

HARLEM CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, INC. (HCCI)
CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



*From
Infants
To Elders*

*HCCI
Improves
Lives*

13TH ANNUAL
LET US
BREAK
BREAD
TOGETHER
AWARDS DINNER



2014 ANNUAL REPORT





EXACT CAPITAL

Congratulations to HCCI
and all of tonight's Honorees for their commitment
to service and "Improving Lives".
Exact Capital is pleased to support your efforts.

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

REV. CHARLES A. CURTIS, M.DIV., ED.D.



Our rich history of achievement over the last quarter century and our role as a catalyst for change as formidable leaders in the Harlem community have resulted in economic development and empowerment opportunities for the community.

Harlem has come a long way. In the late seventies and eighties, it was an area of devastation, destruction and benign neglect. Drugs and blight ravaged Harlem. Families and residents had to flee their homes and look for safety and shelter elsewhere. It was a dangerous place to live and raise a family.

However, Harlem was resilient because its ministers and residents refused to be defeated. In 1986, a coalition of more than 90 interfaith congregations came together to create HCCI, which is committed to the holistic revitalization of Harlem, through social service, equitable development, commercial development and affordable residential housing. Hope replaced despair and a new era began to take shape as Harlem, like the proverbial phoenix, "rose from the ashes" with a new vision in which HCCI would play an integral part in the ensuing years.

Over the past 29 years, HCCI has created approximately 3000 units of housing, including over 2000 units for low-income families. We have developed and marketed more than 800 co-op and condominium units, 50 commercial spaces and have recently obtained a 30-year extension of tax credits for approximately 500 units in Central Harlem which were renovated late last year. Our goal is to ensure affordable housing and ownership opportunities. We are currently working on a new multi-faceted housing complex that will include HCCI headquarters, low-income housing, a daycare center and community space.

HCCI is blessed. When one considers the challenges and hurdles we continue to encounter in our quest to build a better Harlem, providing decent affordable housing, creating employment opportunities for nearly 2000 people, and providing health education for our residents, combined with 29 years of community service, it is evident that God's grace continues to make this organization stronger each day and enables us to carry out our mission.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Directors and a staff committed to our mission to rebuild Harlem. We are thankful for our community partners. We could not continue to achieve without your support.

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

201 Lenox Avenue, New York City

salutes

HARLEM CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

and Our Pastor, Dr. Charles A. Curtis, Board Chairman

On HCCI's 29 Years of Service to the Community
& Congratulates this Year's Honorees:

The Honorable Rosemonde Pierre-Louis

Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

Deborah L. Johnson • Vice President, JP Morgan Chase Bank

Captain Paul Washington • Former President of the Vulcan Society/FDNY

Jean Nash Wells • Co-Founder & EIC, Positive Community Magazine

Amie Kiros • Owner, Piatto d'Oro

Rev. Dennis A. Dillon, President • The Christian Times

New Heritage Theatre Group

Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce

Bishop Preston R. Washington, Sr. • A Co-Founder of HCCI (Posthumous)



Among the Community
Services offered by
Mt. Olivet:
Community Meals
& Food Pantry
Clothing Distribution
Social Services for the Elderly
Girl Scouts



PRESIDENT & CEO'S MESSAGE

DEREK E. BROOMES



For 29 years, HCCI has been Harlem's vanguard for community revitalization, leading the effort to rebuild this beloved community and to transform the lives of its residents. This year we met a historic milestone in HCCI's achievement. In November 2014, we broke ground on the 260 West 153rd Street project. This new seven-story development will include 51 units of affordable housing, 43 of which are reserved for people earning 50% of the Area Median Income -- in other words, incomes ranging from \$23,887 to \$42,950. Of the 43 units, 8 are reserved for people living with HIV/AIDS. An additional 8 units are reserved for those earning 30% of the Area Median Income and who receive vouchers from the New York State Homes and Community Renewal. The development will house a 10,000 square foot daycare center, and new office space for HCCI. This project represents an historic moment for the agency, and will realize our founders' vision for an HCCI headquarters dedicated to the revitalization of Harlem.

Also, with support from NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and the Year 15 Preservation Program, we recently completed the rehabilitation of 609 apartments in Harlem, and extended the affordability of these units for at least 30 years! This repositioning was executed through Northern Manhattan Equities, a new partnership between HCCI, Exact Capital and Prestige Management. HCCI owns 51% of this company.

We are also a community partner in the redevelopment of the historic Victoria Theater. This 125th Street project is comprised of affordable housing, a hotel and commercial spaces including a large restaurant, jazz club, and boutique shops. This project is on track to close June 2015.

Last year, more than 500 city residents completed our homebuyer education program. We maintain an afterschool program serving more than 30 Bradhurst neighborhood children per day. Our Computer Clubhouse, which was founded by MIT, continues to expose our children to innovative technology.

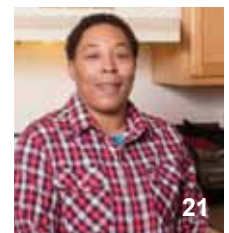
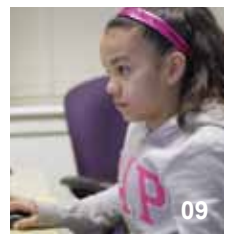
HCCI is thankful for its successes and we look forward to working with you to build a stronger Harlem.

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L+M DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
APPLAUDS HCCI
FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE AND
ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HARLEM COMMUNITY.

WE WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS AND
JOIN IN CONGRATULATING
THIS YEAR'S AWARD HONOREES.



www.lmdevpartners.com



ROSEMONDE PIERRE-LOUIS

THE REV. CANON FREDERICK B. WILLIAMS
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Rosemonde Pierre-Louis was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio as the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) in January 2014. OCDV, established in 2001, oversees the citywide delivery of domestic violence services, develops policies and programs, and works with diverse communities to increase awareness of domestic violence. OCDV works alongside City agencies, community-based and advocacy organizations, local leaders, and service providers to expand access to services for victims and their children to receive the help that they need.

From 2006-2013 Ms. Pierre-Louis served as Manhattan Deputy Borough President and was responsible for overseeing several of the Office's key initiatives related to transportation, domestic violence, food justice and security, sustainability, the environment, criminal justice and the unprecedented reform of Manhattan's 12 Community Boards. She was the architect of Borough President Scott Stringer's Go Green sustainability initiatives in East Harlem, Washington Heights, Inwood and the Lower East Side.

Prior to becoming Deputy Borough President, Ms. Pierre-Louis served in leadership positions at several public interest and legal services organizations such as Harlem Legal Services, Network for Women's Services, The Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families, and Queens Legal Services. Ms. Pierre-Louis spent 20 years as public interest and legal services attorney representing low income and working poor litigants as well as survivors of domestic violence throughout the New York State court system. She also served for six years as an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Law. She has been widely recognized as an advocate, educator, and attorney for women's and immigrants' rights, underserved communities and survivors of domestic violence.

