In Memoriam

Rita Rodriguez

Housing Conservation Coordinators (HCC) is deeply saddened to announce the sudden death of its longtime employee and Hell’s Kitchen resident, Rita Rodriguez. Rita passed away on Monday January 6th at her home on West 47th Street.

Rita’s full-time employment at HCC in its Weatherization Assistance Program dates back to 1993 but her association with HCC extends back even further. In the early 1980’s Rita worked with HCC staff to overcome intense personal struggles, became active in organizing a limited equity cooperative (HDFC) in her building and later volunteered at HCC in the early 1990’s to show her gratitude. She was a truly strong woman who cared deeply about HCC and its work and was one of the most generous, conscientious and intensely loyal persons we will ever know.

For the past 20 years she has been a familiar presence at HCC’s front desk and along West 47th Street where she lived, walking her dog and catching up with neighbors. HCC became a regular stop for neighborhood dogs, as Rita dispensed dog treats from her office. She was without a doubt one of the more colorful characters in the neighborhood. We will miss her ready presence and smile at the front desk and her irreverent humor. Our world will undoubtedly be a little less colorful.

Rita was born in the Bronx. She leaves behind her beloved cousin Iris Castillo of Santa Clara, CA whom she considered a sister, her longtime dear friend and neighbor Manny Cappas and his family, her dog Snugi, her boisterous parrot and her neighbors and co-workers who loved her.

Lay to rest on Friday, January 10th at Rose Hill Cemetery in Linden, New Jersey.