Ring in the New Year - a Look at What Is New at BronxWorks

The BronxWorks Newsletter
January 2017

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New Partnership at IS 313 and IS 339 Community Schools

As the first school bells rang in September, BronxWorks was thrilled to begin a relationship with IS 339 and IS 313, The Webster Campus Community Schools. The schools, led by Principal Earl Brathwaite (IS 313) and Principal Kim Outerbridge (IS 339), encompass grades 6 through 8 and enroll a total of 850 students. Named the Community School Partner in late August, BronxWorks hit the ground running at our 35th site to quickly roll up our sleeves and get to know the school and its unique culture.

Tashaka Wynter, BronxWorks Assistant Department Director, Children and Youth, oversees the site and worked fervently to bring together the ideal staff to support the needs of the school. The BronxWorks staff includes Anthony Vario, Social Worker; Joanna Colon, Family Worker; and Che Van Eer, Program Assistant; who work under Deborah Nunez, Community School Director to provide an array of support services for student, families and school personnel. Two AmeriCorps Volunteers, LaToya Biggs and Berlis Guerrero, also provide invaluable assistance to the BronxWorks team. As a renewal school, the goals of the partnership are to increase daily attendance and student achievement. Students participate in extended learning time each day designed to give them opportunities to join extracurricular clubs, special activities and receive further academic assistance. The BronxWorks staff provides resources for these extended hours and activities.

The BronxWorks staff also works to improve parent and family engagement. During two special events held last month (one for each school) students were encouraged to bring their parents and/or other family members to enjoy games, raffles and refreshments. The events helped to kick off the holiday season and give families a chance to unplug and spend time together. "My staff and I were very encouraged by the participation during Family Night," stated Tashaka Wynter. "The students really enjoyed the opportunity to come to school for a fun event and all got into a healthy competitive spirit while playing games. We look forward to hosting future events and celebrations."

Another new site and new program for BronxWorks is the WIOA-ISY (Workforce Innovative Opportunity Act - In School Youth) College & Career Bridge Program at Frederick Douglass Academy III. The program curriculum is designed to help students realize their academic and career goals.
Did You Know? CMCC 90th Anniversary

Did you know that the building where the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center is located is over 90 years old? Built in 1926, 1130 Grand Concourse was originally a children’s shelter. In later years the building was home to a YM/YWHA and then the Girls’ Club of Greater New York. In 1995, 1130 Grand Concourse officially became a BronxWorks site following our merger with the Girls’ Club.

The five story building continues to be a place of growth and change. Over 200 BronxWorks programs are based at 1130 Grand Concourse and the roof, boiler and elevator were recently replaced. The building’s iconic architecture soars over the Grand Concourse and it is immediately recognized by many past members, participants and community members.

If you have a memory or are an alumni of the building from any of the past organizations, we want to hear from you! Do you have old photos or stories to share? Please contact Gianna Dell’Olio, BronxWorks Director of Advancement and Communications at gdellolio@bronxworks.org or (646)
**Staff Profile**

**BronxWorks Welcomes Erica Coleman, General Counsel**

Erica Coleman joined BronxWorks earlier this month as General Counsel. In her role, Erica will oversee legal and compliance matters as well as human resources, employee education and training, information technology, and quality assurance. Prior to joining BronxWorks, Erica worked as Pro Bono Practice Attorney at Winston & Strawn LLP where she exclusively represented nonprofits in corporate and transactional legal matters. Previously Erica also practiced law in various private and non-profit settings, including nearly five years as an associate in the Business, Financing & Restructuring Group at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, followed by two and half years as Director of Programs & Operations at Start Small Think Big, a Bronx-based nonprofit organization that furthers community economic development through pro bono legal services.

Erica earned her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and she graduated cum laude from St. John’s University School of Law in 2008.

