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The BronxWorks September 2020 Newsletter



Elementary age students from BronxWorks summer programs participate in STEM activities.

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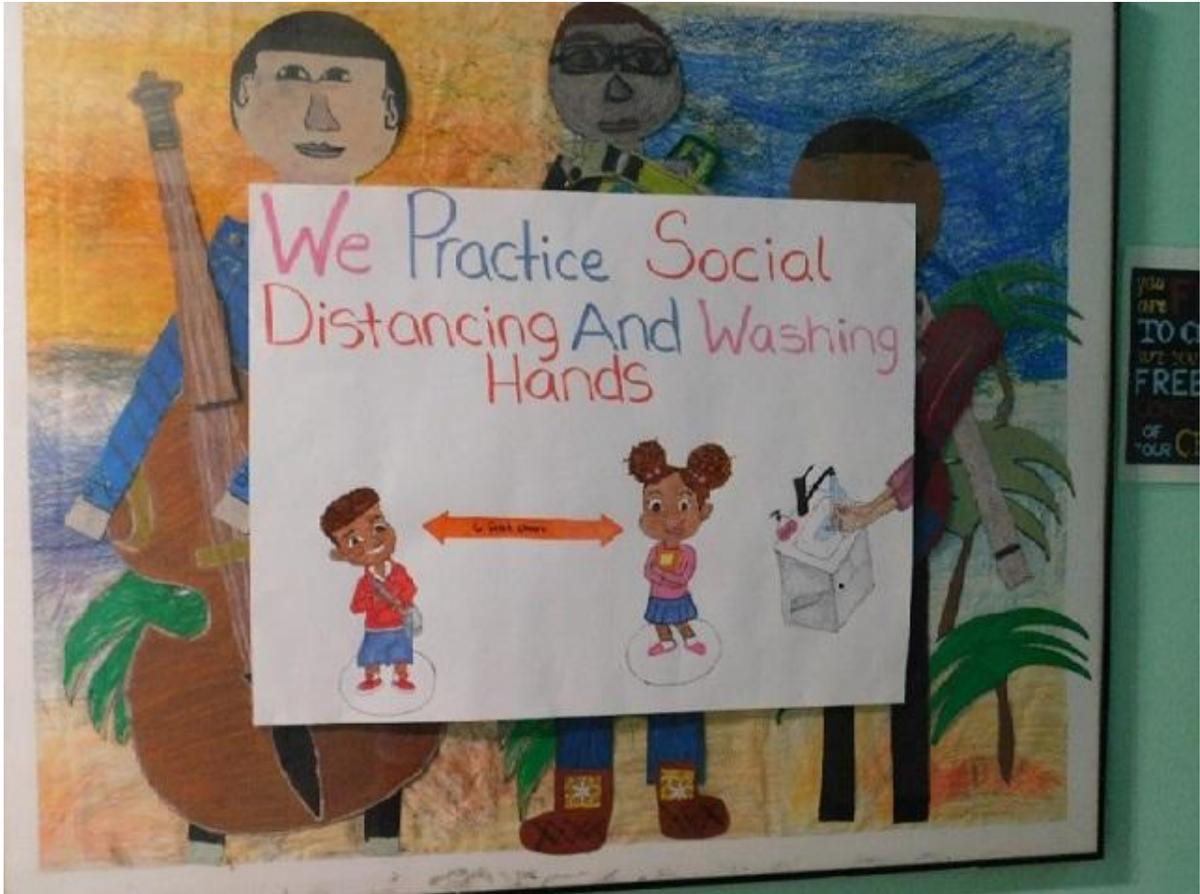
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Summer Programming Part 2: Programs for Younger Youth

The BronxWorks Children and Youth Department was thrilled to offer limited programming for all age groups this summer. In last month's newsletter we

highlighted the summer programs for older youth. For part 2 in our series this month, we focus on the programs made available to our younger program participants, including our summer educational programs and the transition to the 2020 school year.



BronxWorks Summer Program For Elementary Age Children and Youth

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic truly impacted so many of our Bronx neighbors, from the youngest children to our senior population. Thanks to our partners, BronxWorks was delighted to offer summer programming at both the Bronxchester and Carolyn McLaughlin Community Centers.

Both programs provided a wide array of fun and educational activities for students ages 5-12. The participants enjoyed group activities, outdoor play, STEM lessons and experiments, art projects, educational games, and literacy. BronxWorks staff provided many club-type workshops for students to explore different subjects like origami, healthy nutrition, and puppetry. Summer programs also provided outdoor activities that promoted physical fitness and creative play.

