



The November/December 2021 Newsletter

The Year-End Issue

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The Year-End 2021: Stories of Resilience

The word *resilience* has taken on a heightened definition as the world has grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly two years, but for many residents of the Bronx, the pandemic is just another stripe in their stories. Resilience runs deep in this borough. As 2021 is coming to a close, we reflect on the many stories we've come across of individuals and families working hard to learn, improve themselves, seek a better future, and build up their community. Here are just a few of those stories:

David D. is working with BronxWorks to be a bigger part of his children's lives.



David D., a participant of the BronxWorks HERO Dads program starting his day.

Due to circumstances that have occurred during his life, David D. is not able to be as big a part of his two children's lives as he wants. Now, David is working with the BronxWorks HERO Dads program as a step toward being a bigger part of their lives. HERO Dads stands for Healthy, Empowered, Resilient and Open (HERO) Dads. David grew up mostly without his parents, and the HERO Dads program is helping him come to terms with the persistent trauma that comes from those childhood experiences. "If my family wasn't right growing up, it's passed down from generation to generation," David says, "so learning and recognizing that, now I can move forward." The HERO Dads program is designed to strengthen positive father-child engagement, improve social and economic outcomes for fathers and their families, and improve and sustain healthy relationships. "They give you the sensibility to hold yourself accountable for what you have done," David says, "We talk about everything – where we went wrong as parents, where we went wrong as adults, where we went wrong as men." David has overcome many challenges, including health issues, incarceration, addiction, and homelessness. He has come to BronxWorks along the way for support and opportunities, whether it was spending time at the Living Room Drop-in Center, getting employment assistance from the Workforce Development Department, or now working with HERO Dads. "BronxWorks does the work. It's on the individual if they're ready to work with BronxWorks."

Watch David's Year-End video [here](#).

Maria P. and her family have their permanent home.



Maria is a mother of five. In 2019, she and three of her children were living in a shelter when she became eligible for a supportive housing apartment. Maria interviewed with Katie Moquete, Assistant Program Director, and was placed in a two-bedroom permanent supportive housing unit. "It's not easy for people with children in the shelter," Maria says, "I'm happy, and I thank BronxWorks for making it happen, to welcome me to this beautiful apartment." Katie Moquete says that the housing first model is important because it honors the reality that having a home is one of the foundational components in improving anyone's situation. Maria decorates her apartment with pictures of her family. There are pictures of her adult son and daughter-in-law, of her father who passed away, of her and her granddaughter, and her beloved pets. And among all the pictures, there is one of Maria at BronxWorks on her 50th birthday. "When I need help with something, BronxWorks is always there," she says, "It's home sweet home, thanks to BronxWorks."

Watch Maria's Year-End video [here](#).

The BronxWorks Community Food Pantry helps Madelyn R. and her family with fresh and nutritious foods every week.

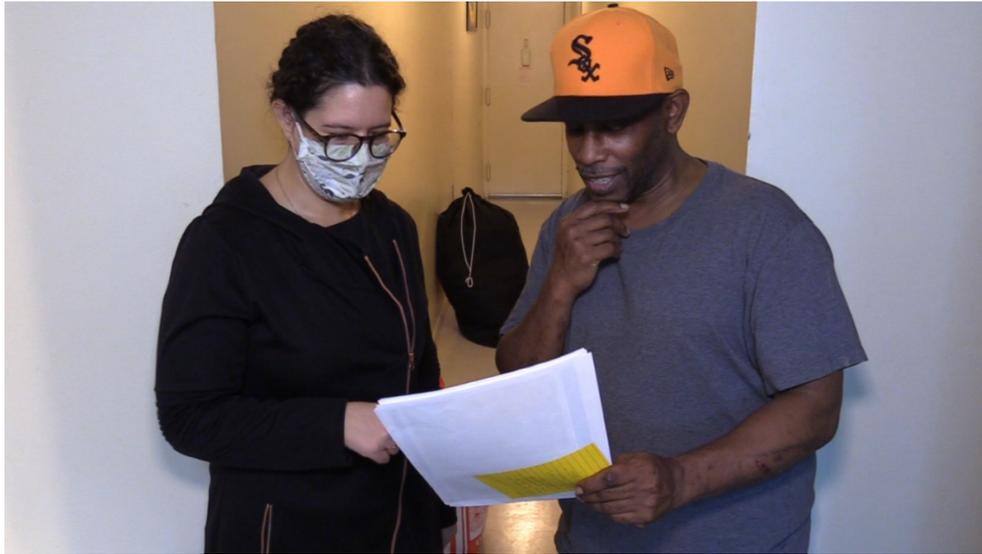


Madelyn R. poses with her mother and son in her apartment.

