Since its founding in 1893, Henry Street Settlement has improved the lives of vulnerable New Yorkers through innovative social service, arts and health care programs.

We are more than a human service agency. We are an icon of New York City, an enduring example of a radical 19th-century social experiment that is as relevant today as it was in 1893.

What is The House on Henry Street?

• A permanent interactive exhibition in the Settlement’s c. 1830 landmark headquarters exploring social activism, urban poverty and public health through the lens of Henry Street’s history. Additionally, the historic dining room and garden, Lillian Wald’s bedroom, and nurses’ dorm rooms will be interpreted, enabling visitors to also tour a modern-day social service agency.

• A web-based multimedia exhibition with curriculum materials for high school and college teachers will deepen the interpretation.

• A walking tour app for mobile devices will take the story to the streets of the Lower East Side.

• Public lectures and a series of public dialogue programs on community building and social reform, developed by our public historian with our partner organizations the Museum at Eldridge Street and The Tenement Museum, will enhance the interpretation of the history of Henry Street during and beyond its 125th anniversary year.

Our Living Legacy

Our legacy is so unique, we felt compelled to share our story with others, in New York City and beyond. And the National Endowment for the Humanities agreed by awarding a competitive implementation grant to support the launch of The House on Henry Street. (Because it’s rare for a social service agency to receive precious humanities dollars, our endeavor is as unique as our legacy.)
In 1893, Henry Street began as a radical social experiment to improve the lives of impoverished immigrants on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. Just as our founder Lillian Wald addressed the community’s most pressing problems — poverty, access to the arts, and health care — so today we embrace that legacy, that blueprint for social change, as we responsibly steward this venerable agency to serve and succeed for the next 125 years.

One of every SIX Americans today benefits from programs pioneered at Henry Street.

Henry Street today serves 60,000 individuals annually at 17 program sites on the Lower East Side, and operates programs in more than 30 public schools.

Help Us Celebrate our 125th BIRTHDAY by Supporting Our Work!

For information on how to give us a 125th birthday gift, please write Ellen Schneiderman at eschneiderman@henrystreet.org or call 212.766.9200 x 260.