



The
BronxWorks
May 2026
Newsletter



FEATURED STORY

Celebrating The BronxWorks 2026 Lifting Lives Gala

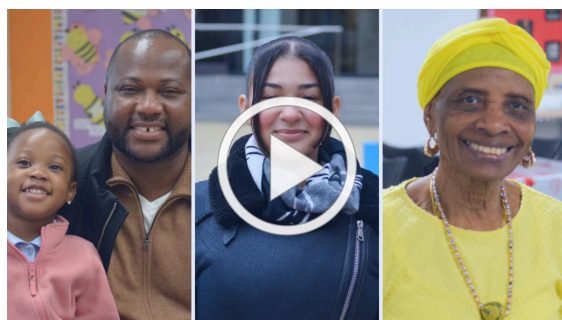
Thank you to everyone who supported and joined us at the BronxWorks 2026 Lifting Lives Gala! The event was a great success, with hundreds of thousands of dollars raised to support vital programs uplifting New Yorkers in need. The unrestricted funding raised at the gala allows the organization to be adaptable and responsive to evolving needs in the community. Many unprecedented challenges have developed in our community in recent years, and your support has enabled us to respond quickly with appropriate resources. We



are grateful for your continued partnership, engagement, and generosity as we strive to lift lives and build futures in the Bronx.



The 2026 Lifting Lives Gala took place on May 12 at 583 Park Avenue in Manhattan. The evening began with a cocktail reception with musical entertainment provided by Tres Gatos, followed by a dinner and program. During the night, attendees had the opportunity to hear the impacts of the organization first-hand from BronxWorks leadership, partners, and participants. We are especially grateful to our participants who shared their inspirational stories and how BronxWorks has been part of their lives.



[Click here](#) to watch the **BronxWorks 2026 Gala Video, featuring three BronxWorks participant stories.**

We concluded the night with award presentations for our three honorees. We were thrilled to honor these inspirational women, who have been instrumental partners in our efforts to grow our impact and maintain high-quality services for our neighbors.



Honoree Susan Camerata, Principal and CFO of Wavecrest Management, presented her award by Julie Spitzer, BronxWorks Vice President of Eviction Prevention and Access to Benefits



Honoree Barrett Feldman, BronxWorks Board Member and Principal of PSF Projects Architecture, presented her award by John Weed, BronxWorks Senior Vice President



Honoree Michelle E. Phillips, Principal, White Plains at Jackson Lewis P.C., presented her award by Erica Coleman, BronxWorks Chief Legal and Operations Officer



(L-R): Lynda Lopez, Midday Anchor at 1010 WINS; John Weed, BronxWorks Senior Vice President; and Audrey Puente, Meteorologist and Feature Reporter at FOX 5 New York.

The 2026 Lifting Lives Gala was hosted by Audrey Puente, Meteorologist and Feature Reporter at FOX 5 New York. We were also joined by Special Guest Lynda Lopez, Midday Anchor at 1010 WINS, and Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, who each shared their experiences with the organization and their hopes for the future of the borough. We also welcomed Dr. Helen Arteaga, Deputy Mayor of Health & Human Services, at the event.



Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson speaking at the BronxWorks 2026 Lifting Lives Gala.



(L-R): Roger Begelman, BronxWorks Board Chair; Dr. Helen Arteaga, Deputy Mayor of Health & Human Services; Eileen Torres, BronxWorks CEO; Sasha Cristian, BronxWorks Participant and Pace University Graduate Student; Hilcia Cristian, Mother of Sasha Cristian.

Thank you so much to all who supported the 2026 Lifting Lives Gala. We are so grateful for your generosity and partnership. Special thank you to our Advocate Sponsors, Wavecrest Management and JPMorgan Chase.

BronxWorks sincerely thanks the following donors for their generous and continued support of our mission for the BronxWorks 2026 Lifting Lives Gala.

as of May 21, 2026

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Support our mission at <https://bronxworks.org/donate>



*Thanks to our major donors who supported the
BronxWorks 2026 Lifting Lives Gala and the Call To Action
as of May 21, 2026*

Annaly Capital Management	Ariel Deckelbaum	Joan Rosenthal & Frederick Schiff
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...and thank you to our Silent Auction donors and winners!

Donors:

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Winners:

Jessica Barria
Elle Carr
Leo Fabio
David Fishman
Benjamin Kornfiend
Veronica Nkwodimmah
Stephen Powers
Jessica Sherman
Simon Stanaway
Justin Stein

Lastly, we are so grateful to everyone who made this event possible. Thank you to 583 Park Avenue for the venue and catering services, to Gala Productions for your technical support, to Tres Gatos for your musical entertainment, and to Ben Asen and Rohanna Mertens for your wonderful photography. Thank you to everyone who provided or facilitated donations to the Silent Auction. Thank you to the BronxWorks Board of Directors for your guidance and dedication, and last but not least, thank you to the incredible BronxWorks staff who work everyday to uplift the Bronx community.

FULL PHOTO ALBUM FROM THE BRONXWORKS 2026 LIFTING LIVES GALA

DIGITAL VERSION OF THE BRONXWORKS GALA JOURNAL

There are many more ways to get involved with BronxWorks throughout the year! To learn more about how you can engage with our work, please visit bronxworks.org/support-us or contact info@bronxworks.org.



STAFF APPRECIATION

**Hundreds of BronxWorks Staff Attend
#JustPay Rally at City Hall**



BronxWorks is grateful to the 200+ staff who joined thousands of other nonprofit human services workers to rally at City Hall for Wage Equity Legislation! NYC Council Member Althea Stevens introduced a bill that would help close the pay gap and advance #JustPay for our staff members. BronxWorks staff and other supporters of the #JustPay campaign united at City Hall this month in support of the proposed bill.

