



Our Annual Cocktail Benefit

Over 250 friends, colleagues and supporters joined us on April 4 to honor **RuthAnne Visnauskas**, Commissioner/CEO of New York State Homes and Community Renewal and **Melissa Jeltsen**, Senior Reporter at The Huffington Post. The funds from the benefit will help us continue to develop safe, affordable, permanent housing with services for previously homeless survivors of domestic violence.

In courageously telling her story, our tenant speaker reminded each of us why we fight every day for New Yorkers who are at risk of homelessness and domestic violence:

I was offered an apartment and in that moment I felt free. I didn't have to run anymore and I didn't have to stress about finding housing. The apartment was everything that I wanted. I am very grateful to New Destiny for giving me just that—a "New Destiny."



Left to right: Melissa Jeltsen; Carol Corden, New Destiny Executive Director; RuthAnne Visnauskas; and Gina Doynow, New Destiny Board Chair



Left to right: Dan Magidson, Enterprise Community Partners; Caroline Finger and Jane Silverman, JPMorgan Chase Community Development Group

Our thanks to our event sponsors including:

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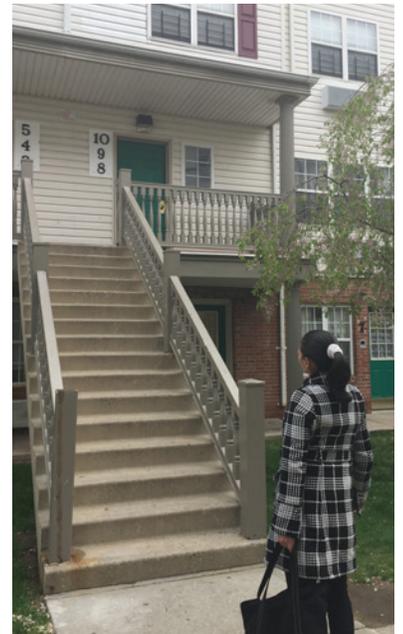
Finding a HOME

In 2014, we launched a pilot program – Project HOME – to prevent homelessness among low-income domestic violence survivors by connecting them to apartments in low-income housing tax credit projects instead of entering shelter. A partnership with Family Justice Centers (operated by the NYC Office to Combat Domestic Violence) in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan, the three-year pilot’s goal was to place 40 households in private sector apartments.

We have met that milestone, placing 40 survivors in safe permanent housing. Equally significant, 100% of the tenants placed have remained housing stable. Nearly half of those placed are renewing their leases for a second year.

Project HOME enables domestic violence survivors to move from crisis to security, bypassing the disruption and trauma caused by entering a homeless shelter. This testimonial from one of Project HOME’s clients reinforces the importance of the program for survivors fleeing abuse:

Being a Project HOME client was a wonderful experience due to the support I received from the staff. Overcoming my situation and multiple barriers to housing, I never felt alone. Even today, being in my new home I have never felt alone, Project HOME is always available. Project HOME helps DV survivors with their incomparable support. As their client I was treated like a human being, not another case number.



Preserving Affordable Housing

Preserving affordable housing for future generations is critical to our mission. To maintain our oldest properties in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, we are renovating 36 units in four buildings to ensure their future viability as affordable rental housing. With funding from HPD and the Low Income Investment Fund and LIHTC syndicated by Enterprise Community Partners, New Destiny has undertaken

building-wide renovations including new heating systems, roofs and windows; new and improved lighting in public areas; masonry repairs; new security cameras; and upgrades/repairs to hallways and lobbies. Apartment renovations include new bath and kitchen fixtures and appliances, new flooring, tiling and painting. Repairs began January 2017 and are being made with tenants in place.

Supporting Families

Children who have witnessed domestic violence often have many issues that can affect their ability to be socially and academically successful. To help children and their parents cope with the

trauma they have experienced, New Destiny is transitioning to a trauma-informed care model of service provision that will be integrated into daily practice. Trauma-informed care emphasizes

understanding, support and healthy recovery, and is an established model for working with domestic violence survivors and other populations who have experienced trauma.

All agency staff have participated in workshops on trauma-informed care and we have hired our first full-time Children and Family Services Coordinator who has experience in trauma-informed care. Currently working with 22 families, she offers mental health assessments and counseling at each of our buildings, refers children to specialized mental and physical health providers and assists with school issues.

