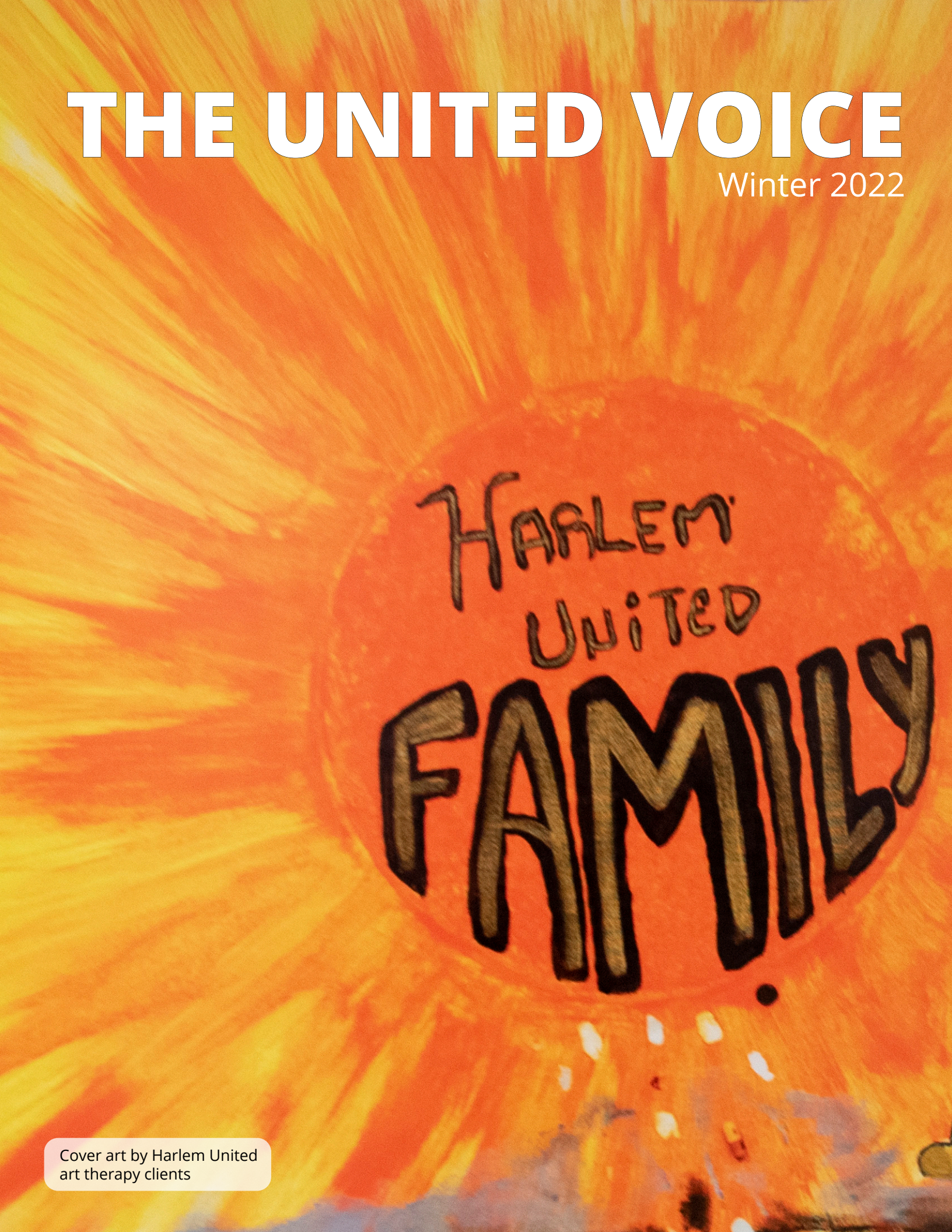


THE UNITED VOICE

Winter 2022



HARLEM
UNITED
FAMILY

Cover art by Harlem United
art therapy clients

DEAR FRIENDS

YEAR IN NUMBERS

Welcome to *The United Voice*, news for the Harlem United community! For more than 30 years, Harlem United has championed health beyond the doctor's office. When we got our start at the peak of the HIV crisis in 1988, there was little doctors could do to treat the virus. So, we gave the kind care that doctors could not: food, community, and spiritual support.

We've come a long way since then. Today, our providers deliver life-saving care for people living with HIV and many other chronic health conditions. But we haven't forgotten that, for many of us, healing takes a hell of a lot more than just routine check-ups.

