



UNITED
NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSES

2025

Impact Report



Stronger Communities, Together



Letter from LEADERSHIP

For over a century, New Yorkers have relied on settlement houses. From helping immigrants as they make a new home to ensuring children have safe, supportive places to go outside of school, settlement houses have consistently been there for their neighbors. And United Neighborhood Houses has been there for settlement houses—to amplify and support their collective impact.

The settlement house movement has faced tremendous obstacles since it began in New York City back in 1886. But if there is one thing our history teaches us, it is that together, we can overcome great odds. Settlement houses share a vision of inclusive, vibrant communities. Each day, as they have for over 100 years, settlement house staff work with their

neighbors to foster a sense of possibility and belonging. New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds come to settlement houses to learn, to celebrate, and to improve their collective circumstances.

Through our advocacy and policy work, UNH advances the settlement house movement’s broader fight for systemic change. By ensuring the development of settlement house staff, and bringing them together to support and learn from each other, we strengthen their capacity as vital neighborhood institutions. We drive public policy change through advocacy rooted in our collective values. This year we have made tremendous progress—inspiring greater investment in early childhood education, afterschool, adult literacy classes, and programs for seniors—and yet we’ve made this progress against the

backdrop of attacks on our neighbors, our institutions, and our values.

For so many of us, it has been a struggle to know when to celebrate progress made at the local level when at the same time the federal government’s irresponsible and chaotic decision-making has such a devastating impact on our communities. We believe the answer is that we must celebrate the wins, but never stop the fight.

Settlement houses are the hearts of their communities. United Neighborhood Houses is their champion. UNH and our settlement house members have proven over and over again that, if we continue to stand together, we can overcome any odds. So while we are acutely aware of the challenges ahead, UNH is ready to meet this moment.



Susan Stampler

SUSAN STAMLER
Executive Director



M. Bryna Sanger

M. BRYNA SANGER
Board President

What is a SETTLEMENT HOUSE

Settlement houses reach more than **840,000** New Yorkers at more than **800 sites**

A settlement house is a neighborhood-based organization that identifies and reinforces the strengths of individuals, families, and communities. From early childhood education to senior centers, settlement houses have services for all ages. Beyond meeting immediate needs, settlement house programs also build bonds, create networks, and promote advocacy and civic engagement, developing connections both within organizations and throughout the wider community.

SPOTLIGHT

Introducing The Opportunity Hub

In 2025, UNH welcomed a new member, The Opportunity Hub. Demonstrating settlement house values and approach, The Opportunity Hub was eager to join UNH for peer learning and to increase their advocacy muscle. The Opportunity Hub provides services ranging from case management, to youth development and education, to financial empowerment and workforce development, to managing the local newspaper. They have deep roots in their Spring Creek Towers community—in fact, 70% of their staff live in the neighborhood they serve.

The Opportunity Hub notes that they “tap into our community’s many strengths to foster a welcoming, future-thinking and strong neighborhood”; a true testament to the settlement house model.



BRONX

- Bronx House
- BronxWorks
- East Side House Settlement
- Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC)
- Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC)
- New Settlement
- Riverdale Neighborhood House
- Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers (SEBNC)
- Women’s Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco)

BROOKLYN

- Arab-American Family Support Center
- CAMBA
- Center for Family Life in Sunset Park
- Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation/ United Community Centers
- The Opportunity Hub
- Red Hook Initiative
- St. Nicks Alliance
- School Settlement Association
- Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach

MANHATTAN

- Broadway Housing Communities
- Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
- Educational Alliance
- Goddard Riverside
- Grand St. Settlement
- Greenwich House
- Hamilton-Madison House
- Hartley House
- Henry Street Settlement
- Hudson Guild
- Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
- Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC)
- SCAN-Harbor
- Union Settlement
- University Settlement

QUEENS

- Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
- Korean Community Services (KCS)
- Ocean Bay Community Development Corp.
- Queens Community House (QCH)
- Sunnyside Community Services

STATEN ISLAND

- Project Hospitality

GREATER NEW YORK STATE

- Huntington Family Centers
- Martin Luther King Multipurpose Center
- Southwest Area Neighborhood Association Center (SWAN)
- Syracuse Northeast Community Center
- Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region
- Westcott Community Center

Our
MEMBER
SETTLEMENT HOUSES

Peer LEARNING & Professional DEVELOPMENT

PEER AND ISSUE GROUPS

UNH organizes meetings of settlement house staff by both job title and subject matter to encourage peer-to-peer learning and collaboration. These meetings strengthen the skills, knowledge, and capacity of our members—which in turn strengthens their programs and services, their collective political advocacy, their civic engagement efforts, and their impact.

