Dear Friends,

Whether it’s music, poetry, daily exercise, caregiver support or field trips around Brooklyn, your generous gifts to New York Memory Center make a real difference in the lives of so many individuals and families.

Each of your donations makes it possible for another individual with memory loss to step out of isolation and into a welcoming community. Take it from Nannette, who told us after her first day at the program, “The main thing is you feel how it’s good to be with people. Everyone is nice and if you don’t know what’s going on, you can ask the person next to you and they will help. All the folks and staff are very respectful.”

As you can see in the photos, stories, and comments in this mailing, our staff care deeply about their work. They also go the extra mile, like coming to the Center on a summer Saturday for an all-day dementia-care training led by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

Since our founding in 1983, we have learned to listen to the needs of members and their caregivers and adapt and innovate our services. In recent years we have:

• Added early-arrival hours by appointment for busy caregivers
• Expanded our Memory Technology Center with more computers and software
• Teamed up with agencies to bring educational and relaxation programs to caregivers in their own neighborhood
• Engaged professional artists at each Memory Arts Café for a fun, shared cultural outing

New York Memory Center is a stand-alone, independent agency. We are proud to be approved for city and state contracts, but we could not do all that we do without your donations. Your support helps provide scholarships for those who could not attend otherwise and helps us do the extras that make our program special. In the coming year we’d like to give our staff a boost too by renovating office spaces that have not changed in years.

The season of thanks and giving is fast approaching, and we hope you will make a donation to New Your Memory Center so that we can keep up our high quality programming.

We deeply appreciate your financial contributions and would be glad to thank you in person at this year’s Memory Arts Café holiday party on December 11 at 6 p.m. Please consider joining us if you can. I would love to meet you there.

Sincerely,

Josephine Brown
Executive Director

“\[I learn a lot about Alzheimer’s coming to these programs, and it reinforces that I’m not on an island by myself. I feel embraced at New York Memory Center, which seems to do a lot of different types of programs.\]”

—Christal L., caregiver for her mother

New York Memory Center is proud to offer

MEET MARGARITA DIAZ
ADULT DAY PROGRAM MANAGER

Margarita Diaz came to New York Memory Center as a volunteer in 2008 not knowing much about Alzheimer’s Disease or dementia. “It’s been a big experience, working with people with memory loss. I’ve learned a lot over the years,” she says. Within a year of her arrival, Margarita started working for the center as a per diem driver, and then moved up to part-time driver and program assistant. By 2012 she was full-time, adding Transportation Coordinator to her title. “My co-workers are wonderful to work with, and I love all the members. We treat each other like family here.”

Today, despite a more administrative position as Adult Day Program Manager, Margarita says she will still jump into the driver’s seat when there’s a need. Multi-tasking is one of her many skills. Along with other staff members, she has attended regular dementia care trainings covering everything from communication tips to art therapy to CPR and hands-on care such as lifting and transfers. Most recently she received her food handler’s license and can now supervise meal services at the center.

Margarita was born in Puerto Rico but grew up mostly in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. She now lives in Coney Island with her two sons, “the loves of my life.” She hopes to spend the rest of her working years at New York Memory Center — and we hope she does too!
My experience at New York Memory Center was wonderful in every way. The staff is so warm and caring and work hard to provide a safe, comfortable and fun space for the clients. I loved getting to know each and every client, learning their unique life stories and participating in activities with them. I also loved helping to plan new outreach events. I learned so much from this internship that I have taken with me on my path forward.

— Brittany Desatnick, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service

Occupational therapy and social work interns from area colleges, along with high school volunteers, bring fresh faces and energy to our programs. Left, high school students from Brooklyn Tech participate in a poetry session. After their readings they greet and talk with each member.

Memory Arts Cafés bring together people of all ages, memory capacities, and walks of life to celebrate their shared humanity through universal treasures such as poetry, friendship, history, music, the waterfront, and ice cream.

— Carl B., grandfather attended NYMC

My mom’s been coming since 2012. She refers to the center as ‘her friends’ and will say ‘I’m going to see my friends.’ As a caregiver I feel great and comfortable about her coming here.

— Wendy W., caregiver

The Jewish Museum provides volunteers to lead art programs. A session focusing on collages and colors led to a lively discussion.

Poetry and stretches before ice cream at the September Memory Arts Café in Red Hook.

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It’s an excellent program to help our loved ones get out into the community and not be isolated.

— Melanie S., caregiver for her mother

Robotic pets are enjoyed by animal-loving members and useful for redirecting energies. Your gift of $100 or more will help us to buy more!

The Memory Arts Café is a cultural and social program created and cosponsored with the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project. It’s held every month or so throughout the year on evenings or Saturdays.

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