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December 1, 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The past year was a historic one for tenants and all New Yorkers. Landmark housing legislation was passed in Albany that strengthened tenant protections. It has resulted from HCC's strong advocacy, working closely together with our coalition partners.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our staff, board, local elected officials, and most importantly – our community, and you.

This victory is now on the books. But we must continue to fight to protect and create more permanent affordable housing. To do this, we need your support.

For 47 years, HCC has advocated for and represented tenants in the struggles to maintain safe and affordable housing. As the need grows for organizing and legal assistance, we have expanded our services to reach neighborhoods spanning the entire west side of Manhattan.

The laws may have changed recently, but tenants are regularly denied basic rights. HCC counsels an increasing number of New Yorkers who share sobering stories: hazardous building conditions; landlord harassment; and vacant apartments being used as illegal hotels.

But for our good news:

Meet Ms. R, a disabled woman in her 50s who had lived in her rent stabilized home for more than 25 years. Sadly, she came to HCC only after she had been evicted. Unrepresented in a prior case brought by her landlord alleging chronic late rent payments, Ms. R agreed to eviction for any late payment over the next two years. She paid timely for six months and was then evicted because she mistakenly had her money order (delivered timely) made payable to the managing agent rather than the building owner. After a lengthy contested court battle, Ms. R was restored to her home because of HCC's work on her behalf!

HCC also represents and advocates on behalf of immigrants. Faced with ever-changing policies, they live in fear and uncertainty every day: immediate detainment, deportation, and constant discrimination. Our immigration docket continues to grow. Thankfully, we have victories. Meet Mr. A., a gay Jamaican who was severely beaten in his home country by local police officers because he's an HIV-positive gay man. HCC filed an affirmative asylum application and presented evidence of physical and emotional harm on account of his personal experiences in his home country. After a lengthy interview, Mr. A was granted asylum and now lives safely and freely in NYC.

As our community ages in place, many of our older clients are particularly vulnerable and require enhanced social services. HCC has responded to this need by launching the HCC Older Adult Program (HOAP). HOAP is designed to serve the older adult community (62+) in Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen/Clinton and the Upper West Side. Our goal is to help older New Yorkers receive support to remain in their homes and continue to thrive in our community.

Most of HCC's funding comes from the government. But it's never a guarantee, and there is always more to do. With your support, we can keep fighting for tenants, immigrants, and our community. Please consider a donation to help us sustain our programming and services to the many clients like Ms. R and Mr. A we serve throughout the year.

With deep gratitude and wishes for a happy and healthy new year,



Leslie Thrope
Executive Director

