

Goddard Riverside

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Goddard Riverside Interim Annual Report July 2020 – June 2021

Goddard Riverside Community Center (Goddard Riverside) addresses the need for underserved individuals and families to have access to the same opportunities as their more affluent neighbors so they can lead more secure, healthier, more prosperous and satisfying lives now, and break the cycle of poverty so that future generations can enjoy these same benefits.

Goddard Riverside invests in people and strengthens community through its 32 programs across 26 sites located in Manhattan and Queens. We work within a social justice framework to create a fair and just society where all people have the opportunity to make choices that lead to better lives for themselves and their families.

The events of the past year have underscored inequities in healthcare, housing, education, and economic mobility that Goddard Riverside has sought to mitigate since its founding in 1959. The agency has adapted to meet immediate and pressing needs of the community and to use lessons learned to help us create a blueprint for the future. In all cases, we use the lived experiences of people in our community to inform both our program delivery and our work in advocating for policies and practices that support fairness and equality.

COVID-19 Response

When the coronavirus pandemic arrived in the United States a year ago, with New York City as an early epicenter, Goddard Riverside exercised a swift and comprehensive response.

As an agency deeply rooted in the community, with numerous programs already in place to serve the most vulnerable people in our area, we were able to ensure the health and safety of our participants and neighbors. Each and every program contacted participants and made sure they had what they required to survive, whether it was food, access to online education, help applying for unemployment benefits or a regular call to ward off loneliness.

Our immediate response included:

- Delivering over 900 meals per day to medically vulnerable individuals in the community;
- Providing technology solutions to help children and young people continue their education remotely;
- Recognizing that older people and medically vulnerable individuals also needed immediate access to and help with technology to connect to tele-health and telepsychiatry appointments;

- Bulk-purchasing and distributing PPE and hand sanitizer to staff and participants, including individuals served through our homeless outreach program;
- Making hundreds of telephone calls weekly to older adults at home to ensure that they continued to have access to services like meal delivery and home care;
- Ensuring continuity of nursing, primary, and psychiatric health care for people living in our supportive housing, served by our NORC programs, and being supported by our ACT Team;
- Assessing the needs of people recovering from COVID-19 and providing holistic support;
- Helping families obtain burial services during the coronavirus surge;
- Helping formerly homeless and aging residents of our supported housing to safely isolate; and
- Launching a Direct Relief Fund to help those affected by the pandemic to pay for rent, food, utilities, and data and internet access. Between May and November 2020, we distributed nearly \$250,000.

In March 2020, we began to serve most clients remotely – online and/or via telephone. We closed the physical locations of our Senior Centers, early childhood programs, after school and summer camp programs, Law Program offices, Options Center, Resource Center and Community Arts. Each has seen continued engagement in programming – children’s programs have seen a dip in participation, our programs providing legal and community assistance and serving older adults have seen an increase in numbers served.

We also provided incentive pay to frontline, essential workers, and hired temporary staff to maintain or enhance essential services (homeless outreach, housing, case management, entitlements counseling and enrollment), and extended leave time for those sick, quarantining or in bereavement.

Maintaining Organizational Stability

Financially, Goddard Riverside was in a strong position to weather the current pandemic and economic crises. Through a transaction completed in December 2019, we were able to add to the agency’s endowment just prior to the start of the pandemic.

Private funding has been essential to our being able to cover the additional, unanticipated expenses associated with meeting the urgent needs of at-risk individuals and families, and enabled us to create a Direct Relief Fund. We received several emergency grants, and applied to numerous COVID-related funding opportunities, including the federal Payroll Protection Program and the FEMA COVID-19 disaster relief fund.

Further, Goddard Riverside saw no changes in organizational leadership during the past year. We were able to maintain progress toward agency-wide priorities, including building a more data-driven culture and strengthening our advocacy infrastructure. We have received support over the past few months in creating Leadership Alignment from a team from the Harvard Business School Community Partners initiative. And in the summer and fall of 2020 the Board

of Directors worked with the New York Council of Nonprofits to define key areas for strategic focus in the coming years.

Even with the resources available to us, and a strong private funding operation, Goddard Riverside has had to make some program changes in order to achieve a balanced operating budget.

