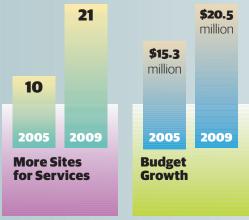


# When times get tough, we feel it's essential to reach out,

not pull back.



University Settlement's expanding programs are reaching out to more families than ever.

This is the commitment that animated University Settlement's staff and board as we stepped into the economic turmoil of the past year. We leveraged the strength of our experience to provide critical services to low-income families in a growing number of New York City neighborhoods.

Five years ago, the board and executive management made a policy decision to export the exceptional expertise at the Settlement to neighborhoods with minimal organizational social infrastructure. We marshaled our management skill and our capacity for innovation to establish high-quality programs in lower income communities where the City needed help. Then the economic storm hit. Instead of contracting in the face of crisis, the Settlement reached out to meet the growing need.

At the first signs of the economic downtown, we took aggressive steps to preserve services by cutting all non-essential costs from our budgets. We are pleased to report that the fiscal year has ended on a strong financial footing. We also remained very conservative in how we managed our endowment and other assets and thereby suffered no investment losses.

With its solid foundation secured, University Settlement was able to respond to funders who had a high level of confidence in our capabilities and

asked us to take on urgent challenges. We worked quickly to open three after-school programs in under-served neighborhoods of Brooklyn and initiated childcare services in Brooklyn based on the exemplary model of our Early Childhood Center. Project Home, the innovative hands-on case management program that works with families to prevent eviction, also broadened its reach and increased its case load. We thank the members of the Settlement's staff who responded with intelligence and energy, and report on these successes in the pages to follow.

A settlement house builds community from within, working alongside low-income families to empower them with an array of integrated services designed to tackle the challenges of poverty. In 1886, University Settlement launched the settlement movement in America. Since then, University Settlement has provided generations of low-income immigrants on the Lower East Side with innovative and trusted programs that help them to build a better future for their families.

As University Settlement approaches its 125th anniversary, we are reaching out beyond the historic borders of our neighborhood to engage a larger community and provide

- quality child care that integrates essential early childhood education
- after-school programs that help to close the achievement gap for low-income kids
- literacy programs that pave the way for employment
- mental health services that address a population facing extraordinary stresses
- case management to help struggling families avert crisis
- and other urgent services that respond to great need

We thank those funders who are supporting our growth in meeting these critical needs, and we invite new friends to join our mission.

Alan P. Winters Chairman of the Board

Michael H. Zisser, Ph.I Executive Director

# University Settlement reached out to Brooklyn to provide quality childcare. A willingness to take risks is an integral factor in innovation.

A willingness to take risks is an integral factor in innovation. While some nonprofits shy away from risk, the institutional culture at University Settlement encourages bold investments

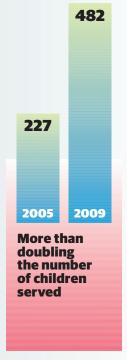
in new initiatives. Acting on that entrepreneurial spirit, it more than doubled the size of its group childcare services this year by reaching out to assume control of the operation of a failing childcare center in Brooklyn.

Tapping its established expertise as a leader in the field of early childhood development as well as its managerial bench strength, University Settlement was able to put in place a rapid turnaround of the services at Children's Corner Child Care Center. Its fast action preserved childcare services for 170 children in the community of East New York, where 38% of children live in households below the poverty line.

The Settlement's Early Childhood Center on the Lower East Side has long been recognized as an innovative model and received a Certificate of Excellence in 2006 from the NYC Administration for Children's Services. It implemented the city's first child care program that fully integrated Head Start with group day care services. The program also includes therapeutic classrooms for sessions with special needs children, extended pre-kindergarten hours, and a broad, multi-cultural curriculum with regular parent involvement. In 2008, University Settlement's Early Head Start program received a Certificate of Excellence from the Office of Head Start and in 2009 the program was nominated as a Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Education by Governor David Patterson.

