



BronxWorks LIFTING LIVES GALA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025



BronxWorks sincerely thanks the following donors for their generous and continued support of our mission for the BronxWorks 2025 Lifting Lives Gala.

as of April 28, 2025

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BRONXWORKS 2025 LIFTING LIVES GALA

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Musical Entertainment provided by Tres Gatos

BRONXWORKS PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Lynda Lopez, Co-Host Anchor, Midday, 1010WINS AND

Pedro Rivera, Co-Host

Anchor/Reporter, ABC7 Eyewitness News New York

GREETINGS & SPECIAL REMARKS

Eileen Torres, Chief Executive Officer, BronxWorks

SPECIAL GUEST

April Hernandez Castillo, Actor, Motivational Speaker, Author

BRONXWORKS PARTICIPANT VIDEO

SPECIAL REMARKS

Roger Begelman, Chair, Board of Directors, BronxWorks

HONOREE PRESENTATIONS

Bruce Phillips

BronxWorks Board Member; Senior Managing Director, Tishman Speyer

Julio E. Reyes, Jr.

BronxWorks Board Member; Vice President, Regional Manager, Citizens Bank

Jessica Sherman

Senior Vice President of Affordable Housing, Douglaston Development

CLOSING REMARKS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



WELCOME LETTER

Dear Friends,

On behalf of BronxWorks leadership, Board of Directors, and staff, I am pleased to welcome you to the BronxWorks 2025 Lifting Lives Gala! It is a privilege to come together to celebrate BronxWorks and raise funds for critical services uplifting our neighbors.

We are incredibly grateful for your support of the BronxWorks 2025 Lifting Lives Gala, which raises unrestricted funds for vital services. Your generosity benefits programs such as our workforce development training supporting those starting a new career, our community food pantries feeding hundreds of families each month, our aquatics programs teaching life-saving skills to all ages, or our eviction prevention programs keeping our neighbors stably housed. With renewed support from our friends and stakeholders, BronxWorks will continue to offer a wide variety of services to our neighbors in need as we strive to lift lives and build futures in the Bronx.

We have the pleasure of honoring three dedicated and accomplished stakeholders of the Bronx community; Bruce Phillips, BronxWorks Board Member and Senior Managing Director, Tishman Speyer; Julio Reyes, Jr., BronxWorks Board Member and Vice President, Regional Manager, Citizens Bank; and Jessica Sherman, Senior Vice President of Affordable Housing, Douglaston Development. Our honorees have demonstrated their sincere commitment to BronxWorks, and their work helps us live our mission to feed, shelter, teach, and support our neighbors to build a stronger Bronx community.

For over fifty years, the organization has constantly evolved our services and infrastructure to address the needs of our community. Today, BronxWorks operates over 65 service locations and offers more than 100 programs. Our work is made possible with the support of stakeholders such as yourselves. Thank you for your commitment to BronxWorks and to the Bronx community.

BronxWorks is always seeking to foster new relationships and engage our stakeholders. To connect further with BronxWorks, please contact our Director of Advancement and Communications Gianna Dell'Olio at gdellolio@bronxworks.org.

Sincerely,



Eileen Torres

Eileen Torres

Chief Executive Officer



Roger Begelman

Roger Begelman

Board Chair

CO-HOST, LYNDA LOPEZ

Midday, 1010 WINS





Lynda is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, author and documentary producer, who has earned a place in the prestigious Who's Who Among Hispanic Americans. She began her radio career at WBAB and WLIR on Long Island. Lynda later worked for WKTU before being hired as the entertainment correspondent for WPIX. She also has worked for NBC New York and E! News. Lynda transitioned to news when she joined CBS New York as a news anchor. She eventually moved to My 9 and then Fox 5 in the same capacity. She has also worked at ABC News. Like WINS, Lynda is also the quintessential New Yorker: She's born and raised in the Bronx and now lives with her daughter in New York City. Lynda is a true friend to BronxWorks and can often be found volunteering at our community food pantry. We are excited to welcome Lynda to our Gala as our co-host!

