



# MATTERS



## BRINGING HEALTH CARE TO THE STREETS

**Peter has lived on the streets of Manhattan for most of the last 30 years.** The stress of his chronic homelessness has taken its toll on his body, causing him to suffer from diabetes, adrenaline tremors, cataracts, glaucoma, and a bone infection in his foot.

As someone who leads a busy and fulfilling life advocating for causes important to people experiencing homelessness, Peter needs his health care to meet him where he is. Thanks to Project Renewal's mobile medical vans, Peter gets the health care he needs.

Peter first heard about Project Renewal in 2009 when our psychiatric outreach team visited a drop-in shelter where he worked. Two years later, when he lost his job and became homeless again, he began visiting our mobile medical units. Now he visits once a month for check-ups, medication, supplies, and referrals to specialists, like our shelter-based dentist.

"A lot of homeless people don't trust hospitals," Peter explains. "Project Renewal is different. They treat you with dignity, like a human being. I recommend it to people all the time."

Our vans meet patients like Peter in their community where they are and in many cases on the streets. The Project Renewal mobile medical units serve 14 locations across Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx, outside shelters, churches and community centers. Last year 3,547 adults received care on our vans, making Project Renewal the largest provider of mobile medical services to homeless New Yorkers. We provide care irrespective of the patient's ability to pay, and we offer all of our uninsured patients assistance with the enrollment process.

As a member of our patient advisory board, Peter is also helping to make our mobile medical units better. The board meets with our staff monthly, to give feedback and ensure that we are adapting to our patients' evolving needs.

While Peter continues helping other homeless New Yorkers access health care and housing, he hopes to move into a permanent home soon too. "I'm grateful to Project Renewal for helping me be in a position with my health where I can think about my future," he says.

## COLLABORATIVE FOR HOMELESS HEALTH CARE

In New York City, people who experience homelessness travel among shelters, hospitals, and social service providers to meet their health care needs. But, limited information-sharing makes continuity of care difficult and health outcomes worse. We are thrilled to be part of a new coalition, the Collaborative for Homeless Healthcare, that will develop innovative solutions to this problem. Funded by The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the coalition will strengthen the city's homeless health care system and improve patients' health and well-being.

THE LEONA M. AND HARRY B.  
**HELMSLEY**  
CHARITABLE TRUST

**"Project Renewal is highly regarded for the critical services they provide to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. They were a clear choice to include in the Collaborative for Homeless Healthcare, especially since they play a key role in other collaborative efforts in New York City, such as the Providers of Healthcare for the Homeless. Project Renewal's deep expertise in substance disorder treatment, mobile clinics, and psychiatric services, as well as shelter provider experience, perfectly situates them to help us explore solutions to improve the homeless health care system."**

—TRACY PERRIZO,  
Program Officer,  
Helmsley Charitable Trust



 **14 LOCATIONS**

**3,547 PATIENTS** 

# Healthy Smiles **RENEW LIVES**



Project Renewal's Fort Washington Men's shelter operates one of the nation's few shelter-based dental clinics. It's a vital service for our patients, who come to the clinic from Project Renewal shelters and programs, as well as through referrals from other organizations.

**Good dental care can be a big step for people on the path to renewal.**

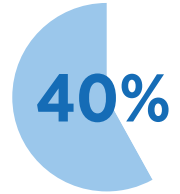
"The restoration of our patients' teeth has a profound effect on their confidence and psychological well-being, especially since many of them are already coping with mental illness," Dr. Mark Schufman, DDS says. Dr. Schufman is Project Renewal's dental department director and his view of his job is different than most dentists. "My goal is to get patients ready for job and housing interviews," he says.

Poor oral health can erode the confidence of people experiencing homelessness and impact their ability to secure employment or a home. Our clinic provides free cleanings, x-rays, and dentures to homeless and at-risk adults, like Barbara, a patient at our mobile medical vans who was referred to the clinic.

Barbara, who was formerly homeless, endured the most strenuous times during the last recession. Her oral health deteriorated and she struggled to chew food.

"Dr. Schufman was able to repair my teeth," recalls Barbara, who has continued coming to our clinic for regular check-ups. "I can eat thanks to him. What he does is crisis intervention."

"It's moving to see patients overwhelmed with joy when they first see themselves after replacing their teeth," says Dr. Schufman.



More than 40 percent of homeless adults have unmet dental care needs.

