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What's New in the New Year at BronxWorks
The BronxWorks Newsletter
January 2018

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New Pyramid Programs: CAPP and Cornerstone
Afterschool participants have access to the Pyramid Cornerstone Community Center’s basketball court year-round.

The Pyramid also offers programs such as ShapeUp NYC, Mental Health Association-NYC Circle of Security Parenting Classes, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other benefits screenings, and Tax Prep. In October, the Pyramid began offering teens healthy meals provided by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)/Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and has served 425 meals thus far. Open year-round; the Pyramid is open to all community members.

Another program based at the Pyramid is the Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) program. Funded by New York State, CAPP is an evidence-based HIV and pregnancy prevention program for youth and young adults ages 11-21. BronxWorks began offering CAPP programming in July. The BronxWorks CAPP staff has taught the eight session program to students at various BronxWorks Cornerstone and public school partner sites.

Led by facilitators with a background in public health and education, the program focuses on STD prevention, pregnancy prevention, and contraception. CAPP also features short films on the importance of safe sex produced by adolescents and young adults. As a result, the films are very relatable to the participants. "The response from the program participants has been overwhelmingly positive," says Anthony Home, Health Educator Supervisor, CAPP Program.

The CAPP facilitators are looking forward to returning to sites they previously visited, such as the Jill Chaifetz Transfer School (JCTS), where the program was particularly well-received.

"Our students felt comfortable approaching the CAPP staff with questions and concerns regarding their sexual and reproductive health," says Amanda Perez, Program Director at JCTS.

The BronxWorks CAPP program also plans to expand its reach to other BronxWorks programs and sites including the family residences.

New BronxWorks Offices and Locations

The BronxWorks Access to Benefits Department came into the new year with many changes; two locations moved and two new offices open their doors. The changes add convenience and accessibility to our services, and the new offices expand our reach in the Soundview section of the Bronx.

BronxWorks relocated its longest serving office on Burnside Avenue, which was home to our Access to Benefits Department and is now located at 1833, a new office located at 1833 Westchester Avenue, Soundview, Bronx, NY 10472.
Single Stop, Benefits and Immigration now located at The BronxWorks Administrative Offices at 60 E Tremont Ave.

"The new space is an exciting and welcome change for these vital programs," says John Weed, BronxWorks Assistant Executive Director.

The Administrative office is in close proximity to the former site, both of which are close to the Burnside Avenue and Tremont subway stops.

The BronxWorks Bedford Park Office, which also offers Access to Benefits Services, relocated to the new, accessible Norwood office on Webster Avenue at 204th Street.

Expanding Our Reach in Soundview

The new Bronx River Houses Office at 1605 E 174th Street provides eviction prevention, entitlement screenings, and benefits assistance to the residents of the Bronx River Housing Development. Located in the Soundview section of the Bronx, the New York City Housing Authority-owned Bronx River Houses is home to over 3,000 residents, many of whom are families with young children.

The BronxWorks office at Stratford towers offers benefits screenings, assistance with Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, referrals to other community resources, eviction prevention, and assistance with social services. There are 112 units at Stratford with between 1-4 residents in each unit. The BronxWorks Stratford office hosted a Grand Opening last month and welcomed residents to learn more about available services.

"We have been received very warmly by the residents, and they are pleased to have us as a resource so close to home," says Shani Hernandez, Program Coordinator.

Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) Moves to The Living Room / Safe Haven.

The Department of Adult Homeless Services also has exciting news to share. The BronxWorks Homeless Outreach Team moved their offices from the Administrative Building to The Living Room / Safe Haven Drop in Center at 800 Barretto Street in November.

"We've always wanted to have the Outreach, Drop In and Safe
Haven all under the same roof," says Juan Rivera, Program Director for the HOT Team.

The shared space allows for improved collaboration between the HOT Team and the Living Room staff, Juan also noted. The proximity of the programs enables them to respond to crises quicker and more efficiently.

Did You Know? Free Tax Prep

Did you know that you can have your taxes done for free at BronxWorks? The agency will be running a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site at the Morris Innovative Senior Center located at 80 E. 181 St., Bronx, NY 10453. This service is made possible by The Food Bank of New York City. Participants can get tax assistance from experts Monday - Thursday 10:00am - 7:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am - 4:00pm. Individuals who make $54,000 or less with dependents or $30,000 or less without dependents can qualify for the Food Bank's free income tax services. Filing taxes is especially important for low income working individuals, who can earn back refunds and credits.