CO-HOST, PEDRO RIVERA

Reporter, ABC7 Eyewitness News New York





Pedro Rivera is an Emmy and LA Press Club Award-winning journalist who anchors the weekend morning show for ABC7's Eyewitness News in New York City. Pedro also reports dayside for the station. Prior to returning to New York, Pedro anchored weeknights for KTLA 5 News at 4pm and 5pm in Los Angeles. He reported on the Robb Elementary School mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, and the Camp Fire in northern California, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in the state's history. Pedro co-hosted KTLA's WeHo Pride, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Rose Parade specials. Before KTLA, Pedro was the weekday morning anchor and reporter at KTXL in Sacramento.

Before heading to the West Coast, he was a reporter at KHBS/KHOG in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and was a news photographer and editor at WFSB in Hartford, Connecticut. Other national stories that Pedro covered: The aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, Blizzard Nemo, and the Boston Marathon bombing. Born in the Bronx at Jacobi Medical Center, Pedro's journey began in New York City. He earned his Bachelor's degree in communications from Pace University in Pleasantville. During his undergraduate time at Pace, he interned at WABC-TV, where he had the unique opportunity to interview sports legends Bob Gibson, Joe Torre, and Ron Guidry.

Pedro is not only committed to reporting and delivering the news but also staying active with his alma mater and enjoying his favorite sports teams including the Yankees, Eagles, Rangers, and Hornets. BronxWorks is excited to have Pedro return to our Gala this year as co-host!

HONOREE, BRUCE PHILLIPS

BronxWorks Board Member Senior Managing Director Tishman Speyer





TISHMAN SPEYER

Bruce Phillips is a Senior Managing Director for Tishman Speyer and is responsible for Tishman Speyer's design and construction activities in the United States, Europe, Brazil, and India. In New York, he has been responsible for projects including Yankee Stadium, Two Gotham Center, Lehman Brothers Data Center, Hearst Tower, Citigroup LIC2 and Chrysler Center redevelopment. He has also supervised the successful completion of projects in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, DC, Boston, and Hyderabad. Prior to joining Tishman Speyer in 1998, Bruce spent 15 years at American Broadcasting Companies, Inc., where he directed real estate, development, design and construction projects, including ABC's Broadcast Center and Headquarters. He graduated cum laude from Princeton University with a BA from the School of Architecture.

Bruce Phillips has been a part of the BronxWorks Board of Directors since the merger with the Girls Club of New York in the mid-1990s. He sits on the Facilities Committee and has provided valuable guidance on countless projects over the years.



HONOREE, JULIO E. REYES, JR.

BronxWorks Board Member Vice President, Regional Manager Citizens Bank







Julio Reyes was born in Spanish Harlem to Puerto Rican parents and raised in the Soundview/Castle Hill section of The Bronx. A father of four, he graduated from both Borough of Manhattan Community College and Lehman College with degrees in Business Administration and Finance. Julio also obtained his certification in Personal Financial Planning from CUNY & Northwestern. Julio has been in the financial industry for 20 years, all of which have been in The Greater New York Area, primarily focusing on retail branch leadership and community & business development in The Bronx and Westchester County areas.

As a Regional Manager and Community Ambassador for Citizens Bank, Julio leads all volunteerism, financial literacy, and community development efforts in The Bronx, Westchester, Southern CT markets while also sitting on 3 boards as a general member (BronxWorks, Bronx Economic Development Corp, & Hostos Community College). As a result, Julio has been recognized for his business development and volunteerism efforts by various chambers of commerce and industry leaders.

Julio was also recently selected as a Pillar lead for Citizens' Multicultural Business Resource Group, PRISM. Through this project, Julio will focus on building multi-cultural competence, challenging inequities, offering career development, and driving economic investments and literacy in our communities. Julio will serve as a catalyst in building awareness and offering insights into multicultural customers, colleagues, and communities to ensure equal opportunity, access to professional growth, and economic development.

