On October 12, Fifth Avenue Committee broke ground with partners Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Mega Contracting on Northeastern Towers Annex, a joint venture development in Jamaica, Queens. This new 10-story building will create 159 affordable apartments for very low-income seniors aged 62 and up.

This unique project - Fifth Avenue Committee's first outside of Brooklyn - will include 58 studios, 100 one-bedroom apartments, and 1 two-bedroom superintendent's apartment. Addressing the needs of seniors on fixed or very low incomes, the building will be 100% affordable for residents while offering on-site social services provided by the Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee.

In addition to affordable apartments, Northeastern Towers Annex will feature on-site amenities specifically designed for its senior residents, including: a community room, a media room, an exercise and wellness center, social service and office suites, warming pantry and storage, laundry and television lounges on every floor, a library and club room, a rooftop with terrace and separate rooftop garden area, a personal care room, and parking reserved for residents. Construction is expected to be completed in September 2020.

Want to help Fifth Avenue Committee continue its important work in 2019? Donate today! Fifth Avenue Committee is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, and all donations are 100% tax-deductible.

To learn more, contact Melissa Minnich at mminnich@fifthave.org or 718.237.2017 x129.

FAC & PARTNERS BREAK GROUND ON AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING IN JAMAICA, QUEENS

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate Fifth Avenue Committee’s 40th Anniversary at Brooklyn Museum in May!

FAC Renaissance resident Fannie Cyraie shows off her new kitchen after moving back in to her newly renovated apartment.

HOUSING PRESERVATION: FAC RENAISSANCE

Fifth Avenue Committee's affordable housing preservation initiative, FAC Renaissance, is now nearing completion, with residents moving back in to their newly renovated residences. This ambitious project is preserving 21 buildings in Gowanus and Park Slope, Brooklyn, including 146 residential units of low-income rental housing and 14 storefronts for local businesses. These buildings serve as a critical source of affordable housing for long-time residents, and these improvements to aging housing stock ensure that affordable housing is being preserved for generations to come.

In addition to renovating these buildings with capital improvements, properties are also being upgraded with green energy-saving measures. The average rent for FAC Renaissance tenants is under $750 per month, and rents were not raised at all as part of this renovation project.
BY THE NUMBERS: COMMUNITY SERVICES

FAC’s Community Services program provides poor and low-income New Yorkers with benefits access assistance and financial and legal counseling services - all free of charge. Recently, FAC’s Community Services program served over 1,500 low- and moderate-income individuals. Here are some of the deeply needed services we provided:

- New households screened & assessed: 1,539
- Households enrolled in benefits for the first time: 267
- Households receiving legal counseling services: 111
- Households receiving financial counseling services: 305

To schedule an appointment with FAC’s Community Services, call 347.844.0220.

SPOTLIGHT ON ADULT EDUCATION: THE BRIDGE PROGRAM

Fifth Avenue Committee’s Bridge program in Sunset Park is part of FAC’s Adult Education program. This new program is designed to narrow the gap between non-native English speakers and access to proven-effective career training programs. This groundbreaking new program offers low-income New Yorkers with conversational-level English skills the opportunity to acquire both industry-contextualized English language instruction and a pathway to secure their Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) permit. Afterwards, participants move on to additional training with FAC’s workforce development affiliate Brooklyn Workforce Innovations’ (BWI) Red Hook on the Road program, where they prepare to take their CDL exam. Overcoming a language barrier is particularly crucial in this field, where the exam has a significant verbal component.

Bridging the language gap means that these individuals gain access to careers with benefits and living wages, with school bus and other transportation companies that offer starting salaries of up to $20/hour. The CDL industry in New York City is currently experiencing a shortage of workers, and transportation companies are hiring, with many positions ready to be filled by qualified workers. The Bridge program is open to all legal residents of New York City. Participants must be 21 years of age and have had a clean driving record for at least 2 years.

A second Bridge program is being developed for launch in January 2019 to connect foreign-born New Yorkers who have an interest in low-voltage cable installation and have basic reading and math skills to BWI’s Brooklyn Networks program.

For more information about the Bridge program or to enroll, contact Brian Mendes at cdl.fac.bwi@gmail.com or 929.732.1021.

WHERE WE LIVE: AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING IN NYC

On October 20, FAC facilitated a “Where We Live” workshop for community residents at the Brooklyn Public Library in Red Hook. This new initiative led by the City of New York is intended to inform and engage New York City residents around the City’s Affirmative Action Plan on fair housing. Throughout the day, participants shared their experiences concerning housing and community in FAC-facilitated conversations, with a focus on fair housing.

To learn more about this initiative, go to: https://wherewelive.cityofnewyork.us

GOWANUS COMMUNITY WI-FI BRIDGES THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN BROOKLYN

Fifth Avenue Committee is leading the design and development of an open access, free community Mesh network in Gowanus, Brooklyn, creating a digital bridge for Gowanus small businesses, residents and community groups. Gowanus Community Wi-Fi (GCW) is designed to bridge the digital divide and improve the resilience in Gowanus, while also providing a crucial connection for businesses, residents, and civic groups during times of emergency when communication systems fail.

GCW is also a workforce and job generator, with local low- and moderate-income residents being trained as Digital Stewards to install and maintain the GCW Mesh network. Phase I of GCW is expected to go live in early 2019.