

# WSFSSH Highlights 2012

## Living Green

By the end of this year, 100% of the electricity that WSFSSH pays for in its buildings will come from renewable wind power. We made this change and saved approximately \$70,000 (reducing our electric cost by over 15%). Saving money and saving the planet!



We are now composting at the Senior Center and at all of our buildings that prepare communal meals. The compost is nourishing our own gardens, and at Fleming, compost is also being shared with 22nd Street neighbors.

Energy efficient boilers, new windows, and a series of other upgrades are being installed in most of our older buildings.



*New energy efficient boiler at Red Oak*



Green roofs flourish at four WSFSSH buildings.

*Combination solar and green roof at Kurt & Leah Schneider Apartments.*

Tenants throughout WSFSSH are participating in the living green challenge—helping to compost, planting gardens, conserving water.



*Spring planting at Kurt & Leah Schneider Apartments, right K&L vegetables*



As part of the Kowal House energy project, tenants made switch plates with reminders to turn out the lights.



*It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.*

*Irish Proverb*



## Hurricane Sandy

Our residents will remember the many sacrifices made by staff to assure their safety during the hurricane. Staff spent the night at buildings, worked long hours, climbed endless flights of stairs with the power out, and 74th Street welcomed some of the residents from Fleming House, which had flood waters at the end of the block. Even with all the chaos created by the storm, we were able to provide essential services to all those who live in WSFSSH buildings. We are so grateful for the special contributions made to WSFSSH to lessen our financial burden created by this emergency.

## Valley Lodge in the News

Valley Lodge was featured by the NY Daily News in January, 2012. The story highlighted the remarkable life and hope Valley Lodge provides. The story can be found



at: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/valley-lodge-shelter-lifesaver-homeless-seniors-article-1.1012573>

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## Work at Borinquen



The building was in poor condition when WSFSSH bought it in 2011. Since that time, we've been working hard.

Two feet of soil from the entire property was removed and replaced with 2 feet of certified clean soil. Repointing bricks and exterior work is almost completed. Complete renovation of the existing apartments began this December and is anticipated to be completed by June, 2013. Residents have approved the model "relocation" apartment and will be temporarily relocated throughout the building while their apartments are renovated.

Assistant Manager Hugo Meneses said, "It is a wonderful experience to feel the confidence of a community that allows you to remodel the building, but also builds community within the community."

## Westbourne Renovation

The Westbourne is undergoing significant renovation. Building systems have been upgraded, including a new boiler, fire system, lighting and ventilation. A floor by floor renovation of all suites is in progress, the 7th — 3rd floors are completed, with resident suites on the 2nd and 1st floors in progress. The office and common spaces on the 1st



*New accessible ramp!*

## Emergency Housing

WSFSSH, together with the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Church of the Ascension, the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter and the NYC Department of Homeless Services, provided temporary shelter to 24 men who took refuge on the steps of West Side religious institutions and public spaces during the winter months.

Sixteen of the men moved into our Valley Lodge Transitional Shelter, eight have since moved into permanent housing. The others continue at Valley Lodge receiving comprehensive services preparing them for permanent housing. In addition to the collaborative efforts of our partners, the success of this program continues to be the diligent efforts of the Valley Lodge staff.

Funding for the program was given by the Fifth Avenue Church and the New York Community Trust. We are preparing to launch the program again this winter so that we may assist another group of men seeking safe haven during the cold, working with them to find permanent homes.

[www.wsfssh.org](http://www.wsfssh.org)

After several years of diligent work by many different people, WSFSSH has a new website. Come visit at [www.wsfssh.org](http://www.wsfssh.org) and find a guide to our work, our staff, our partners, and much more.

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Dear Friends,

Once again this season brings with it sobering events which compel us to face the realities of poverty, violence and climate change in our world. Within WSFSSH we do what we can to foster communities of refuge and renewal in which individuals are able to contribute to the goal of a better and safer world. Together with the 2000 people who are WSFSSH, we thank you for your support.

Sheldon J. Fine, President

Laura R. Jervis, Executive Director