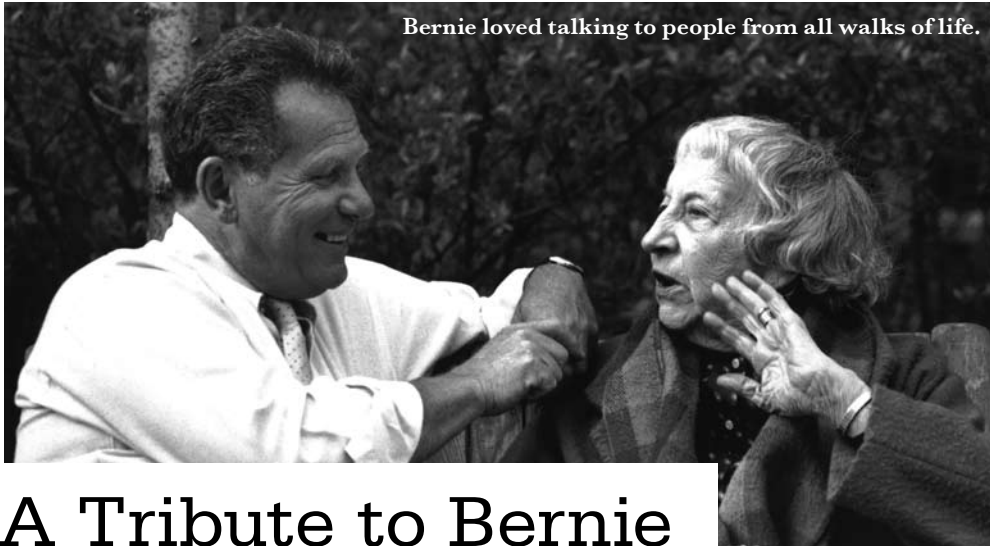


# Goddard Riverside News



Bernie loved talking to people from all walks of life.

## A Tribute to Bernie

*“Bernie Wohl passionately believed in social justice and social action, not only services and helping people, but also getting to the root causes of why people are poor in our society. His legacy is a vibrant, dynamic community organization.”*

-STEPHAN RUSSO, Executive Director

August 2006 struck a sad note in the Goddard Riverside community with the death of Bernie Wohl, our much-loved executive director from 1972-1998. A fixture on the Upper West Side, Bernie was committed to building community and developing effective responses to neighborhood needs.

Shaped by his vision and spurred by his tireless energy in the fight for social justice, Goddard Riverside grew significantly in size and influence during Bernie's tenure. He was instrumental in the creation of many of the agency's hallmark programs including its OPTIONS college access program, a model in the field, and its homeless outreach and housing programs. Sometimes described as passionate, sometimes as a bully, Bernie would steadfastly defend anyone's right to food, clothing, shelter and a place in the community.

On January 4, 2007, more than 600 neighbors, friends and colleagues poured into the Imax Theater at the American

Museum of Natural History where Bernie Wohl was fondly remembered through music, poetry, pictures and stories. Tears and laughter flowed. The compassionate, yet determined character of the man was affectionately revealed as Eric Brettschneider, the Master of Ceremonies, and Board Member Doris Brunson spoke eloquently and lovingly about his philosophy, vision and impact on the Upper West Side. Throughout the evening participants in programs created by Bernie talked about how their lives were changed because of access to educational opportunities, decent and affordable housing, and enriched child care.

A local hero on the Upper West Side, Bernie's impact was felt internationally through his leadership in the settlement house field.



Everyone remembers the famous Bernie barbecues.

## Programs That Bernie Built

AS TOLD BY EVELYN GRANT AT THE JANUARY 4TH CELEBRATION OF BERNIE'S LIFE

Thirty years. It was thirty years ago when I first enrolled my oldest son in the Head Start program. I was particularly impressed with the parent involvement—it wasn't an option, it was a component of the program. My next 2 sons followed. As they graduated, I graduated with them and was an involved parent at each level.

Goddard Riverside was always there for my family. Once in elementary school, I enrolled my sons in the After-School Program and during the summer they all headed to camp. How they loved the camp.



Evelyn Grant with son, Tyree, in 1989

I was so appreciative of the programs as a mom. But as a Board Member for the last 10 years, I am keenly aware of the constant struggle to keep the programs alive.

Goddard Riverside was and is very much a part of my life. I was also blessed to also have my aunt live the last years of her life at the Phelps house. Whatever Bernie created, it was a quality program and benefited those who needed it.

