



## FEATURED STORY

### Kitchen Services Across the Agency

In celebration of the upcoming Pride in Food Service Week (February 2 - February 6), BronxWorks is thrilled to shine a light on the incredible impact of our kitchen services across programming. A major pillar of the BronxWorks mission is to FEED our neighbors to build a stronger Bronx community, and our kitchen operations are a main contributor to this work. BronxWorks operates multiple kitchens which prepare and deliver meals for thousands of community members every day. Our dedicated kitchen staff work diligently to ensure all food service needs are met every single day.

All of our kitchens follow meal plans created in-house by the food service coordinators and a registered dietitian. Together, they ensure that all meals meet the various nutritional requirements of each population served and are culturally appropriate and tasty for our participants.

#### **Kitchen Operations At Our Flagship Community Center**

The BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center (CMCC) is home to dozens of programs and welcomes hundreds of people every day. The CMCC kitchen produces

over 1,000 meals daily, supporting programs such as our early childhood learning centers, after-school programs, family shelters, and more. Meals are distributed throughout the building and to over a dozen sites each day. CMCC also assists the other BronxWorks kitchen operations as needed with meals for older adult centers and homeless services locations. For various celebrations at CMCC, the kitchen also provides catering based on the needs of the event.



Daisy Pinero (left photo), Maribel Abreu (right photo), and other staff prepare meals in the CMCC kitchen.

Daisy and Maribel have led kitchen operations at CMCC for over 20 years.

## Kitchen Operations in our Adult Homeless Services Department

BronxWorks is a leader in providing services for individuals experiencing homelessness in the Bronx. Through the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS), we operate shelters, safe havens, and a drop-in center that provide daily meals, among many other services, to those in need.

Two kitchens provide almost 1,000 meals a day to five locations. Unique from most other BronxWorks programs, our homeless services operate 365 days a year, and so do their kitchens. For many of those served by these programs, BronxWorks is their primary source for healthy, hot meals every day. Therefore, the staff often have conversations with the clients to hear their feedback, which they try to implement in collaboration with DHS.

***"People eat with their eyes first, so I always make sure what we're serving to the clients looks good and tastes good. I cook with love!"***

*- Dio Espinal, Kitchen Supervisor at a BronxWorks Safe Haven*



Older adults often enjoy special meals to celebrate holidays throughout the year.

## Kitchen Services for Older Adult Centers

In partnership with the NYC Department For The Aging (DFTA), BronxWorks operates nine older adult centers in the Bronx, where seniors can find recreation, community, daily meals, and other supports. Each center provides breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday.

Meals for all nine centers are prepared at the Morris Older Adult Center kitchen. This kitchen typically operates with a dozen staff and produces at least 500 meals every day, which are then distributed among the nine centers. Through DFTA, older adults also have the opportunity to volunteer in the kitchen, as part of a program to earn workplace skills to help them find jobs.



Staff ensure that hundreds of Bronx older adults have tasty, hot meals daily.

Participation in program planning is built into the framework of BronxWorks Older Adult Centers, so seniors are regularly invited to share their feedback on the menu with staff.

***"Every day is a different meal. Everyone is always satisfied."***

- Luz, Older Adult Center Participant



## STAFF PROFILES



### Crystal Anceume and Daisy Pinero

BronxWorks Food Service Coordinators



#### Crystal Anceume

*Food Service Coordinator, Older Adult Centers*

Crystal Anceume has dedicated her entire career to the food service industry. Crystal was raised in the Bronx, and she knew from a young age that she had cooking skills and wanted to pursue a culinary career. She is now the Food Service Coordinator for Older Adult Centers at BronxWorks and is in charge of preparing and distributing hundreds of meals every day to nine older adult centers.

***"I'm proud when people see the seniors' meals and they see the kitchen, because they see me. I take a lot of pride in it because it's a reflection of me."***

[Learn More About Crystal](#)



#### Daisy Pinero

*Food Service Coordinator, CMCC Kitchen*

Daisy Pinero has been a formidable leader in the CMCC kitchen for over two decades. Daisy is a New York native who was born in Spanish Harlem and raised in the Bronx. She used to walk by the CMCC building every day on her way to elementary and middle school. Now, she is in charge of producing almost 1,000 meals every day in that building.

