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Building Futures
The BronxWorks Newsletter
March 2018

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In honor of Social Worker Appreciation Month, BronxWorks recognized the agency’s accomplished social worker staff with an Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, March 16. Organized by the BronxWorks Social Work Committee, the Social Worker Appreciation Breakfast is an annual event that acknowledges the agency’s social workers’ service to Bronx community members and BronxWorks program participants. The event falls within National Professional Social Work Month, which provides an opportunity for social workers across the country to be recognized for their important contributions to society. BronxWorks is proud to have a number of Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW) and Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) on staff. Their contributions are intrinsic to the agency’s work and mission to teach, shelter, feed and support our Bronx neighbors.

BronxWorks actively promotes the practice of social work with licensing, training, and education. The agency’s Social Work Committee is chaired by Jonathan Morgenstern, LCSW, Director of the Family Enrichment Program; Tashaka Wynter, LMSW, Assistant Department Director Children and Youth - Early Childhood and School-Aged Programs; and Shalima McCants, LMSW, Assistant Department Director Children and Youth - Adolescent and Young Adult Programs. The BronxWorks Social Work Committee aims to promote the education, training, and growth of professional Social Workers in support of quality services with a distinguished set of standards and an elaborate code of ethics. The committee members also include Jessica Feldman, LMHC, Director of Training, Barbara Miliano, LCSW, Program Director, The Brook; Juan Rivera, LMSW, Program Director, Homeless Outreach Team; Noel Conception, LMSW, Department Director, Adult Homeless Services; and Shauna Barry, LMSW, Program Director, Community Health Home.

Jessica Feldman, BronxWorks Director of Training, kicked off the event by introducing guest speaker Jenna Tine, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a graduate of Columbia University’s School of Social Work. Currently the Senior Vice President for Outpatient Services at The Bridge, Jenna offered words of wisdom and shared how she transitioned from working with clients to leading and managing social workers. Jenna also highlighted the role that advocacy plays in social work. She tipped her hat to the BronxWorks training program and advised social workers to seek out mentors for career guidance.
Shalima McCants explains why social workers are so important to the BronxWorks mission.

Each social worker read a leadership affirmation and then reflected upon what it meant to him or her. This exercise fostered a community of positivity and support.

Eileen Torres, Executive Director at BronxWorks, wrapped up the event by expressing her appreciation for the cohort. Shalima McCants officially concluded the event with a few warm words of kindness, stating that "the Social Worker Appreciate Breakfast is not only an expression of gratitude for BronxWorks social workers, but it also offered us an opportunity to assess our own skills, learn new information and tips, and to connect with one other."

Teanika Chamberlain, BronxWorks Program Director of SEPS and Rapid Re-Housing

Teanika Chamberlain, BronxWorks Program Director of the Special Exit and Prevention Supplement (SEPS) and Rapid Re-Housing programs, is dedicated to connecting underserved community members to resources to help them improve their lives. For the past eleven years, she has worked in social services with a variety of populations, including homeless adolescents, seniors, veterans, and men and women struggling with mental illness. In 2016, Teanika began...
The BronxWorks Annual Staff Meeting Recognizes Agency and Staff Accomplishments

On Friday, March 23, over 600 BronxWorks staff members gathered at Billy's at 161st Street to learn about agency accomplishments of the past year. BronxWorks also welcomed new members of the team, recognized those who have worked with the agency for three years or more, and highlighted other staff accomplishments.

The theme of the 2018 Staff Meeting was "Diversity and Resiliency." Eileen Torres, Executive Director, expressed her gratitude to the agency's staff for their hard work and shared some exciting facts on the strides that BronxWorks has taken to lift lives and build futures. Last year, nearly 10,000 persons received food from a BronxWorks pantry, enabling them to obtain about $150,000 worth of food that was used to prepare over 25,000 meals. The BronxWorks Family Eviction Prevention Supplement (FEPS) program helped 1,218 families with 6,643 persons secure 6.9 million in...
BronxWorks also welcomed special guest speaker Annabel Palma, the Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives for the New York City Department of Social Services, and a former member of the New York City Council. A lifelong resident of the Bronx, Annabel is a tireless advocate for the homeless and workers' rights. She shared her background and how her experience shaped her professional career. Annabel also commended BronxWorks for its service to the community.

"My career as a public servant was shaped by the very same issues that the staff at BronxWorks helps community members to overcome," said Annabel Palma.