### INSIDE

Tenants' Source  
of Hope for 25 Years

Preserving Our Upper  
West Side Programs

## Book Fair: 20 Years of Reading and Giving

An Upper West Side tradition, the annual New York Book Fair last November turned out to be Goddard Riverside's most successful fundraiser ever, thanks in large part to a special gala honoring publisher Peter Workman. We greatly appreciate the support of our lead sponsors, Barnes & Noble, Random House and Workman Publishing Company.



In 1986, Goddard Riverside Community Center's annual budget was \$3.8 million. In 2006, it was over \$21 million including our housing facilities. Book Fair proceeds have helped GRCC grow significantly since the first Fair 20 years ago...

### 1986 1st Annual New York Book Fair!

- 1986 GRCC opens OPTIONS Center to help low-income students gain access to college
- 1988 GRCC develops The Senate, a permanent supportive housing residence for 136 formerly homeless adults
- 1995 GRCC creates Green Keepers, which employs formerly homeless adults as horticulture and sanitation workers
- 1998 GRCC opens Corner House, a permanent residence in West Harlem for 34 mentally ill adults and elders from the community  
GRCC begins offering evening and weekend activities for youth at the Beacon program
- 1999 GRCC launches ACT Team to provide mobile mental health treatment to homeless clients
- 2000 GRCC creates an innovative NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) program for neighborhood seniors
- 2002 GRCC takes full ownership of Capitol Hall, a supportive housing facility for 202 adults which GRCC helped develop in the late 70s
- 2005 GRCC completes construction on brand-new permanent housing facility for 48 formerly homeless adults on West 140th Street  
GRCC launches the College Access Professional Development Institute to train youth service providers in best practices developed in its OPTIONS Center
- 2006 GRCC assumes responsibility for St. Matthew's and St. Timothy's Neighborhood Center and preserves its programs for youth and elderly
- 2006 **20th Annual New York Book Fair!**

## Tenants' Source of Hope for 25 Years

Every Thursday afternoon between 4 and 6 PM, a new wave of West Side residents walk through the doors of 647 Columbus Avenue. They come in desperation to discuss eviction problems, landlord harassment, complaints of no hot water and heat, leaks, and other unfit building conditions, with staff attorneys and tenant/community organizers at the Goddard Riverside Law Project. Celebrating 25 years of serving this needy population, the program is often the only hope for tenants. Growing out of the SRO Tenants Rights Coalition, Goddard Riverside's Law Project was founded to provide free legal services and organize tenants of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings. Although the number of SROs has shrunk to a quarter of what it was 35 years ago, they still represent a critical portion of New York City's affordable housing stock for low income adults despite enormous displacement pressure.

Just last month, the Law Project co-sponsored a rally to stop the illegal rental of apartments and rooms to tourists in an



Elected officials attend Law Project Rally in February

effort to preserve affordable housing and stop landlord harassment of long-term tenants to leave their buildings. Molly Doherty, Director of the program, observes, "There never seems to be a lull; we seem to be getting busier and SRO landlords are willing to invest more in legal battles."

120,000+	Number of people directly served by the Goddard Riverside Law Project in 25 years
95%	Success rate of court cases
165,000	Number of SRO units in NYC in 1971
65,000	Number of SRO units in NYC in 1985
42,000	Number of SRO units in NYC in 2006
84	Average number of new cases opened each year
5	Number of full-time attorneys
4	Number of full-time organizers

## Moving On

Goddard Riverside's annual Moving On ceremony is about moving off the streets and on with life. The homeless and formerly homeless adults shown here are accepting certificates of achievement to recognize their success in moving into permanent housing, recovering from addictions, or obtaining gainful employment. This is an annual event of Project Reachout, our program that provides a safe haven and continuum of care for more than 3,000



homeless adults each year. It offers the support, resources and treatment that homeless people need to once again become active members of the community.

## Campaign for Kids

At the January memorial celebration, Goddard Riverside announced two ways it will honor the legacy of Bernie Wohl: by renaming its youth center facility at 647 Columbus Avenue the Bernie Wohl Center and by launching The Bernie Wohl Campaign for Kids to raise \$1.5 million in capital and endowment funds for Goddard Riverside's youth programs.



# Preserving Our Upper West Side Programs

Last June, Goddard Riverside stepped in and assumed management of our nearby sister settlement, St. Matthew's and St. Timothy's Neighborhood Center (SMSTNC), in order to keep the agency's services and its family-like approach available to the community. Changes in leadership and financial challenges threatened the viability of this agency.

