

“As a member of the United States Army, I was ready for combat. What I never expected was to have to fight for my life in a domestic violence war. But thanks to Services for the UnderServed, I escaped that nightmare and now, I’m giving back. I hope you will give too.”

Stacy H., U.S. Army Veteran
Former S:US Client

Dear Fellow New Yorker,

A city can be judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable citizens. When the neediest among us thrive, our cities are stronger.

Here in New York City, resources are scarcer than ever just when the need is greatest. There are more people homeless, more children with autism, more men and women returning from war severely altered by that experience, and more women and families experiencing domestic violence. And there are still too many people living in institutions, and too few people with disabilities finding jobs.

So what can we do? And how can you help?

I’m writing today to invite you to join a group of New Yorkers who are working every day to better the lives of tens of thousands of New Yorkers, like my friend Stacy.

Who are we? We are Services for the UnderServed (S:US) — a caring community of New Yorkers offering a wide range of programs that prevent homelessness ... support our veterans ... help domestic violence survivors ... assist people with disabilities ... and provide employment opportunities to New Yorkers in need.

If that sounds like a tall order, well, it is. And that’s why I’m hoping you can help us out with a donation of \$25, \$50 or even more today because S:US can’t build a better New York alone. We need you with us!

For nearly 40 years, S:US has been making New York a better place. We touch the lives of 25,000 individuals and their families each year in all five boroughs of New York City — people like Stacy.

Stacy never expected to need our help. But after enduring for years in a violent marriage, she realized that she had to get out for her daughters, age 4 and 5. It was her girls who gave her the courage to walk away from a 10-year marriage gone bad.

But leaving was only the first of many challenges Stacy had to face. You see, after escaping with her girls, Stacy was homeless for the first time in her life. Fortunately, she was referred to S:US — and things started to get better. As Stacy tells it:

“S:US enrolled me in its Supportive Services for Veteran Families program on Long Island, and helped me move into my own two-bedroom apartment. Everyone I met at S:US was there for me every step of the way...”

(over, please)

Today, I'm pleased to tell you, Stacy has her life back.

With S:US' assistance, this young mother secured affordable housing for her two young daughters and herself — and a job. Stacy is now Housing Coordinator with S:US on Long Island — reaching out to fellow veterans who are going through their own rough times.

Stacy is only one example of the thousands of people that S:US works with each and every day — New Yorkers who need a partner to help them get back on their feet.

The fact is, everyone needs a safety net at some point. And S:US is just that for thousands of New Yorkers who are facing multiple obstacles in their lives — and who have nowhere else to turn. We offer housing, job training, counselling, treatment, rehab — whatever people need to get their lives back on track.

S:US serves the whole person — not just one obstacle or issue. We support vulnerable New Yorkers in so many ways:

- **Housing for New Yorkers in Need** — S:US operates transitional and permanent supportive housing for individuals and families, including people who have experienced homelessness, people with mental health challenges, and families experiencing domestic violence. We offer anti-eviction assistance, pathways to housing and employment, case management for people living on the streets, and a steady and growing pipeline of permanent low-income housing.
- **Jobs for New Yorkers with Disabilities** — S:US values the contributions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum — and we offer them the skills-building opportunities they need so they can volunteer or get a job. Through S:US, they can also make new friends, deepen relationships, and direct their own lives to their fullest potential.
- **Mental Health and Addiction Treatment for New Yorkers** — S:US is breaking down barriers and opening new doors so people with mental health and substance use challenges can lead productive lives. Our programs and services are respectful, highly supportive, and grounded in evidence-based practice. Simply put — they work.
- **Services for New York Veterans** — S:US is a leading provider of veterans' services in New York City. We assist veterans who are coping with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), as well as those challenged by homelessness, substance use, and mental illness, including those vets at the highest risk of committing suicide.
- **Services for New Yorkers who have experienced Domestic Violence** — S:US has a long history of helping survivors through our domestic violence shelters, as well as raising awareness about this issue and the resources available to survivors.

Every day, S:US helps New Yorkers who have nowhere else to turn. Women like Meghan ...

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We first met Meghan shortly after her 21st birthday. Meghan has autism and can't speak, but her mother was determined that she should have a full and independent life. The problem was, after the age of 21, there are few options open to people like Meghan, and without options, Meghan would not be able to find her place and purpose in life.

Fortunately, Meghan's mom found S:US and we were able to help. Today, Meghan has a home in the Bronx with all the services she needs. She's been with S:US for 10 years now and during that time she's become part of a caring, supportive community — just as her mother had hoped for her.

As you can see, S:US has the vision, the passion, the scale, and the expertise to make New York a better place for all New Yorkers. We serve the city's most vulnerable citizens, and we are widely-recognized as a high-quality, innovative organization.

But we can't build a better New York alone — we need you with us!

Please join us by sending your most generous contribution to S:US today. When you do, you will:

... help prevent homelessness ... support our veterans ... help domestic violence survivors ... assist people with disabilities ... provide employment and skills-building opportunities for New Yorkers in need.

All it takes is a donation to S:US of \$25, \$50, or even more to help change the lives of New Yorkers who just need a chance. You can give them that chance!

Remember — a better New York for one person like Stacy is a better New York for you, for me, for everyone. So please, be as generous as you can be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Colonna', written in a cursive style.

Donna Colonna
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. To see what your donation of \$25, \$50 or more to S:US can mean to New Yorkers in need, please check the enclosed reply. And please be as generous as possible!