



HELPING CHILDREN AND ADULTS LEAD MEANINGFUL LIVES

SPRING 2016

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Dear Friends,

HeartShare and its Family of Services always have something to be proud of. We are champions of people with special needs, children in foster care, those struggling with addiction, low-income families and others. As their advocates, we are constantly adapting, innovating and growing programs to better serve New Yorkers in need. This results in some beautiful and transformative moments in their lives.

There's adults with disabilities experiencing inclusion in the New York arts community, like the Museum of Modern Art, people with chronic conditions accessing resources to improve their health through the Health Home program, two year old Quintin living with his forever family and 20 year old Jasmine connecting to a supportive adult through our Permanency Pact Program.

We wouldn't be able to achieve this without an infrastructure of high quality programs. We're proud to share that HeartShare passed its reaccreditation from the independent and international Council of Accreditation (COA), while HeartShare St. Vincent's passed its inaugural COA review. Passing this rigorous peer review with flying colors is a testament to the quality of our work.

We're also an outstanding agency because of people like you. Your support makes HeartShare strong. With your dedication, we have created a community of people who truly support our mission. By volunteering your time, making a donation or offering an inclusive opportunity to someone in our care, you make all the difference.

For this, we thank you.

Paul J. Torre
Chairman, Board of Directors

William R. Guarinello
President and CEO

HeartShare Helps Dreams Come True: Walter Goes to Disney



Walter Gregory, a man with special needs who attends HeartShare's Brooklyn Day Habilitation Program, went to Disney this spring. During his week-long trip, Walter visited Disneyland Park, Medieval Times and Universal Studios. This trip is just one of the ways that HeartShare cultivates a family-like atmosphere and truly puts personal, individualized goals within reach. "I can't wait to go to Disney!" said Walter with excitement when he first heard the news. Walter met with HeartShare President and CEO Bill Guarinello to thank him for making the trip possible. Walter and Bill spoke about Walter's experiences at Brooklyn Day Hab and Walter expressed his gratitude for the trip, which has been his

dream for quite some time. "Thank you for putting the trip together...I like all that HeartShare has done for me," wrote Walter in a note to Bill. Edgardo Velez, Program Coordinator at HeartShare's Brooklyn Day Hab, explained how the trip came to fruition. "I've heard him talk about Disney on so many occasions. He'd often watch Disney tour videos on YouTube," Edgardo explained. "This is something Walter really wanted and Bill made it happen. I'm really proud to work for an agency that cares about the people we serve and the dreams they hold in their hearts." Edgardo, who has known Walter for the 12 years he's worked at HeartShare, accompanied Walter on the trip.



HeartShare has been accredited by the international, independent Council on Accreditation for 20 consecutive years, while our newest affiliate, HeartShare St. Vincent's Services celebrated its inaugural accreditation by COA this year. We are a Better Business Bureau organization, as recognized in the New York Post and the New York Observer. HeartShare also recently achieved a Platinum level GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, which reaches more than 7 million annual visitors to the site.



Man with Special Needs Earns Dream Job

Thirty-eight year old Donald Jean, a man with special needs, landed his dream job working as a greeter at Modell's in downtown Brooklyn. "All I've ever wanted to do is work," Donald shared. The job is an actualization of Donald's expert knowledge and passion for sports, especially basketball, which he plays often. "This job is not only transforming Donald's life, but his peers at the program, who are inspired and motivated by him," said Edwin Corchado, Senior Direct Support Professional (DSP) at HeartShare's Brooklyn Day Habilitation Program. "People with disabilities still face discrimination in the workplace and we want our individuals to have a fair shot at the job they want," said HeartShare Community Resource Specialist Roni Soriano. HeartShare's employment partners and their teams feel the same way. In talking about how much the Modell's team enjoys, respects and depends on Donald, Modell's Store Associate Luis Rodriguez, explained, "Everybody should be treated equally. Everybody is capable of playing their part. They can work as a greeter, in maintenance or in stock. Businesses should take time to see what these unique, motivated and skilled people can do. Don't judge a book by its cover."



To learn more about how to become a HeartShare employment partner, contact Joshua.Skolnick@heartshare.org.