All students were encouraged to follow safety guidelines, including washing hands regularly and wearing masks. Students were also encouraged to observe social distancing with their fellow campers. Staff and campers also participated a short health screening prior to the start of each day.



A student at Bronxchester created a Rube Goldberg machine to learn about cause and effect

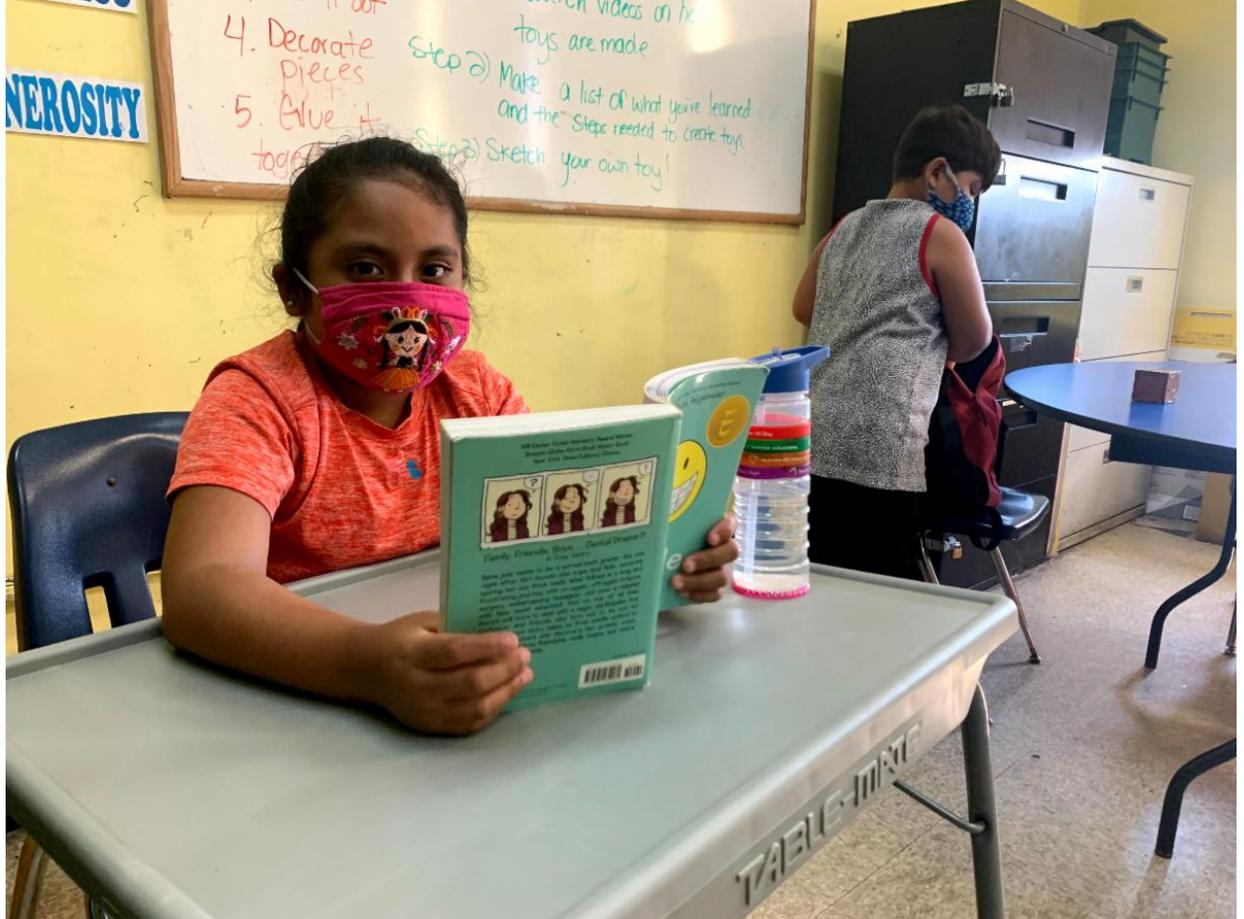
Program Coordinator Kimberly Haynes said, "It was definitely a much-needed outlet for the students. We could see how they missed their friends. Being able to go out to the playground, it was so gleeful to see them playing and just getting to be children!"

