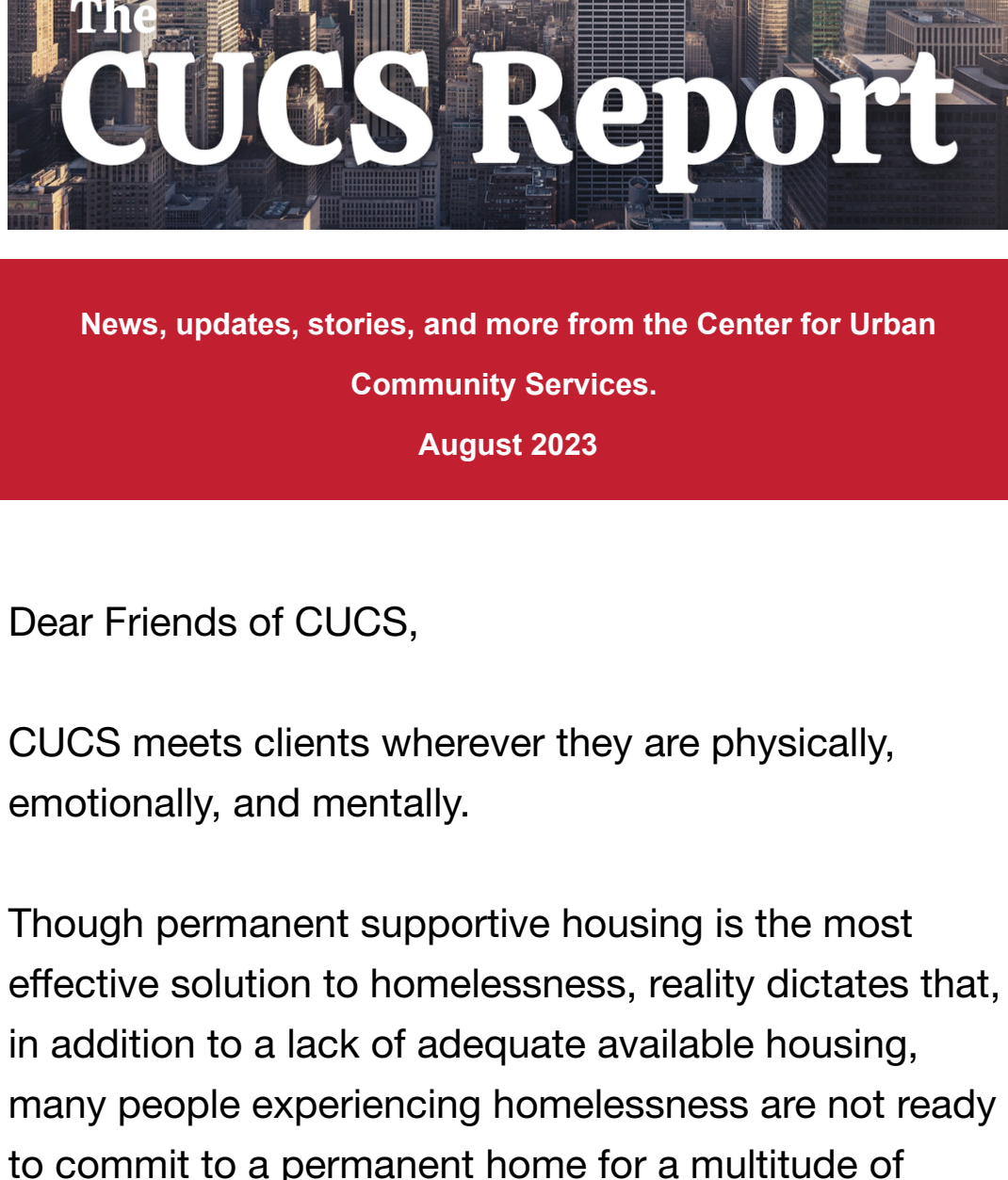


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News, updates, stories, and more from the Center for Urban
Community Services.