UNH Hosts More than 30 Peer Groups, Including:

- Aging Issues
- CFOs
- Civic Engagement Group
- College Prep Group
- Communications Staff
- Data and Evaluation Staff
- Development Staff
- Early Childhood Education Group
- Executive Directors Council
- Facilities Staff
- Family Enrichment Centers Group
- Human Resources Leaders
- Immigrant Issues
- Information Technology Staff
- Intergenerational Programs Group
- Mental Health Issues*
- NYCHA Issues
- Senior Leaders
- Settlement Houses Advancing Racial Equity (SHARE)
- Settlement House Board Chairs
- Social Care Network Group*
- Strategic Thinkers Group
- Youth Development Collective
- Youth Worker Group

+ In addition, we bring together settlement house executive leadership in different configurations, including groups that share a particular geography or a particular experience.

**Asterisks denote a new peer group created this year.*

FEC Peer Group

Family Enrichment Centers (FECs) are walk-in family-centered spaces that are open to all and co-designed with local community members. Although they are government-funded, the model mirrors many of the characteristics of settlement houses. FEC programs engage community members in learning about child development, caregiving, and problem-solving skills, and in accessing resources they need to thrive. One quarter of all FECs in New York City are run by a settlement house. Last year, UNH began hosting a regular peer group specifically for settlement house staff working in FECs where staff support each other and share effective programs and practices.

SPOTLIGHT



31
Peer
Groups

181
Unique
Sessions

2,292
Attendees

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A key component of UNH's work is supporting settlement house staff by creating and customizing professional development and training to enhance skills, knowledge, and expertise. UNH provides three tiers of leadership development training to help settlement house staff grow in their careers as well as one-off trainings, workshop series, and programs that help deepen staff knowledge and ability to respond to crises.

Community Safety Series

UNH expanded our Community Safety trainings in response to calls from our members for additional support and tools to keep their communities and their programs safe. "Safety in the Community" is a series designed to equip settlement house staff with the knowledge and skills to recognize and address potential threats before they materialize. "De-Escalation Techniques" is a training focused on techniques to manage and reduce an individual's agitation, preventing potentially violent situations from escalating.

Hudson Guild's director of operations, Aris Johnson, works tirelessly to ensure that Hudson Guild is the safest environment possible. Aris appreciates UNH's Community Safety series because it provides new tools while also giving her a space to interact with and learn from her settlement house peers. As Aris put it, "Being a part of a community...gives me a different lens to say, oh, I didn't look at it that way."

SPOTLIGHT

A settlement house participant of De-Escalation Techniques shared,

“ I learned the importance of maintaining calm, non-confrontational communication when someone is in crisis. I found the 'space and time' technique especially helpful—it involves giving the person a moment to calm down without pressuring them to respond right away. I plan to use this technique in tense situations to help lower stress levels and support a safer, more effective resolution.”



SCHOLARSHIPS

UNH provides scholarship opportunities to support the professional development of settlement house staff and the continuing education of select community members. **In 2025, we provided:**

