A Creative Approach Called Acceptance of The Other in New York City.

An End of Year Appeal for Support in 2016.

Sharing The Story...

Wendy
Seasons Greetings from the Greatest City In The World...

A few short years ago, three pastors sat and contemplated a ministry that would specifically appeal to New Yorker's. It was decided to call this new approach to REACH-NYC. From the very beginning with the support from friends literally around the world, checks were received ranging from $5.00 to one supporter who sent a donation of $20,000.00. It was an amazing thing to witness what God was doing and how individuals were responding.

This ministry is built on acceptance of the other. It is not built on dogma, doctrine or "we are right and you are wrong", theology or sectarianism, that seems to be tearing our world apart.

As I write this email, hundreds of thousands have been killed in Aleppo, Syria. A Russian Diplomat has been murdered in Turkey. A Mosque has been entered and innocent victims in what should be a safe house of worship in Zurich, Switzerland, have been shot. In Berlin, Germany a desperate hate filled driver in a truck delivered his hate, killing more innocent people attending a Christmas Market, where once again, joy has turned to sadness and unspeakable horror.

Nothing new here.

There is enough hate to go around and it seems time for a meaningful alternative to all the banter and finger pointing that is the new sport of the times in which we live.

A Creative Approach Called Acceptance of The Other in New York City.

This past year, REACH-NYC has tried to create events that bring people together to hear great music and enjoy good conversation where good food is enjoyed and people from various faith traditions can share ideas and make new friends.

The concept is called "Concerts for Peace" and it works. We have had talented guest musicians from as nearby as Greenwich Village, were REACH-NYC calls home, and as far away as Jerusalem, Israel, and Milan, Italy. People that would never step foot in a church that they knew nothing about have attended these concerts and some have now started attending worship services, welcomed by a friendly smile and a glimpse of accepting love that has been shown to them. The vegetarian plant-based and sustainable healthy food served after these concerts, add to the foundation of the start of good friendship. Conversations that nourish both the body, soul and spirit, brings diverse people together.

The joy of seeing neighborhood people who are Jewish, Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Hindu, Buddhist and people of various faith traditions, and those who have no faith tradition at all, and some who have totally given up on "religion" for one reason or another, sitting and enjoying each others company is something to behold.

In partnership with Historic Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church, the magnificent 1881 Landmark Sanctuary located in New York City’s Greenwich Village area, REACH-NYC has been privileged to meet hundred's of New Yorker's some of whom have told us, "I've passed this church for more than twenty years and thought it
was closed.

Well, they don’t think that anymore, as they return month after month, and week after week, as this venue has truly become a community church and a Center of Influence in the Greenwich Village community and surrounding neighborhood’s of New York City.

**Fifteen 12-Step Groups Call This Place Home**

It was only a year ago when the first call came from a man who inquired if there was space to have their Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. They were losing the space they had called home for many years. I answered that call, and a meeting was arranged. Since that first phone call, the word traveled fast around the Greenwich Village neighborhood that a new venue was happy to have guests use rooms at this venue to support the work of various 12-Step groups. Today, those groups have grown to 15. From Sunday evening through Thursday evening, our busiest night of the week, with four groups meeting in various rooms, the venue hosts over 400 guests that meet each week.

"Are we welcome here?"

On one occasion three men met me in my office and shared their need for a new space. They were cautious as they spoke to me, and shared what their group was all about. One man suggested, “We are an all men’s AA Gay group, with unique needs, and wonder if we would be welcomed here?” I immediately answered, “Of course you would be welcomed.” I will never forget how one of the men in the group took his hand and locked it around my arm in appreciation of being accepted. This group has now been meeting at the church for over a year. They are comfortable here and we love hosting them.

Our latest group of 12-Step members is called "Sober Dad’s" and they started meeting just two weeks ago. Joining groups that have already found a home such as Al Anon, an all women’s AA group, a group known as Sexually Compulsive Anonymous, Adult Children of Alcoholics, various AA Groups, as well as Debtor’s Anonymous, just to name a few. We are privileged to share this magnificent space with them.

Just recently we opened our doors to a local group that was seeking a space to use that is ministering to a group of undocumented immigrants. They are a wonderful group of people ranging from Grandmother’s, Grandfather’s, young adults, and young children who were born in the United States.

In short this ministry is open to all, and uses compassion, concern for the other and respect for every faith tradition as we come together as part of the human family that
God has created and loves. Partnerships with ministries that help feed homeless New Yorker’s on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, such as Mary’s House and Joseph’s House, operated by Catholic Charities, have members of Historic Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church giving their financial support, and time, joined by those who are part of REACH-NYC.

We do what we do on a shoe string budget and with the help of our friends who support us in these various endeavors. Just last week at the free annual "A Classic Greenwich Village Christmas Concert" donations were received to support refugees of the Aleppo, Syrian crisis. These funds will be given to those organizations who are helping in this humanitarian crisis. Help REACH-NYC if you can with an end of year Tax Deductible donation...

All proceeds from our "Concerts for Peace" are donated to other nonprofit organizations we partner with in the New York City area, and we have found that the more we share God’s blessings with others, the more blessings we receive.

If you can help support this ministry with a tax deductible donation of any size we would greatly appreciate it. All funds go directly into the various projects REACH-NYC is involved with.

Please make your donation payable to "REACH-NYC" and mail your check in any amount to: REACH-NYC, P.O. Box 651, North Salem, NY 10560. I will personally send you a receipt and thank you for your support. Donations can also be made by clicking on the MAKE A DONATION button in the area below.

If you are looking for a creative ministry that is welcoming, accepting and working in New York City, an Urban Mission filled with great people and opportunities, REACH-NYC is what you have been looking for.

I thank you in advance for your support and much needed prayers.

May God richly bless you and your family with peace this holiday season.

Best regards - Tony Romeo / Executive pastor, REACH-NYC

P.S. If you would like a guest speaker to share with you how REACH-NYC can be started in your corner of the world, and in your community, please write and let us know. All it takes is a compassionate and open respect for others.
Please make a 2016 end of year contribution to REACH-NYC.
Your donation is fully tax-deductible.
Thank you...

Donations to REACH-NYC help us in our efforts to reach out to the people of New York City. REACH-NYC is recognized as a 501(c)(3) by the IRS, and the State of New York, as a tax-exempt corporation, and all contributions are fully tax-deductible.*

Click on the "Make A Donation" button above to make a secure donation. Contributions can also be made by directly by check, which helps save on the expense charged by credit card companies. Send your donation payable to: "REACH-NYC" and mailed to:

REACH-NYC
P.O. Box 651
North Salem, NY 10560

Thank you for helping REACH-NYC help others.

*A receipt will be sent recognizing all contributions for tax purposes.