August 2023

Dear Friends of CUCS,

CUCS meets clients wherever they are physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Though permanent supportive housing is the most effective solution to homelessness, reality dictates that, in addition to a lack of adequate available housing, many people experiencing homelessness are not ready to commit to a permanent home for a multitude of reasons.

Transitional housing serves as a supportive yet temporary option that can bridge the gap between homelessness and permanent supportive housing. It offers services to clients and gives them safe spaces to live, overcome trauma, address the issues that led to homelessness, and hopefully, adjust to a transition into a permanent home.

In this August issue of the CUCS Report, we are focusing on transitional housing.

Our opening message by Aimee Poulin, Program Director of the Kelly Safe Haven, sets the tone for this report. We show you some statistics to help you understand the scope of this approach.

We also speak with our “Expert of the Month”, Lauren Taylor, the Assistant Program Director of CUCS’ Manhattan Outreach Consortium, to learn about what it means when New York City declares a “Code Red” emergency due to extreme heat.

CUCS service providers support and guide the most vulnerable New Yorkers wherever they are on their journeys.

As always, we welcome your comments and questions and we thank you for your partnership, as together, we work towards a solution to this crisis - one person at a time.

Best Regards,

Rise Roth
Chief Development and Communications Officer

Support and Stability

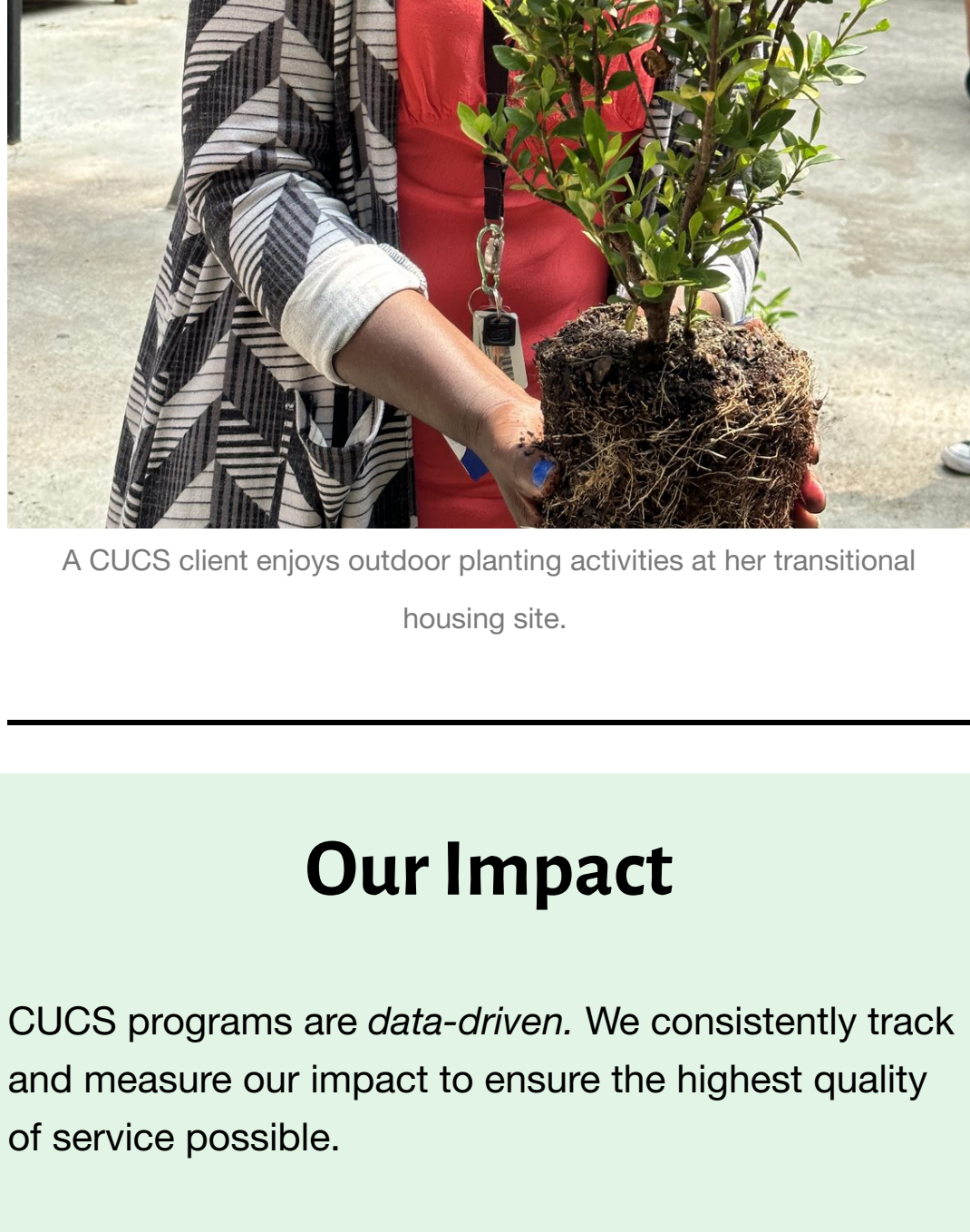
Transitional housing plays a crucial role in helping clients who are coming directly off the streets. Many of these clients have severe mental illness, addiction, or other serious traumas. The skills that have helped them survive on the streets do not usually translate to skills of everyday living.