In 2004, Ms. Pierre-Louis was appointed by then Chief Justice Judith Kaye to serve on the Matrimonial

Commission, which was responsible for reviewing all aspects of matrimonial litigation and making recommendations for improving how the state's Family and Supreme Courts handle such litigation.

Ms. Pierre-Louis is a founding member and former Chair of the African-American Task Force on Violence Against Women and a former Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the New York Women's Foundation. In 2009 Ms. Pierre-Louis co-founded and currently serves as Chair of the Haitian Roundtable, an organization comprised of Haitian-American professionals committed to civic engagement as well as philanthropic endeavors benefiting Haiti, Haitian organizations and causes.

In 2010 following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, Ms. Pierre-Louis was appointed by then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to serve on the five-member delegation representing the United States at the United Nations Haiti Donor Pre-Conference in Martinique, West Indies. She has been a leading voice, advocate and mobilizing force on issues impacting the Haitian community.

Ms. Pierre-Louis completed her undergraduate studies in political science at Tufts University, and earned a law degree at Case Western University School of Law. She is the recipient of numerous awards which include the Women United in Philanthropy Award from the United Way of New York City and the Women's Leadership Award from the Mid-Manhattan NAACP.

In 2010 Ms. Pierre-Louis was presented the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations Foundation for her work and advocacy for Haiti and its Diaspora. In 2013 Ms. Pierre-Louis was one of the first recipients of the YWCA NYC Community Leadership Award, and in 2014 she received the McSilver Award from NYU's Silver School of Social Work which recognizes individuals working to address the needs of children and families living in poverty.



TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The New Heritage Repertory Theatre was created in 1964 by the late Roger Furman, a revered playwright, director, actor and lecturer, who began his career in the 1940s with the American Negro Theatre in Harlem. The mission was to preserve and institutionalize classic works of Black theatre. In 1983, Voza Rivers, an award-winning music and theatre producer, reorganized it under the name New Heritage Theatre Group (NHTG), expanding the theatre's mission to provide training, experience and international exposure to veteran and emerging artists.

Today New Heritage presentations reflect the historical, social and political experiences of African and Latino descendants in America and abroad. It is also the oldest Black nonprofit theatre company in New York City.

New Heritage has three major program divisions: Furman Theater Rep, New Heritage Films & Harlem Wood Film Festival, and IMPACT Repertory Theater.

New Heritage Theatre Group highlights include IMPACT's 2008 Oscar nomination for Best Song in a Feature Film for "Raise it Up" in the movie August Rush. They performed the song at the Academy Awards before a worldwide audience of a billion viewers. In 2009 IMPACT was nominated for a GRAMMY award for Best Cast Album for August Rush.

In 1990, New Heritage Theatre co-produced with Lincoln Center Theatre Mbongeni Ngema's Township Fever at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Third Rhythm at the World Famous Apollo Theatre. In 1991 they co-produced with Haworth Shakespeare Festival The Tragedy of Macbeth at the historic St. Bartholomew's Church, which featured leading black actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company and Royal National Theatre in England. New Heritage co-produced a staged reading of celebrated novelist Gloria Naylor's first play Bailey's Café, directed by Shauneille Perry, in Lincoln Center's Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater; in 1992 produced the hit Caribbean musical Rasta at Harlem's Victoria 5 Theatre; in 1996 co-produced Romeo & Juliet featuring international black actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre in England; in 1998 the OBIE Award-winning play The Huey P. Newton Story at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. In 2005 New Heritage co-produced the United States premiere with Greg Mosher (Columbia University) of iconic British director Peter Brook's Tierno Bokar; in 2006 Her Life in Music with Gloria Lynne and in 2008 My One Good Nerve starring Ruby Dee both at the Schomburg Center; and in 2007 the plays of OBIE, AUDELCO, and NAACP Award-winning playwright and actor Daniel Beaty's Resurrection, Emergency, Through the Night, Tearing Down the Walls, and Mr. Joy.

Voza Rivers and The New Heritage Theatre Group have earned the distinction of being the first Artist-in-Residence and Theater-in-Residence from 2013-2014 at the prestigious New York Academy of Medicine, an independent organization founded 1847.

COMPUTER CLUBHOUSE

OFFICE OF HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Since 2002, HCCI's Computer Clubhouse has been a great after school hangout for hundreds of neighborhood kids in Harlem. It serves as a safe haven against street gangs and other potential dangers. It's a place where kids as young as 10 have come to learn the latest computer technology and have created some of the most original artwork, music and film.

Originally created by the MIT Media Lab with the Boston Museum of Science, and expanded as an international network with the support of Intel, this Harlem-based after school program gives young people access to advanced software and digital audio/video equipment.

Many graduates still visit the Clubhouse, even after leaving for college. Christine Davis, now 23, received \$7500 in Clubhouse scholarships and went on to graduate from Syracuse University. She teaches middle school in the Bronx and works evenings in television production at Madison Square Garden. Taking a cue from Christine's desire to mentor younger kids in computer technology, Fred Reidel, coordinator of the Computer Clubhouse since 2004, recently added a leadership component to the Digi-Kids program for 10-year-olds, which grew out of a recent partnership with the City Mission Society Power Academy. Digi-Kids offers younger children technology-based stem learning and mentor matches who pass along what they have learned. Oubeida Abdoussala, 11, first started coming to Digi-Kids about a year ago. She is one of those leaders. "At Digi-Kids, I get to use technology in a different way. I get to work with other members and show them step by step how to use Play Doh as a computer keyboard," he said.

Back in 2007, 17-year-old Naim Smith demonstrated a talent for music making using Logic Pro software, preferred by music professionals. He now has a steady gig using the skills he learned during his years at the Clubhouse. Fred speaks proudly of one of his star students: "Naim's now in the 11th grade, and is working part-time as a music producer at BaseMuzik Studio in Harlem. He also designs and sells original fashion graphics called MBN (Move Beyond New)."

Programs like MaKey MaKey and Scratch give Oubeida and other Digi-Kids the ability to create their own animated stories, music and art. Fred explains:



"MaKey MaKey is an electronics board that bypasses your keyboard, allowing you to connect any of the wired connectors with alligator clips from their board to anything that is conductive such as water, clay, or graphite."

Oubeida's mom has certainly noticed her daughter's progress since joining the Digi-Kids program. "Before the Clubhouse, Oubeida never used a computer. But thanks to Digi-Kids, Oubeida is doing something that she really enjoys and I am so proud of her."

Digi-Kids has nearly 30 kids that are split into three weekly rotating groups. The program meets at the Clubhouse every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon at the David and Joyce Dinkins Gardens in Harlem, their new home.

