



At the official groundbreaking for the F·E·G·S Tanya Towers residence are: (L-R) Adolfo Carrión, Regional Administrator, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development; Jonas Waizer, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer, F·E·G·S; Marc Jahr, President, New York City Housing Development Corporation; Joe Stein, Jr., Chairman, F·E·G·S Board; Gail A. Magaliff, CEO, F·E·G·S; Stuart Oltchick, President, F·E·G·S; Thomas A. Blumberg, President, Tanya Towers, Inc., Member, F·E·G·S Board; Ira Machowsky, Executive Vice President, F·E·G·S; Peg Moran, Sr. Vice President, Residential and Housing Services, F·E·G·S; and Glenn Stelzer, Director, Tanya Towers and NYSD Housing Services, F·E·G·S.



F·E·G·S Tanya Towers Groundbreaking Major Renovation Underway of Lower East Side Residence for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Low Income Seniors

F·E·G·S, a major provider of housing and residential services for people with disabilities, held a groundbreaking ceremony on November 3rd, marking a \$4.4 million renovation for Tanya Towers, a 138-unit residence on Manhattan's Lower East Side that offers safe, affordable housing with special support services to low-income individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or have other disabilities.



Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President noted, "There is a role for government and the voluntary private sector to figure out solutions that give everyone the opportunity to live in the greatest city in the world. The Tanya Towers project symbolizes hope and opportunity for people – but also smart economics and smart partnerships. I am very proud to have played a role in making sure we could get this project up and running, but let's not stop here. Let's continue to work with the city, state, and federal governments to create more of this kind of housing."

observed, "From the outside, Tanya Towers looks much like many other high rise apartment buildings, but when you cross the threshold, you can feel immediately that this is a special place. A community is thriving within these walls . . . and we are proud to be a partner in preserving this irreplaceable resource. For decades, Tanya Towers has been a safe, stable, and supportive home for people in need of special services and dedicated resources. The same kind of leadership that it took to develop this housing is on display here today."

Thomas A. Blumberg, President, Board of Directors, Tanya Towers, Inc. and F·E·G·S Board Member, noted, "Today is the beginning of a new chapter in the history of this wonderful building, its staff, and residents. I commend the great leadership and extraordinary staff that offer the amazing services that happen here every day."

"Named in honor of **Tanya Nash**, a leading advocate for the deaf who served for 35 years as Executive Director of the New York Society for the Deaf, which merged into F·E·G·S in 2006, this building holds a special place in the history of services for the deaf and hard of hearing in New York City," commented **Gail A. Magaliff, F·E·G·S Chief Executive Officer**. Magaliff also acknowledged ongoing support from UJA-Federation of New York, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), and the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).



"Building 'Homes with Heart' is a core value at F·E·G·S residential programs," remarked **Peg Moran, Senior Vice President, F·E·G·S Residential and Housing Services**, "and is most evident at Tanya Towers, which serves as a beacon for the deaf community to foster independence and neighborhood involvement."

Glenn Stelzer, Director of Tanya Towers and NYSD Residential Services, expressed thanks for "the support F·E·G·S has shown to our community. Almost 40 years after it first opened, Tanya Towers remains a hub and central resource for the deaf and hard of hearing community."

Partnerships Make It Happen

The \$4.4 million renovation will modernize and improve the building, gardens, and community spaces, make facility modifications to address the particular needs of the deaf and hard of hearing residents, and take necessary steps to "green" the building and achieve LEED certification. The renovation is made possible through a \$1 million capital grant from the New York City Council, sponsored by Council Member Rosie Mendez, and a \$500,000 grant from the Office of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer. An additional \$2.9 million has been made available by mortgage financing arranged through the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and in collaboration with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Tanya Towers is being renovated under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's New Housing Marketplace Plan (NHMP), a multi-billion dollar initiative to finance 165,000 units of affordable housing for half a million New Yorkers by the close of the 2014 fiscal year.

TEK Architects designed the Tanya Towers renovation and Alexander Wolf & Son will perform the major renovation work at the residence.

F·E·G·S has provided residential and housing alternatives for more than 30 years and currently provides housing programs and support services to approximately 1,300 individuals with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, as well as to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf/blind. F·E·G·S was named 2010 Nonprofit Developer of the Year by the New York Housing Conference and National Housing Conference. ■



The redesigned Tanya Towers Residence is scheduled to be completed in Fall, 2012.

F·E·G·S is one of the nation's largest and diversified health and human services organizations. We bring together the best professionals, programs, and resources, supported by technology, to help individuals achieve greater personal and economic independence. Our network of caring, compassionate, and innovative services in employment, health, disabilities, education, youth and families, housing and homecare inspires and strengthens individuals, families and communities. **Visit us at www.fegs.org**



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