



Morningside Retirement & Health Services
Helping Elders. Building Community.

Since 1966

2018 Annual Report

www.mrhsny.org

Morningside Retirement and Health Services

100 La Salle Street, #MC, New York, NY 10027

(212) 666-4000

www.mrhsny.org

Board of Directors

Michael Davidson, *President*
Maureen Knapp, *Vice-President*
Cynthia Rock, *Secretary*
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New York Community Trust
West Harlem Development Corporation

Community Morningside Heights Housing Corporation

Academic Columbia Community Services
Columbia University Office of Government
Relations and Community Affairs

Individual Residents and friends of Morningside Gardens

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Ronald Bruno, LMSW
Joanna Stolove, LCSW
Saudia Garnette, LMSW
Alan Stricoff, CPA
James Young, Danieal Sanzo
Pamela Casimiro-Kirkbride, Olga Lobasenko
Marie Phillips, RN, BSN, MPH

Jennifer Paul
Margaret Bianchi

Executive Director
Assistant Director
Social Worker
Comptroller
Social Work Interns
Occupational Therapy Interns
Geriatric Nurse/Coordinator of Health
Care Services
Home Health Aide
Office Manager

The 178 people who volunteered services to MRHS in 2018 are listed towards the back of this report.

Background and History of the MRHS Program

Morningside Retirement and Health Services (MRHS) was founded in 1966 on two principles: self help for older adults and neighbors helping neighbors. The founders were a group of residents in Morningside Gardens, a middle-income cooperative housing complex in Morningside Heights. The apartment complex was constructed with government assistance and opened for occupancy in 1957 to house approximately 2,000 individuals. A group of forward-thinking older residents organized MRHS nine years later to serve those elderly residents who needed assistance in order to continue to live comfortably and safely in their homes.

For the first 20 years of the program, MRHS was staffed and run by older residents, working as volunteers. But by its twentieth year of service, the MRHS Board of Directors recognized that many of the original volunteers had “aged in place,” and themselves needed assistance. Morningside Gardens had become a “NORC” — Naturally Occurring Retirement Community — with more than half of the apartments occupied by residents over the age of 60. In order to address the multitude of problems elderly residents were facing, professional support was needed to guide and supplement the work of volunteers. Several MRHS volunteers formed a committee to raise funds for this purpose, and in 1986 the first professional social worker was hired.

Since that time, the program – still governed primarily by Morningside Gardens residents – has assisted and enriched the lives of hundreds of older residents. Working in conjunction with the professional staff, 178 volunteers offered their time and expertise to MRHS in 2018.

All of these changes and additions have not altered MRHS’s fundamental commitment to its mission: 1) to help frail and at-risk elderly residents of Morningside Gardens remain in their own homes; and 2) to provide programs which promote health and provide opportunities for education, socialization and recreation for older adults.

MRHS was one of fourteen programs designated by New York State in 1995 as a NORC program. In 1999 New York City created its own funding stream for existing and new NORC programs. MRHS was one of the programs chosen to receive city support and was selected in 2006 and in 2014, after Request for Proposals (RFP’s) were issued by the city.

Through these special contracts and with foundation support, in 1995 MRHS began providing healthcare services in addition to social services. These services include on-site nursing, personal care, health education and health care screenings. MRHS was able to enhance the medical care provided to residents thanks to an arrangement with St. Luke’s Hospital for the placement of a medical office on the premises of Morningside Gardens, which opened in November, 2000. In 2017 MRHS established a partnership with Mount Sinai Hospital to bring the Mind Matters program to Morningside Gardens.

MRHS continues to see an increase in the use of its services. With the opening of the New MRHS Center in 2017 program attendance increased dramatically. Total attendance at MRHS programs in 2017 was 7,579, an increase of 38% from the prior year. Attendance increased an additional 18% in 2018, to 8,959. MRHS provided 2,779 units of case management and case assistance services in 2018, an increase of 31% from the prior year. The total number of residents utilizing MRHS programs and services in 2018 was 336, an increase of 16%.

Mission of MRHS

The Mission of MRHS is twofold:

- 1) to help frail and at-risk elderly residents of Morningside Gardens remain in their own homes comfortably, safely, and with as much independence as possible for as long as they can; and
- 2) to provide programs which promote health and provide opportunities for education, socialization and recreation for all older residents of Morningside Gardens, with particular attention to the special needs of the infirm, homebound, and isolated.

Values of MRHS

The board, staff, and volunteers of MRHS are committed to offering services that enable older residents of Morningside Gardens to remain in their own homes by:

- Promoting a caring community and enriching community life;
- Preserving the dignity and human rights of older people;
- Promoting and supporting independence by actively involving individuals in managing their own care;
- Preventing isolation by keeping older residents connected to the larger Morningside Gardens community; and
- Reflecting integrity, professionalism, responsibility, warmth and respect, and a commitment to diversity.

