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## Letter from Executive Director

Michael Stoller

Times are tough. And the economic outlook remains bleak for the near future. Yet there are a few bright spots: Occupy Wall Street and the public groundswell of support for the 99% of us who aren't wealthy and ... actually, that's the only bright spot that comes to mind right now, but we've been enthralled to watch the movement spread.

At HSC, we're working hard to turn things around. We're raising awareness about the cuts' devastating effects on social services. We had a successful **Austerity Breakfast at Tiffany's**, which drew public attention to the tradeoff between extending the personal income tax (PIT) surcharge on high-income New Yorkers or cutting programs that serve the needy. Please see our [blog](#) and our *Advocacy Results* section for more information and press coverage received due to this event - but note that the numbers are staggering. Consider that a \$20,000 necklace could be exchanged for 3,800 senior lunches, a \$7,000 watch for 3,500 emergency meals to the homeless, and a \$25,000 bracelet for 2,000 family food packages at food pantries.



HSC at Austerity Breakfast at Tiffany's

Thus, we're making the extension of the PIT surcharge a major focus of our work this fall. If the PIT surcharge (aka the "millionaire's tax") is allowed to expire this year, New York will give a **\$5 billion** tax break to our wealthiest residents on December 31. Quite a New Year's present!

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## News on Budgets

### Federal Budget

On August 2, the U.S. Senate passed a bill to raise the **debt ceiling** that also cut \$2 trillion in spending over the next decade. The first set of cuts amounts to over \$917 billion over ten years while the next round of cuts, to be decided by the Joint Committee on Deficit Reductions, will be \$1.5 trillion. Judging from past negotiations, discretionary spending, Medicaid, social security, and other safety net programs will be on the chopping block. For more information on the debt ceiling bill and how it affects nonprofits, read our [blog](#).

The Joint Committee on Deficit Reductions, or the Congressional Super Committee, was created after the debt ceiling bill passed. This committee is charged with finding at least \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts. If they cannot reach an agreement by November or if Congress cannot pass a bill by December 23, automatic cuts totaling \$1.2 trillion

That is why HSC is working with City and Statewide coalitions to extend the PIT surcharge, and we can thank *99 New York*, our members and particularly, our Lead Advocates, for adding their voices to the 99%. We can also thank several of the 1% for speaking up and asking to be taxed so that the services we all depend upon can be saved. We'd like to thank Bill Samuels and Sarah Stranahan, wealthy New Yorkers who joined us at our Austerity Breakfast at Tiffany's to express their support of the PIT surcharge.

Please visit our *ACT NOW!* section to see ways that you can help to spread the word and strengthen the message that we're sending to government officials and the public. As always, we stand stronger when we stand united.

Many thanks,  
Michael Stoller

Please forward this e-newsletter to a friend or colleague who is interested in supporting the human services sector.



## Act Now!

Show your support for the extension of the **Personal Income Tax** (PIT) surcharge, set to expire on December 31, 2011. Extending the PIT surcharge would increase State revenue by approximately \$1 billion in FY12 and \$4-\$5 billion annually starting FY13. The revenue would help preserve core funding for human services.

The **Campaign Finance Board** (CFB) is proposing the adoption of new rules requiring groups, **including nonprofits**, to report to the Board any advocacy activity during an election cycle. This regulation has the potential to severely constrain the advocacy actions of nonprofits and includes non-campaign related advocacy as campaign activities. A hearing about the new rules will take place on **October 27 at 11 am, 40 Rector Street, Conference Room E**. To learn more about these proposed rules, [click here](#). To show your opposition to this proposed rule, please send a letter to the CFB. We encourage you to testify at the hearing to discuss the impact of the proposed rules on your organization. To do so, contact [Sue Ellen Dodell](#) at the CFB. **HSC will also be holding a press conference** at 10am on October 27 on the steps of City Hall. To attend or speak at the press conference, contact [Michelle](#)

will be triggered, impacting all spending programs, especially those that fund human services. To read more about the Super Committee, visit our [blog](#).

HSC released a statement supporting President Obama's federal tax-reform proposal to assure fair-share tax payments from millionaires and wind down tax cuts for the wealthy. HSC has signed on with **Strong Economy for All Coalition, New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness, United NY, Alliance for Quality Education, Citizen Action NY, New York Communities for Change, New Deal NY, Make the Road New York, and Center for Working Families** in support of this and to urge for similar steps in Albany.

### New York State Budget

**New York State is facing a \$2 billion budget gap.** HSC is organizing a statewide group of over 40 human services-focused coalitions, associations, and policy and advocacy groups to share information and develop a revenue strategy to protect human services this year. For more information, please contact [Chris Winward](#).