HCCI's Computer Clubhouse is free and open year round to children ages 10-18 years. To learn more about the Clubhouse, please visit www.hcci.org, and see youth programs.



JEAN NASH WELLS

MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARD

Jean Nash Wells is co-founder of The Positive Community Corporation, publisher of The Positive Community magazine where she serves as Editor-in-Chief.

Jean has had a long career in media – she was a member of the original staff of the Children’s Television Workshop, producers of the PBS program Sesame Street. Her career in broadcasting sales and management includes stints at WNJR, WNCN, WWRL and Inner City Broadcasting Corporation’s WBLS-FM, WLIB-AM and Showtime at the Apollo, where she served as General Sales Manager. In 1989 she formed Jean Wells Associates, Inc., a full-service advertising and public relations agency. Her clients included Toys R Us, Burger King and Inner City Broadcasting.

Jean and her long-time friend and co-worker Adrian Council Sr. formed The Positive Community Corporation in 2000, with the concept of establishing a publication that would highlight the positive aspects of the African-American community. The Positive Community is celebrating its 15th year in print.

Jean has received many honors and awards, among them the Big Apple Award for Outstanding Radio Advertisement from New York Market Radio (NYMRAD), the Journalist of the Year from the Newark Women’s Conference, New York State Community Distinction Award, National Council of Women Executive Leadership Award, the Shirley Chisholm Unbossed and Unbought Award from NJ Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and the Legend Award from the New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women.

Jean is a member the Board of Directors of the Harlem Symphony Orchestra and the New Jersey African-American Chamber of Commerce. She has served on the Advisory Boards of WBGO-FM and the New Jersey Small Business Development Corporation.



GREATER HARLEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce (GHCC), originally incorporated in 1896 as the Harlem Board of Trade, is now in its 119th year of continued service to Upper Manhattan and the New York region.

GHCC has served as an anchor for regional and community stability and progress during periods of urban challenges, and now, as we have entered a time of greater prosperity. GHCC, over the past 38 years has also worked diligently to focus on Harlem's renaissance and the revitalization of Upper Manhattan by supporting new and established businesses, strengthening and enhancing the number, quality and diversity of professional services, provided residential and retail development, affordable housing, tourism and the sustainability of Harlem's arts, culture and history.

GHCC also continues to work closely with many of the key health service providers in the region and is a major catalyst for improving the quality of life and health for residents.

The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce assertively promotes, contributes to and benefits from Harlem's world renowned vitality and recognition as an international tourist, business, sports, arts & culture, education, historic, religious and health services mecca.



PATRICK WILLIS | HOMEBUYER EDUCATION SEMINAR SERIES **OFFICE OF EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Patrick Willis, a proud Harlem native, wanted to buy a home and secure his family's future. He found assistance through HCCI's Homebuyer Education Seminar Series.

"I was tired of doing the rental thing and not reaping any benefits," said Willis. "At the end of the day, I get to leave it to the kids. Leaving someone money and not teaching them how to manage money is just like leaving them no money at all. I want to teach them the benefits of owning a home."

Since 2003, HCCI's Homebuyer Education Seminar Series has taught nearly 10,000 people like the Willis family, helping more than 1500 graduates to realize the dream of owning their own home. Last year, 525 participants completed the homebuyer seminar series.

"We inform participants of the steps in the home buying process," said Reverend Dr. Charles Butler, Vice President of Equitable Development. Dr. Butler is responsible for HCCI's homebuyer education courses. "A main objective of the program is to help first time homebuyers to assemble a team of professionals to assist them and keep them from making costly mistakes."

Willis, 34, came across a news ad about HCCI's homebuyer workshop last March, eager to buy his first home with a pre-approval of around \$400,000. At the time, Willis, a full-time ironworker, his wife, two children and a Rottweiler were living in a two-bedroom apartment in Harlem. "I had already signed the contract with the seller before I even knew about the program," said Willis. "I was beating myself up about it because I felt like I shouldn't have signed anything without having more knowledge."

The workshop gives access to banks with matching dollar programs geared towards first time homebuyers, as well as discount programs. After completing the four-week seminar, Willis received a certificate of completion and access to key people like Dr. Butler, who introduced him to an attorney which saved him from making a costly mistake.

"I was really eager to buy a home and didn't put in an offer or anything," said Willis. When he met at the seller's office shortly after looking at the first home, the seller took advantage of Willis's eagerness and inexperience. He referred Willis to an attorney who showed up that same day, and ultimately provided him with a mortgage that was too

expensive and provided Willis with none of the general protections and contingencies. Dr. Butler found help.

"We got rid of the first attorney, who stopped returning my phone calls. [The new attorney] was on top of everything, every step of the way. It was comforting to know that she was there and that everything was going smoothly."

Thanks to HCCI, the Willis family now lives in a 2800 square foot home in the Bronx, with five bedrooms, two full baths, a backyard and a finished basement. "Everything is coming together," said Willis. "I painted the kids rooms and I did the crown molding. Now we're working on finishing the floors, the backyard and the fencing for the spring."

HCCI's Home Buyer Education Seminar Series is a HUD certified comprehensive housing counseling agency which offers assistance with financial capacity building, landlord/tenant rights, foreclosure prevention and more. To attend the Home Buyer Education Seminar Series or learn more about the services, please visit www.hcci.org and click on "Homebuyer Education."



DEBORAH L. JOHNSON

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Deborah L. Johnson has spent over 35 years in banking, finance, mortgage lending and community development. She is a Vice President with the National Community Reinvestment & Community Partnership team at JPMorgan Chase.

Ms. Johnson began her career at Chase in retail banking and was recruited to join the prestigious Community Development Group led by Mark Willis. It was under his leadership that Deborah began over 25 years of community development service. Her financial services and lending background allowed her to contribute and leverage insightful best practices to serve low- and moderate-income communities, which helped Chase exceed its CRA and lending goals.

Ms. Johnson works on a national level supporting the implementation of key community development programs that support the education, counseling and assistance of nonprofits that help prepare families for homeownership and financial stability. She is a strong and committed supporter of the National Industry Standards for Education and Counseling.

With Ms. Johnson's guidance, the Office of Nonprofit Engagement at JPMorgan Chase partners with NeighborWorks America (NCHEC) to bring place-

based training that supports capacity building for organizations that provide education and counseling to low- and moderate-income communities and families.

Ms. Johnson is passionate about her work and enjoys educating, training and coaching families for financial stability and is committed to seeing consumers achieve their financial goals. She also believes that women play a key role in facilitating change in their communities.

Ms. Johnson serves on the Executive Boards of the New York Mortgage Coalition, Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, Neighborhood Housing Services of the South Bronx, Asian Americans for Equality, NHS Jamaica Redevelopment Corporation and the Housing Partnership for New Jersey. She also serves on numerous committees focused on affordable housing, community reinvestment, financial literacy, predatory lending prevention and foreclosure intervention.

