

40 Years of Housing,
Health and Human
Rights

COMMUNITY
ACCESS



Good Neighbor Gala
at the United Nations
May 8, 2014

40th Anniversary Good Neighbor Gala

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EVENING ITINERARY

Cocktail Reception

Program

Welcome

Stephen H. Chase, Board President, Community Access
Steve Coe, CEO, Community Access
Jan Alblas, Director, Pameijer, The Netherlands

Featured Speaker

Ivan Šimonović
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

Participant Remarks

Olivia Moishe
Leticia Rodriguez

Call for Support

Dinner Served

Facebook Rally

Closing

Heartfelt Thanks to Our 40th Anniversary Good Neighbor Gala Sponsors

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OUR FEATURED SPEAKER



Ivan Šimonović
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

Ivan Šimonović assumed his functions as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in July 2010, to head the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Before joining the United Nations, he held the position of Minister of Justice since 2008, having previously served as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, where he served as Senior Vice-President and President of the Economic and Social Council from 2001 to 2003.

A Croatian national, Mr. Šimonović worked as a professor of law at the University of Zagreb, where he served as Head of the Legal Theory Department, Vice-Dean, and Vice-Rector for international cooperation. He has extensive experience and publications in the fields of international relations, law, human rights, and development of national institutions. In an expert capacity, he served as a member of the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (i.e. the Venice Commission) and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), as well as the Agent of the Republic of Croatia before the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Mr. Šimonović obtained a graduate degree in law, a master's degree in public administration and politics, and a Ph.D. from the University of Zagreb. He has been a visiting scholar at the Universities of Graz and Yale. Born in Zagreb, Croatia, Mr. Šimonović is married with two children.



40 YEARS OF HOUSING, HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The spirit to defend basic human rights has fueled Community Access' mission for four decades.

Community Access was founded in 1974 as a response to the mass release of patients from New York's psychiatric hospitals. Our volunteer founders pooled their own money to rent and repair apartments in the Lower East Side to provide housing for community members struggling with mental illness and homelessness. In 1977 they bought two tenement buildings that were on the verge of foreclosure and created, what would be called a decade later, supportive housing.

Community Access has since expanded beyond housing to offer comprehensive support services, job training, counseling, education and advocacy programs to people living with HIV/AIDS, veterans, young people aging out of foster care, those with histories of substance use, and the formerly incarcerated. Our award-winning programs have been replicated across the country.

Community Access actively recruits and hires people with disabilities to work at the agency and to provide peer support to others in the community. We also train and empower mental health consumers to engage in activities that help shape city, state, and national mental health policies that can lead to system-wide change.

We are proud of our history, traditions, and the programs we've created over the past 40 years, but we're not resting on our laurels. Much remains to be done to improve the lives of those diagnosed with mental illness. During our 40th Anniversary year, we are launching several strategic initiatives to:

- ✓ develop 1,000 new units of supportive housing;
- ✓ create additional respite centers and alternatives to hospitalization;
- ✓ replicate our Howie the Harp training program to meet demand for human services workers and health care navigators in the new era of managed care.

We welcome you as a partner in our ongoing work to ensure the rights of all people with psychiatric disabilities to lead full and integrated lives in our city.



YOUR PASSPORT TO COMMUNITY ACCESS

Community Access assists people with psychiatric disabilities in making the transition from shelters and institutions to independent living. We provide safe, affordable housing and support services, and we advocate for the rights of people to live without fear or stigma.

This past year, we touched the lives of nearly 10,000 New Yorkers through:

- **Housing:** 1,400 low-income families and formerly homeless individuals housed each night in 18 apartment buildings developed in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn.
- **Job Training:** 80 peers trained at Howie the Harp and over 200 alumni assisted with career services.
- **Crisis Respite:** 100 individuals provided short-term respite in New York's first crisis respite center.
- **Support Line:** 6,000 calls answered on our peer-operated support line: 646-741-HOPE.
- **Recovery:** Nearly 1,000 individuals participated in Community Access recovery and support programs.

One of the best ways that you can help us continue to make a difference is to join our community!

- **Make a contribution to help end homelessness in NYC:**
communityaccess.org/donate
- **Participate in our annual charity walk on October 25th:**
communityaccess.org/WalkforCA
- **Join the conversation online:**
facebook.com/communityaccess
communityaccess.org/LinkedIn
communityaccess.org/blog
- **Come visit us and rally your friends, family and network to connect with us.** We are happy to schedule tours and host receptions at one of our 20 locations around the city. Please call John Williams at (212) 780-1400, ext. 7772 or email jwilliams@communityaccess.org.



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