING HAND** Volunteers at Guardian Life Insurance made cards and decorated cookies to distribute to women at our New Providence shelter for Valentine's Day.
- 3 SPREAD THE LOVE** STATE Bags and other sponsors helped women from our housing programs feel special during the "Spread the Love" event this February.
- 4 JOIN THE MARATHON TEAM** Apply to join Project Renewal's New York City Marathon Team! Support vulnerable New Yorkers while you participate in the race of a lifetime. Visit www.projectrenewal.org/marathon to learn more.



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