Ms. Johnson attended Fordham University in Manhattan. She is a native New Yorker, and is most proud to be a mother to her daughter who is a registered nurse, and a grandmother to her grandson, who is studying engineering and computer science at the University of Albany.

HONOREE



BISHOP PRESTON R. WASHINGTON, SR. LEGACY AWARD (POSTHUMOUS)

Bishop Preston R. Washington, Sr. M. Div., Ed. D., D.D. was one of Harlem's most beloved sons and a co-founder of HCCI.

Dr. Washington was educated in the New York City public school system and graduated Summa cum Laude from the prestigious Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts where he received his Masters of Divinity degree. He earned a Doctorate in Education from Teachers College at Columbia University, as well as a certificate in the Executive Management Training program at Columbia School of Business. A professor in Urban Ministry, Religious Education and Homiletics, Dr. Washington lectured at Yale Divinity School, Alliance Theological Seminary, and New York Theological Seminary. He served in executive positions for American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York, Minisink Townhouse, St. Paul Baptist Church, and Harlem Interfaith Counseling Service.

Dr. Washington received many honors and awards for providing entrepreneurial opportunities for minorities, and was recognized by the US Department of Commerce Business Development Agency as "Regional Minority Business Advocate of the Year." Dr. Washington authored two books: *From the Pew to the Pavement: Messages on Urban Outreach* (Aaron Press, 1986), and *God's Transforming Spirit: Black Church Renewal* (Second Printing, Judson Press, 1988). He has also contributed to several books including *Wise Women Bearing Gifts*, edited by Dr. Suzan Denise Johnson-Cook; *Lift the Veil* edited by Rev. Dr. J. G. McCann; and the *African-American Devotional Bible* edited by the Congress of National Black Churches.

In 1986 Dr. Washington co-founded HCCI, which ignited the revitalization of Harlem during the difficult years of the 1980s and early 1990s. HCCI's group of nearly 100 area churches led the way in initiating programs for education and affordable housing. The organization also focused on health disparities of residents in the Bradhurst community, and in 1989, Dr. Washington and HCCI were among the early supporters in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the black community. With Dr. Washington's support and advocacy, Pernessia C. Seele realized her dream of organizing the Harlem Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. HCCI is proud to have nurtured this program, which has grown into the world-renowned Balm in Gilead, Inc., expanding its efforts to improve public health through communities of faith.

Dr. Washington later served on the board of HCCI. He also served on the boards of The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce (GHCC), the Consortium for Central Harlem Development (CCHD), Memorial House of Hope, The Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. (BLCA), and was a Trustee at Williams College.

In 1976 Dr. Washington was appointed minister of Memorial Baptist Church, where he and his wife and partner in ministry, Rev. Dr. Renee Washington Gardner, grew the modest congregation into a leading church in Harlem. He served until his death in 2003, upon which he was given the title Bishop. Dr. Washington is survived by numerous friends and loved ones around the world.



HCCI

LYNDA LEWIS

OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

was raised in Queens, then moved back to Harlem as an adult."

Lewis has worked in technology for the past 15 years, most recently for a startup called Bluebox Security. And in her spare time, she enjoys cooking. "During the African-American Day parade, I set up a station where I cook my food for purchase. Kids in my neighborhood eat for free."

Lewis first learned about a year ago that her apartment would undergo renovations from Donald Mack, HCCI's Resident Leadership Council (RLC), during a tenants meeting. "Donald had always been diligent in getting results each and every time I called on him," said Lewis. "He showed us that he actually cared about all of our concerns. It's great to have him on our side."

Mack has known Lewis since she first moved into the building in 1997. "Lynda has been a person who has been easy to work with,"

said Mack. "She's a strong leader, a good parent and eager to help improve the quality of life in her building. The program has restored her faith in our devotion to keeping the building vital and decent for her and her family."

Lewis is thankful to HCCI for the amazing job they did renovating her apartment. "The entire kitchen was remodeled. The bathroom was partially renovated; they changed the sink, toilet, painted and replaced any doors in the apartment that needed fixing. They also did some grout work in the bathtub," said Lewis. Not only could she and her family remain in the apartment during the renovation, but the crew did a thorough cleanup of the apartment after their work was done.

"After living here for over 17 years, it was a nice change. The renovation brought life back into the place I call home."

Since its inception in 1986, HCCI's Office of Real Estate Development (ORED) has created housing for low- to middle-income families living in Harlem. When a building needs upgrading and requires rehabilitation, ORED determines its current condition and puts a plan into action that both enhances and preserves the home.

Together with the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), HCCI's ORED and their revitalization efforts strongly benefited from The Year 15 Preservation Program. This tax credit incentive program provides low interest loans to residential units in order to preserve both the quality and affordability of low income housing throughout the city. To date, HCCI has rehabilitated 609 apartments throughout Harlem thanks to the Year 15 Preservation Program.

"This project took a lot of hard work and dedication," said Malcolm Punter, Executive Vice President "Through it all, we were able to deliver on our promises and stay true to our mission of ensuring that the families of Harlem have access to high quality, affordable housing. It's wonderful to see all of our good efforts come to fruition."

Lynda Lewis has lived at 2031 7th Avenue for over 17 years with her fiancé and her son. A proud Harlemit, Lewis, 48, has strong roots here in the community. "My grandmother had a store on 126th Street & 5th Avenue," said Lewis. "I





JULIA VRZIESINSKY PETIONI PLAZA SR. HOUSING

OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

"Early on in HCCI's history, it recognized the need to service the older population," noted Malcolm Punter, Executive Vice President of HCCI.

Fifteen years ago, HCCI built its first senior housing development, Victory One, on 119th Street and Fifth Avenue. Now Muriel Petioni Plaza, stands as a testament to HCCI's ongoing commitment to quality housing for seniors, and to environmental responsibility.

"Using green building practices is not only environmentally responsible, it's also cost efficient. Over time, you reduce your operational cost as well as reduce the incidences of health impact on individuals," Punter said.

One of Petioni Plaza's happiest tenants is Poland native Julia Vrziesinsky. The 68-year-old cancer survivor looks at the rough edges of

her Bradhurst community and sees endless possibilities.

"I like the area. It's artistic and growing up, up...The neighborhood, everybody say, 'Hi, how are you? Have a nice day.' This is first time for me in New York. Harlem is the best!"

Ms. Vrziesinsky saw the World Trade Center towers fall on September 11, 2001 from her East Village apartment and used her medical training to work with the American Red Cross at Ground Zero. In 2007, she stopped working with the Red Cross when she was diagnosed with cancer and developed asthma. She eventually moved to Brooklyn, but was unhappy there because as she says, 'Manhattan is her heart.'

