



Fact Sheet

Since 1895, Union Settlement Association has worked with and for the East Harlem community to foster leadership and self-sufficiency, thereby helping our neighbors to build better lives for themselves and their families. Today, we are one of the area's largest social service agencies.

- ❖ Union Settlement **serves 13,000 East Harlem residents each year** through a variety of programs, including:
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Youth Development
 - Adult Education
 - Senior Services
 - Mental Health Counseling
 - Manhattan HIV/AIDS Care Network
 - Home Health Care
 - Union Settlement Federal Credit Union
- ❖ Union Settlement's talented staff of over 400 full-time and part-time workers serves East Harlem's residents from **17 locations throughout the community**.

East Harlem Neighborhood and Needs

- ❖ East Harlem, with over 115,000 residents, is larger in population than cities such as Albany, NY, and **is home to many of the neediest New Yorkers**.
 - East Harlem's median household income in 2000 was \$21,480
 - 38% of East Harlem residents and 47% of its children live in poverty
 - 35% of households are headed by persons 62 years or older
 - East Harlem is ranked 41st out of 42 NYC neighborhoods in premature deaths
 - 17% of East Harlem adults 25 and up did not complete 8th grade, and another 16% did not graduate from high school
- ❖ **Union Settlement has provided life lines to East Harlem families since its founding, and continues to do so each and every day.** From the Irish, German, Eastern European and Italian immigrant populations of the neighborhood a century ago – to the large numbers of African Americans and immigrants from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean who moved to East Harlem in the mid-twentieth century – to our newest neighbors from West Africa, South Asia and the Middle East, **Union Settlement Association has welcomed each wave of new New Yorkers, helping them to build safe and productive lives.**

We at Union Settlement are proud to provide essential, accessible and culturally sensitive services to thousands of families in East Harlem and the surrounding areas. We also provide a forum for the voices of our community – voices that might otherwise go unheard.

Program Highlights

- ❖ **Union Settlement provides East Harlem critical services** that would be otherwise unavailable:
 - **Childcare** for more than 500 children
 - **Healthy meals** delivered to hundreds of homebound senior citizens
 - **After school and summer youth programs** at low or no cost
 - **Mental health services** for children and adults
 - **Free tax preparation** for thousands of area residents
 - **Innovative education and job training programs** for unemployed youth in our community who lack high school diplomas
- ❖ **Union Settlement helps young people find paths to success.** Our college readiness program has assisted 18,000 young people gain acceptance to institutions of higher education since its inception 44 years ago.
- ❖ **We regularly partner with hospitals and universities on community-focused research projects.** We currently collaborate with Mount Sinai Medical Center and North General Hospital on federal grants focused on reducing minority health disparities in East Harlem.
- ❖ **Union Settlement Federal Credit Union** has extended over \$35 million in personal, home, business and education loans to its 4,700 members.
- ❖ **Our Adult Education Program helps over 1,000 residents each year** improve their English and literacy skills, gain their GED diplomas, obtain citizenship, learn computer skills, and achieve their educational and career goals.
- ❖ **Union Settlement Home Care** provides critical home health care services to hundreds of seniors, allowing them to stay in their apartments and avoid nursing homes and hospitals.
- ❖ **Union Settlement has spearheaded efforts to combat pediatric asthma** in East and Central Harlem. The systems we helped develop are being replicated by 180 childcare centers throughout the city. We have enrolled nearly 6,000 children in our asthma tracking program, and trained nearly 900 parents and staff in asthma awareness and prevention.
- ❖ **The arts enrich many of our programs.** Our youth take dance classes, write and perform poetry and make music; our adult education students make documentary films and publish creative writing; and our seniors create jewelry.
- ❖ **Union Settlement contributes to the cultural life of the community** by hosting readings, musical events, a street fair, a farmer's market, a Dia de los Muertos celebration, and a beautiful community garden.

As New Yorkers navigate this period of difficult economic times, our roles as a support system, a sounding board and a trusted neighborhood resource have never been more critical. We are determined that East Harlem residents not only make it through the downturn but continue to make strides toward improving their lives, the lives of their families and their community.