

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I reflect over the past few years, I remain deeply humbled by the tremendous losses and challenges faced by so many of our neighbors. I also remain deeply humbled by the resilience, gratitude, and hope so many in our community brought to face those difficulties. The global pandemic has left visible and invisible marks on



our most vulnerable neighbors in Elmhurst, Corona and Central Queens. The daily struggles of many neighbors to secure adequate food, housing, healthcare, education, employment, and childcare are exacerbated by the arrival of tens of thousands of migrants and asylum seekers as limited community resources are stretched even further. And yet in the face of this scarcity, we see the abundant heart of community as so many individuals, schools, shelters, churches, and organizations generously serve and care for each other.

Our mission has always been to love our neighbors as a demonstration of God's love. While our programs may have shifted in recent years, God has graciously continued to provide opportunities for us to walk alongside our neighbors as we seek his shalom, mercy, justice, and restoration.

In 2022, with your partnership and prayers

 We directly engaged more than 1,600 individuals as we provided food assistance, basic needs, free health care and showers, economic empowerment, leadership development, emergency cash assistance, and referrals to additional supportive services.

- We connected with more than 6,000 community members through community events to introduce New Life CDC and invite neighbors to our programs.
- We assisted more than 200 migrants and asylum seekers with physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual support and advocacy through food and clothing drives, distribution events, and awareness campaigns in collaboration with several local community partners.
- We were supported by almost 100 volunteers who put love and compassion into action, serving more than 5,000 hours as they prepared and distributed grab and go meals for unhoused neighbors, delivered groceries to families facing food insecurity, supported health equity and access through free medical care, engaged with neighbors at outreach events, worked with youth in leadership training and development, and more!

When I look at the work God invited us into over the past year, I am reminded of his faithfulness and the particular ways he meets each of us in our needs and in our hopes for what's ahead in 2023. Thank you for celebrating with us all that God has done through New LIfe CDC, and thank you for continuing to pray for the flourishing of our neighbors in Elmhurst, Corona, and Central Queens in the year to come. We are grateful to be on the journey together.

Sincerely,

Jiffay Koch



# **OUR MISSION**

The mission of New Life Community Development Corporation is to provide relief, cultivate restoration and model reinvestment among the poor and marginalized in Elmhurst and Corona as a demonstration of the love of God.

#### **OUR STORY**

Twenty-nine years ago, New Life CDC was founded by New Life Fellowship congregants among the poor of Elmhurst and Corona in Queens, NYC. Today, our community is made up largely of working-class immigrant families faced with layers of existing disparities that were heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic downturn.

Amidst ongoing changes, New Life CDC continues to meet the needs and cultivate the strengths of the poor and marginalized in our neighborhood. We do this through community-building and as a demonstration of God's compassion for the vulnerable.

Annually, we serve 2,000 children, youth, adults, and senior neighbors through culturally and linguistically accessible programs and services. We provide holistic support to our community through direct service provision and referrals for our most vulnerable neighbors, including people experiencing food, housing, and financial insecurity, people who are undocumented, uninsured, and underinsured, and people who are linguistically isolated.



# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Our mission is founded on the belief that our neighbors don't lack capacity; they lack opportunity. We can love our neighbors well through deeper and ongoing engagements, empowering them to be agents of change in their own lives and circumstances, and equipping them with support and resources so that they may continuously experience relief, restoration, and reinvestment.

We also acknowledge and appreciate that our programs would not be where we are today without the faithful service of our volunteers and supporters, past and present. Our community is stronger when we celebrate with our neighbors in our collective successes and come alongside each other in prayer in our grief and sorrow. Our relationships grow deeper as we share our time, skills, and resources in service to our neighbors.

Along with some programmatic highlights, we share some ways to get involved and be connected. Celebrate with us some of the many achievements we are honored to witness. Serve with us by signing up to volunteer. Pray with us as we seek God's shalom in our community.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have been with me and my family during and after the pandemic by providing groceries and to those who are behind the gifts. May God bless you all abundantly! Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