Petioni Plaza was filled by lottery and Ms. Vrziesinsky was one of the lucky winners. She's grateful for the opportunity to return to her borough of choice.

"I was looking nine years for the apartment from the city - nothing. My income was too low and this is my chance for new life."

Moving into Petioni Plaza has given Ms. Vrziesinsky a fresh start. This Harlem home is the first time she has lived without a roommate and

provides comfortable environs as she tries to remain cancer-free. Her exercise regimen, meditation and reiki practices bring her a sense of peace amid Harlem's bustling streets. But the draw for Ms. Vrziesinsky isn't just the comfort of a building she calls "a 5-star category hotel" with its garden spaces and three lounges - it's the people.

"Our model not only provides housing, but it provides social services. We're committed to a close relationship with our residents from the interview process until the time they leave," Punter said.

Ms. Vrziesinsky can attest to that bond between management and resident. Her eyes well with tears when she speaks of the plaza's building manager, Tonya Jenkins, and the loving support she showers on her.

"She's the best. Sometimes it's not easy. Sometimes I don't feel good. The depression. I say, 'Miss Tonya, please.' She say, 'Julia, come. I make you hug.' She's so nice. She say, 'Maybe you have a problem. Maybe I help you,' Ms. Vrziesinsky said appreciatively. "This is the life," she continued. "The people help me and I help people."



REV. DENNIS A. DILLON

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

For more than 25 years, Rev. Dennis A. Dillon has been making a difference with great impact in New York and around the world. He has given much of himself, his talents and resources to improve the life of Black America and all New Yorkers. Dillon, who was born in Kingston on the beautiful island of Jamaica, is the Chief Minister of the Brooklyn Christian Center, a growing non-denominational church in New York. He earned his undergraduate degree in Mass Communications at Sheridan College, and did his graduate studies at Princeton Seminary and Columbia Bible College & Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree.

As pioneer and publisher of The New York Christian Times, Rev. Dillon led one of the largest Black homeownership initiatives in the country, guiding more than 10,000 people to become home owners from 1995 to 2005. Additionally, he executive produced and co-hosted with Bill McCreary the Easter in New York television special (formerly co-produced and aired on Fox 5 as well as Word Network and other outlets), and has produced and co-hosted a number of television and radio shows, including Empower!, Let's Talk and Breakthru with Dennis Dillon. He has made numerous appearances on radio, television and in print, including ABC World News Tonight) and an HBO special.

A former reporter and news correspondent, Rev. Dillon has written for a number of news publications and magazines including The Bergen Record and The Daily News, and is the co-founder and former associate publisher of Gospel Today magazine. Prior to moving to New York, Dillon also worked as a pollster and poll

editor with Dial America in Bergen County, NJ.

Rev. Dillon's prize project is his work as chief researcher and publisher of the bi-annual Economic State of Black New York Report. This well sought-after publication is used by corporate, clergy, elected and community leaders, and provides data and tracking on Black consumer patterns, business and wealth growth, GDP's, banking and SBA loans, remittances, and key areas that address economic disparities among Blacks and other races.

Through his proficient use of data and the media, he has challenged major banking institutions to reinvest in our communities, led one of the largest money moves in the history of America, and forced many major retailers to open their shelf spaces to Black manufacturers and retailers. Through the annual Black Church Means Business Conference and many other business empowerment initiatives, Rev. Dillon has helped thousands of Black businesses obtain corporate and government contracts, commercial loans and franchises.

Author of Affirm Your Purpose and Bitter Truth is Better Than Sweet Falsehood, Rev. Dillon's accomplishments are extensive; but above all, he imparts hope and seeks to guide a generation to walk in their purpose. A firm believer that knowledge points the way, he is a man passionate about the empowerment and freedom of his people.

H O N O R E E



AMIE KIROS

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Amie Kiros was born in Ethiopia and raised in Italy. She moved to the United States to work for Gucci Fashions U.S.A. as Director of Fashion Operations and Human Resources for all the Gucci Stores in America. After many years of travel, she left Gucci to pursue a new passion in haute cuisine. She joined the celebrity-driven Italian restaurant Il Bocconcino, winner of the coveted “Golden Dish” Award.

After the 9/11 terror attack, Ms. Kiros moved to East Harlem where she opened the quaint Piatto D’Oro I Restaurant at East 109th Street. The venue quickly outgrew its intimate space and she opened Piatto D’Oro II at East 118th Street to accommodate her growing clientele. Piatto D’Oro II quickly became a “people’s favorite” and was shortly followed by the triumphant opening of the Gran Piatto D’Oro, A Corner of Italy, in Harlem.

Ms. Kiros is a Board Member of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of Community

Board 11, and is a member of numerous community organizations including the Advisory Committee of Mount Sinai Hospital Research Department, the New York Women’s Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Harlem Tourism Board, Abyssinian Baptist Church and Bethel Church. She is also a new member of the NAACP.

Ms. Kiros has graciously received numerous awards from many organizations and is recognized as a woman of excellence, and a trailblazing restaurateur. She generously supports Harlem senior centers, hospitals and churches with contributions of food, money or gift certificates.

Ms. Kiros is an avid sportswoman. She is a race car driver, plays numerous sports, and was the first woman in Ethiopia to fly solo in a small Cessna aircraft.



T. FOLASADE OBANHNJOKO

HCCI SCATTERED-SITE HOUSING PROGRAM

OFFICE OF HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES

HIV/AIDS still disproportionately affects the black and Hispanic community, but this disease no longer carries an immediate death sentence. Given this reality, quality of life is a critical aspect of care. Through education services, support groups and other key referrals, HCCI's Office of Health and Wellness Strategies (HWS) offers a holistic approach to treating a person impacted by the disease like a human being, and not as a statistic.

The Scattered-Site Housing Program, one component of HWS, provides housing to those living with HIV/AIDS and who are either homeless or in danger of losing their homes. "Our Scattered-Site Housing Program works specifically with those infected with the disease and who were referred to us by the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA)," said Natasha Noel, a case manager with the Scattered-Site Housing Program since 2011.

According to Noel, when someone has been accepted into the Scattered-Site Housing Program, he or she will receive either full or partial financial assistance for rent, utilities and landline phone service. Currently, the program has 60 residents enrolled, including T. Folasade Obanhnjoko.

Folasade has been with HWS since 1996. She arrived in the United States from Nigeria and moved to Brooklyn when she was 14. With the love of her family and pride in her African culture, Folasade, now 46, was ready to take on the world. After graduating from Erasmus Hall High School, she earned a scholarship to study dance at Juilliard and later graduated from NYU with a degree in anthropology. "I wanted to know what it meant to be a dancer and learn more about ancestral customs. If it weren't for my ancestors, I wouldn't be here."