Julio holds FINRA series SIE, 7 & 63 licenses, is also a licensed life insurance agent in the state of N.Y. and has been certified in consumer and commercial credit. As a hobby, Julio enjoys family time, making memories and traditions, which includes attending sporting events, hosting family celebrations, and going on vacation with his kids.

HONOREE, JESSICA SHERMAN

Senior Vice President of Affordable Housing, Douglaston Development





Jessica Sherman serves as Senior Vice President of Affordable Development at Douglaston Development. Since joining Douglaston in 2016, Ms. Sherman has been instrumental in developing and implementing the firm's affordable housing strategy and execution, overseeing numerous new construction and preservation deals, including the NYCHA PACT Sack Wern rehabilitation where BronxWorks serves as social service provider.

Prior to joining Douglaston Development, Ms. Sherman worked as a Leadership Fellow at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, focusing on regional infrastructure management and development. Ms. Sherman is a Board Member of the Public Housing Community Fund, Committee Member of SheBuilds, and serves on the Executive Board of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council.

Ms. Sherman holds her M.B.A. from Columbia Business School, an M.Sc. in Social Policy from the University of Oxford, and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.



SPECIAL GUEST, APRIL HERNANDEZ CASTILLO



Actor, Motivational Speaker, Author



April Hernandez Castillo's dream became a reality when she booked her first commercial as the "Yo girl" in the Visa Check Card spot starring Yao Ming and Yogi Berra. The commercial would air for the Super Bowl and become a sports classic. April then starred in television shows such as; Law & Order: SVU, The Following, Person of Interest, and Elementary. April garnered a recurring role on Showtime's Dexter which she was nominated for a SAG nomination for Best Ensemble cast. April is most noted for her powerful portrayal as "Eva Benitez" in the hit movie Freedom Writers starring Oscar winner Hilary Swank. She also has worked on NBC's popular shows- New Amsterdam, Prodigal Son, and Gossip Girl.

April has also graced a different stage as a public speaker. Her message of resilience, overcoming adversity, and the ability to move beyond trauma has taken April on a journey across the United States and internationally. She is reaching an array of audiences ranging from high schools, universities, conferences, and corporate events.

April has spoken on some of the most prestigious stages starting from Harvard University, Q Conference to her most significant stage to date, TEDx.

April released her second book, a memoir titled "Embracing Me", a heartfelt, transparent, and witty memoir that explores April's story of being a survivor of intimate partner violence with the understanding that; we all possess the power to rewrite our story. She takes the audience behind the scenes to some of the most intimate parts of her life. April uses her voice to ignite, empower, and educate her audiences with a dash of humor! She currently lives in NYC with her husband and two beautiful daughters. They own a production company called LionChaser Media, Inc.

THE LIFTING LIVES GALA PROVIDES CRITICAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDING TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION.





FEED

Community Food Pantries

BronxWorks offers over a dozen food pantries throughout the borough that support families struggling to afford groceries, despite many having one or multiple sources of income. BronxWorks pantries provide healthy food to hundreds of families bi-weekly or monthly.





SHELTER

Eviction Prevention

BronxWorks assists those facing eviction by providing emergency grants for rental arrears to keep them stably housed. Participants are also referred to other BronxWorks programs that can assist them in maintaining housing stability, including financial counseling and access to benefits programs.





TEACH

Aquatics

BronxWorks has one of the few indoor pools in the South Bronx, offering free water safety lessons to all ages throughout the year. BronxWorks participants in various programs also have access to the pool for swimming lessons and other recreational activities.





SUPPORT

Workforce Development

BronxWorks prepares those in search of a job with many resources to help them maintain employment and financial stability. Services include specialized training, educational opportunities, information and recruitment sessions, financial counseling, and more.

BronxWorks helps individuals and families improve their economic and social well-being. From toddlers to seniors, we **FEED**, **SHELTER**, **TEACH**, and **SUPPORT** our neighbors to build a stronger Bronx community.

Congratulations and thanks

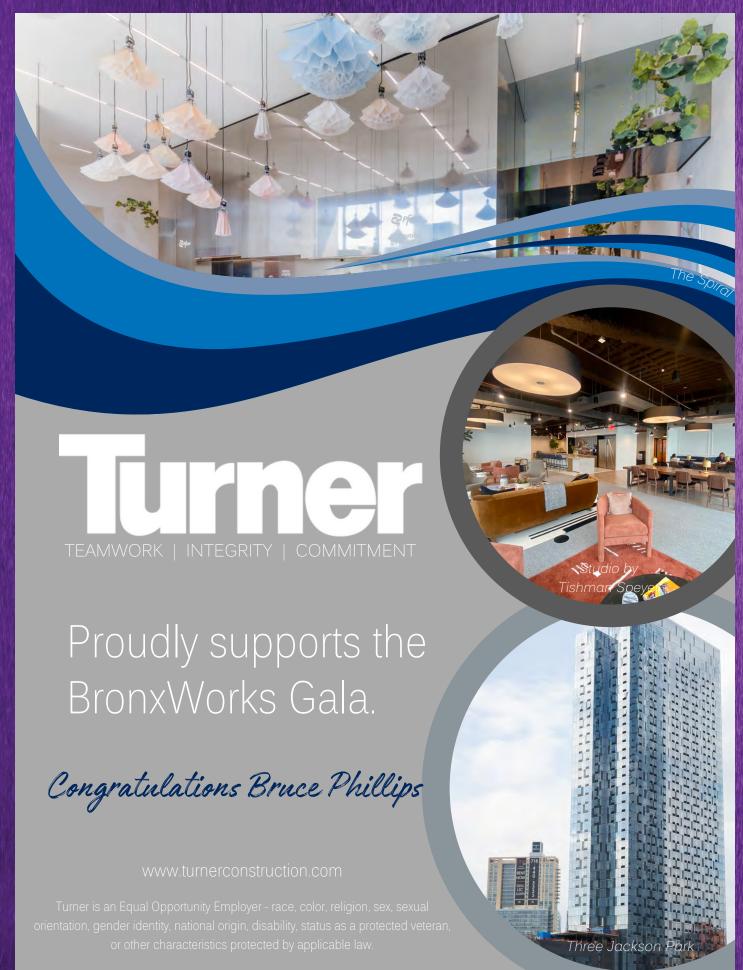
to my fellow honorees

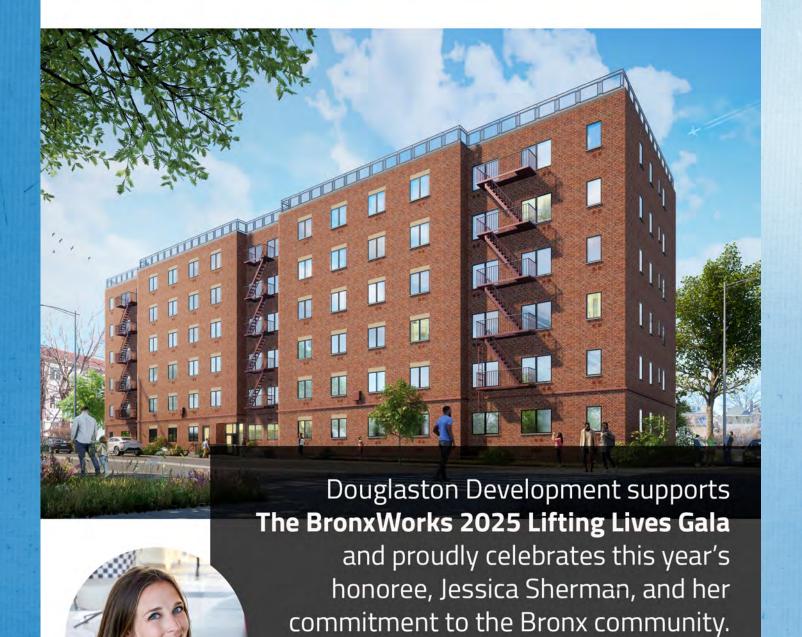
for their accomplishments and their generous

support of BronxWorks.

