The April 2022 Newsletter

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BronxWorks Evening Reception at the Bronx Zoo
BronxWorks is celebrating the Resilience of the Bronx with an Evening Reception at Schiff Family Great Hall at the Bronx Zoo. We are so excited for our annual event to return in-person and back to the Bronx on June 15. Join us for an amazing indoor & outdoor benefit supporting the critical work needed to assist Bronx residents as they recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cocktails will be served next to the sea lion pool followed by our reception at Schiff Hall.

Hosted by:

Vladimir Duthiers
Peabody and Emmy Award-winning CBS News Correspondent

Vladimir Duthiers is a CBS News correspondent based in New York. Duthiers is part of the team delivering the first look at the day's top stories for CBS MORNINGS. He also serves as anchor for the CBS News Streaming Network, CBS News' premier 24/7 anchored streaming news service. His work has been featured on the CBS Evening News, CBS Sunday Morning, 48 Hours, "CBS This Morning" and all CBS News platforms.

Learn more about Vladimir.

This year, BronxWorks is thrilled to honor an esteemed cohort of women leaders who are making unique contributions to BronxWorks and the Bronx.

Honoring:
Teresa Gonzalez
Co-founder/Principal, DalyGonzalez and Partner, Bolton-St. Johns

Teresa Gonzalez is a partner at Bolton St. Johns, where she brings her expertise on stakeholder and community engagement, land use matters and city lobbying to nonprofit, real estate, and corporate clients. As a co-founder of DalyGonzalez, an M/WBE boutique lobbying firm, she has helped public and private institutions build and increase capacity, establish meaningful partnerships, and navigate complex government and community issues.

Learn more about Teresa.

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Honoring:

Annie Tirschwell and Jill Crawford

Type A Projects

Guided by the principle that every project is an opportunity to open doors and impact lives in a lasting and transformative way, Type A Projects is a woman-owned developer dedicated to building inspiring, vibrant and affordable places to live, work and learn.

Learn more about Type A Projects.

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Honoring:
BronxWorks will also honor Lidia Virgil, Chief Operations Officer of SOMOS Community Care. SOMOS is a network of over 2,500 physicians in the Bronx, Queens, Manhattan, and Brooklyn who have come together to ensure better health care for Medicaid members. SOMOS has been an invaluable partner to BronxWorks, especially over the past year as we collectively worked to help bring COVID-19 vaccine awareness and education to our communities.

More information on honoree, Lidia Virgil, and SOMOS to come.

Click here to join us at The BronxWorks Evening Reception at the Bronx Zoo

RSVP

The BronxWorks Annual Staff Meeting

BronxWorks staff joined each other virtually for the 2022 Annual Staff Meeting.

It is not always easy for an organization the size and scope of BronxWorks to come together and recognize the collective work to which we each contribute.
Every year in the spring, BronxWorks hosts an Annual Staff Meeting, bringing together our entire staff, nearly a thousand strong, to recollect and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. As the COVID-19 pandemic remains a concern, we once again held this meeting in four virtual sessions across two days.

This year, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson was the keynote speaker and shared her experience becoming the first African-American and the first female to hold that office. BronxWorks Leadership, including Executive Director Eileen Torres, addressed the staff, recognizing program and organizational accomplishments and sharing a vision for future goals. During the meeting, staff celebrated milestones, including staff members reaching three, five, ten, fifteen, twenty, and even twenty-five years of service. The meeting included a BronxWorks trivia game and many prizes.

This year’s Staff Meeting shares its theme with our Spring Event, Celebrating the Resilience of the Bronx. Because at every turn of the pandemic and given all of the challenges, the borough has shown that there is no end to its determination.

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Staff Profile: Celebrating Staff Reaching Over Twenty Years of Service

One of the best parts of the Annual Staff Meeting is celebrating staff milestones. BronxWorks is lucky to have amazingly dedicated staff who have given years or even decades of service to the communities of the Bronx. This year we celebrated five staff members who reached over twenty years of service and one staff member who reached over twenty-five years of service at BronxWorks. That’s a combined one-hundred and twenty-five years dedicated to the betterment of our communities. There is so much history to recognize in the stories of these six staff members and we want to thank them for their commitment to the Bronx.

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Wanda Abeyllez - Twenty-Five Years of Service

Wanda grew up in the South Bronx and was actually a summer youth intern with BronxWorks, then known as the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). After she completed her Bachelor's...
Degree in Sociology at Queens College, Wanda applied and was hired as a Case Manager for a housing program. Wanda worked in various housing programs, until 2005 when she joined the Senior Services Department. She has been the Program Director for the E. Roberts Moore Older Adult Center for seventeen years. During her time at BronxWorks, Wanda completed a Master's in Public Administration from Metropolitan College. Congratulations, Wanda, on twenty-five years of service at BronxWorks.

Maxene Foster - Twenty Years of Service

Maxene started at BronxWorks in 2001 as an Aftercare Case Manager at the Jackson Avenue Family Residence. Born and raised in Jamaica, Maxene moved to the US in 1986, at first to Colorado Springs and then eventually to New York and the Bronx in 1990. She completed an Associate's Degree in Health Education at Bronx Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Health Education and Promotion from Lehman College. Maxene has worked between the Eviction Prevention and Access to Benefits Departments for the majority of her time at BronxWorks, including the last eight years as Program Coordinator of the Benefits Access and Assistance Program. Congratulations, Maxene, on your twenty years of service at BronxWorks.