EBay Project

The MRHS EBay team is composed of volunteers, mostly recent retirees led by Angela Schramm. The team is dedicated to giving back to their community and has learned the skills of online marketing, selling and distributing through EBay. In 2018, the team raised more than \$10,000 for the benefit of MRHS.

Partnership With Mount Sinai Hospital

MRHS and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine have established a partnership to present the *Mind Matters* program to the residents at Morningside Gardens. Through a UJA Federation grant, Mount Sinai geriatrician Joyce Fogel, MD, and geriatric psychologist Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD, work with the MRHS community on issues related to memory and aging.

Since 2017, Dr. Fogel and Dr. Hinrichsen have presented a series of talks, discussions and workshops, led either by themselves or by guest speakers with expertise in various fields of aging and medicine. Highlights in 2018 included “Aging, Memory Loss and Dementia” with Dr. Stella Karantzoulis and “The Management of Depression in Older Adults” with Dr. Sharon See. Also included were regular “Ask the Doc” sessions, where Gardens residents can sign up for one-on-one consultations with Dr. Fogel or Dr. Hinrichsen.

EPIC Program at MRHS

The EPIC Program is the result of collaboration between three organizations: Emeritus Professors in Columbia (EPIC); Columbia University School of Professional Studies; and MRHS. Started in 2017, the series is open to the public without charge, taking place in the MRHS Center.

Emeritus Professors in Columbia (EPIC) is a professional and social fellowship of people who have formally retired from their Columbia careers as university professors, researchers, and administrators but are still professionally active. In 2018 presentation highlights included Gardens resident Phyllis Tribble’s “Eve and Adam in the Gardens” and Michael Susi’s offbeat “Columbia University on Morningside Heights – The Early Years in Postcard Views.”

The New MRHS Space

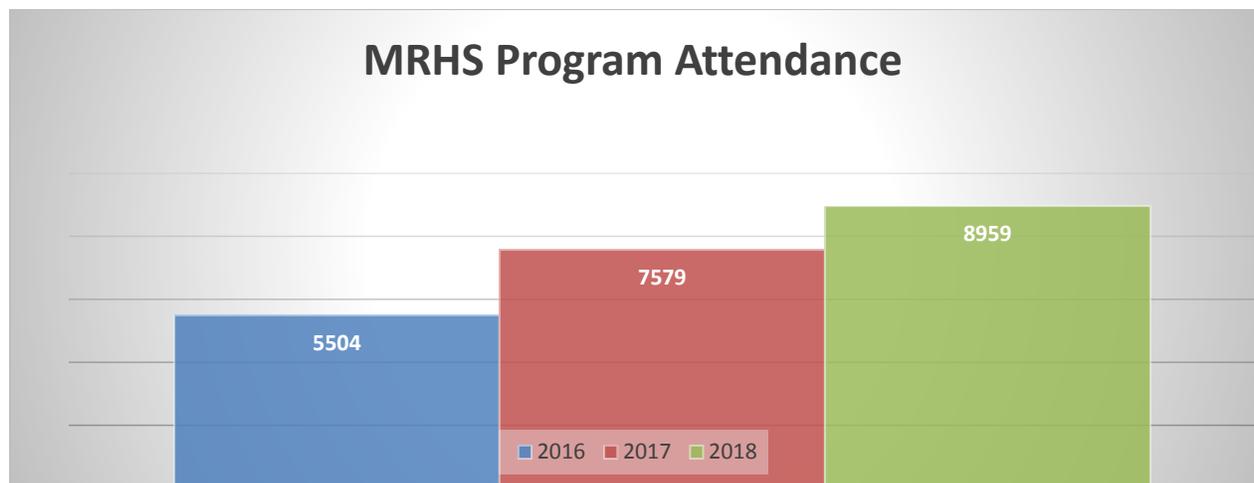
The Renovation of the MRHS Program and Office Space was completed on April 3, 2017. In 2018, the first full year of use, additional accessories were added, such as an all-purpose portable oven and air-fryer, used for cooking demonstrations. MRHS volunteer Michio Ryan, who passed away unexpectedly in January, 2019, was responsible for ordering and organizing many of the new accessories, which have helped make the new space a more user-friendly environment.

