

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in BronxWorks.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



The June 2021 Newsletter



BronxWorks Scattered-Site resident Todd G. poses in his apartment.

In this Issue:

[BronxWorks Programs That Keep People Stably-Housed](#)

[Focus On: HUD Scattered-Site Supportive Housing](#)

[Staff Profile: Sarah Carbone](#)

[Did You Know? BronxWorks Farm Stands Are Back In July](#)

[Photo Essay](#)

**BronxWorks Programs That Keep
People Stably-Housed**

As we gradually emerge from COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to take the opportunity this month to recognize the BronxWorks programs that kept a vulnerable population safe and stably-housed throughout the worst of the past year's crisis.

There is a longstanding debate in economics about effective structural change and how we as a society should pursue it. On one side, there are big picture people who believe sweeping, society-level changes are needed and must be initiated through a top-down approach. On the other side, there are grassroots movements who understand that small-scale, local changes are actual changes: one person, one life, one trajectory. These individual shifts accumulate over time and space and create large-scale transformations. In the face of a homelessness crisis in New York City, there are a handful of BronxWorks programs that create these shifts for hundreds of formerly homeless individuals now stably and permanently housed in BronxWorks supportive housing units.

Within the BronxWorks Supportive Housing Department there are 359 housing units in both congregate and scattered-site settings across four current programs. The Brook, operated in partnership with Breaking Ground, supports 190 units for formerly homeless individual adults in a congregate residential setting. Qualifying individuals must have demonstrated homeless chronicity and a diagnosed serious mental illness (SMI). Cooper Gardens, which opened in 2018, is the newest congregate supportive housing program at BronxWorks, with 95 units, and it is the first to house formerly homeless households consisting of both individual adults and families with children. Similar to The Brook, for Cooper Gardens, qualifying heads of household must demonstrate homeless chronicity and a diagnosed SMI.



The Brook houses 190 formerly homeless adults in a congregate residential setting.

Congregate supportive housing programs have offices on-site with a full team of case managers, social workers, and program staff offering a range of services to promote healthy and independent living skills, including financial management, educational and vocational resources, medication management and support, recreational and social activities, community events, and more. Each resident is assigned to a dedicated case manager who will work in collaboration with the client to determine goals and create a case plan that they can pursue and follow as a team. Clients pay 30% of their income toward apartment rent while the programs subsidize the rest. The ultimate goal is to keep these individuals and families permanently and stably housed.

In addition to the congregate programs, the BronxWorks Supportive Housing Department operates two scattered-site programs, the HUD Scattered-Site program, supporting 53 units for formerly homeless individual adults, and the Stable Homes to Health program, supporting 21 units for individual adults who are high-utilizers of Medicaid. The Department also operates a home-visit case management program called Transform which helps families transition from the shelter system to permanent housing.

BronxWorks is excited to open two new congregate supportive housing programs in coming years. The Park Haven project is expected to open in 2021 providing 50 units of supportive housing to formerly homeless individuals and families. At the Bronx Point development project, expected to open in 2023, BronxWorks will provide supportive housing services to 81 formerly homeless individuals and families. To read more about the Bronx Point groundbreaking, click [here](#).

Focus On: HUD Scattered-Site Supportive Housing



Sarah Carbone, Program Director, conducts a home visit with a client.

The BronxWorks HUD-funded Scattered-Site Supportive Housing Program now houses 53 formerly homeless adults in apartments spread throughout the neighborhoods of the Bronx. In contrast to the congregate models like The Brook and Cooper Gardens, scattered-site supportive housing has a team of case managers and program staff based out of an independent office, in this case the Hunts Point Multi-Service Center at 630 Jackson Avenue. Scattered-site staff then visit each unit and client every week. In between these face-to-face contacts, case managers make telephonic contacts with their clients, assisting with a variety of needs and goals, including healthcare management, coordinating appointments and travel, securing benefits and access to other resources, referrals to employment programs, and oftentimes simply providing a safety net and person that the clients can rely on.

The BronxWorks Supportive Housing and the Adult Homeless Services Departments collaborate wherever possible to move clients from transitional to permanent supportive housing. In a typical process, AHS teams will put together housing packages for all clients in BronxWorks shelters which are then referred for placement into supportive housing. Each client package is reviewed, an interview with the client is scheduled, and a determination is made as to which client would have the highest likelihood of success within the program's parameters. In this case, can the client have long-term success living in a scattered-site setting with little to no on-site support? The goal of supportive housing is for clients to achieve permanent, stable housing, and to not return to homelessness or shelter.

