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April 2018

An Insider's Look at the

The BronxWorks 2018 Annual Gala

Benefiting Children and Youth of the Bronx

The BronxWorks 2018 Annual Gala takes place on June 11, 2018 at 583 PARK AVENUE, NY, NY at 6:00pm.

Mark your calendar!
Please join BronxWorks as we celebrate our efforts to Lift Lives and Build Futures, recognize our distinguished honorees, and raise funds to support the children and youth of the Bronx.

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

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Thank you to Our Early Sponsors

Introducing Our Honorees

Every year, we raise a glass to celebrate the agency’s partnerships with extraordinary businesses, partners and individuals who help us serve Bronx community members. This year, our esteemed Honorees are Popular Bank; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLC; and Demetris Giannoulias, Spring Bank Founder and Chairman.

Popular Bank

Popular Bank has been a long-standing partner of BronxWorks. Through its employee-funded foundation, Popular Bank has provided generous support to the agency’s Jobs-Plus and Center for Achieving Future Education (CAFÉ) programs. Jobs-Plus empowers New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents to achieve their career-related goals through one-on-one financial coaching, employment services, resume workshops, and more. The BronxWorks CAFÉ program prepares high school students and their families for college through workshops, tours and other related activities. Popular Bank has also supported BronxWorks program participants with clothing drives for professional attire, food drives and school supplies. Popular Bank is an active sponsor of various BronxWorks Financial Literacy programs. In addition, BronxWorks recognizes Popular Bank’s "Embracing Puerto Rico" initiative, which contributed to the efforts to rebuild the most vulnerable communities on the island. Popular Bank is the American branch of Banco Popular, which has operated in Puerto Rico for over 100 years. Serving customers in New York, New Jersey, and South Florida, Popular Bank is committed to strengthening the social and economic well-being of the communities it serves. BronxWorks is fortunate to have such a strong ally and advocate in Popular Bank.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLC

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLC is committed to serving the public good, offering legal services to over 1,500 clients each year. For more than seven years, BronxWorks has had the privilege of working with Morgan Lewis as a pro bono client. The
Morgan Lewis team is led by Ira G. Rosenstein and includes Partners, Senior Associates and many other legal staff members. The firm has provided thousands of dollars worth of pro bono legal counsel to BronxWorks in areas such as personnel policies, hiring, and workforce management issues. The advice BronxWorks receives from Morgan Lewis and its dedicated staff results in increased operational efficiency for the agency. Because of this strong alliance, BronxWorks is able to serve more Bronx community members of all ages, every year. BronxWorks is grateful to all at Morgan Lewis for our invaluable partnership.

Demetris Giannoulias
Demetris Giannoulias, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Spring Bank is an ardent supporter of and friend to BronxWorks. Spring Bank is a Bronx-based community bank dedicated to providing services to under-served individuals and businesses in New York City. Spring Bank is a United States Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and New York State's first B Corp Bank. Since it was founded ten years ago, Spring Bank has been designing and developing banking products and services to meet the needs of consumers and communities overlooked by the mainstream financial system. The Bank has been recognized as Best for NYC by the City of New York and has received numerous awards from the Borough of the Bronx, State of New York and US Treasury. Spring Bank has been as a key partner to BronxWorks and an asset to the community.  

Demetris Giannoulias possess a strong background in finance and banking. He earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University and his master's degree from the London School of Economics. Demetris has participated in BronxWorks Program Committee Meetings alongside our Board Members. He has also provided input on how to establish banking accounts for some of our homeless and most vulnerable clients. BronxWorks is privileged to know and work with Demetris and grateful for our long-standing relationship.

Meet our Special Ambassador: NFL Legend Carl Banks

BronxWorks is pleased to announce that Carl Banks, NFL Legend and Two-Time Super Bowl Champion, will join the 2018 Annual Gala as Special Ambassador. Carl played from 1984 to 1995 for the New York Giants, the Washington Redskins, and the Cleveland Browns. After retiring from the NFL, Banks was a part-owner of the Arena Football League’s New Jersey Red Dogs and served as Director of Player Development for the New York Jets in 1997. In 2007, Banks became an analyst for the radio broadcasts of the New York Giants and also joined Sirius NFL Radio and WFAN. In addition to being a football star and a media personality, Carl also launched his own clothing line, G-III Sports by Carl Banks.

Carl is known as one of the great run-stoppers of his era and a standout during Super Bowls XXI and XXV. He played in 126 regular season games and had 36 sacks, three interceptions, and approximately 500 tackles. As Special Ambassador, Carl will greet our guests and take some photos at the Step and Repeat. We also look forward to Carl sharing some of his insight and experiences during the program.

A special thanks to Bruce Eagel from Eagel Sports Promotions for arranging our ambassador's visit.
Lisa Evers, Mistress of Ceremonies

BronxWorks is thrilled to welcome Lisa Evers as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the 2018 Annual Gala. Lisa is a television news reporter for FOX 5 at 5, 6, & 10pm in New York, and Host and Executive Producer of the award-winning show she created, “Street Soldiers.” She is also a strong advocate for members of under-served communities and a dear friend to BronxWorks. In January, Lisa hosted a town hall event and taping of “Street Soldiers” at the BronxWorks Pyramid Cornerstone Community Center.