First, we consolidated some of our youth programming. Goddard Riverside has operated After School programs at two locations – the Bernie Wohl Center (BWC) and the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center. We have merged our BWC program into our city-funded Beacon program, located within the Joan of Arc Educational Complex a block away. The Beacon program has been in continuous operation since 1998 and offers after school, evening and weekend programming for youth, including a daily middle school After School program. The BWC After School program served kids through 5th grade, so participants will now have the opportunity to continue with the same program through middle school.

Next, Goddard Riverside leadership together with our Home Delivered Meals (HDM) partner, Encore Community Services, made the decision to cede management of our delivery area to Encore. Encore had overseen the DFTA-funded contract since 2009 and is a service provider in other areas of Manhattan. Therefore, Encore was well equipped to take over our delivery area, and there were no disruptions in service to the 500 households per day who rely on freshly prepared meals.

Program Outcomes

In 2020, Goddard Riverside sustained programming across five cause areas, serving nearly 20,000 New Yorkers. Below are some highlights from each area.

PREPARING CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Beacon Program •Afterschool Programs •Early Childhood Education •Summer Day Camps
- #DegreesNYC •Options Center and Institute •Star Learning Center •RISE Youth Center
- Learning to Work

Program Highlight: Star Learning Center

When schools closed last spring, Goddard Riverside's Star Learning Center, which provides 1:1 tutoring to students in grades 2-12, quickly shifted gears so it could help students with and through online learning.

Staff contacted students to ensure that each one had access to a computer, iPad or other device, as well as a working internet connection, so they could begin classes from home. As we spoke to parents about their child's school needs, our close connections with families gave parents the much-needed chance to ask for other types of support. One 8th grade student was doing her schoolwork on her cellphone. When we explained why it might be helpful to have a different device, her mother said that would be impossible--she and her husband had both lost their jobs. With rent and bills to pay, the urgent need was food. Using their resource list and

maps, Star was able to provide her with the names of a few pantries right near their apartment. In a follow-up call, we connected them to Goddard Riverside's Resource Center so they were able to get assistance in filling out their unemployment applications in Spanish--and without leaving home.

Star staff created a new online program that enabled both one-to-one tutoring and staff oversight to continue to support our students throughout their transition to remote learning and through the close of the school year in June. This was urgent for a number of reasons: our high school students, many of whom had been tackling multiple complex subjects with their tutors were really struggling with learning on their own; there is a shortage of teachers who can provide extra help, and, in some schools, classes only meet once or twice a week; many students reported that they were being "taught" via You Tube videos, with nothing required of them. There was every chance that without extra support, our students would fall behind.

Thanks to the dedication of Star staff and volunteer tutors, we were able to help families stay on track and celebrate a number of fantastic achievements. One of our students, who started joined Star as a 9th grader, was accepted to Columbia University as a Gates Foundation Scholar last year.

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF OLDER ADULTS

•Senior Centers •NORCs •Phelps House

Program Highlight: Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center NORC Program

The Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center NORC serves a high-need population of low-income, elderly and primarily Spanish-speaking individuals. Established in 2002, it has evolved into one of the City's few hybrid NORC/Senior Center Programs, enabling us to offer residents access to meals, cultural and group activities, in addition to health and social services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a heavy impact on residents of public housing, especially older adults who have multiple, chronic health conditions. The LSNC senior services staff have taken extraordinary care to respond to the needs of the elderly in the Amsterdam Houses/ Addition, isolated seniors who depend on the Center for social connection and those for whom family and homecare supports were lost due to the pandemic, as well as those in the community who have relied on the LSNC Senior Center for meals, socializing, and case assistance. Our services during the pandemic have provided a lifeline; staff have arranged for food delivery, as congregate centers had to close; made bi-monthly and weekly wellness and reassurance telephone calls; arranged for medical care and medication services; communicated and advocated with extended family members; completed online applications and re-certification paperwork so that benefits were not lost; and arranged to assist with documents in person, using safety protocols, when necessary.

One of our clients who lives in Amsterdam Houses with her husband, has history of chronic bronchitis. At the onset of the pandemic, Mrs. P's home health care was suspended because of

concerns about the safety of making in-home visits. Goddard Riverside's NORC case manager and nurse stepped in with frequent wellness calls. On one such call, staff learned that Mrs. P was experiencing a headache, fever, persistent cough and vomiting, but because of her frequent bouts with bronchitis, she had not sought medical help. Mrs. P's case manager convinced her to go to the hospital emergency room that day, where she was admitted and confirmed to have COVID-19. After three days, she was discharged under family care, but on the fourth day her NORC case manager called and found her coughing so severely that she was unable to speak. The case manager referred her to the NORC nurse, who was able to arrange for medication to be delivered to her home. Mrs. P has since made a full recovery and we continue to regularly check in with her via telephone.

PROMOTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

•ACT Team •TOP Clubhouse •TOP Opportunities

Program Highlight: Green Keepers

Goddard Riverside kept the Green Keepers, men and women who are formerly homeless and living with mental illness, engaged throughout the pandemic. Despite the initial pause, whenever safely possible, we provided people with the opportunity to work. A number of participants gladly pitched in to deliver meals to the elderly and other vulnerable people for whom sheltering in place was essential. One of our newest Green Keeper participants was assigned to provide additional help to the maintenance staff at Goddard Riverside's supportive housing residence, The Senate. We put rigorous cleaning and sanitization procedures in place and will maintain those for as long as the threat of the coronavirus persists. This individual has since been offered a full-time permanent position at Goddard Riverside.

Since Green Keepers horticultural work can be done outside, in safely distanced teams and with staggered schedules, we were able to put our Green Keepers back to work beginning in June 2020 after a brief pause. As a result of New York City's fiscal crisis, there were reductions in sanitation services resulting in an overflowing of trash in our public spaces last summer. Goddard Riverside's Green Keepers were assigned, with support from Council Member Helen Rosenthal's office, to provide supplemental sanitation and trash clean up, helping to keep the neighborhood clean and beautiful.

FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTING HOUSING FOR ALL

•Homeless Outreach •Capitol Hall •The Senate •West 140th St. •Corner House •Law Project

Program Highlight: Supportive Housing Integrated Health Care

Our supportive housing residents suffer from poverty and co-morbid conditions. When they move into permanent housing, often they have not seen a primary care physician for decades. As they remain housed with us, they grow older. Currently, the majority of tenants at our four residences are over age 60.

While taking extraordinary care to help keep residents safe during the pandemic, we have also moved forward with a longer term plan to improve health outcomes for tenants and develop a mode of coordinated care. Our goal is to effect improved health outcomes for supportive housing residents, with greater compliance with preventive, primary care, and psychiatric medical visits, better adherence to medication plans, greater social engagement, and the ability to remain in their home and community as they age.

In July, we created the new position of Clinical Manager to strengthen care coordination, establish a practice community, and develop internal data systems. She has overseen a comprehensive, standardized health and wellness assessment of all tenants this past year, and is working with the team to identify the most medically vulnerable residents to enroll in an integrated care pilot. At the same time, we have built capacity across our housing, hiring an additional medical case manager, a part-time nurse, and expanding onsite psychiatric services.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

•Resource Center •Community Arts

Program Highlight: The Resource Center

The Resource Center has seen an increase in the number of people calling for financial and legal advice, and in the number of people needing to be connected to benefits. Even while providing most of our services virtually via telephone and online meeting platforms, our volume has increased by 30% since the pandemic hit. Private funding enabled us to hire an additional case manager to support this demand.

In addition, through a partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, the Resource Center has expanded services to tenants living in 10 affordable housing developments owned and managed by HCCI (Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement) in Central Harlem with a high number of tenants in rent arrears and at risk of eviction. We are overseeing a multi-generational approach to helping residents maintain housing and achieve financial stability.

Program Highlight: Community Arts

Community Arts successfully moved many programs online due to COVID-19, including Upper West Side Live Tuesdays. This Afro Roots inspired concert series has continued to take place every other Tuesday evening via Zoom. It has provided a venue for musicians to keep performing, and to help keep that unique spirit of New York alive and accessible to the entire community. One of the program's devoted fans tuned in to a virtual concert one week from her hospital bed. Despite being immobile at the time, she was able to immerse herself in the event, singing along with certain songs and speaking with host Kevin Nathaniel, who encouraged her during the show.

In the summer of 2021, 41 children participated in a rich online experience over 7.5 weeks, focusing on Dance and Musical Theater. All students received one-on-one instruction time with their group leader and/or teaching artists, and were also participated in auditions, rehearsals, a

final pre-recorded performance. The program included a partnership with Hudson Warehouse, who taught a special workshop on enunciation and speech using Shakespearean insults.

