

Meet Henry Street's *Heroes*



Team Member Julia Etheridge

Raising Her Hand Every Chance She Gets

After Bronx native Julia Etheridge, 36, moved to the Jacob Riis Houses on the Lower East Side seven years ago, she started looking for a job closer to her new home. That led her to Henry Street Settlement's Jobs Plus program. **Etheridge had always worked in service jobs. But her employment counselor at Henry Street saw a well of untapped potential.**

As the first college graduate in her family, Etheridge told her counselor, Raven David, she could do anything if given a chance. But deep down, she didn't think she was good enough to work in an office. David pushed and pushed, Etheridge says. "And, that was the start of a change in my life."

David alerted Etheridge to an administrative assistant position in the Youth Opportunity Hub in Henry Street's Education Department. Etheridge landed it in October 2017; she now loves being a resource to young people while doing a job she had only dreamed of.

When Matthew Phifer, VP for Education & Employment, was looking for a leader of the summer PPE Distribution Youth Crew, Etheridge raised her hand. "She knows acutely the impact this virus has had on her community and wanted to help keep people safe. She's a go-getter, and we could not be more proud of her efforts."

"Every time I get an opportunity at Henry Street, I take it," says Etheridge, who has returned to college to pursue a social work degree, inspired by Henry Street's work and supported through a staff scholarship. "This is the only job that has ever allowed me to grow."

Senior Services Volunteer Karen Morey

Volunteering & Henry Street Connect Two Families

In March 2020, Karen Morey, a faculty member in a physical therapy assistant program, had some time on her hands when her students' fieldwork was delayed due to the pandemic. It was then that Morey's niece, Katie Vogel—Henry Street's public historian—posted on social media that the organization was seeking volunteers to make regular phone calls to seniors now confined to their homes.

For Morey, what began as a daunting list of strangers to call has morphed into close friendships with several older women, including LES resident Elaine Sternberg. Sternberg, a retired nurse, is a long-time Henry Streeter, who during the 1990s brought her own mother (pictured below at Henry Street in the photo Sternberg is holding) to the Senior Center for meals and activities. Sternberg herself frequently joined trips and attended lectures and parties with the center.

At first, Morey asked about whether Sternberg felt all right, had enough food, and knew what to do if she was unwell. But they have moved well beyond the script, chatting about life in New York, their families, the news, reading, and television (Sternberg likes documentaries).

Around the third week of her phone calls, Morey sensed that Sternberg might not have enough food at home, but was hesitant to say so. She connected with Henry Street's Helpline and was able to arrange for additional food deliveries. **"The next time we talked," Morey says, "Ms. Sternberg said she felt so much better."**

Morey and Sternberg's mutual admiration is palpable. "I enjoy talking with her," Morey says. "She's super sweet and always so thankful. But more than that, we have a friendship that's been going on for six months."



Since March, 1,177 people have volunteered for Henry Street programs, phoning isolated seniors, delivering groceries, and much more.

Participant Jendry Maria

Wrapping Our Arms Around One Family

One day early in the pandemic, Jendry Maria's mother, Mary Rodriguez, a home attendant, returned from work and explained to her daughter that her client was one of the earliest victims of the illness. Mary went more than three months without work, and Jendry's dad, a construction worker, was laid off, too.

"At first it was very difficult," says Jendry, 17, who plays the bass, volleyball, and softball and is an avid reader. "We didn't have groceries or any money for them." The mood in the house—where Jendry has four brothers—was quiet, really off, she says. Then her mom said, "Let's try to contact Henry Street."



Henry Street provided more than \$250,000 in emergency cash assistance and delivered 400,000 meals by late September 2020.

Jendry was an experienced Henry Streeter. She attends Orchard Collegiate Academy, where the Settlement provides wraparound services to students. When the school went remote, the staff, seeing families' profound needs, were able to reallocate part of their budget to emergency relief.

The school social services team arranged for Jendry's family to receive emergency cash assistance to help with rent and other necessities. The team also introduced the family to the LES Mobile Market, a collaboration with NewYork-Presbyterian that brings healthy food to low-income families.

"It would have been really hard if we hadn't received the assistance; I don't have a lot of people to rely on for support during this time," Rodriguez says.

Jendry found summer jobs as an online camp group leader through the Youth Opportunity Hub and as a member of the PPE Youth Crew—where she earned money handing out masks and sanitizer in seven NYCHA courtyards. Now a high school senior, Jendry is laser-focused on going to college.

