Collaboration is key to youth initiative

By Carolyn McLaughlin
Executive director of BronxWorks

This summer, Mayor Bloomberg launched the Young Men’s Initiative, which has aptly been described as “the most comprehensive effort to tackle the broad disparities affecting black and Latino men ages 18 to 24. This partnership, which brings together resources from the Bloomberg administration with those in the philanthropy, direct service and policy advocacy fields, has led to the creation of an action plan that promises to yield substantive results.

In communities throughout the city, young black and Latino males are 50 percent more likely to live in poverty than their white or Asian counterparts. Nine out of 10 have participated in or been victims of a violent crime.

In the Bronx, their situation is still worse.

Four in 10 Bronx youth drop out
(Continued on page 3)