



ANCHOR HOUSE
THE HOUSE OF HOPE
EST. 1967

Winter Journal 2017/2018



50 Years of Restoring Lives



*"This hope we have as anchor of the soul...A hope both
sure and steadfast..."*

Hebrews 6:19

Pillars of the Vision

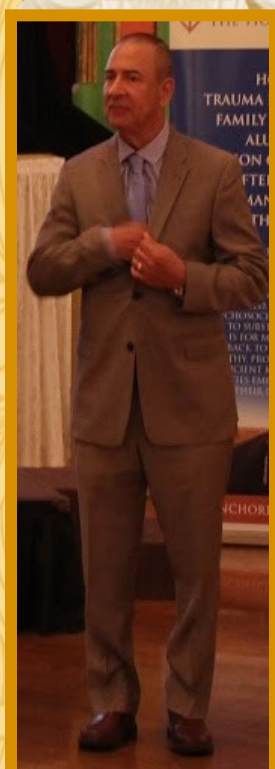
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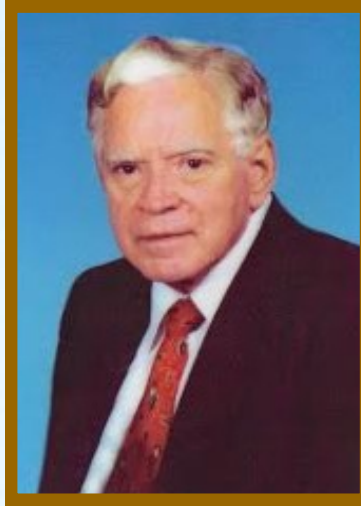


Rev. Enrique Lopez
Former Executive Director



*“God Bless You”
for your labor of love.*

History - Founder



Reverend Alfredo Cotto-Thorner

October 24, 1917-October 3, 2013

In 1967, Reverend Alfredo Cotto-Thorner was pastor at the South Third Street United Methodist Church. In the neighborhood surrounding the church, he saw many signs of drug addiction. He prayed for ways to help these people who were hurting. There was a notorious drug user named Sabo who lived in the neighborhood; one Sunday Sabo came to church. After the service, Sabo asked the Pastor to write a letter to his Probation Officer. Reverend Cotto-Thorner told Sabo that if he helped him work with some of the addicts, he would give him a letter. Sabo was asked to bring 10-15 addicts to the church and the churchwomen would give them food and coffee. When he brought 30-40 addicts Reverend Cotto-Thorner didn't know what to do. After the meal, they began to pray. The encounter was so well-received that the pastor decided that they would meet regularly. Reverend Cotto-Thorner thought that having their own building and a place to stay would help them battle addiction.

The Brooklyn and Long Island Church Society purchased 976 Park Place from United Methodist Church. Once the building opened, Reverend Richard Rice and wife Nancy came to work with the program. Nancy and Dorothy Cotto-Thorner asked women in Brooklyn and Long Island to provide furniture, pots and pans, dishes, utensils and anything that was needed to make the program function. At the time, there was no paid staff, only volunteers. Reverend Cotto-Thorner became friends with Sabo. Together, they went to "shooting galleries" where Reverend Cotto-Thorner had many addicts die in his arms. No one ever attempted to harm Reverend Cotto-Thorner or any of the volunteers. Dorothy Cotto-Thorner and Nancy Rice organized 'Neighbors of Anchor House (NOAH). The men's facility grew from 20 men at Park Place to a newly built facility for 50 men in 1996 at Bergen Street. It was then the women's facility was born and provided hope to 20 women and most recently expanded to 28 women in 2014.

Our History

Anchor House—"The Beginning"

Rev. Richard Rice and his wife Nancy were good friends of Rev. Alfredo Cotto-Thorner and his wife, Dorothy. These are some thoughts that began with our friendship and continued over the years with the development of the Anchor House program. Alfredo came from Puerto Rico and Dorothy came from Minnesota.

