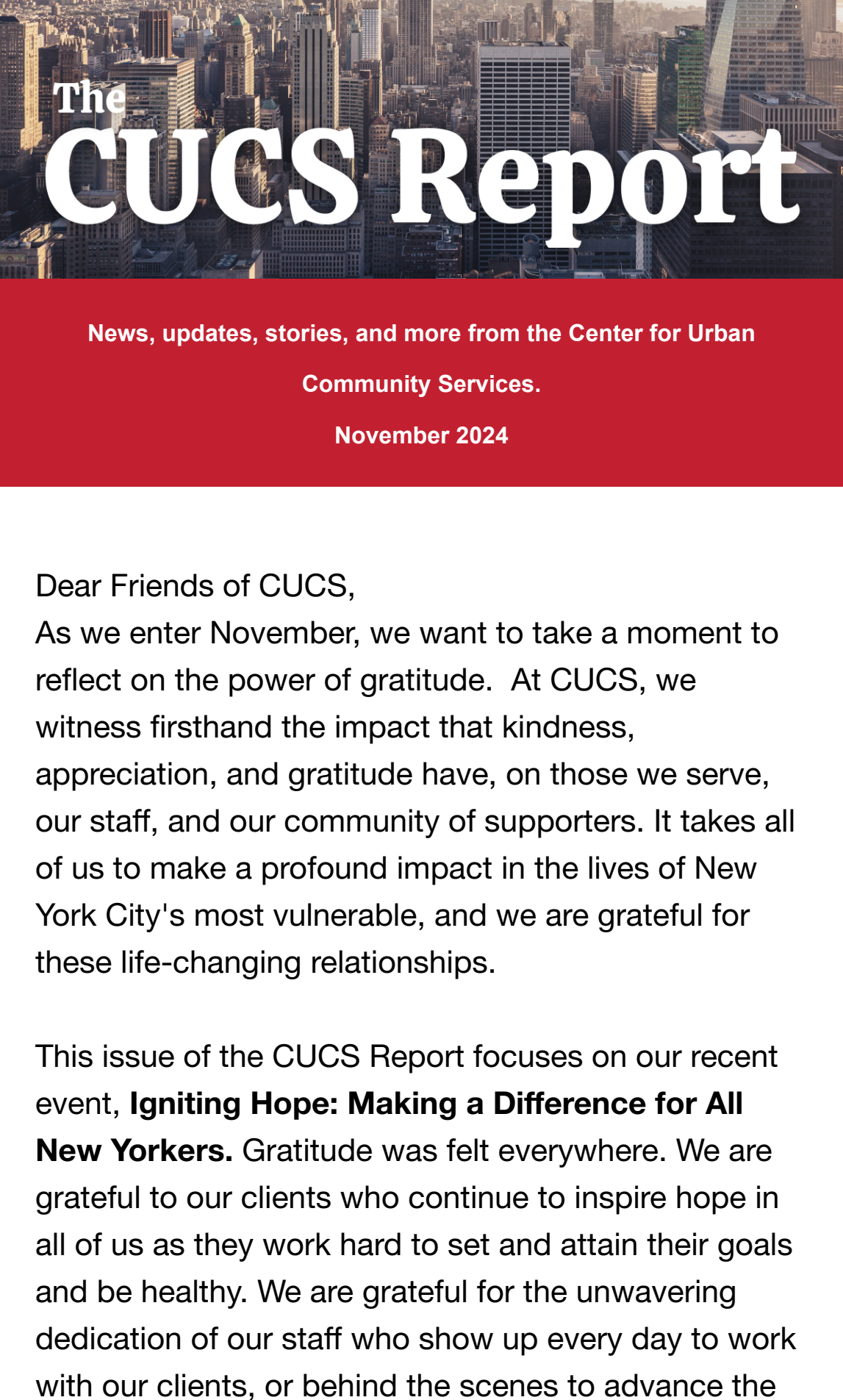


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News, updates, stories, and more from the Center for Urban
Community Services.

November 2024

Dear Friends of CUCS,

As we enter November, we want to take a moment to reflect on the power of gratitude. At CUCS, we witness firsthand the impact that kindness, appreciation, and gratitude have, on those we serve, our staff, and our community of supporters. It takes all of us to make a profound impact in the lives of New York City's most vulnerable, and we are grateful for these life-changing relationships.

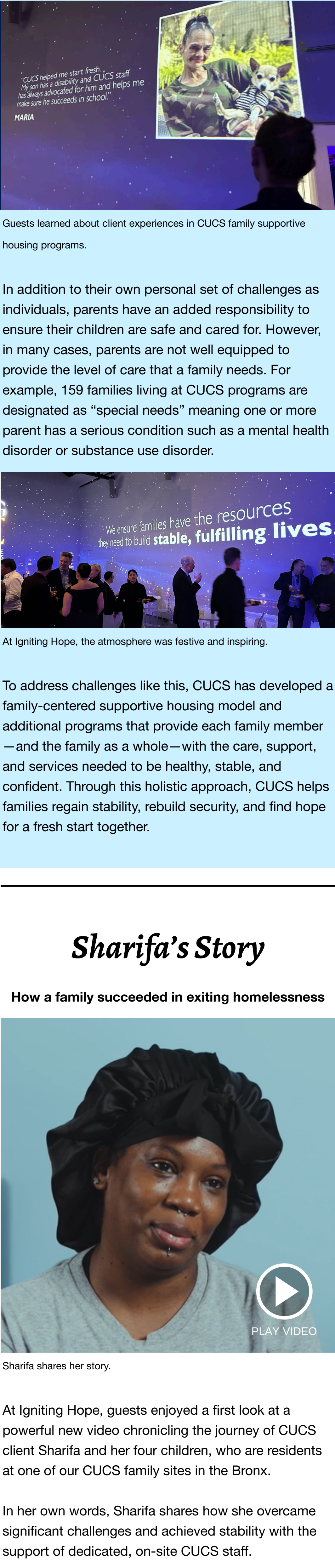
This issue of the CUCS Report focuses on our recent event, **Igniting Hope: Making a Difference for All New Yorkers**. Gratitude was felt everywhere. We are grateful to our clients who continue to inspire hope in all of us as they work hard to set and attain their goals and be healthy. We are grateful for the unwavering dedication of our staff who show up every day to work with our clients, or behind the scenes to advance the CUCS mission. We are also grateful to you, our friends and supporters, whose compassion and generosity make this work possible.

This month, we invite you to reflect on the many ways your support has transformed lives and strengthened communities.

