



Some of Gramercy Park's youngest residents helped to spread holiday cheer by serving Christmas dinner to low-income New Yorkers residing at Kenmore Hall. (L-R) Eliza, the chair of The Gramercy Park Block Association Children's Community Service delivers toys with Barry, a resident of Kenmore on East 23rd Street. **See story on Page 2**

Gramercy kids serve dinner to low-income NYers

By Maciej Wroblewski

Some of Gramercy Park's youngest residents helped to spread holiday cheer last week by serving meals at a Christmas dinner for low-income New Yorkers residing at Housing & Services' Kenmore Hall at 145 East 23rd Street.

Eliza, who chairs the Gramercy Park Block Association's Children's Community Service Committee, and her brother Alexander, accompanied by Gramercy Park Block Association President

Arlene Harrison, spent hours last Thursday serving dinners to more than 100 residents of Kenmore Hall, including many who are disabled and/or senior citizens.

The residents, some of whom have no families of their own and others who were unable to visit their families this holiday season, were thrilled to see two youngsters handing out desserts with smiles on their faces and kind words for everyone.

Every year at Christmas, Paddy Maguire's Ale House at 237 Third Avenue holds a toy drive. They send the toys to the Gramercy Park Block Association Children's Community Service Committee for the chil-

dren to donate to those less fortunate. This year Eliza and Alexander met so many wonderful people during their visit to the Kenmore that they decided with Harrison to donate many of the toys from the toy drive to their neighbors at the Kenmore to give as gifts to their own families.

"Both Eliza and Alexander were very happy to be able to help their neighbors that day," said Harrison. "They told me they would like to visit the residents of the Kenmore again to see what else they can do to bring cheer to their new friends who live just a

couple of blocks away," she added.

"We couldn't be happier helping the residents of Kenmore Hall not only on Christmas but all year round. The Gramercy Park Block Association is proud of its Neighbors Helping Neighbors community service effort," continued Harrison.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors was formed immediately after the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center to facilitate neighborhood residents and families in their plans to help their neighbors in need. One such project was Kids Helping Kids where kids from around

the country wrote letters of support to children of police officers who died in the attack.

Most recently, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort worked with Calvary Church and The Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Pike, Rector of the Parish of Calvary/St. George's to collect and send over 300 boxes of donated items to the disaster area. The relief effort also donated money to Habitat for Humanity to help furnish 50 homes that are being built for families who lost their homes in the natural disaster.



Gramercy Park Block Association Children's Community Service Committee Chair Eliza with her brother, Alexander, and Block Association Service President Arlene Harrison serving Christmas dinner to the residents of Kenmore Hall.