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The BronxWorks April 2020 Newsletter

BronxWorks Responds to COVID-19 Part II



Michael De Los Santos, Housing Specialist for Rapid Re-Housing Program, volunteers at the food pantry at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center on April 11.

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Thank You to BronxWorks Supporters



BronxWorks is very grateful for support during the COVID-19 crisis. We especially thank all of our dedicated staff and supporters. Their contributions have helped some of the most vulnerable communities in New York City during the COVID-19 crisis. BronxWorks provides essential services to New Yorkers with the greatest need.

We thank all of our donors including community members, board members, foundations, local businesses and organizations for their positive community spirit.

Special thanks to our in-kind donors:

Argosy International, Riveria Produce, York Studios, United Neighborhood Houses, Citibank, The Bronx Private Industry Council (The Bronx PIC), Here to Here, Fresh Direct, Catholic Charities, Metropolitan Coffee House, Virtu Financial, and Altice USA.

Also, thank you to the Bronx Delegation of the New York City Council: Speaker Corey Johnson, Diana Ayala, Fernando Cabrera, Andrew Cohen, Ruben Diaz Sr., Vanessa Gibson, Mark Gjonaj, Andy King, Rafael Salamanca Jr., and Ritchie Torres.

Click [here](#) for a personal thank you from BronxWorks Executive Director, Eileen Torres.

Early Childhood Learning Center Transitions to Remote Learning

The transition to a remote learning module for the BronxWorks Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) began March 16 with the announcement of New York City Public Schools closing. The ECLC staff immediately called parents of their students to notify them of the change.



Over the next week, ECLC staff quickly adjusted their teaching modules to a remote platform. Support from supervisors and the program directors helped staff develop new and creative teaching techniques. The staff established new learning platforms utilizing online software and created individual accounts for each family to access.

"Adjusting to remote learning was challenging but it's becoming less difficult as we continue to push through this journey," Titilola Omokpo, ECLC Program Director, said of adapting during the COVID-19 crisis.

Staff are encouraged by the strong engagement and positive feedback from students and families. The ECLC staff remain in regular communication with all the families to provide additional support and resources as needed.

Staff Profile: Rachel Onijoko

Rachel Onijoko, Shift Supervisor at the BronxWorks Pyramid Safe Haven, began her BronxWorks career in 2006. Rachel's first role at the Agency was as a Safety Monitor at The Nelson Avenue Family Residence. Prior to joining BronxWorks, Rachel worked as a private security guard.



Rachel Onijoko, Shift Supervisor at BronxWorks Pyramid Safe Haven.

In her current position, Rachel works directly with staff and residents. Her position requires her to ensure all posts are staffed, maintain a safe environment, prepare clients for emergency procedures and

conduct regular security checks. Rachel appreciates being a support system for the clients. She assists and helps them when needed and tries to make them feel secure and comfortable.

During her career at BronxWorks, Rachel obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Metropolitan College of New York.

"BronxWorks encourages people to pursue higher education and

positions within the Agency. I recommend BronxWorks to everyone." said Rachel about her tenure at BronxWorks of over 14 years.

Rachel, a Bronx resident, enjoys spending time with her children who are currently attending college. She also enjoys watching films and reading books to help improve herself and her well-being.

Robert Rivera, BronxWorks Director of Security spoke highly of Rachel, "she is extremely reliable, a 'go-to' supervisor, and a consummate professional. Regardless of the circumstances, Rachel keeps her composure."

Did You Know? You Can Purchase Items for Our Programs in Need

Did you know that ...you can purchase items for our programs in need?

While we are currently living amid the COVID-19 crisis, BronxWorks program participants are in need of many essential items. BronxWorks has created an Amazon Wish List of Emergency Needs to assist during this crisis. To purchase items for our participants click [here](#). All items will be sent directly to BronxWorks. The list includes essential items such as soap, diapers, wipes, laundry detergent and items for children and young adults such as tablets, headphones, books and activities.



Essential items donated to BronxWorks for programs in need.

Photo Essay



Participants at BronxWorks Betances Community Center food pantry on Holy Thursday.

Holy Thursday Food Pantry

Participants of the Betances Community Center received much needed items during a pop-up pantry sponsored by Catholic Charities and Fresh Direct. In addition, more than 1,600 meals were distributed to the Betances residents on Holy Thursday.



Staff from Strong Fathers, Stronger Families meet with a participant virtually.

BronxWorks Programs Continue Virtually

Due to the pandemic, many BronxWorks programs have changed adjusted to a remote service model. Many programs are meeting with their participants and members virtually. To see the Workforce Development Department in action click [here](#).



Food Distribution at BronxWorks Cornerstone Community Centers

On April 20, BronxWorks Cornerstone Community Centers started meal distribution. Meals are provided by The Bronx PIC and New York City Department of Youth and Community Development. Meals are distributed daily, Monday - Friday at BronxWorks Betances, BronxWorks St. Mary's Community Center, and BronxWorks Classic Community Center.



**Metropolitan Coffee House & Virtu Financial Donate to the BronxWorks
Community Food Pantry**

On April 25, the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry received significant donations from Metropolitan Coffee House and Virtu Financial. Donations included fresh produce, snacks, bread, soap and other essential items.

2020 Census



Complete the Census
by Phone:

English: 844-330-2020

Spanish: 844-468-2020

French: 844-494-2020

Arabic: 844-416-2020

For more information please contact

Alida Quinones-Reyes

(347) 835-0262

Alreyes@bronxworks.org

Visit: **BronxWorks.org**

My2020census.gov

BronxWorks is proud to be a NYC Complete Count Fund partner. Participate in the #2020census online or by phone. Participation is vital in these uncertain times. As a partner, we will be working to help our community members find the best method to complete the census.

Visit [here](#) for more information or contact Alida Quinones-Reyes at alreyes@bronxworks.org or 347-835-0262. members find the best method to complete the census.

BronxWorks Program Updates

Many BronxWorks locations and programs are deemed essential services and remain open, including our 24-hour facilities. BronxWorks is committed to the safety of our staff and the communities we serve. For the most current program updates, please contact your BronxWorks location or email info@bronxworks.org for updates and information or visit [here](#).



Ways to Give



EMERGENCY FUND



BronxWorks is on the FRONTLINE
assisting our neighbors during the COVID-19 crisis.
Text joinbronxworks to 76278

BronxWorks staff remains committed to assisting our Bronx neighbors during these very uncertain times. The BronxWorks Emergency Fund helps some of the most vulnerable communities in New York City during the COVID-19 crisis.

Please make a gift of any amount to help BronxWorks provide essential services to Bronx residents with the greatest need: the homeless, children, seniors, immigrants, and individuals with significant health challenges.

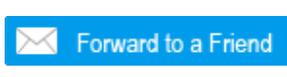
To donate now text joinbronxworks to 76278 or visit [here](#).

No act of generosity is too small to make a difference.

We need your help NOW. Join BronxWorks! We call on all people of goodwill to support the work of dedicated BronxWorks staff. Please make a gift today.

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