



Inside Track PR

152 Madison Ave rm 1603,
New York, NY 10016
p: (212) 725-1855
w: Insidetrackpr.com

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: November 30, 2020

For more information contact:

Victoria Kammer

Vkammer@insidetrack.com

Cooked Thanksgiving Turkeys Distributed to Tenants Dealing With Gas Shortage in Astoria Houses

Astoria, NY (November 30,2020) – A severe gas leak in Astoria Houses left residents in 1-04 Astoria Blvd without gas for their stoves since September 23rd, amid a pandemic that has seen food shortages at the NYCHA public housing complex. With Thanksgiving just a day away, Bishop Mitchell G. Taylor, Ms. Claudia Coger, President of the Astoria Tenant Association, and Councilmember Costa Constantinides collaborated with Innovation Queens to ensure no family in Astoria Houses went without a turkey this Thanksgiving.

On Wednesday, November 25, 2020, Innovation Queens and the community partners distributed 27 turkeys cooked by Green Top Farms to the residents of Astoria Houses. Residents took to social media, expressing their appreciation, sharing that “THIS is what community looks like.” Ms. Claudia Coger, President of the Astoria Tenant Association and resident of Astoria for 60+ years, shared her gratitude and emphasised how proud she is to see so many partners giving to the residents.

###

INSIDE TRACK

About Bishop Mitchell Taylor - Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Urban Upbound. Bishop Taylor has lived in and around Queensbridge Houses most of his life. In 1987 under the direction of his Father the late Bishop Moses Taylor he founded Astoria Outreach Ministries in Astoria, New York, focusing primarily on the youth in Astoria Houses. In 1991 he was installed as Senior Pastor of the Center of Hope International (COHI), a non-denominational church adjacent to the Queensbridge Houses. In 2004, Bishop Taylor co-founded Urban Upbound, formerly known as the East River Development Alliance (ERDA). Bishop Taylor served as a commissioner on the Civilian Complaint Review Board and has been profiled by The New York Times, CNN, National Public Radio, and other leading media outlets for his leadership around public housing, and has received prestigious awards including the New York City Public Library's Brooke Astor Award, NYC Neighborhood Achievement Leadership Award, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York Martin Luther King Award. Bishop Taylor was also a participant in the United Way Executive Fellows Program and was chosen to participate in the highly competitive Achieving Excellence in Community Development program led by NeighborWorks and Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Bishop Taylor is the author of *Unbroken Promises*, published by Whitaker House (2003)