Folasade's life somehow took a startling turn. "I was raped shortly after coming into this country and found out that I was HIV positive in May 1984." The man who hurt her was supposed to be a caregiver. "I don't blame my parents for what happened. I blame the idiot who touched me," she said.

While her health was still intact, Folasade worked as an office volunteer for The Momentum Project, a city-based wellness program providing services to those infected with HIV/AIDS. She wanted to do something meaningful with her life and be an inspiration to others who were fighting the disease.

"It astonishes me that there are still so many young people out here who

are becoming HIV positive and they're not understanding how important it is to put on a condom and protect yourself."

In the last seven years, Folasade's health has deteriorated, forcing her to resign. She has edema, causing her to be mainly bedridden, and have limited mobility. She now requires assistance from a healthcare attendant who comes to her home several times a week.

"I was very adamant about getting into the Scattered-Site Housing Program because I had no other resources. When they arranged to pick me up and all of my clothes, which were inside one brown garbage bag, they brought me here and helped me to get settled. It was either here or six feet under."

Folasade's humor and inspiring sense of self keep her strong even when faced with seemingly insurmountable odds. "This is going on 31 years of being HIV positive and I'm just so happy to be at a place where I can share that. Until there's a cure, I'm gonna keep on fighting."

To learn more about HWS, please visit www.hcci.org and view Health and Wellness Strategies.

HONOREE



CAPTAIN PAUL WASHINGTON

COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AWARD

Captain Paul Washington was born and raised in Staten Island. He attended Wagner High School and graduated from Cheyney University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's Degree in Geology. Shortly after graduating, Paul worked as an air traffic controller in Alaska and then as a field geologist in Los Angeles. In July of 1988, he followed his father, older brother, an uncle and two cousins into the New York City Fire Department. Paul was promoted from Firefighter to Lieutenant in 1995 and then to Captain in 2002. He is assigned to Engine Company 234 in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. As a Captain he is the first person into the fire building and the last one out.

Paul served as President of the Vulcan Society, the organization of New York City's Black Firefighters, from January 1999 through January 2007. Under his leadership the Vulcan Society completely renovated their brownstone building on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn, started a Drum Corps for local children, provided academic scholarships for deserving junior high and high school students, and gave an annual holiday party

for local underprivileged kids. He also guided the organization through the difficult period following the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center.

As President of the Vulcan Society, Paul began a concerted effort to bring African-Americans into the FDNY. Using the media, political action and a federal lawsuit, Paul brought unprecedented pressure upon the FDNY's discriminatory hiring process. After a 14-year fight the FDNY was forced to improve. Hiring classes that for decades were generally 3 percent African-American have now increased to 17 percent, and almost 50 percent people of color. As a result, hundreds of African-American men and women who would never have become firefighters now have this great job as a result of his activism. Today, as a past president of the Vulcan Society, Paul continues to advocate for the increased inclusion of African-Americans in the FDNY.

Captain Washington lives in Brooklyn with his wife Tabitha and their four children, Julius, Malcolm, Ayana and Marcellus.

TONISHA DIXSON

YOUNG ADULT SUPPORTIVE SERVICES/ INDEPENDENCE STARTS AT HOME

OFFICE OF HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

When Tonisha Dixon, now 28, aged out of foster care she had two choices: live in a shelter or continue to squat in random homes throughout the city in order to survive. She chose the latter. When she finally obtained housing assistance in 2008, Dixon didn't have the resources to help her stay afloat. At that time, her rent was nearly \$700/month. Between the side jobs and steady work at Lifespire, a day habilitation center, Dixon was barely getting by on \$1,000 a month. "I was trying to balance everything, trying to save money, buy furniture, a MetroCard and food."

She was denied both Section 8 and public assistance benefits because her income was too high. Despite being faced with the harsh realities of adulthood, Dixon remained both resilient and resourceful. "Living on the street, I still knew that I had to make sure that my needs were met," she said. "If I needed somewhere to stay, I could just tell somebody, 'Well, let me give you \$50 and I'll just stay here for a few days.'"

Eventually, Tonisha became one of several youth who have secured housing and support through HCCI's Young Adult Supportive Services/Independence Starts At Home (YASS/ISAH) program. YASS/ISAH has helped young adults who age out of the foster care system become more self-sufficient and lead productive lives since 2008. The program is housed in HCCI's renowned David & Joyce Dinkins Gardens West 153rd Street,



the first affordable green housing in New York City.

Of the 85 low-income units, 20 apartments are set aside specifically for youth in the YASS/ISAH program who are referred by local foster care agencies, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Agency for Children's Services (ACS).

Tonisha's strength and resilience come from her upbringing in Queens. Dixon's grandmother was her legal guardian because her mother was schizophrenic. Watching her mother battle mental illness not only made Dixon grow up faster than perhaps she wanted to; she also became a "superhero," wanting to help her mother and anyone around her in any way that she could.

Prior to losing both her mother and grandmother, Dixon was placed in several different foster homes unsuccessfully. "Coming into your own without any foundation on what's necessary, or how to take care of yourself is a struggle," said Dixon. "When I aged out of ACS, I didn't have a caseworker, my package set up or anything."

Dixon credits Robin Brown, Life Skills Coordinator and Program Administrator for YASS/ISAH, for her unending support and for being a valuable resource to her during her transition into adulthood.

"The goals of the program are to achieve social, emotional and mental well-being; to help the youth become economically independent and build

sufficient support systems," said Brown. The program offers several different services to help make life easier for their participants, which range from mentorship and assistance with educational and career opportunities to budget counseling, apartment and childcare referrals.

When Dixon began to work with Brown, things began to change for the better. "For almost four years, I was in arrears with the rent," said Dixon. "Robin worked with me to create some structure and really tried to correct things. She helped me go into an agreement where my rent was only 30% of my income for the longevity of my tenancy here. Without Robin, I would have been evicted."

Brown has known Dixon for over three years now and she's noticed how much Dixon has grown in that time. "Tonisha is a very enterprising young woman," said Brown. "She can be insightful and she makes sure that her voice is heard. Tonisha has remained resilient throughout her struggles and someday she will be a good advocate."

Dixon is currently a full-time student at BMCC and she's the legal guardian for her 19-year-old brother. Although he currently stays with relatives in Queens from time to time, she said she will always be there for him, because no one was there for her.

To learn more about HCCI's Youth Adult Supportive Services Program, please visit www.hcci.org, under Youth Programs.