MS. DIAZ

New Life Food and Clothing Pantry



30 countries of origin of neighbors we served

number of different languages spoken by neighbors we served

1,688 individuals we prayed with, served, and encouraged

yolunteers loving their neighbors through acts of service

**5,022**hours volunteered in 2022

New Life ADVENTures wish list gifts purchased for 31 Saturday pantry families

16 collaborations with

collaborations with community partners and local ministries across all our programs 404

individuals supported with ongoing resources and support

\$57,280

invested into families to provide immediate economic support

100% as a demonstration of

the love of God

1,856

free showers provided by the Health Center

2,338

volunteer hours provided by medical practitioners, volunteers, interns

203 unique patients provided free medical care

166

unique individuals served through our homeless meals-to-go

960

miles driven by volunteer drivers every Saturday for food pantry deliveries 6,988

hot meals-to-go distributed to unhoused neighbors





Part of being loved is being respected and I feel respected here. Volunteers and workers can foster the feeling of welcome. They have to feel that themselves and when they do, that spirit is infectious. It spills over to those they encounter and engage.

#### MIGUEL

New Life Community Health Center

"I have received so much from serving these past eight years in the Pantry and Homeless Ministry, I can't exactly explain but I feel great joy. The Word says it is better to give than to receive and I have experienced this biblical reality in my own life. This program doesn't only help these men through a meal but they are also cared for physically and spiritually. My hope for this coming year is to continue to stay healthy, mentally and spiritually, and to also continue to serve and inspire others to serve. We need many more volunteers."

AURA
New Life Food and Clothing Pantry





36%
decrease in total debt
for Success Groups

3%

families

increase in personal assets/income of Success Groups families

37
community needs
assessment surveys
conducted

16
Success Group
members actively
building supportive
community

youth changemakers trained in holistic community activism

**90%**Young Governors
reporting personal
growth and awareness
of their own agency

### **CELEBRATING**

- The New Life Community Health Center Women's Health Program continued to grow and flourish. We had the mammogram van on-site in March. Along with the clinical services, foot massages were added for the women.
- Kristin Moltz, our Medical Administrator, led a pilot of a new Whole Health Program in 2022.
   The bilingual program addressed physical, nutritional, emotional, and spiritual elements of living a healthy life.
- Our Pantry increased our reach to provide more of our neighbors with non-perishable food.
   We currently have approximately 30 families signed up for our Pantry/grocery delivery list.
   Every Saturday, volunteers typically make around 25 deliveries, representing 35 adults and seniors and 2 dozen children.
- Our hot meals ministry distributed new winter outerwear to approximately 80 unhoused guests, along with a hot Thanksgiving meal. Winter wear included new backpacks, sweat jackets, hats, gloves, thick socks, and hats, along with personal care products.
- Our First Warriors of Success Groups celebrated six years of achieving life together as they wrapped up their program. We hope they can participate as alumni to encourage other families in the future.
- Cohort members reached goals such as finding new jobs, purchasing a car, increasing their income, decreasing their debt, and giving back to the community as ongoing volunteers for the food pantry.
- Our Young Governors worked hard to collect donations, prepare gift bags, and distributed them directly to those in need living on the streets for their project on Homelessness.
- The YG Alumni Association hosted its first College Panel with six attendees! Panel speakers
  were Young Governor alumni who are currently students at Yale University, Columbia
  University, Baruch College, Harvard University, Cornell University, and Stony Brook University.
- Thankful 4 Families expanded to provide support to neighbors with emergent needs, many of whom are recently arrived migrants, with direct cash assistance and access to additional resources and support.



What I've learned from Success Groups, I use in my day-to-day life. I am able to set goals, track my progress, and celebrate when I achieve a goal. I also appreciate the accountability from my cohort who encourage me and share their wisdom and experience to help me meet my goals. We all learn together

DESH MAN
Success Groups

"The stories of our community members completely contradicted the stereotypes and Stigmas around marginalized groups. These biased opinions were so far away from the truth, and this really emphasizes the importance of community organizing. Through Young Governors, I was able to realize how our systems have failed to give marginalized groups the opportunities or courage to communicate with us before rushing to wrong conclusions and judging them as outsiders.

Community organizing allows us to really step into the shoes of those we are unfamiliar with and connect with them without barriers."

ADA
Young Governors



# **SERVING**

We give thanks for dozens of faithful volunteers who serve each week. To learn more and join them, visit our website or scan the QR Code.

