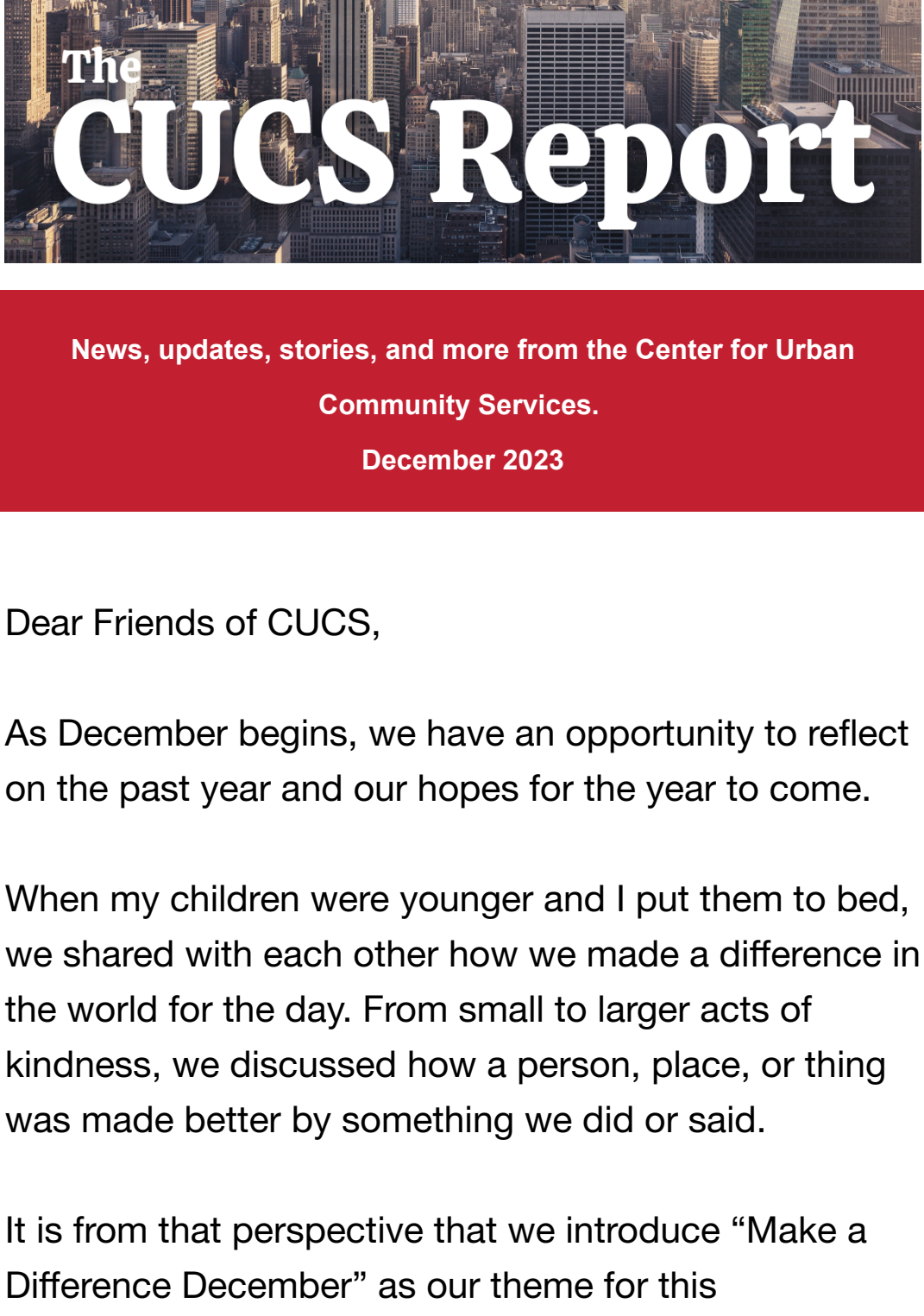


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News, updates, stories, and more from the Center for Urban  
Community Services.  
December 2023

Dear Friends of CUCS,

As December begins, we have an opportunity to reflect on the past year and our hopes for the year to come.