*"I enjoy what I do, helping the community I grew up in. People say it's a lot of work, but I'm used to it. I take pride in my work."*

[Learn More About Daisy](#)



## DID YOU KNOW

### BronxWorks Offers Free Seasonal Tax Services



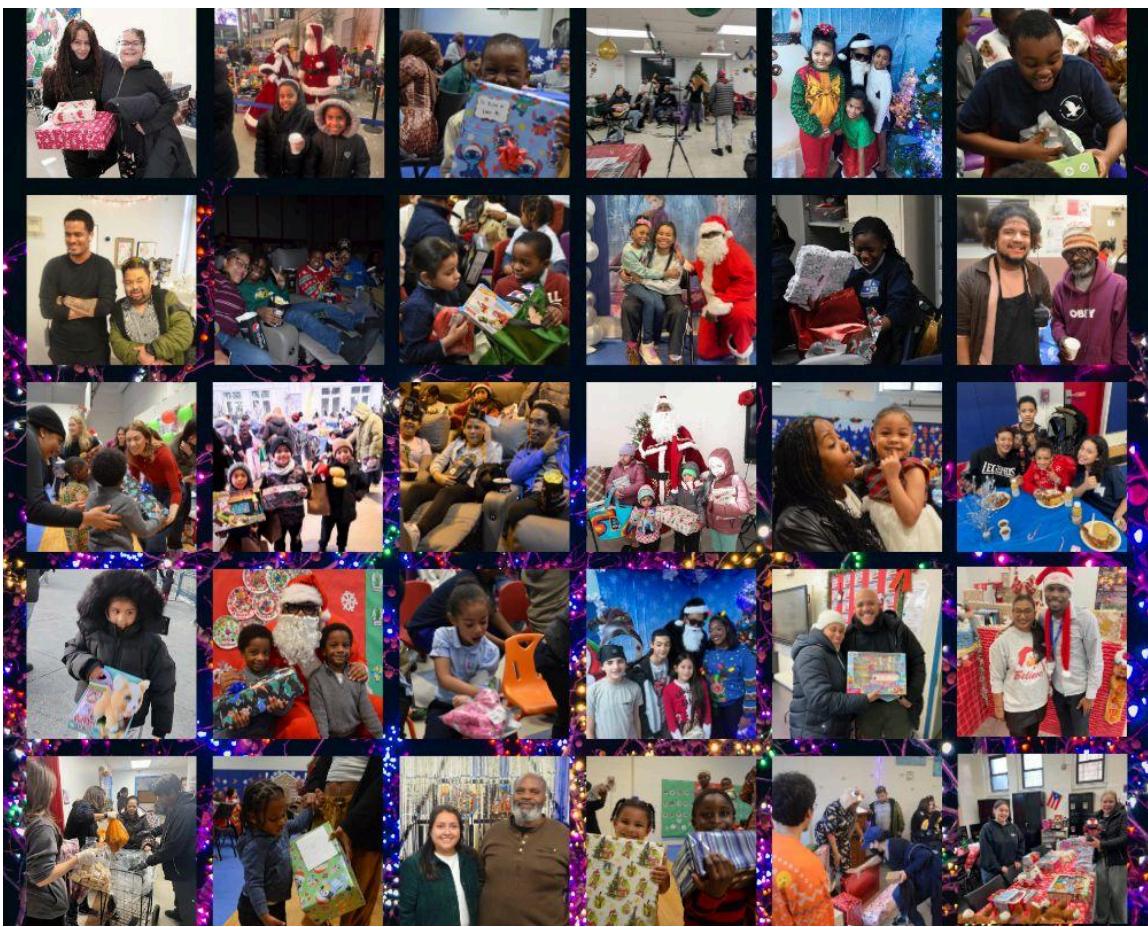
**Did You Know?** BronxWorks offers free seasonal tax services to individuals and families who qualify, in partnership with the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP)'s NYC Free Tax Prep program. BronxWorks has provided these services during tax season since 2007 and supports thousands of New Yorkers each year. Dozens of staff and volunteers, all of whom are IRS-certified VITA/TCE tax preparers, assist our neighbors with understanding and filing their tax returns.

*In 2025, BronxWorks assisted over 8,300 community members file their taxes, access eligible credits, and maximize their returns.*

[Click here](#) to learn more about our tax services.



## PHOTO ESSAY



## Another Big Thank You To Our Holiday Supporters!

Once again, BronxWorks extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported BronxWorks this past holiday season! These donations are greatly appreciated and bring some extra joy to our families during this special time of year. Special thank you to Capitolis, Fordham Plaza, Linklaters, Nixon Peabody, Paramount, Royal Bank of Canada, WGIRLS, and the New York Yankees for their incredible contributions to BronxWorks!



## Manhattan Beer Donates Workwear to BronxWorks Workforce Development Department

Thank you to Manhattan Beer for donating over 300 pounds of clothing to the Workwear Drive supporting the BronxWorks Workforce Development Department! Our workforce programs assist people with many aspects of the job search and work to overcome participants' barriers to stable employment. An important part of preparation for the workplace includes having the right professional clothes to represent yourself well. BronxWorks is thrilled to be able to support our participants in need with this wonderful workwear and outerwear! Thank you Manhattan Beer!