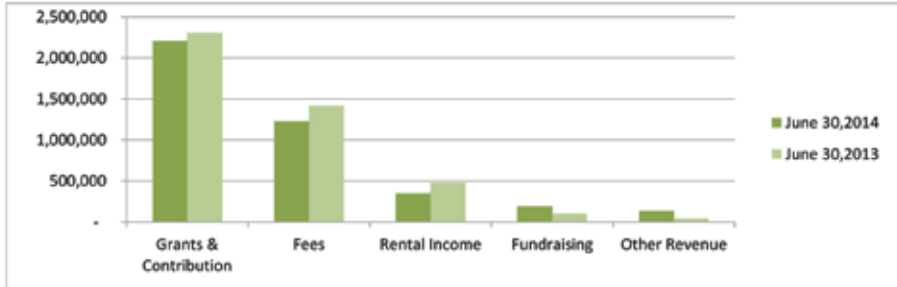


HCCI FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Harlem Congregations For Community Improvement Financial Highlights

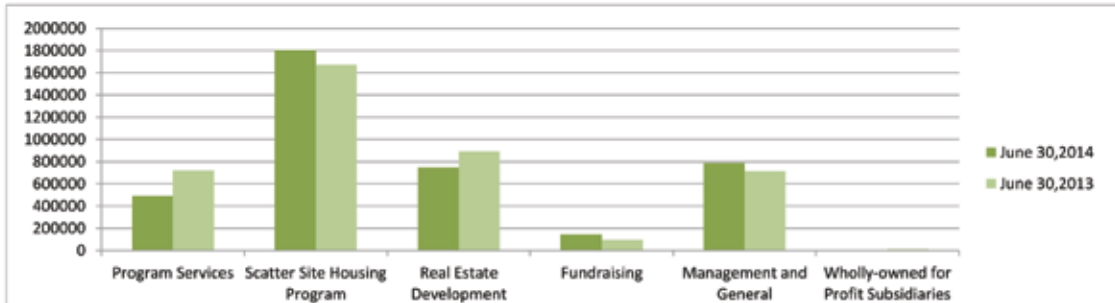
Sources of Revenue

Revenue	June 30, 2014	%	June 30, 2013	%
Grants & Contribution	1,834,459	43.21%	2,205,773	53.69%
Fees	1,667,845	39.29%	1,228,607	29.91%
Rental Income	526,772	12.41%	351,410	8.55%
Fundraising	159,296	3.75%	189,430	4.61%
Other Revenue	57,006	1.34%	132,958	3.24%
Total Revenue	4,245,378		4,108,178	



Functional Expenses

Column1	June 30, 2014	June 30, 2013
Program Services	525,421	492,810
Scatter Site Housing Program	1,757,408	1,803,077
Real Estate Development	985,581	745,741
Fundraising	138,032	145,266
Management and General	802,811	787,439
Wholly-owned for Profit Subsidiaries	-	-



Financial Position

	June 30, 2014	June 30, 2013	% Change
Current Assets	4,064,573	3,114,518	31%
Current Liabilities	2,513,535	1,407,217	79%
Net Assets at Year End	2,571,856	2,546,667	1%



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Captain Paul Washington

Former President, Vulcan Society/FDNY

Ms. Jean Nash-Wells

Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief, The Positive Community



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Jean Nash-Wells, Co-Founder, and Editor-in-Chief, Positive Community

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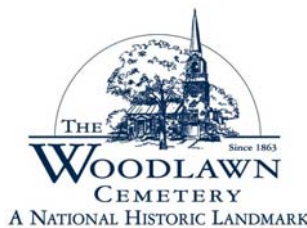
“... and we walk by faith and not by sight”

2 Corinthians 5:7



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**And to the
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For 29 Years of Outstanding Service
To the Harlem Community**



My name is David Barlow and my role as a Family Service Counselor is to assist families with their personal "End of Life" Planning. This "planning" I do with my families is truly priceless and is provided free of cost or obligation by The Woodlawn Cemetery. I do work by appointment, so please feel free to contact me:

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dbarlow@thewoodlawncemetery.org
718-408-5642; cell: 347-386-0822**



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New Heritage Theater Group
Deborah L. Johnson
Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce
Jean Nash Wells
Honorable Rosemonde Pierre-Louis
Amie Kiros
Rev. Dennis A. Dillon
and
Bishop Preston Robert Washington, Sr.

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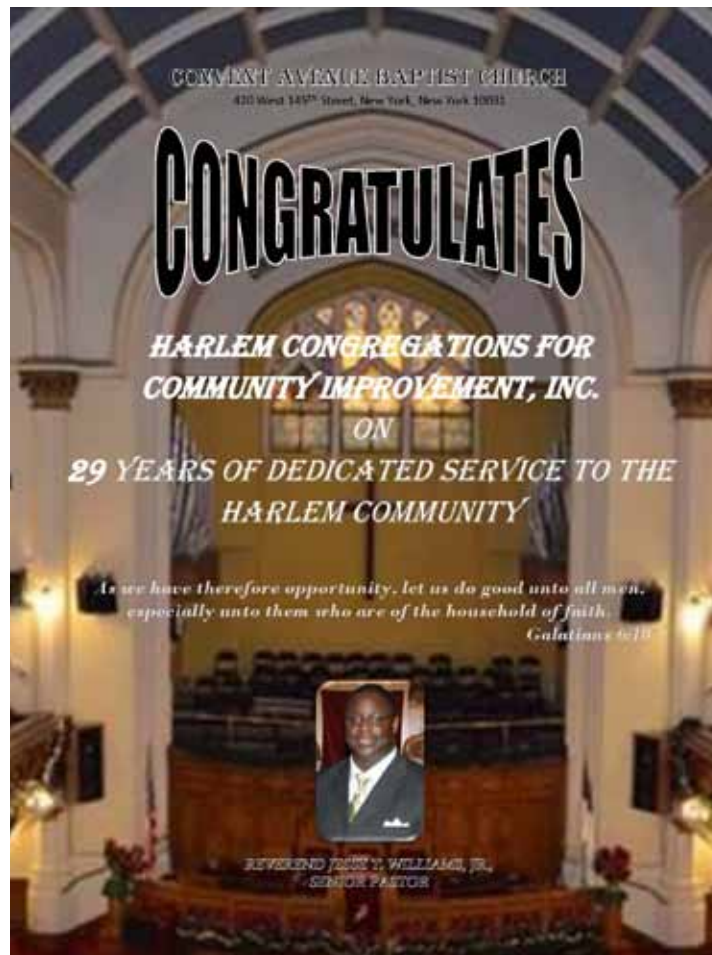
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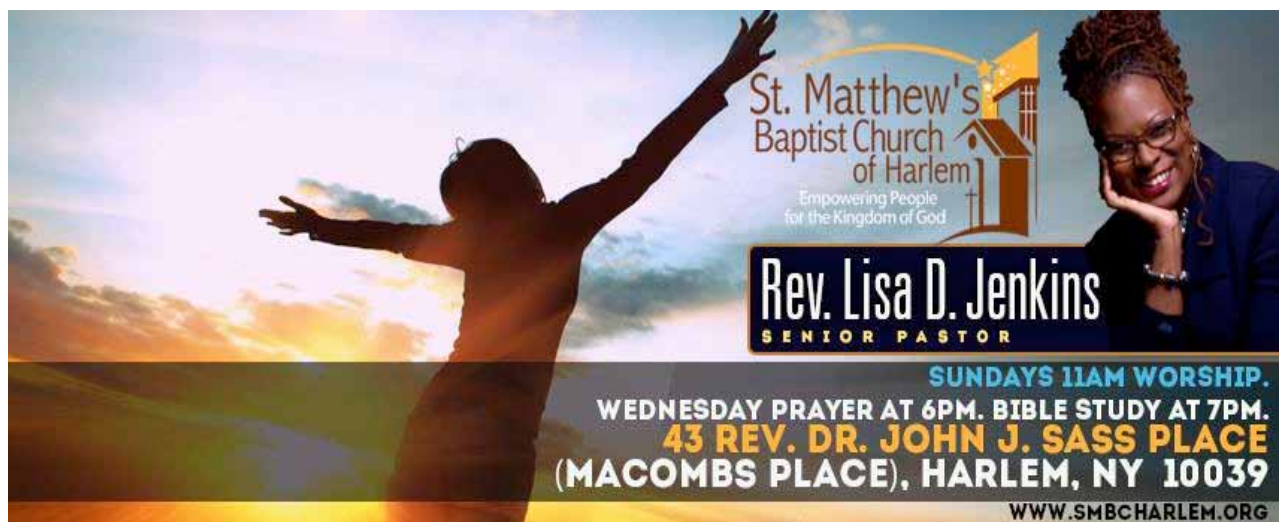
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Congratulations HCCI and Honorees
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Awards Dinner