The new space utilizes principles of Universal Design, making the space accessible to the older adult and disabled community. The architect, Matthias Hollwich of HWKN, and interior designer, Susanne Wagner, specialize in designing spaces for an aging population. They incorporated the following design elements into the new center:

- grab bars integrated throughout the space for balance and mobility
- flooring composed of a rubberized, slip-resistant material that promotes easy mobility as well as cushioning falls

- sturdy furniture items throughout the space, which promote stability and easy movement for users
- special lighting that reduces shadows and utilizes natural light, beneficial for those with the vision-impairment
- contrasting color schemes throughout the space to promote easy navigation, particularly for users with cognitive design or vision impairment
- fixtures and accessories that are accessible and easy to use, requiring a minimum of stretching (to cabinets) and fine motor movements for utensils

In addition, a media lounge was constructed, which promotes socialization and the use of a community space, since isolation has been recognized as a leading cause of decline in the aging population. MRHS programs have seen increased attendance and usage, as residents have been drawn to the comfortable and inviting new rooms (see chart below.) Other community groups have also requested use of the space to host various community activities



Attendance at MRHS activities has increased significantly since the New MRHS Center opened, as demonstrated in the chart above

MRHS in the Community

NORC programs are meant to operate as a hub of services for older adults.

Consequently, MRHS works closely with a number of service providers in the community.

As described before, in recent years MRHS has established programs with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine called *Mind Matters* and with Columbia University's EPIC program. Mount Sinai also works with MRHS in providing physician visits to homebound NORC residents, while Columbia Doctors, affiliated with New York Presbyterian Hospital, provides nurse practitioner visits.

MRHS established a health care partnership with the New Jewish Home (NJH) in 2013. NJH not only brings a wealth of experience and resources in working with the aging population, they also made it possible for us to retain the same health care staff (Marie Phillips, RN, MPH, and Jennifer Paul, CNA) who have been working with Gardens residents for over twenty years.

Staff from Mount Sinai St. Luke's Hospital Center distribute seasonal flu shots every fall. In 2018, fifty-two individuals were immunized by the team of providers, at no cost to the recipients. Over the years, MRHS has also worked with Mount Sinai St. Luke's in providing health care screenings and health promotion events, as well as developing grant proposals for new programs to serve the community.

MRHS works closely with Dr. Michael Correa, whose office is located on the grounds of Morningside Gardens on Amsterdam Avenue, and who treats many older residents. MRHS also works with Isabella Community and Home Care to coordinate meals-on-wheels and home care services to residents of Morningside Gardens.

MRHS and the Early Alzheimer's Foundation have been working in partnership since 2006 to present the Memory Tree program. This support program was developed to address the needs of people in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, as well as those who have self-identified memory issues.

As a site for interns from the Columbia University's School of Social Work and for Occupational Therapy interns from Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, MRHS works alongside leading practitioners in the field. MRHS also works with cultural and service organizations such as the Teachers & Writers Collaborative, Concerts in Motion, Dances For a Variable Population, ReServe, Read Ahead, and Columbia University's Wallach Art Gallery.

As a member of the West Side Inter-Agency Council for the Aging (WSIACA), LiveOn NY, the Non-Profit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCCNY), the Human Services Council, and State-Wide Senior Action, MRHS consults and coordinates activities regularly with representatives of other community agencies. The MRHS Executive Director is co-chair of the NORC Directors meeting group, which holds quarterly meetings at the UJA Federation of New York. MRHS staff and volunteers have made presentations at the annual conference of the American Society on Aging for the past eleven years, as well as at other professional meetings.

Partnership Committee

The goal of the MRHS Partnership Committee is to establish ties with the wider community beyond Morningside Gardens. The committee seeks to solicit input from the wider community regarding MRHS programs and services and to establish linkages that are mutually beneficial to MRHS and to community organizations, merchants, and other stakeholders.

New Partnerships, New Programs in 2018

MRHS introduced a number of new programs, along with new partnerships, in 2018.

"I Am A Caregiver"

Thanks to our new partnership with the PSS Circle of Care, MRHS was able to offer, "I Am A Caregiver," a support group for Gardens residents caring for a family member, especially those caring for someone with Alzheimer's. Our partnership with PSS enables MRHS to offer the group at no cost to participants.

The labors and stresses of caregiving, frequently provided by older adults themselves, have become recognized as a major social and public health issue as the population ages. MRHS is pleased to be able to offer this new support group to its clients.

"I think that MRHS does a great job of building our entire community. I am grateful for your entire staff and board."
--- Morningside Gardens Resident

Free Computer Classes

Thanks to our new partnership with the New York United Jewish Association and the JCC of Marine Park, as well as ongoing support from Councilman Mark Levine, MRHS offered a free nine-session, twenty-seven-hour computer course for Gardens residents and others in the community. The course included Microsoft WORD, EXCEL, and QuickBooks, taught by a trained instructor.

The course utilized MRHS's new technology, including flat screens and WiFi access. Familiarity with computer technology is becoming more important in the lives of older adults and we were happy to facilitate learning. Councilman Levine presented certificates to each participant at the end of the course.

Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Working in partnership with Borough President Gale Brewer's office, MRHS provided access to the Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program, a food co-op that requires no upfront entry costs. Residents were able to sign up every other week to receive a bag of fresh produce grown at a local farm, all for a moderate cost.