South 3rd Street United Methodist Church

In the 1960s the Williamsburg area of Brooklyn was filled with addicts. Alfredo and Dorothy ministered to those who were near the church on a daily basis. Many of them would spend most of the day in the program. They would use the church's lower floor and the lower floor of the attached parsonage where the Cotto-Thorners and their two boys, Lester and Daniel, lived. Alfredo wanted to have a 24 hour program but the church wasn't able to provide overnight services for men. His frustration was that he had to let the men go at night and then they would shoot up drugs. At Thanksgiving time Dorothy and the women of the church would have a big dinner for the people of the community. Dorothy would put the turkeys in the bathtub to thaw, and cook the following day. The members of the church, under Dorothy's direction, provided meals and donated clothing for the men.

Park Place

The residence at Park Place had been the parsonage for the Union United Methodist Church. They were planning to sell it and find another parsonage. Through negotiations with the Brooklyn and Long Island Church Society, one of the two predecessor organizations of The United Methodist City Society, the property was purchased by the Brooklyn & Long Island Church Society. The doors opened in the Spring of 1967. It was Alfredo's program and it was called Anchor House (Addicts on Narcotics CHrist ORiented,) an acronym proposed by an early member of the Anchor House Committee, The Rev. Arthur Barton, who was then serving Andrews UM Church in Brooklyn. Richard Rice was the first secretary of the committee. Alfredo stated his program simply, "Empty them of drugs and fill them with Christ". This continues to be the theme.

During the early years of the program the men had recreation at the gym where Richard Rice was serving, St. Paul's UM Church. They would walk to Nostrand Ave. subway and take it to Ave. D and then walk to the church. Nancy's father worked for Volkswagen and was able to secure a van for the house. This was the first and only van they had for many years. St. Paul's women would bring dinners to Anchor House several times a year.

There was an immediate need for furniture and Nancy and Dorothy formed a woman's auxiliary through the New York Annual Conference United Methodist Women. It was called NOAH (Neighbors of Anchor House). The women actually bought the furniture, the men put the beds together under Nancy's direction.

During the early years the residents would come to St. Paul's for various services and activities. Each Christmas Eve they would come to the 11:00 PM service.

The program grew with a staff of eight. A statistical study was done in 1973 that showed a very high success rate. A Board of Directors was formed and has helped to guide the program. There were many directors of the program over the years. One of them, Hyrum Irizarry went on from being a resident to director and then became a Chaplain in the Federal Prison System. Enrique Lopez, a graduate of the Teen Challenge program became a volunteer, then a counselor and then director of the program for over twenty years. While he was director the program received a citation as the best narcotics program in the United Methodist Church. It also was recognized by New York State as the best small program in NY State. It was during this time, with the support of NY State OASAS program that Anchor House sought to double the size of its residence.

Bergen Street

After Richard Rice and Henry Lopez searched for available properties they came upon the two gutted apartment houses and adjacent empty lot on Bergen St. HUD offered to give a grant of 5 million dollars, 1 million for acquisition and construction and 4 million for program for five years. Senator Alfonse D'Amato sent a letter to Richard Rice announcing the grant. We had a year to take possession of the property. Trudy Grove, then Treasurer of the City Society, worked hard to bring together the funding from HUD and OASAS. We actually got the Bergen St. property through an attempted murder trial. The owners, a man and the woman had been in an estranged relationship and she was cut by a machete in her face and lost parts of some fingers. Even though there was a recording devise that picked up the sounds of the attack, he was acquitted. He wanted cash for his part of the sale. She wanted his money set aside because she was going to sue him. Finally, Dr. John Carrington, the Executive Director of the City Society and a strong supporter of the program over the years, suggested that he and Richard go to see the woman. We spoke to her. By her selling the property it would make it possible for us to minister to other battered women like herself. We had the closing on the last day our HUD grant was available.

Women's Program

Immediately after the construction was finished at Bergen Street and the population of the men's program was doubled, the work began to rehabilitate Park Place as a women's program with the capacity of 20. After it began ministering to women, the building next door was purchased and the real estate capacity of the program was doubled. Who would have realized fifty years ago that Alfredo Cotto-Thorner's dream would have become a reality this way?

God is truly faithful!



Our Former Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Enrique Lopez



Rev. Lopez started in 1979 as a volunteer and then the men's facility Program Director; subsequently the Executive Director. Rev. Lopez has a heart for leading people out of devastation into a life of freedom through redemption. His legacy of 35 years has touched the lives of so many people and it's impact will live on for generations to come. His sacrifice and dedication will forever be engrafted into the fiber of Anchor House.