\$40,000
in scholarship funds
to 38 settlement
house staff

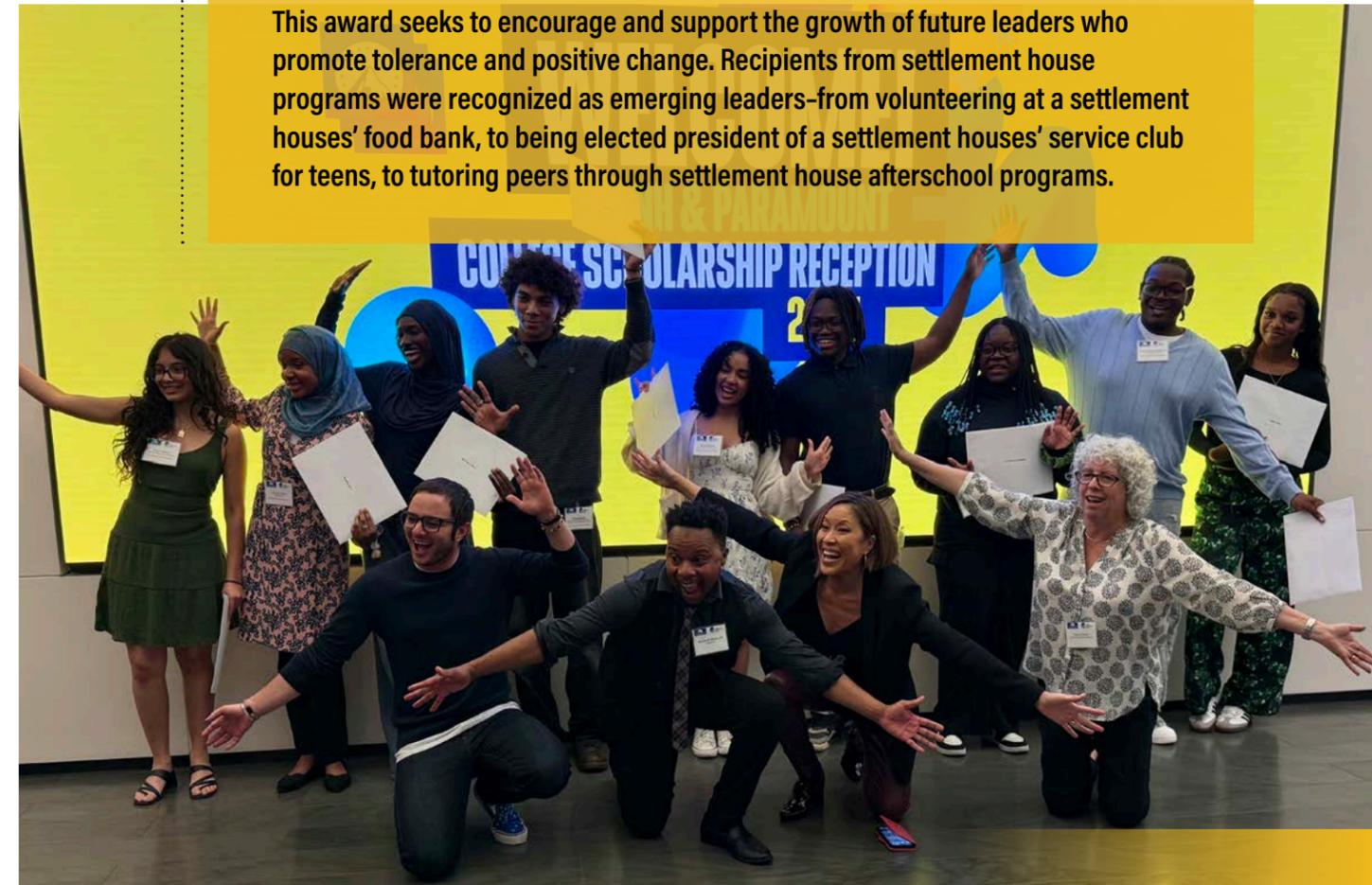
\$75,000
in scholarship funds
to 15 settlement
house participants

Paramount Scholarship

UNH partners with corporations, foundations, and generous individuals to support our scholarship programs. One partner, Paramount, works with UNH to offer an annual college scholarship award for graduating high school seniors. The Paramount Scholarship provides \$1,500 each to college-bound settlement house program participants in New York City. This year 10 students were awarded scholarships at a celebration hosted by Paramount Skydance.

SPOTLIGHT

This award seeks to encourage and support the growth of future leaders who promote tolerance and positive change. Recipients from settlement house programs were recognized as emerging leaders—from volunteering at a settlement houses' food bank, to being elected president of a settlement houses' service club for teens, to tutoring peers through settlement house afterschool programs.



Driving PUBLIC POLICY

POLICY & ADVOCACY

We advocate for funding and policies directly addressing barriers to thriving communities. We publish research, testify in front of city and state legislative bodies, lobby elected and appointed officials, organize rallies, and inform the media. Our goal is to advance the settlement house model of holistic, comprehensive services as well as settlement house priorities.



UNH staff offered numerous advocacy trainings during 2025 to settlement house workers.

