



## The BronxWorks October 2024 Newsletter

## BronxWorks Hosts Poverty Simulation



BronxWorks is thrilled to return to hosting Poverty Simulations and recently welcomed a team from Health First, New York's largest not-for-profit health insurance provider. During the simulation, participants take on different identities of individuals experiencing poverty and work within an assigned family unit. Throughout the simulated month, which takes place during a half-day workshop, participants try to maintain their housing, employment, and family responsibilities while navigating life with very limited resources. The goal of the simulation is for those participating to better understand how poverty is systemic and structural, *not* a personal failure.

The Poverty Simulation provides an opportunity for organizations, community groups, and other nonprofits to better understand their clients and their experiences when

interacting with service providers. Oftentimes, most participants struggle to make ends meet under the circumstances and become frustrated with the process to obtain services. Many organizations who have participated in the simulation have been inspired to make changes within their client-facing procedures to make their services more accessible to those facing systemic challenges.



Health First staff were asked to share how they felt during the simulation. Here are some of their responses:

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*"The frustration, the exhaustion I felt, I was angry. This is the state of what so many disenfranchised folks are going through and they are constantly forced to be challenged and set up for failure."*

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*"I've never spent any time thinking about our patients' relationships with other people in their families, I never thought it was important. But our [simulated] family would have been evicted and starving without two healthy breadwinners in the house. We need to look at the tools we have and how we can work to address the family as a whole to better support the whole family."*

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**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POVERTY SIMULATION**

BronxWorks offers Poverty Simulations as a contracted service. If you're interested in bringing the Poverty Simulation to your organization or your team, please contact us at [info@bronxworks.org](mailto:info@bronxworks.org).



**DID YOU KNOW**

**The BronxWorks 2024 5K Fun Run/Walk  
Monster Mash Hunger Dash**



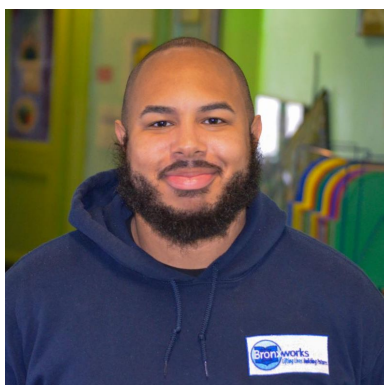
BronxWorks recently held our annual **5K Fun Run/Walk Monster Mash Hunger Dash** that supports our efforts to fight food insecurity in the Bronx! Runners and walkers joined us at Orchard Beach in great costumes and raced along the Promenade. Thanks to our incredible fundraisers and donors, we raised over \$13,000 to support BronxWorks programs addressing food insecurity! BronxWorks provides food pantries, farm stands, nutritional education and other services to help combat this crisis facing our neighbors.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PICTURES OF THE EVENT!](#)



## STAFF PROFILE

### Austin Thompson, Program Assistant



Many BronxWorks staff have been born and raised within the communities they now work to support. Austin Thompson, Program Assistant, Compass After School/Summer Camp Program, is an incredible reflection of this. Austin attended the daycare program and then the afterschool program at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, where he has now worked for over seven years. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Austin has also worked at the BronxWorks Community Food Pantry, held bi-weekly on Saturdays.

*"My mom opened up her own daycare, she's been doing that as long as I can remember. I've always been around children... so working with children here [at BronxWorks], it feels like something I was meant to do."*

LEARN MORE ABOUT AUSTIN



## PHOTO ESSAY



### **BronxWorks Receives Back-To-School Donations**

BronxWorks is incredibly grateful to have received donations of school supplies for hundreds of students in several programs throughout the organization. Thank you so much to our incredible donors, Baby2Baby, Capital One, Robin Hood, Bright Horizons, and La Escuelita De Sofia for providing these critical items to our students at the beginning of the school year!



## PwC Halloween Pizza Party

PwC once again helped us kick off Halloween celebrations with BronxWorks students at 1130 Grand Concourse! PwC brought exciting games, lots of treats, and of course, pizza for the students to enjoy. BronxWorks sends a big thank you to our partners at PwC for their continuous support and enthusiasm for this special tradition.



*Photo: Mouhamed, second from the right, poses with his family and retired MLB pitcher and former Yankee player Doc Gooden.*

## BronxWorks Youth Participant Recognized at Yankees Game

Mouhamed D., a BronxWorks after-school participant, was recognized by Con Edison as a 2024 New York Yankees Kid for the Bronx! Mouhamed was nominated



## CAFE College Fair

The BronxWorks Center for Achieving Future Education (CAFE) held their first college fair this month! Colleges and universities from the New York area and beyond were represented and the event

by program staff for his embodiment of the values of service, honesty, concern, courtesy, excellence, and teamwork. He and his family were able to attend a Yankees game and celebrate with a special ceremony before the game. Thank you to Con Edison for honoring one of our participants, and congratulations to Mouhamed for this amazing achievement!



### **BronxWorks Older Adult Center Hosts Town Hall**

The Morris Older Adult Center recently hosted a Town Hall regarding a walking group that has been formed among participants. Seniors and anyone from the community were welcome to attend and voice their concerns about the safety and accessibility of walking in the neighborhood. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson was also in attendance to hear the feedback from community members and to offer her support in making better walking accessibility a reality.



was open to all high schoolers throughout the Bronx. Students in attendance had the opportunity to speak to admissions representatives, learn about BronxWorks Workforce and Financial Literacy programs, and obtain assistance with college applications and financial aid from CAFE staff.



### **BronxWorks Receives Award at the Latino Social Work Coalition Gala**

BronxWorks is honored to have received the Excellence in Community Mental Health Award at the Latino Social Work Coalition Gala! Maria Rivera, Vice President of Services for Older Adults, accepted the award (pictured above in blue) and was joined by BronxWorks colleagues at the event. Thank you to the Latino Social Work Coalition for this recognition and congratulations to our fellow honorees!



### **CPR Training at BronxWorks Older Adult Center**

Seniors from the Woodstock Terrace Older Adult Center recently participated in



### BronxWorks Staff Lunch

BronxWorks CEO Eileen Torres hosted the leaders of our homeless services and supportive housing programs for a special lunch. Together, they discussed the future of these programs and services offered. The lunch provided an opportunity to celebrate the compassionate and hardworking staff who keep some of our most critical programs running smoothly.

CPR Training led by FDNY and hosted by Assemblymember Chantel Jackson. The seniors learned what to do in certain emergency situations that may require CPR or AED defibrillators. FDNY instructors then assisted the seniors as they practiced the steps of CPR and using an AED machine. Many seniors expressed the value of knowing this information in an emergency situation. Thank you to Assemblymember Jackson and the FDNY for teaching our seniors these life-saving skills!

## WAYS TO SUPPORT

**Bronxworks**  
*Lifting Lives Building Futures*

OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER

**tcs**  
**NEW YORK CITY MARATHON**

**THE 2024 TCS NEW YORK CITY MARATHON**

**DONATE TO #TEAMBRONXWORKS NOW!**

**SUPPORT BRONX CHILDREN & YOUTH!**

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.](#)

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**More ways you can join BronxWorks and support our mission:**

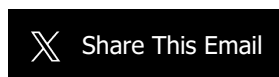
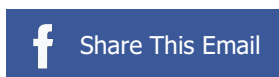
- Purchase a holiday gift off of our [wishlist](#) for a BronxWorks participant, including children and families.
- [Make a Donation to BronxWorks.](#)

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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