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Meet the #TeamBronxWorks TCS New York City 2022

We are thrilled to announce the 2022 TCS New York City Marathon #TeamBronxWorks Runners! We have an amazing team of first-time and returning marathon runners. #TeamBronxWorks runners are raising money in support of BronxWorks Children & Youth Programs. Read about each of our runners below, and support any of the #TeamBronxWorks runners by visiting their personal fundraising page here.

Maddie Stein is Running for #TeamBronxWorks!

Maddie is a long-time runner and, like many, started running more consistently during the pandemic. “Running has always given me a profound sense of peace and calm,” Maddie says, “It makes me feel connected to myself and the moment.” The 2022 TCS NYC Marathon will be Maddie’s first marathon. She was able to watch the marathon in person last year and was inspired to run in 2022. “BronxWorks works so hard to make sure people feel cared for and empowered. It is my honor to run and help raise funds for the BronxWorks Children and Youth Programs so they can continue to provide critical materials and services to children throughout the Bronx.”

Samson Lin is Running for #TeamBronxWorks!

Samson started running in the summer of 2017 when he moved to Miami. He ran as a way to exercise with his dog and explore the new city. Samson, a New York City native, has lived in Denver and Salt Lake City most recently. He ran his first marathon in Salt Lake City this past April. Samson decided to run the 2022 TCS NYC Marathon to celebrate his home coming. “I’m excited to see how I will perform back at sea level after living in Denver and Salt Lake City for four years.” Samson is running for #TeamBronxWorks because he grew up in the Bronx and wants to give back to his community. “I want to raise money for BronxWorks because mission- and location-driven grassroots organizations have a real, everyday positive impact on their
Jess Espinosa is Running for #TeamBronxWorks Again!

Jess has been running since she was eight years old. As a child, she would watch the NYC Marathon every year on television with her dad. It’s what motivated her to join her elementary school track program in third grade, which helped her ultimately discover her passion for distance running. “I kept running as a hobby and it’s really helped my physical and mental well-being throughout the years.” Jess ran her first marathon in 2017 in support of BronxWorks. Now Jess is excited to run her third marathon, and for the second time as a part of #TeamBronxWorks. “As a first-generation Latina and proud New Yorker, it feels like an honor to represent a nonprofit dedicated to uplifting all members of a community largely made up of underrepresented minorities.”

Sarah Elzayat is Running for #TeamBronxWorks!

For Sarah, running has always been a passion and a stress relief. She started running in high school with her sister, Rehaam, and it became a passion through which they bonded. This will be Sarah’s first marathon. She has run a half-marathon and other races, but this year is special for her. “As I turn 30 in November, I thought what better way of ringing in another decade than by crossing a milestone off my bucket list – the NYC Marathon. Even better, I’m taking on this journey with my sister.” Sarah and her sister, Rehaam, are both running for #TeamBronxWorks. “I’m running to support a charity that I knew would use the donations for resources to improve the health and well-being of their community.”

Rehaam Elzayat is Running for #TeamBronxWorks!

Rehaam starting running at the age of 13 when she joined her middle school track team. In high school, she began to run longer distances and knew she
found her passion. “Running has always kept me grounded and centered. There is simultaneously a peace and a chase that I cannot find elsewhere.” Running is a passion that Rehaam shares with her sister Sarah. Together through running the sisters have bonded and will take on the journey of the NYC Marathon. Rehaam ran a half-marathon but like her sister Sarah, this will also be her first marathon. Rehaam is running for #TeamBronxWorks because she has always been passionate about helping those in need. “When you align with the mission and values of an organization, there truly is nothing greater and I hope to be part of the change we wish to see for the Bronx.”

We are so thankful to have these amazing runners supporting #TeamBronxWorks and our Children & Youth programs this year! Click below to support our #TeamBronxWorks runners!

OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER

tcs NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

SUPPORT OUR RUNNERS

BronxWorks Farm Stands Are Open
Summer is in full swing which can only mean one thing: BronxWorks Farm Stands are back! The two seasonal farm stands are open from July through November and partner with local farmers to offer a wide array of fresh produce at affordable prices. Both farm stands have kept their prices the same as last year, seeking to promote access to fresh and nutritious foods. BronxWorks Community Health and SNAP-Ed programs also invite farm stand customers to participate in nutrition workshops and cooking demos to receive health bucks which they can use to purchase produce. BronxWorks Farm Stands accept CASH, FMNP coupons, Health Bucks, and EBT/SNAP.

The Mott Haven Farm Stand will be held every Wednesday outside Belvis Hospital at 545 E 142nd St. The BronxWorks Community Farm Stand will be held every Thursday at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse.

To learn more about the BronxWorks Farm Stands, you can hear from our Mott Haven Farm Stand staff by watching this video, and from our BronxWorks Community Farm Stand staff by watching this video. Special thanks to News 12 and the Mott Haven Herald for covering our Farm Stand opening.

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**Staff Profile: Jairy Padro**

How many times have you spoken with a BronxWorks staff member and you can just see the passion for their work, their expertise, and their ambition, almost manifesting physically? It is what makes BronxWorks so important – our staff and their stories. In writing these profiles, we always ask our staff: “What motivates you?”

