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January 2016
Working Together to Help Others

At BronxWorks, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to help others through our work. We are especially appreciative to have many friends, partners and supporters who join and enhance our efforts in countless ways.

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The 2016 Dip Against Homelessness

BronxNet and BronxWorks will partner for the second year in a row at The Bronx Polar Bears 2016 Dip Against Homelessness. The event will take place on Saturday, February 6 at Orchard Beach.

The event will kick off at 11am with an official welcome, safety instructions and warm-ups. The big plunge into the cold waters of the Long Island Sound will take place at noon followed by hot soup for the
Team BronxWorks takes a Dip Against Homelessness at Orchard Beach.

participants. The team will include BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres, BronxNet Executive Director Michael Max Knobbe, friends and staff of both organizations as well as a few other special guests!

"We are looking forward to the 2nd Annual Dip Against Homelessness to raise awareness of homelessness in the Bronx," states BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres, "A few minutes in the cold water of Orchard Beach cannot compare to what our most vulnerable neighbors are exposed to while living on the streets."

All are invited to attend but a registration fee of $25 is requested to help raise money for services provided by BronxWorks for the homeless population of the Bronx. Each year the BronxWorks Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) makes thousands of contacts with street homeless men and women. Engagement is the first step in bringing about change. A trip to the BronxWorks Living Room/Safe Haven or a safe bed at a church that collaborates with BronxWorks is a critical interim step before BronxWorks helps street homeless persons obtain permanent housing.

Visit this link to register or click to donate. Feel free to contact BronxWorks at 646-393-4002 or trogers@bronxworks.org if you have any specific questions. Donations of warm winter gear including hats, gloves, socks, and scarves are also appreciated and may be brought to the event, or to a BronxWorks location or to BronxNet Television at Lehman College. Full event details may also be found by clicking here.

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**BronxWorks in the News**

With the cold winter weather upon us, BronxWorks efforts to combat homelessness have been the topic of media coverage over the past month.

BronxWorks was featured in a story on WNBC-TV Ch 4 that highlighted the work of our Homeless Outreach Team during a "Code Blue" emergency. Code Blue emergencies are issued whenever the temperature drops below freezing in New York City. Reporter Marc Santia followed Juan Rivera, BronxWorks Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) Program Director, and Noel Concepcion, Adult Homeless Services Department Director as they worked with an individual who was camped out under the Grand Concourse.

WNYC-TV Fox5 NY reporter Lisa Evers was invited by the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) for a tour of the BronxWorks Willow Avenue Family Residence, to help dispel the belief that all shelters are dirty and unsafe for residents.

In addition to this coverage, BronxWorks gained the attention of News 12 the Bronx for hosting a swim clinic for the Blue Waves Swim Team courtesy of Olympic Swimmer Anthony Ervin and Imagine School of Swimming staff.

Visit the BronxWorks YouTube Channel to see these stories and more. Recent print press coverage may also be found on the BronxWorks Website or by clicking here.

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**Staff Profile: Tiesha Scott**

BronxWorks is very grateful for our dedicated staff members who pride themselves in helping others through their work. This month we profile Tiesha Scott, a Queens native and current BronxWorks Case Manager at Homebase, a homelessness prevention program. Tiesha is an integral part of the HomeBase team and in addition to her duties as a case manager she
Staff Profile: Tiesha Scott, BronxWorks Case Manager for Homebase.

also serves as a pre-screener for the program. Tiesha interviews all clients before they are assigned a case manager.

"Tiesha puts clients at ease and therefore they feel very comfortable opening up and sharing information with her", states Shali Sharma, Program Director for Homebase. "This paired with her strong assessment skills is what makes her such an excellent pre-screening case manager. Tiesha is a genuine, warm, and generous person." When asked, Tiesha noted that her favorite part of working for Homebase is being able to help so many people. Each day, she meets with clients and informs them of the different services BronxWorks provides. "Each case is different and you have to address (the clients) accordingly," Tiesha states. "The fact that I'm part of an organization that does so much for the community means a lot to me."

Upon graduating from CUNY York College in Queens with a Bachelor of Science in Health Education, Tiesha started her professional career working for Safe Horizon, a victim services agency. Over the years Tiesha’s experience taught her that clients want to be listened to and spoken to with respect. "(Our clients) want to know you understand them and there is hope."

Hance Family Foundation Distributes Toys
Capoeira Demonstration for Seniors,
Adolescent Development Program (ADP) Holiday Celebration,
Nixon Peabody Toy Drive,
A Hot Meal for the Holiday

Hance Family Foundation Distributes Toys on Christmas Eve
At the BronxWorks Classic Community Center, a volunteer from the Hance Family Foundation takes
time to help a child select an arm full of gifts on Christmas Eve during a special toy distribution event. The Hance Family Foundation was founded in 2009 and supports endeavors for children that foster community spirit and self-esteem.

**Capoeira Demonstration for Seniors at the BronxWorks Senior Center at River Park Towers**

Professor Coco (second from left, standing) led 22 Seniors through a Capoeira demonstration (*Capoeira is a Brazilian dance that originates in Africa and incorporates martial arts movements*) at the BronxWorks River Park Towers Senior Center. The purpose of the demonstration was to teach seniors basic self defense while promoting daily exercise.

**Adolescent Development Program Holiday Celebration**

In December, BronxWorks hosted 125 Middle School and High School students at the Cardyn McLaughlin Community Center for the Adolescent Development Program (ADP) Holiday Celebration.
Pictured above; Essence White, BronxWorks Afterschool Counselor (right), and student Kahdija Doumbia pose for a photo.

Nixon Peabody LLP, Annual Toy Drive
Carol Clementi (far left), Legal Secretary at Nixon Peabody and her colleagues help to deliver gifts collected during the Nixon Peabody Annual Toy Drive for BronxWorks children before Christmas.

A Hot Meal for the Holiday
BronxWorks staff serves a holiday meal at the Living Room, a drop-in center for the homeless.

The TD Five Boro Bike Tour takes
Join Team BronxWorks: The money raised will support children's programs at shelters for homeless families.

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 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 trgers@bronxworks.org.

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