



# PRESS RELEASE

## *For Immediate Release*

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## ROBIN HOOD FOUNDATION GIVES HARLEM UNITED 2009 HEROES AWARD

*Robin Hood Foundation Honors Three Outstanding Organizations*

**NEW YORK, December 1, 2009**— Robin Hood, one of the city's leading poverty-fighting organizations, awarded three New York organizations with its Heroes Award, including Harlem United. Receiving the award on behalf of the organization were Patrick McGovern, President and CEO of Harlem United, and one of the agency's clients, Linda. The award is given annually to organizations which have impacted New Yorkers, including those who have overcome insurmountable obstacles and shown the resiliency of the human spirit. Follow this link to read about Linda's incredible journey to health, hope and healing ([www.harlemunited.org/linda](http://www.harlemunited.org/linda)).

Robin Hood has funded Harlem United since its inception in 1988 and has helped it grow into a leading resource for people with H.I.V/AIDS. "The Robin Hood Foundation has been a partner in hope from our earliest days when we rented basements in churches and when we could offer little more than an embrace for comfort and solace", commented McGovern, "the Robin Hood partnership has been at the heart of the work we do, the people we've reached, the lives we've saved and the hope we've restored."

Linda received the award on behalf of all the clients and is one of the agency's success stories. "This organization responds to the needs of people whose H.I.V diagnosis is complicated by homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse. Harlem United helped me get the care I needed, and at 62, I have finally fulfilled my childhood dream to become a bus driver." said Linda. She already faced enormous obstacles in her life when she was diagnosed with H.I.V. Abused as a child, addicted to drugs and alcohol, homeless and forced into selling her body for drugs, she was lost until turning to Harlem United.

In 1988, Harlem United began as a volunteer organization that provided counseling and shelter in 20 apartments. Now it is a professional institution, managing 545 apartments and running health centers and prevention programs that provide over 7,000 people with housing, primary medical care, H.I.V testing, nutritional training, mental health services, support groups and meals, 6,000 H.I.V tests, and 500,000 clean syringes.

For almost three decades, Harlem United Community AIDS Center has provided high quality comprehensive H.I.V care, prevention and housing to clients regardless of race, socio-economic status or sexual orientation. For more information about Harlem United please visit [www.harlemunited.org](http://www.harlemunited.org).

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