

The BronxWorks 2022 Evening Reception

Honoring:



Lidia Virgil, Chief Operations Officer, SOMOS Community Care

Dr. Lidia Virgil is an accomplished Dominican doctor and businesswoman. She is the Chief Operations Officer of SOMOS Community Care. She is the daughter of Fresa Indiana Villalona and Rafael Felipe Castro, both from Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic. Her father was an active and founding member of the revolutionary movement "14 de Junio" who, with his life being in danger, received political asylum in the United States.

Lidia is strong and dedicated to what she believes in, a trait that she inevitably inherited and groomed from her father. She graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx, after which she went back to her native Dominican Republic to study Medicine at the first University of the Americas, Santo Tomas de Aquino, now the Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo, where she received her degree as Doctor of Medicine. At the university, she also coursed in Business Administration at the behest of her father, having the intention of transforming the health delivery to the people that need it most and helping the medical professional achieve better outcomes.

In 1992 when healthcare was changing in the U.S. she studied medical economics, coding, and auditing to ensure that medical provider coding and documentation at the practices she worked with was up to par and services were performed appropriately. Lidia has worked to increase the value of health care practices and transform the delivery of care within these practices throughout several areas of the U.S.

She transformed a primary care family practice in South Florida into a full urgent care center with a full radiology department and pharmacy. Patients could walk in with a problem and walk out fully diagnosed and treated without ever needing to go to a hospital or waiting until morning to receive care. Later, in Brooklyn, she built another urgent care center and developed a Care Transitions program that has helped thousands avoid hospital re-admissions, a program which she later reproduced throughout New York City with a base in Manhattan.

In 2011 Dr. Lidia Virgil wrote and implemented a grant received from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid called Independence at Home which allowed better care for homebound patients while saving millions of dollars for the Federal Government's Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Lidia was one of the original five who avidly worked in the creation of SOMOS Community Care. She worked tirelessly along with her four other colleagues and their leader, Dr. Ramon Tallaj, to develop New York State's only Physician-led Performing Provider System. She used her great clinical acumen to put together a project implementation plan that has been successful in transforming the care of the most vulnerable and displaced New Yorkers.

With SOMOS, and in line with her heartfelt beliefs and dedication, she has worked throughout the COVID pandemic in the community while others were home observing quarantine to design processes and implement screenings and testings in several settings throughout the community. These projects include testing at churches, schools, and community centers, among others. She also worked with the New York Stock Exchange to help keep it open and running.

Currently, Lidia runs the SOMOS school based COVID testing program that allows New York City public and private schools to remain open and safe. She is also avidly working running pop-up vaccination sites throughout New York to ensure that the most vulnerable persons in our community have access and receive the COVID vaccine.

But everything is not just work for Lidia: she is also a strong religious woman who donates hours to teaching and serving others. She has a degree as a Master of Theology obtained from Saint Joseph's College. Lidia spends hours serving through church events and food pantries and works with a nonprofit foundation, FAFE, which supports children and the elderly in her native Dominican Republic. Lidia goes twice a year on Medical Mission trips to the Dominican Republic, in which not only do they deliver medical and dental care to a highly vulnerable and needy community but also give every patient the medications that he/she needs for care at absolutely no cost.

She continues to work on a healthcare system that provides better care to vulnerable populations and is working on the implementation of the value-based payment program through the application of quality processes across hundreds of practices in New York City. Her goal is to be a part of a community in which the poorest patients receive top-level care and the physicians are not overburdened but rather highly compensated for better outcomes, providing higher quality of life for both.