

FALL 2025

HEIGHTS AND HILLS • at home •



DEAR FRIENDS,

As the population of Brooklyn ages, we have seen an increase in need for our services. We are serving 27% more homebound older adults than one year ago. At the same time, like all nonprofits, we are facing challenges from evolving government priorities, rising operational costs, and increased competition for funding.

To address these competing challenges, our leadership team and board of directors set out to identify the most viable approaches to navigate our present and future state. After a year of thoughtful planning, exploration and collaboration, our board determined our best path forward would be as a major program embedded in a larger agency.

We are excited to announce that we are joining forces with Greenwich House, a 123 year-old Manhattan-based settlement house, well positioned to combine our missions, expertise, and resources to better serve older adults of New York.

Founded in 1902 on Thanksgiving Day, **Greenwich House (GH)** was established by neighbors committed to improving the lives of vulnerable New Yorkers—much like Heights & Hills. Today, GH serves more than 20,000 New Yorkers annually through programs that foster wellness, creativity, and connection. GH operates **four vibrant older adult centers; trauma-informed behavioral health centers; a renowned portfolio of youth, arts, and performing arts programs; and a workforce program**, open to all New Yorkers, that includes a special focus on older adults.



This affiliation is an opportunity to align our strengths and share best practices, which will position us to continue delivering exceptional programming, broaden access to services, and build resilience against future funding volatility.

Both organizations have strong, stable revenue and deep relationships with their clients. Heights & Hills will serve as a financially solid platform on which existing Greenwich House services can be brought to Brooklyn. Heights and Hill's programs, services, and staff will remain, and, over time, clients will hopefully see more Brooklyn-based services being offered through the relationship.

What will not change is our commitment to the values and mission that has always driven our work and brought our community together through volunteer activities. To ensure consistency and fidelity to our model, several members of the Heights and Hills board have joined the Greenwich House board.

Further, contributions to Heights and Hills will continue to go directly to programs that serve older adults in Brooklyn. Your generosity has built the foundation for this moment, and now it will help propel us into a new era of impact. **Together, we are building something stronger than ever before.**

With gratitude,

Carrie Zwiebel Bloss
Executive Director

Darren Bloch
CEO Greenwich House

A LETTER OF THANKS FOR LIFE-CHANGING CAREGIVER SUPPORT

I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you and your team at Heights and Hills, and to share just how deeply impactful your organization has been for me and my mom, particularly through the extraordinary support of Brontie Scott on your Caregiver Support Team.

When my mother's memory loss began to progress rapidly, we had no diagnosis, no plan, and no idea where to turn. She was later diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia, and it has been one of the hardest experiences of my life. I reached out to many organizations, but none offered the compassionate, responsive, and personalized support that Brontie did. **The social worker for my mom's neurologist recommended I contact Heights and Hills, and from the moment we connected with Brontie, everything changed.**

She visited my mom's apartment, guided me to critical resources, and showed up with empathy and clarity when I was exhausted, overwhelmed, and losing hope. As an only child balancing caregiving with a demanding full-time job, her presence has been life-saving. She not only helped navigate complex systems but made me feel truly seen and understood.

The care she extends is both deeply human and highly effective, a rare combination that I imagine reflects the values of Heights and Hills as an organization. I'm truly grateful for everything she's done, and I wanted you to know just how life-saving her presence has been for me during this journey.

Thank you for the incredible work you lead and the impact you and your team continue to have on families like mine. I feel very fortunate to have found Heights and Hills when I did, and I'm especially thankful to have had Brontie during such a difficult time. I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you and your team at Heights and Hills, and to share just how deeply impactful your organization has been for me and my mom, particularly through the extraordinary support of Brontie Scott on your Caregiver Support Team. – S.S.



BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR HEALTHY AGING

Heights and Hills Community Outreach Social Workers attended the Healthy Aging Wellness Expo. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with older adults, caregivers, and community partners who are passionate about wellness and healthy living.

Throughout the day, they met caregivers eager to learn more about the free programs and supportive services Heights and Hills offers and many expressed how valuable it was to have access to information and resources that can make a real difference in their caregiving journey. Our outreach table stayed busy as we shared materials, answered questions, and built new relationships with organizations who shared our mission of empowering families and promoting healthy aging.

Events like this remind us why community outreach is so essential. Each conversation reinforced the importance of creating spaces where caregivers and older adults feel seen, supported, and connected. We left the expo inspired and motivated to continue expanding our outreach efforts throughout Brooklyn this fall.



CLIENT STORY: ONE FAMILY'S SUPPORT OVER GENERATIONS

As an organization founded by and rooted in our community, it is no surprise that many of our donors and volunteers were first introduced to Heights and Hills during their early years.

This summer, we were happily surprised to receive a donation made in honor of **Dante Pilkington and Natalie Hession**, who had recently married. As part of their wedding celebration, they asked guests to contribute to Heights and Hills—a beautiful gesture that speaks volumes about the kind of life they're building together. They also shared that one of their first dates was

volunteering together, when Natalie joined Dante while he went grocery shopping for one of our homebound clients in Flatbush. From the start, giving back has been part of their story.

Dante is one of our regular volunteers and his family has been involved with Heights and Hills since our founding. His grandfather, Antonio Magagnini, served on our board of directors. And his parents, Miranda Magagnini and Matthew Pilkington, have been longtime supporters of our work.

In a city as large and fast-paced as ours it's easy to feel anonymous. But families like the Pilkingtons remind us that connection and community are not only possible—they are lasting. By being involved with us for more than five decades, this family has helped to support and sustain Heights and Hills and in doing so has made a lasting impact on their neighbors.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL AGING

On September 22, 2025, Heights and Hills gathered with friends, neighbors, and community leaders to celebrate 10 years of community, care, and connection at the Park Slope Center for Successful Aging.

When Heights and Hills began operating the Center in 2015, we chose the name because it reflects our vision for aging for all. A decade later, that vision continues to guide our work and inspire our community. The celebration was made extra special with the presence of Council Member Shahana Hanif and Assemblymember Robert Carroll, both of whom have provided significant grants in support of our programs. Assemblymember Carroll even performed a song to mark the occasion.

We are grateful to everyone who joined us for this milestone and look forward to the next decade of building a Brooklyn where all older adults can age with dignity, connection, and joy.





HEIGHTS AND HILLS

supporting brooklyn's older adults

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2025 HEIGHTS AND HILLS VIRTUAL 5K FUN RUN/WALK

We did it! Thank you so much to our donors and fundraisers for supporting and participating in this year's Virtual 5K Fun Run/Walk. Your donations allow us to support older adults and their caregivers with service enhancements such as our shopping and tech squads.

**WE WOULD LIKE
TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THOSE WHO
WALKED OR RAN
IN SUPPORT OF
OUR WORK.**

Carrie Bloss • Amanda Chessa • Jen Clarke
Anne Marie Gussman • Gitanjali Faleiro
Joslyn Jantzen • Bill Kearns • Karen Richardson
Shannese Sutton • Triva John Thomas • Sean Thomas
Mandy Walis • Jennifer Weighartchin

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