The Kelly provides a supportive environment where clients can learn and practice essential, basic self-care tasks like doing laundry, maintaining personal hygiene, and positively engaging with a community. Once they are ready, we help them take the next step to permanent and stable housing.



— Aimee Poulin, Program Director, The Kelly Safe Haven

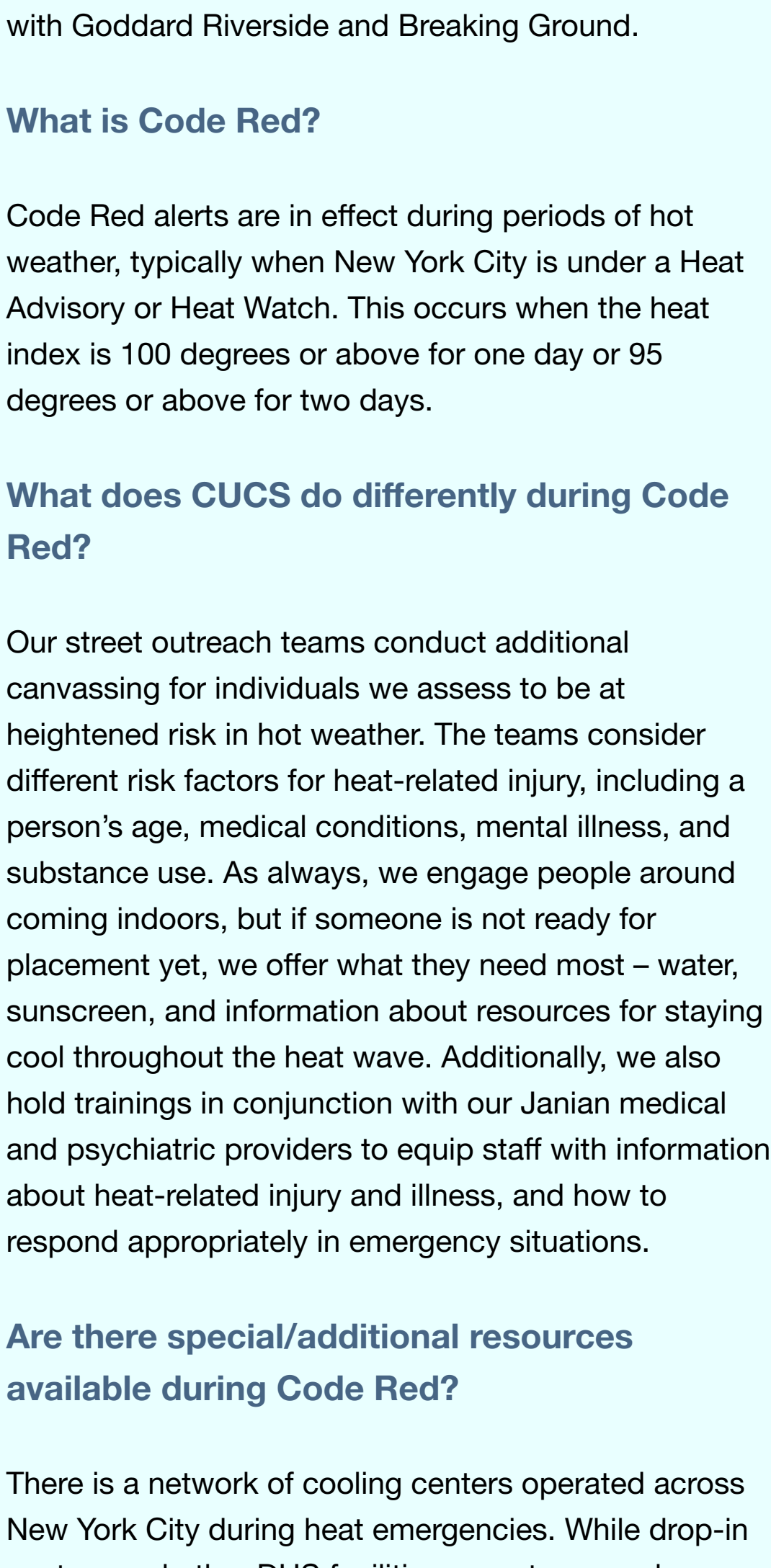
Transitional Housing: A First Step on the Path Home



