



## The June 2022 Newsletter



Cocktail Hour by the Sea Lion Pool at the 2022 BronxWorks Evening Reception at the Bronx Zoo.

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**BronxWorks 2022 Evening Reception at the Bronx Zoo**

What an amazing night! BronxWorks would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make our annual fundraiser and our return to in-person celebrations so memorable this year. Special thanks to all of our [sponsors](#), including our Platinum Sponsor, SOMOS Community Care, as well as our honorees, Teresa Gonzalez, Annie Tirschwell and Jill Crawford, and Dr. Lidia Virgil.



(Left) BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres and (Right) Honoree Dr. Lidia Virgil, SOMOS Community Care pose in front of the Sea Lion Pool during cocktail hour.

The BronxWorks 2022 Evening Reception took place on a beautiful June evening at the Bronx Zoo. Our guests enjoyed a cocktail hour in front of the Sea Lion Pool followed by dinner and drinks at the Schiff Family Great Hall. Thank you to Vladimir Duthiers for being our Host and Special Ambassador for the evening. Vlad is a CBS News National Correspondent based in New York, part of the team delivering the first look at the day's top stories for CBS Mornings.



The BronxWorks 2022 Evening Reception was hosted by (Right) Vladimir Duthiers, CBS News Correspondent. The event program featured a video that included three stories of resilience from BronxWorks participants.

Our video program featured the evening's honorees, an amazing group of women leaders who have made unique contributions to BronxWorks and the Bronx: Teresa Gonzalez from DalyGonzalez and Bolton-St. Johns for her advocacy on behalf of nonprofits and social issues affecting our communities; Annie Tirschwell and Jill Crawford from Type A Projects for their commitment to affordable housing development and revitalizing neighborhoods in the Bronx; and Dr. Lidia Virgil and SOMOS Community Care for their partnership and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in our communities. The video also aired online at the same time to an audience tuning in virtually.



(Left) Honoree Jill Crawford, Type A Project; (Middle) BronxWorks Executive Director Eileen Torres; (Middle) Honoree Teresa Gonzalez, DalyGonzalez/Bolton-St. Johns; (Right) Honoree Dr. Lidia Virgil, SOMOS Community Care. (Not pictured) Honoree Annie Tirschwell, Type A Projects.

The program was pre-recorded and produced as a collaboration between the BronxWorks and BronxNet. It featured stories from three BronxWorks participants, Destiny, Balima, and Frederick, who worked to overcome significant life challenges to build a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities. To watch the full video program, click [here](#).

To cap off the event, we held a silent auction where both our in-person and virtual guests bid on dozens of items, including Yankees, Mets, and NYC Football Club tickets; various sports memorabilia; a custom pet portrait by artist Tania Dirks; and more.

The BronxWorks 2022 Evening Reception at the Bronx Zoo was supported by hundreds of individuals and partners who purchased sponsorships, tickets, made donations, or bid on our silent auction. The proceeds from the event will support the critical work that BronxWorks does each and every day to help the communities of the Bronx recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild stronger than before. We could not be more grateful to everyone who made contributions to help us live our mission to feed, shelter, teach, and support our neighbors to build a stronger Bronx community.

You can learn more about the 2022 Evening Reception on [website](#). You can also visit our [Facebook page](#) to see more pictures from the event. If you would like to continue to support BronxWorks, visit the [donate page](#) on our website.

BronxWorks sincerely thanks the following donors for their generous and continued support of our mission for the BronxWorks 2022 Evening Reception.

as of June 13, 2022



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## Staff Profile: Merrinda Caesar and Danielle Mobley

An organization with the scope and scale of BronxWorks requires a strong administrative and operational foundation to run effectively. From Human Resources to Fiscal to Development, BronxWorks administrative staff is full of unsung heroes whose work enables our programs to focus on providing the critical services that our communities need. This month we are thrilled to share the stories of two of our longtime administrative staff who, as Bronx natives, have been steadily giving back to the communities they came from through years of dedication at BronxWorks.

### Merrinda Caesar, Payroll Manager

Merrinda Caesar is the Payroll Manager at BronxWorks. She was born and raised in the Bronx and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Mercy College. Merrinda started her career in accounting at ADP. She has worked in payroll ever since.

Merrinda joined BronxWorks in April 2017 and continues managing payroll for every staff member of BronxWorks today: over 900 pay checks every two weeks. But the real work comes in the days in between, making sure the payroll is accurate, up to date, and complete before payday arrives.



Merrinda Caesar,  
Payroll Manager,  
Fiscal Department

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**“Payroll is process of gathering, verifying, and entering information received from internal and external sources daily. All of that information comes together to be able to process the payroll and get everyone paid.”**

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For a company with 960 employees and growing, there can be a lot of information changing on a daily basis. Merrinda handles the task with a calm and steady demeanor. Among the information she accounts for is new hire information, promotions, terminations, leaves of absence, and any change of status that will affect an employee’s paycheck.

Merrinda went into accounting because she loved math and numbers. When she started focusing on payroll, she found that it provided an avenue to interact more with employees and learn the nuances of different departments. More importantly, working for a nonprofit like BronxWorks allows Merrinda to have an impact that goes beyond her work.

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**“BronxWorks impacts so many lives, and even though I’m not working on the front line, if I can ensure that employees are confident in the payroll process, that takes a burden off of them and allows them to focus on the work they need to do.”**

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Outside of work, Merrinda enjoys spending time with her family. She has two adult children and three grandchildren. “A set of twins and an older grandson,” Merrinda says, “We love to travel and do everything together as a family, and it’s the best time.”