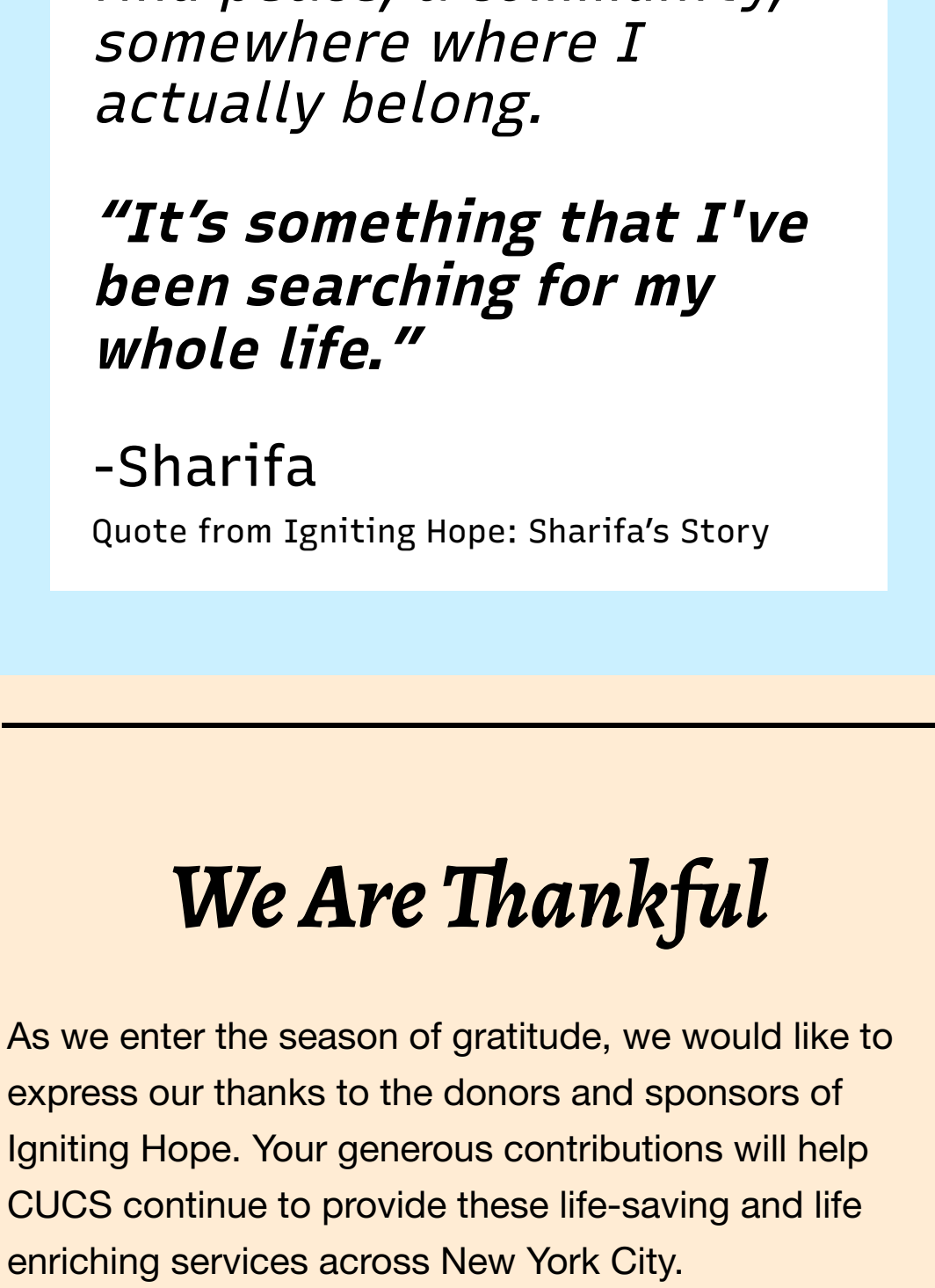
Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. Your commitment and compassion make all the difference.

Dawn M. Pinnock

President & Chief Executive Officer



The CUCS Executive Committee, from left: Abbey Nyamekye, Chief Administrative Officer, Crystal Monge, Chief of Staff, Adina Barbosa, Chief Program Officer, Dr. Van Yu, Chief Medical Officer, Dawn M. Pinnock, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rise Roth, Chief Development and Communications Officer, Jeff Halfpenny, Chief Financial Officer, Hadaryah Morgan, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel.



