

Friends Profile: Lynn Appelbaum

Lynn Appelbaum makes an impact on New York City through her work at United Neighborhood Houses of New York (UNH) with settlement houses and the communities they serve. UNH is a policy and social change organization representing 43 neighborhood settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. As UNH's Deputy Executive Director, Lynn helps lead the organization as well as oversees a range of programs that respond to the professional development and capacity building needs of settlement houses.

Q. How does the settlement house movement support communities throughout New York City?

UNH makes neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers by advocating for funding and good public policies, mobilizing settlement house staff and participants in advocacy efforts, and enhancing the skills and practices of settlement house staff. Together, UNH's members employ about 24,000 people. I believe that settlement houses make New York stronger by making people stronger. Settlement houses, with support from UNH, are embedded in communities throughout New York, providing opportunities to learn, connect, develop skills, get help, and make change.

Q. What are some of the business and transactional legal issues commonly faced by settlement houses and other nonprofits?

In our complex and fast-moving world, lawyers, especially ones who speak nonprofit, play a very important role. A key question for our sector is what are the financial risks and threats and how can we stay (or become) financially healthy. Increasingly, this is a question with legal aspects.

There are questions about mergers, subcontracting, or giving up contracts or taking on new ones, including with government or private entities, and they relate to funding, real estate, and service provision. These are all issues that benefit from counsel. Lawyers Alliance also helps UNH and settlement houses stay current about changing employment and nonprofit regulations.

Q. How did you first become aware of Lawyers Alliance, and how have you stayed involved?

It was at some point in the 1990s and I've stayed involved by attending, recommending, and organizing trainings and working with and recommending their counsel on a variety of issues.

Q. Why do you feel it's important to provide ongoing financial support to Lawyers Alliance?

My work reinforces what I learned from my parents: for each of us to do our best we need to be exposed to new ideas, connected to others, and given the opportunity to be heard and contribute. We also need support, especially from people with different knowledge and skills from our own. That's the expertise Lawyers Alliance offers to nonprofits. Thanks to Lawyers Alliance, lots of New York City nonprofits are doing better work. That's worth supporting.



Lynn Appelbaum

About

Employment includes:

Deputy Executive Director,
United Neighborhood
Houses of New York,
since April 2016

Educational Alliance

Lenox Hill Neighborhood
House

Board, Moshulu-Montefiore
Community Center

Victim Services
(now Safe Horizon)

Graduate of:

Haverford College

This profile is one in a [series](#) about people who have helped to build or been impacted by Lawyers Alliance for New York since 1969.