BronxWorks Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Friday, 14 December 2012 10:11

BronxWorks celebrated its 40th birthday on Monday, December 10th, which was officially proclaimed as "BronxWorks Day". The event, which was held at the organization’s Morris Innovative Senior Center at 80 East 181st Street, was attended by prominent New York City officials who acknowledged the big role BronxWorks has played in the revitalization of the borough since the devastation that characterized many of its neighborhoods in the 1970s.

“The revival of the Bronx wouldn’t have happened without BronxWorks helping street homeless persons,” said Seth Diamond, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Homeless Services. He said that the Bronx has seen a significant reduction in street homelessness because of the efforts of BronxWorks. Commissioner Diamond praised the efforts of BronxWorks’ Homeless Outreach Team, Living Room/Safe Haven temporary shelter center, and The Brook, a 190-unit apartment building in Mott Haven where BronxWorks provides social services for previously homeless persons. These are all part of the continuum of care BronxWorks provides for those who once lived on borough streets.

Also expressing appreciation for BronxWorks was Jeanne B. Mulgray, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). In the past year, DYCD awarded BronxWorks $3,000,000 in contracts for out of school time, youth development, and neighborhood service programs, she said. DYCD has partnered with BronxWorks for close to 25 years. Each year, BronxWorks serves about 35,000 persons. A significant portion of those assisted are aided by DYCD-funded programs that operate from BronxWorks’ four walk-in offices that serve Bronx Community Districts 1 through 7, a stretch of territory that has a population of about 500,000 persons. The sites provide housing, case assistance, and entitlements help to several thousand local low-income residents annually.

Deputy Bronx Borough President Aurelia Greene praised BronxWorks for its range of programs through the years, in particular those at the Main Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. She recalled the efforts leading to BronxWorks acquisition of the four-story, 42,000 square foot structure and praised its leadership for overseeing a host of capital improvements. As the New York State Assembly representative for the 77th District, Greene helped facilitate capital funding for the building, leading to the creation of an Early Childhood Learning Center, the renovation of lavatories, and the upgrade of client service areas for housing, HIV/AIDS, and family preservation programs. This past summer, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. announced a $500,000 capital grant for the building, which first opened in 1925.
BronxWorks Executive Director Carolyn McLaughlin introduced a video tracing the transformation of the borough and featuring people testifying to the impact of BronxWorks on their lives. City-sponsored initiatives and neighborhood-based organizing were cited as major factors in the resurgence of the Bronx.

"BronxWorks changed my life, all for the good," said Alfredo Chaucer, a participant in the Fatherhood Program, recalling how the program has helped him improve his interaction with his teenage son, whose school grades and outlook on life have improved tremendously since Alfredo enrolled in the Fatherhood Program.

Comments

ChronoComments by Joomla Professional Solutions

Submit Comment