BronxWorks Gets $165K in Foundation Grants

BronxWorks announced it is the beneficiary of $165,000 in new funding from two foundations committed to supporting youth initiatives.

A $150,000 grant from the New York Life Foundation is directed to enrichment efforts carried out by BronxWorks’ Safe Passage youth development program. A $15,000 grant from the New Yankee Community Benefits Fund will support BronxWorks’ Center for Achieving Future Education (CAFÉ), which helps youth transition to high school and college.

“The New York Life Foundation grant will enable us to enhance our work with middle school youth in the Safe Passage program,” said Elisa Istueta, Director of BronxWorks’ children and youth department. Some studies reveal that upwards of 2/5 of Bronx youth fail to transition from middle school to high school. Many end up court-involved.

The grant from the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund will help cover expenses at CAFÉ, a program designed to assist students and their families to make the transition from middle school to high school and high school to college. Specifically, the funding will support overnight visits to colleges outside of the New York metropolitan area to familiarize students with the campus environment, including Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs).

From September 2012 through June 2013, CAFÉ provided college counseling and other supports to 125 high school seniors. The program also helped these youngsters to identify roughly $1.1 million in grants or scholarships, which will enable these youth and their families to offset the high costs associated with post-secondary education.