On October 3 and 4, Allison Sesso and Chris Winward participated in a communications boot camp to advance the creation of a common statewide narrative that speaks to both short-term economic policy goals and long-term movement efforts; gain exposure to best practices in public opinion messaging and communications around government revenue and the economy; and provide training and resources for staff and leaders who will be organizational spokespeople. The boot camp was coordinated by New Deal for New York, Center for Working Families, and Align. Watch Allison use what she learned in a conference on [Capital Tonight](#) on the Millionaire's Tax.

### New York City Budget

**New York City is facing a \$4.2 billion budget gap.** City Agencies were recently notified by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that they have to reduce their budgets by 2% for FY12 and 6% for FY13. Agencies had to submit their plan to meet the Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG) by October 18. In addition, all City agencies have enacted a hiring freeze. HSC will continue to advocate for budget-closing approaches that do not impact service provision.

Government Relations

[Jackson](#).

The fall is a good time to **schedule meetings with your Senators and Assembly Members**. Let them know that they can expect to hear more from you during the 2012 legislative season; share the past year's work, successes, challenges, and the needs of your communities. To find out who your representatives are, click [here](#).

Join the **Who Cares? I Do.** campaign to protect human services. Let your voice be heard! Sign the [petition](#) and see other ways to [take action](#). We also encourage you to link to [Who Cares? I Do.](#) from your website. You can add a banner that automatically links to our site by following the instructions [here](#).

Join HSC's **Advocacy Action Response Group (AARG)**. We are asking all members to designate at least one representative to this group. **AARG** members play an integral role in HSC's effectiveness in advocating for the sector and **receive pertinent policy information** to help facilitate advocacy activities. The next meeting will be on **November 17 at 3:30 pm**. Contact [Shana Mosher](#) for more information.

## Advocacy Results

**The City implemented a standard human services contract** as of July 1. This milestone occurred following negotiations between the City government and HSC as the contract template was being finalized. HSC raised concerns to ensure human services providers are not bound by obligations they cannot meet and that the nuances and nature of their work with vulnerable and disenfranchised populations is not overlooked.

Governor **Andrew M. Cuomo** created a **taskforce to investigate executive compensation levels in not-for-profits**. HSC continues to monitor and develop a response to this issue. To learn more about HSC's position, read our [blog](#).

Governor Cuomo vetoed the **Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) reform bill**, which provides due process protections for providers and recipients of Medicaid undergoing audits by OMIG. Although the bill was vetoed, the passage of the bill through the State Assembly

On September 15, HSC, Lawyers Alliance for New York, and the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee (NPCC), **jointly testified at the NYC Lobbying Commission Public Hearing**. We submitted suggestions to ease the burden of lobbying regulations on not-for-profit organizations. Members can read the testimony [here](#).

On September 28, HSC's General Counsel, Michelle Jackson, **testified to the Committee on Contracts** regarding retroactive contracts, its impact on human service providers, and suggestions for improving retroactivity by the City. Members can read the testimony [here](#).

HSC, the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (**COFCCA**), and **United Way of New York City** held a reception for the **Hon. Ronald E. Richter**, the new Commissioner of New York City's Administration for Children's Services. All HSC and COFCCA members were invited to attend



(L-to-R: Michael Stoller, Dianne Heggie, Hon. Ronald Richter, Dep. Mayor Linda Gibbs, Gordon Campbell)

HSC met with Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's staff, including **Larry Schwartz, Secretary to the Governor; Robert L. Megna, Director, NYS Division of Budget; and Ron Greenberg, First Deputy Director, NYS Division of Budget**. Concerns over budget cuts and its effect on the sector, contracting inefficiencies, and executive compensation were discussed.

On October 11, HSC's Executive Committee met with **City Comptroller John C. Liu**, to discuss nonprofit issues including VENDEX reform and late contract payments.

## Did You Know?

Michael Stoller was named the Co-Chair of the **Reducing Burdens on Nonprofits**

and Senate is a success -- and led to Governor Cuomo's indication that he will form a working group to address issues identified in the bill.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs announced that **group purchasing is available for NYC nonprofits** through Essensa, a New York-based group purchasing organization. HSC is pleased to see this result following workgroups held with United Way of NYC that provided feedback to the City on group purchasing programs for nonprofits. HSC also negotiated with the City to ensure the savings achieved through group purchasing are retained by nonprofits. Please see our *Upcoming Workshops and Events* section for details about Essensa-run orientation sessions. Also note that HSC and United Way of NYC are reconvening the **Group Purchasing Workgroup** to provide critical sector feedback to the City on the implementation of their group purchasing initiative. The workgroup will play an advisory role to ensure sector needs are met. Organizations interested in participating should email [Allison Sesso](mailto:Allison.Sesso).