The program was coordinated by MRHS volunteer, Cecile Russo. Most food co-op programs require participants to pick up their orders, but through this special program produce was delivered to the MRHS office. The importance of fresh fruits and vegetables in the diets of older adults is well-recognized by healthcare professionals, so we were happy to provide this opportunity.

"MRHS allowed my mother to remain at home until she was 104. MRHS is a spectacular organization."
--- Morningside Gardens Resident

Intergenerational Variety Show

Assistant Director Joanna Stolove and Social Worker Saudia Garnette coordinated a new program funded by the UJA Federation of NY. The Intergenerational Variety Show promoted the performance skills of residents, especially older residents, of Morningside Gardens, while fostering a sense of intergenerational community. The diverse group of performers spanned the range of ethnicities and ages, including young children and their parents, as well as older adults. The programs took place on Sunday afternoons and were topped off by refreshments and socializing.

Executive Director's Report

After a hectic 2017 that involved moving from our temporary space in Building VI and adjusting to our newly renovated space in Building I; absorbing the scare of a possible loss of state funding (subsequently resolved); and settling all costs associated with the renovation, as well as fine-tuning last-minute additions to the space; after all of that, 2018 provided an opportunity to take a breath and appreciate the new surroundings. Our friend and volunteer, Michio Ryan, was charged with “accessorizing” the new space, which he started in 2017 and continued through 2018. With all of the Morningside Gardens community, we mourn the loss of Michio, who died unexpectedly in January, 2019. As cited elsewhere, attendance at MRHS activities continued to climb in 2018, no doubt due to the attraction of the new space. Morningside Gardens groups were also able to enjoy the use of the new space for sanctioned activities. It felt as though MRHS went back to being itself again in 2018, albeit somewhat spruced up!

Ron Bruno

Spring Recognition Luncheon

On June 20, 2018, MRHS hosted its twenty-fifth Annual Spring Recognition Luncheon to recognize the 166 volunteers who contributed to the program in 2017. Thanks to Rev. Debra Northern and Rev. Lynn Harper, nearby Riverside Church made its elegant ninth floor Tower Room available to MRHS. The room was also made available to MRHS for our Winter Celebration in December.

Special recognition was given to volunteers who contributed extraordinary service. Former MRHS President Eileen Canty was recognized “for her unselfish gift to the Morningside community,” which, in addition to her chair responsibilities, included such projects as organizing the community Thanksgiving Dinner, the interfaith Seder and the intergenerational Fall Fair. Two volunteers were recognized for their work on the MRHS Flea Market. Tina Lal was recognized as being “first to arrive and last to leave, she just goes to work whether it is setting up or cleaning up, packing or unpacking, stuffing envelopes or selling flea market items.” Kamu Kamadoli was recognized for all her work overseeing the jewelry department of the Flea Market, where she “sorted, organized, repaired, and valued the pieces before arranging them for sale.”

Although not a volunteer, MRHS Nurse Marie Phillips was recognized for her twenty years of service to residents of Morningside Gardens. In serving some of the most vulnerable residents in the community over these two decades, Ms. Phillips has demonstrated “dedication, professionalism and above all, caring,” in bringing healthcare services to Gardens residents.

Also honored were members of the MRHS Legacy Society. These are individuals who have chosen to leave a bequest to MRHS. More than 60 guests attended the event and were addressed by guest speaker Donna Corrado, Commissioner of the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA.) Commissioner Corrado recounted incidents from her childhood that instilled in her the critical difference that volunteers can make in a community. Referring to MRHS as the “gold standard” in NORC programs, she went on to thank MRHS volunteers for their dedication and service to the organization and to the community at large. Hot and cold refreshments followed and were enjoyed by all at this festive event.

Volunteers in 2018

Mildred Acosta
Luis Argueta
Linda Aristondo
Nora Armani
Emily Baldwin
Mark Barth
Amy Berg
Chris Berg
Robin Berson
Odete Bigote
Nick Blair
Marianne Brinigar
Anne Burley
Marion Butler-Mills
Anne Canty
Eileen Canty
Sharon Carr
John W. Carter
Sharon Lockhart Carter
Chi Chaoyuan
Rani Chaudhary
Susan Chimonas
Barbara Clark
Bob Clark
Frank Collela
Diane Cook
Anisa Costa
Len Costa
Carlotta Damanda
Gregory Darling
Mary Davidson
Mike Davidson
Roy Davidson
Michael De Borja
Skip Delano
Ralph Della Cava
Peter Dewey
Kate Dunn
Nancy Eder
Sarah Eggleston
Sandy Elkind
Anne Ellis
Tova Francus
Suzy Frazer
Ellen Fried
Conor Gaffney
Corinne Gaffney
Deanna Gates
Conchita Gonzalez
Tom Goodridge
Bea Gottlieb
Joyce Gottlieb
Shirley Graves

