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February 2016
Supporting Seniors in our Community

BronxWorks is committed to ensuring that the Bronx's seniors enjoy their golden years with the respect and dignity they deserve. From senior centers to housing assistance programs, BronxWorks offers many services to assist our elderly neighbors and offer them quality of life and hopefully some peace of mind.

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Senior Homelessness Prevention Program

BronxWorks Senior Homelessness Prevention Program (SHPP) was established to help Bronx seniors 60 years of age and older navigate the Bronx Housing Court and avoid eviction. Since the program's initial pilot in 2011, SHPP has closed 306 cases to date, assisting seniors with the support needed to remain in their residences. During 2014-2015, SHPP prevented the evictions of 150 seniors, while referring 175 others to the Legal Aid Society. "No case is the same," stated SHPP Case Manager, Rebecca Tilakdharry. "Two clients living in the same building will have very different cases.

Throughout 2014 and 2015, Senior Homelessness Prevention Program clients owed $2.13 million in arrears, with 6% of seniors screened owing $10,000 or more in back rent. Case Managers also assist with finding additional public and privately funded arrears assistance programs and with obtaining additional income support, when needed. This allows the property owner to receive the necessary funds to keep the
60 year old Luis is a SHPP participant. Luis lives in a rent stabilized apartment where his rent is $950 per month, yet his monthly income, Social Security Income, totals $800 per month. Luis fell into rental arrears after losing his job due to health complications and was referred to SHPP where he received the help he so desperately needed. BronxWorks helped Luis’ wife apply for Public Assistance. She was also approved for Shelter Allowance and Cash Assistance, allowing her to help with rent and other expenses. Luis also applied and was accepted for a "One Shot Deal" covering his arrears and resolving his housing crisis. Now he is able to show good faith by paying his ongoing rent, knowing his housing crisis has been resolved.

BronxWorks is especially grateful for the support of all SHPP funders who make this program service possible including: Oak Foundation, the New York Bar Foundation, Amalgamated Bank and the New York City Council.

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**Minor Repairs- Did You Know?**

Have you heard of The BronxWorks Minor Repair program?

While BronxWorks is mainly known for social and economic programs, Minor Repair is a unique program for seniors that helps keep them safe in their homes. Through this initiative, a technician visits senior clients to help with a variety of things including: changing smoke detectors, fixing locks, repairing leaky faucets, fixing windows and repairing floor tiles. This prevents seniors from attempting to fix the repairs themselves risking possible injury.

Seniors who participate in the Minor Repair program often live alone, perhaps without family members nearby. Some cannot afford repair services and/or may be uncomfortable having visitors in their homes. Perhaps most importantly, this program assists BronxWorks staff to ensure clients are living in a safe, healthy environment and evaluate other beneficial services that the organization may be able to provide to improve their quality of living.

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**Staff Profile: Agnes Manson**

Agnes Manson has been a BronxWorks employee for the last 22 years working as a cook for the Heights Neighborhood Senior Center, but her journey to the Bronx
Staff Profile: Agnes Mason, BronxWorks Head Cook for the Heights Neighborhood Senior Center.

Agnes and her family, which included the couple’s first baby, relocated to the Bronx. Prior to working at BronxWorks, Agnes held a position at Kingsbridge Home Healthcare, a nursing home. There, she discovered the joy of working with seniors. It is this joy that has accounted for her extensive tenure at the senior center. Agnes loves working with the seniors, and they love her. "The seniors love the way I talked to them, how I treat them, and how I prepare food for them." She explains.

Her favorite dishes to make are baked chicken and rice & beans, or beef stew. Agnes enjoys learning how to create new dishes, preparing them for large parties and trying out new recipes on her husband and four children. In her spare time, Agnes can be found cooking and dancing. Whether it’s preserving her traditional African dance, or participating in American dance at the center, Agnes feels at home.

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Photo Essay - Special Events

Grand Opening of New BronxWorks Office
Valentine’s Day Dance at Heights Neighborhood Senior Center
BronxWorks Students Engage in a Youth Etiquette Workshop
First Valentine’s Day Celebration at Bronxchester
Grand Opening of New BronxWorks Office
Betty Ann Tamaisar, BronxWorks Assistant Department Director for Workforce Development, greets children at the Grand Opening of the BronxWorks Office at Bronxchester Houses, which includes after-school programs and summer camps for children ages 6 -12, senior services, and workforce development.

Valentine’s Day Dance at the Heights Senior Center
On February 10th, the BronxWorks Heights Neighborhood Senior Center hosted a Valentine’s Day dance. DJ Lexs, who believes music and dancing is the key to staying healthy and young at Heart, provided the music. All were treated to a delicious meal, and the seniors danced the afternoon away.
BronxWorks Students Engage in a Youth Etiquette Workshop
Thursday January 21st, celebrity fashion stylist, Harrison Crite, stopped by the BronxWorks Afterschool Program at the South Bronx Prep to facilitate a Youth Etiquette Workshop: “Young Men into Gentlemen”. The young men were taught how to tie bowties and each participant received their own personal Tommy Hilfiger bowtie. The purpose of this workshop was to build social skills, personal style, and confidence.
Join Team BronxWorks: The money raised will support children's programs at shelters for homeless families.

First Valentine's Day Celebration at Bronxchester
The BronxWorks Office at Bronxchester Houses hosted their first Valentine’s Day Celebration with the seniors. During the event, participants took pictures in a photo booth, enjoyed desserts and Arts & Crafts.

The TD Five Boro Bike Tour takes place on Sunday, May 1, 2016.
BronxWorks is so honored to be a charity partner once again for the TD Five Boro Bike Tour. The money raised will support children's programs at our shelters for homeless families. Standard & VIP Registration for the TD Five Boro Bike Tour is closed but you can still ride as a BronxWorks Team member. Register today. Join #TeamBronxWorks!

I want to ride for BronxWorks to help homeless children! Click here to sign up and for more information about registration.
I want to donate to support the team!
Click [BRONXWORKS 2016 FIVE BORO BIKE TOUR](#) to see our team's fundraising page and select which rider to support or click DONATE NOW to make a general donation to the whole team.

If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to call 646-393-4002 or email trogers@bronxworks.org.

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**Save the Date!**

2016 BronxWorks Gala
Monday, June 13, 2016

583 PARK AVENUE
New York, New York

More exciting details to follow!

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