



Will they shop?

Retailers slash in bid for sales splash

Page 10



Rock's past has a future in SoHo

Page 14

One of John Lennon's guitars

Skinny '90210' star: I eat just fine

Page 16



(GETTY)



SEASON of NONGIVING

Cupboards dry at city charities as they struggle with impact of recession Page 3

(JEFFERSON SIEGEL)



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WEEKEND BLOWOUT

NOVEMBER 28 - 30 • 11AM-9PM

Fewer holiday gifts for charities

Recession hits city's nonprofits

BY LANA BORTOLOTT
Special to amNewYork

No longer counting on the largess of corporate donors, the city's nonprofit groups are preparing for the inevitable: a season of nongiving.

"None of us has an idea how this is going to effect us, but for sure, no one is going to be giving the way they've been used to giving," says David Eng, vice president of public affairs at The Tenement Museum.

Each plunge into the roller-coaster Dow means a little more teeth-gritting: Nonprofits in good health are scrutinizing budgets or halting expansion plans, while struggling nonprofits wonder how they will keep the doors open.

One organization, the New York Rescue Mission, is down 11 percent in revenue, and held a radio-thon at its recent Thanksgiving banquet to raise \$12,000.

"It's pretty clear that smaller groups will have to either reduce services or [their employees] will volunteer for a while because they have a lot of heart," says Fran Barrett, executive director of the Community Resource Center, a management consultancy for nonprofits. "But there will be a lot of slowing down or



Sister Nancy Chiarello, right, and others prepare Thanksgiving dinner in the kitchen of The Dwelling Place, a transitional shelter for women in Hell's Kitchen. The shelter relies solely on private donations. (JEFFERSON SIEGEL)

HOW THEY'RE COPING

New York's well-known organizations are taking steps to prepare for tough times ahead.

■ **The Tenement Museum** has scaled back on renovations to a new visitor's center and

expanded gift shop.

■ **WNYC** has developed a contingency budget, delaying some staffing needs and discretionary spending, and is holding off on program expansion.

■ **amfAR** has put a freeze on hir-

ing and program expansions.

■ **New York Cares** has trimmed budgets, and will refocus efforts away from expansion and more toward direct client services such as the volunteer income tax program.

shutting down."

High 5 Tickets to the Arts, which provides \$5 tickets to the arts for teens, is among the groups dealing with the slowdown.

Fewer organizations are purchasing group tickets, and with significant losses in corporate funding, general manager, Chris Kam says: "We're struggling with

trying to switch over to a larger number of smaller, individual donors."

The downturn also has delivered a triple slam to direct-services organiza-

tions: funding has declined, while the price of commodities and the need for services has increased.

Kristin Reiersen, who works at two food pantries through the AmeriCorps program, says overall food costs have gone up 11 percent from last year and some staples — peanut butter, pasta and garbanzo beans — increased 70 percent.

"We used to be able to give families salmon, tuna, and chicken or beef. Now we're able to give them only

tuna," says Reiersen, who works at the community food pantry at Saint Bartholomew's Church. The situation there was dire enough that the church launched a food drive to restock its shelves.

The challenging times require creative thinking, says Sister Nancy Chiarello, founder of The Dwelling Place, a transitional shelter for women. She has arranged for residents to speak at parishes in return for special collections on behalf of the shelter.

The Dwelling Place relies 100 percent on private donations, says Chiarello, "When you depend on the generosity of people, it's not a guaranteed income."

Lorie A. Slutsky, president of New York Community Trust, which distributes money to some 2,500 nonprofits, says the quickness of the downturn has left people anxious and stunned — and that affects donor psychology.

"Americans are and feel less wealthy, and that will influence the attitude of people who will give." However, she added, "I have always been impressed with the enormous generosity of New Yorkers."

And these are the times when nonprofits need that generosity the most, says Eric Muscatell, development director at The American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR). "We all need folks to stay the course and stay with us — even if they're giving less."

NYPD beefs up subway patrols in light of terror threat

BY JASON FINK
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The New York Police Department stepped up patrols in the subway system in response to a threat that al-Qaida has possibly planned suicide attacks over the holidays.

An internal memo from the FBI obtained by The Associated Press said that in September the terrorist group "may have discussed targeting transit systems in and around New York City" during the holiday season.

The NYPD issued a statement after the report



Federal authorities have warned of a possible terror plot against the subway system this holiday season. (AP)

became public on Wednesday, saying that security on the subways has been increased.

"The New York City Police Department is aware of an unsubstantiated report indicating that Al Qaeda

terrorists discussed targeting mass transit in New York City and vicinity," the statement said. "We have no information indicating that these discussions advanced beyond the aspirational stage, but in an abundance of caution, the NYPD has deployed additional resources in the mass transit system."

Authorities were also considering the possibility that Amtrak or LIRR trains that go through the city were targeted.

The threat was revealed on the same day that terrorists attacked the Indian city of Mumbai, killing at least 125 people

and wounding hundreds of others. There was no indication of a connection between the two.

Rep. Peter King, (R-Long Island), the top Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee, said authorities "have very real specifics as to who it is and where the conversation took place and who conducted it."

"It certainly involves suicide bombing attacks on the mass transit system in and around New York and it's plausible, but there's no evidence yet that it's in the process of being carried out," King said. (WITHAP)

Long wait over for famed cathedral

The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in Morning-side Heights will be open from end to end for the first time since its restoration following a devastating fire in December 2001.

The damage included several ancient tapestries and its 8,500-pipe organ.

A celebratory rededication is planned for Sunday at the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

The entire length of the 601-foot-long building will be open. A temporary wall had halved the cathedral, concealing much of the restoration work. (AP)