The BronxWorks February 2020 Newsletter

Supporting Our Neighbors

BronxWorks staff at Orchard Beach for the 2020 Dip Against Homelessness on February 8, 2020. View more pictures here.

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Spotlight: The Brook Celebrates 10 Years

On January 24, The Brook celebrated ten years since opening its doors with a Hollywood themed party. The Brook is a supportive housing development operated by Breaking Ground where BronxWorks provides social services. In attendance was Brenda Rosen, Breaking Ground’s President / CEO along with current and former BronxWorks staff members, Brook residents and other guests. The celebration honored 29 residents who moved in during The Brook’s inaugural year. The party featured festive decorations, delicious food, themed photo booths, and sparkling cider toasts. Residents celebrating their ten-year anniversary were recognized and presented with certificates of achievement, along with Oscar-like trophies to complement the Hollywood theme of the evening.

"The night was epic, it felt like a red carpet award show! I loved the food! I loved how the celebration included everyone from the staff to the other tenants who have been living in the building for the past 10 years," boasted resident Lacey S.

The Brook, Breaking Ground’s first supportive housing residence in the Bronx, opened on January 20, 2010 in the Bronx. The six-story residence played a key role in revitalizing the surrounding community. The 190-unit building includes ground floor community space, a computer lab and a courtyard. The Brook provides supportive housing to low-income individuals, people living with chronic illness and formerly homeless individuals. BronxWorks provides an array of on-site supportive services. Twenty-nine of the 54 residents that moved in 2010 are still active participants and living at The Brook.

BronxWorks staff member Barbara Miliano is the Program Director at the Brook. She worked closely with BronxWorks staff and Breaking Ground to ensure a very special event for the residents.

"The Brook’s 10-Year Anniversary celebration was a powerful reminder of how important the work that we do is. We all have our ups and downs and at times the work can be quite challenging,"
said Barbara Miliano, Program Director of The Brook.

Congratulations again to all at the Brook! Here's to the next 10 years!

Staff and participants celebrate at The Brook's ten year celebration.

Staff Profile: Phillipa Quan
Phillipa Quan, Administrative Assistant at The Brook, began her BronxWorks career 30 years ago. Phillip's first position at BronxWorks, then known as Citizens Advice Bureau, was at one of the agency's immigration offices on the Grand Concourse. She then moved on to spend much of her tenure at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center taking on various roles under Scott Auwarter, Assistant Executive Director. When The Brook opened ten years ago, Phillipa gladly accepted a position there.

At the Brook Phillipa performs many duties, most importantly working with the residents. She accompanies them on trips, assists with their finances, and takes them shopping.

"I just love my work and having the opportunity to assist the residents of The Brook," said Phillipa of her current role.

Phillipa came to the Bronx from Belize 31 years ago. In Belize, she received formal clerical training in school and she prides herself on knowing shorthand from her schooling.

Phillipa recalls her early days at the agency and reflects on all of the people she has met over the years. "I have learned so many things at BronxWorks and got to see the agency grow to help so many Bronx neighbors."

Phillipa's ties to BronxWorks go beyond her 30 years. Her husband is also a long-term staff member and her son attended BronxWorks programs as a child. When Phillipa isn't working she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling to Los Angeles to visit her son. Her favorite hobby is cooking. Phillipa loves learning new cooking techniques and recipes from all different cultures.

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**The 2020 Dip Against Homelessness Recap**
On Saturday, February 8, BronxWorks partnered with BronxNet for the sixth annual 2020 Dip Against Homelessness, which was the Agency’s largest Dip to date! Participants gathered at Orchard Beach to brave the waters of the Long Island Sound to promote awareness about the issue of street homelessness. Despite the cold and windy weather, 33 participants registered for the event, which raised over $10,000 to support the homeless men and women of the Bronx. In addition to raising vital funds for the BronxWorks Homelessness Services Department, many items were donated like socks, gloves, hats, and other gear for the homeless to keep warm this winter.

The Dip Against Homelessness kicked off with upbeat music from the Bronx-born DJ collective Uptown Vinyl Supreme. Participants and spectators gathered at the Orchard Beach Pavilion to hear remarks from BronxNet Executive Director Max Knobbe and BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres. Dippers and watchers sipped soup and hot chocolate provided by Havana Café Express.