Clients enjoy the outdoor space at one of CUCS' transitional housing sites.

Transitional housing provides a crucial intermediate step that plays a vital role in the housing process. It serves as a bridge, providing individuals with a safe place to live and access to essential services for up to 24 months following life-altering events like incarceration, hospitalization, serious mental illness, drug addiction, or prolonged homelessness.

Often, these individuals are not immediately ready or able to establish roots in a permanent home. Transitional housing provides a vital steppingstone for these vulnerable individuals, giving them the opportunity to rebuild their lives gradually. Though not permanent, this form of housing is reliable, fulfills an immediate need, and empowers individuals to take the necessary steps towards long-term stability and independence.



Prospect Place, transitional housing for women

Types of Transitional Housing

Transitional housing can take many forms. Here are some of the most common models of transitional housing in New York City.

Safe Havens: Designed for people who are living on the streets, Safe Havens are smaller in size than traditional shelters and are equipped with high-quality, onsite services. Safe Havens often have fewer restrictions (such as curfews) than most shelters.

Drop-in Centers: Drop-in centers are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays but do not typically offer beds for sleeping. Services are offered to clients who drop in looking for help.

Stabilization Beds: A facility that provides a single room as a short-term housing option for a chronic street homeless individuals while the client works with his/her outreach team to locate a more permanent housing option.

Congregate shelters: Large, dormitory style shelters that have restrictions such as a curfew and more rules than any of the other options. CUCS offers comprehensive services at these sites as well.

Typical unit at the Kelly Safe Haven

Transitional housing has minimal barriers to entry and most eligible individuals can access transitional housing immediately. Once housed, dedicated staff and case managers assess the client’s needs and provide tailored support, including counseling, job placement assistance, permanent housing placement services, as well as psychiatric and primary care services. By providing comprehensive services, transitional housing programs address the root causes of homelessness and empower individuals to overcome the challenges they face.

While transitional housing provides a life-saving respite to clients while they prepare to take their next steps towards permanent housing, one of the most valuable aspects of transitional housing is how it helps people (who are often very isolated) reconnect to others.

Permanent housing is the ultimate goal for our clients, but transitional housing plays a pivotal role in supporting vulnerable individuals during critical life transitions. It's an essential step towards achieving stability, independence, and a brighter future for those who have experienced the hardships of homelessness.

A CUCS client enjoys outdoor planting activities at her transitional housing site.

Our Impact

CUCS programs are *data-driven*. We consistently track and measure our impact to ensure the highest quality of service possible.

Transitional Housing Quick Stats:
(2022 reporting period)

167 individuals successfully placed into permanent housing from CUCS transitional housing

258 female-identified clients served at CUCS transitional housing sites

835 clients served at CUCS transitional housing (not including drop-in center)

4,744 Paul's Place drop-in center overnight contacts

Questions... and Answers

Ask the Experts at CUCS

CUCS Street Outreach staff canvass the neighborhood for individuals in need.

Topic: Code Red

Expert: Lauren Taylor, Deputy Director of Manhattan Outreach Consortium*.

*The Manhattan Outreach Consortium (MOC) is a multi-agency partnership created to serve people experiencing street homelessness across the island of Manhattan. MOC is led by CUCS in close collaboration with Goddard Riverside and Breaking Ground.

What is Code Red?

Code Red alerts are in effect during periods of hot weather, typically when New York City is under a Heat Advisory or Heat Watch. This occurs when the heat index is 100 degrees or above for one day or 95 degrees or above for two days.

What does CUCS do differently during Code Red?

Our street outreach teams conduct additional canvassing for individuals we assess to be at heightened risk in hot weather. The teams consider different risk factors for heat-related injury, including a person's age, medical conditions, mental illness, and substance use. As always, we engage people around coming indoors, but if someone is not ready for placement yet, we offer what they need most – water, sunscreen, and information about resources for staying cool throughout the heat wave. Additionally, we also hold trainings in conjunction with our Janian medical and psychiatric providers to equip staff with information about heat-related injury and illness, and how to respond appropriately in emergency situations.

Are there special/additional resources available during Code Red?

There is a network of cooling centers operated across New York City during heat emergencies. While drop-in centers and other DHS facilities operate as cool spaces, there are many other sites open to the public, including at libraries and community centers. A map of nearby cooling centers can be [found online](#) during heat emergencies or by calling 311.

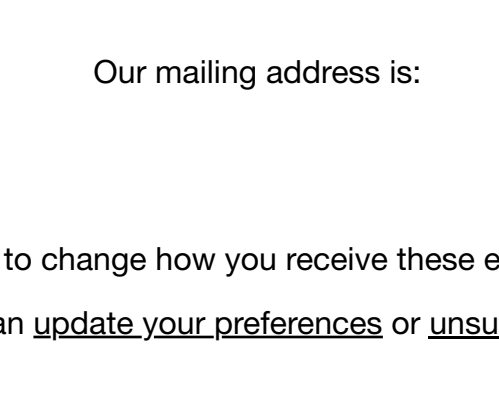
If I see a homeless person at risk on a very hot day, what can I do?

Your best option is to call 311. An Outreach team will respond to the call to engage the individual and offer services. If you believe a person needs emergency medical attention, call 911 to request an ambulance.

Do you have any positive stories related to Code Red?

At times, extreme weather can lead to the moment when someone finally agrees to accept housing placement. We strive to ensure that we are offering all available options in order to bring people inside as quickly as possible, especially during a weather alert.

Stay informed and follow CUCS on social media:



Thank you for reading the CUCS Report. Our goal is to make sure New Yorkers are well-informed as we continue our work to help people rise from poverty, exit homelessness, and be healthy.

The CUCS Report is a publication of the Center for Urban Community Services.

Do you have questions about the CUCS Report, our services, facilities or programs? Contact: devcom@cucs.org

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