The program culminated in an original virtual production, Sleeping City. Virtual campers were sent costumes, backdrops and props to use in their own homes. We recorded them performing and edited it together for a showcase presentation attended by over 100 people including students' families and friends as well members of the public. Students used their own environments as part of their artistic practice, dancing on rooftops, in kitchens and hallways. Our final performance included a song with choreography that used American Sign Language as part of the piece.

Financials at a Glance

	FY19		FY20	
	FY ending 6/30/19		FY ending 6/30/20	
Revenue:	\$	27,655,840	\$	100,661,839
Government Grants	\$	18,347,067	\$	20,029,084
Contributions	\$	4,481,247	\$	5,156,400
Investment Income	\$	420,419	\$	809,158
Program Fees	\$	1,292,991	\$	970,474
Reimbursements from Affiliates	\$	1,185,649	\$	1,194,661
Investment Income from Affiliates	\$	-	\$	70,256,005
Special Events	\$	650,427	\$	398,647
In-Kind Services	\$	737,874	\$	488,318
Housing Development Fees	\$	540,166	\$	1,359,092
Expenses:	\$	29,569,380	\$	30,183,335
Programs: Youth	\$	5,040,996	\$	5,025,617
Programs: Older Adults	\$	3,594,218	\$	3,512,394
Programs: Homelessness and Mental Health	\$	6,136,358	\$	6,126,962
Programs: Housing	\$	4,629,413	\$	5,074,559
Programs: Strengthening Community	\$	1,856,982	\$	1,840,446
Programs: Early Childhood	\$	4,066,711	\$	4,291,089
Support: Management & General	\$	3,428,066	\$	3,485,318
Support: Fundraising	\$	816,636	\$	826,950

For complete financial information, please see our website www.goddard.org

Goddard Riverside

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



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Dear Friends,

For well over a century, Goddard Riverside has invested in people and strengthened community. Our goal is for every person in our community to reach their fullest potential.

We know transformational change takes a collective effort. We are proud of our work in leading the formation of the Manhattan Outreach Consortium, three service providers working together to prevent homelessness. The Options Center is another example of our city-wide collaboration as we work with agencies and professionals in all five boroughs to support young people of every economic class and ethnicity to attend and complete college.

We hold dear the belief that everyone deserves an opportunity. Further, we know that New York City is great because of the strength of the people that call New York home. It follows that the greatness of our city depends on the strength we all contribute. When we help people to be their best, everyone wins. Our economy is stronger and our streets are safer when everyone contributes. Goddard Riverside sees New York as a city with unlimited potential — in the young people, the women, and the men who call this city home. Our work, through our programs and our collaborations, is to offer support, open doors and break down barriers, all in the service of everyone's transformational growth for everyone.

The continuation of our work depends on dedicated supporters like you. We are optimistic about Goddard's future because we know we have your support. Creating positive change for the people we serve is only possible because we share the same values.

We are proud of what Goddard has accomplished and excited about what we will do together in the future. We look forward to working with the Goddard community to maintain and improve upon Goddard's service to our neighbors.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roderick L. Jones".

Roderick L. Jones, Ed. D
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Christopher Augusto".

Christopher Augusto
Board President

Timeline

1853

The Wilson Industrial School for Girls, Goddard Riverside's earliest ancestor, opens in the East Village, providing child care, a residence for homeless girls, and various neighborhood clubs.



1887

The Riverside Day Nursery, another forerunner, opens on West 63rd Street. Originally providing child care, it grows to include social clubs, a Fresh Air Camp and health services.

1892

The Unitarian Church launches the Friendly Aid Society, a settlement with a kindergarten, health clinic and recreation programs operating on East 34th Street.

1898

Friendly Aid hires Mary Simkhovitch, who will go on to found Greenwich House and become a noted settlement movement leader.

1908

The Wilson Industrial School moves to West 69th Street.



Early 1930s

The Friendly Aid Society is renamed Goddard Neighborhood Center in honor of its first board president.

1939

Riverside Day Nursery re-incorporates as Riverside Community House to reflect its expanded mission.

1954

Riverside Community House merges with the Wilson Industrial School for Girls.

1958

Under Robert Moses, the West Side Urban Renewal Project launches. It involves the rehab or demolition of hundreds of apartment buildings and construction of public housing projects.



1959

Riverside Community House and Goddard Neighborhood Center merge to form Goddard-Riverside Community Center. The new organization will focus on mitigating the impacts of urban renewal.

