Dear Friends & Supporters,

Thank you for helping CHiPS! You helped to make 2018 the most successful year for CHiPS yet. This is all thanks to you spreading the word about CHiPS. With every donation, CHiPS is able to feed the hungry and house homeless young mothers and their babies. Please consider donating to us this summer, to be honest, CHiPS struggles to continue its programs during the summer months, as donations become fewer and farther between. Two easy ways to support CHiPS are at our upcoming events, a CHiPS Night Out on Tuesday, July 9 and our CHiPS 5K Run/Walk on Wednesday, August 14. Check out page 4 for more information. Thank you for your support!

Last fall, our Frances Residence re-opened after receiving some much-needed repairs and updates after a pipe burst and subsequent flood in our building. Now, we have beautifully updated apartments for our mothers in the Frances Residence and almost all of our apartments filled. On page 2, you will find an interview with Debra Duby, the fabulous volunteer who coordinates our Wednesday Night Meetings in the Frances Residence.

We recently celebrated our 4th Annual Spring Gala on May 1. We were able to raise over $50,000 this year to support our critical services of helping the hungry and homeless in our community. Find more information on page 3 about our honorees this year, Community Honoree Sandra Hagan, LMSW and Corporate Honoree Seth Williams and Suffolk Construction.

We couldn’t do everything we do without your help. Thank you for all of the support!

Denise Scaravella
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Franklin Stone
BOARD PRESIDENT
What do you do at CHiPS?

I’m definitely one of the luckiest volunteers at CHiPS to be able to organize the Wednesday Evening Life Skills Meetings for our moms in the Frances Residence. My role here involves securing our guest speakers each week, getting to know the most phenomenal moms, and holding their adorable babies! We make sure to have programs that cover all aspects of mom/baby physical and mental health, job/career paths and skills, and general life skills like budgeting, cooking, etc. We also sprinkle in some fun programs that cover topics like makeup, fashion, and hair.

How did you get started coordinating the Wednesday Evening Life Skills Meetings?

I actually began giving nutrition and fitness workshops here about 5-6 years ago as one of the Wednesday evening speakers. After about 2 years, I was told that the Volunteer Evening Life Skills Coordinator position was open and I spoke to Denise immediately.

What do you find most fulfilling about the meetings?

There are some Wednesday nights when I look around and feel all choked up. We are all women, sitting together, supporting each other, learning, laughing, (sometimes crying), holding/soothing each other’s babies, serving each other food/water, and marching forward together through the obstacles. The learning curve each week goes deep. We not only learn about so many topics from many of the best and brightest people in their fields – but we learn so much about ourselves and each other. That little yellow meeting room is truly a sacred space.

A Highlight of Our Wednesday Evening Life Skills Meetings

Katrina Cortes (01) from the New York Public Library is pictured with one of our moms, Leann. Katrina taught our moms about the incredibly vast and valuable free and confidential services offered by Single Stop at the main branch of the NYPL.

Michelle Goitia (02) from JC Bump and baby Kayden taught our moms all about the value of self-care, the power of our breath, meditation, and simple tangible yoga movements for mom and baby.

One of our wonderful former residents Augustina Armstrong-Ogbonna (02 standing next to our volunteer Jane holding baby Kayden) shared her past experience with us at the Frances Residence. Her story is incredibly inspiring, empowering, funny, and heart-warming.

Leanne Brown, (04) author of Good and Cheap, taught a wonderfully interactive, fun, and truly delicious cooking class. Everyone learned so much and had a blast enjoying the fruits of their labor.
Meet CHiPS 4th Annual Gala Honorees

Community Honoree
Sandra “Sandy” Hagan helps in the Frances Residence by supervising a graduate level social work intern who works with the young women in the residence. She also writes grants and handles all of the paperwork for CHiPS’s government and United Way funding, which grew to more than $125,000 last year. She became such a vital part of CHiPS by first donating along with her husband, Bob. Sandy volunteered in the soup kitchen for half a day before Denise pulled her aside and asked her to help with fundraising instead. And she’s helped with fundraising ever since.

Corporate Honoree
Seth Williams and Suffolk Construction helped the Frances Residence last year during the renovations of the Frances Residence by donating brand new appliances for all 10 of the kitchens. Seth, on his own time, also helped CHiPS by creating a work scope and vetting contractors as our building was repaired after the pipe burst and subsequent flooding last year. Suffolk Construction’s commitment to building smarter and safer goes hand in hand with their commitment to support the communities where they build; this led to their friendship with CHiPS.

Building Updates

Patricia Magnuson is helping CHiPS greatly by looking into new ways of cooling our building. If you’ve visited CHiPS in the summer, you know that our soup kitchen is hot! Patricia has been helping us to figure out a way to install an HVAC system that will help our building stay cool. Also, she has connected us to free programs from Con Edison that will make our building greener and cooler.

Thanks to the Franciscan Sisters (right) for their continued support of the Frances Residence.
Upcoming Events

Summer 5K Race — Wednesday, August 14
This year, we’ve decided to do something different with our 5K race. Join us Wednesday, August 14 at 7 pm for our CHiPS 5K Run/Walk. The amazing organization, Prospect Park Track Club will be co-planning the race with us. Check out more information on our website. We hope you can join us!

Night Out —Tuesday, July 9
Save the date for our next CHiPS Night Out event on Tuesday, June 9! All you have to do is support one of the participating local restaurants and 15% of their checks will come to CHiPS. Enjoy a night out and support CHiPS and local restaurants, it’s a win win win!

Volunteer
CHiPS is an almost exclusively volunteer-led organization, and relies on you, our local community to help us run our programs. Interested in getting involved? Attend one of our monthly volunteer orientations! We have 2 each month: the second Thursday at 9 a.m. and the last Thursday at 6 p.m. No need to book – just show up. We need volunteers of all kinds, in our soup kitchen cooking/serving food, in our Frances Residence answering phones and providing help to our mothers, graphic design and more!

Donate
Here at CHiPS we are extremely grateful to our volunteers, donors and local businesses that support us. Because of all of this wonderful support, we are able to keep overhead costs low. This means your donations go to what is most needed: $20 provides 5 people a well-balanced, wholesome meal; $350 provides one month’s shelter to a mother and her baby. Donations can be made through our website, chipsonline.org/donate or the attached mail-in form.

Follow us to stay up to date on CHiPS news:
@chips4thave
chipsonline.org

CHiP in now!
Donations may be made by check, credit card, or on our website chipsonline.org

Amount of donation: $ _____________________

Direction my donation to:
Soup Kitchen ☐  Frances Residence ☐

Name ___________________________________
Phone: __________________________________
Email: ___________________________________

Card Type ___________________________________
Card Number ______________________________
Exp. ___________  CW ___________  Zip ___________

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