



## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



Grand St. Settlement accepted the The New York Community Trust 2018 Nonprofit Excellence Award in the area of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Dear Colleague,

It's been an incredible year, hasn't it? With your help, Grand St. Settlement has reached further than ever before. Our Bushwick Child and Family Center enriched their neighborhood by providing information to immigrants about the Know Your Rights movement and created job readiness programming for parents. We've guided seniors at our NORC BEST program to health and dental

benefits. Our senior housing staff at East 6th street provided housing and programming for 110 seniors. Our Early Childhood Centers educated hundreds of children across the Lower East Side and Brooklyn. Over 1,800 youth enjoyed our summer camp, developing skills in leadership, teamwork, problem solving, service and Science, Technology, Engineer, and Math (STEM). PSOL has worked with LGBTQ+ youth on HIV prevention campaigns which have helped spread information about sexual wellness. Taste of the Lower East Side raised over \$400,000 to benefit JUMP! and other programs. On top of all of these achievements, we continued to advocate for our community at the local, state, and federal level to make meaningful, equitable and impactful investments in our neighborhoods.

But we didn't do all of this alone. We did it with the help of community partners like Vision Urbana, a faith-based, multi human agency who has provided senior programming at Essex Crossing Community Center for residents. We did it by working with Sesame Sprout to create excellent curriculum for our young ones in our Early Childhood programs. We did it thanks to our incredible public school partners who help our young ones to grow and learn. We did it with support from our dedicated public servants and policymakers who fight for funding and legislation on our behalf. Most of all, we did it thanks to our incredible staff. Without you, we wouldn't have been able to achieve so much over the last 12 months.

If you'd like more details about what we've accomplished, visit our [Annual Report](#) for an in-depth look.

Happy New Year. Let's keep fighting together for a better New York City.

In Solidarity,

Robert Cordero

## Happening Now

### **BOLD INITIATIVES**

The Clubhouse Network is preparing for the 2019 RE@CH Media Festival. Our Youth will submit original work in areas such as Documentary Video, Graphic Design, or Animation.

### **GRAND STRATEGY**

The 2018 Let's Pretend Ball is starting to wrap up, if you or anyone you know is interested in donating they can visit [letspretendball.org](https://letspretendball.org)

### **INSPIRED WORK**

Our Maintenance Supervisor, Fernando Fernandez is celebrating his 18th year taking care of our facilities at Grand St. If you see him around, tell him congratulations!

## Moments of the Month



## Self Defense

Sister Diaspora partnered with GrandLo Cafe to hold a self-defense class at the Essex Crossing Community Center

## Breakfast with Santa!

The kids at St. Brigid School enjoyed breakfast with Santa on December 8th. We teamed up with Perfection Cuts to provide pajamas for 80 participants from K-5th Grade.





### Future Lawyers?

The first annual Brooklyn Debate Tournament took place this month with help from Lyons Community School, P.S. 84, Bushwick-Hylan Community Center, and Tompkins Community Center. Be on the look out for year two!

### Look! It's Santa!

The NYPD Community Affairs Outreach Team joined Santa for some holiday activities with the kids and parents at the GSS Early Learn Program.





### Deck the Halls

The Clubhouse was invited to be a part of a gallery project that mixes photography, block-coding, and projection into a brand new kind of art installation. Five members from the Clubhouse participated in the installation and had their work featured in Hales Project Room in the L.E.S.!

### Happy Holidays!

The Early Head Start staff wishes everyone a happy holidays and good luck in the new year!





## Toy Drive

Members of the Vox Media Staff generously donated toys to our infants and toddlers for the holidays!

## Recruiting Job Trainees



We provide young people ages 16-24 who are not working or not in school with valuable job skills and a guaranteed job.

#### OUR SERVICES

- 36 hands-on and classroom workshops/trainings
- NYC Food Protection Certificate
- Counter Culture Coffee barista certification
- Cafe management experience
- Resume and cover letter writing
- Job Interview skills
- Stipend for job trainees

#### CONTACT

Cindy Vasquez  
Youth Job Training  
[cvasquez@grandlocafe.com](mailto:cvasquez@grandlocafe.com)  
168 Broome St.  
New York, NY 10002



## 30 Years of Service





A fond farewell and a huge **THANK YOU** go out to Eufemia Vargas. Ms. Vargas started at Grand St. Settlement on February 1st, 1989 and is retiring next week after nearly **30 years** of dedicated work as an Assistant Teacher in the **Early Learn Program** at 294 Delancey St. Staff members like Ms. Vargas are what separates Grand St. from the pack, with dedication, hard work, and a loving heart, our employees change the lives of our community every day.

Congratulations Ms. Vargas, enjoy retirement!!

## Next Up

- Our offices will be closed on New Years Day, Jan 1st.
- The senior's annual Three Kings Celebration will be held on Monday, January 7th at 80 Pitt St.
- Offices will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 21st.
- Our Youth team will be holding a celebration in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 22nd.
- On Thursday, January 31st the Grand Coalition of Seniors will hold their January Birthday Dance.

Want to highlight your favorite moments in the newsletter or social media? Send a description and any pictures to [pictures@grandsettlement.org](mailto:pictures@grandsettlement.org)



Have you seen our new signage at 175 Delancey St.? Check it out and stop by GrandLo Cafe for a nice warm drink!

## Grand St. Settlement Staff Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday shout-outs to Eufemia Vargas, Franklin Perez, Mary Ann Venticinque, Jose Flores, Jeanette Loera, Akime Kearney, Antwan Washington, Danielle Bryant, Desiree Rivera, Junnie Righton Jr., Jennifer O'brien, Maritza Bermudez, Key-Jonta Foster Nwosu, Shu Qiong Wu, Muhammad Primus, Darren Drew, Shanaa Mitchell, Michele Barber-Perry, Gailann Blenman, Franshiny Urbaez, Gustavo Amigon Jr., Jermaine Diaz, Melissa Guante, Shawn Evans, Maria Santos, Malcolm Harrison, Loren Sanchez, Adam Perez, Jonaphan Chu, Rukiya McCormick, Jacquana Foxworth, Francisco Ramos, Javier Alvarez.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the communities of the Lower East Side and Brooklyn! Happy Anniversary to Vanessa Alamo, Anna Lucena, Shanice Brathwaite, Beyaniris Rivas, Siobhan Raines, Jajuan Pinckney, Shawn Evans, Crystal Alvarez, Nicole Diaz, Claudia Michue, Ramona Gonzalez, Edward Perez, Marcia Jordan, and Fernando Fernandez.



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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