EVENTS AT HCCI!



HCCI produces a diverse array of programs to engage the community and to raise visibility, friends and funds. Events range from intimate receptions and groundbreakings for local leaders, to our Community Day of Unity, which draws thousands. Be a partner! HCCI seeks volunteers, donations and sponsors for our events and programs, including:

Groundbreakings and Ribbon Cuttings

The Kick off Breakfast for the National Week of Prayer for Healing

A Healing in Harlem: Prayer and Gospel Vigil

(Closing event for the National Week of Prayer for the healing of AIDS)

Harlem Revive! A Community Day of Unity

At Jackie Robinson Park

Jamboree! A Soulful Extravaganza on the Hudson

A Yacht Ride

Harlem Inspired Gospel Concert

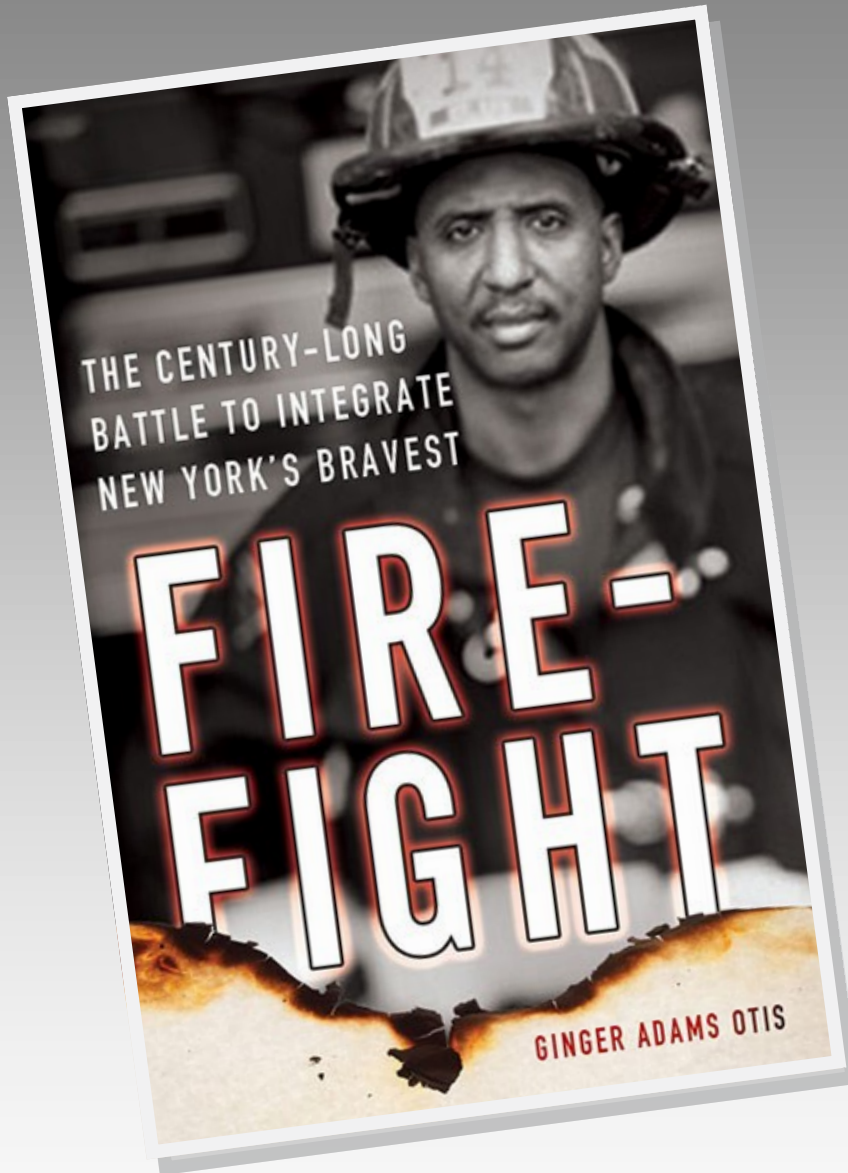
HCCI/Sweet Mama's Turkey Dinner Giveaway

Lights of Hope Tree Lighting Ceremony

In partnership with the Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy

**TO SUPPORT HCCI, PLEASE CONTACT
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6:30 PM:

May 12th

The Schomburg Center

515 Malcolm X Boulevard

(corner Lenox & 135th Street)

May 26th

Harlem Y

180 West 135th Street

(corner Lenox & 135th Street)

New York City

For more information, visit the author's page at www.gingeradamsotis.com



Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc.

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*With Sincere Thanks to Staff and Volunteers
For your hard work and dedication to the Harlem Community!*

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Congratulations to
Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc.
13th Annual "Let Us Break Bread Together" Gala Awards

Honoring

The Honorable Rosemonde Pierre-Louis
Captain Paul Washington
Ms. Deborah L. Johnson
Ms. Jean Nash Wells
Ms. Annie Kiros
Rev. Dermis A. Dillon
New Heritage Theatre Group
Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce
Bishop Preston R. Washington, Sr. (Posthumous)

*Thank you to HCCL, Inc. for its continued
commitment and contribution to the Harlem community*

Office of Government and Community Affairs

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