Staff members played a fun, team-building game, hosted by Alex Soto, Training Coordinator, and enjoyed a video presentation that shared insight into the very diverse BronxWorks staff. In addition to celebrating accomplishments, the meeting also included updates on 2018 goals, new initiatives and the agency's strategic plan. The event fostered a sense of pride and camaraderie amongst the staff, some of whom have already started planning next year's meeting.

For more photos, click here!

On Tuesday March 13, twelve BronxWorks teens went head to head in an exciting cooking competition at the BronxWorks Betances Cornerstone Community Center. The event was the culmination of a cooking course offered by Shenequa Merchant and Shandia Barrows, who are BronxWorks Activity Specialists at Betances, and Anissa Zimmerman, Program Specialist, BronxWorks Community Health Programs. Over the course of eight weeks, the participants made a variety of dishes, including jambalaya, risotto, clam chowder, spring rolls with rice
"The participants definitely became more open to trying new things," said Anissa. "They also learned how to put a healthy spin on everyday dishes," she added.

The final competition was judged by Eileen Torres, BronxWorks Executive Director, Daralyn Calderon, Community Coordinator of the Cornerstone Food Service at the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), David Bartolomi, Youth Development Associate at FamilyCook Productions and Tania Lopez, Founder, Coqui the Chef. "I'm so pleased that our participants are developing a love of cooking, which is a great career path for many, and an invaluable skill for all," said Eileen. The final dishes, by all accounts, were delicious. Anissa, Shenequa, and Shandia plan to offer a new course in the next few months to continue cultivating the teens' appetite for cooking.

Join Us! Grand Re-Opening of the Pool

The inaugural swim class at the newly renovated BronxWorks indoor pool.

Pool Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Thursday, April 12!

The BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse

Please join us at the Grand Re-Opening of the BronxWorks Indoor Pool at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. After a year of renovations, the pool now has new
Did you know that March is National Nutrition Month? BronxWorks celebrated with some unique programs on nutrition as part of our commitment to healthy outcomes for community members of the Bronx. Carolina Espinosa, Nutrition Program Coordinator, Community Health Programs, hosted two Grocery Tours for community members at the Fine Fare located on 149th Street. During the tours, she highlighted a variety of healthy foods and shared helpful tips on how to prepare them.

On March 27, Carolina gave a presentation called "Go Further with Food" for residents of The Brook, a supportive housing community. Key takeaways included the importance of monitoring portion sizes and the value of a balanced diet. Year-round, BronxWorks is dedicated to providing community members with the resources they need to lead healthy lives. Check out upcoming editions of the newsletter to learn about future events.
Dina Brown, Program Coordinator at the BronxWorks SONYC (School's Out New York City) Afterschool Program at South Bronx Prep Middle School received the 2018 Partnership for After School Education PASEsetter award. The PASEsetter award honors afterschool educators whose commitment, energy and creativity have had an indelible impact on the children and youth of New York City.

200 students from the Jill Chaifetz Transfer School attended the Post - Secondary Options Fair. Students had an opportunity to interact with representatives from colleges such as CUNY and SUNY, the military, as well as Job Corps, NYCID, and BronxWorks!
BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres was invited to speak at the 15th Anniversary Event for "Club Amigas/Mentoring Latinas" at Fordham University. AT&T contributed a nine year commitment of $450,000 for the program to Fordham University.

At the Staff Meeting on Friday, March 23, BronxWorks honored staff members who have worked with the agency for three years or more. Pictured above are staff members who were recognized at the meeting’s morning session for ten years of service. From left to right: Adam Castillo, Tashaka Wynter, Mary Harrison, Juan Rivera. Front row: Liza Concepcion, Kayla Caravello

Upcoming Events
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

REGISTER

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

The BronxWorks 2018 Annual Gala takes place on Monday, June 11, 2018 at 583 PARK AVENUE

*We’re looking forward to a fantastic evening with local professionals to celebrate the BronxWorks mission.*

Click below to RSVP and learn about tickets, journal ads and sponsorship opportunities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

*Guests and sponsors will support BronxWorks programs that help build the futures of children and young adults in the Bronx.*

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**OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER**

TCS NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

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, 2018.
Our team is making a big difference for Bronx children and youth and will be part of the excitement in one of the world's most famous marathons!

To find out how to become a charity runner and secure your spot in the TCS New York City Marathon, contact Allison at 

agangi@bronxworks.org or 646-393-4002

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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