Igniting Hope

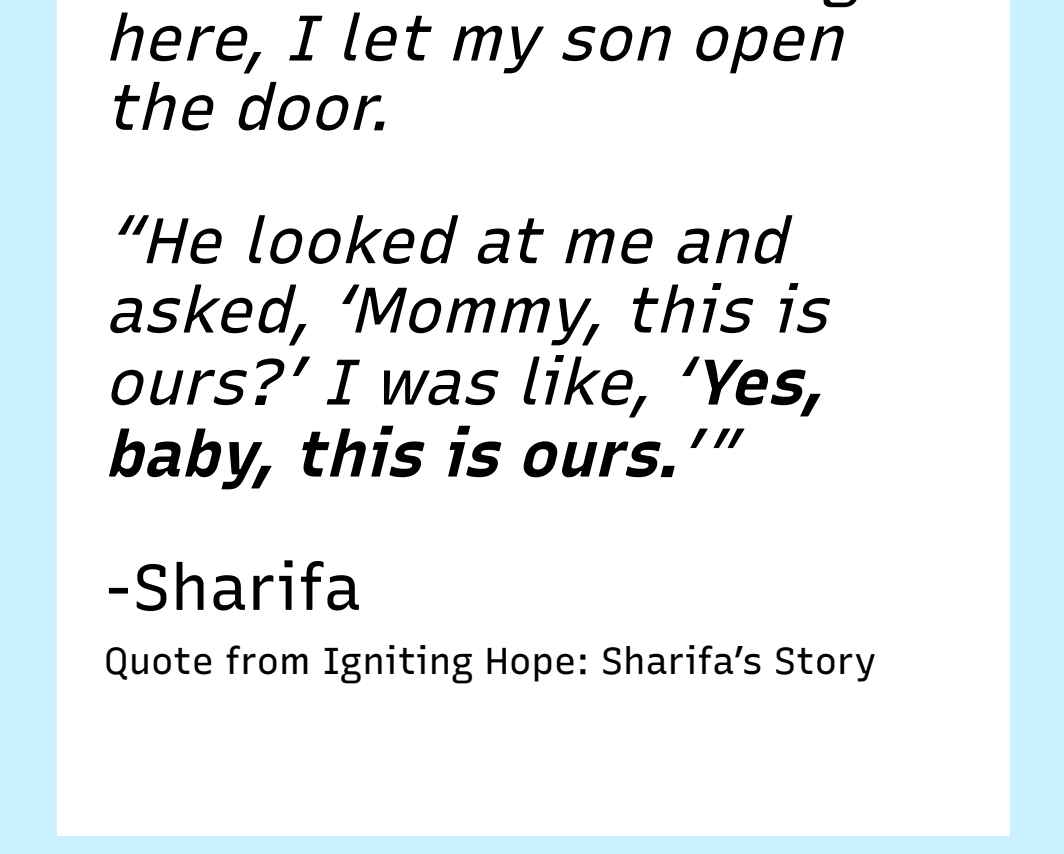
A memorable event in support of families exiting homelessness

This year, the focus of Igniting Hope was on our family supportive housing programs located in the Bronx and Manhattan, where CUCS serves a total of 206 families and 329 children who have exited homelessness. CUCS ensures each person living in one of its buildings has access to the highest quality care – personalized case management, social supports, and the healthcare services needed to help them thrive. For those with experiences of homelessness and severe, persistent mental illness, these specialized services are vital for ensuring housing stability.



Guests learned about client experiences in CUCS family supportive housing programs.

In addition to their own personal set of challenges as individuals, parents have an added responsibility to ensure their children are safe and cared for. However, in many cases, parents are not well equipped to provide the level of care that a family needs. For example, 159 families living at CUCS programs are designated as “special needs” meaning one or more parent has a serious condition such as a mental health disorder or substance use disorder.



At Igniting Hope, the atmosphere was festive and inspiring.

To address challenges like this, CUCS has developed a family-centered supportive housing model and additional programs that provide each family member –and the family as a whole– with the care, support, and services needed to be healthy, stable, and confident. Through this holistic approach, CUCS helps families regain stability, rebuild security, and find hope for a fresh start together.

Sharifa's Story

How a family succeeded in exiting homelessness



Sharifa shares her story.

At Igniting Hope, guests enjoyed a first look at a powerful new video chronicling the journey of CUCS client Sharifa and her four children, who are residents at one of our CUCS family sites in the Bronx.

In her own words, Sharifa shares how she overcame significant challenges and achieved stability with the support of dedicated, on-site CUCS staff.

Her commitment to her children, combined with CUCS's help, led to her securing permanent supportive housing.

We invite you to watch and share Sharifa's Story:

[Click here to watch Sharifa's Story.](#)

“They helped me find stability. They helped me find peace, a community, somewhere where I actually belong.

“It’s something that I’ve been searching for my whole life.”

-Sharifa

Quote from Igniting Hope: Sharifa's Story

We Are Thankful

As we enter the season of gratitude, we would like to express our thanks to the donors and sponsors of Igniting Hope. Your generous contributions will help CUCS continue to provide these life-saving and life enriching services across New York City.

All guests at Igniting Hope were invited to make an Enduring Difference by purchasing the naming rights to facilities at our family supportive housing programs, such as computer rooms, children's libraries, and playgrounds.

Guests also made donations to uplift families by supporting holiday gifts and decorations. Thanks to the generosity of these contributors, children and families at CUCS housing programs will have a brighter holiday this year.

Sharifa and her family

The first step to making a difference is getting informed and staying informed

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

The CUCS Report | November 2024

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