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The September 2017

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DONATION DRIVE FOR PUERTO RICO AND MEXICO

BronxWorks is accepting donations for Puerto Rico and Mexico at these four locations:

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>BronxWorks Administration</td>
<td>60 E. Tremont Ave.</td>
<td>9am - 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heights Senior Center</td>
<td>200 W. Tremont Ave.</td>
<td>7:30am - 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Living Room</td>
<td>800 Barretto St.</td>
<td>9am - 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Carolyn McLaughlin</td>
<td>1130 Grand Concourse</td>
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Bronx NY 10453  Bronx NY 10453  Bronx NY 10474  Bronx NY 10456

Items will be brought to the New York Hispanic Clergy Organization, which is hosting a donation drive on Saturday September 30 at the corner of Southern Boulevard and Aldus Street. After that date we will continue to collect and coordinate with NY State efforts.

For more information contact Allison at agangi@bronxworks.org or call 646-393-4000
BronxWorks is pleased to announce the addition of STEM-related lessons at two of our after-school programs thanks to a generous grant from Children's Hope India (CHI). The new curricula will enrich the lives of about 80 children at BronxWorks Third Avenue and Bronxchester Houses after-school programs with valuable lessons in science, technology, engineering, and math. The elementary and middle school aged students will enjoy hands-on activities such as robotics, learn from a rigorous curriculum, and create projects for a Science Fair at the end of the year. The programming officially kicks off in early October with STEM-related celebrations at both after-school locations. The new curriculum also includes sessions on fitness and nutrition.

Dina Pahlajani, MD, Co-President of CHI, says, "Our combined vision of adding STEM and nutrition programs to the after school program at the BronxWorks Third Avenue and Bronxchester COMPASS sites will go a long way in ensuring success of these precious children."

The CHI STEM grant builds on a partnership with BronxWorks that was formed in February of 2016. Last year, CHI supported BronxWorks in an initiative providing Social Justice Public Service Announcement Workshops. The workshops were offered to youth enrolled in summer camp at the BronxWorks Cornerstones Community Centers located in New York City Housing Authority developments.

"BronxWorks is grateful to our partners at CHI for their continued support of our programs for children and youth. Lessons in STEM spark curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and inspire a love of learning," stated BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres.

Dina Pahlajani, MD, Co-President of CHI (center) poses with BronxWorks staff (from left) Connie Claman, CFO; William Moon, Program Specialist; Eileen Torres, Executive Director and BronxWorks summer camp participants during the 2016 Social Justice PSA workshop culmination event.
BronxWorks is thrilled to announce that SAT prep courses will once again be offered to our student participants through a partnership with New York Cares. The SAT classes will be available to high school juniors enrolled in the BronxWorks Center for Achieving Future Education (CAFÉ) program.

Based at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center (CMCC), CAFÉ offers workshops and 1-on-1 counseling to help youth and their parents with the transition from middle school to high school, high school to college, and college entry to graduation. Students enrolled in CAFÉ attend college trips and receive assistance in preparing for standardized tests. Workshops related to selecting a college major, securing grants and scholarships, developing a support system, and preparing essays to accompany applications are conducted as well.

For the second consecutive year, trained New York Cares volunteers will conduct the weekly SAT prep classes at CMCC from October 2017 to May 2018. The purpose of the SAT course is to help participants enhance their numeracy and literacy skills while offering test taking strategies to prepare students for the SAT examination. Students will also participate in group discussions in a supportive environment, allowing them to work towards improving their SAT scores and increasing their confidence in test taking.

Last year, 17 students participated in the course and took the SAT examination administered in April of 2017. BronxWorks hosted an end of session reflection gathering where students discussed their strengths, weaknesses, growth and how the classes helped them prepare for the SAT. All participants remain connected to the CAFÉ program.

Akinbobola Adegoke, a graduate of last year’s SAT class, improved his SAT score from 1250 to 1360. Currently a senior at All Hallows High School, Akinbobola was attending the after-school program at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center when he learned about the course. “He was proactive, punctual... I do not think he missed a class,” said Raynelle Booker, CAFÉ Program Coordinator. He is now in the CAFÉ program and is working on his college applications.

This year’s SAT prep class will be expanded to enroll up to 25 students and the course begins Saturday, October 7. As an invaluable partner to BronxWorks, New York Cares has also facilitated Bedtime Stories, a weekly reading program for children held at the BronxWorks Jackson Avenue Family Residence for well over a decade.
Alissa Tyghter-Gerald outside her office at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse.

No stranger to BronxWorks, Alissa has worked in various management positions at the agency over the past six years within the HomeBase Program and the Nelson Avenue Family Residence. The breadth of Alissa's experience has given her a unique perspective on homeless services.

"My experience at BronxWorks has allowed me to work with a lot of different staff and learn from them all, maintenance, security, childcare, as well as case managers. I enjoyed the variety of roles and learning more about ways to combat homelessness," Alissa says.

Born and raised in Connecticut, Alissa attended Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York and received her Master's Degree in Social Work at Fordham University. As an undergraduate, Alissa double majored in business and sociology. Originally focused on a career in business, Alissa realized after completing a marketing internship that she was destined for a different profession. Through her sociology studies, Alissa quickly developed an interest in helping vulnerable populations.

