

VNSNY, Lutheran Team Up To Expand Services

The Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) Community Connections TimeBank and the Lutheran Family Health Centers (LFHC) recently announced the launch of the first TimeBank satellite partnership.

Lutheran will be able to reach more Brooklyn residents with community services tailored to specific needs, the TimeBank will be able to expand geographically to Bay Ridge, and Brooklyn residents will benefit from greater access to services and enriching social interactions.

The VNSNY TimeBank is a way for people to use their skills, share their passions, meet their neighbors, and lend a helping hand. Membership in the TimeBank is free and open to people of all backgrounds, ages and levels of ability. Members earn one "Time Credit" for every hour they contribute helping another member; they can then redeem their credits to receive services themselves.

Dozens of services — including assistance with shopping, companionship, computer lessons, minor home repair, tutoring, cooking and more — are given and received by members. Since 2009, Lutheran has been a key partner in the TimeBank's successful expansion to Sunset Park. With the creation of this new satellite partnership, Lutheran's AmeriCorps staff will now be trained to enroll, screen, match and organize TimeBank members.

"Everybody is feeling the pinch of budget cuts these days," said Kathleen Hopkins, vice president of community services for Lutheran



Pictured (from left) are Larry K. McReynolds, executive director, LFHC; Diahann Billings-Burford, chief service officer, NYC Service, Mayor's Office; Gina Hey, program director, AmeriCorps, LFHC; Liz Berger, assistant coordinator, AmeriCorps, LFHC; Kathryn Haslanger, senior vice president, Community Benefit and External Affairs, VNSNY; Omayra Torres, coordinator, VNSNY Community Connections TimeBank; Mashi Blech, director, VNSNY Community Connections TimeBank; Kathy Hopkins, vice president, Community Services, LFHC.

Photos by Claudio Papapietro

Family Health Centers. "Our partnership with the VNSNY TimeBank allows us to provide Brooklyn residents — including our senior population — with a diverse menu of services

to help keep them active, engaged and learning new skills."

"TimeBanks are based on the idea that everyone has something of value to give," said Mashi Blech, director of the VNSNY TimeBank. "As the satellite develops, we might see seniors helping young neighbors with their math homework; a teen teaching a senior how to text message; a Wall Street whiz helping an immigrant understand financial documents — the possibilities are endless."



Mashi Blech, director of VNSNY TimeBank, hugs Fran Picone, RSM, director of Services of Older Adults.

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An Elegant Dinner for 100 Seniors

Members of the AARP Ovington Chapter #5055 filled two-and-a-half buses for a trip to the Milleridge Inn in Long Island on Tuesday, Nov. 30. Pictured in their finest attire outside the restaurant are Chapter President Al Asfazadour (left) and Gail Asfazadour. More than 100 people enjoyed an elaborate dinner at the restaurant and two hours of shopping at the gift shops and novelty stores on the grounds. Among those present were Vinny and Mary Bocchino, Frank Lombardi, Joan Curran and May Mazzola.