5 Ideas for NYC

This year, we created "5 Ideas for a Better NYC" to assist experienced elected officials as well as new candidates to develop specific, actionable plans in settlement house priority areas. By doing so, we also make it easier for community members to hold candidates accountable for their promises. This series outlines five big ideas every candidate running for office should consider to give all New Yorkers the support they need to live, work, raise a family, and age in place.

- 1 For a Better Child Care System:** From committing to a free universal system to paying staff their worth, we want child care to thrive in NYC.
- 2 To Support Youth and Young Adults:** From fully funding afterschool contracts to creating a roadmap to a universal Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), we want expanded support for positive youth development.
- 3 To Help Older Adults Age in Their Communities:** Older adults deserve to age gracefully where they feel most at home, and we need to invest in services to support them, as well as expand programming at Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs).
- 4 To Support Immigrant New Yorkers:** New York City is a sanctuary city, and we urge investments to ensure new immigrants not only can start a life here but also thrive.
- 5 For Bolstering the Human Services Sector:** NYC must pay its contracts on time and at true costs to deliver important and high quality programs.

BUDGET ADVOCACY

New York City Budget Victories

- > **\$10 million for a new pilot program for free, non-means tested child care seats** for 0-2 year olds. This will serve hundreds of children and responds to UNH's campaign for 2-Care with New Yorkers United for Child Care.
- > **\$4.78 million for higher rates for home delivered meals programs** translating to an extra \$1 per meal. These programs ensure that older New Yorkers don't go hungry, especially those who can't easily leave their homes.
- > **\$15 million for the new Feeding Our Communities initiative**, which will help food pantries across New York City keep shelves stocked and doors open. The funding supports new equipment, expanded storage, and fresh food purchases.
- > **\$5 million for the new Older Adult Center Improvements initiative**. This will help upgrade facilities, repair aging infrastructure, and make centers safer and more welcoming for older New Yorkers.



New York State Budget Victories

- > **\$4 million for the Settlement House Program**, directly supporting our member organizations. This funding helps sustain essential programs including after-school enrichment, college and career access, eviction prevention, food pantries, and services for older adults.
- > **A 2.6% Cost of Living Adjustment** for certain human services workers.
- > **\$400 million for the Child Care Assistance Program**, a program designed to help low-income families afford child care. This money will ensure families continue to receive subsidies and vouchers. \$350 million is dedicated to New York City families.
- > **Restoring \$500,000 in previously cut funding for Adult Literacy Education**. These classes enable limited English-language speakers and those lacking a high school diploma to get the skills necessary to find higher-paying jobs.
- > **An increase to the Empire State Child Credit**, a tax credit for New York families. Families with children under four have a maximum credit of \$1,000, those with children between 4-16 can qualify for a maximum credit of \$500, and families in the lowest income bracket can qualify for the full credit.

The 2-Care Campaign

UNH is co-leading the 2-Care campaign along with New Yorkers United for Child Care, calling for New York City to expand universal child care to include two-year-olds. After mobilizing nearly 10,000 parents and creating a coalition of 19 organizations, the 2-Care campaign secured a \$10 million investment in New York City's budget to create a 2-Care pilot. This marked the first time that New York City invested to create non-means tested care for toddlers and is a significant first step on the path towards universal, birth-to-five care.