HeartShare Energy Receives National Recognition

HeartShare received the 2016 Victorine Q. Adams Excellence Award for its role in creating the largest network among utility companies, elected officials and community organizations nationally. The award is from the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC), an awareness-raising coalition for low-income energy consumers. As a recipient of this award, HeartShare also will sit on the NEUAC Board.

Under the leadership of Joseph Guarinello, HeartShare Vice President of Energy Assistance and Community Development, the agency has prioritized the education of elected officials on low income issues and in building productive relationships within communities. HeartShare's efforts include annual trips to the Capitol, where the team advocates for federal funding known as Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP. Through those efforts, HeartShare currently reaches over 23,000 people in 60 of the 62 New York State counties.



HeartShare has strived to advocate beyond energy issues alone. "It's important to consider energy costs in conjunction with food security, rental assistance, telephone access, and counseling services," Guarinello explained. In partnership with the New York State Public Service Commission and elected officials, HeartShare hosts forums for vulnerable populations, like senior citizens, to discuss how to access such resources.

To learn more about how to donate to our Energy Assistance Programs, contact Tanya.Brothers@heartshare.org.

HeartShare Health Home Collaborates with Patients to Achieve Better Health

"One of our greatest assets at Health Home is the expertise of the people on our team," explained HeartShare Health Home Director Silvia Estrada. Health Home serves approximately 520 clients in the five boroughs with two or more chronic conditions, such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, asthma or severe depression. The program was designed to reduce the number of hospitalizations and Emergency Room visits for this group and in turn, stabilizing their health and quality of life. The Health Home Case Navigator team goes out into the community to pursue outreach through home visits followed up by calls and letters. Within 24 hours of enrollment into the HeartShare program, the Care Manager initiates a plan of action for improved health

care, including scheduling a home visit, assessing the patient's health, establishing a care plan and goals, as well as initiating communication with the patient's physicians.

Health Home connects a patient with appropriate physicians, coordinates appointments with specialists, helps with their housing search and researches available benefits. "Care Managers often function as supportive family members. Does our client need someone to accompany them to the doctor? Does our client need help getting in touch with their local HRA office? Health Home functions as a hub of resources, so that the patient achieves stability," explained Estrada.

HeartShare Artists Thrive in the New York Arts Community

Our artists with special needs

have had several opportunities to engage with art. As a part of the *ArtShare for HeartShare* program, our individuals have created multimedia artworks, such as canvas paintings, collages and masks, which were displayed in an annual exhibition at New Century Artists Gallery in Chelsea. Actress Linda Dano and HeartShare Board Member Rosanna Scotto of Fox 5 News have been among the supporters of this annual event. Following the closure of the New Century Gallery, *ArtShare* continued to be resilient by adapting to this loss of valuable space. With the support the Brooklyn Arts Council, the Brooklyn Public Library, NYU Tandon School of Engineering, and Forest City Ratner, our individuals alternatively were able to display artwork throughout the Brooklyn community. These pop-up lobby exhibits caught the eye of pedestrians throughout downtown Brooklyn, resulting in greater awareness of the *ArtShare* program and the sale of pieces, which fund supplies for our artists. HeartShare also had the opportunity to transition

its 7th Annual Opening Reception from New Century to St. Francis College, where pieces from children and adults with special needs were on view last summer. This November, HeartShare will host its *ArtShare* Opening Reception at Central Booking in the Lower East Side.

“Our individuals are slowly, but surely being recognized in the arts community.”

Barbara Cuthel,
ArtShare Founder and Co-Curator



“You can tell they’re artists by how they engage with the work.”

Rachel Lindsay,
MoMA Educator

Following the tour, participants created their own sketches, inspired by the art viewed that day. “You can tell that they’re artists by how they engage with the work,” noted Rachel Lindsay, who led the tour. Lindsay visited the HeartShare day programs prior to the tour to discuss some modern and post-modern works. Lindsay has prior experience working with adults with special needs. “It was generous of the MoMA team to invite us for this free tour, but also customize the learning experience for our individuals,” said Davina Hamilton, a HeartShare Direct Support Professional. “Our growing partnerships are showing

