



Building a Haven of Hope

Empathy

Compassion

Integrity

Community

Excellence



“The people from East Side House...
They back you up, and they want you
to excel in life.”

– Hector Carvajal, Founder, Don Carvajal Café

Building a Haven for Hope

A \$30M Campaign to Invest in the Future That the
Bronx and Upper Manhattan Deserve

Since 1891, tens of thousands of New York’s most vulnerable community members throughout the Bronx and Upper Manhattan have turned to East Side House for education, career, and supportive services. It is one of New York City’s oldest non-profit social services organizations and a pillar of the Bronx.

Those who participate in our programs are among the most in need in the country, representing some of the most challenging statistics relating to housing, health and nutrition, mental health, and employment. In the Bronx’s Mott Haven neighborhood, where East Side House is based, this includes:

- **Poorest U.S. Congressional District**
- **Under 35% of 3rd–8th graders with passing reading & math test scores**
- **High rates of parental employment instability**

Our mission is to improve lives and enrich the quality of life in the community. We aim to fulfill this mission by ensuring:

- **Safety & Security:** We provide safe and nurturing spaces where children, their families, and older adults throughout the area can thrive.
- **Equality:** We work across sectors to obtain resources for our neighborhoods and cultivate a future where all communities have the chance to excel, including those who may have previously faced barriers, such as immigrants, individuals seeking educational advancement, and older adults.
- **High Standards of Living:** We provide services that ensure community members have access to healthy foods, quality education, reliable childcare, professional development, vibrant cultural activities, and more.

Central to our \$30M comprehensive campaign is the creation of the Haven Campus, which will house both the Haven Charter High School and a state-of-the-art community center. This integrated space will provide education, workforce training, and supportive services to empower students, families, and community members.

Join our campaign and make a direct difference in the lives of people transforming their futures. Your support can uplift communities and create a brighter future for the individuals and families East Side House proudly serves.

About Us

Headquartered in the South Bronx, East Side House serves over 14,000 individuals and families annually in communities throughout the Bronx and Upper Manhattan through education, career, and supportive services.

Our History

1891

Founded on Manhattan’s Upper East Side by philanthropist Everett Wheeler

1963

Moves to the South Bronx, where the need is greatest

1974

Celebrates 20th year of its flagship fundraiser, the Winter Show

1999

Formalizes a relationship with the New York City Department of Education

2008

Establishes Bronx Haven High School partnership

2013

Establishes a workforce development division

2017

Launches post-secondary pathways programs

2020

Opens a food pantry during the COVID-19 pandemic

2023

Awarded charter to open Haven Charter High School



What Will Our Campaign Achieve?

As a trusted community partner, East Side House will dramatically increase our impact by investing in welcoming, safe, state-of-the-art facilities that our community deserves and in programming and operations that will scale with our facilities.

Our plans will build on our long history of engaging directly with the community and investing in staff who often come from and reflect the neighborhoods of our students and families.

Our campaign aims to:

Introduce the Haven Campus – Education and Community in One: The Haven Campus will unite the Haven Charter High School and a new community center, creating an integrated hub for education and community support. This campus will prepare high school students from across New York City—prioritizing those in the Bronx—for careers in high-growth fields through partnerships with leading institutions like New York Presbyterian. At the same time, the community center will offer vital programs and services tailored to the needs of children, young adults, parents, and older adults, including workforce training, social services, and recreational activities. By housing educational and community resources under one roof, the Haven Campus will empower families and strengthen the community fabric for generations to come.

Deliver Responsive Services: We will grow East Side House’s endowment to ensure we can respond to urgent needs and unexpected crises with new programming, providing just-in-time services and stability to our community for decades to come.





East Side House By The Numbers

14,000

people served each year

29

sites throughout the Bronx and
Upper Manhattan

250

toddlers served, with 96%
exceeding NYS standards

600

elementary and middle school
students served through
afterschool and summer camp
programming

5,000+

students served per day by high
school & high school equivalency
programs

1,100

yearly graduates from East
Side House's high school and
equivalency programs

95%

graduates pursue college or
post-secondary education

\$570,000

kept in the community each year
by providing over 350 adults
with free tax services

250+

people placed in viable jobs each
year since the launch of Jobs
Plus programs

250,000

pounds of food delivered to
the community yearly

What is Our Track Record of Impact?

In communities where poverty is predicted to stunt achievement, East Side House consistently produces results that eclipse city, state, and national performances.