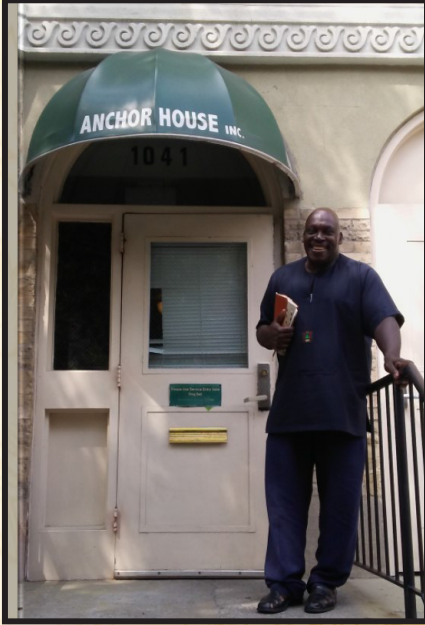
Dorothy Anne Arthur



Dorothy began her tenure at Anchor House Women's Facility in 1997 as a secretary then counselor and was promoted to the position of Program Director. Dorothy believed "iron sharpens iron" and she was instrumental in building the foundational structure of the women's facility. In everything she strove for excellence through love. The hearts of many women, children and their families were forever changed through her wisdom and counsel.

She served with a heart of love and in July 2010 she transitioned to Heaven as her new home.

Honoring Our Former Directors



Pastor Roger Jamison

Pastor Jamison has a passion to minister to men whose lives have been devastated by substance abuse and incarceration. He began ministering in Riker's Island Correctional Facility over 20 years ago and began ministering to the residents of Anchor House. Pastor Jamison became the Program Director and began mentoring and providing spiritual counsel and development for the residents while overseeing the day-to-day operation of the program.

Pastor Jamison's heart can be known through the motto he has adopted from the late, Dr. John G. Lake: *"Beloved, for the sake of a dying world, pay the price, get God's power and set the captives free!"*



Frank O'Neill

Frank O'Neill worked in the field of addiction for about 18 years. He came on board at Anchor House October 1997 as a Clinical Counselor. After two years Frank became one of the Men's Facility Program Director's.

Although credentialed Frank was known for his unique and innate ability to expound on clinical and spiritual matters. Frank was dedicated to facilitating growth in both staff and clients.

After 20 years of service Frank retired in February 2015.



Hector Moreno

Hector Moreno graciously entered the doors of Anchor House with a servant's heart and a humble spirit. He came as a vocational intern while attending New York University. His keen clinical insight resulted in his promotion to Clinical and Vocational Directorship. Hector always empowered people to believe in themselves and strive for excellence. Thousands of men and women achieved their vocational and employment goals. Hector retired in 2016

Men's Facility—1041 Bergen Street



Dining Room



Conference Room



T.V. Room/Lounge



Sleeping Area

Women's Facility—976 Park Place



Back Yard



Living Room



Sleeping Area

Multipurpose Room





The Very Rev Eddie Alleyne, Rector,
The Rt. Rev Daniel Allotey, Bishop in Residence,

Clergy & Members of

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church

Congratulate



On The Occasion of Their
50th Anniversary

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



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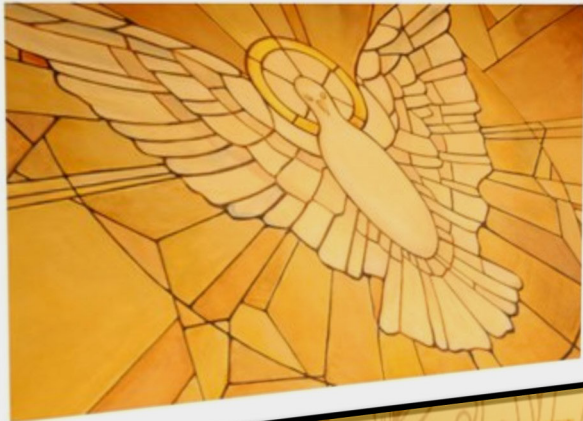


The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of NY
Rev. Filloyd H. Flake & Rev. Elaine M. Flake
110-31 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11433
718-206-4600

