Hi, just a reminder that you’re receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in BronxWorks.

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

The BronxWorks August 2018 Newsletter

Building a Stronger Community

Volunteers from USI Insurance assist in the kitchen at the BronxWorks Heights Senior Center.

In this Issue:

Volunteerism at BronxWorks
An In-Depth Look at the 2018 BronxWorks 5K Run/Walk
The New Jerome Avenue Shelter
Staff Profile: John Betts
Did You Know? The BronxWorks Leadership Council
Photo Essay
Upcoming Events

Volunteerism at BronxWorks

BronxWorks is grateful for the
Cummins Power Systems donated 20 bikes to the BronxWorks Children and Youth Department. Altice USA volunteers completed essential painting projects at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. We receive volunteer support on an ongoing basis from our corporate and community partners. These efforts truly help BronxWorks continue to lift lives and build futures. Over the past few months, volunteer groups from Altice USA, USI Insurance Services, Montefiore Medical Center, Cummins Power Systems, and SUNY Maritime College contributed their time and talents to BronxWorks. Volunteers worked together to give back to their community, get to know our programs and participants, and have some fun in the process.

In July, fifty interns and young professionals from Altice USA enthusiastically spent the day at various BronxWorks locations. The group split into three teams and took on exterior and interior painting projects at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center (CMCC) at 1130 Grand Concourse while others worked with our senior participants and program staff at the BronxWorks Heights and Morris Innovative Senior Centers. The Altice volunteers shared that the experience was both rewarding and enjoyable. In fact, a fourth Altice group came back in August to the Morris Senior Center to play bingo and socialize with the seniors. Click this link to see pictures and a video from the Altice July volunteer day!

Also this month, dedicated volunteers from USI Insurance Services and Montefiore Medical Center shared their talents at BronxWorks senior centers. USI volunteered at BronxWorks for the third year in a row as part of their USI Gives Back Initiative, while Montefiore was a new volunteer partner to the Agency.

Several summer volunteer projects benefited the BronxWorks Children and Youth Department. In July, Cummins Power Systems donated 20 bikes to the Agency. They also assembled the bikes and personally delivered them to BronxWorks, which was a very exciting surprise for the children.

Two other annual volunteer projects helped prepare students to go back to school in September. For the third consecutive year, the parish family from the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church in Norwood donated school supplies to BronxWorks youth. Volunteers and students enjoyed a nice lunch, and then the children had the opportunity to select their favorite school supplies. Each year, children from the BronxWorks Children and Youth Department also attend The National Council of Jewish Women New York (NCJW NY) Back 2 School Store, which includes school supplies, backpacks, and shoes. NJCW NY is a longstanding partner to BronxWorks and also supports the BronxWorks Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program.

Last but not least, BronxWorks formed an exciting new partnership with SUNY Maritime College. In August, eight staff members from the College's Office of Student Affairs provided hands-on support at the BronxWorks Heights Senior Center. The volunteers helped BronxWorks staff members prepare for lunch and enjoyed socializing with the seniors. Patricia Norman, Administrative Assistant at SUNY
Pat Norman from SUNY Maritime College serving lunch at the BronxWorks Heights Senior Center. Maritime, volunteers with various local organizations on a regular basis. "I especially like working with seniors because it makes me feel good inside to give a little time and put a smile on someone's face," she said.

Starting in September, all of SUNY Maritime's clubs and sports teams will perform community service projects at BronxWorks on a monthly basis.

"We want to thank BronxWorks because this is such a fantastic opportunity, and we look forward to working with them in the future. This is just the beginning," said Patricia.

Neil Wigod from Montefiore (left) enjoying a game of Bingo at the BronxWorks Heights Senior Center.

An In-Depth Look at the 2018 BronxWorks 5K Run/Walk
On Saturday, September 15, BronxWorks staff and supporters will participate in the 2018 BronxWorks 5K Run/Walk sponsored by EmblemHealth. Check in will begin at 8am, and runners will take their marks to dash through St. Mary’s Park, 577 E. 149th St. in the Bronx, at 9am. As in years past, proceeds from the event will support one of three BronxWorks programs, voted on by the participants. Categories include programs that benefit seniors, programs that benefit college-bound students, and food pantries. All participants and donors will have the opportunity to vote during the week following the event.

Runners and walkers alike prepare well in advance of the 5K and enjoy some friendly competition at the event. "This year, I’m looking forward to finishing in the top 10. I have been training for over a month now and I think I can accomplish that," said Adam Castillo, Facilities Manager at BronxWorks. Adam was a member of the first place team at last year's 5K, along with Alex Soto, Training Coordinator, and Yonnel Olivo, IT Director. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for men and women. There will also be prizes to the top fundraisers, including gift cards and even time off for BronxWorks staff members. The team who raises the most contributions will be treated to lunch.