Todd is one such client in the HUD-funded program. He had spent three years at the Pyramid Safe Haven before moving into a scattered-site apartment in March 2020, just before COVID-19 restrictions passed across the city. Sarah Carbone, the Program's Director, said the move and adjustment was particularly challenging because there was very little time to get to know the client, and for the client to get to know the program staff in-person. COVID-19 also complicated other city processes, such as public benefits, making an already difficult transition from shelter to independent housing just that much more challenging. Case managers from both the HUD program and the Pyramid helped Todd move into his new apartment. At move-in, the Scattered-Site program provides the necessary essentials for beginning independent living, such as a bed and bedding, basic furniture, and cooking and kitchen tools.

"BronxWorks is there to help guide you down the right path."

The HUD Scattered-Site team, which includes Case Manager Supervisor Diana Peralta, three Case Managers, and a Management and Housing Liaison, has worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that every client in the program has remained safe and supported. Today Todd has been stably-housed for over a year, has his correct public assistance activated, and has safely navigated the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the program has had no COVID-related

Staff Profile: Sarah Carbone



Sarah Carbone, Program Director of the BronxWorks HUD Scattered-Site Supportive Housing Program.

If there is one quality that drives seemingly every BronxWorks employee, it is a desire to make an impact. In speaking to many employees through writing staff profiles, we have found that desire present throughout many of our employees' lives prior to their time at BronxWorks, motivated through personal experiences and journeys. For Sarah Carbone, Director of the BronxWorks HUD Scattered-Site Supportive Housing Program, her journey started in New York State, took her to West Africa, and ultimately landed in the Bronx, where she now oversees a program that houses 53 formerly homeless individuals.

Sarah was born and raised in Poughkeepsie. She attended SUNY Morrisville, studying natural resource conservation. Her passion for the environment and better land management led her to join the Peace Corps, where she spent two years in Ghana working with local enterprises and communities to better protect their environment through increased education.

"The environment is still something I care about, but the human side is what is motivating me now."

Sarah started at BronxWorks in the Adult Homeless Services (AHS) Department in 2014 as the Quality Assurance Specialist. It was her first experience working with the chronically homeless population of New York City. She spent four years at the Living Room Drop-in Center/Safe Haven and supporting the AHS Department, during which she attained her Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership. Sarah took her experience in AHS with her when in 2018 she became the Program Director for the HUD-funded Scattered-site Supportive Housing program at BronxWorks.

"I recognized that this situation can happen to anybody - it's not a special negative situation, it can happen to anybody."

For Sarah, it was a bittersweet but important departure. Due to her experience in the AHS Department, she was able to collaborate with her colleagues to fill every unit in her program with a BronxWorks AHS client. She also took with her perhaps the most important lesson, the reason she believes the

AHS staff remain so committed to their work: "It's all about the clients," Sarah says. "When you see the most vulnerable people, and you build relationships with them, it's hard to let go - it's meaningful. Working towards permanent housing, we all have that shared goal."

Outside of work, Sarah spends her time building cardboard structures for her cat, Wilbur. She also enjoys cooking, hiking, and reading.

Did You Know? BronxWorks Farm Stands are back!



BronxWorks Farm Stands will be open in July. The Mott Haven Farm Stand will be held every Wednesday starting July 7 outside Belvis Hospital at 545 E 142nd St. The BronxWorks Community Farm Stand will be held every Thursday starting July 8 at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. BronxWorks staff will be on-site providing recipes as well as conducting nutrition classes.

Come get fresh and local produce at affordable prices and support local farmers! BronxWorks Farm Stands accept CASH, FMNP coupons, Health Bucks, and EBT/SNAP.

