

## EQUALITY FOR FLATBUSH'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

### **BROOKLYN SHOWS LOVE MUTUAL AID PROJECT**

- On March 25, in response to the 2020 global COVID pandemic, Equality for Flatbush and Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network launched the #BrooklynShowsLove Mutual Aid Project. **\$93,218.34** spent on non-perishable foods, household and COVID-19 supplies. Over 760 people across New York City received \$150 emergency “love offerings” for a total of **\$117,900**. A total of **\$24,172.38 was spent** on emergency VISA and GrubHub gift cards. 984 people volunteered to pack 5-12 bags of groceries, drive to 30 neighborhoods, field phone calls for waiting lists and grocery orders, and researched and maintained a 30-page research guide for the BKSL Mutual Aid Project. A total of **1,612 deliveries** were made in 2020

### **AGAINST POLICE VIOLENCE**

- During the global rebellion in the wake of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Nina Pop, Tony McDade, and many more, E4F led and participated in the daily protests
- In coalition with other progressive groups, Equality for Flatbush led an 8K march in Flatbush, Brooklyn that was heavily attacked by the NYPD
- E4F coordinated 24-hour jail support for our members and activists that participated in the daily protests
- We financially supported the fundraising for metrocards for protestors coming out of jail, who had not gotten their personal property back
- We coordinated and paid for hotel rooms for both Manhattan and Brooklyn jail support for people coming out of jail late at night who did not have access to their wallets/keys
- In response to the pandemic, E4F organized more legal workers, medical workers, and crisis intervention counselors along with social workers to join our Rapid Response Team. These professionals helped to respond to calls of Amber Alerts, domestic violence, people in emotional distress, medical triage, and safety protocols around COVID as an alternative to calling 911. Specific to the George Floyd protests, E4F's hotlines responded to jail support needs and mental health triage for protestors
- Given the increased police brutality in 2020, E4F rapidly responded to families and individuals who experienced police violence along with the political movement
- In response to the “shelter in place” order in New York City, alongside our political allies Picture the Homeless, The Safety Net Project, and Communities United For Police Reform, we participated in the [#HomelessCantStayHome campaign](#) which demanded that the de Blasio administration provide 35K private hotel rooms to homeless New Yorkers could safely practice social distancing. Given that the City of New York did not meet these demands, E4F assisted in a fundraising campaign for the Safety Net Project to maintain 3 to 4-month stays at hotel rooms for homeless New Yorkers. Through this campaign, E4F paid for long stay hotel rooms for 7 people. We also participated in direct actions that forced the Dept. of Homeless Services to take over paying for the hotel rooms and creating a path to permanent housing.
- E4F conducted cop-watch trainings, sent out patrols at different subway stops in Brooklyn in response to the de Blasio administration, the MTA, and the NYPD's forced removal and arrest of homeless/houseless people from the subway system
- In June of 2020, E4F alerted the community to the campaign of [Irina Manta, aka Ditmas Park Karen](#), who created a Facebook group called “Peaceful Ditmas Park” with the intent of having city officials lead a “crackdown” against people playing music or lighting fireworks. Her actions directly led to the unprecedented incidents of the NYPD arriving in full riot gear in a Flatbush neighborhood due to complaints of fireworks. People were beaten and arrested by the police for simply walking out of their apartments. For two weeks, E4F heavily flyer and cop-watched in that neighborhood in the hope of holding the NYPD accountable.
- We were active in supporting the families of Ramarley Graham, Eric Garner, Saheed Vassell, Davonte Pressley, Kimani Gray, Kyam Livingston, Shantel Davis, Akai Gurley, and Delrawn Small.



### **FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

- E4F participated in the #CancelRent campaign and held bimonthly tenant organizing meetings which led to the August 8th march against landlords in Flatbush and Crown Heights
- Provided rental assistance and created fundraising campaign for multiple community members, especially Black Transwomen and other LGBTQ+ people, in response to financial hardships due to COVID-19
- We maintained 3 phone/email hotlines in English, Spanish and Haitian Kreyol, receiving between 40-50+ calls per day from Brooklyn residents in need of groceries or fighting to not be displaced. Additional Bangla, French, Mandarin language hotlines were created specifically for the #BrooklynShowsLove Mutual Aid Project. We maintained housing literature to include 11 languages including Arabic, Bangla, Chinese, Haitian Kreyol, French, Korean, Japanese, Urdu, Russian, Spanish, and English.

### **AGAINST DISPLACEMENT & GENTRIFICATION**

- From July 7-12, 2020, Equality for Flatbush led a successful 24-hour eviction defense occupation to defend the tenants of 1214 Dean Street in Crown Heights, against an illegal eviction. After using the police and sexual harassment as tactics, landlords Loretta Gendville and Gennaro Brooks-Church attempted to forcibly remove the tenants and their property through a moving company. Thousands of people online participated in a social media campaign to hold the landlords accountable. Hundreds of people rapidly rallied to surround the house, force the landlords to leave, defended themselves against hired enforcers, stayed overnight as security, provided food and water and medical supplies. E4F also held meetings with the tenants and asked trusted attorneys from TakeRoot Justice to bring a lawsuit against landlords Loretta Gendville and Gennaro Brooks-Church
- In the summer of 2019, Equality for Flatbush was asked to lead a grassroots campaign to save a stop on the Underground Railroad at 227 Duffield Street / Abolitionist Place from demolition by a real estate developer. This global campaign included organizing rallies, marches, online petitions, and targeted social media. Equality for Flatbush is part of the leadership of Friends of Abolitionist Place (FAB), the organization leading the charge to build The Abolitionist Heritage Center at 227 Abolitionist Place which will serve as a museum.
- Under the leadership of UPROSE and other Sunset Park groups, The Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network participated in the defeat of Industry City's rezoning proposal, which was the biggest rezoning struggle in NYC.
- Over the course of the summer, E4F organized against landlords and building staff members who had engaged patriarchal violence and sexual harassment of women and gender-non conforming tenants

**YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL FOR GROWING OUR WORK IN 2021**