1972

Bernie Wohl becomes executive director of Goddard Riverside Community Center.

1979

In response to a homelessness crisis on the Upper West Side, Goddard Riverside launches Project Reachout, one of the first street outreach programs in the country.

1983

Phelps House, a 168-unit apartment tower for low-income aging adults, opens. The building also houses Goddard administrative staff and the Senior Center.



1985

Goddard Riverside merges with the Child Study Association of America/Wel-Met, Inc., acquiring new campgrounds and expanding on a summer camp program that already included grounds in Rifton, NY.

1988

Stephan Russo co-launches a group that will become the Supportive Housing Network of New York, a major advocacy organization for supportive housing in the state.

1998

Bernie Wohl retires; Stephan Russo becomes executive director.

2007

The Manhattan Outreach Consortium, formed and led by Goddard Riverside, signs a contract with the city to provide services throughout Manhattan.

2010

Goddard Riverside leads a successful campaign to restore city funding slashed for home-delivered meals.



2011

Goddard Riverside merges with St. Matthews and St. Timothy Neighborhood Center, preserving Early Learning, Summer Day Camp, the Star Learning Center, and Home Delivered Meals.

2011

Goddard Riverside's youth center at 647 Columbus Avenue reopens as the Bernie Wohl Center, serving as an arts, theatre and recreation space for youth programs as well as a venue for performances and events.



2016

Staff, tenants, and local leaders celebrate the newly-renovated Capitol Hall supportive housing residence, which boasts private bathrooms and kitchenettes as well as added community space.

2017

Stephan Russo steps down; Dr. Roderick L. Jones becomes executive director. Goddard Riverside and Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center complete merger.

About Us

Goddard Riverside operates 27 programs at 22 sites in Manhattan, serving a diverse population of thousands of individuals and families. To do this work, we secure government and foundation grants, earn fees for services and receive contributions from corporations and individuals.

Preparing Children and Youth for Success

Studies show that early investments in children pays off many times over by helping them achieve their full potential. We provide a continuum of programs from Early Childhood Education through college and beyond to support young people as they become self-reliant, contributing members of society.

Enriching the Lives of Older Adults

We believe in “aging in community” — that is, supporting older adults to live secure, healthy, and socially rich lives. We provide affordable housing for older adults as well as home-delivered meals for people with mobility challenges. Our Senior Centers and NORCs (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities) offer daily socialization, exercise, and nutrition programs.

Promoting Wellness and Recovery

Our mental health programs support people to live in the community and stay connected to family and friends. These services form a continuum, from the ACT Team — a mobile clinic that serves people living with severe mental illness — to our Green Keepers social enterprise business, which offers jobs and job training to people re-entering the workforce.

Providing Homeless Outreach and Supportive Housing

Decent housing is a fundamental right. In our five housing properties, we provide safe, affordable homes for people who have experienced homelessness, those living with disabilities or mental illness, and older adults. In addition, we offer free legal services to help people remain in their homes and ensure that health and safety standards are met.

Enhancing Community

Building community is a fundamental objective of Goddard Riverside. We do this by providing space and programming for community gatherings, facilitating community engagement by hosting community board meetings and meet-the-candidate events, and offering a rich array of arts programs open to the community.

Preparing Children and Youth for Success

Our programs for children and youth start in early childhood and go through college and beyond, providing a strong foundation at every step of the way. Social-emotional wellness, academic preparedness, experiential opportunities such as camp, and access to higher education are critical to young people growing into self-reliant and contributing adults.



Goddard Riverside believes all children deserve the chance to achieve their full potential.

Our Head Start and Early Learn programs are rooted in educational science. We use the Creative Curriculum, a play-based approach, to help children develop their abilities in reading, writing, counting, speech, spatial relations and motor skills.

Our After School programs provide a strong foundation for children as they head toward their teens. From art to computers to homework help, After School offers activities that are both fun and enriching.

Success in school is a critical first step toward self-sufficiency. The Star Learning Center provides individualized tutoring to help students in grades 2 through 12 overcome barriers to learning.

The RISE Youth Center at Lincoln Square engages youth in positive social relationships and connects them to learning experiences and opportunities.

Our Beacon Program provides young people with leadership training, academic counseling and activities from sports to science.

Learning to Work offers support for high school students to explore college and careers through internships and advisory. The goal is for each student to graduate with a meaningful post-secondary plan.