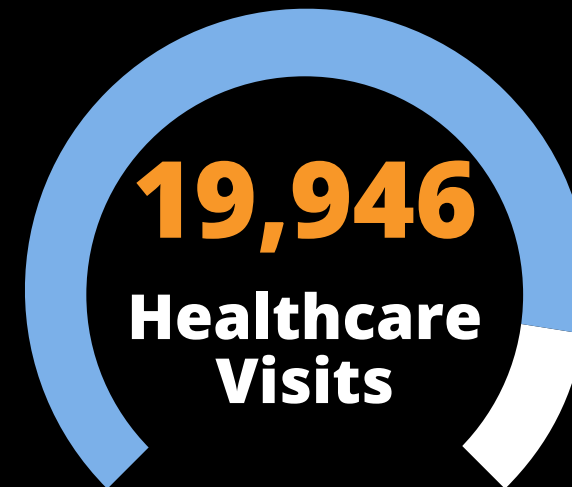
Not only do many of our patients face multiple and complex health conditions, they are also subjected to a battery of social systems that devastate their health. Racism, stigma, and social disinvestment have had catastrophic health implications for the communities we serve.

It is not enough to tell someone who cannot afford fresh produce to "eat healthier." It is not enough to tell someone who is unhoused to "take this medication regularly." These are good pieces of medical guidance, but they are simply out of reach for many people dealing with extreme and chronic poverty. To give individuals a real shot at health, we must treat what really ails them.

At its core, that is Harlem United's mission. We provide healthcare, housing, and harm reduction to address the root causes, not just the manifestation, of health disparities. Our patients are whole people with multiple overlapping needs. Holistic treatment moves us toward health equity!



Jacqui Kilmer
CEO



MEET SAM

When Sam came to Harlem United more than 15 years ago, he was really struggling. Weaving together our healthcare, housing, and harm reduction services, he slowly regained his health and so much more. Today, Sam is thriving. As an advocate for other patients, he is a pillar of the Harlem United community. His story exemplifies the impact of Harlem United's holistic approach to care.

Harm Reduction: Sam met outreach workers in the park where he was living, and received Hep C testing, clean syringes, and snacks. He started attending harm reduction counseling to get support in more safely regulating his drug use.

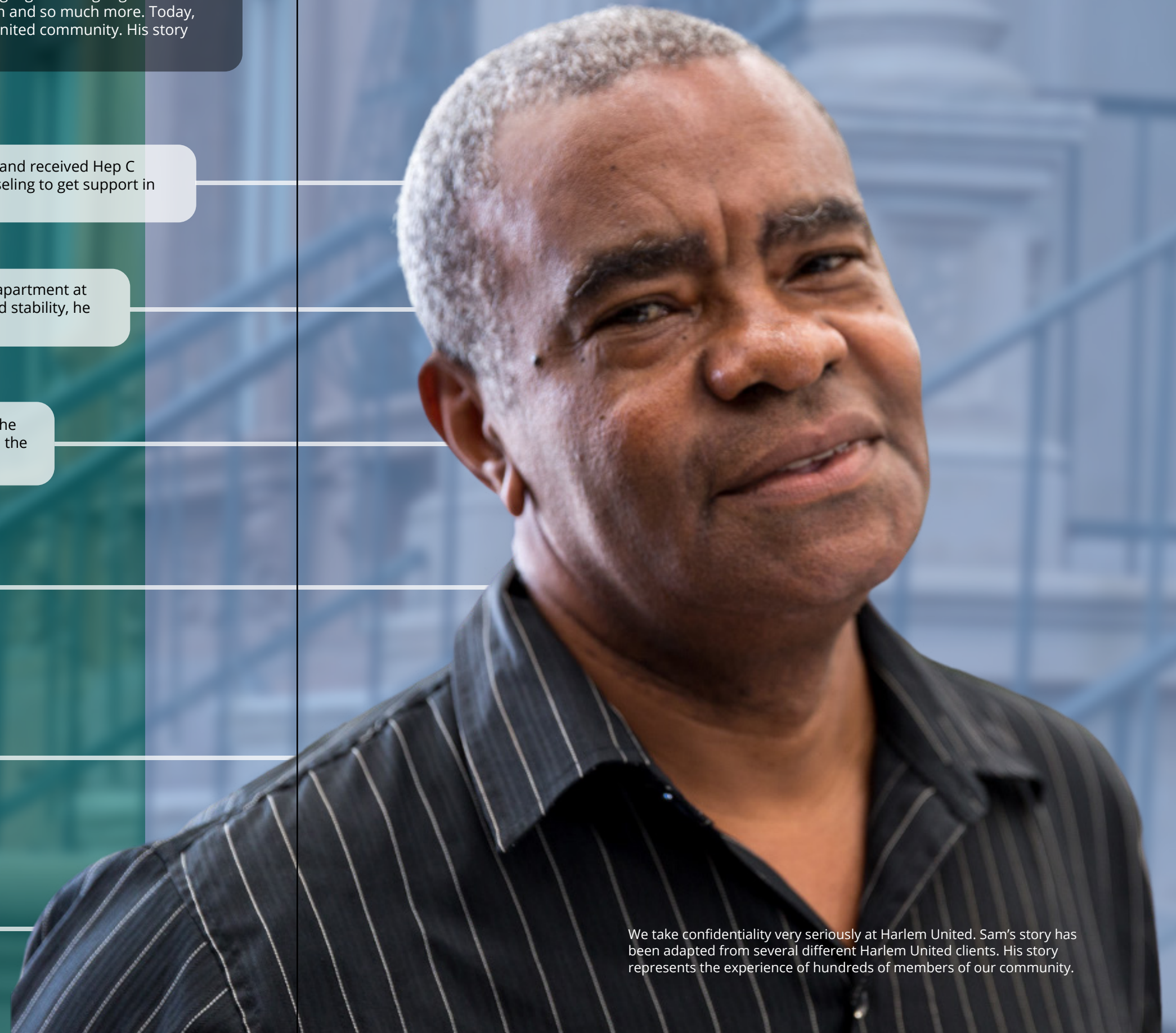
Housing: After years of being chronically unhoused, Sam moved into his own apartment at Harlem United's congregate facility, Foundation House East. With the newfound stability, he was finally able to start taking his HIV medication regularly.

