April 2016
An Insider's Look at the 2016 Annual Gala

Mark your calendars! Join us for the BronxWorks Annual Gala on June 13, 2016 at 583 PARK AVENUE, New York, New York at 6:00 PM to celebrate and raise funds for BronxWorks' mission to feed, shelter, teach and support our Bronx community.

For more information about the gala, or to purchase tickets, journal ads or sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website!

In this Issue:
Introducing Our Honorees
Introducing Our Honorees

New York Cares Volunteers: Beth Lehmann & Tamara Lipshie

For 15 years, the Bedtime Stories program has been providing weekly evening story time complete with cookies to the children and youth of the BronxWorks Jackson Avenue Family Residence. At the heart of this program are longtime volunteers Beth Lehmann and Tamara Lipshie of New York Cares. Through their dedication, commitment and caring the program continues to thrive and provide the children of our community a weekly space to experience the joy of reading.

Beth Lehmann, a native of Tacoma Washington, became involved with New York Cares in 2000, a charity that covers a broad range of needs. Beth’s main focus has been primarily on ventures that are children-oriented. She is particularly passionate about children’s literacy and has been involved with Bedtime Stories since the beginning. In her 15 years of running Bedtime Stories, Beth most enjoys experiencing the individual progress that each child makes. "How can we help them? How can we do more," She often asks herself. "Seeing children who really couldn’t read begin to request specific books and want to read certain authors is really an amazing thing to see. This program supports a big change in them," she reflects. Beth continues to evolve the program, most recently instituting a book wish list on Amazon that has resulted in around 800 books per year being donated to the children at the shelter. Now, the children are able to take a book home with them every week. In keeping with Beth’s passion for supporting children and youth, Beth has worked as a nanny in New York since 1986.

Tamara Lipshie became a volunteer with Bedtime Stories 11 years ago through New York Cares. Tamara has seen the Bedtime Stories program serve as an opportunity for children to get individual adult attention and practice their literacy and conversational skills in a relaxed, fun and encouraging setting. When asked what keeps her coming back week after week after all these years Tamara states, "The kids are so loving and so happy and so generous and affectionate with lively minds. You introduce them to the idea of figuring out a problem and thinking something through and they’re excited by it."

Since 2009, Tamara has also participated as a BronxWorks charity rider in the TD Five Boro Bike Tour, which raises funds to benefit these children’s programs in family shelters. In her professional life, Tamara is a psychiatrist affiliated with New York-Presbyterian University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell.

BronxWorks is very pleased to honor such a dynamic duo of volunteers who dedicate themselves to the children at the Jackson Avenue Family Residence.
About New York Cares: New York Cares is the largest volunteer network in the city. Last year, 63,000 New Yorkers made the city a better place by volunteering in New York Cares programs at 1,350 nonprofits and schools – improving education, meeting immediate needs, and revitalizing public spaces.

Nixon Peabody, LLP

Nixon Peabody has provided pro-bono legal services to BronxWorks for over 4 years, helping resolve many legal issues so that BronxWorks can stay focused on the mission of helping individuals and families improve their economic and social well-being.

As a firm, Nixon Peabody is committed to giving back to its communities. In 2015 alone, the firm provided close to 30,000 hours of attorney pro bono service.

Nixon Peabody’s pro bono programs support a wide range of social issues ranging from protecting victims of domestic violence to helping children that are fleeing gang violence in their home countries to gain legal status in the US, to preventing racial profiling and ensuring diversity in education. And, some Nixon Peabody lawyers utilize their backgrounds to shape legislation that will address the challenges of the future.

Nixon Peabody attorneys and staff also share their generosity to BronxWorks by participating in annual toy drives for Bronx children enrolled in our programs as well as a volunteer day of service at our flagship community center. Nixon Peabody also hosts the BronxWorks Board of Directors and committee meetings on a regular basis. In addition, BronxWorks is very grateful to have Virginia Wong, a partner at Nixon Peabody, LLP as a member of the agency’s Board of Directors.

Thank you, Nixon Peabody. We look forward to honoring your work!

SBH Health System - Bronx

SBH Health System is a community-based, patient-focused healthcare system serving individuals and families in the Bronx with high-quality inpatient, outpatient, and emergency medical, mental health and dental services. SBH provides complete, open and timely access to the highest quality of care regardless of one’s ability to pay.

St. Barnabas Hospital, SBH’s flagship, is the oldest continuing healthcare facility in New York City, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2016. In addition to its 10-acre landscaped campus in the heart of the Bronx, SBH provides primary care, specialty services and behavioral healthcare through SBH Hemodialysis Center, Southern Medical Group, SBH Behavioral Health, and other sites.

Through Bronx Partners for Health Communities (BPHC), the DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment) Program it heads, SBH has been working with BronxWorks and other community partners to transform the future of healthcare in the Bronx. BronxWorks will be the social services provider of a supportive housing/medical project being developed by SBH.

