



**BUILDING THE FOUNDATION
TO A BETTER FUTURE**

Who We Are

Founded in 1989, Comunilife is committed to providing vulnerable communities with housing and culturally sensitive supportive services. Our vision is that no one should be without the housing and supports they need to lead a healthy meaningful life. To achieve this, we provide our clients with a foundation of self-sufficiency and independence while remaining in their community.

Comunilife serves more than 4,000 low-income, homeless, and at-risk New Yorkers annually.



We are committed, innovative and outcome-oriented about our work.

What We Do

We have developed and operate a continuum of more than **2,700 units** of affordable and transitional and permanent and scatter site and congregate housing for low-income New Yorkers and adults living with special needs.

We provide comprehensive **care management, social services**, and other **rehabilitative services for housing clients** many of whom are living with chronic illnesses including mental illness, HIV/AIDS and substance use disorder.

Our **Medical Respite program** provides:

- short-term supportive housing
 - case management services
 - and permanent housing referrals
- to multiply-challenged patients leaving hospital care without a viable home in which to complete their recuperation.

And our **Life is Precious™ program** provides non-clinical services to Latina teens at risk of suicide.

How We Work



Underlying all treatment modalities is the understanding that our clients have diverse backgrounds and that **cultural sensitivity** and the ability and willingness to communicate in their chosen language is a necessary for positive outcomes.

- **56%** of the people we serve are **55 years** of age and older
- almost **72%** of these residents are **60 years** of age and older.

At the core of what we do is our strong belief that integration of:

- language
- cultural knowledge
- social networks – family, extended family, peers and community institutions – into clinical care **is key to improving outcomes for those we serve.**

Mental Health Programs

Comunilife's mental health services include specialized activities for Latina teens who have seriously considered or attempted suicide as well as service enriched, supportive housing for formerly homeless adults living with mental illness.

Latina Adolescent Suicide Prevention Activities (Life is Precious™ Program)

Comunilife's Life is Precious™ (LIP) Program provides suicide prevention activities for Latina teens who have seriously considered or attempted suicide. The teens, who range in age from 12 to 18, are immigrants or first generation Americans who are living with suicide ideation, depression or other diagnosed mental illness. Opened in 2008, LIP has four locations in **New York City (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens)** as well as **Amsterdam, Hempstead, Poughkeepsie, and Yonkers.**

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

In 2024, **276 Latina teens** accessed services. To be eligible for LIP, the teens must be enrolled in and regularly attending school, under the care of a mental health clinician, and have parents/guardians permission.

To date, more than **850 Latina teens** have participated in LIP not one of whom has completed suicide. LIP's accomplishments are measured by the positive results achieved by the girls and validated by research conducted, since 2013, by the NYS State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University **NYS Center of Excellence for**



Cultural Competence, which shows that for every month a Latina teen participates in LIP her level of suicide ideation and depression decreases.

Comunilife's goal is to show that LIP is a community informed, evidenced-based model of care. Early findings, from Phase 2 of the research shows that, over a 12 month period, the Latina teens who also participated in **Life is Precious™** had greater improvement than the control group participants who only received services at an outpatient mental health clinics on the Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire were statistically significant.



Housing for Adults Living with Mental Illness

We provide permanent, service enriched scatter site and congregate housing that enables our formerly homeless clients to live independently, improve health outcomes, prevent substance abuse and promote self-sufficiency.

HOUSING OPTIONS: COMUNILIFE'S HOUSING CONTINUUM

Since 1992 Comunilife has been one of New York City's leading developers and providers of affordable and supportive housing. We understand that at-risk New Yorkers, especially those with histories of homelessness or long-term hospitalizations, may not have the foundation to live independently and face a greater risk of returning to homelessness if given an apartment prematurely or without the proper supports. **Comunilife's continuum of housing ensures that clients receive the level of care appropriate to their needs to remain stably housed;** with the goal of ultimately providing clients with the skills to live independently in their community.



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Transitional Housing:

Short term housing for homeless adults, many of whom are living with HIV/AIDS, mental illness, substance use disorder and other chronic illnesses. The transitional housing programs, which include **safe haven and transitional residence** provide integrated case management and support services that prepare them for stable and permanent housing. Many clients take advantage of our housing continuum and move to a Comunilife permanent congregate or scatter site apartment.

Community Residences:

A congregate, transitional residence with 24/7 supervision and three meals a day which supports special needs adults and helps them attain their goal of integration into the community by securing permanent housing.

Permanent Congregate Residence:

Twelve congregate residences for **New Yorkers living with special needs** who have the ability to live independently with the safe guard of on-site case management services.

Permanent Scatter Site Apartments:

Comunilife has **1,068 subsidized apartments for New Yorkers**, many of whom were homeless, living with special needs who have developed the greatest level of independent living. Residents receive case management services ensuring that they maintain the skills necessary to remain stably housed.



Medical Respite Program

Uniquely blends the elements of a **short term transitional housing program with health care and case management activities** for adult patients who are medically cleared but cannot be discharged from the hospital because they have no home in which to fully recuperate.

In addition to providing the required health care services, case managers work with the patients to secure permanent housing.

Affordable Housing

Comunilife's continuum of housing includes 826 apartments, in eleven congregate buildings for low-income community residents.



El Boriinquen Residence



Woodhull Residence

El Hogar Residence



Recent Accomplishments



RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Supportive and Affordable Housing:

In 2024 Comunilife opened its **Woodhull II Residence**, which provides **57 units** for formerly homeless adults living with special needs and **36 apartments** for low-income community residents in Brooklyn.

Also in 2024, Comunilife broke ground on its **El Hogar Residence**. When completed in 2026, the El Hogar Residence will provide housing for **50 frail elderly** and **33 very low-income seniors**.

The Life is Precious™ Program:

We continue to expand our reach with the opening of four sites outside of New York City. In 2023 LIP expanded to **Poughkeepsie** and **Yonkers** and in 2024 to **Amsterdam** and **Hempstead**.

LIP continues to provide services that meet the ongoing mental health needs of Latina teens. In addition to its core programming of academic support, licensed creative art therapy, health and wellness activities, and case management services, LIP continues to provide more intensive services to the highest risk teens. Through bilingual and bicultural **family therapy, family creative art therapy and intensive case management services**, these activities help strengthen the whole family unit and improve communication.

*In 2024, the **Life is Precious™** program was included in the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices Registry.*



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