For Jairy Padro, Nutrition Educator for the
BronxWorks SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention Program, her motivation is rooted in a personal experience. When Jairy was 11 years old, she had her gallbladder removed.

Jairy Padro, Nutrition Educator, SNAP-Ed

“I had to change how I ate, but it was also a whole family effort. We had to change the way we cooked, to stop frying things. That’s when I started getting into nutrition and health. The doctors gave me a list of things I could eat, but I was unfamiliar with a lot of the items, so I had to do my own research.”

Jairy was born in Puerto Rico and came to New York when she was three years old. She has lived in the Bronx ever since. Jairy earned her Bachelors Degree in Health Education and Promotion with a focus on Community Health and Nutrition from Lehman College. She originally joined the Community Health programs at BronxWorks in 2019 as an intern and was offered a full-time Nutrition Assistant position after she graduated.

When BronxWorks opened its SNAP-Ed program in November 2019, Jairy took on a Nutrition Educator position. She was a crucial part of the startup phase of the program, especially in March 2020 when New York State went into the PAUSE lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Jairy and the SNAP-Ed team had to confront the challenge of safely providing nutrition education amidst a global pandemic. The team quickly adapted to a virtual platform, creating videos and setting up virtual workshops.

These days, the BronxWorks SNAP-Ed program is back in the community offering live and in-person nutrition workshops. Jairy and the SNAP-Ed team employ a curriculum that targets school-age children, adult caregivers, and older adults. The goal of the program is to promote consumption of nutritious foods, decrease the consumption of sugar sweetened foods, increase physical activity, improve food management and preparation skills, and increase access to affordable and nutritious food options.

“Farm stands are my absolute favorite,” Jairy says, “I love them because it’s time outside and we get to be creative with our curriculum and how we engage participants.”

You can typically find Jairy running nutrition and wellness workshops with partner programs at BronxWorks and organizations throughout the Bronx. She also hosts
grocery tours at supermarkets and bodegas to show participants how they can shop for fresh and nutritious foods on a budget and gives cooking demos with fresh ingredients at the BronxWorks Farm Stands.

Outside of work, Jairy likes to try out many different hobbies. Last year she was into kickboxing, this year she is into salsa classes. She just bought a bike. Jairy loves working out at home and watching fitness videos or going out with friends, soaking in the sun, or watching the city skyline.

Did You Know? BronxWorks CAFE Summer Bridge Program
BronxWorks CAFE started its Summer Bridge Program as a part of a participant retention strategy! Funded through Robin Hood, the Program works with 20 first-time college-bound students (High School and HSE Graduates) ages 17-24. Through four workshops over a four-week period, participants will learn the soft and hard skills required to be a successful college student. Students will have a designated Retention Specialist who will guide them before and during their college journey to address challenges in academics, financial aid, and college campus resources. In addition, participants will receive a stipend for books and transportation after completing the program. The Summer Bridge Program is currently fully enrolled and started its first workshop this month.
Family Enrichment Program Summer Carnival

The BronxWorks Family Enrichment Program (FEP) participants enjoyed the first-ever FEP Summer Carnival at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center. Certificates and trophies were handed out to children who graduated the program, had good attendance, and obtained high grades in school. The children also enjoyed a magic show, a cotton candy machine, and a Ben & Jerry's ice cream truck.

Intergenerational Map Fun at E. Roberts Moore

Elementary school-age participants worked together with seniors at the BronxWorks E. Roberts Moore Older Adult Center to learn more about the Bronx! Children and seniors looked at maps of the Bronx, identifying what neighborhoods they lived in and places they go with their families, like parks and grocery stores. The activity was designed to bridge the gap between the generations, highlighting how although they are decades apart in age, they still can share things in common and find similarities in their lives.
Conference On Preventing Deaths Among Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

The Bronx Health & Housing Consortium’s second annual Conference on Preventing Deaths among Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in NYC occurred virtually in late June. Allyce Morrissey, Program Developer at BronxWorks (pictured), gave an overview of statistics related to death among the homeless population in recent years, highlighting the high percentage of deaths caused by drug overdose. The conference explored different ways to prevent overdose deaths in NYC, with government and health professionals speaking on the matter.

Anti-Bullying Field Trip

Children from the BronxWorks Classic Cornerstone Community Center visited an Anti-Bullying Fair in Mott Haven hosted in part by the NYC Office of Neighborhood Safety. The children enjoyed musical performances and other fun activities while learning about how to identify and deal with bullying.
Courtyard At Twin Parks West Open
The Inner Courtyard Recreational Space at the NYCHA Twin Parks West Housing Complex reopened in July after a major overhaul. The courtyard renovations include two new play areas, a water play area with fountains, and a resurfaced basketball court with new backboards. There are also new game tables, new LED lighting, and fresh landscaping. The space closed over ten years ago. BronxWorks provides supportive services to residents at Twin Parks West and runs a community center neighboring the new courtyard. BronxWorks will also open an Older Adult Center at Twin Parks West later this year.

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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