"Thank you all for attending the Sixth Annual Dip Against Homelessness. Each year, the event helps BronxWorks provide our most vulnerable neighbors with support and extra opportunities such as arts and crafts sessions or trips to see local shows," said Eileen.

After the Dip, participants were welcomed at Brewski’s Bar and Grill, where they enjoyed a warm-up snack and drinks. Staff members from BronxWorks and BronxNet as well as the Bronx Polar Bears are already looking forward to next year’s event, which will hopefully fall on a warmer day!

Did You Know?
BronxWorks Takes Poverty Simulation Experience on the Road
BronxWorks hosts on-site poverty simulations at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, but did you know BronxWorks also hosts them off-site for other organizations as well? Recent off-site poverty simulations took place at Trinity Church in Manhattan and Hostos Community College for the New York City Department of Education. Upcoming poverty simulations will return to the Montefiore Medical Campus for a third time.

Poverty Simulations are designed to immerse participants in the struggles of poverty. The simulation gives each person a role in a family on a highly limited budget suffering from poverty. The family must work together to pay bills, attend work, and manage finances. The simulation was developed to help people and especially service providers understand the daily challenges many of our community members face as they navigate their way to attain healthcare and basic services. Click this link to learn more.
NYC Schools Chancellor Praises Community School Program at P.S. 42

In a recent memo, New York City School Chancellor Richard Carranza praised the BronxWorks Community School Program. "At P.S. 42 elementary school in District 9, Community School partner Bronx Works collaborates in supporting the school, including organizing ice cream and slime-making parties for students, that has significantly improved student attendance. BronxWorks also provides students with counseling on behavior management, emotional recognition and language, impulse control, and other coping skills. Since 2015-16, chronic absenteeism has declined by 7.1 percentage points and math proficiency scores have risen by 9.2 percentage points."
SONYC Students Rewarded

Students from the BronxWorks Schools Out New York City (SONYC) after-school program at South Bronx Prep were rewarded for their active participation and their attendance. The recognized students received gift cards to Target.
BronxWorks Students Visit Prospective Colleges
The BronxWorks after-school participants from Frederick Douglas Academy III went on college tours this month. This group of juniors and seniors visited Temple University in Philadelphia and Rutgers University - Camden Campus. Many of these young adults will be the first in their families to attend college.

Black History Showcase for Seniors
The BronxWorks Morris Innovative Senior Center held a Black History Showcase for all participants. The showcase highlighted arts and culture, featured speakers and included other interactive activities.

Upcoming Events
Join us at the BronxWorks Lifting Lives GALA 2020
May 12, 2020 | 6PM - 9PM
The Grand Hyatt New York Manhattan Ballroom
www.bronxworks.org/gala

Click here for more information

MARCH IS READING MONTH
DONATE YOUR BOOKS!

"TODAY A READER, TOMORROW A LEADER," – MARGARET FULLER

DONATION DROP OFF LOCATIONS:
- 60 E. TREMONT AVE.
- 1130 GRAND CONCOURSE
- 630 JACKSON AVE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE NEW BOOKS FOR OUR PROGRAMS PLEASE EMAIL CDEFRANCISCO@BRONXWORKS.ORG

March is National Reading Month. Participate in the BronxWorks book drive by donating used books to the drop off locations listed, by visiting our Amazon wish list here to purchase new books, or by donating here. All programs at BronxWorks will benefit from the gift of books. Help us...
BronxWorks is once again this year a charity partner in the TD Five Boro Bike Tour, America’s largest cycling event. On Sunday, May 3rd, 32,000 people will ride over 40 miles of car-free streets through all five boroughs in New York City.

The BronxWorks charity spots will be available to participants who make a commitment to raising a minimum of $750. The funds raised will support children’s programs at our homeless family residences.

Email or call Danielle Mobley at dmobley@bronxworks.org or 646-393-4002 to receive a notification when official registration begins.

Ways to Give: I Love the Bronx!
Show your love for the Bronx by helping BronxWorks live our mission to feed, shelter, teach and support our community.

DONATE

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For Email Marketing you can trust.