Our heartfelt thanks to the amazing Staff and Board for their many years of dedicated service to BronxWorks and the Bronx community.

Bruce Phillips & Joan Feeney





Congratulations fellow honorees: Bruce Phillips & Julio E. Reyes, Jr.



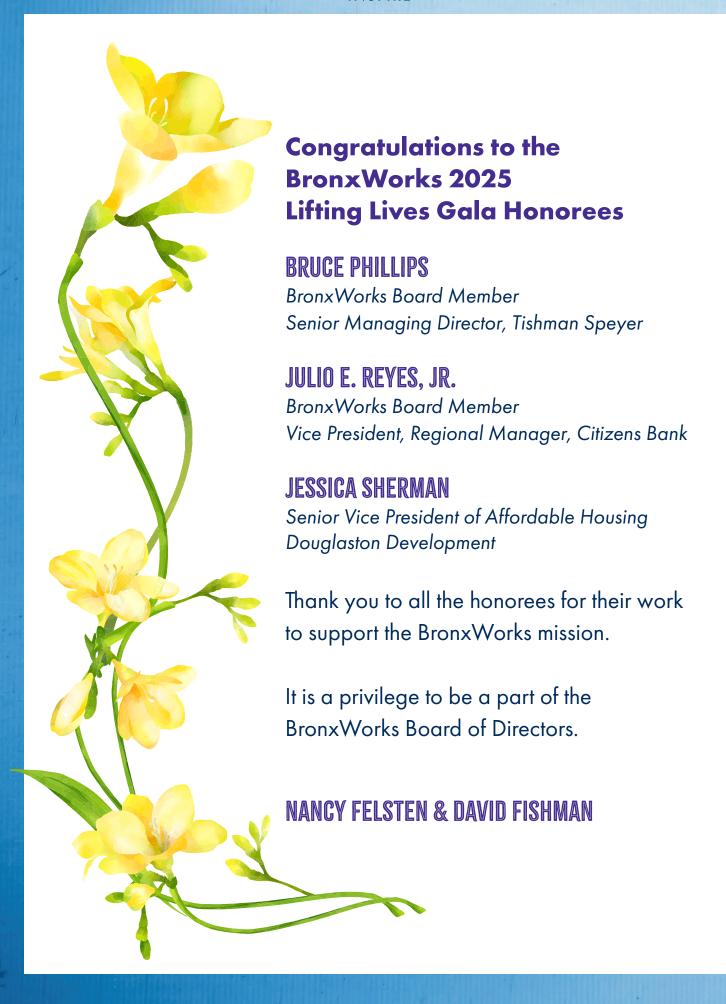


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In honor of **EILEEN TORRES**

BronxWorks Chief Executive Officer

for her incredible work and strong leadership.

Roger Begelman & Fern Goldstein

Proud to support BronxWorks in building stronger communities together.

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Linklaters is proud to support BronxWorks and joins in honoring **Bruce Phillips**, Tishman Speyer, **Julio E. Reyes, Jr.**, Citizens Bank, and **Jessica Sherman**, Douglaston Development.

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Thank you to the entire BronxWorks Staff
For your passion and dedication to the BronxWorks mission.
We admire your tireless efforts to build a stronger Bronx community.

With Gratitude,
ADELE URSONE & GEORGE MATTESON





Congratulations to the 2025 BronxWorks Lifting Lives Gala Honorees

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Achieving more together

At JPMorganChase, we're driving progress in the communities we call home by supporting the neighborhoods, businesses, programs and ideas that are moving our communities forward.

We proudly support BronxWorks and celebrate its ongoing commitment and positive impact on our Bronx community.