Healthcare: Daily toothbrushing was not a priority while Sam was managing the stress of living on the street, and ultimately, he suffered painful tooth decay and the loss of several teeth. Our dental team worked with Sam to restore his smile.

ADHC: As his health improved, Sam found courage to heal his spirit as well. In the safety of a welcoming community, he started attending art therapy and today shines during his drag act at our annual Pride show.

Food and Nutrition: After a lifetime without regular access to affordable, nutritious food, Sam was diagnosed with diabetes. He immediately got counseling from Harlem United's nutritionist to help manage his diabetes. Today, he joins his friends and chosen family for healthy, fun, community meals and enjoys trying new recipes with his weekly pantry bag.

Peer Work: Sam is passionate about giving back to his community. He completed Harlem United's vocational education program and now works as a peer, performing outreach to other people who use drugs living in Harlem parks.



We take confidentiality very seriously at Harlem United. Sam's story has been adapted from several different Harlem United clients. His story represents the experience of hundreds of members of our community.

“We really try to get down in the trenches to identify with clients.”

Jamal

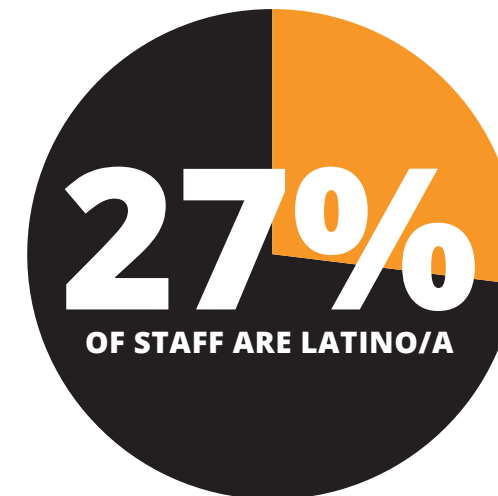
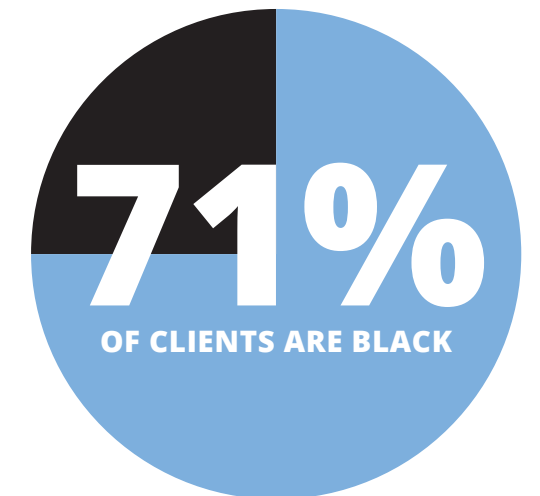
Program Director

Testing & Navigation



DIVERSITY

Our staff represents the people we serve. We share lived experience, languages, and cultures. At Harlem United, you're with community.