When my children were younger and I put them to bed, we shared with each other how we made a difference in the world for the day. From small to larger acts of kindness, we discussed how a person, place, or thing was made better by something we did or said.

It is from that perspective that we introduce “Make a Difference December” as our theme for this month. Throughout the month we will be posting ideas of how each one of us can make a difference in so many ways. This December issue of the CUCS Report focuses on how CUCS makes a difference and how that impact is so much greater when we work together.

We share with you information about Homeless Memorial Day. Every year our homeless neighbors who passed away are honored and remembered by name.

We discuss what happens as the weather turns cold and how we help people experiencing homelessness stay warm and perhaps choose to move inside.

You will learn some highlights of our accomplishments this year and how our staff is dedicated to the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Perhaps most important for this December, is how you can make a difference with your financial support for CUCS. Our hope is that you give the largest and most meaningful gift you can give and join us on this journey to increase our impact.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season.

With gratitude,

Rise Roth

Donate Today

“In my experience providing health care to people who are on the street and struggling to meet their basic needs, CUCS/Janian makes a difference because **we’re able to really meet patients where they are.** We are able to be flexible to help them overcome both external and internal barriers to care, like lapses in insurance, access to medication storage, rigid appointment times, and difficulty communicating priorities **in order to provide often life-saving interventions.**”



**Bonnie Coover, FNP**

Medical Director for CUCS/Janian Street Medicine

## Our Impact

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

**2,605** vulnerable New Yorkers are served by CUCS/Janian in permanent supportive housing in NYC.

**159** **special needs families** with histories of homelessness are served at CUCS family program supportive housing sites.

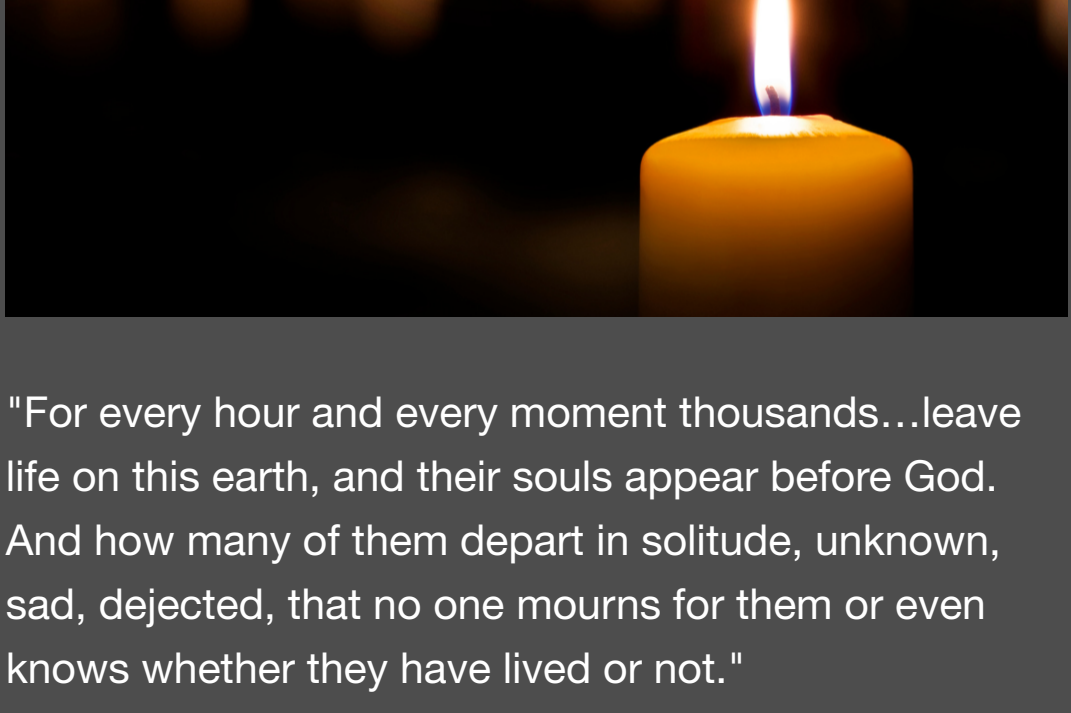
**47,450** total client visits recorded since Paul’s Place Drop-In Center opened in August 2022.

