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## SCAN's East Harlem Expansion Continues



*SCAN staff and students gather together at our new Lehman Village Cornerstone*

Following our recent simultaneous launch of four new Cornerstone Community Centers in 2014, SCAN was awarded new contracts this summer that enabled us to open two additional centers in East Harlem. We now run a total of seven Cornerstones in the community.

The two new Cornerstone centers, at **Lehman Village** on Madison Avenue and East 108<sup>th</sup> St., and at **Dewitt Clinton Houses** on Lexington Avenue and East 110<sup>th</sup> St., opened in July, just in time to offer summer camp programs. They join five other sites — **East River Houses, Johnson Houses, Jackie Robinson Houses, King Towers** and **Wagner Houses** — which together span an area between East 103<sup>rd</sup> and East 129<sup>th</sup> Street.

All of our Cornerstones, which are funded by the NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), are situated within New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments, and are open from 2pm to 10pm, Monday through Friday, and from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays. The centers provide enrichment activities focusing on academics, artistic exploration, community service, and personal development by offering a wide array of programming for all ages, including homework assistance, visual and performing arts, computers and graphic design, cooking classes, step/dance classes and recreation.

At both new centers — which each serve over 160 children, teens and adults each day — a strong effort is being made to get to know the youth and adults who attend, and to create new activities that will engage them. At Lehman Village, where Program Director Kelley Burke has over 10 years



*Youth at our new Clinton Houses Cornerstone take a break from homework to express themselves!*

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# SCAN's East Harlem Expansion Continues

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experience at SCAN (as both an assistant director and director), examples of new programming include an intergenerational cosmetology class and adult fitness classes via Shape Up NYC (program from the NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation). Ms. Burke is also working to include mini workshops around girls empowerment into her programs; these workshops will fuel interest in larger events in this area that SCAN will present throughout the year.

At Clinton Houses, Program Director Cynthia Chisholm (who started partnering with SCAN as a parent volunteer back in 2000, and most recently worked for us as an afterschool site director in the South Bronx) is experimenting with a new yoga class while also building on traditional activities, like board games. Most exciting

for Ms. Chisholm right now is the center's new relationship with the highly regarded Harlem Jets Cheerleading organization. "It's something completely new for the kids here, and they are so eager to get started".

For both directors, much of what comes next will be based on conversations and feedback from the young program participants and their parents: hearing parents' personal stories, learning more about what's happening at a child's school, and asking what the students want. As Ms. Chisholm puts it, "It's really their center, so with the right support and guidance, it can become like a second home that feeds their interests and sparks creativity."



## Fantastic Summer Camps

Summer 2015 was another wonderful opportunity for SCAN to serve at-risk children in East Harlem and the South Bronx. Summer activities included sports, arts and crafts, performing arts, hiking, and recreational and educational trips, to places like Lake Compounce Water Park in Connecticut, Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey, and the New York Hall of Science in Flushing, Queens. All in all, our 17 summer camps served more than 2,100 kids! An undertaking of this size was a big challenge for our staff, but as they constantly do, our SCAN team rose to the occasion.

## Join Us Online!

We launched our completely redesigned website this summer and it's already a big success, averaging over 1,200 visitors a month! Whether you check us out from a computer, tablet or smartphone, the site provides great information on our programs and the communities we serve, along with updates on recent news and events. You can also sign-up for our e-newsletters, make a donation, and use links to follow SCAN on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.



Connect with SCAN at [www.scanny.org](http://www.scanny.org)

# Get Healthy, East Harlem Launches



*Hands-On Cooking Labs for families ensure that everyone gets to be a chef!*



*Teens at our pilot project's Stand Up! East Harlem Workshop learning about fast food marketing practices*

SCAN has been awarded significant new funding to establish an intergenerational healthy food and nutrition program for NYCHA residents in East Harlem. The \$75,000 grant from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, in partnership with United Neighborhood Houses, provides full funding for SCAN to launch *Get Healthy, East Harlem* at our Johnson Houses Cornerstone center this fall. Further, we will use our activities at Johnson to build interest and engagement in healthy food programming at our six other NYCHA-based Cornerstone centers in East Harlem.

Through an array of activities, the program will address the key challenges to improving access to, and use of, healthy food identified by NYCHA residents who participated in our healthy food pilot project last year: the cost of healthy food, the lack of education about healthier options and cooking skills, and the lack of places and methods to share knowledge and ideas about healthy food with other community members.

The focus of the project will be monthly *Healthy Food Cafe* "pop-up events" on Saturdays at Johnson, with NYCHA residents planning and executing all aspects of each event, including the menu, cooking, marketing and publicity. To bring new knowledge and cooking skills to residents, Johnson will host monthly *Hands-On Cooking Labs* for families, conducted by our project partner,



*NYCHA residents' enjoyment of preparing and eating healthy food together during our pilot project led to the idea of the Healthy Food Cafe events*

Red Rabbit. An East Harlem-based company that provides 20,000 healthy meals a day to nearly 150 independent, charter and public schools, Red Rabbit will also work with SCAN to train NYCHA residents so they can conduct their own *Hands-On Cooking Labs* for community members.

The project will also feature the production of two new *Healthy Dance* music videos, featuring SCAN youth ages 5-12, semi-monthly *Cooking Skills Classes* for teens by the New York Junior League's CHEF (Cooking and Health Education for Families) program at our Johnson, East River, and Lehman Cornerstone centers, and a series of *Stand Up! East Harlem Workshops* by educators from the NYC Food Policy Center at Hunter College. *Stand Up!* is an interactive workshop that educates teens about how to protect themselves and their families from the dangers of fast food, soda, and other high calorie foods.

*Get Healthy, East Harlem* also includes components aimed at training and mobilizing residents to be authentic voices in larger, community-wide efforts and discussions around healthy food. We will hold meetings with NYCHA residents every two months, to share knowledge and identify new resources and leaders to enhance the project. SCAN will also share project best practices at quarterly meetings of the new Healthy Food for Upper Manhattan (HFUM) workgroup, which we co-founded earlier this year in collaboration with the NYC Food Policy Center and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai Hospital. HFUM's most recent meeting was attended by over 40 representatives from local human service, education and food-focused organizations.

We expect that this multifaceted, sustained level of food-related programming will ultimately produce healthy lifestyle changes among NYCHA residents, and look forward to sharing more news about the project in the months ahead!



*Healthy Food for Upper Manhattan (HFUM) is a new workgroup and collaborative space focused specifically on food-related work in Upper Manhattan.*





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or contact the Director of Development  
at (212) 289-8030 or [bfink@scanny.org](mailto:bfink@scanny.org).

## ***New Reading Rangers Literacy Program Launches***

This fall, thanks to our expanding partnership with the New York Junior League, a brand new literacy program for 20 children in the 3rd - 5th grade is launching at SCAN's East River Cornerstone Community Center in East Harlem.

The aim of *Reading Rangers* is to encourage and educate young children by providing reading lessons and literacy education. Structured as one-on-one reading by a student with a volunteer, which is then followed by a discussion activity, *Reading Rangers* uses a positive, consistent approach, providing a fun learning environment to encourage a love of reading. The weekly program also includes group activities that seek to improve spelling skills and overall literacy, and will regularly work with parents during a once-a-month evening workshop. *Reading Rangers'* core goal is to increase the student's reading levels through programming that offers a variety of books, games and hands-on projects to improve the children's literacy skills.

We are so grateful to our friends at the Junior League for their willingness to collaborate with SCAN on this new pilot program, and we hope to be able to expand it to additional centers in the years to come!



*Reading Rangers volunteers, students and parents discussing their plans for this year*