FINANCIALS

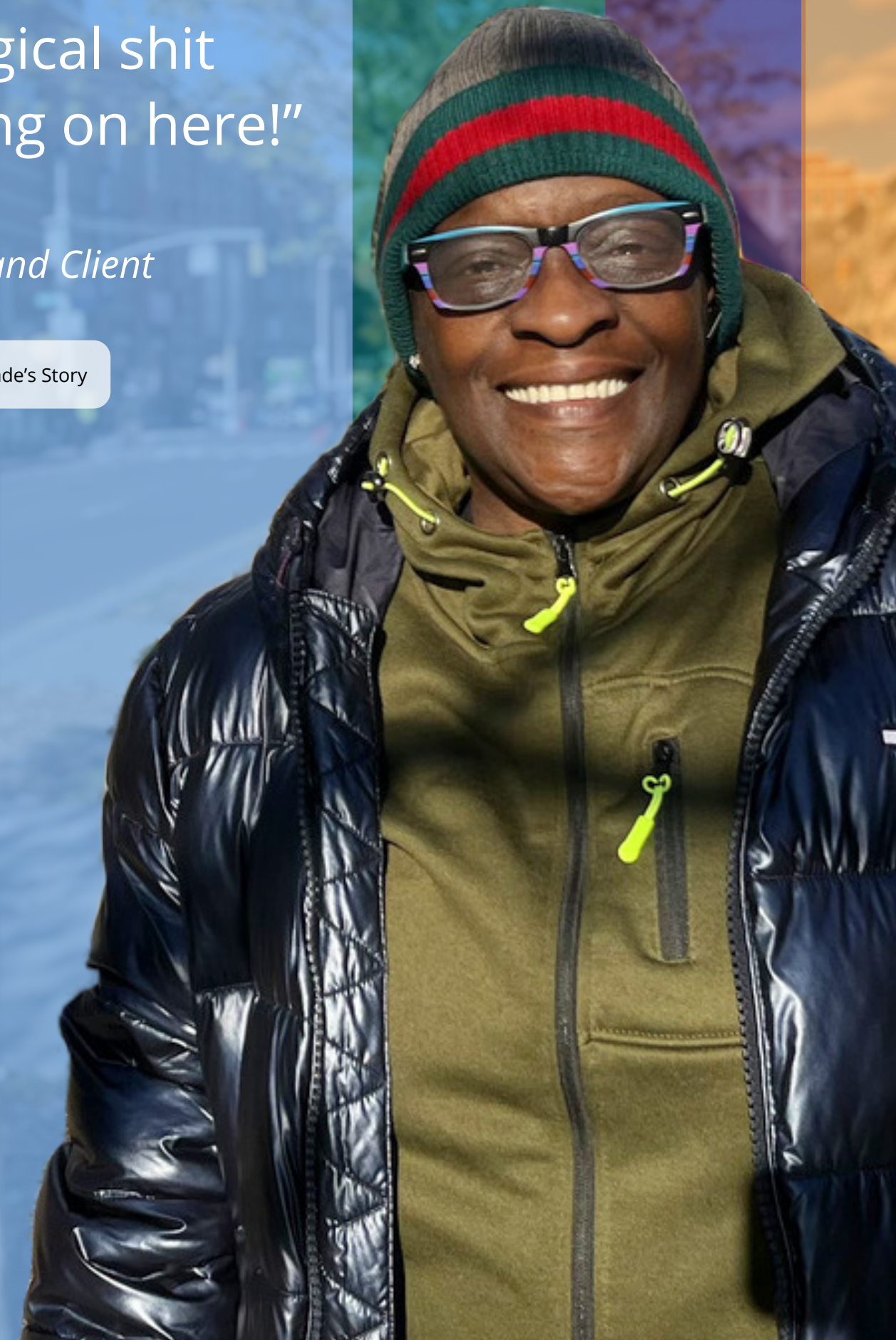
FISCAL YEAR 2021 - JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021



“There’s some magical shit going on here!”

Jade
Peer and Client

[▶ Watch Jade’s Story](#)



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