## Code Blue

When temperatures in NYC drop below freezing, Code Blue is activated, which triggers enhanced services for those most in need.

CUCS responds to this emergency by deploying staff to increase street canvassing, perform wellness checks for street homeless, and distribute warming kits and supplies for the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

CUCS Street Outreach prioritizes building positive and trusting relationships with New Yorkers who are chronically street homeless. During Code Blue, teams make sure to check “hot spots” and locations where homeless people frequently stay. The caring teams make sure those experiencing street homelessness are safe and know they have an ally who will help them get indoors.



If you see a homeless individual out in the cold who needs help, please call 311 and an outreach team will be dispatched to offer assistance.

“CUCS gives individuals a **new start at life** no matter what their background is - a real second chance at starting over.

CUCS staff **never gives up** in the face of challenges, we work to overcome them and seek opportunities that can positively affect the lives of clients.

In short, CUCS brings **hope of new possibilities**”



**Erica Strang**

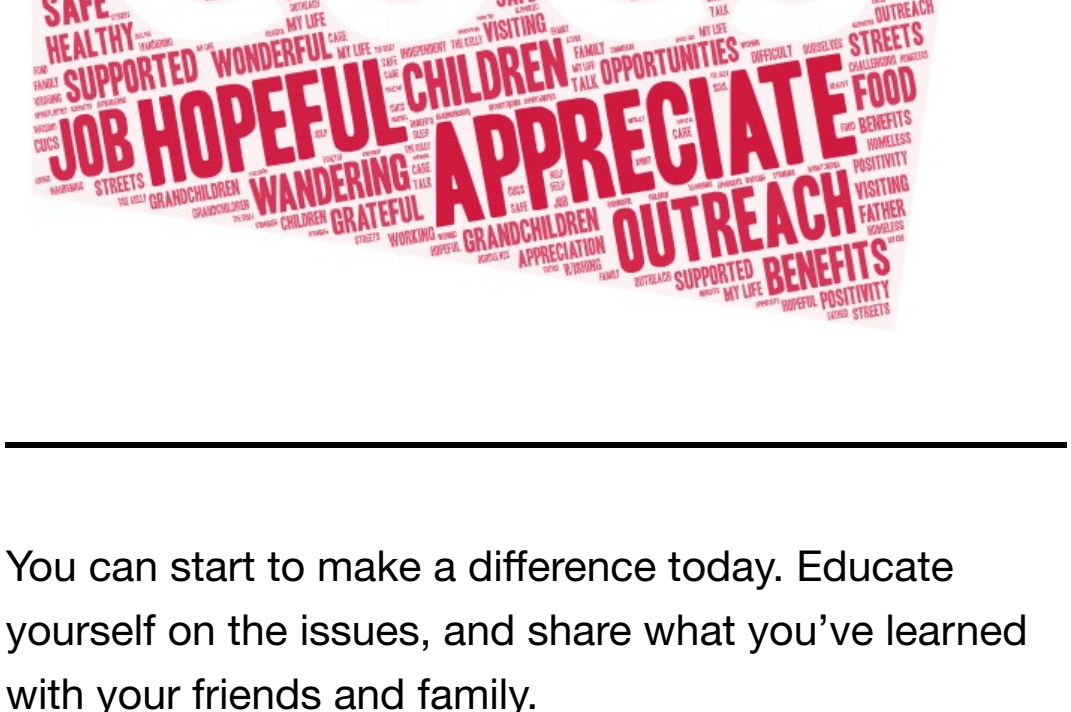
CUCS Director, Manhattan Outreach Consortium

## Remembering Those We Lost

Each December, hundreds of communities across the country hold Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day to honor those who died while homeless.

