A letter from the VRC President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2014 was a milestone for the Volunteer Referral Center as we celebrated 25 years of service to the people of New York City.

From the dream of a small group of dedicated community members, VRC has grown to become a dynamic resource that matches thousands of volunteers with opportunities at hundreds of nonprofits throughout the City. By recruiting and tapping into the City’s pool of committed volunteers, VRC offers a meaningful, effective way to help almost 300 organizations sustain their missions, thereby strengthening communities, families and individuals in New York City.

Each volunteer comes to us with a unique set of skills and interests. Our quarter-century of success lies in our ability to match their skills and interests with the needs of our non-profit partner organizations.

This is what we mean when we talk about personal service and expert placement.

The following pages report the highlights of this remarkable year of achievement and celebration. We are grateful to you and to all the friends, partners and supporters whose commitment made these achievements possible.

Robert Price
President

Pat Girardi
Executive Director
2014 was a year of collaborations, challenges, & celebrations.

- **Collaborations:** The VRC expanded our community of 300 partner agencies as we welcomed four new partners, providing each with prospective volunteers referred by our professional interviewers. We continued to collaborate with Bellevue Hospital and Health Advocates for Older People on two special events promoting healthcare volunteer opportunities and panel discussions made up of a cross-section of service categories. In partnership with the All Stars Project, we added a new recruitment event, hosting our first annual Volunteering in the Arts event with panelists representing music, dance, museums, education, and theatre.

- **Challenges:** VRC responded to the ever-changing world of technology and communications by integrating new online and social media, upgrading our software, hardware and website, and creating a higher presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter & Instagram. In combination with strategic online marketing, these innovations increased our visibility, strengthened our outreach, and promoted volunteer referrals and placements. All of these strategies enhanced the traditional one-on-one, face-to-face interviews that are the hallmarks of VRC’s expert placement and personal service.

- **Celebrations:** For the second year, VRC’s summer harbor cruise recognized the contributions of a group of patrons, volunteers and agency representatives. Our traditional holiday open house attracted our family of agency partners and volunteers who gathered for holiday cheer. And finally, our 25th anniversary gala brought together friends old and new whose generosity raised over $140,000 to advance VRC’s work. Our gratitude to the many volunteers who contributed to the planning and execution of a sparkling evening that surpassed our ambitious goals.

**Recruitment Events**

Through a series of specialized recruitment events, VRC reaches out to new volunteers who are interested in contributing their interest and talents to a particular area.
VRC Board President Robert Price moderated the panel at our first *Volunteering in the Arts* event, held at the All-Stars Project on February 11. Panelists from six non-profit arts agencies described the various roles volunteers can play in advancing the missions of their organizations, all representing disciplines in the performing and visual arts. Participating agencies – each a VRC partner – were American Classical Orchestra, Castillo Theatre of the All Stars Project, Only Make Believe, Materials for the Arts, Love Yourself Project, and Wave Hill.

*All-Stars Project Volunteer Coordinator Craig Bannister welcomes VRC Past President Elaine Orr.*

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**Special Recruitment Programs**

**Attendance, 2013 - 2014**

- Green: Volunteering in the Arts
- Red: Volunteering is Ageless
- Blue: Volunteer Opportunities in Health Care
The VRC’s volunteers in action

Since 1989, VRC has matched thousands of dedicated, talented New Yorkers with opportunities to volunteer at nonprofits, where their services help strengthen communities, families and individuals. In 2014, VRC referred nearly 1,000 volunteers to advance the work of 300 partner organizations. The annual value of volunteer time directly related to VRC referrals is conservatively estimated at $4,261,920. If you multiply this figure by 25 years, you start to get a sense of the impact our organization has had on the well-being of New Yorkers.

VRC is proud to work with these dedicated New Yorkers and connect them with non-profit organizations seeking the skills they offer. From combating homelessness and hunger to promoting literacy, arts and culture; from addressing the needs of youth and the elderly to lending a hand at hospitals, the positive impact of VRC’s remarkable volunteers reverberates across the City. Our partner agencies include:

YM & YWHA of Washington Heights / Inwood
Go Project
God’s Love We Deliver
The Volunteer Referral Center surveys our volunteers to collect demographic data as well as interests, motivations and referral source.
25th Anniversary Gala

September 16, 2014

Friends from far and near gathered at the Central Park Boathouse on the evening of September 16, 2014 for a gala celebration of the Volunteer Referral Center’s 25th anniversary. For this thrilling climax to our milestone year, we honored Gabrielle Kurlander, President and CEO of the All Stars Project (a VRC partner agency). The evening also provided a fitting opportunity to honor eight of our original Founding Members – Arline Brown, Nancy Carr, Alice Greif, Roberta Hodgson, Mary Lambert, Patricia Olshan, Kathy Pershan, and Mary Schachne – and to publicly recognize the lasting impact of their collaboration. In Memoriam tributes were also paid to beloved Founding Members Denise Cruickshank, Evan Donaldson, Joan Metcalf, and Kenneth Noble, M.D.