Madelyn has been a participant of the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry for a little over a year. She lives with her 10-year-old son, Marcus, and her elderly mother, and she works as an early intervention service coordinator, helping children ages zero to three with early signs of developmental or physical disabilities. While she still had her job at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Madelyn and her family faced difficulties with food insecurity as schools and senior centers were closed and the need for more meals within the household grew due to the lockdown. She was introduced to the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry through a neighbor to help bridge the new gaps in the need for food and help keep the household secure. "You always get fresh produce, which is very good because I'm trying to get Marcus to eat more vegetables, and you always get to choose a type of protein as well, and you get carbs like oatmeal and rice." An additional benefit for participants of the Food Pantry is information and seamless access to the array of BronxWorks services. "They always offer other services in the community, so you feel like if you have an issue or a concern, BronxWorks will be there for you."

Watch Madelyn's Year-End video [here](#).

Todd G. has been stably housed for a year and is now back to work and thriving.



Sarah Carbone (left), BronxWorks Program Director, and Todd G. (right) check-in inside Todd's apartment.

Todd G. had been in the NYC shelter system since 2017. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in the early Spring of 2020, Todd G. was still homeless until a one-bedroom apartment opened up in the BronxWorks HUD Scattered-Site Supportive Housing Program. Despite the uncertainty, Todd accepted the placement and moved into the apartment. It's been a little over a year now that he has been stably housed, and Todd continues to make strides getting back on his feet. He tried out for a line-cook position and got the job and has been working there ever since. "BronxWorks, they're like the foundation behind my success," Todd says. Now Todd juggles a busy work schedule and taking care of himself, all while managing his own finances. He's also thinking about how he can give back to society. "I can deal with this kind of stress," he says. BronxWorks Case Managers work with Todd on achieving goals that he sets. "We're on like a personal line, I can call them, they call me, they've been very helpful and supportive." The BronxWorks philosophy in supportive housing is to meet clients where they are at, help them set their own goals, and work together to promote independence and healthy lifestyles. "The assistance BronxWorks gave was what I needed," Todd says, "I knew I had the ability, I just needed the tools."

Watch Todd's Year-End video [here](#).

Staff Profile: Shauna Barry

Spend a few moments with Shauna Barry and you may begin to think she was tailor-made for this field of work. As we sit down for our interview, Shauna says, "I'm so glad we got to do this. I love talking

about work.” She says it with no hint of irony. Shauna is the embodiment of doing whatever it takes to give the clients in her programs the best chance at a stable life.



Shauna Barry, Program Director,
Park Haven Supportive Housing

Shauna grew up in Connecticut. She completed her Bachelor’s Degree at Fordham University, double majoring in Women’s Studies and Peace and Justice Studies. After graduating, she completed a year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, where she worked in a homeless shelter in North Carolina. She came to New York in 2009 and joined the BronxWorks Homeless Outreach Team as a Case Manager. In 2013, Shauna enrolled at Hunter College for her Master’s in Social Work. She completed her internship at Morris Senior Center through the BronxWorks One Year Residency (OYR) program and then spent two years as the Clinical Coordinator at The Brook in order to receive her clinical license. She was promoted to Program Director of the Care Coordination Program and then helped open the Cooper Gardens Supportive Housing Program in 2019. Most recently, Shauna opened her second supportive housing program and is now the Program Director of Park Haven.

“We want people to see themselves as valued and heard and able to occupy their own space.”

Shauna explains that the key challenge is, “re-adjusting people’s narrative that everything doesn’t go well for them – showing them that things can get better, that you can do better, things aren’t always your fault, the world can treat you better.” A particularly difficult component of supportive housing is helping people work through trauma. Shauna relies on humor to help her, her team, and her residents work through these tough moments.

