



## **Sustaining Neighborhood-Based Services In Response to COVID-19**

*April 2020*

**Throughout our 100-year history, UNH has been there to support neighborhoods. As we all confront the dangerous and rippling impact of COVID-19, our meaning and purpose remain as important as it ever was. And we need your help today!**

Representing 43 settlement houses in New York has never been more important as UNH creates policies and provides guidance and support to preserve the vital safety net of community-based services. Today we all are deeply concerned about the health and safety of our loved ones, neighborhoods, and our economy. Many are already experiencing financial hardship and dangerous isolation. Throughout our shared history, UNH and our members have responded to health epidemics and economic downturns and our response to the spread of COVID-19 is no different, even while we are being challenged and called upon in unprecedented ways.

While most New Yorkers are trying to stay home, safe and healthy, and care for their families, our member settlement houses are doing all that, while also caring for people in need, including: people living in shelters and those living in supportive housing for people with physical and mental health issues; low-income families in need of food support and child-care if they must go to work; isolated older adults, and those who have lost or are afraid they will soon lose jobs. Settlement houses and the nonprofit sector are panicked about cash flow, mounting extraordinary expenses for supplies, and the likelihood of lost revenue. The number one priority is to continue to pay staff serving New Yorkers in need. Our members turn to UNH.

UNH's response has been rapid and intense. We advocate for the City and State to do the right thing and ensure that settlement houses have the resources to be nimble as they meet ever-evolving community and staff needs. We have successfully persuaded the City to pay on their commitments to human service contracts preserving thousands of jobs throughout our sector. We continue to urge government agencies to share guidance on best practices for the health and safety of our workforce.

As we have for more than a century, UNH continues to bring settlement house leaders and frontline staff together – for now, virtually via video and conference calls - to share

information and strategies to preserve their services and sustainability and provide a community they can count on.

We recognize that the devastating impact of this virus will reverberate for a long time. Now and always, our support for settlement houses and New York's neighborhoods and people is unwavering. Your gift to UNH will sustain our critical safety net at a time when it is most needed, yet most at risk.

Please make your tax deductible donation to UNH today through our website [here](#), by calling Jennifer Velasquez at 505-310-7501 or by check to UNH, 45 Broadway, 22nd Floor, NY, NY 10006.

Thank you.



M. Bryna Sanger  
President



Susan Stamler  
Executive Director

UNH is a policy and social change organization representing 43 settlement houses that reach more than 765,000 New Yorkers with services and programs for children, families, and adults. Settlement house programs provide skills, education, social services, health, arts that build stronger neighborhoods and develop connections across generations.