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The BronxWorks July 2020 Newsletter



Class photo shown during the BronxWorks Early Childhood Learning Center Virtual Graduation.

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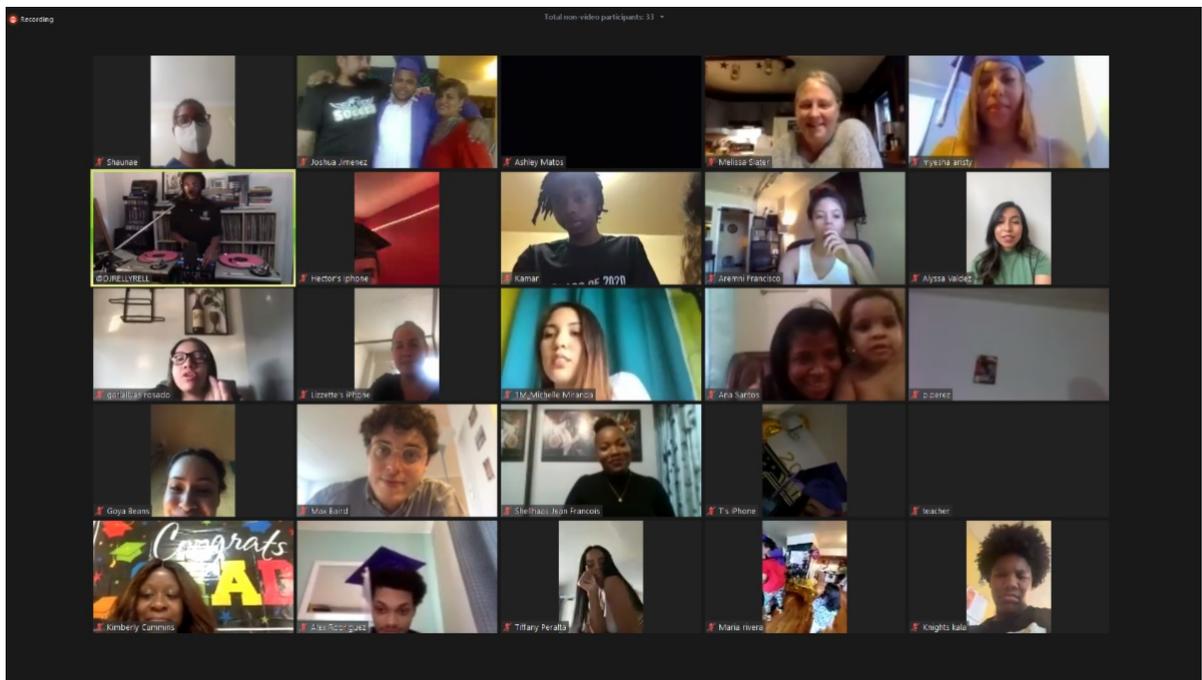
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Spotlight: Congratulations to the Class of 2020



Jill Chaifetz Transfer School Virtual Graduation Ceremony.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

The end of the 2019-2020 school year truly proved to be unprecedented in so many ways. Students had to quickly adjust to distance learning and remote and virtual interaction among their teachers, counselors, peers and others.

While some of the NY PAUSE orders were lifted in June, virtual graduations were deemed the safest way for BronxWorks to commemorate the end of the year. BronxWorks programs initiated creative ways to observe these milestones. Graduation ceremonies included slideshows and pictures, spotlights on student accomplishments, sing-a-longs, and many heartfelt speeches.

We salute the BronxWorks Class of 2020 - from our youngest Early Childhood Learning Center participants (ECLC) to our elementary and middle school students to the BronxWorks program participants enrolled in the Jill Chaifetz Transfer School (JCTS). Throughout these trying months, we could not be prouder of their resilience, determination, and grit.



BronxWorks Early Childhood Learning Center Programs and BronxWorks HIPPY Programs held virtual graduation ceremonies. Here are just some of the students and their parents!

Salute to 2020 Seniors and Congrats to All BronxWorks Students!

Congratulations to all the high school seniors on their college acceptances!