The gala was the biggest and most successful event in VRC history, raising over $140,000 to advance the organization’s work. The evening was a warm and festive celebration of the vision of VRC’s founding members, which has made possible a quarter-century (and counting!) of service to the people of New York City and to the dedicated non-profits that represent the City’s heart and soul.
Members of the Young Professional Committee (YPC) - Nick Mauro, Jayanthe Repalli, Tiffany Christensen and Elisse Acevedo – contributed to the success of another VRC event!

Honoree and VRC founding member Mary Schachne (right) and her daughter Elisabeth
VRC Treasurer Alan Hirsh made his graceful boat, the *A Train*, available for a harbor cruise to thank a group of VRC supporters, volunteers and partner agency representatives. Friends who gathered on July 19 enjoyed a beautiful evening on the Hudson River.
Young Professionals Committee (YPC)

The work of VRC is significantly advanced by our Young Professionals Committee (YPC), a group of young New Yorkers dedicated to promoting the traditions of philanthropy and volunteerism that are the hallmarks of VRC. YPC organizes group community service events that engage young people and enhance the work of diverse non-profits around the City. In 2014, YPC revamped its organizational leadership and committed to volunteering as a group at one special event each month, including fundraising events, walkathons, housing shelters, soup kitchens, and other worthy projects. Their 2014 events included:

- **May 18** – AIDS Walk
- **June 7** – West Side Community Garden Greening Day and Clean up
- **February 14** – Love Yourself Project 10,000 Hearts Campaign
- **Nov 16** – God’s We Deliver Thanksgiving Gift Basket Build
- **Dec 23** – Operation Santa Claus – YPC fulfills wishes expressed in kids’ letters to Santa

![Graph showing YPC Membership, 2011 - 2014](image)
The First 25 Years: A look back...

It’s been a long journey to VRC’s 25th anniversary year – a journey marked by change, growth and the commitment of countless dedicated volunteers. Chief among these are the original founders, a number of whom have been on the Board of Directors throughout VRC’s history.

Before these was a VRC, our founders established the Yorkville Volunteer Center in 1978, under the auspices of the Yorkville Civic Council. Some of the founders are pictured at a 1985 gathering, including Evan Donaldson, Arline Brown, Kathy Pershan, Alice Greif, Mary Lambert, Ann Kaufman, Joan Metcalf, and Robbie Hodgson.

Expanding on the success of the Yorkville Volunteer Center, the Volunteer Referral Center was founded in 1989. Our new headquarters at 161 Madison Avenue @ East 33rd Street were celebrated at an opening reception on November 15, 1989. (Left) Kathy Pershan, Denise Cruickshank and guests. (Right) K.K. Leisure, Alice Greif, Denise Cruickshank, and Joanne Slusser.

When Nancy Carr, VRC’s Founding President, stepped down in 2009 after 20 years as President, she was celebrated at a reception by her fellow Directors: from left, Robin Withington, Nancy Carr, K.K. Leisure, Alice Greif, Kathy Pershan, Joanne Slusser and Mary Lambert.
Among the six current Board members who have served on the Board since VRC’s founding in 1989 are (Left) Nancy Carr and Alice Greif; (right) Arline Brown and Mary Lambert.

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors on February 12, 2014, Robert Price was elected VRC’s third President. Front row: Nancy Carr (President, 1989-2009), Elaine Orr (President, 2009-2014), Robert Price (President, 2014-present), and Pat Girardi, Executive Director. At the meeting, Elaine Orr was honored for her five years of exemplary service and commitment to VRC’s mission.
Volunteer Profile: Bernadene Weekes

After she retired from the NYC Buildings Department, Bernadene Weekes decided to dedicate herself to volunteer work, but was uncertain how to begin. When she saw a VRC ad in the local East Side paper Our Town, she thought, this sounds like a good first step.

In her interview, Bernadene expressed her hope of finding an agency where her services were needed and where she would enjoy spending time. She was referred to the All-Stars Project where she has been a highly valued volunteer. Her outgoing personality is a tremendous asset to the All-Stars outreach efforts, as she spreads the word about their array of programs targeted to at-risk youth. Bernadene is active in researching cultural venues, coordinating with coaches, scheduling field trips, and connecting with young constituents. She speaks with admiration about the All-Stars youth development programs and innovative offerings such as Cops & Kids, which uses performance and improvisation tools to improve communication between two vital constituencies. She has also enjoyed taking advantage of All-Stars performance offerings and classes herself – including public speaking and managing personal finances.

