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Supporting Our Mission Day and Night
Highlights from the 2017 Sapphire Gala and the 3rd Annual 5K

June was a busy month for BronxWorks, as we held two of our favorite yearly traditions! We extend a sincere thank you to all who supported and participated in the 2017 Sapphire Gala and the BronxWorks 3rd Annual 5K. Browse the articles and photos below to see how we celebrated together to support our mission.
The BronxWorks 2017 Sapphire Gala

The evening's program featured an impassioned speech by Detective Roberto Oviedo, who stated that he attributes part of his success to the people and programs at 1130 Grand Concourse, now known as the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center (CMCC), in honor of the BronxWorks former Executive Director. "As a kid growing up in the projects, I learned to swim in the pool at 1130 Grand Concourse and played basketball in its gym, stated Detective Oviedo. It was truly a safe and special place to me. I'm pleased that it serves the same purpose for kids today, and also is a resource to many adults." Walt Frazier then took a moment to speak about his life experiences and the importance of lending a helping hand to your community. Later James Ford, PIX 11 Reporter, made an inspiring and animated Call to Action, asking audience members to help provide needed funding to support programs that are based at CMCC, the BronxWorks flagship location.

A competitive silent auction sent many guests home with unique experiences and valuable memorabilia. This year's "Wine Wall" was once again a big hit as attendees purchased wine to support BronxWorks. Each bottle was wrapped, so every purchase was a surprise! Cheers to an exciting celebration of 45 years of lifting lives and building futures in the Bronx Communities. You can still respond to the BronxWorks Call to Action by clicking here.

For more pictures visit this link: The BronxWorks 2017 Sapphire Gala

Honoring Those Who Serve Bronx Communities

The honorees of the 2017 Sapphire Gala included Mutual Of America, B Strategies Principal Paul Lipson, and The Lemle & Wolff Companies.

BronxWorks Board Vice Chair Janice Hart presented the first award to America. "For over 30 years, BronxWorks has entrusted a critical part of employees' assets to Mutual of America," she noted. Brian Q. Severin, Exec President, accepted the award on behalf of the company.
BronxWorks Board Development Committee Chair Tom Watson presented the award to Pat Logan on behalf of Lemle & Wolff, a full-service firm that has or preserved thousands of affordable apartments and today manages over across the city. "We are thrilled to honor such a trusted partner to BronxWorks," Tom said.

Paul Lipson, who Executive Director Eileen Torres described as "the Bronx community," was the third honoree of the evening. Paul has a career developing lasting renewable and clean transportation solutions, founded The Point Community Development Corporation, an organization that initiated the revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. When accepting the award, Paul described the sense of community in the Bronx and the lessons he has learned from BronxWorks: "We are responsible for one other. That is Carolyn McLaughlin, Eileen's predecessor taught me so many years ago a spirit that animates Eileen's work and the work of the enormously dedicated BronxWorks," Paul said. Congratulations again to the 2017 Sapphire Gala Honorees!
We'd also like to give a special thank you to all of our silent auction contributors: Disney, Carnegie Hall, the New York Philharmonic, American Girl, the NY Rangers, the New York Botanical Garden, Seth Meyers, Steven Manzi, the NY Jets, the NY Giants, Ken Small, Empire City Casino, Osterman Perez, Adventureland, Liberty Science Center, Tom Watson, Ira Rosenstein, Frank DiGioia and The Group, and Barbara Smaller.

We'd also like to thank the eight artists who contributed to the gala art auction: Ben Casiano, Sandra Rossini, Ricky Mestre, John Lawson, Geoffrey Doing-Marx, Jose Acosta, Herm Freeman, and Hernan Restrepo.
Despite an early morning rain storm, on Saturday, June 24, runners and walkers took their marks to dash through Mary's Park to raise funds in support of BronxWorks at the third annual 5K Run/Walk. The clouds gave way to sunshine a few moments after 9am as the group followed the trail around the park. If you missed the chance to support your favorite runner or team, you’re in luck as the fundraising deadline is not until July 9th! Donate to the 5K by visit BronxWorks 5K fundraising page.

Funds raised from the 5K will be voted on by the participants to support one of three important needs at BronxWorks. The program options include providing swimming lessons at the newly renovated BronxWorks indoor pool for preschool and elementary school students, providing arts and crafts programs for BronxWorks senior citizens, and college assistance for high school seniors enrolled in the BronxWorks CAFÉ (College Access for Everyone) program.

Afterwards runners and walkers enjoyed light refreshments, and awards were given to the top finishers. This year’s top six are: Eileen Towey (1st place women), Erica Coleman (2nd place women), Marisol Torres (3rd place women), John Weed (1st place men), Alex Soto (2nd place men), and Yonnel Olivio (3rd place men).

Thanks to all the participants, donors, supporters and well-wishers!

For more pictures from the 5K please visit this link: The BronxWorks 3rd Annual 5K Run/Walk.

Photo Essay: Capturing the Best Moments
While it's easy to go on and on about these events, the best way to remember and showcase them is through the best moments. Please check out our Facebook page to see more photos and the most recent professor

![Image of Welcoming the 2017 Sponsors](image)

**Welcoming the 2017 Sponsors**

Alecia Allan-Vanderbilt, Board Member Mike DeAddio and Eileen Torres at the BronxWorks 2017 Sapphire Gala. The DeAddio family was our Title Sponsor.
One Of a Kind Memorabilia at the Silent Auction

Guests were able to browse and bid on unique items at our silent auction including original artwork from local artists, tickets to special NYC events as well as a large collection of autographed sports and entertainment memorabilia provided by Eagel Sports Promotions.
James Ford Inspires the Audience to Give
James Ford, PIX 11 Reporter, inspires the crowd during the BronxWorks Call to Action.

BronxWorks Board Members and Guests
Board member Etta Gumbs with her guest Joanne Chormanski
The BronxWorks 5K Participants

Runners, walkers, friends, family and Jorge the Yorkie give a victory cheer after the BronxWorks 3rd Annual 5K at St. Mary's Park. While the fundraising contest still is still a tight competition, a true BronxWorks team spirit was in the air for the event. Congrats and thanks to all who participated!

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www.bronxworks.org

If you have any questions or would like more info about BronxWorks, please reach out to Allisc agangi@bronxworks.org or 646-393-4002.

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