Determined to maintain child care services in a community where needs are so great, the NYC Administration for Children's Services engaged University Settlement to operate Children's Corner, hoping it could replicate the successful model of its Early Childhood Center program. Faced with a substantial challenge and a tight budget, University Settlement was able to make extraordinary progress at the Brooklyn facility in only one month. Nina Piros, the Settlement's experienced Director of Early Childhood Programs refreshed the neglected physical space of Children's Corner from the ground up, quickly hired new licensed teachers, upgraded the IT infrastructure, and implemented a new curriculum based on the award-winning model of the Early Childhood Center.

The cutting-edge literacy and math curriculum from the Early Childhood Center has been adapted to meet the early learning needs of children at Children's Corner, which now has 11 classrooms serving children ages two to five. A priority has been to make time in the demanding weekly schedule for staff training and professional development so that teachers have time to assess their lesson plans, share curriculum ideas with their colleagues, and integrate the learning experience. The stakes are high. "Research shows that quality early childhood education makes a real difference in a child's life, and that is essential support for children from low-income families," says Piros. "At Children's Corner our investment has made a strong start, and I hope to be able to say a year from now that it is the best child care program in Brooklyn."





# After-school programs dramatically expanded in only 18 months. University Settlement has long been

1,001

2009

420

2005

Rapid growth to enrich the after-school experience University Settlement has long been a trusted partner to school principals, City agencies and organizations like

TASC (The After-School Corporation). This year the Settlement was called upon to bring its respected after-school model to underserved communities beyond our traditional service area on the Lower East Side. Now University Settlement is sharing the strength of its expertise with four communities in Brooklyn that have high rates of poverty and a notable lack of resources.

After establishing a Brooklyn program serving 130 children in grades K-5 at P.S. 133 in 2008, the Settlement's experienced after-school Program Director Tameeka Ford Norville began to collaborate closely with principal Danika LaCroix to design a brand new elementary school in a high-risk section of Bedford Stuyvesant. As part of the TASC Extended Learning Time pilot, the academic curriculum and after-school programming at P.S. 636 have been carefully planned as a seamless learning experience. University Settlement's program has quickly emerged as an outstanding example of success, demonstrating the potential of this innovative approach in a community where an overwhelming 10% of the children live in temporary housing. Already academic achievement has improved significantly, with test scores increasing from 33% to 46% of fourth graders now reading at grade level.

Reinforcing the school curriculum with activities like robot building and cooking that put math and literacy skills to work, promoting team cooperation and fitness with sports and dance classes, and

offering a nutritious supper before the children head home for the evening at 6:00 p.m, these after-school programs are helping to transform the lives of children who don't have opportunities for recreation and enrichment that many middle-class families take for granted.

As a result of the success of its first two Brooklyn sites, the Settlement was invited by the City's Department of Youth and Community Development to open two additional Brooklyn sites in 2009, at P.S. 130 in Kensington and P.S. 219 in East Flatbush. An after-school program is also part of the activities at a new City-funded Cornerstone Initiative community center that University Settlement recently began operating within a New York City Housing Authority Development in Fort Greene.

"It is the Settlement model to build community from the inside out," says Amy Mereson, who oversees the Settlement's youth programming initiatives, "and the value of these programs extends far beyond the school-age children served." To staff the after-school programs, young people from the neighborhood who don't have many employment options are hired, trained and nurtured, developing the human capital of the community. The after-school programs are also a path for family involvement, engaging mothers and fathers in activities that make them part of the extended community. By reaching out to children after school, University Settlement begins a relationship with the whole community that soon develops into a powerful source of new strength and hope.



## **Project Home** established new partnerships based on trust and experience. With walk-in offices on the Lower East Side for the past

two decades, University Settlement's Project Home has

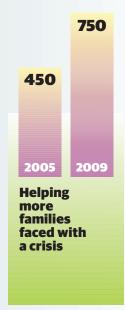
long been a trusted community resource for neighborhood residents facing a housing crisis and overwhelmed by the challenges of urban poverty. Its unique wrap-around services, which comprehensively address an array of urgent issues that an individual or family may be facing, set the standard for culturally-competent case management that works in partnership with participants.