In order to maximize participation and support as many families as possible, some students chose to attend the summer program remotely. Families were provided with Grab & Go bags containing markers, crayons, construction paper, and other art supplies so that they could participate in activities with their friends in the program.

BronxWorks staff were impressed with how well the young children adapted both virtually and in-person.

Bronxchester Program Coordinator Stefano Williams said, "For the students to be able to have a sense of normalcy was important. They're used to having summer camp and being with their friends."

Transitioning to the School Year



BronxWorks continues to offer after-school programs at multiple locations throughout the Bronx for students of all ages. Social distancing guidelines are observed, limiting the number of students in each room and ensuring masks are worn and shared spaces are kept clean. Supper is provided to after-school participants.

BronxWorks is participating in the Learning Lab program that was created by the New York City Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Youth and Children Development. The Learning Lab was created to support families as they adapt to remote learning and hybrid schedules. Learning Labs take place during the day and are open to all children.

Learning Lab students have access to BronxWorks facilities and resources during the school day when they are not able to be home with a parent or guardian. In addition, students participating in the BronxWorks Learning Labs receive breakfast and lunch and may apply to the traditional after-school programs provided by BronxWorks.

BronxWorks Ramps Up In-Person Outreach



BronxWorks outreach programs in action.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our BronxWorks programs had to transition to provide services and programs virtually. As the Bronx slowly recovers, our programs are once again offering in-person services and vital community outreach. Recently BronxWorks outreach included hosting a New York City Health and Hospitals COVID-19 Mobile Testing van and countless 2020 Census education events. NYC Care Health Care enrollment and assistance has once again resumed. NYC Care helps individuals who may not be eligible for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

BronxWorks Community Health and SNAP-Ed programs are out and about working at our weekly farm stands. The team is also busy providing nutrition education and cooking demonstrations while adhering to strict COVID-19 guidelines.

Finally, the BronxWorks Financial Empowerment Counseling Center is offering in-person services that allow for face-to-face, one-on-one, confidential discussions on subjects like balancing a budget, opening bank accounts, and creating savings plans. Appointments may be made by clicking [here](#).

Financial Empowerment Director Karla Velasquez said, "In-person service gives us the opportunity to connect more directly with the client and pull their credit report, and also allows us to service clients that are less technologically savvy. BronxWorks has taken all the appropriate measures to ensure clients and staff feel safe."

Naturally, strict social distance guidelines are observed. Outreach programs try to provide services outdoors where available and when the weather allows. Click [here](#) to learn more about how BronxWorks offices transitioned to Phase II. For more information about outreach programs contact info@bronxworks.org.

Staff Profile: Andrew Lin



Andrew Lin, Development Associate, BronxWorks

Andrew Lin relocated to New York City while pursuing his Master's degree in International Relations at New York University. After graduating, he worked in an education technology startup before joining BronxWorks in 2016 as the Executive Coordinator for Eileen Torres, Executive Director. Seeking program experience, in 2018 Andrew became the Program Developer for the Supportive Housing and Care Coordination Department. In September 2020, Andrew joined the Development Department as the Development Associate.

"I went to graduate school to study ways that I could expand my impact, particularly in the areas of economic development and poverty alleviation. When I joined BronxWorks, I found an organization with similar mindset and mission."

During his time as the Executive Coordinator, Andrew managed a number of administrative tasks, which included coordinating a myriad of meetings with staff, senior leadership, the Board of Directors, and external stakeholders; managing agency databases and systems; receiving communications and drafting outgoing communications; supporting the agency's Strategic Planning Process; and completing different tasks assigned by the BronxWorks Executive Director. As the Program Developer for the Supportive Housing Department, Andrew provided administrative and operational support to the department's many programs, submitted successful applications for new supportive housing programs, and oversaw the Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, which teaches people to administer Narcan/Naloxone and distributes Narcan nasal spray kits to vulnerable BronxWorks clients and other members of the community.

"BronxWorks has given me the opportunity to contribute as a part of several different teams and to learn and develop different skills toward the goal of serving members of our communities that could use that crucial little bit of help."

Now as the Development Associate, Andrew looks forward to applying his skills and diverse knowledge of BronxWorks to implement fundraising, communications, and outreach initiatives. "I think about our community members, especially those who are underrepresented and vulnerable, that have been affected by the pandemic. I think about the important events that have occurred this year and the events

that are still to come, and I think that the work we do at BronxWorks is more important than ever."