"We are very excited to have Erica Coleman join the BronxWorks family," stated Eileen Torres, Executive Director. "Erica is well versed in the nonprofit sector and has experience working in our beloved borough. She embraces the challenge of further understanding the complexity and changing needs of our organization."

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**Tribute to Carmen Hernandez**

**BronxWorks is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Carmen Hernandez, former BronxWorks Chief Financial Officer.**

Carmen Hernandez's career with BronxWorks spanned two decades. In the mid 90’s Carmen joined the organization as the Controller and very quickly became an invaluable advisor, trusted staff person, and dedicated member of the BronxWorks family. Over the years, Carmen led the growth of the Fiscal Department, managing over 100 contracts and expanding her team as the agency grew. Carmen was instrumental in the decision that led BronxWorks to purchase the property at 60
Carmen’s work ethic was second to none. She arrived to the office by 7am each day and often stayed past 5pm or later. In later years when Carmen was diagnosed with cancer, she continued to work a full time schedule, despite undergoing chemo treatments. Carmen was a strong woman and a fighter; she missed very few days at work and was resolute in making sure payroll was processed, reports were submitted and the agency received clean audits. Carmen retired in 2012 when she developed a heart condition as a result of the aggressive cancer treatment she underwent. Fiercely committed and loyal, Carmen returned to the position of CFO following Carolyn McLaughlin’s retirement as Executive Director. Carmen felt compelled to take her place alongside Eileen Torres, who was named the Interim Executive Director. She remained a part of Eileen’s senior staff until a permanent CFO was hired and once again, Carmen helped to make the transition seamless. Although she officially retired again in August of 2015, Carmen continued to support BronxWorks in many ways.

Carmen Hernandez will always be remembered for her tenacity, dedication and contributions to BronxWorks. She was warm and caring and had a great sense of humor. BronxWorks is truly indebted to Carmen and she will be greatly missed.
The BronxWorks HR Team welcomes new members, Anca Dragomirescu, Employee Relations Manager and Xavier Williams, Recruiter. From left to right Maribel Rosario, Anca Dragomirescu, Jennifer White, Xavier Williams, Whitney Sample, Damaris Rodriguez and Rosemary Olmo-Rivera

Proud BronxWorks EXCEL Program Alumni at the First Annual Induction Ceremony. Alumni received a certificate celebrating their induction and reunited with staff from their internship employment and/or college programs.
Thank You for the Holiday Gifts

BronxWorks wants to thank all of our amazing and generous donors for their holiday gifts!

2017 Calendar of Events
On Saturday, February 11th, the Bronx Polar Bears will come to Orchard Beach for their annual winter swim. The team, which includes BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres and BronxNet Executive Director Michael Max Knobbe, joined forces to organize the third annual Dip Against Homelessness.

The Bronx Polar Bears will brave the winter waters of Long Island Sound. Their five minute dip is a reminder of the bone-chilling cold homeless men and women must deal with every minute of each day in the winter.

For more information, contact Tiana Rogers at 646-393-4002 or trogers@bronxworks.org.

I want to take a dip for BronxWorks to help homeless individuals!

Click here to sign up and for more information about registration.

I want to donate to support the team!

Click BRONXWORKS 2017 DIP AGAINST HOMELESSNESS to see our team's fundraising page and select which participant to support or click DONATE NOW to make a general donation to the whole team.
BronxWorks is once again this year a charity partner in the TD Five Boro Bike Tour, America’s largest cycling event. On Sunday, May 7th, 2017, 32,000 people will ride over 40 miles of car-free streets through all five boroughs in New York City.

BronxWorks has designated slots available for charity riders in the Bike Tour. If you ride for us, you get a position close to the start line.

The BronxWorks charity slots are available to people who make a commitment to raising a minimum of $750. The money raised will support children's programs at our shelters for homeless families.

For more information, contact Tiana Rogers at 646-393-4002 or trogers@bronxworks.org.

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 2017 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.
More details to follow

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www.bronxworks.org

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

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