Lisa first honed her broadcast skills in hard news reporting at CNN & ABC Radio Networks and 1010 WINS, where she earned an Edward R. Murrow Award for a series on the status of Puerto Rico. More recently, she specializes in crime, terrorism, political and urban cultural issues, as well as music. Lisa was the first TV reporter to bridge the gap between hip hop and mainstream news with rapper 50 Cent’s exclusive TV interview for FOX 5.

Lisa has been widely recognized for her community-focused efforts. She was the first female leader of the volunteer crime fighting group Guardian Angels and the first Black Belt Magazine "Woman of the Year." She has been nominated for multiple Emmy Awards and won numerous journalism and community service awards, including "Black Girls Rock" and "Elements of Hip Hop." Lisa also co-founded Hip Hop Votes, led relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Hurricane Sandy in New York, and hosts an annual youth empowerment summit called “Push for Peace.”

A born and bred New Yorker, Lisa is dedicated to bringing light to issues affecting community members, and she is pleased to contribute her time and talents to support BronxWorks at the 2018 Annual Gala on June 11.

Click here to join us at

The BronxWorks 2018 Annual Gala

RSVP
Staff Profile: Lijo Varghese

Lijo Varghese, Director of Grants and Contracts, has worked at BronxWorks for six years, and he always has a smile on his face. In addition to a positive attitude, Lijo possesses a strong background in finance and accounting. He earned Master's degrees in Financial Management in his native India and in Australia. Lijo relocated to New York City in 2011.

After working as an accountant at a non-profit in Manhattan, Lijo started at BronxWorks in 2012. His first role at the agency was as an accountant in the Fiscal Department. Lijo managed several contracts for the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHM), ensuring that all financial requirements were met for grant reports and proposals. After three years as an accountant, Lijo then assumed the role of Audit Manager, which came naturally to him. "Because I worked as an accountant, I already knew how the reports and proposals were prepared," he said.

Currently, as Director of Grants and Contracts, Lijo oversees five staff members who work on financial reporting for various contracts. He also does analyses of performance-based programs, and he liaises with BronxWorks Chief Financial Officer, Connie Claman and Controller, Gilbert Domfeh. Lijo especially appreciates his current role because he loves working with numbers and enjoys troubleshooting. "I like challenges," he says. "I do my best to apply knowledge to the right place and resolve issues as they come up."

**Lijo takes pride in ensuring that BronxWorks is in good financial health. "At the end of the day, I know the fiscal department's work is supporting the agency's programs and the Bronx community," he says.**

When he’s not at BronxWorks, Lijo enjoys spending time with his wife and his two children, Hannah and Emmanuel. Whether he is at home or at work, Lijo remains positive. "A smiling face can make others happy," he says.

Join us at the BronxWorks 2018 Annual Gala and you will have the opportunity to meet other BronxWorks staff members!
Did You Know?

2016 - 2017 Report to the Community

Did you know that the BronxWorks 2016 - 2017 Report to the Community is now available?

Available online and in print, the report highlights some of the agency's accomplishments during the past year as well as information on the diverse programs that BronxWorks offers for all ages, from toddlers to seniors.

To request a printed copy, please contact Elizabeth ("Bessie") Taliaferro eataliaferro@bronxworks.org or 646-393-4004.

http://bronxworks.org/annual-report

Photo Essay
The Pool is Open

On April 12, BronxWorks celebrated the Grand Re-Opening of the Indoor Pool at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. After a year of renovations, the pool is once again open to BronxWorks participants and community members. [Click here](#) for more pictures.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for the Community

On April 19, the BronxWorks Farm Stand opened up outside the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. Community members can now stop by Thursdays from 2pm-6pm to pick up fresh fruits and vegetables. SNAP/EBT, WIC & Senior FMNP, and Health Bucks accepted.
Viacom Supporting their ViaCommunity

On April 20, five Viacom employees generously spent their day preparing and serving meals at the BronxWorks East Concourse Senior Center. BronxWorks is honored to be a part of ViaCommunity Day, a day when Viacom employees across the globe give back to their community.

Learning to Save with Ridgewood Savings Bank

On April 25, Bronxchester Community Services, one of the 5 programs that comprise the BronxWorks Workforce Development Department, hosted a financial literacy workshop. The workshop was led by one of our partners, Ridgewood Savings Bank. This event helped to inform residents of Bronxchester and the surrounding community of the dangers of identity theft and the benefits of fraud protection. Following the workshop, the participants completed a financial screening and some opted to meet the program's financial counselor to review their free credit report.
BronxWorks sincerely thanks the following donors for their generous and continued support of our mission at the BronxWorks 2018 Annual Gala:

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For more information about the Gala or to purchase tickets, journal ads, or sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website or contact Elizabeth "Bessie" Taliaferro at 646-393-4004 or etaliaferro@bronxworks.org

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