



WINTER 2014 NEWSLETTER



The Association of Community Employment Programs for the Homeless



ACE would like to wish our supporters a Happy New Year, as well as sincerely thank you for your generous monetary donations, volunteer efforts and in-kind gifts throughout 2013. Your generosity provided many vital services and resources that helped our participants find full-time jobs, reunite with their children, and build the confidence needed to start setting new goals for their futures.

We are enthusiastic about embarking on a new year, and hope you will continue to join us in our work to create opportunity for New York City's homeless. Below are just a few highlights of what you helped accomplish in the fall of 2013:

- 23 program graduates received their diplomas at our graduation ceremony in January 2014, and 28 received diplomas at our September 2013 ceremony
- 30 volunteers donated 160 hours of their time, conducting mock interviews, tutoring and helping out in our literacy, math and computer classes
- 32 participants and 14 graduates attended a 10-hour OSHA Construction Safety & Health course, and passed the exam for their 10-hour Construction Safety cards
- 24 participants received financial coaching by volunteers from Community Service Society and Financial Planning Association of New York
- 25 participants practiced their job interview skills in mock interviews with ACE staff and volunteers
- 13 graduates secured private housing, one of them through ACE's Project Home initiative
- 18 participants attended computer classes at Apple's SoHo store
- 20 female graduates and participants networked and received career advice at our inaugural Women in the Workforce Engagement



Holiday Celebrations at ACE!

ACE's hard-working participants are busy 362 days each year, alternating classroom instruction and job search exercises with street sweeping and trash pick-up. But our programming is so much more than job preparation and work experience – we strive to nurture the whole person, seeing our participants not merely as homeless people needing help, but as unique and diverse members of the ACE family.

Indeed, sustaining an atmosphere of acceptance and community is never more important than during the holiday season, which is often a challenging time for the men and women we serve. To make the season joyous and festive, rather than stressful and isolating, ACE hosts several events where participants, graduates and staff gather to celebrate and show gratitude. After all, what better opportunity to embrace family and friendship than enjoying the holiday spirit together?

On November 26, we threw our annual Thanksgiving celebration at St. Anthony's Church, where 70 participants and graduates shared a traditional Thanksgiving meal and gave thanks together with ACE's staff. We are so grateful to our restaurant sponsors, Ava Events; Baked By Melissa; Boqueria; Dean & DeLuca; Cupping Room Café; Delicatessen; Eileen's Special Cheesecake; Hundred Acres; Lure Fishbar; La Esquina, and TriBeCa Treats, who generously donated an abundance of delicious food for the event, and our wonderful volunteers, who gave their time to assist with serving and logistics.

On December 19, ACE's staff and 35 program participants came together for more holiday cheer with food, games and a fun toy give-away at our annual crew luncheon. We distributed no less than 264 shiny, new toys for our participants' children, all courtesy of toy drives hosted by the TriBeCa Film Center and Lost Boyz MC Queens Chapter. We cannot enough thank our toy drive partners, whose generosity and dedication brightened the holidays for nearly 100 underprivileged children.



Please click [here](#) to see more photos from our holiday events!

Hard-Skills Training Courses:

To help bolster our participants and graduates' earning power and marketability to prospective employers, we started offering hard-skills training courses in a variety of high-demand occupational areas throughout the fall. As of September 2013, all Project Comeback participants must complete a 10-hour training Construction Safety course conducted in accordance with federal OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) standards, after which they receive a federally issued 10-hour Construction Safety Training card, which does not expire.

This opportunity is also available to select program graduates who are looking to advance their careers, through our new, [Robin Hood-funded courses in OSHA/Construction Safety and Mold Assessment & Remediation](#). Additionally, participants and graduates pursuing a career in hospitality have the opportunity to obtain the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene-issued Food Protection certificate.

Our hard-skills trainings are off to a great start – throughout the fall, 52 participants and graduates took advantage of the courses to build new skills and enhance their career prospects:

- 32 participants obtained their 10-hour OSHA Construction Safety cards
- 14 graduates earned their 10-hour OSHA cards as well as their NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene-issued Mold Assessment & Remediation certificates
- 5 graduates obtained their NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene-issued Food Protection certificates
- 1 graduate earned his New York State Security Guard license and Fireguard & Fire Safety certificate

ACE and The Hort team up to make NYC green and beautiful, while helping ex-offenders build new lives!



We are proud to announce that our ongoing partnership with The Horticultural Society of New York (The Hort) is continuing to bear fruit. Through the Neighborhood Plaza Partnership (NPP), The Hort and ACE work jointly to furnish formerly incarcerated New Yorkers with remedial horticultural education and vocational training, as well as place them in transitional employment at public pedestrian plazas throughout New York City.

Funded by a Chase leadership grant of \$800,000, NNP launched on November 26 in Corona Plaza, Queens, and will expand its scope over the next two years, to ultimately serve 20 NYC plazas; creating jobs, building capacity, and strengthening the social fabric of the city's neighborhoods. The Chase grant will fund vocational rehabilitation services and transitional employment opportunities for 100 ex-offenders and ACE program participants, who provide daily maintenance and beautification services to participating plazas.

Please click [here](#) to read our press release announcing the Chase grant as well as the details of the partnership.



Keep Up With ACE Online!

Please follow ACE on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay informed of our latest news, events and other activities! Also, be sure to check out our [website](#) for more in-depth updates, including participant success stories, press releases and media coverage. Our latest success story features Benita, who for the first time got to spend the holidays reunited with her little son, and our most recent press coverage includes a [New York Times](#) interview with one of our most accomplished graduates, Rickey Henegan.



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