EmblemHealth, the Title Sponsor of the 5K, is committed to the BronxWorks initiative to improve the social determinants of health in the Bronx. In addition to providing generous support to the event, staff members at EmblemHealth are looking forward to participating on September 15.

"As a lifelong runner, I know the feeling of crossing a finish line with your friends, family and community behind you. That feeling motivates you to keep it up, which can make all the difference in the health of our communities," Karen Ignagni, President and CEO of EmblemHealth said. "We wish all of the runners luck and will be cheering for you all the way to the finish line."
The new Jerome Avenue Men’s Shelter at 3600 Jerome Avenue.

JAMS offers 200 beds for homeless men in the community while they receive supportive services from BronxWorks staff members.

The BronxWorks 5K is a family-friendly (and pet-friendly) event. Supporters are encouraged to bring signs and cheer on the runners as they race to the finish line. Since 2015, the BronxWorks Annual 5K has garnered critical support for various BronxWorks programs. Last year, proceeds from the 5K were used to provide swimming lessons for our preschool and elementary school students at the newly renovated BronxWorks indoor pool. In 2016, funds from the 5K supported the replacement of a van used to deliver meals from the BronxWorks kitchen to homeless families and seniors.

Runners and supporters will proudly represent BronxWorks on September 15, rain or shine, so join us! Participants receive a BronxWorks 5K tee-shirt upon registering. To register for the race, support a team member, or learn more, please click below.

LEARN MORE

The New Jerome Avenue Shelter

In July, the BronxWorks Jerome Avenue Men’s Shelter (JAMS) opened its doors in partnership with the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) as part of our commitment to provide critical services to address the needs of the homeless community in New York City. With 200 beds and an array of social services available, JAMS is committed to helping men stabilize their lives and achieve housing permanency. JAMS is already serving over 40 community members, and once fully staffed, the shelter will provide case management, access to benefits, medical services, and activities for program participants. Many staff members at JAMS are bringing knowledge and experience from previous positions within the BronxWorks Adult Homeless Services Department to this site.

JAMS will also offer programming to address mental health and substance abuse issues. Residents can remain at the shelter until placed into permanent housing, ideally within nine months of receiving services. By opening JAMS, BronxWorks is dedicated to creating another safe space for single homeless adults in the community. BronxWorks also operates Safe Havens, which offer temporary shelters for homeless adults, and The Living Room, which is the only 24-hour drop in center in the Bronx for street homeless adults.
"We are excited to be expanding our services to the street homeless population," said Eileen Torres, Executive Director at BronxWorks. "As in our other sites, BronxWorks staff members will connect JAMS program participants to resources and services to help build a stronger, more self-sufficient community," she added.

Did You Know?

The BronxWorks Leadership Council

From left to right: Shalima McCants, BronxWorks Assistant Department Director for Children and Youth; Amanda Perez, Director of Quality and Compliance; Erica Coleman, General Counsel; Joseph Kao, Hall Capital Partners, Eric Halpern, Hall Capital Partners, and Kate Machan, Linklaters.

The newly formed BronxWorks Leadership Council is a collection of committed people who bring unique knowledge, connections and skills that complement those of the Agency's leadership to more effectively support its mission. In addition, the Leadership Council will help BronxWorks to maintain formal and visible relationships with people who are important in our communities, such as business leaders, philanthropic leaders, media figures, and other stakeholders.

On August 9, BronxWorks hosted a cocktail reception to kick off the Leadership Council at the Nixon Peabody offices on 46th Street in Midtown. Guests had the opportunity to learn about the Council's goals and meet its founding members: Kate Machan of Linklaters, as well as Joseph Kao and Eric Halpern of Hall Capital Partners. The event was attended by young professionals, community partners, BronxWorks volunteers, staff members, and two BronxWorks Board Members, Joan Rosenthal and Osterman Perez. After Eileen Torres, Executive Director gave a warm introduction, Osterman was joined by BronxWorks staff members, Tyron Johnson and Alex Soto, in sharing remarks on what BronxWorks means to them. Both Tyron, STEAM Specialist, and Alex, Training Coordinator, were BronxWorks program participants.

The Council's founding members had an instrumental role in planning the event and were very pleased to connect with other BronxWorks supporters.
"It was amazing to get to know so many individuals who are so enthusiastically interested in building a strong community and assisting those in need. I am very excited to help start the Leadership Council, and I look forward to working with everyone," said Eric Halpern.