Leveraging this expertise, as well as relationships it has developed with government agencies and foundation funders, Project Home expanded its traditional service area this year to reach more deeply into the heart of Chinatown where immigrant families have been displaced by gentrification and other pressures. By sharing their housing expertise with community-based organizations that are part of the fabric of the Chinatown community, Project Home is fortifying the social infrastructure of this unique immigrant community. Through an innovative collaboration with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and a large housing development named Confucius Plaza, Project Home also established a service partnership designed to help elderly Chinese immigrants struggling to age in place in their homes.

This year Project Home began exporting its unique service model to several neighborhoods of northern Brooklyn to aid families, largely African-American and Hispanic, who face pervasive poverty and have few available resources for support. For a low-income family, a housing crisis might start with the loss of a job

that paid the rent, a landlord who refuses to make essential repairs, or a domestic violence issue that has made it dangerous to remain at home. However, for financially insecure and vulnerable families, a crisis like this is often compounded by other daunting challenges that undermine their economic stability and hope for security. Language barriers for non-English speakers, educational shortfalls and lack of cultural awareness among government officials can impede participants' ability to stand up for their housing rights or work through the bureaucratic maze of public entitlements to secure benefits they need and deserve.

With a multicultural staff able to offer services in five languages, Project Home offers vital assistance to manage immediate problems like an eviction notice, a housing court appearance, utility arrears, or a benefits application. But a singular strength of Project Home is the sustained support its staff provides to participants grappling with a range of problems such as domestic violence, mental health and addiction disorders, immigration challenges, or custody issues. "Our participants trust that we will be there for them, to help them cope with a crisis and also look down the road to make a plan for the future," says Project Home's Director Jennifer Vallone. By offering case management, a network of referrals and a gateway to University Settlement's extensive programs designed to meet the needs of family members of all ages, Project Home staff can skillfully help families move beyond a crisis and work toward longer term goals to build a better life.





# University Settlement programs reach out to the whole family.

#### Services for Young Children

#### **Early Head Start**

This child development and parenting program serving families with children under age three increased capacity by 60% this year with an additional site in the Lower East Side/Chinatown. The program includes a combination of home-based and center-based services, classroom sessions and family day care, and currently serves 160 children.

#### **Early Childhood Center**

A comprehensive early learning and support program for families with children ages two to five, serving approximately 152 preschool children on the Lower East Side, with a new location in Brooklyn serving an additional 170 children. Over the past year, the ECC recently expanded program evaluation and outcome research.

#### **Family Child Care Program**

This home-based care program for children ages two months to 12 years has 65 licensed providers caring for over 200 children in the Lower East Side. The program assists family child care providers in obtaining their licenses and maintaining their quality of service. A partnership with NYU extended the program to serve families associated with and living near the university.



#### **Early Intervention Program**

Providing speech, physical, occupational and special instruction therapy for over 250 infants and toddlers throughout Manhattan and the Bronx, this program increased enrollment by 10% this year and expanded to include child development evaluation.

#### **Butterflies Program**

A supportive mental health program for children under age five and their families, the program increased its reach to serve approximately 600 children and 600 adults and expanded to incorporate bereavement training for mental health consultants at the ACS Division of Child Care and Head Start.

#### **Healthy Families**

Providing home-based services for new and expectant families to support child development, Healthy Families worked with over 80 families in East Harlem and the Lower East Side this year. Reporting positive outcomes, 100% of families with an infant had a primary medical provider and full immunization at one year of age.

#### Services for Youth

#### **After-school Programs**

After-school programs provide educational support, recreation and enrichment for more than 1,000 children in grades K-5 at sites throughout the Lower East Side and Brooklyn. Over the past year, parent involvement at all sites increased by 50%.

#### **Beacon**

Based at East Side Community High School, this year-round program serves youth of all ages and offers space and an open door to neighborhood groups. In 2009, the program served 1,200 community members with services including after-school programming, paid internship opportunities for youth, financial literacy workshops, and a new mentoring program called Ramp Up, funded by TASC, that matches young professionals with middle school youth.