Says CEO David Garza, "When Henry Street is able to wrap its arms around a family like Jendry's, you can really see the value of the settlement house model."

Monthly Donors Meredith James & Isvara Wilson

Providing a Lifeline at a Crucial Time

Seeing the Lower East Side in a state of emergency as the coronavirus pandemic hit, many donors, both new and established, stepped up to the plate. As they looked for ways to give not just once, but continuously, **Henry Street saw our numbers of monthly donors increase by almost 50 percent**, a remarkable testament to our community's collective investment in New York City. Their recurring donations provide reliable and sustaining support for the entire scope of our life-saving programs.

Meredith James (pictured), a monthly donor since 2018, says that Henry Street's multi-pronged approach to elevating Lower East Side residents was a major factor in her giving decision. "I love everything about Henry Street Settlement and its unique mission to provide help to people and support the arts," she says.

We at Henry Street are so grateful for the generosity of our monthly donors. When Isvara Wilson, a monthly donor since 2013, says, "I believe the works of Henry Street Settlement help make NYC a better place for everyone," we know it wouldn't be possible without supporters like her.



Corporate Partner Credit Suisse

Staying Focused on the Need: Credit Suisse and Henry Street



In July and August 2020, more than 1,200 food-insecure families and individuals around Manhattan received a surprise when they opened their home-delivered grocery bags from Henry Street's food pantry: hand-designed cards bearing well-wishes from employees of Credit Suisse, one of the Settlement's longest standing and most dedicated corporate partners, with executives Rajan Vig and Doug Paul serving on our board. A safe way to connect during uncertain times, the cards extended a warm and helping hand from volunteers to recipients. As an added bonus, Credit Suisse made a donation for every card, resulting in \$3,000 of funding for the food pantry.

But that was not all that Credit Suisse has done for Henry Street during these challenging times. **After granting \$200,000 toward the Settlement's COVID response, Credit Suisse turned to its employees to support Henry Street clients directly.** They enthusiastically answered the call in the form of a remote graduation ceremony for high school students living in our shelters, phone surveys of food pantry recipients, and a matching gift campaign that raised more than \$57,000.

"Taking our eyes off ourselves and focusing on someone else's need is truly fulfilling," says Mohamad Merilan, a Credit Suisse technical analyst, about his involvement with Henry Street as a volunteer. We feel lucky to call Credit Suisse our partners in the fight against poverty!

Workforce Development Center moves to 178 Broome Street in Essex Crossing

Henry Street Social is a star-studded hit at a new location, The Bowery Hotel, featuring James Fuentes LLC, John McAllister, and Lee Quiñones

2nd Annual Kids Halloween Parade & Party takes LES by storm

Welcome to the Idiot World: A Shanzhai Lyric exhibition at Abrons is a critics' pick in *Art Forum*



Ghanaian nurses visit *The House on Henry Street* exhibition



Abrons opens *Rainbow Shoe Repair* exhibition, unwittingly providing an unparalleled outdoor art opportunity through the summer

◀ 2019

The Art Show opens for the 32nd consecutive year at the Park Avenue Armory, raising nearly \$1.1 million

Workforce Development Center begins onsite college counseling



Henry Street begins COVID-19 response by directing three meals a day to transitional housing residents so they can stay in their apartments

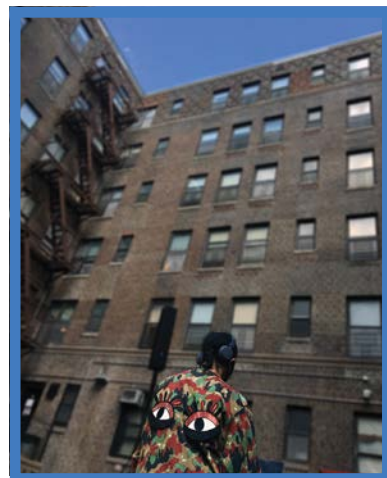
Henry Street redeploys nurses to Transitional & Supportive Housing

The agency launches an emergency cash assistance program for unemployed workers, including undocumented individuals; it will distribute over \$250,000

Abrons Arts Center announces first round of Artist Relief Fund grants

With city funding cuts announced, Henry Street begins to reimagine summer youth programming

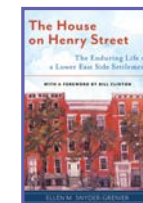
Feed Our Frontline Workers campaign launches on social media; will raise more than \$7,000 for meals for our essential workers



