What We Are About

Don't Walk By is a Rescue Alliance initiative that for 11 years has sought to provide homeless New Yorkers a continuum of hospitality from street to stability. We believe in the dignity and worth of our guests. We believe there is hope for peace and transformation, that recovery of all kinds is possible, and that we do our best ministry when we listen non-judgmentally and are open to being ministered to - by guests, volunteers, and staff. We are more effective when we work together. The better we live out being one body, the more the quality of our work improves. We learn from each other, share best practices, and consistently raise our standards and expectations.

In our outreach, on site, and overnight hospitality, more than twelve hundred volunteer roles were filled to invite, welcome, and serve our guests, providing almost 1,000 onsite guest experiences. For many, Rescue Alliance’s dream of a city where everyone belongs, starts with dinner and a doctor.

"If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?"

James 2:15–16 ESV

DWB BY THE NUMBERS:

Resources Distributed
- Backpacks: 842
- Cold Weather Kits: 377
- Coats: 781
- Blankets: 755
- Hygiene Kits: 837
- Socks: 859

Guest Experience
- Number of Volunteers: 1248
- Street Engagements: 824
- Guests Served Onsite: 932
- Accepted Overnight Hospitality: 53
- Lifecare (1:1) Visits: 325
- Medical: 196
- Housing Works Consultation: 37
- Harlem United (HIV): 55
- Other Benefits (FACES NYC, Open Hands, ACE, and Apicha): 58

Host Sites:
- Harlem Temple
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
- NY Chinese Alliance Church
Don’t Walk By Partners
ACE
Apicha
Bombas Socks
Cru Ministries
Faces NY
Harlem United
Heeling Soles
Housing Works
New York Presbyterian
NY Cares
NY School of Podiatric Medicine
Open Hands Legal Services
Shower Power
United Airlines
World Vision

Rescue Alliance Members
The Bowery Mission
The Salvation Army
New York City Relief
Hope for New York
Goodwill Rescue Mission
New York City Rescue Mission

Continued Engagement
Our volunteers are eager for more training and guided experiences that will help them, individually and collectively, better tackle homelessness in New York City. Rescue Alliance seeks to equip you to engage with our neighbors experiencing homelessness. From a 1-hour session on the basics of caring for our homeless neighbors to a full 8 hour Mental Health First Aid training, we want to empower you through evidence-based, best-practice resources. If you’re interested in hosting a training in your congregation, workplace, or community, email hello@rescuealliance.nyc

“I helped a woman named Dahlia find a pair of shoes. There were not many shoes left and it must have taken her an hour to decide between two pairs. We took them off, put on the others, discussed and repeated this process many times over. Seeing some humanity restored through the power of choice was indescribable. Don’t Walk By was a beautiful chance to acknowledge the humanity in all people and be blessed so much more than expected. It allowed for me to serve the community in an organized and robust capacity that still felt personal.”

-Molly Dotson, Onsite Hospitality Volunteer

Don’t Walk By fosters a continuum of welcome from street to stability.
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