The #JustPay campaign advocates for increased government funding to raise the wages of City and State-contracted human services workers. Led by the Human Services Council, BronxWorks and other organizations across the state have come together and successfully advocated for multiple wage increases over the past few years.

Rallies like this and other actions taken to advocate for #JustPay rely on the participation and collaboration of human services workers. Thank you to our staff members who participated in this month's rally or have engaged with the #JustPay movement in other ways. Your engagement has made a difference!

Special shoutout to Katherine Pichardo, Program Specialist at the BronxWorks Morris Older Adult Center and Bronx native, who spoke at the rally about the importance of this bill: **"We deserve wages that allow us to support our families, care for our children, pay our bills, and live with dignity."**

Learn more about the #JustPay campaign at www.justpayny.org.



DID YOU KNOW



BronxWorks Hosts Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk Every Fall to Support Programs Fighting Food Insecurity



MONSTER MASH HUNGER DASH

BronxWorks 2026 5K Run/Walk



Did You Know? The annual BronxWorks 5K Fun/Run Monster Mash Hunger Dash will return this October! The Monster Mash Hunger Dash raises funds to support BronxWorks programs fighting food insecurity in the Bronx. Many people in our community struggle to access healthy and affordable food for their families. BronxWorks provides many services to uplift those facing food insecurity, including bi-weekly and monthly pantries at over ten locations, farm stands providing low-cost and fresh produce in partnership with local farmers, site kitchens that produce thousands of meals everyday, and more.

In 2025:

BronxWorks Kitchens served over **533,900 meals to participants across dozens of programs.**

BronxWorks pantries provided an estimated **466,600 meals to individuals and families.**

*That's over **1 MILLION** meals provided to Bronxites of all ages experiencing food insecurity in one year.*

You can help us grow our impact in 2026 by supporting the BronxWorks 5K Monster Mash Hunger Dash! Stay tuned for more information about the 5K by following **@BronxWorks** on social media!



PHOTO ESSAY



BronxWorks Hosts Prom and Graduation Clothing Giveaway

The BronxWorks Children & Youth Department once again held the annual Prom and Graduation Clothing Giveaway this month! BronxWorks students with upcoming milestone events had the opportunity to browse a variety of formalwear and take home an outfit of their choosing! Attendees also received gift bags with self-care products and other items to assist with getting ready for these momentous occasions.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the BronxWorks Prom and Graduation Clothing Drive this year!



JobsNYC Hiring Hall Hosted at BronxWorks Betances Cornerstone Community Center

BronxWorks Workforce Development department hosted a hiring hall in partnership with JobsNYC at the BronxWorks Betances Cornerstone Community Center. Many employers were present to provide information about open positions, speak with

candidates, and in some cases conduct on-site interviews. Our Workforce Development department also tabled at the event to connect attendees to our workforce trainings and other services.



May Celebrations at BronxWorks Heights Older Adult Center

The BronxWorks Heights Older Adult Center celebrated Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day this month! On Cinco de Mayo, the older adults enjoyed sharing some Mexican cuisine following a cooking demonstration. The seniors were also thrilled to welcome retired BronxWorks VP of Older Adult Services Maria Rivera. For Mother's Day, the center celebrated mothers with a fashion show, gift bags, and self-care activities.

The Heights Older Adult Center reopened this spring and serves over 150 older adults in the Morris Heights community with daily recreation, meals, case management, special celebrations and trips, and more.



Assemblymember Tapia Presents \$100,000 Check to BronxWorks Morris Older Adult Center

New York State Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia visited the BronxWorks Morris Older Adult Center to present a check for \$100,000! This funding will



Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Visits BronxWorks E. Roberts Moore Older Adult Center

The BronxWorks E. Roberts Moore Older Adult Center was thrilled to welcome a visit from Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez this month! The

provide a new refrigerated van and a new intercom system for the center. We are so grateful to Assemblymember Tapia for her continued support and partnership with BronxWorks.

congresswoman spent time speaking with the older adults and staff. Thank you to our elected officials who remain supportive and engaged in our work to uplift their communities and constituents.



ESOL Heritage Day

BronxWorks English for Speakers of Other Languages classes celebrated the end of the school year with their fourth annual Heritage Day celebration. Students shared food, music, and presentations about their cultures with one another and celebrated the diversity of our community.



BronxWorks Annual Health Fair for Staff Returns

BronxWorks once again hosted the annual Health Fair at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, open to all staff across the organization. The Health Fair offered a variety of activities, resources, and giveaways to support the staff's overall health and wellbeing. Attendees had the opportunity to receive facials and massages, participate in art therapy and painting instruction, and more. Representatives from the organization's healthcare providers were also on-site to answer questions.

BronxWorks Participates in NYC's Annual AIDS Walk

BronxWorks staff, participants, and supporters joined the 41st Annual AIDS Walk New York, raising funds to support AIDS and HIV research. For decades, BronxWorks has proudly supported the AIDS Walk and has provided education and essential services to individuals living with HIV and AIDS.



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Support #TeamBronxWorks in the TCS 2026 NYC Marathon! BronxWorks is proud to once again be a charity partner for the TCS NYC Marathon this year. As a charity runner, members of #TeamBronxWorks each have a goal of raising \$3,000 for BronxWorks Children and Youth programs. [Support our runners here!](#)

Here are other 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.

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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