Candy Gulko
Eben Guran
Taviel Guran
Sidney Guran
Eleanor Haray
Harper, Rev. Lynn Casteel
Peggy Haskins
Beatrice Hawkins
Xiaohong He
Joanna Herman
Richard Herstein
Paula Herz
Kathy Hinton
John Johnson
Margaret Johnson
Ching Juhl
Sean Juhl
Kamu Kamadoli
Sherry Kane
Joanna Kapner
John Kapner
Pamela Kellnor
Margaret Ketley
Harriet Chan King
Leslie Kiss
Liza Knapp
Maureen Knapp
Susan Kohn
Robert Komatsu
Madelyne Kraft
Lydia LaFleur
Albertina Lal
Mary Lanning
Marie Ledoux
Tiana Leonard
Elinor Levin
Joan Levine
Norman Levine
Alice Lilly
Suqing Liu
Michelle Lou
Boyd Lowry
Mary Lowry
Charles Macdonald
Rachel Martin
Aliza Mazor
Allen Mellen
Liz Mellen
Fran Miller
Susan Miller
Dana Minaya
Frank Minaya
Gregory Minaya

Anna Minsky
Melinda Moore
Galila Morahg
Gil Morahg
Joan Morford
Ozier Muhammad
Frank Munzer
Marjorie Nissen
Rev. Debra Northern
Barbara O'Farrell
Chris Pawelski
Mary Ellen Peinelt
Patricia Pell
Michele Pellar
Edna Philiba
Rita Marie Pullium
Victor Quintana
Donna Quiros
Elise Rackmill
Lisa Redd
Cecilia Ridette
Cynthia Rock
Leah Rose
Marion Rothenberg
Neil Rothfeld
Mildred Roxborough
Mary Lou Russell
Cecile Russo
Michio Ryan
Laura Brown Sands
Kathy Sanson
Dorothy Savage
Angela Scramm
John Seaman
Maggie Sears
Surendra Sharma
Merryl Sheldon

Iris Shen
Mytri Singh
Carla Slomin
Alene Smith
Dilia Solorzano
Mark Speyer
Aidan Stack
George Stack
Will Stack
Susan St. John-Parsons
Alan Stricoff
Jonathan Stricoff
Max Stolove
Molly Sweeney
Hilah Thomas
Ken Thomas
Peggy Thomas
Karl Tiedemann
Kathleen Todd
Usa Ungsunan
Sydney Weinberg
Liz Wiesen
Audraine Wilson
Emily Woo
Marion Wright
Shuli Wu
Thisbe Wu
Marion Yeh
Samuel Yeh
Margaret Yi
June Zaccone
Linda Zehnder
Anna Zhang
Esther Zhang
Theresa Thompson Ziegler



Treasurer's Report and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

I joined the board of MRHS in March of 2016 and it has been a very rewarding experience being part of an organization that provides support and services to members of our community at large. I'm a Certified Public Accountant and have served as Treasurer since I joined the board.

The responsibilities of the Treasurer at MRHS include presenting a financial statement at monthly board meetings, serving on the Finance & Audit committee to review and finalize annual budgets, monitoring bank accounts and balances, and signing checks. On the operating side MRHS has adequate financial resources that enable it to cover ongoing operating expenses and provide program activities that are integral to the Naturally Occurring Retirement Center (NORC) here at Morningside Gardens. It's not only the financial resources that sustain and continue to grow the activities of MRHS but the people involved in making this happen. They are the staff and the volunteers who work in partnership to serve the community and ensuring that programs and facilities are tailored to meet the requirements of the users. They do this mindful of the financial budget and have succeeded in providing programs and activities at a lower cost than might be expected.

