



## A SEASON OF GRATITUDE BEGINS

**Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."**

As one who practices the Christian faith, the aforementioned scripture is one that has always been a guide-post for me and a way to ensure I am living a life of gratitude. It is my belief that this time of year kicks off that celebratory or gratitude posture. I can't help but wonder what are you grateful for? I can surely name a few things. In my now-ten months of leadership service to CHIPS as the new Executive Director, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. I am grateful for the team members who show up daily and are committed to the welfare of not just the organization, but the guests we serve. As well as our volunteers, who appear, all six days of our operations, to ensure preparation and a smooth distribution to our guests. I am grateful for the board of directors who serve alongside me, tirelessly in supporting the vision and working to ensure that CHIPS' 50-year longstanding mission of service to the community is met 365 days. I am grateful to supporters like you, who make our existence evident and the work possible.

I am grateful to the guests of our soup kitchen and the women in our Frances Residence shelter, who are courageous enough to put aside pride, and do what is necessary to seek and supplement their support. I am grateful that the team at CHIPS commemorated 50 years of service with a special luncheon for our guests. Moreover, I am grateful for the fact that even through the persistent pandemic, we've not needed to close our doors, but pivot to finding more adaptable methods of meeting the needs of the people we serve. These all may seem like a lot of reasons to be grateful. I'm told if I remain so, there'll always be more reasons to share.

**In the famous words of my dear friend, former Lt. Mary L. Tobin, "the work we do in these landscapes are hard work and heart work."**

I invite you into this common space. The one of gratitude and giving your life to those who may be in need. There is always an opportunity for a shift. Let's shift into thankfulness this holiday season yet remain there. I am confident that you too will find plenty of reasons to give thanks.

--Shivonne C. McKay, Executive Director



WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?



# Celebrating 50 Years!



" I am so glad you guys are here. I'm just trying to get on my feet."

—A CHiPS guest

On Monday, November 8th, CHiPS celebrated its 50th anniversary by honoring the resilient guests that we serve each day. Collaborating with new community partners Creative Edge Parties and Lot 2 Restaurant, who kindly donated their time, energy, and resources, we were able to provide our guests with delicious steak, chicken, salmon, rice and beans, macaroni and cheese, vegetables, and cupcakes. (Special thank you to our star volunteer, Annie, who made 200 cupcakes in her own home for the occasion.) We were able to serve close to 200 meals during this lunch service, the sole source of food for the majority of our guests. We care about the quality of food we serve our guests and were proud to serve some of their most desired dishes. The smiles on our guests' faces made the event a memorable one. We also surprised them with a special anniversary CHiPS t-shirt and tote bag to carry their meals and pantry items in, coupled with a donation of warm socks from Bombas. As we kick off our season for giving, donate to CHiPS today! We plan to be in the same place, doing the same work for the next 50 years.



Photo courtesy of Paul Wilkes, featured on the right

## Reflecting on 50 Years: Notes from Paul Wilkes, co-founder of CHiPS

Ed Mohler and I chipped in to pay the \$125 for the first month's rent. Ed and I and our wives had been meeting with a prayer group for over a year and had talked and prayed about having a "street presence," where we could leave the comfort of our living rooms and actually serve the poor. Well, here we were. We used a hot plate in the St. Francis Xavier rectory basement - little more than some cans of Campbell's supplemented with whatever vegetables the members of our little community had in their refrigerators. We swung open the aluminum door and offered the soup and ourselves to whomever walked in.

### Christian Help in Park Slope - CHiPS - was born.

CHiPS was only scheduled to be open a few afternoons a week, but I found myself turning the key in the door more and more frequently. The walls were painted with a rainbow of donated colors and within was a motley assortment of cast-off chairs, a desk, shelving for canned goods, racks for clothes and an old refrigerator that sounded like a sputtering Piper Cub taking off. All in all, a pretty rag-tag place. But, to me it was home each time I opened that door.



