New Destiny’s Innovative Homelessness Prevention Program, HousingLink, Featured on CUNY TV

Offered on-site at New York City Family Justice Centers (FJC), HousingLink, formerly called Project HOME, is a rapid rehousing program designed to meet the needs of FJC clients, low-income survivors of domestic violence who are at-risk of homelessness. HousingLink connects domestic violence survivors to affordable apartments in privately-owned buildings; educates and informs domestic violence survivors about New York City housing subsidies and finding an affordable apartment; and provides aftercare to help survivors placed in housing to remain stable and safe.

Since we launched the program, we have placed over 50 households in permanent housing and provided housing workshops and one-on-one technical assistance to more than 300 domestic violence survivors.

Our thanks to the New York Community Trust, Mizuho USA Foundation, Inc. of the Mizuho Financial Group, Wells Fargo Foundation, TD Bank, and the New York City Council for supporting HousingLink.

Family Homelessness Task Force

Did you know that nearly 70% of the people in the City’s shelter system are children and their families? In fact, over 27,000 children sleep in New York City homeless shelters each night, many of whom have been in the shelter system for over a year.

This is one of the many issues that the recommendations from the Family Homelessness Task Force seek to address. Since a June Summit, New Destiny and our co-conveners, Enterprise Community Partners and Citizen’s Committee for Children (CCC), have been widely distributing the report developed with input from the Family Homelessness Task Force.

Media coverage of the recommendations and the summit include:

- DNA Info
- Op-ed in the Observer by the Executive Directors of CCC, Enterprise and New Destiny
- Op-ed in Shelterforce by the Executive Directors of CCC, Enterprise and New Destiny
- Blog post by the Executive Directors of CCC, Enterprise and New Destiny

During the coming year, we will continue to advance, implement and advocate for the recommendations which we believe will improve the well-being of homeless children and their families by preventing homelessness, improving shelter conditions and access to services and education while in shelter, and ensuring housing stability for those leaving the shelter system.

Download the report and recommendations from our website — www.newdestinyhousing.org.
Preserving Homes

Safe, stable housing is the critical need of families who are homeless due to domestic violence. Without adequate permanent housing, victims and their families cannot recover from the trauma of domestic violence, remain safe and move forward with their lives.

To ensure that our properties remain safe, and provide high-quality units for decades to come, we are renovating 36 units in our four oldest buildings in Brooklyn. All rents will remain affordable and several tenants have been able to qualify for Section 8 rental vouchers as a result of this work.

To minimize dislocation to our residents, all of whom have incomes below 60 percent of AMI (Area Median Income), we have made the renovations with tenants in place. Building-wide renovations include new roofs and windows, new and improved lighting in public areas, masonry repairs, a new heating system, security cameras, and upgrades and repairs to hallways and lobbies. Apartment improvements include new bath and kitchen fixtures, and new appliances, floors, tiling and painting as needed.

During and after the renovations, all of the tenants are offered support through our Family Support Program including benefits assistance, counseling, job readiness assistance, financial planning, and children and family programming to help families rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient.

Our thanks to the funders for the renovation of these buildings—Enterprise Community Investment, LIIF, and the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

Architect: Harden + Van Arnam Architects
Contractor: FG-PH Corporation