



## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

[dhughes@universitysettlement.org](mailto:dhughes@universitysettlement.org)

# University Settlement's Neighborhood Center at 189 Allen Street re-opens with ADA-accessible restroom, renovated bathrooms, new office space

**New York, NY** – University Settlement's Neighborhood Center at 189 Allen Street is once again welcoming adults 60 and older after a renovation that refreshed its pre-existing restroom facilities while adding office space and a brand new ADA-accessible restroom!

"Our participants come from all over NYC, and particularly from our nearby neighborhoods the Lower East Side and Chinatown, and we're so excited to share that the friendly gathering place they know and love is open again, with new programs, expanded activities, and social services that keep our community of adults 60+ connected and cared for," said **Jennifer Vallone**, Associate Executive Director of Adults, Arts, and Advocacy at University Settlement.

The renovation was funded by DASNY. Older Adults programs at Neighborhood Center are funded by NYC AGING.

New programs offered by the center include hybrid Pilates classes as well as additional ballroom dance classes in Cha Cha and Samba, and weekly technology classes, all added to support our robust line up of additional dance classes, fitness classes and arts classes. And the Center's hours have also been extended – the site is open from 8 AM – 7 PM each day, with dinner served at 6 PM.

"We have a new look and we're more accessible – and we're still the community hub where our neighbors can connect with friends and support services that help New Yorkers age in place," said **Bing Ji**, who leads LEARN (Longevity through Education, Arts, Recreation, and Nutrition) programs at University Settlement. "We're looking forward to seeing all our longtime friends, and especially welcome any of our neighbors who may not have visited before to stop in and see what all the excitement's about!"

In addition to its programming for Older Adults, Neighborhood Center also houses offices for University Settlement programs including Care Coordination, Families Thriving, Home-Based Crisis Intervention, Wellness Together, and Project Home.

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## **About University Settlement**

University Settlement partners with 40,000+ New Yorkers in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn every year to build on our collective strengths as we achieve healthy, stable, and remarkable lives.

For 140 years, we've fought poverty and systemic inequality by building highly effective social services in collaboration with our neighbors.

Established in 1886 as the first Settlement House in the United States, we bring the values of our movement into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by meeting New Yorkers where they live, listening deeply to all perspectives, and creating space for responsive cooperation.

Joining with our neighbors to make stable foundations where people of all ages can grow and pursue their dreams, we build community strength.

We infuse a commitment to civic engagement, equality, and communal action into each of our programs, which include early childhood education, youth development, healthy aging, mental health and wellness, housing advocacy and benefits assistance, English classes for adult immigrants, community centers, and the arts.

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