

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sophie Crumpacker, sophie@anatgerstein.com, (347) 361-7128

Jaime Williams, jaime@anatgerstein.com, (347) 361-7183

BronxWorks to Host “Building Better Futures” Virtual Gala to Support Community Services and Recovery

- *The online event will honor BronxWorks staff for their dedication to serving the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and USI for their contributions to the organization -*

- *Register for the event at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/lqF/> -*

(Bronx, NY) - On Wednesday, May 19, at 6:30 PM, the nonprofit **BronxWorks** will host a special online event, the [Building Better Futures Virtual Gala](#) honoring **BronxWorks Staff** for their dedication and tireless efforts to the Bronx community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and **USI** for their contributions to the organization and the Bronx.

The BronxWorks 2021 Building Better Futures Gala will support the critical work needed to continue to assist Bronx residents as they recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For over 49 years, [BronxWorks](#) has fed, sheltered, taught, and supported Bronx residents, from toddlers to seniors.

Staff showed up when they were needed most—while others stayed at home—enabling the organization to ramp up supportive services during the pandemic to meet growing needs in one of the hardest-hit boroughs. They have tirelessly served Bronx residents during COVID, including by:

- Providing food to **12,000** people at 12 food distribution sites (an increase from 4 sites pre-pandemic); enrolling over **200** people in SNAP benefits; and serving nearly **60,000** meals from their kitchens to address rising food insecurity.
- Sheltering nearly **800** adults and over **600** families and their Safe Havens and shelter sites.
- Providing work readiness and financial literacy to **2,294** people, and helping secure job placements for **138** adults and **422** young people amid a tough economy.
- Offering case assistance for **2,098** seniors; and helping many older adults navigate the vaccination process and secure appointments.

“This year, when our city and our communities were in crisis, BronxWorks staff met the immense challenges and made sure we could provide food and services to our neighbors in need,” says **Eileen Torres, BronxWorks Executive Director**. “I’m proud to honor them at our first virtual gala, and I am immensely thankful to our supporters for helping the team carry out our work this past year and going forward.”

The virtual event will be emceed by **Marysol Castro**, *PIX 11* Morning Show Features Anchor & Sports Nation Anchor, and Citi Field Public Address Announcer, Voice of NY Mets.

Sponsors of the event will also have a chance to participate in their choice of two exclusive VIP events. Before the virtual gala program, **Mookie Wilson** and **Willie Randolph** will talk about their most memorable moments as World Series Champions with **Justin Walters**, *PIX 11* Sports Multimedia Journalist and *CBS Sports* Sideline Reporter. Following the program, **Julia Quinn**, author of the *New York Times* best-selling *Bridgerton* series, recently adapted for Netflix, will be interviewed by **Ryan Kristafer**, *WNYW FOX 5* Entertainment Reporter.

BronxWorks thanks sponsors for their support, including Platinum Sponsor USI, and Gold Sponsors Gilbane, JP Morgan Chase & Co., and Bruce Phillips & Joan Feeney.

Information on sponsorships and individual tickets can be found at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/lgF/>.

About BronxWorks

With over 40 locations throughout the borough, BronxWorks has worked from the ground up in Bronx communities for over 49 years to help residents build healthy, stable futures for themselves and their neighborhoods. BronxWorks helps individuals and families improve their economic and social well-being. From toddlers to seniors, we feed, shelter, teach, and support our neighbors to build a stronger community. For more information about BronxWorks, visit www.bronxworks.org.

###