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 July 2021 Newsletter

BronxWorks SYEP Participants Darryl and Areli work at the Mott Haven Farm Stand throughout the Summer.

In this Issue:
- BronxWorks Summer Youth Employment Program
- Staff Profile: Raymi De La Cruz
- New York City Football Club Robo-Soccer and Partnership
- Did You Know? BronxWorks Is An Official Charity Partner of The 2021 TCS NYC Marathon
- Photo Essay
With the 2021 Summer in full swing, BronxWorks is excited to once again offer the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). After a limited Summer 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year, the BronxWorks SYEP has enrolled over 1,100 participants, placing them across nearly 80 worksites both within BronxWorks and at partner organizations. For the safety of all participants, worksites and programs are maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols, such as mask wearing and social distancing throughout the program duration.

This year, BronxWorks enrolled 763 participants from the community, 216 participants from three Bronx high schools: Frederick Douglass Academy III, Academy for Language and Technology, and Career in Sports High School, and 80 participants from the New York City Housing Authority Bronx River Houses.

Older youth participants ages 16-24 are assigned to worksites, including BronxWorks programs, and local businesses & organizations, such as New York Urban League, Summatime Studios, Ashley Stewart, and Eddington Security. As the relationship forms, worksites are asked to fill out an application detailing the nature of the work that participants will complete. A pre-assessment visit is completed by SYEP staff, and once participants are placed, Worksite Monitors conduct site-visits on a weekly basis.

"The SYEP program gives young adults a great opportunity to have a summer job, gain valuable work experience, and in many cases, provide some support to their households," says Eileen Torres, Executive Director of BronxWorks. "Coming off the COVID-19 pandemic, so many young people were excited to have this opportunity again."

Younger youth ages 14-15 years are placed in project-based learning groups of 25-40 participants. The groups decide on a theme, such as civic advocacy, social justice, or environmental issues. The groups develop projects throughout the summer, giving young people an opportunity to learn, create, and express themselves on topics that they choose and are passionate about.

A new popular SYEP placement is with Family Cook Productions, a long-standing partner for several
BronxWorks programs. Family Cook Productions began to work with SYEP last year during the pandemic, providing culinary and nutrition programming for younger youth participants. Throughout the curriculum, participants learn about nutrition, healthy eating, culinary skills, and recipes to cook at home. Youth also had an opportunity to participate in the Teen Battle Chef program, where youth can display the skills they have learned, create and present recipes, and explore different cultures and the culinary world.

Staff Profile: Raymi De La Cruz

Raymi De La Cruz joined BronxWorks in May 2019 as the Program Director for Youth Workforce Programs at the beginning of the 2019 SYEP season. During his first season at the helm of this very popular program, he helped place over 1,000 youth interns at work sites and in project-based learning groups. The following summer, SYEP was limited and unable to make worksite placements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Raymi and his team were able to pivot and engage youth participants with a remote curriculum. Now that SYEP has resumed in-person for the Summer of 2021, Raymi and his team are back at it, placing and supervising over 1,100 youth interns across nearly 80 worksites.

Raymi was born in New York City and raised between the Bronx and the Dominican Republic. During his time at Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx, he joined a program called Discovering UVM. Through the program, Raymi spent a weekend in Vermont, which led him to enroll at the University of Vermont as a Computer Science major. Raymi would attend an Introduction to Social Work course which demonstrated how social workers help people find their path by removing barriers. Raymi felt compelled by the idea of a career in social work and quickly changed his major.

"I came from a background where I had to teach myself a lot of things, and create my own path because there weren't a lot of examples before me for the things I wanted to do."

After graduating from UVM, Raymi enrolled in the New York University Master's of Social Work program before eventually finding his way to BronxWorks. During his tenure at BronxWorks, Raymi has been integral in the continuation of the Youth Workforce Programs, including major adjustments required during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prominently amongst his contributions to the agency is his role as the Co-Chair of the BronxWorks LGBTQ+ Committee.

"Every day I go to work, I can help someone forge their own path."
The mission of the BronxWorks LGBTQ+ Committee is to make our organization an inviting and welcoming space for people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. "Whether you are staff or a participant," Raymi says, "when you walk into BronxWorks, you know that it is a space that is welcoming to you." Raymi is proud of how far the Committee has come and he's excited for what lays ahead. Coming off of Pride Month this past June, the BronxWorks LGBTQ+ Committee is focused on bringing awareness to its goals and growing its presence within the organization.