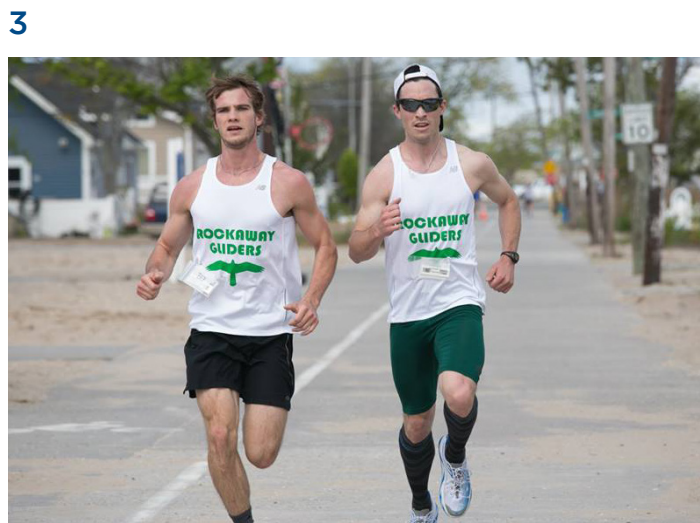
me that our individuals are slowly, but surely being recognized in the arts community,” noted Barbara Cuthel, who is the founder and co-curator of the *ArtShare* program.

To become a *ArtShare* program partner, contact WCuthel@aol.com.

In the *ArtShare* off-season, our individuals continue to participate in the arts community. HeartShare’s Brooklyn Day Hab Program and Brooklyn PACT Programs recently took a Museum of Modern Art tour,

which was customized to engage adults with special needs. During their visit, they explored Paul Cezanne’s *The Bather* (1885), Henri Rousseau’s *The Sleeping Gypsy* (1897) and Jackson Pollock’s *One: Number 31, 1950* (1950). The discussion centered on the contextual history and composition of the works.

2016 HeartShare Happenings



(1.) President and CEO Bill Guarinello received service award from the FOX 5 News team at the 2016 Spring Gala and Auction. **(2.)** VP of Education Services Carol Verdi highlighted staff Darnell Blackburn at the Annual Education Services Dinner Dance. **(3.)** The 2016 Buckley's-Kennedy's Run raised \$80,000 for HeartShare programs. **(4.)** HeartShare hosted its Annual Celebrity Dinner at Gargiulo's Restaurant. **(5.)** Kevin, Erick and Danny, men with special needs from Queens Day Hab, received Celebrating Success Awards. **(6.)** Thomasina Lewis was honored as Foster Parent of the Year at the 2016 Foster Care Appreciation Dinner. **(7.)** Direct Support Professional Ozzy Cardona with Javier Matos of Brooklyn Day Hab. **(8.)** Youth in care to be matched with supportive adults enjoyed a Permanency Pact Mixer at Pinot's Palette. **(9.)** HeartShare raised over \$600,000 at its Gala honoring Dominick Cama, Abigail Hawk, Philip Kelly and Richard Cea. **(10.)** The Knights of Columbus donated \$2,500 and hosted a Nets game fundraiser for HeartShare.

HeartShare St. Vincent’s Connects Baby Boy to His Forever Home



“Quintin will always be in a home where he is loved,” said Brenda Hopkins smiling broadly. With support from HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services (HSVS), Brenda fostered and adopted Quintin, an energetic, sweet boy who is now two years old. Brenda has known Quintin for most of his young life. “Three days after he was born, he was in my arms,” recalled Brenda. It was a challenging journey, but Brenda did what any mother would – work tirelessly to make sure that her son was healthy and happy. Early on, Quintin was in and out of the hospital for a respiratory infection. “It was so hard to see my little boy sick,” said Brenda, “but he’s so much better now. He’s growing and learning every day,” Brenda explained.

The foster care and adoption experience is a collaborative one between dedicated foster parents, like Brenda, and the HSVS team. “HSVS is like a family. The team goes above and beyond what their job requires of them,” Brenda said. “Nikisha Steele and John Olufemi were there for me every step of the way and the parent trainings are filled with foster

parents who know the ups and downs,” Brenda explained. When asked if she would do things differently, Brenda said she would do it all over again. “He’s my baby. Like any parent, I take all the blessings and the challenges,” said Brenda.

To learn how to become a foster parent, contact our recruiter at (718) 422-2405.