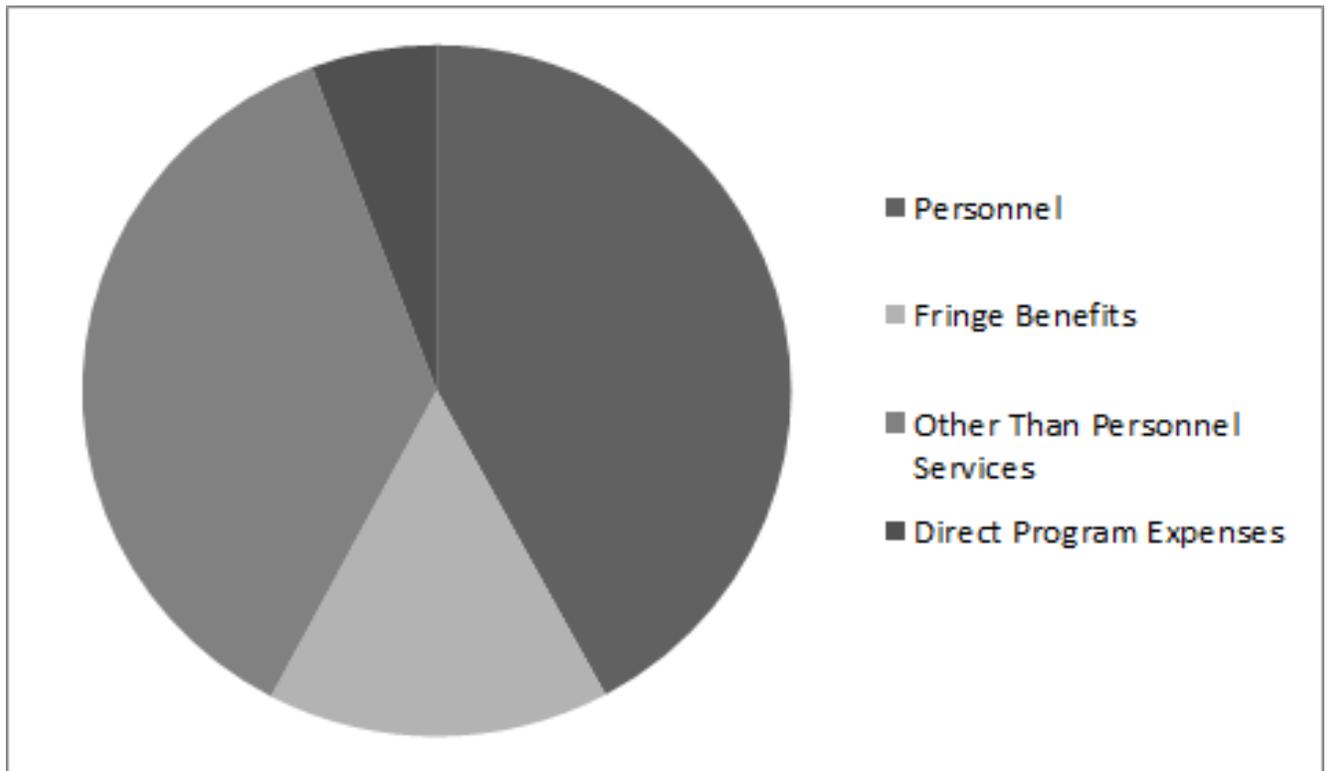
In fiscal year 2018, MRHS received program funding from the New York State Office for the Aging (SOFA) and the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA). Other sources of funding included Columbia University, The Metzger Foundation, UJA Federation of New York and West Harlem Development Corporation. In addition, MHHC has continued to provide very generous support to MRHS and without which we would not be able to provide the full range of services currently on offer. MRHS is additionally supported by contributions to our annual fund from the Morningside Gardens community and beyond. In 2018 our annual fund appeal raised in excess of fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000)! Other sources of revenue include proceeds from eBay sales, a silent auction during the Holiday Party, the annual Holiday Bazaar and bequests to MRHS from members of our Legacy Society.

MRHS hold their primary checking accounts along with reserve fund accounts with CitiBank. Business money-market accounts of liquid reserve funds are with CitiBank and City National Bank. A board-designated reserve fund is held with New York Community Trust Fund. The line of credit we accessed with Chase to cover costs associated with the renovations of MRHS was paid off in full in 2018. I'm happy to say we are a debt free organization.

As we continue to provide and expand the range of services in our newly renovated center, we are also very aware of the need to maintain fiscal responsibility to make sure this continues well into the future. Integral to the fiscal oversight of MRHS for the last number of years has been Maureen Knapp, Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee, who is stepping down from her role in 2019. I would like to thank Maureen for all of her great work and the wealth of experience she brought to the position as Chair and know that we are stronger because of her!

All said and done, MRHS has been a great achievement on the part of all involved and I sincerely thank our community at large as well as our staff and the volunteers for making this happen.

Thank you,
Conor Gaffney, Treasurer.



(Copies of the MRHS Financial Report are available at the MRHS Office, 100 LaSalle Street, #MC, New York, NY.)

MRHS Finance and Audit Committee Report FY 2018

The Finance & Audit Committee (a standing Committee of the Board), was comprised of the following members in 2018, whose dedicated service to MRHS and its financial is most gratefully acknowledged:

Official Voting Committee Members:

Maureen Knapp (Chair of the Committee, Vice President of the MRHS Board)

Conor Gaffney (MRHS Treasurer, Director)

Cynthia Rock (MRHS Director)

Non-Voting Members:

Michael Davidson (President of the MRHS Board; Ex-Officio)

Ron Bruno (Executive Director; Ex-Officio)

Alan Stricoff (Controller; Ex-Officio)

The MRHS By-Laws charge the Finance & Audit Committee with the following responsibilities, all of which were successfully and actively carried out this past year by its members:

1. Propose/recommend the Annual Operating Budget of MRHS;
2. Review and approve audits, financial statements, 990's, the operating budget, contracts and major expenditures;
3. Review and put into place policies governing MRHS Finances;
4. Review and direct the investment of MRHS funds;
5. Respond to the Auditor's Management Letter (if appropriate);
6. Make recommendations to the Board with respect to the overall financial health and funding of MRHS;
7. Review and approve major expenditures and contracts in all areas of the funding, real estate and operations of MRHS.