## OUR DENTAL CLINIC

**530**



Serves 530 unique patients per year.



**1,730+**

Manages more than 1,730 appointments per year.



Treats each patient an average of 3.2 times per year.



Provides 260 dentures per year.



# SHEILA FINDS HOPE

Nearly two decades ago, Project Renewal helped Sheila overcome long-term substance use disorder and move out of shelter and into our Geffner House supportive housing residence, where she has lived stably ever since. However, two years ago, our staff noticed that Sheila, now in her sixties, was becoming increasingly isolated due to physical health concerns.

That's when we enrolled Sheila in Helping Older People Engage (HOPE) – our innovative occupational therapy-based program that helps seniors age with independence and dignity. Through HOPE, our occupational therapists implement a wide range of interventions to support residents, including escorts to medical appointments, home modifications, group sessions, and community outings.

**“HOPE really brings people together.”**

For Sheila, the program has been transformational. HOPE staff installed grab bars in her apartment to help her with mobility and connected her with nutrition services. Most significantly, Sheila is engaged with her community again, participating in group activities like music and chair yoga.

Sheila says, “HOPE really brings people together. It has given me things to look forward to and made me appreciate life more.”

HOPE was established in 2017 and is partially funded by a generous grant from the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation.

## Our HOPE program



**76  
CLIENTS**

Enrolled 76 clients.



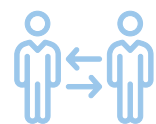
**100  
ESCORTS**

Provided over 100 escorts to medical appointments.



**36  
APARTMENTS**

Outfitted 36 apartments with grab bars.



**MEDICAL  
LINKAGES**

Created medical linkages to 9 Primary Care Physicians, 4 Dentists, 7 Ophthalmologists, 2 Psychiatrists, and 1 Physical Therapist.



## THANK YOU, NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL



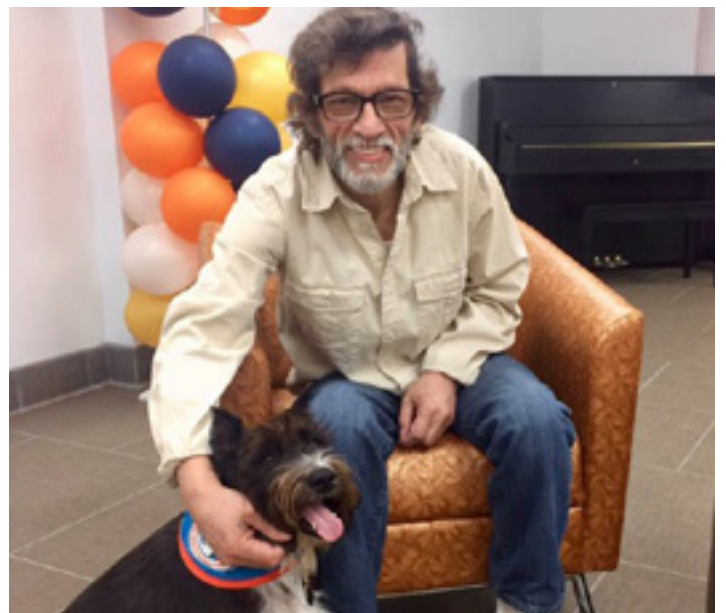
We are grateful to the New York City Council, in particular Council Member Chaim Deutsch, chair of the Committee on Veterans. Chair Deutsch gave Project Renewal \$300,000 for homeless prevention services—including health care—for veterans in 2018.

**“As Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Veterans, I am proud to support Project Renewal’s programs that provide critical health care, housing and employment services to New Yorkers who have bravely served our country. Project Renewal’s medical vans, clinics, psychiatry programs, and substance use disorder programs meet the unique needs of hundreds of veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness each year. I am grateful to Project Renewal for its integral role in helping us reduce veteran homelessness in our city.”**

—Chaim Deutsch,  
New York City Council Member



We are thankful to New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres for giving us \$181,000 to help purchase the new Project Renewal ScanVan mobile mammography clinic, enabling us to continue providing free breast cancer screenings to nearly 4,000 uninsured and under-insured women across New York City each year.



Participants in our Helping Older People Engage (HOPE) occupational therapy program welcomed a sweet visitor from The Good Dog Foundation, which aims to promote recovery from trauma and stress using animal-assisted therapy services.



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