



September 10, 2021

Bernadette Nation
Executive Director
SBS-ERU-IGS

Dear Ms. Nation,

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement has been dedicated to serving disadvantaged New Yorkers since 1889 when it was first founded by renowned Danish photojournalist and social reformer Jacob Riis to tend to the needs of the multitudes of poor immigrants living in the tenement slums on the Lower East Side. In 1952, in response to changing demographics and the growing needs in the outer boroughs, the agency relocated to Long Island City to the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Queensbridge Houses - the largest public housing development in the country. Since then, our mission has remained the same: to build and strengthen underserved communities in western Queens and to act as a catalyst for change. The goal of the agency is to provide resources, opportunities and support to help community members reach their greatest potential and achieve social and economic self-sufficiency.

Jacob Riis Settlement has worked directly and in collaboration with Queens Together in the past, providing food relief to our Ravenswood and Queensbridge communities. During the height of the pandemic Queens Together used our community center as a launching point to set up food box deliveries to the devastated Long Island City communities of Queensbridge, Ravenswood and Astoria. In addition, Queens Together funded local restaurants in preparing meals and delivering them to our homebound neighbors. And it should be noted that Queens Together set up a food pantry utilizing USDA farm fresh produce. This food pantry fed over 8,000 community members per week at pop up pantries from stretching from Astoria to Jamaica, Queens.

We rely on QT for their grassroots outreach on important information, resources and connections with others in our community. We hope they continue to grow and expand across Queens. We cannot imagine getting through COVID19 without their support and leadership with food relief and community outreach.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Madison", written over the typed name and title.

Robert Madison
Associate Executive Director