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Slate Property Group and SD Builders are Proud to Support BronxWorks at the Lifting Lives Gala

Congratulations to all the Honorees

Together, we are building an affordable New York

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We proudly support **BronxWorks** and congratulate their 2025 honorees.









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LIFTING LIVES GALA

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We're proud to support BronxWorks in empowering a community where all neighbors thrive

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We commend BronxWorks on its most important initiatives for the community.

The Lifting Lives Gala is a clear tribute to its success.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS

Dr. Fredrick Gilbert, Chairman Cristina Toosie, Vice Chairman/Secretary Rita DiMartino, Assistant Secretary Milagros Baez O'Toole, Assistant Secretary John R. Colón, Assistant Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

William Aguado Sobeida Cruz Dr. Lillian Hernandez Steven J. Landgraber, CPA Barbara Lowe, RN, MPH Haydee Morales

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Miguel A. Fuentes, Jr.

Congratulations to the BronxWorks 2025 Lifting Lives Gala Honorees

Bruce Phillips
Julio E. Reyes, Jr.
Jessica Sherman

for their dedication to the Bronx community.

It is a pleasure to serve on the BronxWorks Board of Directors and support the organization's mission.

Christian & Ting Lee

MGM RESORTS IS ALL IN ON NEW YORK! THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!



Future design renderings for MGM Empire City

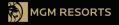
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We are honored to work alongside and support vital organizations such as BronxWorks and are grateful for their dedication and commitment for the work that they do.

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Caring for the community is a longstanding commitment at SBH Health System. With deep roots in the Bronx, we are dedicated to keeping our residents healthy by addressing health concerns and working towards a healthier future for everyone we serve.







Congratulations to the BronxWorks 2025 Lifting Lives Gala Honorees

BRUCE PHILLIPS

BronxWorks Board Member Senior Managing Director, Tishman Speyer

JULIO E. REYES, JR.

BronxWorks Board Member
Vice President, Regional Manager, Citizens Bank

JESSICA SHERMAN

Senior Vice President of Affordable Housing
Douglaston Development

We are grateful for our longstanding partnership with BronxWorks and look forward to continuing to work together to support our Bronx neighbors.

ELLEN ROSE ASSOCIATES, LLC & THE BLAUNER FAMILY







CONGRATULATIONS

Jessica Sherman on all your Outstanding Achievements



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Jessica—our hero in heels

(or construction boots). You build communities at Douglaston Development by day, and by night, you navigate homework problems, bedtime negotiations, and everything in between always with heart, humor, and unstoppable grace.

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With all our love, **Evan, Orly & Eli**









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BronxNet congratulates the 2025 BronxWorks Lifting Lives Gala Honorees Bruce Phillips - Julio E. Reyes Jr. - Jessica Sherman

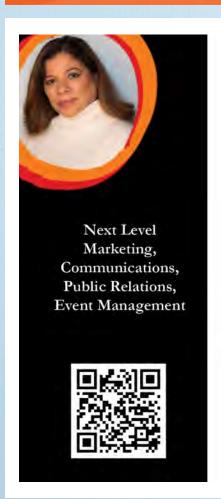


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Congratulations

to my wonderful friends at BronxWorks and to all the honorees at this year's Lifting Lives Gala!







THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS FOR SHARING THEIR INSPIRING STORIES!









Camieka

"I fight for my life to be here for son. I know I have something to look forward to in life. I just don't don't know what I would do without Miss Sheila, my caseworker. None of this would have happened if it wasn't because of BronxWorks."

Luis

"There's organizations like
BronxWorks that advocate
for homeless people.
Organizations like this
definitely give people an
opportunity to step into the
world again and just continue
on living life."

Nereida

"We need more older adult centers like this. Here, especially, you're going to find a second family, because I found one. The treatment, the camaraderie? Everything is good. I love it."

GIVE GENEROUSLY

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Citizens is pleased to support BronxWorks. Thank you for all that you do for the Bronx community.

ADDENDUM



We are proud to provide communications services to our friends at BronxWorks.



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