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## Danielle Mobley, Development Assistant

Danielle has lived in the Bronx for her whole life. Born and raised in the Boston Road area, she attended Morris High School and then went on to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Monroe College.



Danielle Mobley,  
Development Assistant,  
Development Department

Danielle joined BronxWorks in December 2016 as a receptionist at the Administration office. As the receptionist, Danielle provided a variety of support for different administrative and operational functions, including fielding incoming communications; processing payments and orders; purchasing supplies; filing and organizing agency documents; completing preparations for trainings and meetings; assisting HR with new hire orientation; assisting Fiscal with audits; and data entry.

In September 2019, Danielle joined the Development Department as the Development Assistant. In her role, it is difficult to fully explain all of the ways Danielle supports the Development team. In everything Development does, Danielle plays a vital part. Her regular responsibilities include tracking, entering, and organizing donor information; creating acknowledgement letters; receiving and registering in-kind donations; purchasing supplies; planning and working events; assisting with social media; assisting with weekly income summaries; and much more.

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**“Fundraising is different than anything I’ve ever done. It can be stressful and overwhelming, but it feels good to know we are putting these events together and raising money to benefit the community. The outcome is always worth it.”**

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Most recently, Danielle was invaluable toward the success of the BronxWorks 2022 Evening Reception at the Bronx Zoo. Behind the scenes, she quietly helped with all of the arrangements for the event and served as the primary liaison with the Zoo and other vendors. During the event, you likely saw Danielle welcoming you at reception, or helping at check out for the silent auction. Danielle is level-headed, cool under pressure, and a constant source of calm during the frenzy that is common to event planning.

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**“It feels really rewarding to see the outcome of all the work we put in, to hear the testimony of our participants and see how grateful they are to have BronxWorks as a resource.”**

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Outside of work, Danielle loves to spend time with her family and her son, Carter, traveling and trying different foods. She loves to share new experiences with Carter and watching him respond and grow.

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**Did You Know? BronxWorks Farm Stands Are Back Starting in July!**



BronxWorks Farm Stands will once again open in July. The Mott Haven Farm Stand will be held every Wednesday starting July 6 outside Belvis Hospital at 545 E 142nd St. The BronxWorks Community Farm Stand will be held every Thursday starting July 7 at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. BronxWorks staff will be on-site providing recipes as well as conducting nutrition classes.

The community is encouraged to come get fresh and local produce at affordable prices and support local farmers! BronxWorks Farm Stands accept CASH, FMNP coupons, Health Bucks, and EBT/SNAP.

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## Photo Essay



### **State Senator Gustavo Rivera Visits Morris OAC**

State Senator Gustavo Rivera visited the BronxWorks Morris Innovative Older Adult Center to hand out free COVID-19 home test kits and PPE and meet with the seniors at the center. Seniors shared their comments and concerns with the senator, who just wrapped up the most recent legislative session. The seniors were pleased by the in-person visit from Senator Rivera.



### **Cornerstone Youth Visit Slime Museum**

Youth participants from BronxWorks Cornerstone Community Centers visited the Sloomoo Institute's Slime Museum in Manhattan. Children were able to interact

together with all of the slime exhibits the museum has to offer, including customizing their own handcrafted slime with a seemingly endless variety of colors, smells, and textures.



### **HERO Dads Father's Day Block Party**

The BronxWorks HERO Dads Program, in partnership with Montefiore and Supporting Healthy Relationships, hosted a Father's Day Block Party at the BronxWorks Workforce Development office in Mott Haven. Parents and their children were invited to enjoy refreshments and art projects together while learning about the different services HERO Dads has to offer. Bronx News 12 covered the event. You can watch the coverage by clicking [here](#). Go to our [website](#) for more information on HERO Dads or text "HERO" to 917.886.2512.



## Domestic Violence Awareness Chat & Chew

The BronxWorks Saint Mary's Park Cornerstone Community Center hosted the 2nd Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Chat & Chew with the local NYPD Domestic Violence Unit and the community. Representatives from the NYPD and Vibrant Emotional Health came together to share resources and information on domestic violence prevention with the community. The event aimed to bring awareness to domestic violence and give folks in the community resources on recognizing and reporting domestic violence.



## ECLC & HIPPY Moving-Up Ceremonies

BronxWorks Early Childhood Learning Centers (ECLC) and the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters program (HIPPY) each held their moving-up ceremonies earlier this month. Our youngest participants were given diplomas recognizing their work as they prepare for kindergarten in the fall, while parents in our HIPPY program



## What's Your Element? Kiki Ball at BronxWorks

BronxWorks hosted a Kiki Ball competition event in partnership with Montefiore, Destination Tomorrow, Argus, and NYC Health & Hospitals/Jacobi at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse. Contestants were tasked with creating a routine themed around chemistry. Ballroom competitions have long

were also recognized for their dedication to learning new tools to be able to continue the learning process at home while their children go through the early education years.

been a part of LGBTQ+ culture and the event was a great way to celebrate Pride Month. Our Positive Living Department also provided free HIV testing on site.



## Job Fair At Betances Cornerstone Community Center

The BronxWorks Workforce Development Department hosted a Career Fair at the Betances Cornerstone Community Center for local residents to stop by and circulate their resumes. Dozens of local residents stopped by and met with organizations in the area, including BronxWorks. We are hiring! Learn more about BronxWorks on our [Careers](#) page on our website.

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## 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 purchase

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