On October 13, HSC hosted an **Austerity Breakfast at Tiffany's** press event as part of a week of actions that advocates, community groups, and unions were participating in to highlight the need for a fair solution to balance the budget. At the event, New Yorkers who are willing to pay more taxes spoke and through a symbolic exchange, we demonstrated that the PIT surcharge helps to sustain the programs that so many New Yorkers depend on. [Click here](#) to view a video of the event.

This event garnered significant media attention on October 13, which are highlighted below.

- In [Business Insider.com](#), the Austerity Breakfast at Tiffany's is mentioned in 'As Bloomberg Plans To Clean Up Zuccotti Park, Occupy Wall Street Protesters Prepare To Multiply Around The City'
- In [NY Daily News](#), the Austerity Breakfast at Tiffany's is mentioned in 'Wealthy New Yorkers Join Protest Outside Tiffany's Fifth Ave. Store Over End of NY Millionaire's Tax'
- In [NYNP Press](#), Michael Stoller is quoted in 'HSC Hosts "Austerity Breakfast at Tiffany's"'
- [The Epoch Times](#) mentioned HSC's

**subcommittee**, part of the **Leadership Committee for Nonprofit Revitalization** formed by Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman. The subcommittee will be focused on making recommendations on how to reduce regulatory burdens and more effectively address regulatory concerns while strengthening nonprofit accountability. The subcommittee should release its recommendations by the end of the year. Read the press release [here](#).

Michael Stoller was also named to **United Way of New York State's** Board. They are currently working on ways to increase government response to natural disasters, a proposal for an education grant to New York State, not-for-profit executive compensation, and developing public policy priorities for 2012.

The NYC Department of Finance has sent out a **Not-for-Profit Exemption Renewal form** to update their information on nonprofits whose properties have real estate tax exemptions. The form **was due by October 24..** For questions, contact [Lee Fiorino](#) at 212-669-8503.

New York City has ended its **Central Insurance Program** for nonprofit employees. Several nonprofit organizations are establishing groups to provide insurance at group rates. For more information on group purchasing options for insurance, please contact [Peter Andrew](#) at **Council Services Plus**, Inc., or [Susan Maroney](#) at **Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City**, Inc.

On September 8, HSC and the **Citizen's Committee for Children of New York** (CCC) co-hosted a responsible wealth breakfast to discuss ways for nonprofit boards to lend their support for the PIT surcharge.

On October 1, HSC staff took part in the **Live United Bridge Walk & Volunteer Festival**. Over 3,000 New Yorkers came out to raise awareness of the gaps in education, income, and health. We had over 100 individuals sign our petition for our **Who Cares? I Do.** campaign at the volunteer festival. To see more photos from the Bridge Walk, visit our [Events Page](#).

Austerity Breakfast at Tiffany's in 'Millionaire's Tax Hot Issue'

- In [HuffPost World](#) on October 20, Allison Sesso is quoted in 'Occupy Wall Street Protests Draw Global Attention'

## Technology Update

The Contract Reform and Technology and Referral Committees were merged into the **Business Solutions Workgroup**. Ken Jockers, Jeremy Kohomban, and Frederick Shack are the co-chairs of the new workgroup. The workgroup is focused on efforts like HHS Accelerator and Connect, as well as the standard contract, reduced audits, and other streamlining and regulatory relief initiatives. The first meeting was held on August 30. For more information, please contact [Michelle Jackson](#).

In September, HSC hosted a series of **focus groups** for smaller organizations and service providers on HHS Accelerator. Organizations were asked for their input to make sure this initiative incorporates the needs of all types of organizations.

Next year, New York City will launch **HHS Accelerator**, a new system that human service providers may use to store key institutional documents. To compete for NYC funding, providers will need to complete an electronic application. Collection and review of documents and any data will be managed centrally and the procurement activities of all City Agencies that administer human services contracts will be coordinated by the new HHS Accelerator unit. This shift to partial centralization will streamline and bring efficiencies to City procurement. HSC's **Business Solutions Workgroup** will continue to meet and review this new approach.

The next step will be for HSC and members of the **Strengthening Nonprofits Workgroup**, chaired by **Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs**, and **Gordon Campbell**, President and CEO of United Way of NYC, to examine an array of approaches aimed at strengthening the sector and to discuss the various options for implementation. Their next meeting will be on October 27.