Our success is built upon a comprehensive and holistic portfolio of programs that provides support at every stage of the lifecycle – from birth through older adult years. Program participants and their families currently are served in 29 locations in the Bronx and Northern Manhattan including community centers, older adult centers, and public schools. Our programs and services include:

- Early Head Start/Head Start
- After-School and Enrichment
- Charter, High School, and High School Equivalency
- College Access
- Post-Secondary Pathways Program
- Workforce Development
- Older Adult Social Services and Programs

East Side House is unique for a personalized, inter-generational approach to programs and services that we pioneered, our Primary Person Model. The approach wraps around and puts supports in place for the whole family to thrive. It ensures every participant has regular check-ins with a Primary Person who fosters goal achievement. Additional social workers step in to address barriers that may interfere with participant progress.

**“East Side House was an extended family
for us where we didn’t have any.”**

– Deysi Casarubias, Summer Program Parent





Emmanuel Diaz

From Uprooted in Puerto Rico to Student Ambassador in Europe

“I am now BACK with people who care and believe in me.”

I was 9 years old when they showed up at my father's house in Puerto Rico, but the images are as clear as day. You don't forget when police bang on your door; the yelling and arguing...and you NEVER forget the confusion as they forced us into a police car with no explanation. I was being ripped away from a place I loved, a community with family and close friends and even a school where I felt like I belonged. All I felt was pain as my father was the last image I saw through the window as they drove us away. It would be years before I was told the whole story and even longer before I could be at peace with it.

I don't remember my parents ever being together and I was young when my mother moved us to the Bronx...



Emmanuel navigated a difficult youth but now dreams of business ownership. East Side House has supported him with multiple services:

- **After-School SONYC Program:** Emmanuel's middle school partnered with East Side House, leading to his enrollment in our after-school program. He took classes in photography and dance, expanding his horizons beyond standard public-school curricula.
- **Primary Person Model Support:** After-school staff provided comprehensive support to Emmanuel, extending their care to understand and engage his family.
- **Lehman Young Adult Borough Center:** Emmanuel took advantage of an evening school program that allowed him to recover missed credits and achieve his graduation goal.
- **Student Ambassador Program:** Emmanuel qualified to take part in a competitive, year-long leadership program that culminated in an all-expense paid expedition to Europe.
- **Post Secondary Pathways Program:** Post-graduation, Emmanuel plans to leverage our career pathways program for electrician training and business ownership.

**Contributions to the new Haven Campus will support
at-risk youth like Emmanuel and their families.**



How Will Education and Community at the Haven Campus Be Different?

The Haven Campus, home to Haven Charter High School and the new community center, is tackling the challenges of career preparation and college drop-out rates by combining education with essential community support.

Through a groundbreaking partnership with New York Presbyterian, the school will blend rigorous academics with workforce development, creating multiple pathways to economic opportunity. For high school graduates—particularly those needing social service support—this integration is key to bridging the gap between education and long-term success.

Haven Charter High School Highlights:

- **Preparation for College and Careers:** Offering certifications in EKG and Phlebotomy, Home Health Aide, CPR/First Aide, Certified Nurse Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Cisco Networking, and Microsoft. These programs equip students with skills for sustainable jobs and competitive wages.
- **Internships and Job Placements:** High school internships and job placements post-graduation ensure students gain critical work experience that supports their career trajectory.
- **Individualized Support:** Leveraging East Side House’s Primary Person Model, each student will have a dedicated social services expert to guide them through their academic and personal development journey.
- **Family Engagement:** The school will engage parents with support professionals who facilitate effective communication and help families contribute to their student’s success.
- **Innovative Grading System:** Performance and evidence-based grading will accurately reflect student progress and readiness, emphasizing learning and capability over test scores.

“We finally get to open a school that meets the needs of the whole student and addresses the academic, socio-emotional, and family unit.”

– Natalie Lozada, Founding Member of Haven Charter High School and Associate Executive Director





Hector Carvajal

From High School Internship to Business
Ownership

“I definitely see the world differently because of East Side House. There are people out there that really care about Black and Brown students like us.”

A prominent café owner and coffee purveyor, Hector Carvajal got involved with East Side House during high school. He had always been motivated to become a business owner, but by freshman year, he had begun to lose focus. After his mother discovered that he was skipping classes, she sent him to the Dominican Republic to work on his grandfather's farm for six months...



Hector found East Side House after returning from the Dominican Republic and thrived, supported by services including:

- **High School Partnership:** Hector first learned about East Side House after enrolling in Bronx Haven High School, where East Side House has a partnership to reach Bronx youth.
- **Internship Placement:** Hector used East Side House's high school services to obtain an internship at New York Life that enriched his understanding of stocks, bonds, and life insurance.
- **College Preparation:** With support from East Side House, Hector applied to college and earned degrees from Guttman Community College and University of Rochester.
- **Business Ownership:** In 2019, Hector transformed a project completed at the University of Rochester into a bustling business that celebrates his New York and Dominican heritage: the Don Carvajal Café.