National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day typically takes place each year around longest night of the year, December 21st, the winter solstice. While we remember those we have lost this past year, let’s make next year the start of real hope and positive change for homeless New Yorkers.

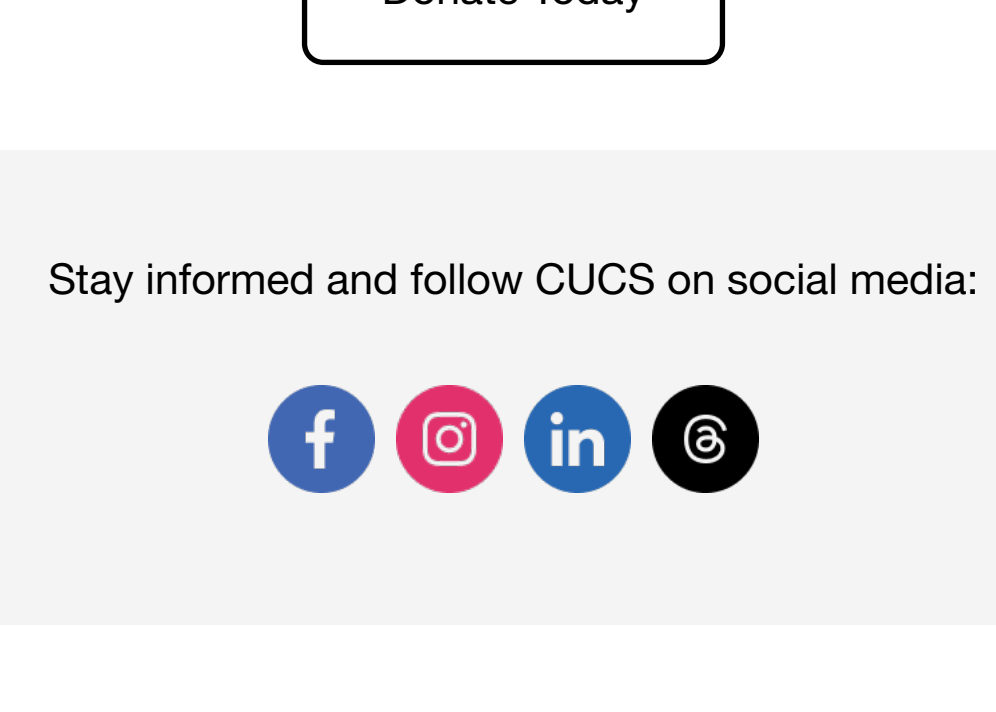
[Click here](#) to learn more and find a local memorial near you.



"For every hour and every moment thousands...leave life on this earth, and their souls appear before God. And how many of them depart in solitude, unknown, sad, dejected, that no one mourns for them or even knows whether they have lived or not."

- Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

We asked our clients to provide one word for how they feel about CUCS. Here are their collected responses:



You can start to make a difference today. Educate yourself on the issues, and share what you’ve learned with your friends and family.

Understand that people don’t choose to be homeless. Circumstances beyond their control, for a variety of reasons, have brought them to this way of life.

If you’re comfortable, smile and say hi to the homeless person you often see on the corner, or on your way to work. Make eye contact if you can and say a few words to acknowledge and reaffirm their humanity.

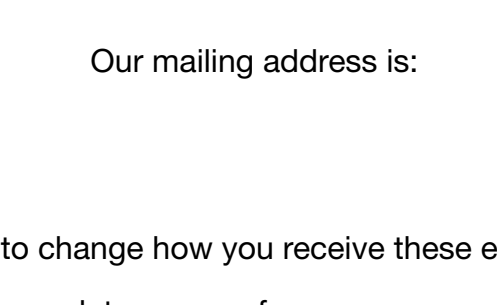
Most importantly, we can make a difference **together.**

As 2023 winds down, consider the impact we can make, one person, and one family, at a time.

Please give the largest and most meaningful gift you can that reflects your values and your desire to join CUCS as part of the solution to homelessness.

Donate Today

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](mailto:devcom@cucs.org)