Service Time: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:30am
www.allencathedral.org

"Congratulations on 50 years of restoring families"

The
**BROOKLYN
TABERNACLE**



The Brooklyn Tabernacle

Pastor Jim Cymbala

17 Smith Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

718-290-2000

Service Time: 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm

www.brooklyntabernacle.org

"Congratulations on 50 years of restoration"



Congratulations to

ANCHOR HOUSE

on your 50th anniversary

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

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Union United Methodist Church
Pastor David T. Ball
 121 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216
 718-467-0458

Service Time: 11:00am
www.unionumcbrooklyn@gmail.com
"Congratulations on 50 years of changing communities and lives"



CALVARY COMMUNITY CHURCH

BRIDGING THE GAP



Calvary Community Church
Pastor Cecil Henry
 1575 St. Johns Place, Brooklyn, NY 11233
 718-467-4108

Service Time: 9:00am
www.calvarycommunitychurch.org
"Congratulations on 50 years of going strong in the community of affecting change substance users lives"



Recovery House of Worship
Pastor Edwin Colon
 360 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217
 718-875-1858

Service Time: 10:00am
www.rhowbk.org
"Congratulations on 50 years of breaking the chains of addiction through faith and service"

Testimonies

Finding a Home

In time even the harshest skeptics heart is touched by things real or imagined going on around him. The unexplained events once defined as coincidence at Anchor House we come to see as miracles. Seemingly miraculous physical, emotional and spiritual transformation leads one to start to believe that "Through God all things are possible" and maybe, just maybe God does have a plan for me...if I just believe.

You see, a short while ago I was that skeptic who viewed Anchor House as just a rehab and the goings on as coincidences. I am now starting to believe in miracles and view Anchor House as home.

I say to each and every resident that Anchor House represents something different. To some it's a sanctuary, a respite from the streets. To others a short term pit stop, a place to rest up, re-tool, re-energize before we go off again to do what we do. It can also be an alternative to incarceration for the select few to whom the privilege is granted.

None of us come through the doors thinking of Anchor House as home, the safe haven we all knew and now seek; where love is abundant and family resides. But in time, that is what it becomes...home.

The fellowship and comradery found living amongst my fellow residents is like the bonds I've forged with my siblings. Growing up the older brother, not having a clue I find myself now with 40 others in whom I can turn to and confide in times of distress.

The guidance and encouragement we receive from management and staff is reminiscent of the parental and familiar love from the elders we all knew growing up.

T.S.



God Works It Out

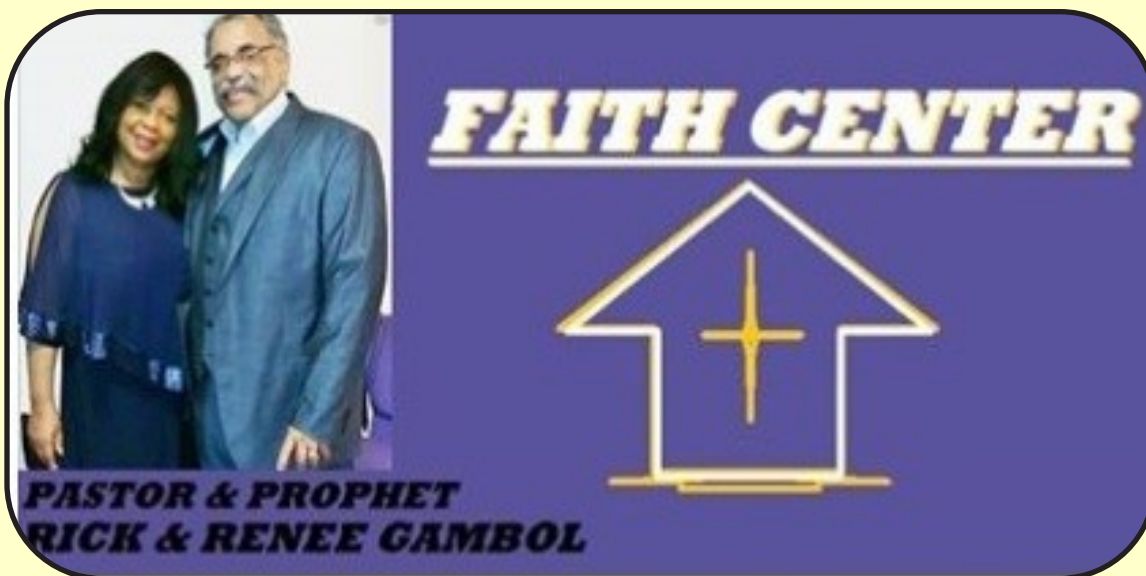
In Deuteronomy 28:13 God's word says, "The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom."