Contributions to the Haven Campus will help to educate and prepare more young people like Hector for meaningful, life-changing careers.



Enriching Lives Through Community and Opportunity

The Community Center at the Haven Campus will be a transformative hub where education meets opportunity, personal growth, and community empowerment. Designed to amplify the impact of Haven Charter High School, this center will provide comprehensive programs that serve students, their families, and the broader Bronx community. Rooted in East Side House's historic mission of workforce development and education, this state-of-the-art space will nurture learning and growth beyond the classroom, fostering resilience, creativity, and economic opportunity.

With your support, this center will become a beacon of hope and progress, offering critical resources like career training, mental health support, recreational activities, and cultural programming. Together, we can build a space that embodies East Side House's century-long legacy of transforming lives and create a lasting impact for generations to come.

Community Center Highlights:

- **Recreational and Creative Spaces:** Facilities designed for young people to engage in activities that support well-being and reinforce lessons learned at the school.
- **Workforce Development and Adult Education:** Services that empower parents and older adults with skills training, job placement assistance, and financial literacy programs. This support helps families achieve economic stability, strengthening student outcomes.
- **STEM-based Afterschool Programs:** STEM programs that prepare elementary and middle school students for the 21st-century world will benefit them. These programs provide supplementary educational, cultural, and recreational activities and events after school, laying a strong foundation for future academic and career success.
- **Community Activities and Social Services:** Programs that promote cultural diversity, health, and safety, offering opportunities for participation and personal achievement. These activities build on East Side House's proven programs, ensuring that community members have the resources they need to thrive.



“Our community members deserve safe, nurturing environments that allow them to thrive.”

–Diana Rodriguez, Director of Development



Judy Brandon

From Art Student to Exhibitor at the Museum of the City of New York

“I love coming to the center and learning about other people, where they came from, their cultures, and traditions.”

Ms. Judy Brandon is a volunteer and class participant at East Side House’s Older Adult Center, where she brings her unique perspective to art and photography classes and champions youth mentorship programs. After leaving South Carolina, she arrived in the Bronx at the age of eight, accompanied by her mother and two sisters, with a limited knowledge of English. Married for 44 years, Ms. Judy takes pride in being a mother of four, a grandmother of 18, and a great-grandmother of one...



Judy’s work has created enriching experiences for many in the Bronx and beyond:

- **Older Adult Center:** Judy has contributed to East Side House’s Older Adult Center and its committee that plans celebrations and activities.
- **Photography Classes:** Judy has sharpened her photography skills and even exhibited one of her photographs at the Museum of the City of New York.
- **Housing Assistance Application:** In 2019, with the assistance of social workers, Judy successfully completed an application to secure new housing.

Contributions to the Haven Campus will help to enrich the lives of more community members like Judy.



Diandra Shears

From Fighting at School to Fighting Hunger at East Side House

“Everyone at East Side House kept fighting right alongside me.”

“I’m outta here.” These were the words Diandra Shears remembers saying to herself in the 10th grade. Following her mother’s incarceration, a falling out with her stepfather, and multiple fights, school suspensions, and a series of other traumatic life events, Diandra saw no other options. “I was fighting up to three times a week. School was a battleground and I’d reached my limit, so, I dropped out,” she said...



Diandra’s path to graduation and leadership positions at East Side House, including:

- **Alfred E. Smith YABC Program:** Through East Side House’s afternoon and evening programs for high schoolers, Diandra earned her high school diploma.
- **School Internship:** YABC staff members helped Diandra obtain an internship at the school office where she developed valuable clerical skills.
- **East Side House Program Assistant:** Shortly after graduation, Diandra started as a Program Assistant at an East Side House after-school program, and rapidly earned multiple promotions.
- **Program Director at Mill Brook Community Center:** Diandra helped residents achieve financial success through the community center's partnerships.
- **Director of Harvest to Haven:** Diandra now runs East Side House’s Harvest to Haven program, created during COVID-19 to address a rapid rise in food insecurity. It now makes 5,000 meal deliveries per week to families in need.

Contributions to our endowment will support employees like Diandra and funding for crisis-response programs like Harvest to Haven.



Help Us Build a Haven for Hope

We are seeking philanthropic partners who can invest in a new school and community center, advance critical programming and operations, and connect us to networks and partners.

With your support, we can transform lives, uplift communities, and create positive change in the Bronx and Upper Manhattan. By investing in East Side House, you are investing in the potential and prosperity of our community. Your support can be one of our most powerful tools as we collaborate to build a Haven for Hope.

For more information, please contact:

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EAST SIDE HOUSE SETTLEMENT

Empathy | Compassion | Integrity | Community Excellence

www.eastsidehouse.org