



January
2004

NYC Families Celebrate Holidays at HAI

On December 16th, HAI held its fourth annual Holiday Party for families living in temporary housing. Participants in HAI's *Show Me the Way Home* housing readiness program at Tier II family residences attended. Over 150 individuals from Bushwick Residence, Carlton House, Abyssinian House and Regent Family Residence enjoyed a formal dinner, followed by a variety of entertainment and festive activities. Alfonso Wyatt, Vice President of Fund for the City of New York, presided as Master of Ceremonies.

The evening began with children, parents and HAI staff singing Christmas carols with guitarist Eve Silber accompanied by Larry Johnson on drums, Dr. Howie Tichler on saxophone and Todd Londagin on trombone. Exodus Supreme, a trio specializing in Caribbean music and R & B drew both adults and children to the



Above: Families participate in a holiday celebration with HAI staff.

dance floor. Members of the New York Theater Ballet Company performed excerpts from *The Nutcracker* and HAI actor/facilitators June Sewer and John Martin Green sang for the lively audience. Several individuals felt inspired to take the microphone themselves, performing for delighted friends and families. In true holiday spirit, award-winning choreographer George Faison stopped in before the night was over to bring all the children to their feet for a special holiday dance.

Meanwhile, aspiring young artists created holiday cards and pictures during an arts & crafts session with professional artist Robert Aitchison. A sizable book fair with tables of children's and adult books was also very popular, party attendees poured over the selection for interesting titles. Just when the pace was settling down a bit, the arrival of Santa Claus brought overwhelming excitement from children eager to discuss their holiday wishes. Each person attending the event - parents and children - left with a bag of presents. Perhaps the most moving event of the evening came when Mr. Wyatt asked the children what they were happy about this year. The replies, phrased in dozens of small voices, echoed each other: family, friends and love.

HAI would like to thank all those who made this party possible, through contributions, donations and the generous help of volunteers. **Over...**

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This January, HAI will provide Hope And Inspiration to an audience of more than 19,000 people at more than 850 events by offering opportunities...

...to enjoy dance, theater, concerts and more

* In January, the **Cultural Events Program** will arrange for over 2,500 people to attend over 40 events including:

<i>Hairspray</i>	Neil Simon Theatre
New York Knicks	Madison Square Garden
Gilbert and Sullivan Players	City Center
New York City Ballet	New York State Theatre

* HAI's **Community Performing Arts Series**, which mounts dance, drama and music performances throughout the year in each of the five boroughs will present Ballet Hispanico's new piece *Nightclub* at Aaron Davis Hall on January 20th.

* HAI's two **Omni*Buses** comfortably and safely carry people who are bed confined and those using wheelchairs from hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers to attend cultural events throughout the greater New York area. In January, HAI's Omni*buses will provide trips to Rockefeller Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art as well as Holiday lights tours.

* **Tickets to Go** provides New York City seniors, age 60 and over, with greatly discounted tickets, subsidized by the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs, to renowned cultural and entertainment events. Tickets to Go events in January will include: New York City Ballet, New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, New York Philharmonic and *Rose's Dilemma*.

* HAI's **Describe!** program makes live theater performances accessible to visually impaired and blind individuals. In January, participants will enjoy audio described presentations of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at the Marquis Theater and *AIDA* at the Palace Theater.

* This January, HAI's **On-Site Performance Program** will reach over 4,600 people with 92 performances. Performances in the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. day include: Stan Hampton performing R & B at Central Rehabilitation, The Jazz Elders at Bialystoker Nursing Home and gospel music from L.D. Frazier at Federation Employment Guidance Services. Chinese New Year will be celebrated with performances of music from China at Greenpark Care Center and Chinese Dance Company at JASA Cooper Square.

...to develop competence through artistic expression

* In January, attendance of 10,800 will be reached in 700 hours of participatory **Arts Workshops**. The debut of this year's exciting Outsider art exhibit will take place on January 7. The featured drawing will be Rodney Thornblad's new masterpiece, a minutely detailed drawing, reminiscent of *The Last Supper*, 42" x 120". The exhibit will remain up through January.

During the Outsider Art Fair, over the weekend of January 23, several events will be featured at HAI: The feature length documentary film, *"Not like in the Movies: A Portrait of Six Mentally Ill Artists at Work,"* will be screened at 5:30 on Friday, January 23. Later that evening, from 6:30 to 9pm, will be a reception to meet the artists. The HAI Saturday Program will welcome visitors to an open studio from 2pm to 5pm on January 24. The exhibit will be open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6pm during January and Sunday, January 25.

...to acquire skills for supportive/independent living

* ...through the **Youth Leadership and Education Program**, which uses theatrical role-play to develop decision making skills with respect to HIV/AIDS, Homelessness, Youth Leadership/Violence Prevention and Medicaid Managed Care. In January more than 30 workshops will take place reaching over 1,800 individuals. *Peace-by-Peace*, Violence Prevention, HIV Prevention and Housing Readiness workshops will take place at Bridges Juvenile Detention, The Summit, Franklin Avenue Women's Shelter, Graphic Communication Arts HS, Harry Van Arsdale HS, and Salvation Army/Carlton House. The cast of *Loss & Gain* will perform at Health Professions & Human Services HS on January 16th.

...to gain access to information and to learn more about our mission

* Visit HAI's website, www.hospitalaudiences.org and view *Access for All: Guide for People with Disabilities to New York City Cultural Institutions* and its update, *Addendum 2001, On the Go: A Guide to New York City Culture at a Discount for Seniors* and the monograph, *Live Arts Experiences: Their Impact on Health and Wellness*.