In creating the Leadership Council, BronxWorks seeks to give change-oriented individuals the opportunity to get involved and support our mission. "With the Leadership Council, we hope to bring dedicated professionals together to help raise and diversify the BronxWorks profile, establish and achieve greater private fundraising goals, and identify new and innovative ways to achieve ongoing success," said Kate Machan. To learn more about the Leadership Council, please contact Elizabeth (Bessie) Taliaferro at etaliaferro@bronxworks.org or 646-393-4004.

Staff Profile: John Betts

John Betts, Residence Director, Jerome Avenue Men's Shelter.

John Betts, who is a five-year BronxWorks employee, is thrilled to begin his new role as Residence Director at the BronxWorks Jerome Avenue Men's Shelter (JAMS). Prior to his current position, John worked in various roles at the BronxWorks Living Room location in Hunts Point.

John grew up in Findlay, Ohio and attended Ohio Wesleyan University, where he studied theater. John moved to New York City to pursue a career in the arts when he began volunteering for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. John led workshops at local high schools for students on how to respond to signs of suicide and, in doing so, found his true passion: serving community members.

John went on to receive a Master's Degree at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. He came to BronxWorks as an intern at The Living Room and enjoyed working directly with program participants. After John received his Master's in Social Work (LSMW), his roles included Mental Health and Substance Abuse Clinical Coordinator, and Program Director.

One of John's most rewarding career experiences was working with other staff members at The Living Room to provide assistance to a homeless woman from the U.K. After she received psychiatric treatment and other critical services, she was able to reconnect with her family overseas and eventually return home.

John is grateful to BronxWorks for the career opportunities he has received within the Agency's Adult Homeless Services Department.
"BronxWorks offers a full continuum of care for the homeless... from outreach, to drop-in and transitional housing, to shelters and supportive housing," John said. "The Agency is dedicated to serving Bronx residents and makes decisions based on community needs," he added.

John is looking forward to continuing to serve the community's homeless population as Residence Director at JAMS. When he is not working, John still enjoys seeing theater and playing with his dogs. He lives in Brooklyn.

Photo Essay

National Council of Jewish Women New York's Back 2 School Store

On Sunday, August 5, BronxWorks children attended the annual Back 2 School Store event sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women New York (NCJW NY). Children had the opportunity to select supplies and clothing for the upcoming school year at this highly anticipated event. Thanks to NCJW NY, over 100 BronxWorks children are ready to go back to school with backpacks filled with school supplies and brand new outfits. What a great start to the school year!
Ribbon Cutting and Memorial Tribute at E. Roberts Moore

BronxWorks in collaboration with NYC Council Member Diana Ayala, NYPD PSA7, The Horticultural Society of New York, The New York Community Trust, United Neighborhood Houses, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYC Department of the Aging and community volunteers held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new and improved community garden at the BronxWorks E. Roberts Moore Senior Center. The garden is named "El Jardin de Los Amigos de Moore" and is dedicated in loving memory to Evangelina Santiago, a beloved community leader and tireless advocate for the garden and her fellow seniors.
The Holy Nativity Episcopal Church Back 2 School Event
For the third year in a row, the Parish family from the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church in Norwood donated school supplies to Bronx youth. Everyone enjoyed a nice lunch and then selected their favorite items from the Back to School Shop!

Upcoming Events

Official Registration

IS OPEN!

for the BronxWorks

Sponsored by:

EmblemHealth

St. Mary's Park
577 E. 149th St
Bronx

September 15, 2018

On Saturday, September 15, join BronxWorks staff, friends, and
supporters for the 2018 BronxWorks 5K Run/Walk sponsored by Emblem Health at St. Mary’s Park.

This family-friendly event will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals for both men and women, and there will be prizes for top fundraisers.

Visit our website or click below to register.

REGISTER

For more information about the 5K Run/Walk, please email ehahn@bronxworks.org

---

For the 10th year in a row, BronxWorks is thrilled to be a charity partner in the TCS New York City Marathon on Sunday, November 4.

Click below to meet the 2018 #TEAMBRONXWORKS charity runners and help them reach their fundraising goals!

HELP OUR RUNNERS
BronxWorks will once again participate in #GivingTuesday on November 27, 2018!

Please consider joining us and stay tuned for more information.

STAY CONNECTED:

Donate Now

BronxWorks | www.bronxworks.org | Email

Did you get this e-mail forwarded? Subscribe below to receive BronxWorks updates.

Sign Up Now

For Email Marketing you can trust.