Throughout FY 2018 the Committee met on a regular basis with a full complement of members to exercise its stewardship of MRHS Finances and Financial Reporting. The following are highlights of the Committee's specific contributions to MRHS this Fiscal Year:

1. Worked closely with the Executive Director and the Board to meet strategic challenges related to an ongoing anticipated deficit in the operating budget and to find channels for confronting and offsetting steadily rising expenses;
2. Reviewed and approved major agreements, contracts and lending agreements entered into in FY 2018 and exercised oversight of the Executive Director's allocation of operating funds;

3. Continued to collaborate and advise the Treasurer, Executive Director and Comptroller about borrowing and repayment needs as they related to the funding of the major leasehold improvements that were completed last year to ensure adequate liquidity, provide for adequate operating funds and to ensure MRHS could cost-effectively meet its debt obligations.
4. For the fourth consecutive year, approved an annual retirement account distribution for MRHS staff;
5. Budgeted and secured approval for MRHS staff to receive an salary adjustment of 3.0%.
6. Collaborated with the Personnel Committee and Executive Director to renew and fund high-quality, cost-effective health insurance plans for MRHS staff;
7. In collaboration with the MRHS Controller, continued to review and update the format and content of financial reports (including monthly and interim period liquidity and budget analysis reports) to ensure the greatest degree of clarity and transparency to the Board in reporting MRHS financials, budgeting, funding, reserves and investments;
8. Continued to uphold this Fiscal Year the investment/funds policy established in FY 2015 regarding Legacy Society and other major Private/Estate donations, ensuring that the placement of these be fully reviewed and approved by the Committee and the Board on a case-by-case basis and held separately in Board-Designated Funds. This action ensures that these donations are handled with due care and respect and that their use is consistent with the integrity of MRHS' Mission, while being accounted for separate from regular operating funds;
9. Fully reviewed the Corporation's 990 Report, Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter with the Controller, Auditor and MRHS Board. MRHS' Accountant, (Gary Eisenkraft), together with the Committee presented this year's audited financial statements to the MRHS Board (NB: Once again, we received an Unqualified Audit. No response to the routine Management Letter issued by the auditor for FY 2017 was necessary);
10. Investigated terms of insurance coverages held by MRHS and began an active review of the adequacy of insurance lines (property, liability and professional liability) carried by MRHS to appropriately mitigate risk in a cost-effective manner. This review has not yet been fully completed/finalized and continues into FY 2019);

Please note that all filed financial documents, including the Form 990 and the audited financial statements for the period ended 12/31/2018 are on file with the MRHS Office.

Through the ardent dedication of MRHS' Executive Director, its staff and its committed Board of Directors, MRHS once again offered this community extremely rich and meaningful services. We would like to recognize the enrichment of, and savings in costs, of lives, wellness, quality of life, intergenerational connections, and critical work done for community members who were able to face life-altering circumstances with support, compassion and professionalism.

We close this Fiscal Year with deep appreciation to New York State and New York City agencies who provide funding to MRHS to carry out its mission, and to MHHC and our community of individual donors who continue to enable our organization to meet the needs of the Morningside Heights Housing Community.

Respectfully submitted,

**Maureen M. Knapp,
Vice President of the Board (Outgoing)
and Chair-MRHS Finance & Audit Committee**

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is responsible for identifying and recruiting new board members. The goal of the committee is to recruit candidates that have skills, talent, and life experiences that would help advance MRHS's mission and that reflect the diversity of the Garden's community.

The current committee is composed of Ozier Muhammad, Elise Rackmill and Mark Speyer. This committee is looking to fill several slots that opened because several members of the board have reached the 2nd term limit.

The names of the following are those who have served two full terms by the end of March 31, 2019, with one exception*:

Maureen Knapp
Barbara Clark
Angela Schramm
Susan Chimonas *

The newest member of the board is Robert Hill, who is serving as chair of the newly formed, Technology and Website Committee.

Ozier Muhammad, Chair

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is responsible for reviewing issues concerning MRHS employees, often in close coordination with the Finance and Audit Committee. This year the committee members were Harriet King and Mark Speyer; Eileen Canty and Amy Berg were on the committee for part of the year.

Compensation & Benefits

In recent years the Personnel Committee has recommended important adjustments in employee retirement accounts, health care benefits, and compension. In the past year, we recommended maintaining all these at the new levels, with cost-of-living adjustments. We recognize that MRHS must allocate its financial resources wisely and responsibly, and we feel that good support of our excellent staff is a major part of the allocation. Our recommendations were adopted by the Finance and Audit Committee and by the full Board of MRHS.