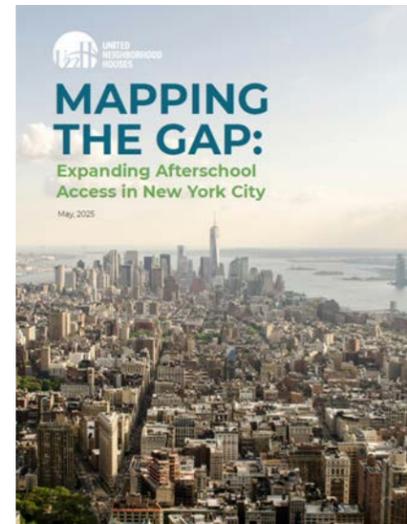
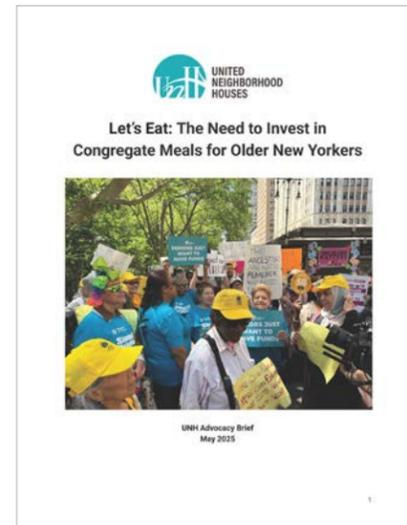
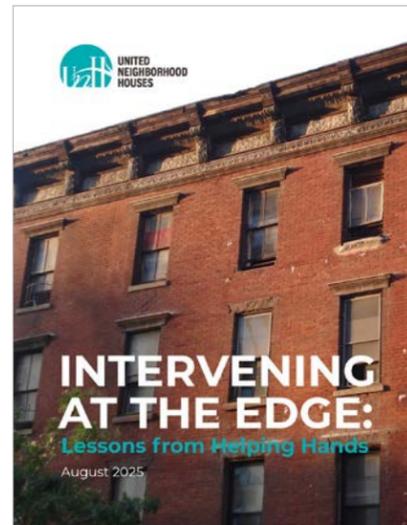
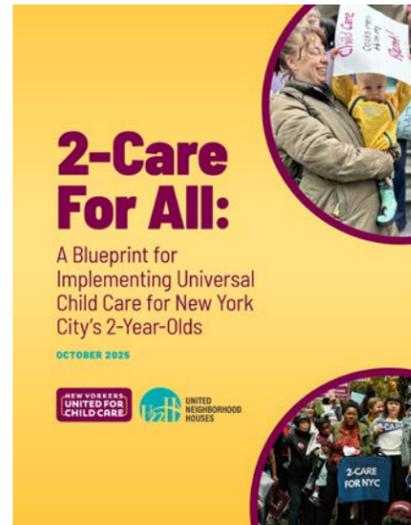
Benice Mach, the Advocacy Manager at Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), is deeply engaged in the 2-Care campaign. For Benice, collaboration is critical to advocacy. "I think this is why it's important to be working alongside coworkers, partners, and coalition members that really see the importance of the work that we are doing over all. Because there's moments where I feel burned out, and I start to doubt the importance of the work that we do, that I see the work that they keep doing. The fight we put up as a community, that really drives me and motivates me to keep doing in this line of work. Because I think in a movement, work over all is not sustainable based on one person, but it's really the communities that we build, the relationships that we build, and how we inspire each other to keep going every day." Benice has been working on the campaign for the past year, and has been instrumental in helping on the ground level by bringing the CPC community together to join events, rallies, and meetings and to motivate the continual need to support 2-Care.

SPOTLIGHT



OUR REPORTS

We call attention to important issues impacting settlement houses and their communities by collecting, analyzing, and sharing data from our network. Our reports, policy briefs, and testimonies inform City and State decision-makers on local trends and bring actionable solutions to the table. **This year's reports include:**



Mapping the Gap: Expanding Afterschool Access in New York City

SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to sustained advocacy from UNH and our member settlement houses, universal afterschool has moved from an aspirational goal to a serious policy proposal in New York City. *Mapping the Gap: Expanding Afterschool Access in New York City*, documents the additional investments needed to achieve universal coverage. This report highlights the scope of existing city- and state-funded afterschool programs serving elementary and middle school students through contracts with nonprofit partners.

UNH worked with our members to take stock of seating capacity and location of current programs citywide. Despite decades of expansion, New York City's public afterschool system still falls far short of meeting demand. We analyzed data from city and state sources and supplemented it with insights from our members. The result is a comprehensive report that guides our ongoing advocacy for universal afterschool access.

A universal afterschool system is within reach. With a strong foundation already in place, a plan to add 20,000 seats over the next few years, and a network of experienced providers, New York City can take steps toward the long-term goal of ensuring that all children have access to high-quality, no-cost afterschool programming. This report is the roadmap.

UNH staff prepared and delivered **28 testimonies** before the City Council

OUR VOICES COUNT

Our Voices Count is more than a slogan—it's a demand! UNH designed this campaign to expand our non-partisan civic engagement work, growing our outreach capacity and ensuring that the settlement house movement has the resources it needs to build community power.

