

New Rochelle Buildings

MVUT has been involved for months in an organizing campaign with the tenants at *The Parkside Plaza* (City Park) complex (550,570 and 590 Fifth Avenue). There's been a couple of City Council mobilizations; flyering at a softball all-star game at City Park with Mariano Rivera, Ray Rice, Bernie Williams, Boomer Essiason and others; meetings with the New Rochelle Section 8 office; a meeting with the City Manager and other City officials, and preparation of new By-Laws. We've also been assisting tenants in New Rochelle's *Public Housing* – 345 and 361 Main Street and 111 Lockwood Avenue. We've been helping the tenants here in strategic and tactical planning as they negotiate with management.

VISTA

As many of you may know, we now have a *VISTA* volunteer, Ms. Saudia Smith. Under our *VISTA* contract with the *National Alliance of HUD Tenants* (NAHT), Saudia is helping to organize tenants in federally-assisted, Project-based Section 8 buildings. Currently, Saudia has active campaigns in two (2) such buildings – *Intown Towers* at 37 North 5th Avenue, a senior citizen building of one hundred and thirty six (136) units. A major concern of theirs is security and just last week we worked with them as they elected officers for their *Tenant Association* (TA). Additionally, Saudia is working with 117 South Second Avenue, a twenty-one (21) unit building. Later this week Saudia will be door-knocking at the building with the TA's President William Al-Malik to both introduce herself and asses the building's needs and strengths.

Public Advocacy

MVUT continues its efforts to both increase the income eligibility limit under the *Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption* (SCRIE) program and to get the City to finally adopt the *Disabled Rent Increase Exemption* (DRIE) Program. We'll have a few disabled tenants testify at the Thursday* November 12 City Council Meeting. If you are a disabled, or a senior citizen tenant and can come to the Nov. 12 City Council meeting, please call the *MVUT* office so we can coordinate our efforts.

*City Council Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. However, the second Wednesday in November is *Veteran's Day*, and the Council Meeting will be that Thursday.

**Dennis and *MVUT* are being honored by the *Mt. Vernon Branch of the NAACP* on Saturday November 7 at their Annual Luncheon at the *Davenport Club* in New Rochelle. If you're interested in attending, please call Saudia Smith at (914) 699-1114, ext. 305.

Support Tenants' Rights !

Support Affordable Housing !!

Support MVUT !!!