First-generation and low-income students face particular challenges on the road to completing college. The Options Center provides counseling and support to help students get the degree they need to pursue their dreams.

Every year, The Options Institute trains hundreds of counselors on its college access and success techniques.

Spotlight on Head Start at West 95th Street

Our Head Start students have a special partnership with the American Museum of Natural History. They visit a classroom at the museum once a week, studying ecosystems and the organisms that live in them. Education staffers from the museum also visit the Head Start to help coordinate lessons. The goals include teaching students the tools of scientific inquiry (such as close observation), asking questions, and using scientific tools and vocabulary.

The program also plays another critical role: It helps ensure that these children and their families feel comfortable at the museum. Parents are encouraged to come to the weekly classes, and the museum gives out free tickets so that families can come on their own. That's important because research has found that about a third of U.S. adults feel unwelcome at science museums. That feeling was strongest at the bottom of the income scale.

After leaving Head Start, many children remain in programs at the museum, continuing to attend regularly and develop their knowledge of science.



Enriching the Lives of Older Adults

Goddard Riverside provides comprehensive community-based support for older adults. Our programs help people remain in their own homes rather than moving into facilities with more intensive care. We provide services including home-delivered meals, subsidized housing, case management, and daily activities including socialization, learning, nutrition and exercise.



Our programs help older adults “age in community” by providing easy access to support and activities close to home.

Our two Senior Centers offer healthy, reduced-price breakfast and lunch, free activities, and lots of opportunities to learn and socialize.

Goddard Riverside is home to two NORCs (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities), which offer support and social activities for a building’s older residents. One NORC is in the Amsterdam Houses, a NYCHA complex at our Lincoln Square location, while the other is located in three buildings offering affordable housing in the area of Columbus Avenue and 94th Street.

Phelps House is our residence for older adults. It provides support for educational, medical, mental health, legal, and financial issues, as well as activities and social events.

The Home Delivered Meals program brings a hot, nutritious meal daily to more than 500 mobility-challenged aging adults in our neighborhood.

Spotlight on Home Delivered Meals

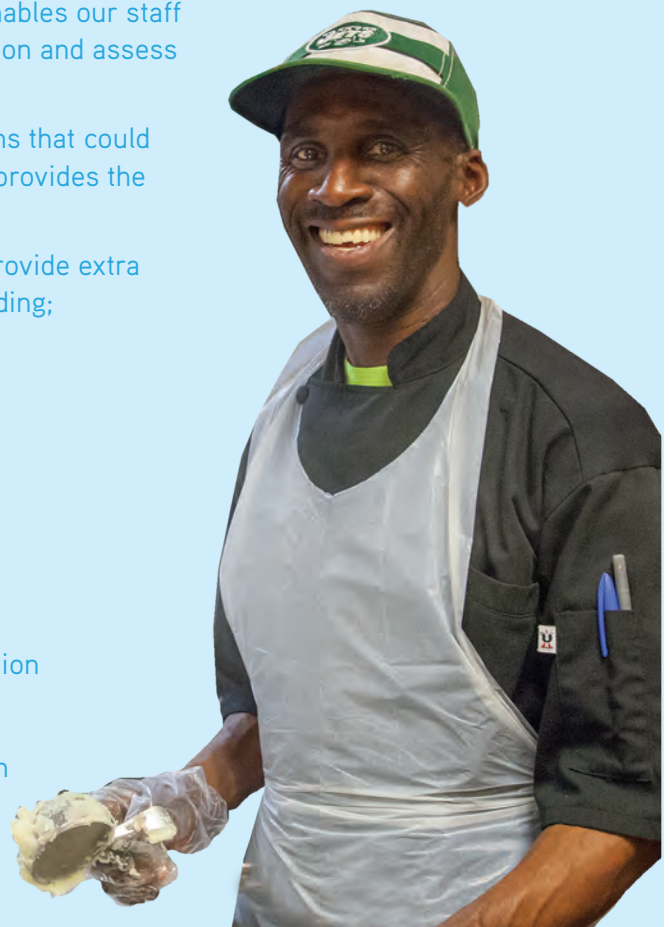
For aging adults, social isolation and loneliness are associated with a variety of health issues and increased mortality. Home Delivered Meals goes beyond food delivery. Daily contact with the home-bound elderly enables our staff and volunteers to connect with a too-often isolated population and assess additional, unmet needs.

