



# John and Carroll Kowal House

West Side Federation For Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc.

149 Manhattan Avenue (at 107<sup>th</sup> Street)  
New York, NY 10025  
Telephone: (212) 316-0792  
Fax: (212) 316-0740



**Kowal House** is a supported Single Room Occupancy (SRO) building in the Manhattan Valley neighborhood serving men and women age 55 and older who have very low incomes. Our setting encourages independence, yet provides security and assistance when needed.

## HOUSING

The 72 private rooms at Kowal House are arranged in suites of 3-4 rooms which share a kitchen and common room. Each room is furnished, but tenants are welcome to bring their own furniture if they wish. Each room shares a bath with one other room. Kowal House is an elevator building, with an on-site coin operated laundry room. Kowal House has extensive fire safety features, including smoke detectors, alarms, and sprinklers throughout the building. Located in the Manhattan Valley, Kowal House is within a block or two of Central Park, a variety of grocery stores, transportation by bus and subway, and local senior centers.

## SERVICES AND AMENITIES

- ◆ Building security 24 hours/day, including intercom to front desk in each suite
- ◆ On-site building director to provide services and immediately address needs
- ◆ On-site social service team, who can provide counseling, help with referrals to doctors and other services, and help with entitlements.
- ◆ Bi-lingual staff in English and Spanish, with on-call translators available for other languages
- ◆ Breakfast and lunch are offered three days a week
- ◆ Recreation program which includes arts & crafts, discussion groups, trips, picnics in near-by Central Park, and holiday celebrations for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a Valentines Dance.
- ◆ Two air conditioned recreation rooms, both with televisions and VCRs.

## COMMUNITY

The women and men at Kowal House come from many parts of the world, from all walks of life. Some tenants have lived in Manhattan Valley most of their lives, while other tenants come to Kowal House from homelands in Puerto Rico, London, Guatemala, Haiti, Ecuador, Ireland, Jamaica, Paris, Dominican Republic, Chili, and the Southern United States. Some of the tenants at Kowal House are living in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse, others are challenged by serious mental illness, and others simply value an atmosphere of **safety, dignity, and mutual respect**



Kowal House's spirit seeks to honor the two remarkable people for which it was named. Carroll Kowal worked to reestablish SROs as a housing choice for persons of low income. Over 1500 units of SRO housing were assisted by her efforts. John Kowal was a founding member of WSFSSH and a long time advocate of so many New Yorkers challenged by the search for decent, affordable, and dignified housing.

Kowal House remains committed to the mission John wrote for all of us by word and deed:

*To bring justice, dignity, care, and love to all.*