Photo Essay

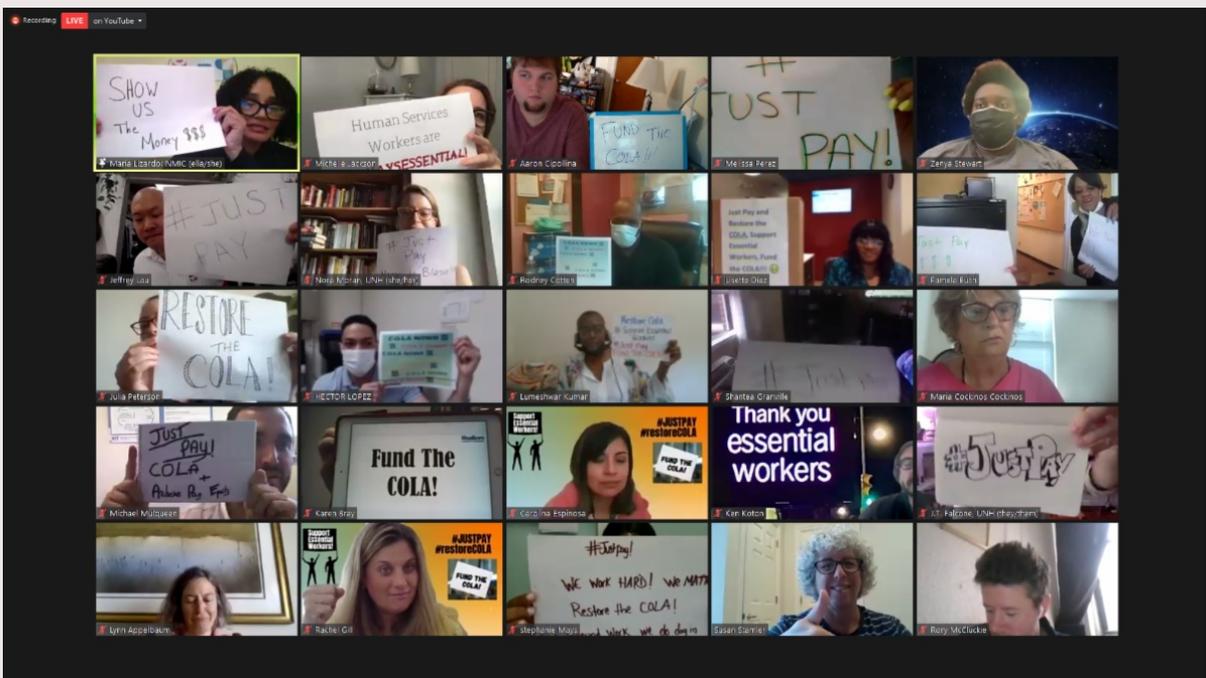


BronxWorks Food Service Coordinator, Frank Walrond, (center) stands with BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres (second from left) while receiving a new eBike as part of the Equitable Commute Project

BronxWorks Employee Among the First to Acquire New eBike

BronxWorks Foodservice Coordinator Frank Walrond was the first in the City to acquire a new eBike thanks to Transportation Alternative's new Equitable Commute Project. The project provides essential workers like Frank with an "affordable micromobility mode" of their choice. The eBike will help him get from BronxWorks location to BronxWorks location more quickly as he manages multiple kitchens across the organization.

Press Coverage:
[Spectrum News NY1](#)



#JustPay Virtual Rally

Dozens of BronxWorks staff joined hundreds of nonprofit social services workers to demand New York City restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for human services workers at a virtual rally on

June 9. The rally, hosted by Human Services Council of New York and United Neighborhood Houses of New York, called on the City to invest \$48 million in COLAs for human services workers, many of whom have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.



CMCC Summer Jam

The BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center SONYC (Schools Out NYC) After-School Program hosted their Summer Jam event on June 18. Middle School students came together at Mullaly Park for fun summer activities, including a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, arts & crafts, and lots of food and snacks. It was a beautiful day and a great way to kick off the summer as the Bronx starts to return to normal.



New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson (center) presents a check to BronxWorks Children & Youth Department Director Ursula Cooper-Hunter (left) and BronxWorks Director of Cornerstones Kiesha Roberts (right)

BronxWorks Children & Youth Programs Receive \$50,000

New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson presented BronxWorks with \$50,000 in June to go toward upgrades and repairs at the BronxWorks Classic Community Center near the Melrose houses. Upgrades need to be made specifically to the bleachers and other areas of the gym. BronxWorks is thankful for Assemblymember Jackson's support of BronxWorks programs!



Second Saturday Event Kicks Off

SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educators and other BronxWorks staff kicked off the first Second Saturdays event at St. Mary's Park in partnership with [Healthy & Livable Mott Haven](#). Bronx residents came by the park

for information about eating healthy and staying active. We had fitness challenges, hop scotch, SNAP-Ed Nutrition trivia, and a cooking demo for spinach strawberry salad. Our partner Healthcare for People were also on-site providing free health screenings.

You can read more about these and other stories at bronxworks.org/news-and-events.

BronxWorks Is An Official Charity Partner Of The TCS NYC Marathon

BronxWorks is thrilled to be a charity partner in the 2021 TCS New York City Marathon on Sunday, November 7.



OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER

TCS NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES |  NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS

Click below to support the 2021 #TeamBronxWorks charity runners!

[Support Our Runners](#)

Thank you for being a partner in this meaningful, exciting, transformative work.

STAY CONNECTED:



[**Donate Now**](#)

BronxWorks | www.bronxworks.org | Email

Did you get this e-mail forwarded? Subscribe below to receive BronxWorks updates.

[Sign Up Now](#)

For Email Marketing you can trust.