As I reflect on the past 13 years I see God's glory and how He took me from a life of degradation. As an Alumni of Anchor House God has redefined and developed me for His purpose and His plan (Jeremiah 29:11). I completed college, earning a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in social work as well as credentialing in the very sin that had me bound and confined; substance abuse. God again took what Satan meant for harm and turned it into good.

There was a time I did not believe there was a purpose for my life and believed my purpose was to be abused by others and to abuse myself with alcohol and drugs. Today I encourage the abused and counsel the ones who abuse themselves with the same substance.

Again, God has proven that He is not a man that He should lie. This promise in Romans 8:28, "and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ."

R.N.W.



**Recovery Coach Academy (RCA)
30 hours, Far Rockaway (Queens)**

Trainers Name: Renee Gambol
Training Site: Faith Center Church

Address:
2116 Cornaga Avenue, Far Rockaway, NY, 11691

Credit Hours: 30
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Cost: \$150 Manuals: Included

Schedule:
Monday - Friday 9:30AM-12PM, 12-1 Lunch, 1PM-4:30PM

Additional Information:
Begin your Recovery coach training before the New Year.

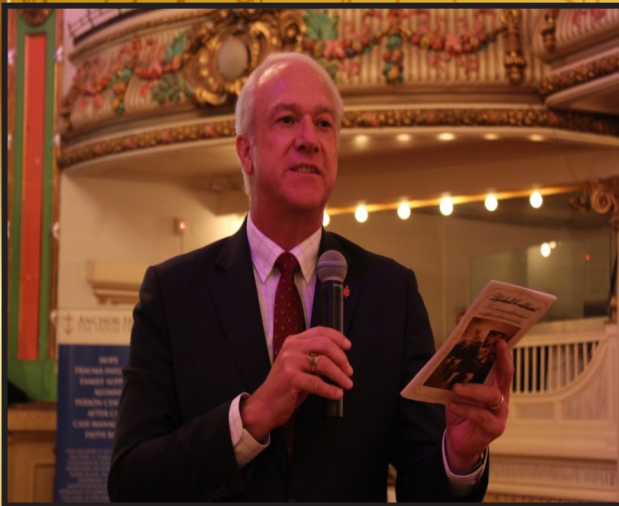
Contact Name: Renee Gambol, MA, MDV. CASAC
Contact Phone Number: (516) 225-1470
Contact Email Address: rgambol1@yahoo.com



Graduation Banquet



Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
New York Annual Conference of
United Methodist Church



Rev. Dr. William S. Shillady
CEO/Executive Director of
United Methodist City Society



Letitia James
Public Advocate for
the City of New York



50 years of restoring lives.

Graduation Banquet



50 years of restoring lives.

Anchor House Staff



Founder Rev. Alfredo Cotto-Thorner

Loved Ones



Family Interview

Question: How do you feel about your family member's progress since entering this program?

Answer: I feel that she has made great progress since entering this program. She's more optimistic.

Question: How do you feel this treatment facility has/is helping your family member?

Answer: I feel that she is more focused.

Question: Please name one of the biggest changes you have noticed in your family member since they've been in treatment.

Answer: She is more peaceful and calm.

Question: What would you like to share with other parents who have a family member suffering from addiction?

Answer: That this program is very family oriented and very supportive.

R.S.P.



Testimony

"My Mom"

My mother was always there for me growing up. As time went by she was still there physically but not mentally. The disease of drinking took over her life, becoming number one and nothing else mattered; not even me. By the time I was 14 years of age I was no longer living with her. A whole year went by and I didn't see her. Imagine how difficult that is for a teenager and all the different directions I could have gone in. I went to school counseling to help my situation.

