



WSFSSH Highlights 2011

Borinquen Court



February 28, 2011 WFSSSH became the owner of Borinquen Court, a 145 unit HUD sponsored apartment building

for older people and/or people with physical disabilities located in the Mott Haven neighborhood in the Bronx.

Over three years ago the building's Tenants' Association began the struggle to get responsible and responsive management for their building. Conditions became so bad that HUD placed the building into foreclosure to force a change in ownership. The Tenants' Association interviewed a number of non-profit housing providers and visited sites these organizations managed. WFSSSH was deeply honored to be selected as their choice. However, there was enormous political pressure from a number of



3 members of the Borinquen Court Tenants' Association celebrating WFSSSH ownership.

government officials for another organization to be chosen. The tenants remained adamant, and after meeting with the tenants, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz,

Jr. gave his support to the tenant's position.

On February 28, the tenants' hard work paid off as WFSSSH, with the assistance of HUD and New York City Housing Development Corporation, Department of Housing Preservation and Development, was able to purchase the building.

The building needs significant structural as well as aesthetic renovations; WFSSSH has committed to making over \$8 million in improvements. Red Top Architects along with Al Karman, are designing the renovations.



Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement.... get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Abraham Joshua Heschel

Preservation Award

Each year the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation recognizes excellence in the protection and rejuvenation of New York's historic and cultural resources. WFSSSH was awarded the New



York State Historic Preservation Award for the rehabilitation of 44 West 87th Street.

The Center @ Red Oak



The Hispanic Heritage Celebration

West Side Federation For Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc.

English Language Class

The English class at Kurt & Leah Schneider Apartments has been meeting two mornings each week since April of 2010. The students in our class come from China,



the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Moldova, Puerto Rico, and Russia. The class decided to have lessons about learning



English in the context of health care—making



appointments, understanding medica and pharmacy instructions, and more.

Home for the Holidays

At our newest building, the Claremont, in the Bronx, we welcomed 19 families and 16 individuals. We expect to welcome another 79 individuals in the new year. Recently one of the residents who had been homeless for a long time shared, “This is our first Christmas in our new home. I’ve dreamed of this for so many years!”



The snowflake artwork below is part of a collaborative art project at the West Seventy Fourth Street Residence.



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Abraham Joshua Heschel

We are amazed at the resilience of the individuals and families living in our 24 WSFSSH buildings.

We are grateful for your continued support of our mission.

May you and your loved ones enjoy the wonders of life in the new Year!

Sheldon Fine and Laura Jervis

Living Green Team

We are very pleased to announce the formation of the WSFSSH Living Green Team, whose challenge is to reduce WSFSSH’s water and energy consumption by 20% over the next two years.

WSFSSH buildings use about \$2 million in water, gas, oil and electric, so if we can achieve our 20% target we should be able to save around \$400,000 that we can use to fill in some of the funding gaps that have been caused by the bad economy and government cuts.



The team is composed of nine WSFSSH staff members drawn from across job titles and buildings. They will increase staff and tenant energy awareness, they will analyze which of the energy measures we have done in some buildings were most cost effective and should be replicated in others; and they will recommend new sustainable measures which they find are cost effective and have a big impact..