BronxWorks seniors have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:

Bard College, Barry University, Baruch College, Binghamton University, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Boston College, Bronx Community College, City College of New York, College of Staten Island, Fashion Institute of Technology, Fisk University, Fordham University, Guttman Community College, Hostos Community College, Hunter College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Lafayette College, LaGuardia College, Lehman College, Manhattanville College, Marist College, Mercy College, Monroe College, New York City College of Technology, Queens College, SUNY Canton, SUNY College at Geneseo, SUNY College of Technology at Alfred, SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Orange, SUNY Potsdam, Temple University, Trinity College, University at Albany, University of Hartford, University of Rochester, York College.

Jill Chaifetz Transfer School graduates highlight some of their memories, challenges, and accomplishments. Congrats to all!

Ebony S. plans to attend LaGuardia College and major in Computer Science.

"At JCTS, so many opportunities were presented to me. My first extracurricular was "Rocking the Boat," a program where we learned about marine life. I attended art classes, had one of my pieces published for bullying awareness, and also worked for the school during my free periods. I did a little program called "Leadership" during this time too where we handled prom, trips, etc. My last but most important thing I've done was my internship. It opened so many doors for me, and I loved having it as a responsibility."



Ebony S., graduate of Jill Chaifetz Transfer School.



Diamond M., graduate of Jill Chaifetz Transfer School.

Diamond M. will continue working at Fedex, and is considering joining the military.

"I was going through my own challenges in my personal life and juggling school work at the same time. I applied to JCTS on my own, wrote a essay of why I wanted to come to finish high school on time. And that's exactly what I did!"

Staff Profile: Natalie Villanueva



Natalie Villanueva, Program Coordinator for the Children and Youth department at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, has been with BronxWorks for over three years. Natalie has transitioned her experience as a Program Coordinator, supporting numerous youth programs from Summer Youth Employment Program; Work, Learn, Grown Intern Program; and many of BronxWorks after-school programs.

Natalie is inspired by her co-workers' passion to serve others. She also appreciates the support system and teamwork her supervisors and co-workers provide.

"I feel the support and dedication from the agency and in return that inspires me to give back to the community," said Natalie, discussing her appreciation of BronxWorks.

Throughout the pandemic, Natalie worked with students from the Validus Preparatory Academy High School Neighborhood Development Area Educational Support Program. During these transitional months the program converted to a virtual model, and she assisted students in engaging new ways. With Natalie's help they created a blog for their virtual service learning experience. The students blog "Leaders of Tomorrow", discusses racial injustice, expressing their voices, and creating memorials. Staff and students worked together to create "Leaders of Tomorrow" which is dedicated to instill black pride, knowledge, change, and justice. Click [here](#) to view.



Students from the Validus Preparatory Academy High School Neighborhood Development Area Educational Support Program.

Prior to joining the BronxWorks team, Natalie worked with the Catholic Charities organization. She received a Bachelor's degree in Broadcasting with a minor in Journalism from Long Island University-C.W. Post. In her free time, Natalie loves to travel, discovering new cultures and landmarks.

BronxWorks Farm Stands Open



BronxWorks Farm Stands are now open! Fresh, Local, Affordable!

The BronxWorks Farm Stands opened earlier this month at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, and Gotham Health, Belvis, in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. The farm stands offer fresh, local, and affordable produce to the communities of the South Bronx. The Mott Haven Farm Stand has sold out every week since its opening and the CMCC Farm Stand has had huge success as well.

The pandemic has devastated the city's economy, leaving low-income families particularly vulnerable, and demand for BronxWorks nutrition programs has exploded. The farm stand complements the

organization's robust food programming in the city's most food-insecure borough. A variety of payment methods are accepted, including cash, EBT/SNAP, and Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupons. As a precaution amid COVID-19, recipe demonstrations are presented via video projection in lieu of in-person tutorials. In addition, all social distancing guidelines are observed.

New York City Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson recently visited the BronxWorks Farm Stand at the CMCC and provided encouragement as well as masks and hand sanitizer. BronxWorks is thrilled that the farm stands are received so well by the community (pictured above left photo).

Please see links below for media coverage of the grand openings.

[PIX 11 Story](#)

[News 12 - The Bronx](#)

Did You Know?

Summer Programming Updates



Students having fun and observing social distancing.

