



East Harlem Talent Network Celebrates 100th Job Placement

Local Hiring Initiative Lauded by Officials and Employers

July 29, 2016 – The East Harlem Talent Network, a local hiring initiative that connects local employers and jobseekers in Upper Manhattan, celebrated its 100th full-time job placement today at an event attended by local elected officials and employers.

The event took place at Harlem restaurant Little Bamboo, one of the approximately 40 employers that partner with the East Harlem Talent Network (EHTN). Joining the event to celebrate the Talent Network's achievements were representatives from the offices of U.S. Representative Charles B. Rangel, Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer, and New York State Assembly Member Robert J. Rodriguez, as well as Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone CEO & President Kenneth J. Knuckles, and Manhattan Community Board 11 Chair Diane Collier.

EHTN was launched in October 2014 as a place-based initiative with the goal of creating a unified talent pipeline for local employers and jobseekers in Upper Manhattan. Created by a partnership among STRIVE, Mount Sinai Health System, Union Settlement Association, Community Board 11, and the broader East Harlem Community Alliance, with funding from the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ), EHTN was incubated and is housed at STRIVE, a leading workforce development agency.

EHTN currently works with more than 100 community-based organizations and 37 local businesses. Since its launch, EHTN has begun to transform the way in which employers and community-based organizations interact and partner.

"I applaud STRIVE New York for the enormous success of the East Harlem Talent Network's initiative to place job-seekers in 100 full-time jobs, with the generous support from the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation," said Congressman Charles Rangel. "I am proud that these local organizations have worked hard to reignite the American Dream by removing barriers to success and ensuring that there are employment opportunities available to all working families and youths in our community."

"The hard work of building up our communities isn't just measured in buildings and institutions, it's also measured in the people who are raised up," said Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. "It's thrilling to be celebrating the East Harlem Talent Network's 100th job placement."

Every community member employed in a sustainable, local job strengthens our neighborhoods.”

“UMEZ is very proud of this milestone moment,” said Kenneth J. Knuckles, President & CEO of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone. “When we launched the EHTN project two years ago, we envisioned the ultimate hiring of at least 180 residents with local employers, and we are well on our way to achieving that goal. I certainly want to express my gratitude to Mount Sinai, Little Bamboo restaurant, Chai Wali, Make My Cake and all of the other businesses that have participated in this workforce initiative. When President Clinton and Congressman Rangel launched the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone in 1994, its principle mission was to address the rate of unemployment in Upper Manhattan, which was then around twenty-five percent. That unemployment rate has been reduced by more than fifty percent, and UMEZ, now in its twentieth year of operation, has created over 10,000 jobs. We are pleased to add 100 more.”

“The East Harlem Talent Network is an exciting example of how nonprofits and employers can come together in a community around a common goal,” said Phil Weinberg, President & CEO of STRIVE. “With much thanks to the leadership of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone and the East Harlem Community Alliance, our community has fully mobilized to ensure that local jobs are filled by local talent.”

“The East Harlem Talent Network has had tremendous success in getting Harlem residents good-paying jobs. This is good for both the employer and the employee. The Mount Sinai Health System, for example, historically has hired nearly 1,000 people a year from Upper Manhattan, an area historically troubled by high unemployment. The great work of the Talent Network in addressing this should be applauded,” said Brad Beckstrom, Co-Chair of Hire East Harlem and Senior Director of Community and Government Affairs for the Mount Sinai Health System.

“East Harlem/El Barrio would like to thank and congratulate East Harlem Talent Network for reaching this milestone. These jobs strengthen our community by supporting both our local businesses and providing employment opportunities to our people. Thanks to EHTN’s hard work, one hundred Harlem residents are honing skills, gaining experience, and providing for their families,” said Assembly Member Robert J. Rodriguez.

“Community Board 11 is proud to be a strong supporter of the East Harlem Talent Network since its inception,” said Diane Collier, Chair of Manhattan Community Board 11. “East Harlem has a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and EHTN is a key partner in helping local businesses meet their needs while ensuring that community residents have access to sustainable employment.”

About STRIVE: STRIVE is the country’s leading workforce development organization, operating in 18 cities throughout the United States. Founded 30 years ago in East Harlem, STRIVE’s employment and training model helps men and women permanently lift themselves and their families out of poverty through intensive attitudinal and skills training programs that lead to sustained living-wage employment. In 30 years, STRIVE has brought economic self-sufficiency,

dignity, and a brighter future to over 60,000 individuals and their families. For more information about STRIVE, please visit www.striveinternational.org.

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