I completed high school, went on to my dream college, Fashion Institute of Technology, graduated from there and now have a full time job.

My mother is now on her way to recovery and no matter what has gone on between us over the years, she is still my mother and I will always be there to support her. It takes time and patience but I believe she will get better. I know I will get my mom back.

To all the families who have gone through a substance abuse situation, you need to hang in there and support the ones who have hurt you; infinite amount of times no matter how ridiculous that may sound. Now is when they need you more than ever. For those who have gone in the wrong direction, it is never too late to start—just take baby steps and put one foot in front of the other. I promise everything works out in the end. It just takes time.

M.H.

Mother's Day Cruise TO SPAIN, FRANCE & ITALY MAY 13-20, 2018

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Testimonies

An Anchor Saved My Life

I was drowning in a sea of despair, pain and sorrow and because of it I did a lot of drugs to numb the pain. I was in denial and thought it to be normal behavior because I came from a dysfunctional lifestyle.; But God!

While in detox it was suggested that I enroll in a drug rehab program to get to the root of my addiction. It was divinely orchestrated to attend Anchor House. The instant that I walked in I saw the mural on the first floor that made an impact on my life; Jesus hugging a drug addict! At that moment I realized this was the place and I felt His embrace.

Now because of withdrawal I was going through a lot of physical pain, but little did I know, God was not only healing my body but was also dealing with my emotional and spiritual pain.

I really cannot explain it but my Savior used an Anchor to save me from drowning in my sea of despair. As Jesus said in Matthew 9:12, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

MS



"The Love of God"

The most loved verse in the entire Bible is, no doubt, John 3:16. It is not only the most loved verse; it is the most loving verse. Why is this? The reason is both simple and profound. Simple because it tells us plainly that love was the reason God gave his Son for us. Profound because it shows us just how far God was willing to go to prove His love for us and to save us. In this verse, John, one of Jesus' disciples, leads us backstage into the compassionate chambers of the heart of God. The scene he shows is shocking:

Jesus is stretched out wide on a cross. Tears mingle with sweat and blood as they slide down his bruised cheeks. Thorn stems twisted into the shape of a wobbly crown that mock Him as "The Christ" and "The Messiah" press deep into his skull. The iron spikes that break through the skin of His hand and feet, tearing muscle, splitting bone and marrow, nail Him between Heaven and earth.

What an amazing expression of the love of God! It is violent yet so loving; gruesome yet so sacrificial, voluntary yet so necessary. In this verse, God literally goes out on the limb for you and me. God's greatest expression of the love He has for humanity is the cross.

God loves me this I know because the blood His Son shed on the cross at Calvary tells me so.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." -John 3:16

MAL



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Continuing the Vision



Over the fifty years hundreds of lives have been changed. Individuals have been emptied of drugs and filled with Christ. Alumni of Anchor House have gone into all types of vocations. Some have become ministers and others have become productive through vocational training they have received while in treatment at Anchor House. Some have returned to Anchor House as members of the staff.

We also give thanks for the volunteers over the years. They have shared their love and concern. Some have come on a weekly basis and others have helped through their local churches or served on committees and on the Board of Directors.

The vision continues under the outstanding leadership of Alison King as Executive Director. In 2013 the women's program expanded from a capacity of 20 to 28. In 2016 OASAS approved a capital project to expand the real estate property for Bergen St. The hope is to have a larger capacity to help families as well as an outpatient program.

Written by Reverend Richard and Nancy Rice



As we continue moving forward in this new dispensation we do so with the forerunners of Faith and Hope. We are encouraged by the "Pillars" whose shoulders we stand upon; confident in knowing as stated by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King *"There is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil (addiction), a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows"*.

This "House of Hope" has been on the mission of restoring the lives of individuals and their families for 50 years and we truly believe the best is yet to come. The heart of this journal is dedicated to everyone who has partnered in this divine work of reconciliation.

To the best part of Anchor House: the men, women and their families. May you forever increase in your journey of transformation and prosper in your destiny.

Yours in service
Alison King





ANCHOR HOUSE

THE HOUSE OF HOPE

EST. 1967



A place where "Hope is Born Again"

Men's Facility
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718-771-0960 (fax)

Women's Facility
976 Park Place
Brooklyn, NY 11213
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