



Our Family, Our Team



These are just a few of the dedicated and hard-working members of the Grand St. Settlement family!

Dear Friends,

Happy new year! The Grand St. Settlement family plays a tremendous role in our success as an organization and I'm so proud to be working with colleagues who tirelessly support communities on both sides of the Williamsburg Bridge every single day. When we work together, we make bold, grand, and inspired things happen!

We asked some of our team members what they were proud of accomplishing this past year. Here's what they had to say:

Kelly López Santos, Deputy Director of Brooklyn Youth Programs (top row, left): "Our Williamsburg and Unity Plaza Cornerstone programs have both been highlighted by NYC's Department of Youth and Community Development as being top model programs in the city."

Alexander Gardner, Board Member (top row, center): "I am proud of the board's role in working with staff to lay the groundwork for the job training program at GrandLo Café. Looking forward to seeing the café open in 2018!"

Keh-yueh (Carrie) Chen, B.E.S.T. / NORC Program Director (top row, right): "I'm proud of the 14th anniversary event to celebrate the NORC program where the seniors wrote about why they love the program. This was a milestone for us and our seniors see the NORC as a second home!"

Ines De La Nuez, Program Director of the Grand Coalition of Seniors (GCS) (center row, left): "I am proud of taking the lead in operating a Pop Up Pantry that serves almost 500 households monthly. This is done in collaboration with City Harvest, New York City Food Assistance Collaborative, and our staff, especially the GCS, senior volunteers, board members, and family members."

Ayana Reefe, Head Start Director and Early Learn Coordinator (center row, right): "One of our biggest accomplishments is our collaboration with over 10 shelters to bring children and their families into our Early Learn programs."

Frederick Adutu, Program Director at Roosevelt Community Center (bottom row, left): "The thing that stuck out to me the most was having a parent come into the office and express her love for the center."

Ingrid Villatoro, Administrative Coordinator (bottom row, center): "I'm glad to have been given the responsibility to take on all of the contracts from across the organization."

Chuck Martinez, Front Desk/Security at 80 Pitt Street (bottom row, right): "I pride myself in helping visitors in any way possible! I go from helping to get an auction item for Taste of the Lower East Side, to translating for someone who doesn't speak English, to helping a senior understand their cell phone, to delivering packages to staff."

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

Best Regards,

Robert Cordero, Executive Director

Happening Now

BOLD INITIATIVES

Rutgers Community Center hosted the Lower East Side Health and Resource Fair with Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez.

GRAND STRATEGY

Our youth leaders are learning advocacy techniques. Members of our Youth Councils will be heading to Albany

to speak directly to legislators as part of the Campaign for Summer Jobs on January 30.

INSPIRED WORK

The Harvard Business School Club of New York is providing pro-bono support and guidance on our marketing plan for GrandLo Café!

Moments of the Month



What an Honor!

Williamsburg Community Center hosted an award ceremony for the young people who participate in the Williamsburg Sports League. Special guest and Councilmember Antonio Reynoso stopped by and his speech inspired the entire audience!

Celebrating The Tenement Museum

Our seniors performed at the open house event for the Tenement Museum's [new exhibit](#), "Under One Roof." They showed off their tai chi and singing skills!



Highlights of the Lowline

Councilmember Elect Carlina Rivera joined our youth to tour the old trolley terminal under Delancey Street, which will eventually become the [Lowline](#), an underground park.

Advocacy in Action

A group of our seniors participated in United Neighborhood Houses's Older Adults Strengthening Communities event. We love seeing our community members advocate for themselves!



Jingle Bell Rockin'

Many thanks to volunteers from Target for helping youth from Rutgers Community Center sing and dance to our favorite holiday songs.

Starstruck

While celebrating the work of the Human Services Council at its annual reception, our board member Alex Gardner chatted up acclaimed actor Alan Cumming, who was being honored for his work to promote equity in our communities!



Going Green and Staying Stylish

Participants in our SONYC program at St. Brigid School hit the runway and showed off clothes they made from recyclable materials.