Outside of work, Andrew loves to read, write, and explore both urban and natural landscapes. He is an avid cyclist, snowboarder, and traveler. "This is the most interesting time to work in development. We, just like everybody else, have to adapt to the new environment and find a way to succeed." He plans to continue to learn in his new position to support vital non-profit work.

Did You Know? BronxWorks Family Shelters Have Wi-Fi



Thanks to the collaboration of our dedicated staff and committed partners, all 276 families residing in BronxWorks family shelters now have wi-fi access, as well as other important resources to help with distance learning. As children return to their studies, wireless internet is a necessity for them to continue their education.

The addition also supports adult family members as they search for permanent housing or employment opportunities. These resources were made available thanks to support from JP Morgan Chase, Gateway Housing, the Robin Hood Foundation, the New York Community Trust, and many private donors. Learn more about these efforts highlighted in recent press coverage by [NYCT](#) and [NPR](#).

Photo Essay



Councilmember Vanessa Gibson distributes Health Bucks and PPE

New York City Councilmember Vanessa Gibson continues her loyal support of BronxWorks programs while handing out Health Bucks and PPE at our weekly farm stand. The Councilmember and her staff also encouraged the community to complete the 2020 Census.



Esther Morales, BronxWorks Program Coordinator, shares samples of the Bronx salad with pantry participants.

Bronx Salad at the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry

BronxWorks Community Health Educators held a live Bronx Salad demo at the weekly food pantry at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center. Pantry participants sampled the salad and received the recipe to make the Bronx Salad at home. Salad ingredients were included in the pantry offerings including corn, black beans, and avocado. Empire BlueCross BlueShield also provided salad bowls and tote bags for



BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres (third from left) and classmates from the Cardinal Spellman High School Class of 1987 at the BronxWorks food pantry.

Cardinal Spellman Class of '87 at the BronxWorks Food Pantry

Classmates and close friends from Cardinal Spellman High School Class of 1987, including BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres, volunteered their time at the weekly BronxWorks food pantry.



Sole Purpose Continues Donations

Manhattan-based Sole Purpose has donated over 120 new pairs of shoes and countless pairs of socks for our most vulnerable neighbors throughout the pandemic. 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".

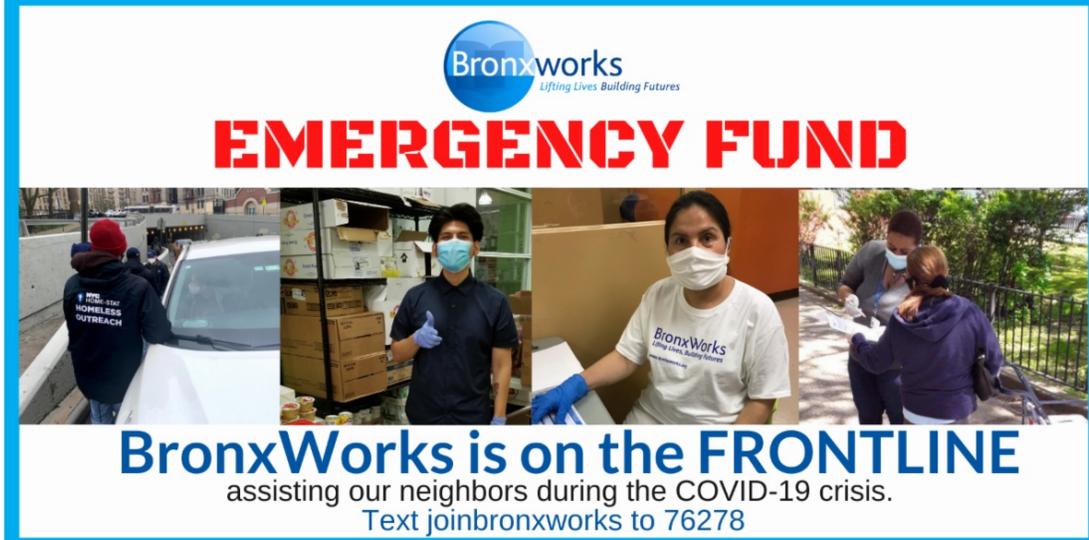


Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Remembrance

Members of the Bronx community, including some BronxWorks team members, gathered at Lou Gehrig Plaza on September 21 to remember and honor the legacy of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. BronxWorks recognizes Justice Ginsburg's service fighting for the equal rights and equality for all. BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres was featured in WPIX coverage of the event.

Click [here](#) for the story.

Support BronxWorks



BronxWorks staff remain 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 the BronxWorks 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.

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