We are pleased to share that a select number of BronxWorks summer programming kicked off this month. Programming includes camps for elementary-aged students and middle school students as well as a modified Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is for youth, ages 14 - 24, enabling them to learn new skills and explore career options even with virtual programming this year. All camps and programming are following CDC guidelines and adapting to new safety measures. We look forward to sharing the experiences and accomplishments of our campers and participants. Special thanks to our dedicated staff and loyal funders that are making these vital summer opportunities possible.

Photo Essay



BronxWorks Resource Navigator Team

BronxWorks Resource Navigators Community Outreach

BronxWorks Resource Navigators are out in the community seven days a week as part of the NYC Test + Trace Corps. They are performing outreach and education about getting tested for COVID-19, how to properly wear personal protective equipment like masks, and other helpful information as the Bronx continues to navigate the pandemic. For information on testing locations in the community click [here](#).



Eileen Torres, Executive Director, BronxWorks; Julie Spitzer, Department Director, Homelessness Prevention and Access to Benefits; Brittney Parkinson, Community & Citizenship Manager, Turner Construction Company (Left to right.)

BronxWorks Pop Up Pantry

BronxWorks hosted a special pop up food pantry on Monday, July 27. Sponsored by Turner Construction Company, the pantry targeted our Bronx neighbors who may be experiencing housing insecurity.

Special thanks to WCBS for the great coverage: [WCBS Story](#)

Other Media Links: [WNBC](#) [WPIX](#) [News 12 The Bronx](#)



Sole Purpose co-founders Alex Goldenberg and Ross Brodsky with BronxWorks Team Member Rachel Onijoko (center)

Sole Purpose Weekly Donation

Sole Purpose once again donated purpose packs which included new pairs of shoes and socks to the BronxWorks Pyramid Safe Haven. Sole Purpose has made weekly donations since the end of June. The Manhattan-based organization is led by high school students Ross Brodsky and Alex Goldenberg. Sole Purpose is dedicated to ensuring every homeless New Yorker has "a good pair of sneakers and socks to help them take the next step forward in their lives". Sole Purpose also made deliveries to BronxWorks The Living Room, watch [here](#).



4th of July Luncheon at The Living Room

Thank you to a special donor and their family for generously donating lunch from Mangia NYC to The BronxWorks Living Room Safe Haven. Participants enjoyed a sumptuous buffet on July 4th.



Summer Reading Giveaways at BronxWorks Classic Community Center

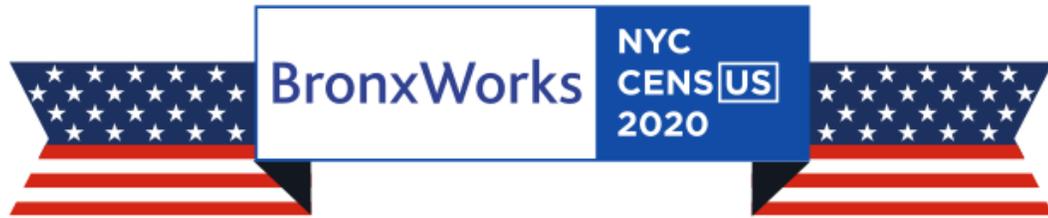
Thanks to New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda, children from the community were able to stop by the BronxWorks Classic Community Center and receive grab and go bags from the New York Public Library with summer reading materials.



Food Distribution at BronxWorks Classic Community Center

Thank you to New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca, who was joined by Kathryn Garcia, New York City Food Czar. They distributed grab and go food at BronxWorks Classic Cornerstone Community Center this month.

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.

Support BronxWorks

The graphic features the BronxWorks logo at the top, followed by the text 'EMERGENCY FUND' in large red letters. Below this is a collage of three black and white photographs showing staff members interacting with and assisting neighbors. At the bottom, the text reads 'BronxWorks is on the FRONTLINE' in blue, followed by 'assisting our neighbors during the COVID-19 crisis.' and '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.

DONATE

The Bronx communities we serve are also in need of many essential items. Diapers and wipes are among the items requested the most from our program participants. Click [here](#) to buy items from BronxWorks Emergency Needs List.



Donate Items off our Emergency Needs List

Good news! You can now support BronxWorks in the Amazon app on your phone!

Follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start donating while you shop today!

How to Activate AmazonSmile in the App:

Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device

Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'



Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process

Turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon app to generate donations.

amazonsmile



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