

As we approach the end of an unimaginable year, BronxWorks remains committed to supporting our community. We reflect on this year and all of the work that still remains to help the Bronx not only recover but rebuild stronger than before. As the end-of-year giving season is here, we are asking our supporters to come with us, to reflect, and be ready to help take on the challenges that will persist as the pandemic continues and in its aftermath.

The Bronx community is resilient. BronxWorks employees are tough and committed. Together with you, our ardent supporters and friends, we can come out of this crisis and build a better future for the Bronx. Gifts made to this year's BronxWorks Year-End Appeal will support the [BronxWorks Building Better Futures Fund](#) and all of our essential programs that assist our participants who strive every day to build a better future for themselves and their communities. As 2020 comes to an end, please consider donating and investing in the over 64,000 community members with whom we work. The following are three stories of individuals, out of countless that we work with, and the hope that drives them forward.

The BronxWorks Saturday Food Pantry helps Milady A. feed her family.



Milady A. is a mother of a 5-year-old, an 8-year-old, and a 20-year-old. She has visited the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry for more than 2 years. Milady originally started coming to the pantry because she lives nearby, and the pantry helped her feed her family. When the New York PAUSE restrictions went into effect due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Milady saw food prices at local markets increase while availability of items decreased. With her younger children at home and no longer receiving meals at school, the BronxWorks Food Pantry has become much more crucial for putting food on the table. "It helps a lot because you do get a lot from here and as much as you get from here that's less money you have to think about getting for the supermarket," she says. Milady values the BronxWorks Food Pantry because of its location and proximity to her home. Her children continue to attend school virtually and she is grateful for the availability of produce, bread and other items.

"If you can, keep on trying to help the food pantry. There's a lot of us that do need it for different reasons. It's a big help."

Milady's Year-End Appeal Video

Brandon T. has grown and matured over the 3 years he has attended South Bronx Preparatory after-school program.



When Brandon T. first joined the BronxWorks after-school program at South Bronx Preparatory School in 2018, he struggled adjusting to the new environment: new people, new faces, new expectations. Less than three years later, Dina Brown, BronxWorks Director of Middle School Programming, says Brandon has greatly matured and has learned how to articulate himself with the help of BronxWorks. Nowadays, Brandon talks excitedly about fun activities and athletics he gets to do with new friends. He reminisces about past trips with other BronxWorks participants. When the programs shut down this past summer because of COVID-related restrictions, Brandon's mother said it was a challenge because "BronxWorks really helps me out". When the program reopened, Brandon and his mom were equally thrilled. Since the after-school program re-opened, Brandon can be found practicing his jump shot or on a computer working on his favorite subject, math.

"All the after-school teachers provide me with everything I need... It was funny that I got transferred to a new school that is so bright and so open to everything I say."

Brandon's Year-End Appeal Video

Ginessi O. continues to work toward her goals despite the challenges of 2020.



Before the COVID-19 pandemic uprooted the local economy, 19-year old Ginessi was a cashier at a retail store. Now, she, her father, and mother have all been laid off. While Ginessi and her family have some savings, and Ginessi was able to collect unemployment benefits, "It's starting to catch up with us," she says. Meanwhile, Ginessi is doing everything she can to work toward her goals. Ginessi enrolled in the BronxWorks Jobs Plus program. Despite the challenges she faced, she recently graduated from community college and is working on her Bachelor's degree in criminal justice. For her accomplishments during the pandemic, NYC Human Resources Administration and BronxWorks awarded her with a new laptop.

"I don't want to be just another statistic. I want to be able to make my parents proud and get my Bachelor's Degree. I want to be able to show them why they came here, to give me and my siblings a better future."

Ginessi's Year-End Appeal Video

Staff Profile: Anthony Horne



Anthony Horne, Director of Positive Living at BronxWorks.

In many ways, it's come full-circle for Anthony Horne, Director of Positive Living at BronxWorks. After attending SUNY College at New Paltz, Anthony served as a U.S. Army Medical Specialist and received his Master's Degree in Human Services from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He started his career in social services in the HIV/AIDS field and has worked in the areas of reproductive and sexual health education and HIV/AIDS education and prevention for over 30 years. In the early days of his work during the AIDS epidemic, Anthony says it was mostly planning and preparing patients for death.

"Seeing the change has been wonderful," Anthony says, in regards to

*how the field of work in HIV/AIDS management has evolved.
"Nowadays, patients are more likely to die of natural causes."*

Anthony joined BronxWorks in 2017 as the Program Director of the Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) program. The CAPP program is an evidence-based initiative funded by the New York State Department of Health that promotes sexual health, STD and HIV/AIDS prevention, and adolescent pregnancy prevention, for participants ages 11 to 21 years old. It is now in its 5th year at BronxWorks. Anthony later added the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education program (SRAE), which is in its 2nd year.

In September of 2020, Anthony became the Director of Positive Living, which works with and provides services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. It's something of a return for Anthony, while he continues to oversee the CAPP and SRAE programs. When asked about it, he says, "There's work to be done." Although the situation has improved tremendously compared to the 1980s, new cases continue to disproportionately affect communities of color and the LGBTQ+. Anthony says there is still a lot of messaging needed to change perceptions and stigmas around living with HIV.

"Being positive is just a condition."

That is what Positive Living is ultimately trying to accomplish, to provide a normalcy for people living with HIV. Anthony says that the world is close to a triumph, that prevention can make the disease untransmittable, and that the science is clear: an undetectable viral load equals a non-infectious individual. We asked Anthony what drives him in his work in this field. He said that his passion comes from his lived experiences.