SBH operates a "Community Physician Referral Office" (CPR0) to ensure that Bronx physicians can easily access resources to provide their private practice patients with quality care in a timely and sensitive manner. It is also a founding member of the Bronx Accountable Healthcare Network (BAHN), a consortium.
SBH is thrilled with its recognition from BronxWorks and looks forward to continuing its work with them in improving healthcare throughout the Bronx.

Laura Behnke, Mistress of Ceremonies

A Minnesota native and University of Wisconsin graduate, Laura is the weekend sports anchor and sports reporter at Eyewitness News (ABC 7) in New York City, a role she began in December of 2010. Laura covers all of the region’s professional teams including the Yankees, Mets, Giants, Jets, Knicks, Nets, Rangers, Devils and Islanders. Prior to moving to Manhattan, Laura spent two and a half years in San Francisco, where she was the weekend sports anchor at NBC Bay Area as well as time in Boston as a sports anchor and reporter. Laura has won several awards for her work, including an Edward R. Murrow Award for her behind the scenes look inside Fenway Park’s Green Monster.

BronxWorks first met Laura and her cameraman Roger Anderson while they were on assignment this past fall, covering two BronxWorks holiday events. BronxWorks is honored to have been a subject of Laura’s distinguished reporting and is pleased to have her back as the gala’s Mistress of Ceremonies.

"I’m so thrilled to be able to support BronxWorks and the important work that they do within the Bronx community." - Laura Behnke

Meet our Special Ambassadors:
Roy White & Jeff Nelson, New York Yankees Legends

Roy White played his entire career in Major League Baseball as an outfielder for the New York Yankees between 1965 and 1979. White, a switch hitter, was named to two All Star teams in 1969 and in 1970. In 1971, he set an American League record for most sacrifice flies in a season. He played on two World Series championship teams, in 1977 and 1978. Staying active in the sport even after his playing days, Roy served as a coach for the Yankees and the Oakland A’s. He also established The Roy White Foundation, a charity aimed to help children and young adults of financial need in the New York area attend college.

Jeff Nelson played 15 years in Major League Baseball as a relief pitcher known for his infamous slider and a 90 mph fastball. He is a four-time World Series Champion with the Yankees and was a 2001 All-Star. During his career Nelson held batters to a .191 batting average with runners in scoring position and two outs. A post-season veteran, he ranks second all-time in post-season games pitched, behind former teammate Mariano Rivera, with 62 strikeouts and a 2.65 ERA. Nelson retired in 2007, and has since worked as a post-season analyst with MLB.com and regularly fills in on sports radio shows.
A special thanks to Eagel Sports Promotions for arranging our ambassadors’ visit.

---

**Staff Profile: Tiana Rogers**

If you’ve ever needed help getting your tickets, navigating the website or even finding your table; chances are you’ve met Tiana Rogers, Development Assistant. Tiana has been the staff person behind the scenes making it all happen for the past three galas. She states "I really enjoy working on the gala because I take great pride in seeing a successful project through from start to finish. My favorite part of the gala is working with attendees and greeting our guests at check-in."

Tiana recalls a moment from her first gala in 2014 "I was giving the volunteers a quick refresher on how to process payments from guests using a smartphone. I kept swiping and swiping the card and it wouldn’t go through. Just when I was starting to get nervous the volunteer realized that the reader wasn’t connected because of the phone’s case. We gave the reader a good push and success. The day was saved."

Tiana comes to BronxWorks with a BA degree from Columbia University in Psychology. When she’s not in the midst of gala season, she is a vital asset to the Development team, assisting with grants and managing the BronxWorks donor database.

Thank you Tiana! Join us at the gala; Tiana will be there to greet you.

---

**Photo Essay: Great Moments in Gala History**

For this month’s Photo Essay, take a look back at some of the great moments of the Annual Events from the past several years.
Rockin’ and Rollin’ in 2011
The 2011 Annual Event, called “BronxWorks Rocks” was held right here in the Bronx at the Hard Rock Café Yankee Stadium. True to the name and venue, the evening’s entertainment featured great music from Mike Freeman and band.

Honorees from 2012
Recognizing honorees that are vital to the progress and success of BronxWorks has always been at the heart of the Annual Event. Pictured here are the honorees from the 2012 Gala: Ira Rosenstein, Partner at Morgan Lewis LLP (left), Mr. Bruce Philips, Senior Managing Director at Tishman Speyer and BronxWorks Board member (center), and Dr. Ricardo Fernandez, President of Lehman College (right).
Smoothie Samples in 2015

At the 2015 Gala, the BronxWorks Veggiecators (left) demonstrated their knowledge of nutritious food by sampling one of their favorite fruit smoothies and sending attendees home with the recipe. Both Councilman Fernando Cabrera (right) and Maria Rivera, BronxWorks Department Director for Senior Services (center), enjoyed a healthy snack!

JOIN US FOR THE GALA!

For more information about the gala or to purchase tickets, journal ads, or sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website, give us a call at (646) 393-4002, or send an email to trogers@bronxworks.org.

A very special thank you to our lead sponsors: Nixon Peabody, SBH Health System and the DeAddio Family.
Did you get this e-mail forwarded? Subscribe below to receive BronxWorks updates.

Sign Up Now

For Email Marketing you can trust.