#### **CURRENT ROLES AND ONGOING NEEDS**

- Medical student volunteers and Medical Practitioners
- Cook meals or drivers with cars
- Youth mentors
- Photographers/Videographers
- Bi-lingual volunteers (Spanish And Mandarin)
- ESL Instructors



newlifecdc.nyc/get-involved



### **PRAYER**

Elmhurst and Corona represent the most ethnically and linguistically diverse communities in the United States. Our neighbors come from across the globe, speaking a multitude of languages and dialects. The huge diversity in culture and experiences also presents uniquely layered challenges for our families. Some of these barriers are highlighted below and, along with many others, can often isolate families and exacerbate a loss of community. We invite you to partner with us in prayer with and for our neighbors as they continue to persevere with faith, hope, and resilience.



of the population is foreign-born



households in which no one over the age of 14 speaks English very well



severely rentburdened households



families living at or near the poverty line

#### SPECIFIC POINTS TO PRAY FOR:

- Increased opportunities for jobs and consistent income
- An abundance of goods, resources, and rental assistance programs that are easily accessible and culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Strength for community-based organizations, mutual aid groups, and community organizers
- Continued development of community partnerships that surfaced as opportunities in 2022
- An outpouring of support from the community that helps our neighbors to feel seen and loved
- More volunteers to be the hands and feet and share the love of Jesus

"Thank you for inviting me to take these classes. I was very happy because I needed it at that moment. I knew it was going to be good, but I didn't know it was going to exceed all my expectations. It has helped me to appreciate more my health, my mental health, all the plans and the exercises. And the way I am feeling has changed because of this. I am encouraged to practice everything I have learned and I know. And I feel happier and very, very appreciative to God.

WHOLE HEALTH WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT
New Life Community Health Center





I've been fortunate to volunteer for several programs through the years and I've witnessed the resources put into the various programs and how it's impacted lives. I know my monthly support is going in the right hands. I think it's strengthened my faith by keeping me grateful and humble that I'm blessed with the ability to give back to others. God commands us to give to the poor generously and I am reminded of that with my monthly commitments.

RACHEL + KIT Shalom Partners

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOTS

In the midst of so many changes for our city and our neighborhood, New Life CDC continues to seek new avenues of support and partnership while also deepening many partnerships that will serve us in the next chapter.

\$33,839
distributed in stipends,
matching funds, and
emergency cash assistance

**70**new supporters giving for the first time in 2022

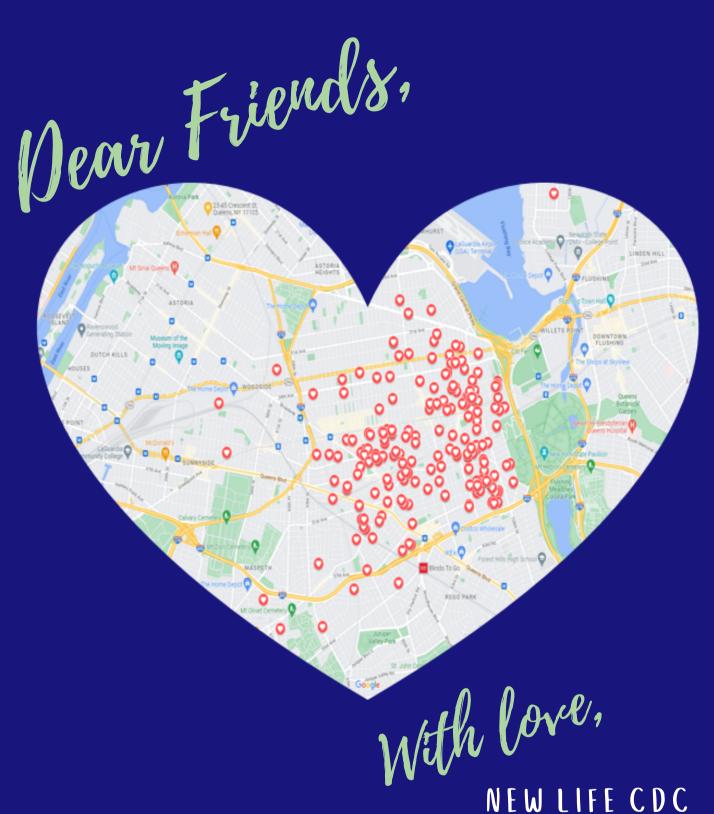
**21%**decrease in unrestricted funds from 2021 to 2022

**50** 

number of Shalom
Partners, our monthly
giving community

48
number of donors giving consecutively for more than 5 years





NEW LIFE CDC





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