The Goddard staff is trained to look out for signs of problems that could worsen if not addressed. Equally important, home delivery provides the vital social connection that often diminishes with age.

In recent years we’ve added a dedicated social worker to provide extra help where it’s needed. Now we can provide services including;

- Tax preparation and bill paying
- Emergency grants
- Health care advocates
- Legal support and end-of-life issues
- Housing and assisted-living information
- Grocery delivery and house cleaning
- Friendly visits, pet services, and transportation
- Books by mail

With the additional help identified through daily contact, men and women in our community can live longer lives with fewer health emergencies and more social connection as they age in their own homes.



Promoting Wellness and Recovery

Goddard provides critical supports to adults with chronic mental illness and substance use issues. We offer vocational rehabilitation and counseling to maximize each person's independence and well-being. We also help the members of the broader community gain access to the benefits and resources they deserve.



Goddard Riverside sees potential in every person. Our programs for adults are designed to help people overcome challenges and support independent living.

The TOP Clubhouse works with people who have a history of mental illness, possibly including substance use or homelessness. TOP members work side by side with staff to organize and run the club, where they learn life and job skills.

Our TOP OP program helps people overcome barriers to employment by offering supportive work experiences to help them build their skills and employment history.

Green Keepers provides paid on-the-job training in horticulture, street sanitation, and pest control.

Our Assertive Community Treatment program is a mobile mental health clinic, providing psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, and case managers to help adults with severe mental illness live safely and well in the community.

Spotlight on Green Keepers

Goddard Riverside Green Keepers, a social enterprise business established in 1995, provides paid, on-the-job training in horticulture, street sanitation, and pest control to formerly homeless men and women living with mental illness. While learning about horticulture and sanitation, program participants receive the intensive support needed to make the transition into paid employment. Their work provides beautification services to local associations, developers, and private individuals, a model that has proved successful both for the Green Keepers and their employers.

In recent years, several new contracts have enabled the Green Keepers to work through the winter and earn more. In addition, many have moved into independent employment.

"I've learned a lot from this job and I'm ready to go forward," said Christian, who has been a Green Keeper for 5 years. "It's really boosted my confidence."



Providing Homeless Outreach and Supportive Housing

Goddard Riverside provides housing and services to formerly homeless people. In addition to a roof over their head, residents receive supportive services, such as mental health treatment and case management to help them maintain housing.



As a pioneer of homeless outreach and supportive housing, Goddard Riverside continues to be a leader in helping New Yorkers move from the streets into permanent housing.

Our Homeless Outreach teams hit the streets daily to help people experiencing chronic homelessness. These trained housing specialists may spend months or years winning people's trust and assisting them through the process of securing permanent supportive housing.

Our four Supportive Housing residences provide safe and affordable housing with medication monitoring, case management, work readiness training, and other supportive services to help people make the transition out of homelessness.

The Havens program provides more intensive support to help homeless veterans and people with serious mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders transition from chronically homeless to permanently housed.

Housing Options draws on its relationships with dozens of supportive housing providers to help formerly chronically homeless people find housing. Staff writes the applications, accompanies clients on housing interviews, advocates for clients, and ultimately moves clients into their homes.

Spotlight on Homeless Outreach

At 6:30 a.m., the Uptown Goddard homeless outreach team is already on the move, gently waking people who are slumbering on stone benches in Columbus Circle and Central Park. "Good morning," they say in soft tones. "Are you in need of housing? Do you have a place to stay?"

It can take months or even years of interactions like these to persuade a person experiencing homelessness to accept help. People may say no because they've had bad experiences in shelters. They may have a hard time trusting the goodwill of others.

"It's all about persistence," team member Gavin Wilkinson explains. "You build a relationship."

The first step is to document that a person is regularly sleeping outside. Then, the team helps get any identifying documents people need, such as birth certificates and photo IDs. Then they work together on applying for housing. The end goal is to help people move into permanent supportive housing, which offers services to smooth the transition to apartment living. After years of being on the streets, people often need to relearn skills like cleaning, cooking, and doing laundry. In supportive housing, case managers help them reconnect with their families and community and to find jobs.

Goddard Riverside offers four supportive housing residences on the Upper West Side and in Harlem. Most people who enter them do well; after a year, more than 90 percent are still housed.

Our homeless outreach teams have helped thousands of people make that transition. And every day, they're out working to help more.