Photo Credit: Joe Cantor



Photo courtesy of Paul Wilkes



We look forward to even bigger and better things

*in the next 50 years!*



Photo Credit: Joe Cantor



Photo Credit: Dan Scofield



Photo Credit: Dan Scofield

## Community Support

CHIPS hosted the New York City Mobile Vaccination Unit, serving the community's needs by providing safe, fast, and easy access to COVID-19 vaccines. One by one, our guests and members of the surrounding community proudly rolled up their sleeves to do their part to combat Covid-19. Then-City Councilman Brad Lander, Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon, and Senator Jabari Brisport all came to speak and greet their constituents; Melissa del Valle Ortiz represented Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez. It was truly an inspiring and wonderful day!

Countless volunteers have donated their time and efforts towards home-cooked meals for our guests. Each and every day, we receive such a tremendous show of support from all of our friends and neighbors, old and new, without which we would not have survived for 50 years. Ours is a wonderful and supportive community that brings out the very best in others.



## Partner Appreciation

We are beyond thankful to all of the small businesses and community partners who have enabled us to not only keep our doors open during a global pandemic, but also to thrive. Taheni Mediterranean Grill hosted a food truck every Wednesday for our guests. The Wild partnered with us to hold a virtual baby shower for the mothers of the Frances Residence. Slice Out Hunger held a pop-up pizza series benefiting our work. Gucci painted and decorated the Frances Residences. Park Slope Parents organized the delivery of handknit hats to keep our guests, mothers, and babies warm this winter. Lot 2 Restaurant and Creative Edge Parties made our 50th anniversary special with delicious chicken and steak. Bombas and The Commissioner Bar collaborated to donate new socks, underwear, and slippers. Whole Foods has donated premium cut steak for our holiday meals.



Photo Credit: Joe Cantor



IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO LOOK BACK AT OUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS.



# Did You Know:

CHiPS has sheltered over 160 mothers & distributed over 2 million meals in 50 years!

## How You Can Help

### Donate

This holiday season, please help CHiPS to continue to serve our community's most vulnerable by making a donation. Your gift will go directly into our outreach services, such as our food pantry, pop-up lunch services, and to support the programs of the Frances Residence. We can't do what we do without you!

### Volunteer

We've begun accepting volunteers again on a very limited basis, to help us continue day-to-day operations of the Soup Kitchen and Frances Residence while still maintaining social distancing. To sign up for updates and upcoming volunteer orientations and opportunities, [visit https://chipsonline.org/volunteer/](https://chipsonline.org/volunteer/) and follow the link to the Volunteer Interest Google Form.

We could not have made it for 50 year without the unwavering support of our friends and neighbors in the community over the past 50 years. Because of you, we have been able to serve as many as 150 meals a day and shelter new and expecting mothers. Please stand with us against hunger and homelessness in our community by making a donation today.



# CHiPS



Photo Credit: Joe Cantor

## Special Thanks To Our:

### Board of Directors

- James T. Ryan, President
- Akiva Reich, Vice President
- Kedin Kilgore, Treasurer
- Lauren Cramer, Secretary
- Joseph S. Bach, OSF
- Gordon Meyer
- Rabbi Rachel Timoner
- Franklin Stone
- Ute Zimmerman
- Shivonne C. McKay, Ex-officio

### Bright Spot



The mothers of the Frances Residence always have reasons to be grateful, especially this time of year. Roshell, for example, has just been certified as a facilities program manager and has also completed her food safety handling certification. She is currently working closely with Sharon Lewis, our Frances Residence Coordinator, to help start her new career.



### CHiP in Today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donations by Check

(Made out to CHiPS or Community Help in Park Slope. Mail to: 200 4th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11217.)

Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct my donation to (select):

Soup Kitchen

Frances Residence

Donations may be made by check, credit card, by scanning this QR code, or online at [give.chipsonline.org/newsletter](https://give.chipsonline.org/newsletter)



### Donations by Credit Card

Card type (select):

Visa  Mastercard  Amex

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date / CVV Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_