HSVS Junior Board Gives Back to Children and Families

Earlier this year, HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services (HSVS) established its Junior Board. By serving as ambassadors, fundraisers and volunteers, the founding 20 Junior Board Members are committed to fully investing in HSVS and its mission. Grace Barnard, a Marketing Associate for American Stock Transfer & Trust Company (AST), is one of the up-and-coming young professionals who now serves on the Board’s Volunteer Engagement, as well as Fundraising and Events Committees. Barnard primarily feels connected to HSVS because of her younger sister, Joanna. “My mother is a nurse in Huntington, Long Island. A baby in the neonatal intensive care unit needed a foster parent because her biological mother struggled with substance abuse. Over the next two years, my parents became certified foster parents and took the steps to adopt Joanna, who is now 7 years old.” Barnard hopes to carry on the legacy of her family through her work on the Junior Board. In particular, Grace will rally the other members of the Junior Board to help the kids prepare for college. “As young professionals, our skills are suited to the older kids in care. Not too long ago, we were planning for college,” said Barnard. “We’re also the appropriate group to connect them to the internship and mentoring opportunities they need.”



To join the Junior Board, contact Lauren.Pettiette@heartshare.org.

Permanency Pact Program: What It Means to Be a Supportive Adult

HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services innovated its Permanency Pact Program to ensure that young people who have grown up in foster care do not have to navigate the challenges of young adulthood alone. Through the Permanency Pact Program, Benita Miller signed a lifelong commitment to Jasmine, a twenty-year old young woman. “No matter what it is about, Jasmine knows that I am a consistent adult who is there for her,” Miller noted. During the time they’ve been paired together, Miller has extended both her family and professional resources to Jasmine, as she continues to pursue school. “Jasmine can spend time with my two children, ages 11 and 23, or tell me about an exam at school. It’s a combination of being

a foster parent, as well as a big sister,” said Miller. Benita Miller, Executive Director of New York City’s Children’s Cabinet and former Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) Commissioner, has a deep knowledge of what children experiencing foster care need to thrive. “Many older children are not necessarily looking for an adoptive family. There are opportunities available, like the Permanency Pact Program, that allow adults to be a positive, consistent presence in a young person’s life,” explained Miller. Jasmine realizes that through the complexities of growing up, guidance is essential. “With Benita’s support, I’m planning my future and finding myself,” she said.

To become a supportive adult, contact Donald.Duggan@heartshare.org.



HeartShare

HUMAN SERVICES OF NEW YORK

**HeartShare is proud to announce that
it will reveal a new website this year!**

OUR IMPACT STORIES

*Our stories will share how we positively impact the lives of
nearly 35,000 children, adults and families every year.*



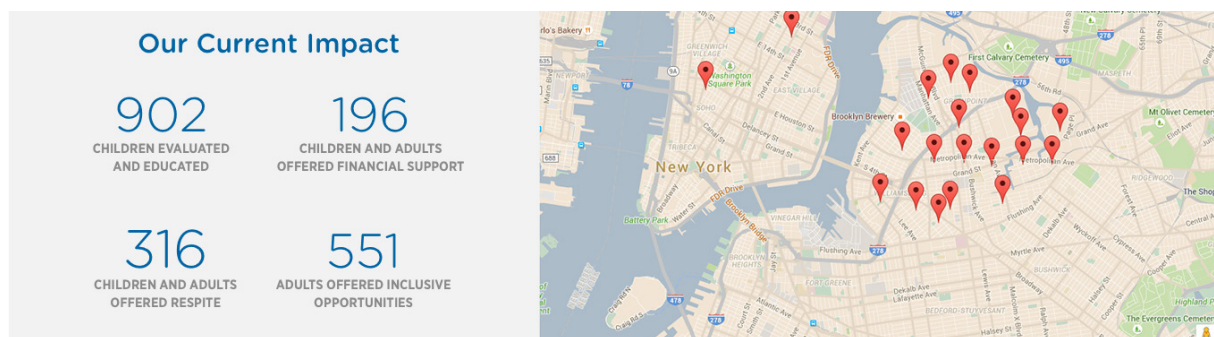
OUR BLOG

*Our blog - with news as it happens - will reflect HeartShare's
thriving, fast-paced culture of achievement and innovation.*



OUR PROGRAM FINDER

*Our user-friendly program finder will easily locate over 100
HeartShare sites throughout Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island!*



Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming launch.

www.heartshare.org