Kickstarting Our Nosh-for-Profit

We're excited that our [Kickstarter campaign for GrandLo Café](#) has already received more than \$9,000 in pledges. Thank you to everyone who has already participated! Please help us spread the word about the campaign so we can meet our \$25,000 goal to support the job training program for 60 youth.



Essex Crossing Community Center Update

The kitchen equipment has been installed--we're looking forward to serving healthy and delicious food to our seniors! In addition, the floors are finished and furniture will be delivered soon.

Holiday Cheer

At our annual party for our seniors, everyone danced the afternoon away and also struck a pose in our makeshift photobooth (complete with props)!

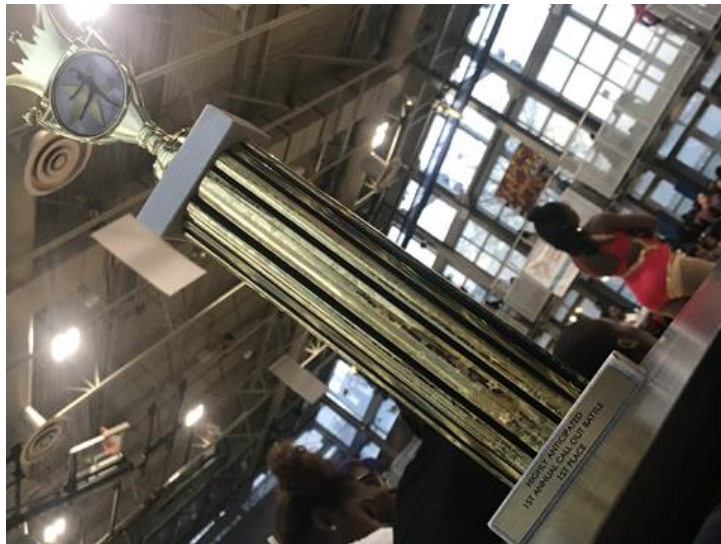


Warm Wishes

Our Williamsburg Community Center organized a coat drive and gave away more than 60 gently used and new coats to the community!

Patriotic Employer Award

IT Specialist (and member of the National Guard) Jose Figueroa nominated Executive Director Robert Cordero and IT Director Luis Campino for the Patriotic Employer Award, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense!



Dance Like Everyone's Watching

The Lafayette Gardens Community Center hosted their first Call Out Battle where participants from across our Brooklyn sites showed off their dance skills to an audience of over 300 people.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

The NYPD Community Affairs League dressed up as Santa Claus and his elves and brought joy to the little ones in our Early Learn Program!



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 to Gustavo Amigon Jr., Wendy Ashby, Makeba Barrat, Maritza Bermudez, Gailann Blenman, Danielle Bryant, Jonaphan Chu, Jermaine Diaz, Shawn Evans, Jose Figueroa, Jose Flores, Jacquana Foxworth, Michelle Guerrero, Katherine Hahn, Keyonnia Hallums, Vanasha Hamlin, Malcolm Harrison, Javon Jester, Paul Kane, Akime Kearney, Jeanette Loera, Anna Lynch, Shanaa Mitchell, Yves Nguyen, Franklin Perez, Rashad Pyatt, Derrick Reyes, Desiree Rivera, Maria Santos, Franshiny Urbaz, Eufemia

Vargas, MaryAnn Venticinqué, Priscilla Williams,
and Anna Wilson.

Happy Anniversary to Crystal Alvarez, Anthony Bowers, Mandeé Deleon, Nicole Diaz, Shawn Evans, Diana Fernandez, Fernando Fernandez, Ramona Gonzalez, Ennielle Hernandez, Marcia Jordan, Claudia Michue, Edward Perez, Jajuan Pinckney, Siobhan Raines, Beyaniris Rivas, Maribel Rodriguez, and Fiona Torres.

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



Grand St Settlement
www.grandsettlement.org
80 Pitt Street, New York, NY 10002
P: 212-674-1740
E: info@grandsettlement.org

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