If you know Raymi, you know that his spirit is incarnated in his work, his story embodied in his commitment to his programs, his participants, and his goals. But when he is able to find some free time, Raymi enjoys reading, hiking, bike riding, being outdoors, and watching movies.

New York City Football Club Robo-Soccer and Partnership

The New York City Football Club (NYCFC) is a visionary partner of BronxWorks Children & Youth programs. This Summer, NYCFC is collaborating with BronxWorks South Bronx Preparatory Middle School Summer Camp to provide a Robo-Soccer clinic. Participants received their own robotic kit to build a unique robot to drive through an obstacle course. They will also learn to write code and use a coding program through the clinic.

In addition to Robo-Soccer, NYCFC is sending their soccer coaches to teach soccer drills to our participants.

"The participants have been responding amazingly to both the robotic and soccer portions of the clinic." - Dina Brown, Program Director

NYCFC will also partner with the BronxWorks Work, Learn, and Grow (WLG) Program, which, similar to SYEP, will place two youth interns at NYCFC during the upcoming school year. BronxWorks is grateful for the creative ways the New York City Football Club supports our programs and students!
Did You Know?
BronxWorks Is An Official Charity Partner of The 2021 TCT NYC Marathon!

Meet Our Runners!

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

#TeamBronxWorks includes Andrew Lin; Dr. Anna Goodheart; Emily Hespeler; Kate Machan; and Jessie Moriarty.

Keep a lookout for next month's Newsletter for a more in depth profile of each runner.

Click below to support the 2021 #TeamBronxWorks charity runners!

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

Photo Essay

(Left) Members of United Neighborhood Houses march down the Canyon of Heroes. (Right) BronxWorks Benefits Access and Assistance Program Coordinator Maxene Foster

**Essential Workers Ticker-Tape Parade**

New York City hosted a ticker-tape parade down the Canyon of Heroes in Manhattan for all essential workers, celebrating the incredible work done throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Benefits Access & Assistance Program Coordinator Maxene Foster represented BronxWorks staff alongside other members of the United Neighborhood Houses. BronxWorks is proud of our hardworking staff, especially those who continued to come into the office every day to help us live our mission to feed, shelter, teach, and support our neighbors to build a stronger community.
BronxWorks Farm Stands Are Open!
The BronxWorks Community Farm Stand at 1130 Grand Concourse and the Mott Haven Farm Stand at Belvis Health Center opened for the season in early July! Both the Farm Stands provide fresh, affordable, and local produce to the communities of the South Bronx. The areas served have limited access to fresh produce making the Farm Stands incredibly important to the communities. The fruits and vegetables and other items are offered in partnership with local farms and GrowNYC. Learn more here.

Press Coverage:
PIX 11 Morning News
PIX 11 Evening News
BronxNet

Stop, Start, Plant participants prepare and plant seeds in the South Bronx Prep school garden.

Stop, Start, Plant
With funding from United Way/Atlas Innovation, BronxWorks started the Stop the Violence, Start the Cleaning, and Plant the Seeds initiative in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. The program is based
around the importance of community service to work against violence in the Bronx. Participants at South Bronx Prep Summer Rising worked to plant seeds in the school garden and the Willis Avenue Community Garden, worked on ideas for a mural focusing on unity, and cleaned St. Mary's Park with a local organization called the Trash Project.

[Learn more here.]

**HERO Dads Father's Day Event**

*BronxWorks HERO Dads*, a program in partnership with Montefiore, held a Father's Day get-together at the end of June. HERO Dads recruits and provides services for eligible adult fathers (ages 18 and older) who have children ages 24 and younger. The program is designed to strengthen positive father-child engagement, improve social and economic outcomes for fathers and their families, improve healthy relationships, and promote or sustain healthy marriage. Fathers and their children came to the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center and enjoyed lunch, board games, movies, and even some pick-up basketball games.
BronxWorks Staff at Red Bull Arena in Harrison, New Jersey

**BronxWorks Attends New York City Football Club Game**

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with New York City Football Club (NYCFC), BronxWorks staff had an opportunity to attend a Juneteenth game against the New England Revolution at Red Bull Arena in Harrison, New Jersey.

You can read more about these and other stories at [bronxworks.org/news-and-events](http://bronxworks.org/news-and-events).

---

**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.