This year, we have expanded beyond our continuing Get Out The Vote work, hosting our inaugural Our Voices Count Conference and launching the Civic Engagement Lab, a new UNH project to support settlement houses working to catalyze community connections. Through The Civic Engagement Lab, UNH invested in six settlement houses with one-year \$20,000 grants to take on civic engagement projects that will demonstrate their ability to affect community change. Our goal is to support settlement houses to skillfully build on the roots of our movement to engage in advocacy and social change.

UNH continues to support settlement house Get Out The Vote efforts. In 2025 our GOTV cohort:

Included **14** settlement houses serving communities across New York State

Sent more than **26,000** messages to New York voters

Secured **5,200** pledges to vote from registered voters

Our Voices Count Conference

This year, we hosted our first Our Voices Count conference where 100 settlement house staff explored how local power can drive meaningful change, deepening civic participation across the New York settlement house network. Through storytelling, peer learning, and actionable breakout groups, participants gained new tools to engage their neighbors around local elections, voting rights, media literacy, the census, and more.

The conference was a success, and settlement house staff left energized to create new civic engagement opportunities. As one attendee shared, "The interactive exercise on the Census really hit home. I would like to do it with community members and see what ideas or concerns they bring to the table."

SPOTLIGHT



Supporting INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

GRANT MAKING

UNH is recognized as an important point of contact for our settlement house members. Foundations and generous individual donors turn to UNH to expand their impact. As knowledgeable partners and a good steward of funding, UNH has supported the settlement house community with additional targeted resources.



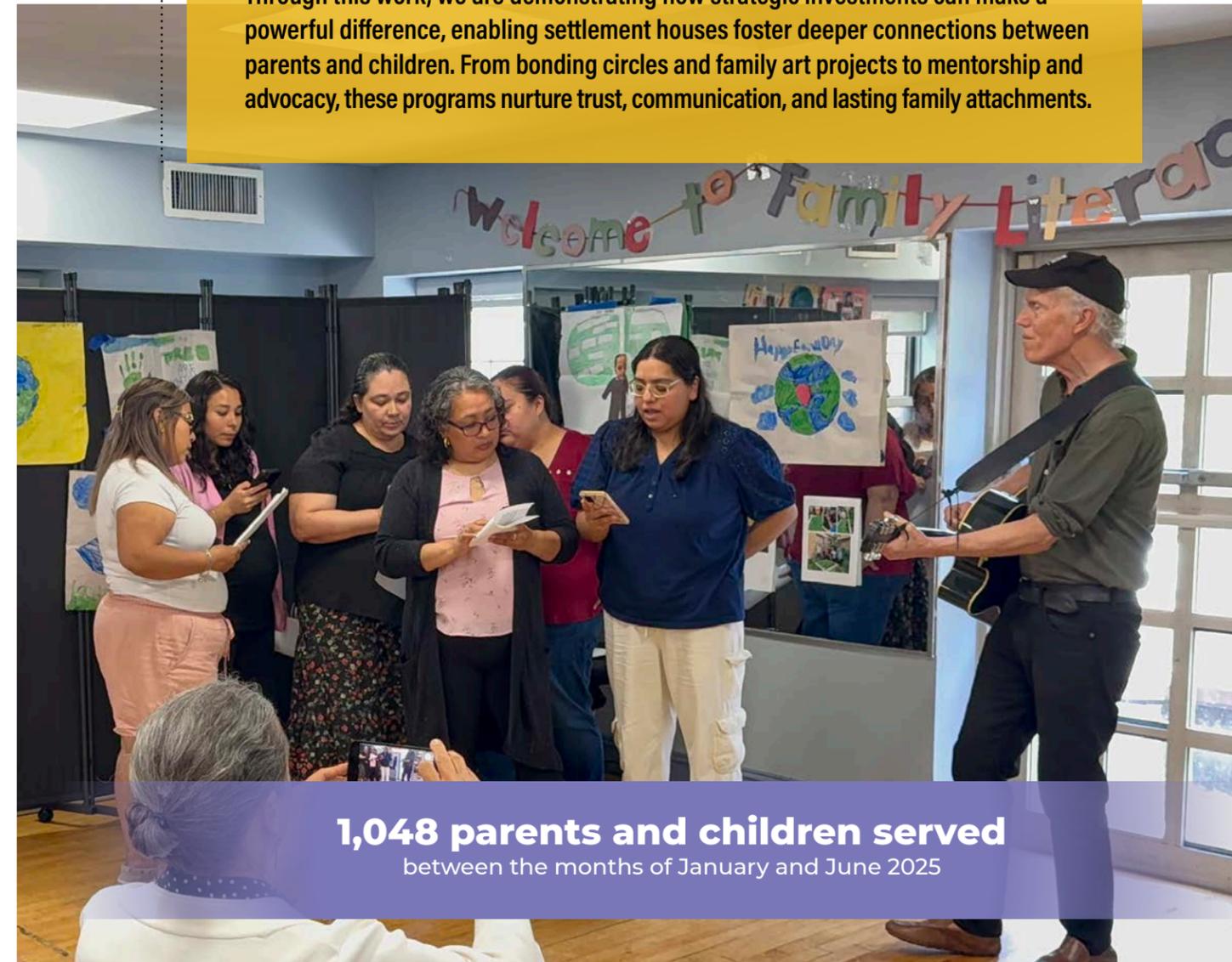
In 2025, UNH granted more than **\$3.4 million** to settlement houses for a variety of programs that advance the mission of our movement.