“I want to normalize that we are all doing our best.”

Outside of work, Shauna can be found reading, or watching the Real Housewives, or walking her dog, Peter, whom she adopted after fostering him for some time. She has fostered six dogs, some for months at a time, and some as repeated fosters, through the Heavenly Angel Animal Rescue.

**Did You Know? BronxWorks Client Artwork Featured At
New York Historical Society**



BronxWorks Recreation Coordinator Francis Palazzolo (left) works on a collaborative portrait with an individual at the Living Room Drop-in Center and Safe Haven.

The New York Historical Society presents: "Art for Change: The Artist & Homeless Collaborative", a new exhibition on display at the Joyce B. Cowin Women's History Gallery December 3, 2021 - April 3, 2022. The exhibition will feature a number of pieces created through the Artist & Homeless Collaborative, a public art project founded in 1990 by multidisciplinary artist, Hope Sandrow. On display are collaborative portraits by Francis Palazzolo, Artist in Residence and BronxWorks Recreation Coordinator, and individuals from the Living Room Drop-in Center and Safe Haven.

To read more about the exhibit, read the ArtDaily.com article [here](#).

Photo Essay



Thanksgiving Turkey Distributions

In November, several Bronx elected officials and other partners supported BronxWorks Food Pantries with donations of turkeys. Thanks to their generous support, BronxWorks was able to provide hundreds of households with whole turkeys ahead of Thanksgiving. To learn more, click the links below.

Press:

[Fox 5 NY](#)

[ABC 7 New York](#)

[Spectrum News NY1](#)



Top, L-R: Jessie Moriarty, BronxWorks Leadership Council Chair Kate Machan, BronxWorks Community Health Educator Emily Hespeler, BronxWorks Development Manager Andrew Lin, and Dr. Anna Goodheart run in the marathon.

Bottom, L-R: BronxWorks staff cheer on the runners in the Bronx

#TeamBronxWorks at the 2021 TCS New York City Marathon

Five runners for #TeamBronxWorks completed the 2021 TCS New York City Marathon on November 7. This was the 50th running of the marathon and the first since 2019. BronxWorks runners each raised over \$2,500 for BronxWorks Children & Youth programs. Several BronxWorks staff came out to cheer for the runners at mile 21 in the Bronx -- one of the toughest points in the race!

[Read more here.](#)



Park Haven Ribbon Cutting

On November 1, BronxWorks took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Park Haven Apartments, a 178-unit



PwC Halloween Party

In celebration of Halloween, staff from PwC hosted a Halloween Pizza Party for children participating in

affordable housing development in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx. Fifty units are designated as permanent housing for chronically homeless families and individuals. BronxWorks provides on-site services to residents, and 7,000 square feet of the building's ground floor is the new home for BronxWorks Workforce Development programs.

[Read more here.](#)

BronxWorks after-school programs at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center. Students showed off their Halloween costumes and were given goody bags filled with healthy snacks. PwC also provided pizza, which the children enjoyed while talking virtually with PwC staff at their offices. Participants were happy for the return of this annual celebration.

[Read more here.](#)



World AIDS Day

The BronxWorks Positive Living programs observed World AIDS Day on December 1. Participants created and designed butterflies and added them to a tree. The butterflies honored someone each of them had lost from HIV/AIDS. Observed every year since 1988, World AIDS Day aims to educate people about the causes, prevention, and control of the disease and mourn those who have died due to it.

BronxWorks Positive Living programs work with clients affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, providing case management, harm reduction, and prevention workshops, as well as HIV testing and Hepatitis C testing. For more information, [visit our website.](#)



Local Barber Provides Mobile Haircuts

Gary Chimelis (above, right), AKA [@bxloyalmobilebarber](https://www.instagram.com/bxloyalmobilebarber), customized his van to provide mobile haircuts. He comes to the BronxWorks Pyramid Safe Haven to help our shelter residents "one haircut at a time", free of charge, allowing them to look in the mirror and see themselves differently. Bronx-born and raised, Gary now comes to the shelter twice a month.