Bernadene has been delighted to discover how much her creativity and initiative are valued and to experience the impact she is able to have on the clients she works with. “Everyone you come in contact with is so nice,” she says, “and I gain so much satisfaction as we all work together toward a common goal of making people’s lives better.”

VRC Partner Agencies

A Key To Success New York
AARP - New York
ABC - Association to Benefit Children
Abraham House
Abyssinian Towers
Actors Theatre Workshop
All Stars Project
Alzheimer’s Association - NYC Chapter
American Cancer Society
American Classical Orchestra
American Lung Association
American Museum of Natural History
Angel Street Thrift Shop
Annabella Gonzalez Dance Theater
Arab-American Family Support Center
Art Beyond Sight
Asia Society
ASPCA
Asphalt Green
Augustana Lutheran Home
Avon Walk
Bachmann-Strauss Dystonian Parkinson
Battery Dance Company
Bellevue Hospital Center
Better Business Bureau
Bide-A-Wee
Big Apple Greeter
Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City
Bike New York
Bone Marrow Foundation
Books for Kids Foundation
Bottomless Closet
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens
Breast Treatment Task Force
Broadway Housing Community
Bronx House
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Brooklyn Public Library
Cancer Care
Caring Community at Greenwich House
Carnegie East House
Carter Burden Center for the Aging
CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates
Catholic Big Sisters & Big Brothers
Catholic Guild for the Blind
Center for Hearing & Communication
Center for Jewish History
Center for Traditional Music and Dance
Central Park Conservancy
Volunteer Profile: Nick Mauro

Nick Mauro’s first volunteering experience was arranged by his employer, a major accounting firm, and included participating in semiannual projects such as painting a public school. When that program ended, Nick wanted to volunteer on a more frequent basis. He found the VRC on a Google search, and liked the idea of a referral center that would take a personalized approach to matching his interests with volunteer opportunities.

His VRC interviewer suggested English in Action, and he has been volunteering there as a conversation partner. Nick’s easygoing, engaging personality is an asset as he talks with his partners — recent immigrants who wish to improve their verbal skills. He enjoys “seeing the light go on in someone’s face when they make a connection or gain an insight” as they wrestle with the complexities of English.

Nick also joined the Young Professionals Committee. He and fellow YPC members volunteered at the VRC’s 25th Anniversary Gala, where he served as an auction marshal and enjoyed contributing to the event’s success.

Nick credits VRC with opening his eyes to the spectrum of needs in NYC, and the importance of stepping outside oneself to help others. He hopes that one day, when he is further along in his career, he will have the financial means and the personal influence to create change in an area of critical need. In the meantime, his volunteering gives him “a strong sense of accomplishment and personal fulfillment.”
Heart Gallery NYC
Hearts & Minds
HELP USA
Helping Hands for the Disabled of NYC
Henry Street Settlement
Her Justice
Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen
Holy Trinity Neighborhood Center
Hope Program
Hospital for Joint Diseases
Hospital for Special Surgery
Housing Works
Hudson Guild
Human Rights First
iMentor
IncludeNYC
Institute of International Education
International Rescue Committee
Japan Society
JASA
JASA Pets Project
Jazz for Peace Foundation
Jazz Foundation of America
JCC of Greater Coney Island
Jewish Board of Family & Children’s Services
Jewish Home & Hospital for Aged
Jewish Home Lifecare Community Service
Jewish National Fund
Kidney & Urology Foundation of America
Kitty Kind
Korean American Family Service Center
Korean American League for Civic Action
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan NY
League of Women Voters
Learning Ally
Learning Leaders
Legal Services NYC
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
LGBT Community Center
LIFT
Lighthouse Guild International
Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center
Literacy Partners
Little Widow’s Mite Baptist Church
Live On NY
Long Island College Hospital
Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, N.Y.C
Love Yourself Project
Make-A-Wish Foundation Of Metro New York
Manhattan International High School
March of Dimes
Mary Manning Walsh Home
Materials for the Arts
Medicare Rights Center
Mentoring USA
Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty
Metropolitan Hospital Center
Micro Museum
MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care
Momentum Project
Morgan Library & Museum
Morris Jumel Mansion Museum
Mount Sinai - SAVI Program
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden
Museum of American Finance
Museum of the City of New York
Musica de Camara
National Academy Museum
National Aphasia Association
National Executive Service Corps
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Jazz Museum in Harlem
National Multiple Sclerosis - NYC Chapter
Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter
Neighborhood Defender Service
Neighborhood Housing Services
New Alternatives for Children
New York Blood Center
New York Botanical Garden
New York Center for Children
New York Cityworks - Gabriel Project
New York City Coalition Against Hunger
New York City Department of Consumer Affairs
New York City Department of Corrections
New York City Department of Probation
New York City Police Museum
New York Common Pantry
New York Foundation for Senior Citizens – Ombudsman Program
New York Foundling
New York Historical Society
New York Junior Tennis League
New York Live Arts
New York Public Radio
New York Therapeutic Riding Center
9/11 Memorial Museum
Northern Adult Day Health Care Center
Northside Center for Child Development
NYCPublic.org
New York Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital
New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
Volunteer Profile: Letao Wang