SPOTLIGHT

The Center for the Wellbeing of New York's Children and Families

The Center for the Wellbeing of New York's Children and Families supports settlement houses to pilot or expand program models that meet the social and emotional needs of children and families, enhance the educational skills and economic health of parents and their families, and promote community health and wellness for both. Ten settlement houses in the inaugural cohort each received \$100,000 as the first installment of a two-year grant. These funds seed innovative programming, and UNH brings together the cohort to share program approaches, evaluation and assessment tools, and ways to enhance services.

Through this work, we are demonstrating how strategic investments can make a powerful difference, enabling settlement houses foster deeper connections between parents and children. From bonding circles and family art projects to mentorship and advocacy, these programs nurture trust, communication, and lasting family attachments.



1,048 parents and children served
between the months of January and June 2025

EXPANDING INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

UNH promotes intergenerational activities where generations come together to learn, create, and be civically active. Intergenerational programs have been shown to reduce feelings of social isolation and loneliness and build stronger community ties. Generations Connect teaches and supports settlement houses to embed intergenerational practices in their programs. UNH developed a series of tools to support the work necessary to create an intergenerational community center.



Throughout the year, Generations Connect meetings allowed settlement house staff to discuss their intergenerational work.

GENERATIONS CONNECT GOES NATIONAL

This year, Generations Connect expanded to include settlement houses in Chicago, Cleveland, and Syracuse, as well as five in New York City.

