

## **Crain's New York Business**

### [Women of Influence 2025](#)

April 21, 2025

In a city that never slows down, these women are setting the pace. Crain's 2025 Women of Influence honorees are leaders in real estate, finance, health care, sports, the nonprofit world and beyond. The list celebrates influence in all its forms: vision, resilience and the ability to lift others while climbing. Whether they're leading billion-dollar enterprises, providing health care or fueling economic growth, these women are not only shaping the present, they're defining what's next for New York.

To celebrate with these inspiring women, join us at the Women of Influence event on September 4 at the Marriott Marquis. Secure your spot now.

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*Eileen Torres*  
*CEO, BronxWorks*

With Eileen Torres leading the way, BronxWorks aims high – and wide. Founded in 1972, the organization each year works to advance the well-being of 65,000 residents of the city's poorest borough, helping them improve their lives and find economic stability. It provides educational programs, childcare and youth development services for children, programs for the elderly, shelter, food and housing, workforce development, adult education and literacy programs, immigration services, legal services, health and medical services and more.

Under Torres, BronxWorks has not only expanded its geographic reach into "service deserts," but has made it easier for clients to get the help they need by establishing one point of entry for all and any services.

"There is no wrong door," said Torres. "We provide holistic services to families and individuals."

An attorney, Torres joined BronxWorks 30 years ago as administrative counsel, later becoming general counsel, COO and interim executive director. In 2023, the board named

her CEO of the organization, which has nearly 1,000 employees. On her watch, BronxWorks has added new programs and new sites, including an early childhood center and social services at the Bronx Point Development, as well as programs that address women's issues, such as maternal and infant health, nutrition and domestic violence.

"It was instilled in me that education is the key – study hard and never forget that you must bring along your family and community with you. That's been my guide."

One of her proudest accomplishments, said Torres, is having continued the organization's vital work during the pandemic, continuing its street outreach, expanding its food pantries, providing wifi access to children in shelters for remote schooling, all the while keeping the community safe.

In 2023, BronxWorks' accomplishments earned it a \$5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to help homeless families find safe housing and stability, the only grant the fund awarded to a New York City organization that year. Also in 2023, BronxWorks received \$5 million from NIH for a joint project with the Citizens Committee of New York City and the Montefiore Health System to address social determinants that affect residents' health

On Torres's to-do list is developing a strategic plan to guide the coming years and a capital campaign to renovate BronxWorks' 100-year-old flagship building on the Grand Concourse "so we can continue to service children, families, seniors for the next 100 years."

"We are needed and will do everything we can to continue," said Torres.

An advocate for poor and underserved communities everywhere, Torres also chairs the United Neighborhood Houses Executive Directors Council and serves on the boards of the Human Services Council, the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies and Lyft's New York Racial Justice Alliance.

# WOMEN *of* INFLUENCE

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BLACK BIRDS