After Letao Wang moved to New York City, she attended the American Language Communication Center to practice speaking English. Her teacher recommended that students consider volunteering and suggested contacting the VRC. Letao told her VRC interviewer about her interests in cooking and in helping people, and her education (she earned a Master’s in English & Chinese translation in China), and we suggested that her fluency in Mandarin would be of great value at Bellevue Hospital.

Letao initially volunteered at the Information Desk, where she helped Chinese visitors navigate the busy Hospital and understand its policies. Soon, she found herself working in the Language Services Department, where her skills were of tremendous benefit in translating non-medical patient information documents and questionnaires into Mandarin. Letao’s supervisor recommended additional training and she became a Certified Medical Interpreter. She also worked closely with the Food and Nutrition Department, helping translate menus and dietary information – an assignment dear to Letao’s heart. As a native of Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, she is accomplished at preparing homemade noodles and other specialized dishes.

Letao’s volunteering experience made several positive changes in her life – providing opportunities to help others, strengthening her language skills, and gaining insight to make informed choices about her future. She is now attending Brooklyn College and pursuing a career as a dietician.
Volunteer Referral Center
Support 2014

Foundations and Corporations

The Achelis Foundation
The Avon Foundation
AXA Foundation
The Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust
Carbetz Foundation
Eileen Fisher
Fein Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Lawrence M. Gelb Foundation, Bruce S. Gelb Fund
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
Metzger-Price Fund
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust
The New York Community Trust
Time Warner
United Hospital Fund of New York
Vanguard Charitable

Churches / Synagogues

Congregation Emanu-El
St. James’ Church

Local Government

Liz Krueger, NY State Senate

Individual Contributions

Contributions made by individuals in response to fundraising benefits and our annual appeal are approximately 75% of our support.
Many friends supported VRC in 2014 – Thank you!
You made it possible for VRC to make a difference

Anonymous
Roberta Adams
Abigail Adler
Mrs. Roberta Adler-Lazar
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Allen
Edward Alt
Jennifer Anglim
Ellen & Simon Atlas
Daniel Beaudoin
Rachel Benaroya
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Special thanks to our friends who contributed auction items or services:

Daniel Beaudoin
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Primary Stages
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Rachel Ray
The Shubert Organization
Suzanne Salomon
Irene Toovey, American Museum of Natural History
Andrew Torelli
Debra Venable
Douglas Zywiczynski
Volunteer Referral Center
Statement of Support, Revenues and other Changes in Net Assets
Modified Cash Basis
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2014

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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$ 181,884</td>
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</table>

2014 Income by Source
- Special Events: 158,955
- Contributions from individuals: 37,477
- Corporation and foundation contributions: 22,000
- Government grants: 3,000
- Dividends and interest: 201
- Agency fees: 50
- Total Income: $ 221,683

2015 Expenses
- Programs: 130,120
- Administration: 29,453
- Fund Raising: 22,311
- Total Expenses: $ 181,884

VOLUNTEER REFERRAL CENTER INC (VRC) is a GuideStar Exchange Gold Participant

ny.give.org
**MISSION STATEMENT**

VRC is a non-profit organization established to function as an effective liaison in the New York community between volunteers and non-profit organizations in need of volunteer services. Such organizations include health and human services, arts and cultural institutions, and community services among others. The Volunteer Referral Center is committed to providing an effective service in referring as many volunteers as possible.

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**Volunteer Referral Center, Inc.**

161 Madison Avenue, Suite 5SW  
New York, NY 10016  
Telephone: 212.889.4805  
Fax: 212.679.5316

IRS Tax-Exemption Status: 501(c)(3)
President: Robert Price
Executive Director: Patricia Girardi
Email: info@volunteer-referral.org
Website: www.volunteer-referral.org