Marjorie Jeannot - Twenty Years of Service

Marjorie grew up in Haiti and came to the US when she was fourteen. She completed her Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences at Stony Brook University. Marjorie started at BronxWorks fresh out of college as a Case Manager for an eviction prevention program. She left BronxWorks to pursue her Master's in Social Work at Columbia University and returned as the Program Director for the Living Room. During her time at BronxWorks, Marjorie has also worked as Department Director of various Workforce Development programs, and Director of the Nelson and Willow Avenue Family Residences. Today, Marjorie is the Department Director of Family Shelters. Congratulations, Marjorie, on twenty years of service at BronxWorks!

Rosa Martinez - Twenty Years of Service
Rosa Martinez
Administrative Assistant, Benefits Access and Assistance Program

Rosa started at BronxWorks within the Access to Benefits Department and has worked as an Administrative Assistant and Messenger for many years. She has reliably assisted programs including Eviction Prevention and Walk-in Offices throughout her time at BronxWorks. Rosa’s family is originally from Puerto Rico, and now she lives in the Bronx. As an Administrative Assistant, Rosa has helped staff throughout the agency and appreciates everyone she has been able to work with. Congratulations, Rosa, on twenty years of service!

Frank Melendez - Twenty Years of Service

Frank was introduced to BronxWorks by a friend. He was hired in 2001 as a Family Monitor at the Jackson Avenue Family Residence. Later he joined the maintenance team, where he would work from 2004-2016. Born and raised in the Bronx, Frank attended the Adlai Stevenson High School. In 2015, he transferred to the Senior Services Department as a Driver, maintaining the vehicle and delivering food to a number of sites, as well as providing maintenance at the Morris Innovative Older Adult Center. He also does part-time street homeless outreach on the weekends with the Homeless Outreach Team. Congratulations, Frank, on your twenty years of service!

Igor Zekster - Twenty Years of Service

Igor grew up in Ukraine and lived in Russia, where he studied and worked in neurosurgery science and brain research. He has a Master's of Science from Gorky University. Igor came to the US in the late 1990s with his wife and daughter. He was recruited by a friend to a small technology business where he got his start working in IT, completing projects like cabling and building computers. After completing his certification in IT, Igor interviewed at BronxWorks and was hired as an IT Technician. Igor helped design and start to build the entire modern IT infrastructure at BronxWorks. He has been integral in growing the IT department during his twenty years of service at BronxWorks. Congratulations, Igor!

Did You Know? You Can Still Support BronxWorks in the Five Boro Bike Tour
Support #TeamBronxWorks

The TD Five Boro Bike Tour, America's largest cycling event, is back! On Sunday, May 1, 2022, cyclists will ride over 40 miles of car-free streets through all five boroughs in New York City.

You can still support riders for #TeamBronxWorks that are raising money and awareness for children's programs at our shelters for homeless families. All our riders have committed to raising a minimum of $750.

Support our riders here!

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Photo Essay
Girl Scouts Deliver Cookies To BronxWorks Pantries
The Girl Scouts of Greater New York delivered hundreds of boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to BronxWorks Twin Parks West and Community Food Pantries for our neighbors. The donation is a part of the Girl Scouts of Greater New York’s Gift of Caring program, which enables customers to purchase Girl Scout Cookies for donation to service organizations—a great way for people to support Girl Scouts’ entrepreneurial efforts while spreading joy to those in need.

BronxWorks Fundraiser at Broken Bow Brewery
The Barn Band and Broken Bow Brewery in Tuckahoe, New York hosted a BronxWorks benefit event on April 9. The Barn Band includes BronxWorks board member Tom Watson. The fundraising event raised over $1,000 for BronxWorks programs through raffles and other donations while The Barn Band brought the house down with some rockin' blues music. Thank you to everyone who attended!
BronxWorks hosted a special Easter Holiday Food Pantry earlier this month. The BronxWorks pantry and emergency food programs have taken on new importance amid the significant impact of inflation on food prices. Demand for food remains high, as does the need for funding for BronxWorks pantry operations. To read more, click the media links below. To learn more or to support our emergency food programs, visit our website.

Press Coverage:
- Spectrum News NY1 (video)
- Spectrum News NY1 (article)

(L-R) Sharon Williams, Constituent Liaison, Office Of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner; Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner; and Maria Rivera, Department Director, Older Adult Services, BronxWorks

Senior Day at Sedgwick Social Club
BronxWorks was happy to welcome Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner to Sedgwick Social Club as part of her Senior Week activities. Older adults attending the afternoon event were connected with health and wellness resources from local providers. Sedgwick Social Club was one of five locations Assemblywoman Joyner recently visited.

BronxWorks Holds Second Job Fair of 2022
BronxWorks once again hosted an in-person job fair on April 20. Applicants had a chance to explore current opportunities and meet with BronxWorks staff. If you are interested in a human services career and would like to join an organization that is making an impact in the lives of our Bronx neighbors click here and apply today!

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
- Set up an Amazon Smile account and choose BronxWorks as your charity and Amazon will donate on your behalf every time you make...
Are you or someone you know 18 or older? A Non-Custodial Parent with a child younger than 24? Trying to improve your parenting skills? Unemployed or looking for a better job? BronxWorks and Montefiore have partnered for HERO Dads! Go to https://bronxworks.org/HERO for more information or text “HERO” to 917.886.2512.