Baby2Baby Diaper Donation

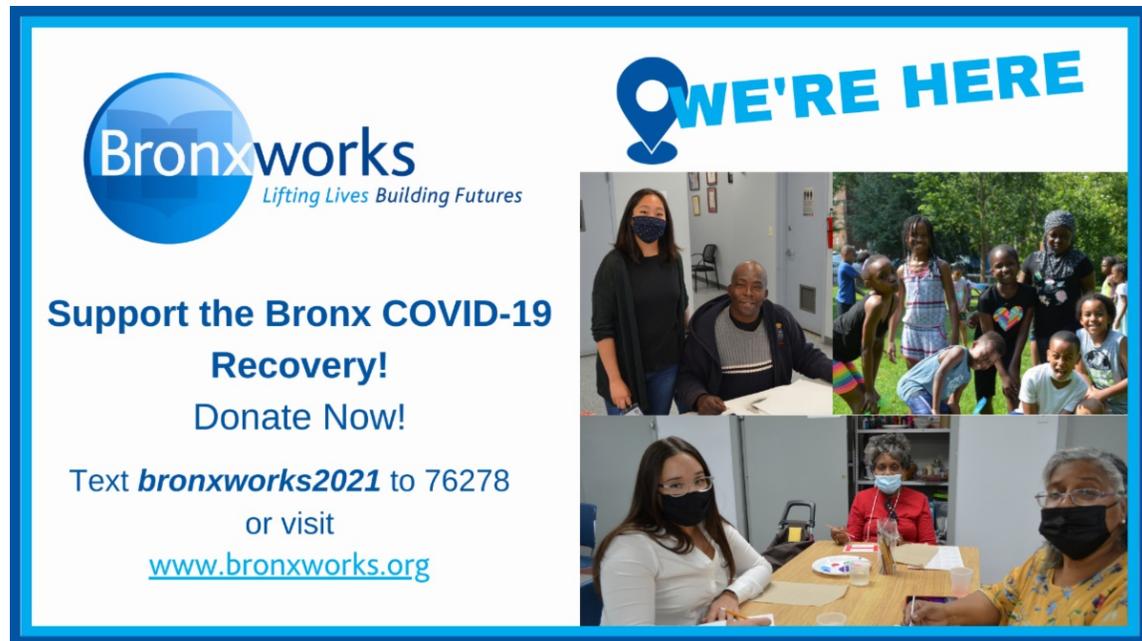
BronxWorks offers sincere thanks to Baby2Baby for a massive donation of diapers for BronxWorks families. Diapers are one of the most-needed items for our Bronx neighbors. The donation of 1,500 packages of diapers in a variety of sizes provides immeasurable assistance to participants with young children. We are so thankful for

this incredible donation for a second year in a row.

Baby2Baby is a non-profit that provides children living in poverty with diapers, clothing and all the basic necessities that every child deserves. They have distributed over 200 million donations.

Support The BronxWorks Building Better Futures Fund!

The Year-End Appeal helps support individuals like David, Madelyn, Maria, and Todd. Your contributions make a world of difference. Please consider the ways you can support today.



The graphic features the BronxWorks logo on the left with the tagline "Lifting Lives Building Futures". To the right is a blue location pin icon with the text "WE'RE HERE" in blue. Below the logo is the text "Support the Bronx COVID-19 Recovery! Donate Now!". Further down, it says "Text **bronxworks2021** to 76278 or visit www.bronxworks.org". On the right side, there are two photographs: the top one shows a group of diverse people outdoors, and the bottom one shows three people sitting at a table indoors, all wearing face masks.

Help Support BronxWorks

There are many ways you can support BronxWorks.

- Make a contribution. [Donate Now!](#)
- Purchase essential items for our participants from our [Amazon Wishlist](#)
- Support the [Leadership Council Holiday Gift Drive!](#)
- Setup an Amazon Smile account and [choose BronxWorks](#) as your charity and Amazon will donate on your behalf every time you make purchase

[Visit our Website](#)

A Note of Thanks



BronxWorks would like to thank the many partners providing their support this holiday season through gift, food, and clothing drives. A special thank you to all of our donors and especially:

Turner Construction Company
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