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**The New York Junior League Successfully Completes 2022-2023 Restoration Projects  
with Lantern Community Services and Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter**  
*The NYJL's Community Improvement Project Partnered With Two Deserving Community  
Organizations to Provide Transformational Renovations*

New York, New York (June 2023) - The New York Junior League's (NYJL) Community Improvement Project (CIP) committee is proud to announce the completion of its site renovations with Lantern Community Services (Lantern) and Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter (NCS). Over the past year, CIP devoted more than \$70,000 and 500 hours of volunteer work to design, develop, and execute these projects from start to finish.

"The NYJL is proud to support such deserving organizations by providing trained volunteers and critical funding," NYJL President Serra Eken remarked. "We worked hand and hand with our community partners to envision and create spaces that will staff to provide more impactful programming and bring comfort to residents and clients."

*Lantern Community Services*

In November 2022, CIP redesigned and beautified the Community Room at Schafer Hall, a 91-unit supportive housing site in East Harlem. Schafer Hall provides housing and on-site services for young adults exiting foster care and formerly unhoused single adults, as well as affordable housing for low-income families from the community. CIP volunteers transformed the space, brightening the aesthetics and installing new furniture in the dining and living areas. Additionally, volunteers created a new space to launch food and nutrition programming, bringing in new equipment such as a Smart TV for video tutorials and installing a hanging herb garden for lessons.

NYJL leadership and volunteers as well as Lantern leadership, staff, and residents celebrated the renovation in a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on December 13, 2022. The ceremony was led by NYJL President Serra Eken and Lantern's Executive Director Diane Louard-Michel.

*Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter*

Beginning in January 2023, CIP worked to renovate NCS' Client Lounge, Community Room, and Lobby used for two programs on the Upper East Side: the existing Chance for Change program and the new Chance to Connect program.

Chance for Change is NCS' outpatient substance-use treatment program that is uniquely designed to serve individuals who are homeless and battling addiction, often combined with mental illness. The program offers individual and group counseling. Chance to Connect will provide personalized services for unhoused, service-resistant New Yorkers. In addition to case

management, the program will offer refreshments, essential supplies, Wi-Fi access, and group activities, including art, yoga, and meditation for guests and clients from the adjacent Chance for Change program.

NYJL volunteers worked with Janine Carendi MacMurray of AREA Interior Design to transform the spaces into warm, welcoming, and dignified environments. Volunteers primed and painted the walls, installed baseboards, upholstered a moveable wall, assembled furniture, hung art, and organized the spaces. Clients worked with NCS staff to design and create artwork that CIP volunteers then hung on the walls. Contractors supported the renovation by installing new flooring, which transformed the look and feel of the spaces.

The renovation was celebrated on May 23, 2023 at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony by NYJL leadership and volunteers, NCS leadership and staff, and Council Member Gale Brewer. The ceremony was led by NYJL President Serra Eken, NCS Chief Executive Office Ann Shalof, and Board President David Oliver.

Each year, the New York Junior League establishes a one-year partnership with one to two selected New York City organizations to renovate a community space that supports the organizations' mission and increases their impact. The application process takes place in the Spring. For more information, visit [www.NJYL.org/CIP](http://www.NJYL.org/CIP) or email [cip@nyjl.org](mailto:cip@nyjl.org).

### **About the New York Junior League**

Since 1901, the New York Junior League (NYJL) has responded to New York City's most pressing socioeconomic challenges. Powered by nearly 2,400 women volunteers, the NYJL works with more than 60 community-based organizations to advance children's social-emotional learning and to provide life skills programs to youth and adults who are navigating periods of difficult transition. Bringing their diverse experiences and talents, trained NYJL volunteers engage women and children in health, education, and arts workshops specially customized to their needs. The NYJL also advocates with state and city government for women- and children-centered policies and develops volunteers' leadership skills for service in the NYJL and on other nonprofit boards, all while cultivating a community that reinforces women's personal relationships and collective power as drivers of positive change.

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

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### **About Lantern Community Services**

Founded in 1996, Lantern Community Services champions the independence and well-being of New Yorkers impacted by or threatened with homelessness. Across Lantern's shelter and supportive housing programs, Lantern couples housing with on-site supportive services. Their person-centered programs bring residents and staff together to work towards the empowerment and independence of those they serve. Lantern's passionate staff lead with empathy and

provide their residents with meaningful opportunities for personal recovery, wellness and growth.

**About Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter**

Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter (NCS) helps New Yorkers who have a history of homelessness, often compounded by mental illness or substance use, to achieve their highest level of independence. The organization was established in 1982 by faith and community leaders on Manhattan's Upper East Side who believed that homelessness is the responsibility of the entire community.