Annual Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director

The Committee chair evaluated the performance of the Executive Director during the past year and found it to be outstanding, particularly in the context of several unusual challenges: completion of a major renovation, which involved operating in temporary office space, and then moving operations into the newly renovated space; significant staff changes, including the loss of a full-time social worker also involved in fund-raising; and the announced loss of a major portion of our funding from New York State. Extraordinary efforts by the Executive Director and others resulted in the restoration of the lost funding. In the midst of all these challenges the Executive Director succeeded in keeping our regular programs and services operating at their expected level of excellence.

Mark Speyer, Chair

Education and Advocacy Committee

During the past year the Education and Policy Committee focused our efforts in three areas. We have worked to increase outreach and build knowledge about MRHS programs and services in the broader Morningside Gardens Community, (Lobby Presentations). Externally, we are consolidating our relationships with other Advocates for Seniors, (Senior Committee Community Board 9, AARP, Senator Brian Benjamin's Senior Steering Committee, New York Statewide Senior Action, etc.). Within the MRHS Board, we are sharing policy analysis and updates that impact our program and the members of our community.

Elise Rackmill, Chair

Program Committee

The Program Committee continues to organize yearly traditional events. The committee meets monthly. In 2018 special programs included:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: On 2/12/18 Herb Boyd conducted a well-attended program entitled “From Malcolm X to Trump: The Rise of White Nationalism”. The event was followed by light refreshments. Also on 2/15 Ozier Muhammed conducted a curated tour of the photography exhibit “Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr”. Ozier was one of the photographers shown in the exhibit. The tour was followed by a reception at the MRHS office.

THE ANNAL RECOGNITION LUNCHEON was held on 6/20/18 at Riverside Church in the 9th Floor Tower Room. This Luncheon recognizes the more than 150 volunteers who contribute their time, effort and skills to MRHS throughout the year. The Luncheon also recognizes the valuable support of the Legacy Society. The speaker was Donna Corrado Commissioner of the NYC Department of Aging. Special recognition was given to Kamu Kamadello, Tina Lal, Marie Phillips, RN, and Eileen Canty recent president of the board.

THE FALL FAIR was held on September 30th in conjunction with the Family Activities Committee, MGCA and the Morningside Players. MRHS rented out 13 tables to adults—children displayed their offerings on ground blankets. The EBay program made over \$1500 at this event.

THE THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON was on Tuesday November 20th thanks to the efforts of Sharon Lockhart Carter. This luncheon was a combined, sponsored effort with Columbia University and the 26th Precinct. It was held at Riverside Church in the 9th floor Tower Room. Twenty-eight people from Morningside Gardens attended. Transportation was provided to the event.

Finally, **THE WINTER CELEBRATION**, was held on Wednesday December 12th from 4-7 pm also at Riverside Church, which catered the event. Residents of all ages were invited. Entertainment was provided by Vocal Ease.

The Program Committee is composed of Bea Hawkins, Sharon Lockhart Carter, Ozier Muhammed, Elise Rackmill, Angela Schramm, Sydney Weinberg, Linda Zehnder, Nora Armani, and myself, Barbara Clark

Barbara Clark, Chair

Daily Money Management Committee

The Daily Money Management program is designed to work with seniors who have been identified as needing assistance organizing matters related to their finances. The social workers work with the clients and sometimes their families to assure bills are paid and the clients daily financial needs are addressed.

We met with Joanna and Saudia in April and Oct. to review the current client cases. The client names are not shared with the committee members.

Again, we were impressed with the level of professionalism and caring with which Joanna and Saudia approach this task.

Anne Burley
Susan Chimonas
Angela Schramm

Angela Schramm, Chair

Website and Technology Committee

The Website and Technology Committee is a new committee that is initially involved in addressing internet and related technology issues that the MRHS organization experiences. The initial committee is composed of Robert Hill, Mark Speyer, Ron Bruno, Joanna Stolove, Mike Davidson, and B. Chandrasekaran.

Early work involved assessing the viability of installing cable television service integrated into the recently built-out networking infrastructure. It was determined in consultation with the installing network engineer that due to the way network security was configured, it was advisable to either use a digital antenna or a separate service only for cable television, and the organization's discretion.

Additional consideration was given to reconfiguring the mrhsny.org website so that it uses the https:// protocol. As time progresses, we would like to see more online donations. The original http:// protocol works well, but was increasingly flagged as non-secure by third-party browsers. Working with the web hosting provider, this change was implemented.

By collecting and routinely reviewing website analytics, efforts will be made in the coming year to reorganize and update both the public-facing and the private areas of the MRHS website. For instance, as the blog feature of the site has gone stale and not been updated for a considerable period of time, decisions will be made whether to remove it, archive it, or reinvigorate it.

Robert Hill, Chair