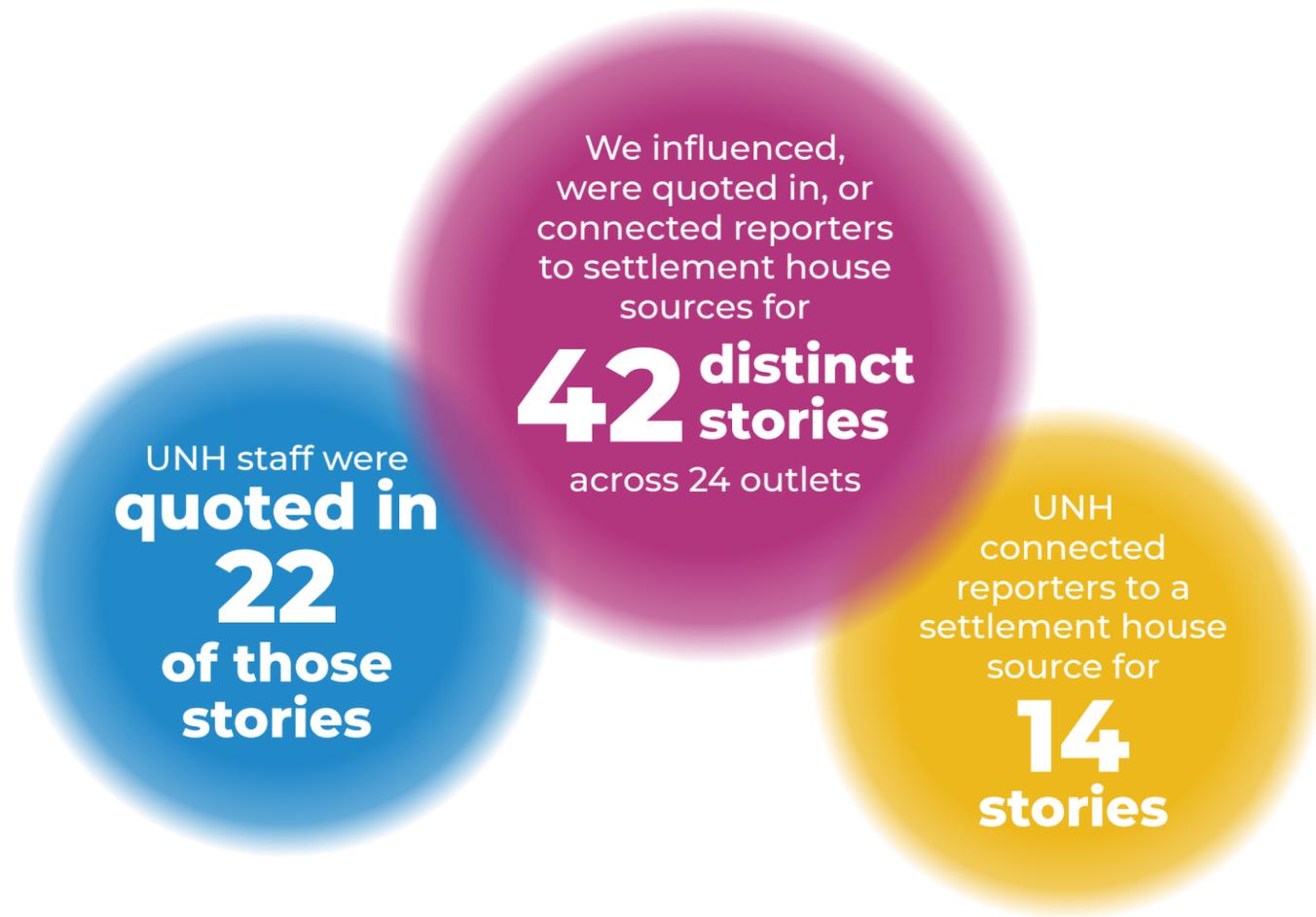
With instruction and coaching from UNH, settlement house staff learn to successfully implement intergenerational programming as a core practice within their organization across multiple program areas. Staff develop skills and strategies to collaborate on programming that brings older and younger people together, overcoming siloed program models and funding streams, and embedding intergenerational program practices throughout their organizations. Participation in Generations Connect positions settlement houses for success in making intergenerational program practices a core element of their community centers.



62 staff from **14 settlement houses** in **4 cities** are involved in Generations Connect!

MEDIA COVERAGE

In 2025, we continued to deepen our work with local media and with communications staff at our settlement houses. We have three goals: To advance our policy agenda by shining a spotlight on important issues to our network; to raise the profile of UNH; and to raise the profile of the settlement house movement by ensuring settlement houses are quoted more frequently as sources in stories relating to their work.



UNH targeted key local outlets as part of our communications strategy to ensure our work was discussed in places policymakers, civically-engaged people, reporters from larger publications, and possible funders read on a regular basis.

DAILY NEWS **CHALKBEAT NEW YORK**

POLITICO **The South Asian Times**
excellence in journalism



The New York Times **CITYLIMITS**

Press **amNY** *Brooklyn Paper*



KFF Health News



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our heartfelt thanks to Kevin McCollum, one of Broadway's most prolific and imaginative producers, for standing with UNH this year. Kevin's body of work captures the spirit of New York and harmonizes with settlement house values. We are proud to call him our 2025 New Yorker Who Makes a Difference, and UNH is tremendously grateful to him for his record-breaking fundraising at our annual benefit this year.

We are grateful to Grand Street Settlement for opening your doors to UNH for our inaugural Our Voices Count conference, allowing us to create a space for the settlement house community to come together and discuss civic engagement.

Thank you to Alex Woodworth for ensuring UNH always has fantastic photos to use in these reports.

And finally, thank you to Tracey Maurer for your stellar design work on UNH's reports (including this one!).



Kevin McCollum, UNH's 2025 New Yorker Who Makes a Difference stands with Susan Stamler



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