Enhancing Community

Goddard Riverside offers programs and resources to strengthen neighborhoods. This includes community organizing and legal assistance to help people defend themselves against eviction. We provide space to the Community Board and other local groups, and organize Town Halls and meet-the-candidate events. Our Single Stop office helps people get the government benefits they qualify for, and our arts programs bring people together and provide access to diverse views and perspectives.



Strong neighborhoods support each of us to reach our fullest potential at every stage of life.

Our Community Arts program brings people together to enjoy the arts and develop their own artistic abilities. The Bernie Wohl Center hosts professional theater and music as well as classes for aspiring writers and actors. We also offer a summer Performing Arts Conservatory for children of all skill levels, offering professional instruction in dance, music, acting, and voice.

Single Stop connects low-income New Yorkers to the benefits and services they qualify for, including food stamps, legal assistance and health care.

The Goddard Riverside Law Project helps tenants organize to defend their rights and provides legal assistance to low-income New Yorkers facing eviction.

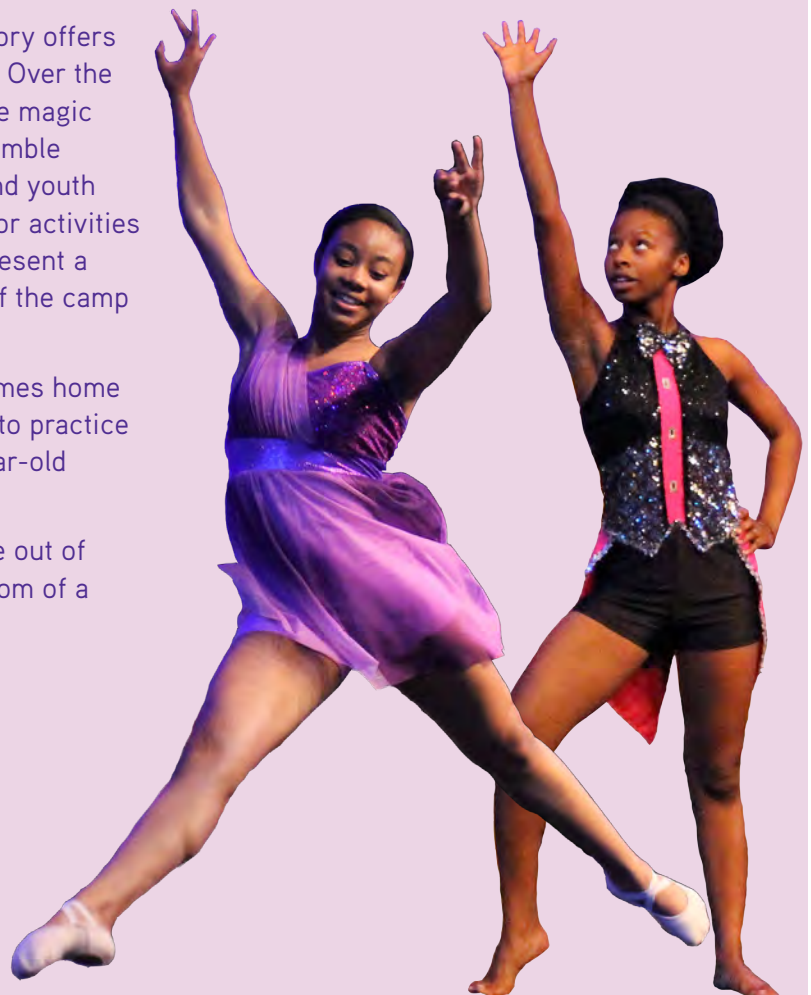
The Family Council encourages community members to advocate for themselves in local and national issues. Its activities include non-partisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns and community forums with local elected officials.

Spotlight on Community Arts

Every summer, our Performing Arts Conservatory offers young people the chance to develop their skills. Over the course of seven weeks, students experience the magic of dance, stage presence, voice skills, and ensemble work from a staff of professional instructors and youth counselors. The young people also enjoy outdoor activities and field trips to local theaters. The campers present a fully staged production in a theater at the end of the camp session.

"I had no idea my daughter loved ballet. She comes home every night and puts on her leotards and tights to practice what she's learned," said one parent of a 13-year-old camper.

"He has always been shy, but this year he came out of his shell. He is so much more confident," the mom of a 9-year-old boy told us.





Goddard Riverside

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