Staff Profile: Maxene Foster
Maxene Foster has worked in social services at BronxWorks for nearly seventeen years. Currently a Program Coordinator in the BronxWorks Access to Benefits Department, Maxene assists clients with housing applications, eviction prevention, applying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and makes referrals to other BronxWorks programs. She oversees three BronxWorks staff members and is dedicated to serving community members in need.

Maxene began her career at BronxWorks as a Case Worker and later became Coordinator for SNAP (Food Stamp) Outreach. Patient and resourceful, Maxene has always worked in direct services and is eager to lend a helping hand.

"I try to put myself in my clients’ shoes. I ask questions to find out what they need. I don't wait on them to ask me," Maxene says.

Maxene works with a range of clients, from young adults to seniors. She is sensitive to the needs of each age group and especially to families. One of the clients she will always remember was a single mother with three kids, recently divorced from an abusive husband. The mother had limited funds to provide for her family. Maxene helped the client apply for SNAP benefits and find an afterschool program for her children. Maxene takes pride in her work and the impact her work has on her community.

Born and raised in Jamaica, Maxene first moved to Colorado before calling the Bronx home. She has now lived in the borough with her family for twenty years.

Maxene’s favorite part of her job at BronxWorks is helping her clients become more independent. Maxene builds strong relationships with her clients and they often request to see her personally. With a background in social services, Maxene appreciates the variety of programs at BronxWorks.

"The agency has a multitude of services to offer to clients," she says.

As Maxene approaches two decades of employment at BronxWorks, she stresses that she does not like to miss a day of work. Maxene is certainly not slowing down.
On Friday, December 15, BronxWorks staff celebrated at the 2017 End of Year Party at Billy’s Sports Bar and Lounge. Many participated in the event’s raffle. Prizes included a vacation day, an American Express gift card, and a Google Home. The End of Year Party is a great way for BronxWorks staff members to enjoy the holiday spirit!

Last month, generous volunteers from the Office of Letitia James, New York City Public Advocate, worked together with volunteers from S&P Global Ratings to facilitate toy donations to children at the BronxWorks Nelson Avenue Family Residence. Thanks to the volunteers for making the children’s holidays a little bit brighter!
Every Wednesday afternoon, Grow NYC leads healthy cooking demonstrations at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. The demonstrations feature foods in Grow NYC’s Fresh Food Boxes, which are on sale for $14. The boxes include 6-9 different items each week, including greens and fruit.
Thank You for the Holiday Gifts

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

Upcoming Events
BronxNet, BronxWorks and The Bronx Polar Bears invite you to

The 2018 DIP AGAINST HOMELESSNESSS

Saturday, February 17 at Orchard Beach

Join BronxWorks and take a dip in the brisk waters of the Long Island Sound! Your efforts will help BronxWorks raise money and awareness to support homeless individuals in the Bronx.

Our Team will include BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres, BronxNet Executive Director Michael Max Knobbe and a few other special guests!

I want to take a dip for BronxWorks to help homeless individuals!
I want to donate to support the team!

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

If you prefer to stay dry you can still help by bringing new gloves, socks, hats or scarves to Orchard Beach to donate to BronxWorks homelessness service program. Donated items may also be dropped off now, until 5:00 PM, Friday February 16 at the following BronxWorks locations:

- BronxWorks Administrative Office, 60 E Tremont Ave.
- Classic Community Center, 286 E. 156th St.
- Betances Community Center, 547 E. 146th St.
- Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, 1130 Grand Concourse
- The Living Room, 800 Barreto St.

It's time for America's largest cycling event!

The TD Five Boro Bike Tour takes place on Sunday, May 6, 2018

BronxWorks is honored to be a charity partner again for the TD Five Boro Bike Tour.

The money raised will support children's programs at our shelters for homeless families. Join #TeamBronxWorks

I want to ride for BronxWorks to help support children's programs at our shelter's for homeless families
LEARN MORE

I want to donate to support the team!

DONATE

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

Save the Date
The BronxWorks 2018 Gala
June 11, 2018
583 PARK AVENUE
New York, New York

More details to follow

DONATE

STAY CONNECTED:

www.bronxworks.org
If you have any questions or would like more info about BronxWorks, please contact Allison Gangi at agangi@bronxworks.org or 646-393-4002.

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