

# CHEERS TO 50 YEARS



This year we celebrate an incredible milestone: 50 years of the NYC Department for the Aging. From its beginning as the Mayor's Office for the Aging in the 1960s to its establishment as a department in 1975, NYC Aging has grown to become the nation's largest Area Agency on Aging—serving almost 1.8 million older New Yorkers.

Our legacy begins with Alice Brophy, NYC Aging's first commissioner, who launched the agency and expanded the budget from less than a million dollars to more than 30 million dedicated to providing programs and services for older New Yorkers. Then Janet Sainer, appointed commissioner in 1978, brought in innovative programs to

combat ageism, promote healthy aging, and empower older adults to lead complete and independent lives. Early in my career, I was fortunate to work at the agency under Commissioner Sainer, where I helped expand and improve services for older New Yorkers. Now as Commissioner myself, it's clear that our focus and commitment have remained steadfast, even as our resources and supports have evolved.

For five decades, NYC Aging has remained dedicated to combating ageism, supporting older adults, and adapting to their needs. Critically important programs like Aging Connect, launched in 2020, help ensure that older New Yorkers have easy and direct

access to vital information and resources. Establishing the NYC Cabinet for Older New Yorkers in 2022, in partnership with Mayor Adams, shows the agency's commitment to creating innovative, age-inclusive solutions for the city that can become national models.

As NYC Aging celebrates this landmark anniversary, we recognize our critical work and the older adults we support, whose contributions enrich our communities. NYC Aging has been here for 50 years, and we are already focused on the future—building on our model age-inclusive city to guarantee opportunity and access for every generation. We invite you to celebrate with us and explore our programs and

services to support older adults and their caregivers and families.

Whether you or a loved one has a question, concern, or need, NYC Aging is the place to turn. Call Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469) to speak with us or to learn more about our services.



*NYC Department for the Aging  
Commissioner  
Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez*