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The August 2021 Newsletter

The runners of #TeamBronxWorks for the 2021 TCS New York City Marathon

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BronxWorks TCS New York City Marathon Runners Raise Money to Support Children and Youth

After a year hiatus due to the pandemic, the TCS New York City Marathon is back and will take place on November 7, 2021! #TeamBronxWorks is excited to represent the agency as a charity partner! This year, BronxWorks is fielding a team of five charity runners who are each raising money to support BronxWorks Children & Youth services. In these uncertain times, support for our programs that help our children and students adapt to the shifting landscape of school and learning through the COVID-19 pandemic is more important than ever. Meet our amazing runners below:

Dr. Anna Goodheart is a Neurologist at...
Massachusetts General Hospital. She started running during medical school. Anna was connected to BronxWorks through a good friend from college who works at the organization. "I decided to look into the organization and I was impressed by the services that they provide and their passionate support of their community," Anna says. "It's a worthy organization to run for."

Emily Hespeler is a Nutrition Educator for the BronxWorks SNAP-Ed Program. She started running in high school when she joined the track team to stay in shape between soccer seasons. She fell in love with running during college by running on trails around her house before class. Emily is running in the NYC Marathon this year to show herself how powerful she is. She decided to run for BronxWorks to support youth programs that provide valuable learning and work experience to students in the Bronx.

Emily Hespeler

"This past year I spent a little over 2 months in the hospital after sustaining 3rd degree burns on 30% of my body from a cooking accident. My experiences this past year combined with the strength that I have gained from training make me excited to run the 2021 TCS New York City Marathon."

Jessie Moriarty teaches 4th Grade at Girls Prep Lower East Side Elementary School. She started running in 3rd Grade at Tuesday night races during the summer at a local park near her house. She then started to train in order to get faster at these Tuesday night races. Jessie is running for BronxWorks because she believes in the organization's work and mission. "I know that BronxWorks empowers Bronx residents with their services and I want to be a part of raising funds and awareness so they can continue."

Jessie Moriarty

Working through the COVID-19 pandemic in the Bronx last year made me realize a lot of things, one of them being that I was strong. I decided to run the marathon this year because I wanted to prove to myself that I can do it, and I want to be a part of building a stronger Bronx community.

Andrew Lin is the Development Associate for the BronxWorks Development Department. He was a former star middle school sprinter but runs mainly for fitness these days. Andrew is running the marathon because he has always wanted to run one to see if he can do it. He decided to run this year to support the incredible work and services that BronxWorks has
Kate Machan is the Legal Counsel & Associate Director of Special Projects at Zeta Charter Schools in the Bronx. She is one of the founding members and Chair of the BronxWorks Leadership Council. Kate’s passion for running began in high school and she continues that passion today. She is running the marathon this year for the challenge, the excitement of being part of such an incredible event, and the opportunity to represent and give back to BronxWorks.

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

Click below to support the 2021 #TeamBronxWorks charity runners!

Support Our Runners

Thank you for being a partner in this meaningful, exciting, transformative work.
In 2021, BronxWorks added an Adult Protective Services (APS) Program funded through the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA). The objective of the program is to provide protective services to vulnerable adults and put structures in place to assist them to live independently. According to the Independent Budget Office (IBO) of New York City, a growing number of NYC residents are in need of adult protective services. Between 2014 to 2018, the average number of APS cases grew over 37%, largely due to demographic shifts affecting the entire city. In 2020, a major crisis struck New York City and the entire globe in the form of COVID-19, and while data is still being collected from the ongoing pandemic, the crisis has pushed a continued expansion of services to meet the growing and novel needs of the city's vulnerable populations.

APS accepts referrals through NYC HRA. Eligible clients must be 18 years or older, have a physical or mental impairment, are unable to manage activities of daily living or protect themselves from neglect or hazardous conditions, and have no one willing or able to assist them responsibly. Upon receiving a referral, APS will conduct a home visit and intake, assessing the client's needs, developing a service plan, and assigning the client to a Case Manager. APS will provide ongoing case management services, advocacy, financial management assistance, and connection to resources to stabilize a client's situation and provide a framework for independence.

BronxWorks APS Team has a total of 17 Case Managers and is able to accept over 500 cases annually. If you or anyone you know suspects a case of adult neglect or abuse, please call APS Central Intake Unit at 212.630.1853, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call 311.
The BronxWorks Family Enrichment Program (FEP) is a long standing foster care prevention program contracted through the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS). The purpose of the program is to provide abuse and neglect prevention services to families of the South Bronx, with the primary goal of keeping children safe and assisting parents to meet their children's needs. The BronxWorks FEP team is made up of 15 staff, including eight Case Planners, two Family Conference Workers, and leadership and administrative support. The team provides services to over 155 families and over 380 children every year.

"A large part of the program is empowering parents to take control of their lives in a positive way that will affect their children," says Loretta Edwards, Program Director. "What could look like neglect can be due to other core problems stemming from poverty and lack of resources, including time or money."

BronxWorks FEP accepts referrals from ACS, internal BronxWorks programs, from other community-based services providers and prevention programs, as well as walk-in clients. Upon accepting a referral, the FEP team will conduct an intake and assessment to determine the family and children's primary needs. The family will be assigned to a dedicated Case Manager for ongoing engagement, including home visits, family counseling, parental support resources, advocacy, education resources, emergency services and crisis intervention such as eviction prevention, as well as connections to other community-based services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FEP program continued to provide both in-person and virtual services to families. Home visits never stopped, with each case requiring one in-person home visit, followed by a second virtual visit, and additional home visits as needed. The COVID-19 crisis meant that vigilance in areas of abuse and neglect, particularly in educational neglect stemming from new remote learning models, was and remains more important than ever.

Staff Profile: Loretta Edwards
Some of the most inspiring stories do not come solely from our participants, but also from the dedicated BronxWorks staff. When you have a body of staff who are driven intrinsically by a desire to make a difference, you will inevitably see many of them grow in their expertise and in their impact. For Loretta Edwards, who became the Program Director of the BronxWorks Family Enrichment Program in 2021, her story is exactly the kind that we love to share.

Loretta was born in Brooklyn but grew up in South Carolina. She returned to New York City after high school, completing two years at Borough of Manhattan Community College and graduating from Hunter College with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Loretta started at BronxWorks in 2010 as a Case Manager for the newly opened Brook Supportive Housing program. In 2015, Loretta received the NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene scholarship to attend Hunter College for her Master's in Social Work. While studying at Hunter College, she completed her internship with the BronxWorks Homeless Outreach Team and graduated with her MSW in 2017.

"My career path started with me trying to understand myself first, and also wanting to understand others around me and human nature. I immediately gravitated toward case management and social work."

Loretta returned to The Brook as a Social Worker where she worked with clients in the program who would benefit from a higher level of care and engagement. As a Social Worker, she also had the opportunity to supervise and provide mentorship to case management staff. In 2018, Loretta was promoted to Clinical Coordinator at The Brook overseeing a team of Social Workers and Case Managers.

"I've learned so many things from clients that I've engaged over the years. The interactions made me a better person."

In 2021, Loretta assumed the role of Program Director for the BronxWorks Family Enrichment Program.
Program. She brings with her over a decade of experience working with homeless and formerly homeless adults. Working with a new client population, and in particular families with children, will be a new challenge for Loretta, one that she is excited to meet, to learn from, and continue to grow.

Outside of work, Loretta likes to read or binge watch her favorite shows. She recently learned to drive and says her go-to activity this summer has been driving to the beach.

Did You Know?
New BronxWorks Programs:
Vaccination Information and Excluded Workers Fund

An NYC Mobile Vaccine Clinic provides free COVID-19 vaccinations outside of the BronxWorks Morris Innovative Senior Center.

Did you know that BronxWorks is funded for a COVID Vaccine Equity Program to provide COVID-19 vaccination information and raise awareness for the safety and benefits from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine? The program will help NYC residents locate the nearest vaccination site, schedule an appointment, and complete the New York State vaccine form. The program has language assistance in English, Spanish, Bengali, or French. Find out more at bronxworks.org/vaccine or by calling 646.626.3249.

Additionally, BronxWorks was awarded an Excluded Works Fund (EWF) contract by the New York State Department of Labor to assist workers who have suffered income loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic but who are ineligible for unemployment insurance or related federal benefits. The EWF will provide a one-time payment to eligible workers who lost their jobs and suffered the loss of at least 50% of their weekly work-related earnings or household income during the period of March 27, 2020 to April 1, 2021. For more information, contact Program Coordinator Tahmina Akter at takter@bronxworks.org.

Help the Haitian and Afghani Communities
The people of Haiti and Afghanistan have been through insurmountable tragedies this month. BronxWorks stands with those people after the catastrophes they have endured. If you are looking for ways to support the people impacted by these crises, click here for a list of some great organizations.

Photo Essay

(Left) BronxWorks NYC Care Program Coordinator Tahmina Akter speaks at the NYC Care Two-Year Anniversary event.
(Right) A Bronx resident (left) speaks with BronxWorks Benefit Access and Assistance Program Coordinator Maxene Foster (right) at the event.

NYC Care Celebrates Two Years
NYC Health + Hospitals and BronxWorks celebrated two years of NYC Care at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center on July 27. The program is the City’s health care access program for those who
can not afford or otherwise access health care. BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres and BronxWorks Program Coordinator Tahmina Akter spoke at the event, which also provided a food pantry for those in need, information about other BronxWorks programs, and a mobile COVID-19 vaccination van. BronxWorks has worked with NYC Care since its inception, and due in part to our efforts, NYC Care has provided over 80,000 New Yorkers with affordable health care.

Learn more here.

Press Coverage:
News 12 The Bronx

BronxWorks Workforce Development staff assist Bronx residents in filling out Jobs-Plus applications.

**Jobs-Plus Career Fair at Betances**

The BronxWorks Jobs-Plus program held an outdoor career fair at the Betances Housing Development. Representatives from BronxWorks programs as well as Amazon, Lime Bike, Creative Lifestyles, East River Landing Security company, and JASA Care provided information to job-seeking residents. Representatives from NYC Department of Consumer & Worker Protection were also on-site. Dozens of community members came to get job and career help. Calvary Hospital was also on-site providing COVID-19 vaccines.
BronxWorks Summer Campers Meet Mayor DeBlasio

Children and staff from BronxWorks Cornerstone Community Centers got a chance to meet New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio at his #SummerOfNYC resource fair in the Bronx. The Mayor spoke with the children about their summer activities and spoke with staff about the work they are doing with the children in the South Bronx.

Students at South Bronx Prep made Chicken Wraps with BronxWorks Nutrition Educators

Summer Rising Students at South Bronx Prep Take Cooking
Class
As part of the BronxWorks Summer Rising program, students took some cooking classes with BronxWorks Nutrition Educators. Middle school students learned how to make chicken wraps and guacamole, learning how to slice vegetables, measure ingredients, properly clean cooking utensils, and the importance of nutritionally balanced meals.

Classic Cornerstone Community Center Culture Day
Elementary-age students at the BronxWorks Classic Cornerstone Community Center Summer Rising program spent their summers learning about global cultural diversity. On August 20, each grade gave a presentation focused on different areas of the world, including the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the United States. The Culture Day event was the culmination of the Summer Rising program as children head back to school on September 13.

Read more here.

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