

For Immediate Release
#21-20

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT'S LATEST 'PREP TALK' PODCAST:
HELPING COMMUNITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC**

#PrepTalkNYC {Click to listen to [episode 52](#)}

July 7, 2020 — The COVID-19 pandemic is not stopping community organizations from what they do best: help those who need it the most. On the latest [episode](#) of “Prep Talk,” Rev. Karen Jackson, director of recovery and community initiatives at Project Hospitality, and Erum Hanif, chief executive officer of APNA Community Center in Brooklyn, discuss the initiatives their organizations have implemented to help their communities during this difficult time.

“APNA took this situation (COVID-19) as an opportunity rather than just taking it as a challenge. In terms of helping our community members, we were one of the City’s grab-and-go sites for halal meals and pantry boxes distribution,” **Hanif** said.

“I have particularly seen a lot of need among immigrant Staten Islanders who were unable to receive an economic impact payment or unemployment benefits and who have accrued maybe several months’ worth of renter arrears while waiting to be able to return to work. I’m proud that my organization has been able to distribute \$220,000 in direct emergency relief to these households since the start of the COVID-19 crisis,” **Rev. Jackson** said.

You can listen to the latest [episode](#) on [SoundCloud](#), [iTunes](#), and [Spreaker](#).

Profile

Rev. Karen Jackson serves as the director of recovery and community initiatives at Project Hospitality, an interfaith effort committed to serving the needs of hungry and homeless people on Staten Island. The organization offers a comprehensive continuum of compassionate care that begins with street outreach, shelter, and soup kitchen and food pantry, and extends to treatment, other clinical and support services, and transitional and permanent supportive housing. It is dedicated to facilitating coordinated disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in Staten Island.

Erum Hanif is an attorney and human resources management professional with more than 15-years’ experience in human resources, legal and compliance. Hanif currently serves as the CEO of Apna Brooklyn Community Center and director of strategy and contracting of Apna Adult Day Care Center. She is an active Pakistani-American Community Activist. Apna is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 2017 with a mission to build bridges through community education, engagement and empowerment. Apna provides wide variety of services to low income immigrant and limited English proficient New Yorkers across NYC.

###