



Update from Project Hospitality July 2021

Dear friends,

In the midst of the pandemic this past November, we received a phone call from Project Hospitality donors, Dr. Victor and Kim Avis. Three homeless men were sleeping under a building in Tompkinsville in the bitter cold. Could we help them? That night I found them, bundled in blankets, freezing cold. I slept in the van by the curb and waited until they woke in the early morning, and then offered them a place to sleep in a new shelter that Project Hospitality had opened during the pandemic at Stapleton UAME Church. They gratefully accepted the warm place to lay their heads.

Today, the story has a very happy ending. Alex, a senior citizen, has been reunited with his sister and family who live in Stapleton. Ginio got his COVID-19 vaccine and began working as a day-laborer in Port Richmond. Mike began a job as a dishwasher at the Old Bermuda Inn on April 2nd.

This story of three homeless men and of a community that came to their aid truly exemplifies the work of Project Hospitality. It is a story of concerned Staten Islanders and middle-of-the-night emergency efforts by Project Hospitality's street outreach team. It is a story about neighbors who care. Families who forgive. Business owners who give back. It is a tribute to an entire community working together to save one life, or two, or three.



Our lives are often intertwined in ways we can't know, acknowledge, or even realize. Your donation to us makes us intertwined. As a person who donates to Project Hospitality, you are a part of this life-saving work and we thank you!

As important as these stories are, the work is never done, especially in trying times like these. And so, Project Hospitality soldiers on, undaunted and undeterred even in the face of the most devastating health crisis of our lifetime. We have organized the distribution of over 2,500 vaccines to Staten Island's senior citizens, the homeless, and essential workers. We've continued to provide on-site COVID-19 testing to the community of people who are homeless or who come for food pantry and soup kitchen meals. We have delivered daily meals to the homebound, sick, and infirmed and we have knocked on the doors of hundreds of Staten Island COVID-19

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infected families, medically compromised, and vulnerable seniors. We have bought burial plots and helped dozens of Staten Island families bury their dead. We have distributed over 3 million meals to hungry Staten Islanders! We have distributed more than a million masks and hand sanitizers as well as over \$750,000 in cash aid to Staten Island families affected by COVID-19!

Your support for our work has made all of this possible and more, and your renewed commitment will make it possible for us to continue to meet our mission to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless into the future. A brighter future without severe poverty, homelessness, and hunger in Staten Island!

We thank you, and we ask you again to continue to make the sacrifice to financially support us in these unprecedented times: www.rca.org/project-hospitality.

Sincerely,

Terry Troia

President & CEO, Project Hospitality