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Grand Opening set for Historic Senior Center for the Blind

In October 2011, Mayor Bloomberg announced the selection of VISIONS to operate the first senior center for blind seniors as one of eight new Innovative Senior Centers as the “Cornerstone of the City’s Age Friendly NYC Initiative.”

After years of work, VISIONS will launch a new chapter in its history with the opening of The VISIONS at Selis Manor Senior Center at the Selis Manor Community Center. It will be the first senior center exclusively designed for older adults who are blind or severely visually impaired in New York City.

The Grand Opening Ceremonies for the Historic VISIONS at Selis Manor Senior Center will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at VISIONS at Selis Manor Senior Center, 135 West 23rd Street in Manhattan.

Doors will open at 1:00 pm, the Ribbon Cutting and Opening Remarks are scheduled for 1:30, followed by Commemorative Performances and tours of the facilities. The first congregate meal for center participants will begin at 3:30.

Joyce Carrico, President of Selis Manor Tenants Association, and a blind senior herself, said, “This will be a great thing. A senior center is very needed, and people will find it a blessing. This will be a Godsend that will help blind people who run out of money at the end of every month to access a hot meal.”

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The new VISIONS at Selis Manor Senior Center located at 135 West 23rd Street in Manhattan, will be open from 9:00 am to 8 pm Monday through Thursday, and 9 am to 6 pm on Friday. The new program will feature a daily, hot dinner meal served Monday through Friday from 3:30 pm through 5:00 pm.

In addition to the daily meal, services will focus on case assistance and management, health and wellness programs and education and information available in accessible format. There will be a full schedule of programs each day of the week, with services including a newly equipped lab with “talking” computers, fitness center, library and radio station. All programs and services are provided in a facility designed to accommodate the needs of blind older adults with accessible and adaptive equipment and facilities.

“This is a citywide program,” said Betsy Fabricant, Senior Administrator of VISIONS who has been supervising the development of the new innovative center. “It will provide us with the opportunity to develop a pioneering approach to the delivery of services to older adults who are blind or severely visually impaired. Everything we’ve always wanted to provide at a center exclusively planned for blind consumers will be available at the center,” she said.

For more information about the new senior center, send an email to clewy@visionsvcb.org; elee@visionsvcb.org, or bfabricant@visionsvcb.org, or contact the Senior Center Hotline at 212-625-1616, ext. 155.

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