On September 15, a workgroup was convened on the Human Services Data Project (**HSDData**), an initiative to help providers track performance and



HSC at the Live United Bridge Walk Volunteer Festival

The **United Way of NYC** launched the **BoardServeNYC** initiative in 2010, a free service that connects individuals looking to volunteer their nonprofit governance skills with not-for-profit organizations seeking board members. For more information and to apply, please visit [BoardServeNYC's website](#).

HSC held its **Lead Advocate** kick off meeting to review the timeline for the upcoming budget season, develop a coordinated message, and review activities for the year. For more information, please contact [Michelle Jackson](#).

HSC's **Shana Mosher** was part of this year's 2011 [Solar Decathlon](#) sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. The Solar Decathlon is a bi-annual competition that challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive. Congratulations to Shana and her teammates for having the most affordable house in the competition!

On October 5, HSC participated in the **Fair Share Revenue March** with labor unions and community organizations. We joined the Occupy Wall Street protestors in Zuccotti Park to press for alternative revenue options to maintain the quality of life and availability of services in New York.

## Upcoming Workshops & Events

### SAVE THE DATE!

**HSC's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Awards Reception** is fast approaching. Remember to save the date! Our honorees this year include:

- **Elwanda Young**, Chief Operating Officer, United Way of New York City
- **Jack Krauskopf**, Faculty, School of

financial information. This initiative aims to improve services for individuals and families by enabling New York City's nonprofit organizations to more easily and effectively manage data, benchmark performance, and share information with key stakeholders and funding sources. For more information, click [here](#).

HSC would like to thank **IBM** for its generous grant to strengthen the not-for-profit human services sector. We were funded to continue our Business Solutions programs, particularly around technology. Their funding helps us accomplish the work highlighted in this column.

## Member News

### Announcements

Please join HSC in congratulating and wishing farewell to **Anthony Ng**, who has accepted a new position as the Green Economies Strategist for the Center for Working Families. Formerly affiliated with UNH as its Director of Policy and Advocacy, Anthony's contributions have been invaluable, and HSC thanks him for his efforts.

**Wayne Ho**, Executive Director, **Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)**, was among 70 people invited to a briefing on the economy, budget, education, and immigration hosted by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Wayne met and took photos with President Obama, who recognized CACF for its work and leadership in the Asian Pacific American community.

**Steinway Child and Family Services** received a \$65,000 donation from Metta World Peace (formerly known as Ron Artest). Steinway's donation was the largest among eight gifts totaling \$299,000 that Mr. World Peace and his nonprofit organization, Xcel University, is making to mental health providers throughout the country.

**Job Opportunities & Resources**  
**Center For Urban Community Services** is seeking a [Program Director](#).

**Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies** seeks a [Director of Development and Communication](#).

**Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation** is seeking two [Job Readiness Trainers](#).

Public Affairs, Baruch College

**Date:** Wednesday, December 14

**Time:** 5:30 to 7:30 pm

**Location:** Mutual America, 320 Park Avenue (between 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Streets)

On November 8, **Public Allies New York** will be hosting a book launch party and cocktail reception celebrating the release of *Everyone Leads*. Michael Stoller is a proud member of the Host Committee. For more information about this event, please [click here](#).

The **New York Communities Organizing Fund**, Inc. is celebrating the work done by New York Communities for Change in the fight for Social Justice, Housing, Education and Worker's Rights. HSC's very own Michael Stoller will be honored at this event, along with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and union leaders. For additional details about tickets and how to RSVP, [click here](#).

**Community Resource Exchange (CRE)** is offering several fall events and workshops designed to help take your organization to the next level. Topics include "Budgeting Basics" and "Fundraising 101." For more information, [click here](#).

The **NonProfit HelpDesk** offers a series of webinars to management, staff and board members of nonprofit organizations. The courses are available through 2012 have a "Plus Factor" to help organizations apply lessons learned. In addition, participants will have an opportunity for individualized email and telephone follow-up with course instructors. The webinars are already under way. [Click here](#) for more information.

This fall, the City entered into a partnership with Essensa, its preferred group purchasing organization, as part of **New York's Group Purchasing Initiative**. There's still time to attend the October and November orientation meetings. For the remaining dates and times, [click here](#).

The **Mayor's Office of Contract Services** is offering multiple fall training sessions designed to enhance your organization's capacity. The courses are free of charge and available in select locations in the City. To see the course listing, [click here](#).

On October 31, HSC and UNH will co-lead a

UNH is seeking a [Director of Policy and Advocacy](#).

The City of New York is seeking a [Claiming Coordinator](#), [Audit Coordinator](#), and [Buying Director](#).