#### **Children's Blended Case Management**

Providing intensive case management services for emotionally challenged youth to prevent emergency room visits, psychiatric hospitalization and placement in residential treatment facilities, the program served approximately 250 families throughout Manhattan in 2009.

#### **The Door**

A Settlement subsidiary since 2000, The Door is a multi-service youth development agency providing a full range of services, including health care, education, legal assistance, counseling, recreation and career guidance, to educationally and economically disadvantaged youth in New York City. In 2009, The Door served more than 11,400 young people.

#### **Talent Search College Guidance**

Over the past year, this program more than doubled to guide 1,095 low-income high school and GED students through the college application process. Of college-ready participants, more than half were accepted to a four-year college or university and an additional 20% enrolled for post-secondary education.

#### **Home Based Crisis Intervention**

Providing intensive short-term, in-home case management services for emotionally disturbed youth and their families, the HBCI program served 54 children and adolescents in 2009 and was able to help avert psychiatric hospitalization or out-of-home placement over 94% of the time.

#### Services for Adults

#### **Adult Literacy**

Providing beginner to advanced English language classes for speakers of other languages, over the past year this program served 420 students with a 10-month-long, rich course of study including an advanced writing class taught by the head of NYU's Gallatin Writing Program, a novels class, a movie class and more to help students build their English proficiency.

#### **Project Home**

This unique program provided long-term case management to over 250 households facing eviction, as well as short-term assistance and tenant rights education to 400 households. A domestic violence education initiative served over 200 community residents. In addition, Project Home recently initiated an innovative collaboration with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and Confucius Plaza to serve Chinatown seniors.

#### **Older Adults**

Offering a wide variety of activities, outings and volunteer opportunities, as well as daily meals and holiday celebrations for a diverse and vibrant senior population, the Older Adults program recently expanded online services to help clients screen for benefits and entitlements.

#### ■ For the Whole Family

#### **Consultation Center**

A fully-licensed mental health clinic serving the whole family, complete with four board-certified, bilingual psychiatrists equipped to meet the diverse needs of the multicultural, multilingual Lower East Side community.

#### **Houston Street Center**

The Houston Street Center is a thriving community gathering place for families in the Lower East Side and Chinatown. This year, more than 250 seniors enrolled in the Senior HeART program and 100 middle-school students enrolled in the STRIDE after-school program. Hundreds of swimming, cardio and other classes were filled to capacity. More than 130 organizations joined the Houston Street community, renting low-cost space to provide a wide array of programming, from English lessons to staff training.

#### Lower East Side / Chinatown Community Partnership

A child welfare coalition supporting children living in the Lower East Side and Chinatown who are in or at risk of entering foster care, and their families. Services are neighborhood-based, linguistically accessible and include referrals to Head Start and Pre-K, day care, health services and community-based child abuse/neglect preventive services.

#### **The Performance Project**

In its first two years, The Performance Project has presented over 60 diverse and low-cost cultural events, attracting thousands of new visitors to performances in Speyer Hall at University Settlement's historic home at 184 Eldridge Street. This innovative arts program has built partnerships with a range of vital arts institutions and attracted some of New York's most exciting artists to its unique artist-in-residence program.

## balance sheet

**2009** Funding Sources



- **78**% Government Grants and Contracts
- 13% Private Support: Individuals, Corporations and Foundations
- 3% Management Fees
- **3**% Miscellaneous Income
- 3% Program Fees

**2008**Funding Sources
(Net of One-Time Revenues)



- 77% Government Grants and Contracts
- 15% Private Support: Individuals, Corporations and Foundations
- 3% Management Fees
- **3**% Miscellaneous Income
- 2% Program Fees