Snapshots of the Upper West Side illuminate both its prosperity and its pockets of poverty. Digging deeper, we find a neighborhood that cares about its people and this caring is embodied in St. Matthew's and St. Timothy's. Like Goddard Riverside, since the 1950's it has been a fixture of hope and promise for low-income families. "Generations of West Siders have looked to us for assistance. Poverty, hunger and the need for community support are a reality for our neighbors living in some of the least glamorous buildings on the Upper West Side," said Lillian Robles, the Center's new director.

A quick walk through the West 80s reveals the essential services provided by St. Matthew's and St. Timothy's Neighborhood Center. A kitchen in a church basement on West 86th Street and West End Avenue turns out 500 meals a day for its Meals On Wheels program. One block north, a brownstone, currently under renovation, is home to children from its Head Start pro-



Student with volunteer tutor at SMSTNC's STAR Learning Center.

gram. Walking down to West 83rd Street, a newly painted facility welcomes pre-schoolers every day. Nearby on West 84th Street is the first day care in the city to become accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In that same building children are enriched by an exciting after school program that has its own kiln for ceramics, a darkroom and gym. And each day dozens of children drop by the nearly 50-year-old STAR Learning Center for one-on-one tutoring with volunteers who also act as mentors.

"By assuming responsibility for the Center, Goddard Riverside assured that these services for 1,300 children and adults would continue. We haven't lost the Neighborhood Center; we have succeeded in saving these vital programs," said Rever-

end Carla E. Roland Guzmán, Priest in Charge, at the Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy, the founding organization of the Neighborhood Center. With this new affiliation, Goddard Riverside has expanded its breadth, increasing the number of early childhood and youth programs it manages, as well as adding to its education-focused youth initiatives. The WEME Meals On Wheels program Goddard Riverside now oversees is the primary provider of meals for the homebound on the Upper West Side. This is in addition to Goddard Riverside's existing services for older adults through the NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) program, senior center, and aging-in-place services in Phelps House.

## Goddard Riverside Program Locations ★ PROGRAMS RECENTLY ADDED BY GODDARD RIVERSIDE'S AFFILIATION WITH SMSTNC



## Upcoming Events

**Musical Evenings** are held in homes throughout New York City to benefit Goddard Riverside Community Center:

April 23, 8:00 PM

at the Harmonie Club, 4 E 60th Street

David Shifrin, Clarinet

Pei-Yao Wang, Piano

Special pre-concert dinner for Lewis F. Davis and Judy Tobias Davis.

May 21, 8:00 PM

Jennifer Stumm, Viola

Elizabeth Pridgen, Piano

For more information on the 2007 events, please contact Annette Pousson at [apousson@goddard.org](mailto:apousson@goddard.org) or (212) 873-6600, extension 314.

## Family Council Meetings

Held at 593 Columbus Avenue,

from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

call to confirm: 212-873-6600 ext. 304

Thursday, April 26, Guest TBA

Thursday, May 31, Guest TBA

## Welcome new Board Members



**Christopher Auguste** is a Corporate Partner with Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP. He is President of Wadleigh Scholars Program, a nonprofit organization that recruits, tutors and prepares underprivileged students

for boarding school and Co-Chair of Multicultural Affairs of Andover Alumni Association. Auguste also serves on the board of St. Matthew's and St. Timothy's Neighborhood Center, Goddard Riverside's new affiliate. A member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, he holds a B.A. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



**Chip Gibson** was named President and Publisher of Random House Children's Books in 2002 after a 20-year career in book publishing. He is a member of the Board of Directors of First Book, a national children's literary organization. In 2004, Gibson and his team at Random House were recognized by the National Coalition Against Censorship for "Outstanding Work on Behalf of Public Education on the First Amendment." He serves as co-chair of the Goddard Riverside Book Fair Committee. Gibson graduated from Brown University.

### Horticulture and Sanitation Services

Goddard Riverside's social purpose business, Green Keepers, is a horticulture service that provides: tree pit renovation, roof-top gardening, private garden renovation, and indoor plant watering. E-mail: [greenkeepers@goddard.org](mailto:greenkeepers@goddard.org)

### Mailing Services

We can stuff, stamp, label and deliver to the post office. Call Goddard Riverside for fees, (646) 505-1088 or email [dkaplan@goddard.org](mailto:dkaplan@goddard.org).

### Need Highly Motivated Workers?

Goddard Riverside has qualified applicants who are rebuilding their lives and are ready and eager to enter the workforce. The organization provides job counseling, training and troubleshooting.

> **We are currently seeking:**

Internships with opportunities for growth and Entry Level positions

Info: (646) 505-1088, [dkaplan@goddard.org](mailto:dkaplan@goddard.org)

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# Goddard Riverside News

## Goddard Riverside Community Center

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