



We've Never Quite Seen a Year Like 2017!



Our seniors at 80 Pitt Street recently enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving lunch served by our wonderful staff.

Dear Friends,

As we enter the holiday season and the year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank each and every member of the Grand St. Settlement family. The work you do to support our children, seniors, and families on the Lower East Side and in Brooklyn is more important than ever in these challenging times. I am inspired every single day by your dedication--thank you.

Because of this hard work, 2017 has been a milestone year for Grand St. Settlement. I am especially proud of the progress we have made to:

- **Further our reach and impact in Brooklyn** by growing our programs in some of the highest-need neighborhoods;
- **Deepen our roots on the Lower East Side** by preparing to open a new community center and a [café job training program](#) at [Essex Crossing](#), one of the most significant developments in New York City history;
- **Speak out on important issues** that impact our neighbors, such as immigrants' rights, funding for public housing, and opportunities for out-of-school and out-of-work youth

But just because the year is almost over doesn't mean Grand St. Settlement's work is done. I know that 2018 will offer even more opportunities for us to provide services and programs that keep our communities strong, and I am excited to see that work unfold.

My best to you and yours this holiday season and in the new year.

Best Regards,

Robert Cordero, Executive Director

Happening Now

BOLD INITIATIVES

We appreciate our neighbors, Masaryk Towers, for working with us to provide access for 25 of our senior program participants. These mobility impaired seniors will gain access through their gates with an ID card and

be able to better access meals and services at 80 Pitt Street.

GRAND STRATEGY

Exciting GrandLo Café news: we recently hired Shawntell Favorite as the café manager. She will play a key role in the success of the café. Welcome to the Grand St. Settlement family, Shawn!

INSPIRED WORK

Congratulations to the dance group at Lafayette Gardens Community Center for winning the All Stars Dance Competition!

Moments of the Month

Bushwick-Hylan Celebrates Thanksgiving

The entire community at Bushwick-Hylan Community Center gathered together to laugh, dance, and eat as a family!



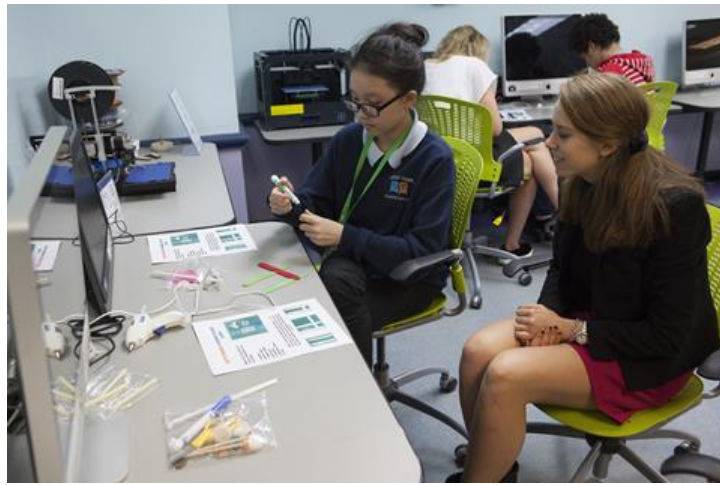


Our Neighbors Speak Up

More than 70 of our community members engaged in a conversation about topics such as improving pedestrian safety, access to social services, and transportation for senior citizens. Councilmember Rosie Mendez, Councilmember Elect Carlina Rivera, State Senator Elect Brian Kavanagh, and Community Board 3 Chair Jamie Rogers joined the roundtable discussions as well.

The Power of Volunteerism

Thank you to volunteers from Credit Suisse for helping our youth build rubber band cars! We are a proud member of [The Clubhouse Network](#), which provides creative, safe, and free out-of-school learning environments for young people.



Song and Dance

Our Rutgers Community Center recently organized a Zumba class to help keep youth healthy and active.

A Job Well Done

Congratulations to the Middle Grades Debate Team at NEST+m, who placed 3rd at the ESU Debate Tournament - Big Apple Division!



Parent Focus Group

A group of Early Head Start parents recently participated in a community assessment to discuss issues important to them and the community. We are glad to have parents advocate on behalf of themselves and their children!

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

MS 582 organized a field trip for its 6th and 7th graders to Rhinebeck, NY, where they participated in fun activities to develop their communication and team building skills.



Picture Perfect

Thanks to [A Brush With Kindness and Habitat for Humanity NYC](#) for brightening up the hallways and walls of our Baruch Cornerstone program with a fresh coat of paint!

Giving Thanks

Unity Plaza Community Center, in partnership with community organizations and leaders, organized a giveaway before Thanksgiving to hand out 300

free turkeys to families in East New York and
Brownsville.



Essex Crossing Community Center Update

Construction at the community center is coming along! Wifi has been installed and the walls have been painted, while the kitchen equipment is in the process of being installed. We are excited to begin programming in 2018.

You Can Help Launch The First Nosh-for-Profit

Please spread the word about our [Kickstarter campaign for GrandLo Café](#)! Help us get to

\$25,000 and support out-of-school or out-of-work youth in NYC.



Supporting Settlement Houses

Grand St. Settlement's board chair Andy Celli recently participated in a panel discussion organized by United Neighborhood Houses to

talk about ways board members can advocate on behalf of settlement houses like us.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

There were many smiles, laughs, and plates of turkey at Roosevelt Community Center's Second Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner!



Next Up

- The next Pop-Up Food Pantry will be Monday, December 11 at 8:30am at 80 Pitt Street. For more information, please contact [Ines De la Nuez](mailto:Ines.De.la.Nuez).

Want to highlight your favorite moments in the newsletter or social media? Send a description and Instagram-worthy pictures to:

ewong@grandsettlement.org

Grand St. Shoutouts

Happy Birthday shoutouts to Terrell Blake, Kayla Bonfante, Charon Brabham, Andrea Casado, Shakira Clarke, Patrick Combs, Jason Cotto, Miguel Delgado, Yesenia Escalante, Amy Gerstein, Asiatic Holmes, Learra Jimenez, Aiesha Jones, Reneida Juarbe, Michael Khalique, Tiffani Lawson, Daniel Lee, Sonia Lugo, Milady Mayol, Teresa Montagano, Katherine Ortiz, Jennifer Ramotar, Eric Rivera, Jasmin Rivera, Gracianna Rosias, Stephanie Slowe, Sade Sullivan, Arthur Warren, Mandy William, and XingYi Yu.

Happy Anniversary shoutouts to Alicia Alvira, Jason Cotto, Luisa Estevez, Crystal Harris, Jaquon Heath, Jasmine Irizarry, Daniel Lee, Erica Leong, Damari McBride, Danielle Morris-McBayne, Janet Obregon, Tyquan Rohan, Jessica Ruiz, Delano Thomas-Simpson, MaryAnn Venticinque, Ana Vidal, and Ingrid Villatoro.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the communities of the Lower East Side and Brooklyn.



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