## Older Adult Center Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The BronxWorks Heights Older Adult Center celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day with an educational and crafting event. Staff led a presentation about MLK's legacy and impact, and participants voiced their own insights. Those who were alive during the Civil Rights Movement shared their memories from the time. They also colored pictures of MLK and his impactful messages.



## Eye Clinic at BronxWorks Community Program

BronxWorks was thrilled to once again host a free eye clinic for our community! Participants in the Community Services Program at Twin Parks West apartment complex had the opportunity to have their eyesight checked and, if needed, pick out frames for prescription lenses. The participants will then be sent their new glasses free of charge in a couple weeks. This clinic was offered in partnership with Hellen Keller Intl., a nonprofit organization helping people in poverty with vision care, nutrition, and fighting disease. We are so proud to provide access to this lifechanging healthcare to our community. Thank you so much to Hellen Keller Intl. for supporting the Bronx community and furthering the BronxWorks mission.

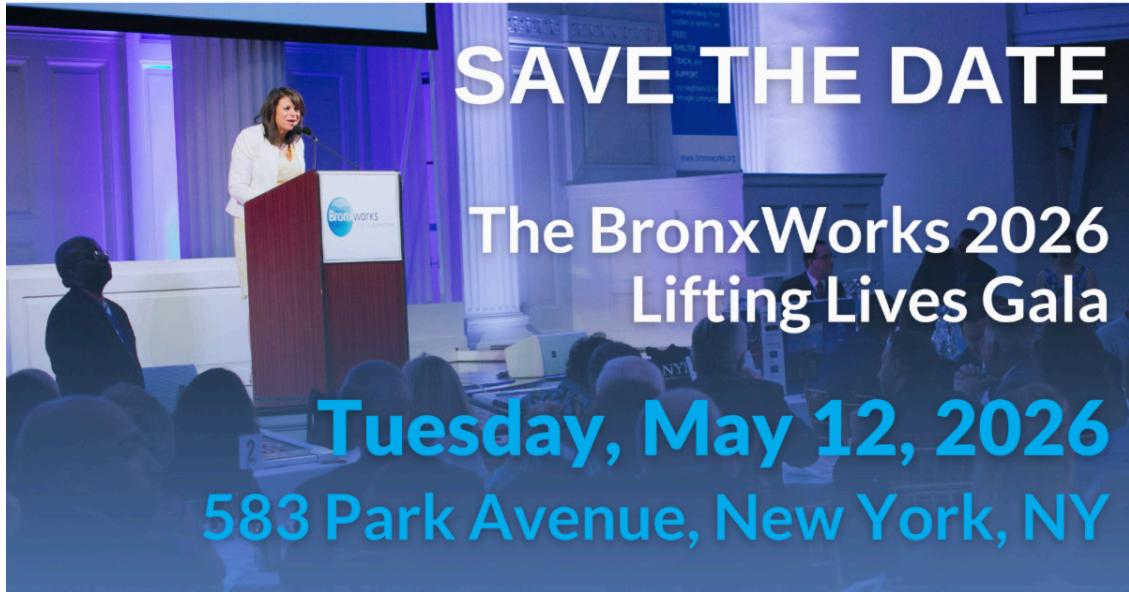


## BronxWorks Senior Procurement Manager on Panel at 2026 NYC Contracting Summit

Douglas Harrison, Senior Procurement Manager at BronxWorks, represented the organization as a speaker on the Small Business Growth in NYC Human Service Sector Panel at the 2026 NYC Contracting Summit. The Contracting Summit was hosted by NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) at Barclay Center and provided various opportunities for small businesses to connect with potential partners. Doug's panel focused on how procurement works with small businesses and how they can best grow their business in partnership with human service providers. Thank you, Doug, for representing BronxWorks and spreading more awareness about the organization throughout the city!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**SAVE THE DATE** for the BronxWorks 2026 Lifting Lives Gala on Tuesday, May 12 at 583 Park Avenue, New York, New York. We hope you will join us in celebrating our continued work to lift lives in the Bronx and honoring our incredible partners who empower us to grow our impact.

### STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

If you have any questions about the BronxWorks 2026 Gala, please contact [info@bronxworks.org](mailto:info@bronxworks.org).



## WAYS TO SUPPORT

Here are some ways you can join BronxWorks and support our mission this year:

- [Make a Monetary Gift.](#)
- Donate essential goods directly to Bronx residents in need through our [Emergency Needs Wishlist.](#)
- For more ways to support, please visit [www.bronxworks.org/support-us](http://www.bronxworks.org/support-us).

You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#), and [X](#) for exciting updates.

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



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