3 courtyard concerts at Urban Family Center entertain shelter residents during the lockdown

The agency participates in campaign for alternative summer youth employment funding; leads to 475 jobs for Henry Street youth

The first history of the organization, *The House on Henry Street: The Enduring Life of a Lower East Side Settlement*, is published



The youth Community COVID Response Team provides information and service to the community



The *Daily News* publishes Henry Street's op-ed on the value of Naturally Occurring Retirement Community services in a pandemic

LES United Festival distributes school supplies, resources, and food to 2,600 families living in NYCHA developments on the Lower East Side



Henry Street holds multiple Census-participation and voter-registration events, ensuring our community's voice is heard

Virtual fifth annual Lillian Wald Symposium asks the question: "Who Gets to Vote?"

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Abrons Arts Center presents *Jumatatu M. Poe's Let 'im Move You*, an exploration of the J-Sette dance form, featured in *The New York Times*

Dale Jones Burch Neighborhood Center opens in refurbished Henry Street firehouse

Henry Street receives the Overall Management Excellence Award from Nonprofit New York

Senior Issues Town Hall meeting draws a crowd

2,000 donated gifts and 900 gingerbread houses make holidays special for Henry Street kids



2020 ▶

Henry Street launches a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, made up of six team members

Abrons Arts Center presents Obie-winning *Distances Smaller Than This Are Not Confirmed*

Programs throughout the Settlement hold community Lunar New Year celebrations

Nailing the Job resume workshop is first public event held in the Dale Jones Burch Neighborhood Center

Expanded Horizons college prep students visit Google offices in Chelsea

The Lower East Side Youth Opportunity Hub basketball tournament at Boys & Girls Republic brings together more than 70 participants



As the reality of the COVID-19 risk sets in, the Senior Center transitions from providing two daily congregate meals to grab 'n' go—soon to be replaced with home delivery

Team members and dozens of new volunteers begin making check-in calls to 600 seniors

ESOL classes, mental health counseling, art classes move online

Katz's Delicatessen is the first of many local businesses to donate food to our essential workers



Food pantry opens at Boys & Girls Republic in partnership with Vision Urbana; will make 12,500 grocery hand-deliveries by mid-October

The artist KAWS releases limited print editions to benefit Henry Street's emergency response

Henry Street launches a Helpline, staffed with 22 caseworkers

George Floyd is murdered. Henry Street issues statement condemning racist violence in combination with health disparities affecting our community. Staff hold an emotional open forum on racism

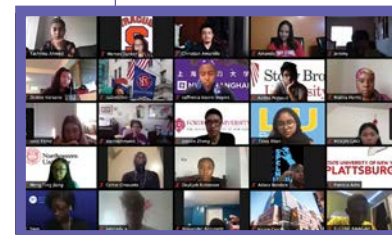
Community Consultation Center launches COVID bereavement and support groups

CEO David Garza is appointed to two mayoral COVID-19 advisory committees

Senior Center virtual services begin

Instagram personality New York Nico launches #BestNYPhoto competition to benefit Henry Street's emergency response and other antiracism efforts

41 Expanded Horizons college-access students graduate over Zoom; they will continue to participate through college



Virtual Camp Henry begins
Abrons hosts a community fridge—inviting neighbors to leave what they can and take what they need

Henry Street's LES Mobile Market collaboration with NewYork-Presbyterian begins providing grocery deliveries to Lower East Side families with children in NYCHA developments



Henry Street hosts two days of COVID-19 testing at Abrons Arts Center

Open Street Jobs & Social Services Fair attracts a crowd to East Sixth Street and Avenue D

Expanded food pantry operations move to Abrons Arts Center playhouse, preparing to serve the community into the winter

"In times of need, act."

—LILLIAN WALD, HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT FOUNDER

Answering the Call to Act a Century Ago

The coronavirus crisis is not the first pandemic in which Henry Street Settlement has played a role. During the influenza epidemic of 1918, Henry Street's founder, Lillian Wald, galvanized other organizations and suppliers and led an army of nurses in combating the scourge. This year, as Henry Street rolled out its extensive response to the effects of COVID-19 on our community,

we have returned again and again to the clear blueprint our trailblazing founder lay down 127 years ago. As historian and Wald biographer Marjorie Feld writes, in words that sound very familiar today: "Amid the tremendous suffering of that epidemic, [Lillian Wald] slept very little, caring for patients and nurses, enlisting volunteers for the work, and appealing to benefactors to fund it."