■ Years ended June 30,

ASSETS	2009	2008
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 214,195	\$ 638,351
Investments, at fair value	2,997,041	2,997,046
Government grants and contracts receivable	2,853,658	2,193,826
Pledges receivable	874,677	856,027
Prepaid and other assets	88,224	128,059
Land, buildings and equipment, net*	1,927,206	1,917,592
Total Assets	\$8,955,001	\$8,730,901
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIADILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Advances under government grants	\$ 657,243	\$ 775,891
Accrued vacation	247,539	297,774
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,331,745	767,459
Notes payable	0	64,786
Amounts held on behalf of others	35,932	59,654

#### **NET ASSETS**

**Total Liabilities** 

Unrestricted:		
Undesignated for general use	\$ 198,763	\$ 427,692
Board designated**	994,508	1,244,508
Net investment in fixed assets	1,927,206	1,917,592
Temporarily restricted	1,428,372	1,058,828
Permanently restricted	2,133,693	2,116,717
Total Net Assets	\$ 6,682,542	\$6,765,337
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$8,955,001	\$8,730,901

\$2,272,459

\$1,965,564

<sup>\*</sup> Amount shown is net of depreciation. Land and buildings owned by University Settlement consist of an approximately 40,000 square foot building at 184 Eldridge Street in New York, NY, which is insured for \$8.5 million dollars. During the year ended June 30, 2008, University Settlement sold its 82-acre program site in Beacon, NY.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Substantially all of the increase in board designated funds for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 relates to the realized gain on fixed assets from the sale of the Beacon Campus.

### 2009 statement of activities

#### 2009 **Expenses by Category**



40% Early Childhood Services

Family & Counseling Services

**17**%

**Youth Services** 

8%

Management & General

2%

**Fund Raising** 

#### 2008 **Expenses by Category**



41% Early Childhood Services

Family & Counseling Services

**15**%

**Youth Services** 

**7**%

Management & General

3%

**Fund Raising** 

■ Years ended June 30.

SUPPORT AND REVENUES:	2009	2008
Private Support: Individuals, Corporations and Foundations	\$ 2,562,070	\$ 2,659,093
Government Grants and Contracts	15,291,431	13,110,440
Program fees	507,088	347,606
Management fees	577,690	484,619
Miscellaneous income	538,176	496,255
Realized Gain on fixed assets sale*	0	1,140,437
Total support and revenues	\$ 19,476,455	\$ 18,238,450
EXPENSES		
Program services:		
Early Childhood Services	\$ 7,855,775	\$ 6,904,917
Youth Services	3,238,491	2,527,093
Family and Counseling Services**	6,350,343	5,732,931
Total Program Services	\$17,444,609	\$ 15,164,941
Supporting services:		
Management and General	\$ 1,590,578	\$ 1,212,173
Fund Raising	399,063	483,342
Total Supporting Services	\$ 1,989,641	\$ 1,695,515
Total Expenses	\$ 19,434,250	\$16,860,456
Change in net assets before pension adjustment	42,205	1,377,994

(82,795)

\$ 6,765,337

\$ 6,682,542

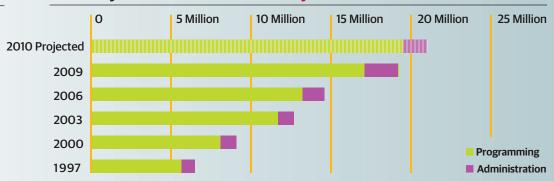
Change in net assets \*\*\*

Net assets, end of year

Net assets, beginning of year

#### **University Settlement Historical & Projected Growth**

Effect of adoption of supplemental executive retirement plan (125,000)



1,377,994

5,387,343

6,765,337

<sup>\*</sup> Realized gain on fixed assets sale relates to the sale of University Settlement's 82-acre program site in Beacon, NY during the year ended June 30, 2008, which is net of sales costs and accumulated depreciation on fixed assets

<sup>\*\*</sup> In addition to all mental health services, Family and Counseling Services program expenses include the Performance Project, Adult Literacy, Project Home, Older Adults and the Houston Street Community Center

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Net of depreciation

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The Robin Hood Foundation
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NYS Office of Children and Family Services

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### 2009 annual report

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