



The BronxWorks September 2024 Newsletter

Scott Auwarter, Assistant Executive Director, Retires After a Groundbreaking Career with BronxWorks



Scott Auwarter joined BronxWorks in the mid 1980s as a student intern and became a full-time staff member shortly after. He continued to rise through the ranks and became the Assistant Executive Director for Case Management Programs in 2002. Scott has held this position for over two decades, overseeing street homeless services, family shelters, HIV/AIDS services, and foster care prevention programs.

During his career at BronxWorks, Scott helped lead the organization to play a critical role in dramatically reducing street homelessness throughout the borough. In 1995 he established our Homeless Outreach Team, the first of its kind, in partnership with the New York City Department of Homeless Services. Scott also spearheaded the development of a continuum of care for homeless individuals within the organization. Because of Scott's leadership, BronxWorks now offers an array of programs to support unhoused individuals throughout their progress to re-stabilization, including street outreach, a drop-in center, shelters, safe havens, chronic health care, supportive housing, and more. He is a strong advocate for the Housing First model, an approach which prioritizes obtaining stable housing before addressing an individual's other

challenges. Scott strives to ensure that the most vulnerable in our community are treated with the utmost dignity and provided with the necessary resources to re-establish themselves.

Scott's many years of experience in developing homeless services has made him widely recognized as an expert in the field, and his work has left a long-lasting impact upon the Bronx community. BronxWorks is incredibly grateful to Scott for his unwavering passion and hard work to lift lives and build futures in the Bronx.

"I am honored to have worked alongside Scott for many years, as he has led the organization through incredible development to support the most vulnerable in our community. His continued passion and advocacy for his work has been a true inspiration to his colleagues and peers. I am incredibly grateful to Scott for his immeasurable contributions to the organization and I wish him the best as he embarks on a new chapter."

Eileen Torres, Chief Executive Officer

"Scott has been a champion for improving mental health services for underserved populations in the Bronx. He has especially been a fierce advocate for homeless individuals who struggle with mental health. Through his extensive career and expertise, Scott has successfully pushed the sector and its many stakeholders to improve the overall quality of services for the most vulnerable to ensure that no one is left behind."

Noel Concepcion, Vice President, Adult Homeless Services

"Scott has dedicated almost his entire professional career to BronxWorks, becoming an essential part of the agency's remarkable growth. Throughout the years, he has demonstrated fearless leadership, fierce competitiveness, and an unwavering passion for excellence. His drive and determination have inspired all of us to aim higher and push beyond our limits. Having known him for more than half of my life, I can say without a doubt that I have learned immensely from him. He has poured a lot into BronxWorks, always with a deep sense of pride. His impact will be felt for years to come, and he will be missed. As he embarks on this exciting new chapter ahead, I wish him and his family continued success in all their future endeavors."

Marjorie Jeannot, Vice President, Family Shelters

"I have had the pleasure to work under Scott's leadership since I started with BronxWorks almost 15 years ago. He has been an incredible leader for me and the whole organization. I will be eternally grateful to Scott for all that I have learned, and for all the opportunities for growth and development he has afforded me. Scott's vision, his new ideas, his convictions, his client-centered focus, and even his unique sense of humor will be truly missed!"

Shali Sharma, Vice President, Supportive Housing & Health Policy



Left Photo: Scott with Carolyn McLaughlin, former Executive Director of BronxWorks, in the 1980s; Center Photo: Scott at the ribbon cutting of the BronxWorks Living Room Safe Haven's new location in 2010; Right Photo: Scott (second from the right) with (L-R) Julie Spitzer, Vice President of Homelessness Prevention and Access to Benefits at BronxWorks, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, and BronxWorks CEO Eileen Torres at the BronxWorks Gala in 2024.

Thank you, Scott, for your incredible career with BronxWorks and for the immense impact you have left on the Bronx community.



DID YOU KNOW

Announcing the BronxWorks 5K Fun Run/Walk **Monster Mash Hunger Dash!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
ORCHARD BEACH, BRONX NY
10AM**



"The food pantry is great. Sometimes my money is not enough, what I make, what my partner makes, it's just not enough. The pantry gives us really nutritious things that are good for our bodies."

