Celebrating 25 Years

300 friends, colleagues and supporters joined us on April 10 to celebrate our 25th year and to honor:

David L. Picket, President, Gotham Organization, Inc.

Molly Park, Deputy Commissioner, NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development

The New York Community Trust, Natasha Lifton, Senior Program Officer

The event raised over $270,000 for New Destiny—funds that 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:

“When I moved into my apartment from a shelter, my daughter was so happy she ran around the entire apartment looking for new hiding spots. I finally had a place to call home. My daughter finally had a place to enjoy her play dates, something she hadn't done in so long.

New Destiny has helped me become more independent. It has helped my daughter become more interactive and make new friends within the building. New Destiny helped me get the job that I have today — I am a case manager at a nonprofit that assists youth on public assistance. Overall, I wouldn't be where I am at today if it wasn't for New Destiny.”

Left to Right: David L. Picket, Molly Park, Natasha Lifton, Executive Director Carol Corden and Board Chair Charles E. MacLean, Jr.

Left to Right: George Poulon, Mega Contracting Group; Neil Falcone, Chicago Title; Nick Lettire, Lettire Construction; Hercules Argyriou, Mega Contracting Group; Bryan Kelly, Gotham Organization.

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Lydia’s Story

Lydia’s story began when the abuse from her husband escalated, and she quickly fled her home with her two young children. Anxious that her Section 8 rental subsidy was about to expire, she went to the Bronx Family Justice Center (FJC), where she met with the HousingLink Coordinator who quickly resolved the Section 8 issue, giving her time to find a safe, affordable apartment.

Living in her mother’s one-bedroom apartment that she shared with other relatives was stressful, so she was determined to find a new apartment. Guided by the HousingLink Coordinator, Lydia diligently worked to collect the many documents required for an apartment application. She also met regularly with the Coordinator to develop a budget to foster savings and improve her credit, and secured a job at a retail store in Manhattan.

Within three months, HousingLink connected Lydia to a two-bedroom apartment, and staff guided her through the entire application process through the lease signing.

Secure in her new home, Lydia shared that her goals are to get a job as a school paraprofessional so that she will be available when her children are home from school, and to eventually re-enroll in college.

The Coordinator will continue to check in with Lydia to help her transition into her new apartment and neighborhood; and to connect her with services that can assist her in obtaining her paraprofessional license.

New Funding for HousingLink!

New Destiny’s innovative rapid rehousing program—HousingLink—has been awarded a $997,000 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A partnership with the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, HousingLink reduces the cost and trauma of homelessness by connecting domestic violence survivors to safe, affordable housing.

HousingLink is a cost-effective prevention program that helps domestic violence survivors avoid homelessness.

Since its launch in late 2014, HousingLink has placed 92 domestic violence survivors in apartments and 97% of these households have retained their housing.

Our thanks to HousingLink funders—Santander Bank, TD Bank, Wells Fargo, the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; New York City Council; and Councilmembers Stephen Levin and Vanessa Gibson.

HousingLink Accomplishments

- **92** households connected to affordable apartments
- **25** for-profit and nonprofit landlord partners
- **243** Housing Action Plans created
- **97%** housing retention for households placed in housing
- **656** clients and advocates trained on permanent housing options

Where HousingLink Clients Find Homes

- **40%** of HousingLink clients are placed in apartments in their own borough

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