



CHiPS

FOOD, COMMUNITY & HOPE SINCE 1971

FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER & DONOR APPEAL

Dear friends & supporters,

People often ask us what CHiPS stands for. Some like to think it's a reference to 'chipping in,' where small individual actions collectively have a big impact. Others associate it with 'community help' – a volunteer-led organization serving a diverse set of people at their time of need. Well, this summer, the C in our name represented something else: change.

Thanks to our volunteers and donors, over the past few months the CHiPS building has been completely transformed with a freshly painted facade, a beautiful addition to our mural and a new awning and windows. But the changes have been more than just cosmetic. As you'll see in the rest of this newsletter, there have been some exciting developments that will positively influence the lives of our guests and residents.

We are also very excited to welcome several new members to our Board of Directors and to thank outgoing Board President Richard Chamberlain for his tireless efforts during his tenure and his ongoing support. Our newly elected president, Mikael Levin, has hit the ground running to continue to build upon Richard's great work.

Of course, amidst all this change, one thing stays constant: our dedication to providing food, shelter and help to all those in our local community who need it. And none of that would be possible without you. We are so grateful for your generosity, compassion and love towards your neighbors in need – thank you!

Denise Scaravella
Executive Director

Mikael Levin
Board President

Stories that change hearts & minds

When journalist and author Lauren Sandler was asked to be part of a mentorship program for the moms at the Frances Residence, she'd never heard of CHiPS. As someone who writes about motherhood, gender and inequality, the idea that there was an organization that sheltered women at this vulnerable point in their lives drew her in. The mentorship never took off, but it did give Sandler an idea for a story. She ran with it, netting herself a grant that helps journalists research and tell a big-picture long-form story.



"I wanted to understand how impossible it is to be a mom in New York with few resources, and how invisible that experience is for most in this city. We're always reading stories about moms here in Park Slope, but it's usually from the perspective of someone with a certain degree of wealth. What we don't talk about is people who don't have that – specifically, people who are homeless."

Giving the invisible poor a voice

"We don't talk about the invisible poor," says Sandler. "What is it like for young women who are homeless, who don't

have a partner and can't stay with family or friends? Having a small child is a beautiful experience, but it's also traumatic and requires a lot of help and a lot of resources."

Sandler hopes her journalism will bring about change. "I'm drawn to problems, but CHiPS struck me as a really unusual temporary solution. It's a uniquely nurturing environment, a place that offers a lot of freedom and a communal experience for women who are going through something, if not together then on parallel, similar tracks." She shudders when she recalls her time volunteering in city shelters. "Those shelters are horrendous. But CHiPS is a very different place."

For Sandler, telling a story about real people that will move others is what it's all about. "Changing hearts and minds is always the goal. Politicians in New York are incredibly responsive at the moment, if a story gets enough buzz. So I'm hoping to place this piece in an outlet where it would get a lot of attention."

The idea of bringing about change is one all the women at the residence have embraced. "When I talked to the women about this project, I told them it's an opportunity to tell their story and to possibly make a change in the lives of others by doing so. I was expecting a couple to respond to that idea, but really everyone did. These are deeply compassionate women who know they are living very meaningful stories, and that those stories are rooted in injustice; they would like to repair that injustice in some way. If I can help them tell those stories, that is priceless."

An exciting summer of change & events at CHiPS



\$350 shelters a mom & her baby for 1 month



The CHiPS garage sale of community-donated items raises \$2,500.



The CHiPS facelift begins, as volunteers from National Grid paint the fire escapes.



Volunteers from Google transform the front of the CHiPS building.



\$50 provides 30 meals



TD Bank and our generous neighbors raise \$3,300 for CHiPS.



Our generous supporters help a former resident furnish her family's new home.



Thanks to your donations, new windows will keep the place nice and warm this winter!



It's really like having a family at CHIPS.



Resident Viktoriya tells Fox 5's Good Day Street Talk how CHiPS has changed her & her son's life.



Night Out - 15% of dinner checks at local restaurants donated to CHiPS, raising \$3,500.



The team from Groundswell adds the CHiPS logo to our mural.



Good things are happening for us every day.



Our soup kitchen serves over 250 meals daily.

Don't worry if you missed any of our events. Turn over to find out what's coming up this fall and how you can get involved!

How you can help



Donate

Thanks to our team of volunteers and local businesses that help us cover expenses like this newsletter, we're able to keep our administrative costs extremely low.

Which means donations you make go where they are most needed: \$50 will help us feed 30 people; \$350 will provide one month's shelter for a mom and her baby.

Donations can be made through our website or attached mail-in form.



Volunteer

We are an almost exclusively volunteer-led organization, and rely on you, our local community, to help us run our programs.

Interested in getting involved? Come to one of our orientation sessions. We run them on the second Thursday of every month at 9am and the last Thursday of the month at 6pm. No need to book – just show up. Hope to see you there!

The CHiPS Team

OUR STAFF

Denise Scaravella, Executive Director
Laura Goldberg, Executive Assistant
Janice Leiby, Director of Food Services
Pepe Dbayan, Director of Finance
Juan Inoa, Maintenance
Pat Hannan, House Mother

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mikael Levin, President
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James T. Ryan, Board Member
Peter Endriss, Board Member
Akiva Reich, Board Member
Adam Heimlich, Board Member
Ali Manning, Board Member
Denise Scaravella, ex-officio Board member

Coming up at CHiPS

5K Run/Walk - Nov. 7th

Join us Saturday, November 7th, 9am at Prospect Park for the CHiPS 5K. It doesn't matter if you're more tortoise than hare - it's all about having a good time and raising money for a great cause.

To sign up for the race or volunteer to help, visit the event page on our website.



Movie night - Nov. 16th

To mark National Hunger and Homelessness Week, we'll be hosting a screening of *Storied Streets*, a film about homelessness in the US. The movie will be followed by a Q&A with Professor Alex Vitale, an expert on the criminalization of homelessness.

Tickets cost just \$15 and all proceeds benefit CHiPS.

Hope to see you on Monday, November 16th, 7pm at Brooklyn Colony on Fourth Avenue.

See your donations in action - Dec. 1st

Ever wondered how much of a difference your donations make? Ever asked yourself whether your support really does change people's lives?

Then come to the CHiPS Open House on December 1st to celebrate Giving Tuesday - the national day of giving back to the community. It's the perfect opportunity to see the great work being done thanks to your generosity.

*For more information about these events, please visit the CHiPS Blog
www.chipsongline.org/blog*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT & DONATIONS.

CHiP In Now!

Donations may be made by check, credit card, or on our website at www.ChipsOnline.org

Donations by Check:

Amount of donation: \$ _____

Direct my donation to (select):

Soup Kitchen Frances Residence New Dining Tables

Name: _____

Phone: _____

e-Mail: _____

Donations by Credit Card:

Card type (select): *Visa MasterCard Amex*

Card number: _____

Billing Address: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CW Number: _____

Signature: _____

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