"When you see close friends pass it hits close to home."

When he is not working, Anthony enjoys cooking and listening to music, particularly 70s Soul, R&B, Jazz, and Classical.

**Did You Know?
The Cookware Company Donated 150
Ceramic Non-stick Fry Pans to the
BronxWorks Community Food Pantry**



BronxWorks Community Food Pantry participants receive brand-new frying pans donated by The Cookware Company.

The Cookware Company generously donated 150 brand new frying pans to participants of the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry ahead of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Cookware Company is a New York based manufacturer of cookware and bakeware. The 150 ceramic non-stick 8" fry pans are perfect for stir frying vegetables as a healthy side dish for any meal. The BronxWorks SNAP-Ed team were onsite to provide a cooking demonstration of sweet potato & apple stir fry.

Thank you to The Cookware Company USA for your amazing gift to the BronxWorks Food Pantry and our participants.

Photo Essay



World AIDS Day

The BronxWorks Positive Living program and its participants commemorated World AIDS Day on December 1 by painting messages of hope and remembrance. Observed annually since 1988, World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to remember those individuals who have passed from the disease as well as raise awareness about HIV and AIDS.



BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres (left) and a BronxWorks participant give thanks to Governor Andrew Cuomo for his donation of 50 turkeys.

Turkey Donations for Thanksgiving

Thanks to our generous supporters, over 100 BronxWorks families got some extra help for their Thanksgiving dinners. New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo donated 50 turkeys to BronxWorks families and NYC Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson facilitated the donation of 50 turkey breasts to families in our Children & Youth programs. NYC Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr. also gave out a large donation of turkeys and Thanksgiving food provisions at the Classic and St. Mary's Cornerstone Community Centers. Finally, 25 turkeys were once again donated to BronxWorks Positive Living program participants from MedAlliance.



State Senator Luis Sepulveda (left) and a BronxWorks Department Director Julie Belizaire-Spitzer (right) hand out donated gift cards at the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry

Gift Certificate Donations Ahead of the Holiday Season

BronxWorks would like to thank State Senator Luis Sepulveda for his office's generous donation of gift certificates to the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry. The gift certificates were given out during the Saturday Food Pantry ahead of the Thanksgiving Holiday.



ECLC Multicultural Celebration

The BronxWorks Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) celebrated their Multicultural Day event on November 24. Families and staff dressed in cultural garb at home and in the classroom. A virtual event was held in place of the annual event at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center. The BronxWorks ECLC program represents 22 different nationalities. Among the staff there are six different languages spoken.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HOSPITALS FROM THE GROUND UP



BronxWorks

- ▶ Incorporate ED canvassing as part of your every-day operations.
- ▶ Make efforts to engage hospital staff, including Security and Medical staff.
- ▶ Be transparent about what outreach can or can't offer in terms of services.
- ▶ Hospital Coordinator position - key to filling in some of the gaps.
- ▶ Presentations and tours with hospital staff are very effective.
- ▶ High level meetings with Hospital Administrators provide deeper understanding.
- ▶ Ideas can slowly move forward if buy-in is achieved.
- ▶ Funding is the big question.



The Annual Health & Housing Consortium

BronxWorks Homeless Outreach Team Program Director Juan Rivera (pictured, right) spoke at the Health & Housing Consortium Annual Convening on December 3. Juan discussed how supportive and transitional housing providers like BronxWorks can build relationships with hospitals to help the homeless who are frequent users of New York City health systems. He introduced the idea of Housing Coordinators in hospital emergency centers to provide outreach and support to those living without stable housing.



Parent Engagement at PS 42

Staff from the BronxWorks After-School program at PS 42 met with parents as they dropped off their students in early November. Parents wrote down messages and examples of something or someone they were grateful for. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate were provided as well as some giveaways.

BronxWorks is grateful for all of the #GivingTuesday support this year!



This was truly an extraordinary #GivingTuesday!

Due to COVID-19, BronxWorks was not able to host its annual #GivingTuesday event at the Hard Rock Cafe in Yankee Stadium. However, that did not stop supporters like you from giving in incredible amounts this year.

We are heartened by the support we received for the [BronxWorks Building Better Futures Fund](#) as we kicked off our 2020 Year-End Appeal. Support for the Building Better Futures Fund will go toward BronxWorks programs, which have become such essential services for our communities in this difficult year.

Our Food Pantries have not only expanded their services but have seen a nearly 500% increase in demand for emergency food provisions. Our After-school and Children & Youth programs continue to provide crucial support for students as they wrestle with this school year and remote learning. Workforce programs are providing a helpful window and guidance into the employment landscape as households deal with unemployment stemming from the COVID-19 epidemic.

BronxWorks remains open and committed to the work in front of us to help the Bronx recover and rebuild stronger than before. If you wish to support our efforts, it is not too late! See below for the many ways you can still help.

How to Participate in the BronxWorks Year-End Appeal

Your gifts truly make a difference. There are still many ways to support BronxWorks this year.

- Contribute directly to the [BronxWorks Building Better Futures Fund](#)
- Text "bronxworks2020" to 76278 to make a donation
- Purchase essential items for our participants from our [Amazon Wishlist](#)
- On Amazon, you can choose BronxWorks as your Amazon Smile charity, and Amazon will donate on your behalf every time you make a purchase
- Donate directly through our [Facebook page](#).

Donate

STAY CONNECTED:





www.bronxworks.org

If you have any questions or would like more info about BronxWorks, please contact Danielle at dmobley@bronxworks.org or 646-393-4002.

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