Institute for Community Living, Inc. is looking for a [Vice President for Institutional Advancement](#).

## Our Sponsors

HSC is grateful to our members and funders who support our work on behalf of the human services sector.

Valued supporters of HSC include:

[The Clark Foundation](#)

[IBM Corporation](#)

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[New York City Council and Speaker Christine Quinn](#)

[New York Community Trust](#)

[UJA-Federation of NY](#)

[United Way of New York City](#)

### Thank you again for your generous support!

If you'd like to contribute to HSC or the Who Cares? I Do campaign, you can make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to:

Human Services Council  
130 East 59th Street  
New York, NY 10022

Or you can donate online using the following links:

[Who Cares? I Do. donation](#)

[HSC donation](#)

Thank you!

We would also like to thank our members for their continued membership and support. We realize that the not-for-profit sector is facing the toughest budgetary constraints in years and that our [200 members](#) make difficult trade-off decisions daily regarding where and how to spend limited funds. We are pleased and grateful to have you with us!

Finally, you can help the sector by asking other not-for-profit human services agencies to join HSC. Our collective voice gets louder as we add

briefing by **Linda Gibbs**, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, to address **The Young Men's Initiative**, which was announced by Mayor Bloomberg in August. The initiative is being heralded as the nation's boldest effort to tackle disparities affecting young Black and Hispanic men in New York City. This public-private partnership will connect young men to a variety of services and opportunities throughout the City. Seating is limited, and HSC has received an overwhelming response that it has reached capacity. Additional seating may become available. To be added to the waiting list for this event, please email [Neha Kallianpurkar](#).

## Welcome to HSC

Please welcome [FDNY Foundation](#), our newest member, to the HSC family and visit their website to learn more about the valuable work they do to save lives - every day - in New York City.

In addition to our newest member, HSC also extends a warm welcome to our new team of interns. Brief bios are below; you can also "meet" them on the [Staff Page](#) of our website. Please join us in welcoming them to the human services sector.



(L-to-R: Stacy Ignacio, Nicole Lee, Karen Broderick, Jason Wu, Candyce Williams, Neha Kallianpurkar, and Michael Apicelli)

**Michael Apicelli**, *IT/Database Intern*, has a B.A. in Humanities and is currently studying for a Master's degree in Liberal Studies at CUNY.

**Karen Broderick**, *Administrative Intern*, freelances in the book publishing industry. Her goal is to learn about the nonprofit sector while providing administrative services.

**Stacy Ignacio**, *Social Media/IT Intern*, has a B.A. in Information Technology and plans to utilize her experience at HSC to learn about digital media marketing, IT, and the nonprofit sector.

**Neha Kallianpurkar**, *Policy Intern*, received a B.A. in Political Science and Economics from McGill University and plans to pursue a career in public policy.

more members. Please see our [website](#) for our application form, HSC video, and information about the benefits of joining HSC. Or contact [Cynthia Tao](#) at 212-836-1623 for more information.

Please remember that you can follow us on Twitter or find us on Facebook. We'd love to have you become our fans!



**Nicole Lee**, *Policy Intern*, received an M.A. in Social Sciences from The University of Chicago and a B.A. in Corporate Communication from The Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College.

**Candyce Williams**, *Communications, Membership and Development Intern*, plans to attend the Heyman Center for Philanthropy and Fundraising at NYU in the spring.

**Jason Wu**, *Communications, Membership and Development Intern*, is currently studying for a Master's of Social Work at Hunter College.

We'd also like to extend a special thanks and farewell to our summer interns/volunteers: **Sarah Briglia, Ariana Brill, Joanna Carman, Yasmin Lopez, Cindy Ness, Asmi Patel, and Swapna Vayuvegula**. HSC had a busy summer, and the unwavering commitment and outstanding efforts of our interns helped us achieve our sector goals and objectives. We wish each of them the best in their future endeavors.

We hope you enjoyed reading this quarter's edition of the Human Services Council Newsletter. Please feel free to share your thoughts about this newsletter with us. We'd love to hear from you.

Our collective voice gets louder as we add more members. Please see our website, [www.humanservicescouncil.org](http://www.humanservicescouncil.org), to learn more about HSC's mission and work. You can also visit our website for an HSC application form, HSC video, and information about the benefits of joining HSC. If you have any questions, please contact [Cynthia Tao](#), Director of Communications, Membership, and Development, at 212.836-1623.

*HSC's mission is to strengthen the not-for-profit human services sector's ability to improve the lives of New Yorkers in need.*

**The Voice of the Human Services Community**