Mirna C., BronxWorks Participant

Join us to fight food insecurity in the Bronx!

BronxWorks is excited to bring back our annual 5K! The **BronxWorks 2024 5K Run/Walk Monster Mash Hunger Dash** supports our efforts to fight food insecurity in the Bronx! BronxWorks provides food pantries, farm stands, nutritional education and other services to help combat this crisis facing our neighbors. The event takes place on Saturday, October 19 at Orchard Beach in Bronx, NY. Register Today! **We welcome our runners and families to dress up in their best costumes!**

LEARN MORE AND BUY

TICKETS

EARLY BIRD PRICING ACTIVE NOW! Registration / Tickets to run are **\$30 for adults 18+**, **\$10 for youth ages 13-17**, and **\$5 for children ages 3-12**. **Children 0-2 run free!** Families can also register (1 adult and up to 2 children 3-17) for **\$40**. If you would like to join the 5K as a runner, [click here!](#) Please share with your networks - the Monster Mash Hunger Dash is open to all! **EARLY BIRD PRICING ends October 10.**

We encourage all of our 5K participants to fundraise! Incentives are available for our top fundraisers. You can also join as a team with your friends or family. If you are interested in fundraising, follow the prompts [here](#) after buying your ticket(s).

To support a BronxWorks runner / fundraiser and contribute to our cause, visit <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/bronxworks5k>

If you need any more information about the 5K, reach out to BronxWorks Digital and Content Manager Aaron Cipollina at acipollina@bronxworks.org.

SUPPORT A FUNDRAISER



PHOTO ESSAY



BronxWorks Artists Featured in *Culture of Belonging* Exhibition at Boricua College Gallery

The collective works of BronxWorks artists have been featured in the *Culture of Belonging* exhibition at the Boricua College Gallery throughout September. The exhibit was curated by BronxWorks Artist-in-Residence Francis Palazzolo, and many of the artists on display are current or former unhoused individuals from BronxWorks programs. Through their creative pursuits, the artists are able to process and share their experiences as they progressed towards obtaining permanent housing.

The artists also hosted a participatory event for the public to engage in their own *Culture of Belonging*. Attendees had the opportunity to make collages on shopping bags, inspired by artist-on-display Sodin Muhsin, whose work primarily involves collages on bags.

[Click here to watch media coverage of the exhibition from CBS New York](#)



BronxWorks Safe Haven Provides Narcan Training

BronxWorks Pyramid Safe Haven recognized Opioid Overdose Awareness Day on August 31 with a week of events aimed to educate participants on the signs and causes of overdose. BronxWorks staff and Safe Haven residents had the opportunity to participate in events such as Health & Wellness Education sessions, a Resource Fair, and Narcan Training. Narcan is a medicine that can treat an overdose in an emergency situation, and all Safe Haven residents are trained to administer Narcan within two

weeks of moving in. One resident shared that the training has been extremely valuable as he has been in situations where Narcan was necessary.



BronxWorks Board Retreat

The BronxWorks Board of Directors recently came together for their annual Board Retreat! Board members and staff convened at Bronx Point, a multi-use development opened in 2023 that is now home to several BronxWorks programs. The Board of Directors and executive staff meet for a full-day retreat every year to discuss long term plans and strategy for the future of the organization.



BBP Gibson Visits BronxWorks Farm Stands

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson recently visited the BronxWorks Farm Stand in Mott Haven as part of her Farmer's Market Pop-Up Series across the Bronx. BBP Gibson and her staff handed out Health Bucks to community members, which they can use as a form of payment at our Farm Stands. BronxWorks Farm Stands remain open through November on Wednesdays at Padre Plaza in Mott Haven and on Thursdays at 1130 Grand Concourse.



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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, 2024. As a charity runner, each member of the team has a goal of raising \$3,000 for BronxWorks Children & Youth Programs. [Support our runners here.](#)

More ways you can join BronxWorks and support our mission:

- [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](#).

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