At Fordham, Alissa gained invaluable experience in the classroom and in her field placements. "I learned simple things I still think about now," she says, such as the importance of compassion when working with clients, and how essential it is to always ask questions. Alissa's first position out of graduate school was at New Alternatives for Children, a foster care agency in Manhattan. She worked in case management for children and helped them preserve their placement in homes.

After about two years as a Case Manager, Alissa sought a broader approach to social work, which led her to BronxWorks.

"I love the range of services. There is always a new program. BronxWorks is continuously growing," she stated.

Alissa is inspired by the work of the agency and urges her colleagues to stay positive when facing challenges. "It is really hard work that we do. Sometimes it is easy to feel defeated, but we are having a huge impact on the communities we serve."

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Did You Know? SYEP at BronxWorks

Each summer, in partnership with the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the BronxWorks Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides hands-on opportunities for career development in the form of paid six-week internships for youth ages 14-24.
Internships take place at BronxWorks or at other partner organizations and businesses. The program provides participants with an opportunity to foster their talents and develop the necessary skills for future employment including: time management, how to work both independently and in groups, and how to develop effective communication skills and basic financial management.

For younger participants, ages 14-15, the SYEP program integrates an educational component of a group service project. The youth identify a social justice issue in their Bronx community and develop a plan to address the identified challenge.

In 2017, the SYEP program at BronxWorks enrolled a total of 700 participants. BronxWorks aims to place individuals in programs and industries in which they expressed an interest. This allows the unique opportunities for the participant to try a career on for size and see whether a career interest is really the right fit for the individual.

"One of the best things for us to witness is our youth who use the SYEP program as a springboard to employment at BronxWorks or elsewhere," states Shalima McCants, BronxWorks Children and Youth Assistant Department Director/SYEP Program Director.

Photo Essay

 BronxWorks Staff Picnic
To celebrate the summer, BronxWorks staff and their families gathered at Tibbett’s Brook Park for the
annual BronxWorks Picnic on August 25. There was lots of delicious food, games, family activities and simple relaxing. Pictured here are BronxWorks staff being led in a free outdoor Tai-Chi class courtesy of the BronxWorks Health Committee.

Boogie on the Boulevard
This year, BronxWorks organized fitness activities for “Boogie on the Blvd” attendees. Every summer one Sunday a month the center lanes of the Grand Concourse from 162nd Street to 170th Street are closed to traffic and open to organizations that host free music, art and fitness programs. Visitors to the “Fitness Block” enjoyed everything from mini boot camp, yoga, hula hoop classes and many more. Pictured here is the running group “Bronx Sole” posing with BronxWorks staff, Rachel Gill (left), Kitchen Manager, Carolina Espinosa (center left), Nutrition Program Coordinator for Community Health Programs, and Kimberly Wong (center) Program Director, Community Health Programs.
Senior Homelessness Prevention Project Event
On September 20, BronxWorks held an event in recognition of The New York City Council’s decision to save the BronxWorks Senior Homelessness Prevention Project (SHPP) with a $250,000 investment. SHPP can continue to help seniors stay in their homes thanks to the generous funding from the City Council. Pictured here from left to right are, Carmen Mercado, SHPP participant; Eileen Torres, BronxWorks Executive Director; Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council Member; Sylvanus Morrison, SHPP participant; Amanda Brown, SHPP Program Coordinator; John Weed, Assistant Executive Director, Rebecca Tilakdharry, Case Manager, Wendolin Lopez, Case Manager and Jose Alvarez, SHPP participant.
Manhattan Beer Volunteers at Second Saturdays
On September 9, The BronxWorks-led Healthy and Livable Mott Haven team welcomed a group of generous volunteers from Manhattan Beer Distributors for a stewardship activity as part of Second Saturdays. From May to October, the Healthy and Livable Mott Haven Partnership holds free family activities at St. Mary’s Park on every second Saturday of the month. This month, volunteers from Manhattan Beer Distributors enthusiastically spent their Saturday maintaining and beautifying the landscape of St. Mary’s Park.

The BronxWorks Special Raffle Grand Prize Winner!
Congratulations to Beverly McLeod, BronxWorks Early Childhood Learning Center Program Director. Beverly won the BronxWorks Special Raffle grand prize, an Apple Watch Series 1! The BronxWorks Special Raffle raised over $1,100 which will be used to provide swimming lessons for our preschool and elementary school students at the newly renovated BronxWorks indoor pool. Thank you to all who participated!
Full STEAM Ahead!

This gorgeous mural, which was displayed on the fourth floor of the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse, captured the summer camp’s focus - STEAM. The BronxWorks summer camp youth participants were encouraged to explore STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) subjects by visiting museums, conducting experiments and exploring the natural environment.
BronxWorks is delighted to announce that we will host our third annual BronxWorks #GivingTuesday Networking Event on Tuesday, November 28, 2017.

This special event will once again kick off our end of year giving season and raise awareness for our programs and mission.

The BronxWorks #GivingTuesday Event will take place at the Hard Rock Cafe Yankee Stadium, One E 161st Street, Gate 6 (at Yankee Stadium) in the Bronx, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

More information, sponsorships, and tickets will be available soon.

The TCS NYC Marathon takes place on Sunday, November 5, 2017 and BronxWorks is proud to have 5 runners fundraising to support the BronxWorks mission. Click Here to learn more about our runners!
Donate Now

STAY CONNECTED:

www.bronxworks.org

If you have any questions or would like more info about BronxWorks, please contact Allison Gangi at agangi@bronxworks.org or 646-393-4002.

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