



The  
BronxWorks  
August 2024  
Newsletter

## A Spotlight on Summer Youth Programs

Summer 2024 was once again a success for BronxWorks summer youth programming! BronxWorks is committed to offering programming for children and youth that keep them fulfilled and challenged during their summer break. Younger participants engage in both recreational and educational activities to continue their learning throughout the year. Older youth have opportunities to gain employment experience and workplace development skills as they enter adulthood.



### Summer Youth Employment Program

BronxWorks once again partnered with the NYC Department of Youth and Community

Development (DYCD) to offer the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). This year, we connected over 1,300 Bronx youth ages 14-24 with career exploration opportunities varying by age. Older youth (16-24) were placed in over 100 worksites and gained real-world work experience in fields such as finance, operations, marketing, hospitality, and more. Younger youth (14-15) were placed in BronxWorks project-based learning groups that focused on developing workforce skills and finding their passions. Both groups earned paid work experience for six weeks and benefitted from career exploration activities, workforce development workshops, and other unique opportunities.

SYEP participants also contributed to developing a curriculum about financial education through Money Moves: A Youth Forum. The forum was hosted by the BronxWorks Financial Empowerment Center in partnership with JPMorgan Chase and Citizens Bank. Through a series of workshops, participants learned about financial literacy, covering topics such as budgeting, banking, and planning for the future.

## Summer Rising



Also in partnership with DYCD, BronxWorks Summer Camp programs implemented the Summer Rising Initiative. The initiative is an approach at replacing conventional summer school by offering a school-centered program accessible to all NYC K-8 students. Summer Rising included a mix of academic support, social-emotional growth, and enriching recreational activities. This initiative seamlessly blended a summer camp environment with educational instruction aimed at bridging learning gaps in between the school years.

## Aquatics

BronxWorks youth of all ages were back in the pool! Participants from our elementary and middle school summer camp programs were thrilled to swim in the BronxWorks Indoor Pool. The children played fun water games and also benefitted from guided instruction to learn valuable swimming skills. Teens from the Pyramid Cornerstone Community Center also had the opportunity to enjoy the pool and beat the heat this summer.

Additionally, some middle school participants came together to form the Boogie Down Swimmers. This group utilized the BronxWorks pool to engage in water safety lessons with instructors twice a week. They developed strong bonds as they worked in a team-like atmosphere to improve their aquatic skills.



We wish all of our summer participants a great rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing them in the upcoming school year!



# STAFF PROFILE



## Eliana De Los Santos, Assistant Program Director, Youth Workforce Programs



For many BronxWorks staff, drive and passion for their work at BronxWorks comes from lived experiences and love for their community. Eliana De Los Santos is a perfect example of that, as she participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) as a teenager and is now the Assistant Program Director for Youth Workforce Programs at BronxWorks. Eliana has been working at BronxWorks for over three years, but her career in Youth Workforce initiatives spans over a decade.

**“There is no better passion than helping your own people in your community. I know my community and how it can be difficult to find the right places or people to get help. It’s very important to me that I’m able to provide that assistance and be a person that someone can ask for help.”**

[Read More About Eliana](#)



**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**

## The BronxWorks Report To the Community is available!



We are excited to announce that the BronxWorks 2023 Report to the Community is now available! Throughout 2023, BronxWorks celebrated our 50th anniversary as we continued to provide our wide array of programming and services across the borough. We are proud of our accomplishments and thankful to all of our stakeholders.



## DID YOU KNOW

### NYC Marathon Runners Raise Money for BronxWorks Children & Youth Programs

BronxWorks is proud to once again be a charity partner for the TCS New York City Marathon! #TeamBronxWorks will participate in the Marathon on Sunday, November 3. As a charity runner, each member of the team has a goal of raising at least \$3,000 for BronxWorks Children & Youth Programs.

#### Meet #TeamBronxWorks for the 2024 NYC Marathon!

##### Gabriel Esquenazi

"I'm heavily invested, personally and professionally, in the issues BronxWorks champions and I value the work they do to uplift families across the borough. I am thrilled to support their work directly by running as part of #TeamBronxWorks."

[Support Gabriel's fundraising here.](#)



##### Tyler Holowach

"I'm running for #TeamBronxWorks because I am passionate about giving back to the community. I want to support the BronxWorks mission and the educational opportunities they provide to inspire youth through some of life's biggest events."

[Support Tyler's fundraising here.](#)

##### Nick Jerez

"Why BronxWorks? Let's just say it's personal. I believe everyone deserves a shot at success in life, no matter their background. BronxWorks makes that happen, and that's why I'm running for them. Join me in supporting this incredible organization!"

[Support Nick's fundraising here.](#)



##### Stella Roth

"As an avid runner, public health student, and lover of the Bronx, running for #TeamBronxWorks is the perfect intersection of my passions. I am excited to run in support of the strong, diverse, beautiful, and resilient community that is the Bronx."



[Support Stella's fundraising here.](#)

## Marina Weiss

"In my career, I have seen firsthand the tremendous impact that the organization has on the lives of Bronx residents. I am looking forward to running through the city I love while raising money for a cause that is personally important to me!"

[Support Marina's fundraising here.](#)



SUPPORT #TEAMBRONXWORKS HERE



PHOTO ESSAY



## BronxWorks Hosts 'Bring Back the Jump'

BronxWorks hosted our first "Bring Back the Jump" tournament this summer! Participants from select BronxWorks locations formed Double Dutch teams and practiced for weeks leading up to the tournament, where they competed for prizes. This initiative saw multiple generations come together to bring back the joy of jumping rope and enjoy an inclusive, screen-free activity with their neighbors. Congratulations to everyone who competed and thank you to all who helped make this event a success! Special thanks to our partners Camber Property Group, Gilbane Building Company, Kraus Management, and L&M Development Partners.



## BronxWorks Youth Visit Bronx Zoo

BronxWorks summer camp participants recently enjoyed a trip to the Bronx Zoo! The children explored several exhibits and enjoyed attractions such as the Children's Zoo, Butterfly Garden, and the Reptile House. Thank you to the Bronx Zoo for welcoming us!



## CAPP/SYEP Celebration

SYEP participants placed in the BronxWorks Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) program recently celebrated the end of summer by sharing presentations about what they have learned. In this program, students worked in groups to learn about sexual health education and have open discussions with their peers.



## Assemblymember Tapia Visits BronxWorks Seniors

NYS Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia visited the BronxWorks Twin Parks West Community Center and Older Adult Center. AM Tapia took time to assist with our client-choice pantry and talk to those in attendance. The community members enjoyed the opportunity to meet with such a dedicated elected official and her staff.



## Shelter Residents Receive Haircuts

Participants from BronxWorks Safe Havens and the Living Room Drop-In Center recently received haircuts at the Westchester Barber Academy (WBA). BronxWorks and WBA established this partnership to ensure that our most vulnerable clients have access to such a vital and confidence-boosting service.



## WAYS TO SUPPORT

- [Make a Donation to BronxWorks.](#)
- Purchase essential goods for Bronx residents in need through our [wishlist](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for exciting updates.

For a full list of ways to give to BronxWorks, [visit our website](#).



# MONSTER MASH HUNGER DASH

BronxWorks 2024 5K Run/Walk



MORE INFO  
COMING  
SOON



Join us to fight food insecurity in the Bronx  
Late October  
The Bronx  
Location TBD

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