



NYC Nurse-Family Partnership E-News

November 2016

www.nyc.gov/health/nfp

2016 Bronx NFP Graduating “Class” Nears 200

With four teams totaling 31 nurses, NYC NFP’s Bronx site, run under contract with the Health Department by Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY), has more graduates each year than can fit in one room! With 187 graduates, this year was no exception. The site therefore holds two annual graduation ceremonies.

Every year, Bronx NFP’s decorating team of nurses, staff and volunteers try to outdo themselves, and this year they clearly succeeded. At both ceremonies, the site’s graduates, their families, volunteers and guests were treated to an auditorium and café that had been transformed into a festive party setting. A play area for the children added to the joyful atmosphere.



Estefana Norales and daughter Alease pose with their beloved nurse, Dorothy Valcin, at the Bronx NFP September graduation.

This year’s first graduation, on September 22, was particularly special because there were four sets of twins in the graduating “class.” Amazing! In addition to two clients who offered parting words of wisdom and inspiration to their fellow graduates from the podium, VNSNY Executive Vice President Marki Flannery and NYC NFP Director Roberta Holder-Mosley delivered congratulatory remarks. Also in attendance and very impressed by the event were some of the program’s private donors plus five volunteers from the newly formed nonprofit, Friends of NYC NFP (see [NYC NFP E-News, July 2016](#)).

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NYC NFP IN THE NEWS

Between August and November, NYC NFP sites held seven graduation ceremonies, graduating approximately 460 clients. Our Northern Queens site’s graduation was covered by DNAinfo.com. In addition to providing information on NYC NFP and the program’s impressive outcomes, [“Moms Get Help Before Baby’s Birth Through Toddlerhood Under Corona Program”](#) features an interview with new graduate Andreyana Jimenez, whose nurse supported her through a complicated pregnancy and helped her become a successful mother to a healthy, happy daughter.



Two of the four 2016 Bronx NFP graduates who gave birth to twins (left to right): Leslie Amaro with sons Leo and Gian Carlos Aldana, and Leyddy Ogando with sons Alexi and Alexander Pujols.

Said Bronx NFP Director Carol Odnoha, “A number of guests told me how impressed they were with all the nurses, who spoke so warmly and articulately about their clients. They said they could clearly see the bond and the importance of the relationship.”

The same hallmarks of festivity, warmth and inspiration were present at the October 18 graduation, which had an impressive turnout of 43 clients, as well as many dads in attendance. Seven graduates took the stage and spoke compellingly about their relationships with their nurses and experiences in the program.



Proud grad Shayla Summerville and son Kamden Bartow celebrate their graduation with their nurse, Deborah George-Harris, at Bronx NFP's October graduation.

Four Friends of NYC NFP volunteers were on-hand to help with everything from check-in to serving refreshments. Remarks were offered by NYC NFP Clinical Program Coordinator Anne Kochman and VNSNY Senior Vice President for Patient Care Services Susan Northover. This was Susan's first graduation and she later said how inspired she was by all of the clients' stories. Susan Orkin, NYC NFP Community Advisory Board (CAB) member and co-founder of the Friends, said what she most noticed was that while several graduates said they did not want their relationships with their nurses to end, they also said that what their nurses had imparted “had become part of them, making them better and stronger people.” Fellow Friends co-founder and CAB member Christine Wasserstein, who attended both graduations as a volunteer, added, “The mutual attachment of mom and nurse is always very moving to see.” (Read the first edition of the Friends' newsletter [here](#).)

NYC NFP IS EXPANDING. COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

As we reported last month, NYC NFP is expanding! With expansion, of course, comes hiring for the new positions created. Do you or does someone you know want to be part of the NYC NFP team? Please see below for listings of all open positions at the NYC NFP Central Office as well as at our sites around the city, and please share the links with anyone who might be interested. Thank you!

All **Central Office, Jamaica and Targeted Citywide Initiative (TCI)** positions can be found on the [NYC Jobs website](#). Just click on “Modify Advanced Search Criteria” and search using the titles and job IDs indicated below.

NYC NFP Central Office
Clinical Nurse Supervisor
 Job ID 267317
Communications Manager
 Job ID 268710
Data Manager
 Job ID 267025
Outreach Coordinator
 Job ID 268533
Principal Administrative Associate
 Job IDs 235008 and 268957
Social Worker
 Job ID 267002

Jamaica NFP
Nurse Home Visitor
 Job ID 268443

Targeted Citywide Initiative (TCI)
Nurse Supervisor
 Job ID 268021
Nurse Home Visitor
 Job ID 268457



Bronx NFP graduate Dennise Castillo and her dapper son, Ismael, was one of seven client speakers at the site's October graduation.

This year's Bronx NFP graduates—and their nurses—are an inspiration to us all. Congratulations, everyone!

Bronx NFP Clients Receive Free Glasses at Vision Screening

[As we reported last month](#), NYC NFP recently established a partnership with Helen Keller International's (HKI) ChildSight program to offer vision screening events for its first-time moms. At the two fall events, in Jamaica and the Bronx, clients were given eye exams and, if the optometrist found they required a prescription, the opportunity to choose from a variety of fashionable frames for their brand new eyeglasses—all at no cost to the client or NYC NFP. The Bronx NFP event took place October 3, when 11 clients came out either because they had not been able to get their eyes checked due to lack of Medicaid coverage or because they were concerned about changes in their eyesight since becoming pregnant and/or giving birth. Nurse Supervisor Mary Sufrin said many clients were clearly anxious about the exam, but noted that this anxiety turned to either surprise or reassurance upon finding out about their need—or not—for glasses. “There was excitement and laughter among the group when trying on and picking the frames,” she added. In all, Sufrin said she thought the screening was fun and rewarding for the clients, nine of whom received a needed new pair of glasses the following month.



As Bronx NFP client Omoya Bailey (left) takes her eye exam, Shanice Baier is taking the next step—trying on frames. Her smile clearly shows which is the more fun part of the process.

[Bronx NFP](#)
Nurse Home Visitor
[Email Bronx NFP Director Carol Odnoha.](#)

[Brooklyn NFP](#)
Nurse Home Visitor
Visit the [SCO Family of Services website](#) and search for “Nurse Home Visitor.”

[Northern Queens NFP](#)
Nurse Home Visitor
Visit the [Public Health Solutions website](#) and search for “Nurse Home Visitor.”

[Staten Island NFP](#)
Nurse Home Visitor
[Email Program Director Jo- Ellen Brannigan.](#)

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For news and updates on NYC NFP, please follow Dr. George Askew, the Division of Family and Child Health's Deputy Commissioner, at [@DrGeorgeLAskew](#). And keep up on all the NYC Health Department's news and program updates at [@nycHealthy](#).

NYC NFP is grateful to HKI ChildSight and the New York Community Trust, which is funding this new initiative that serves homeless and other vulnerable youth populations in New York City. (You can read more about ChildSight and this pilot initiative [here](#).)

NYC NFP Wishes You and Your Family a Happy, Safe Holiday Season

NYC NFP and the NYC Health Department recognize that this holiday season is an especially unique and challenging one for many New Yorkers, especially those in the communities served by our program. NYC NFP enrolls clients without regard to immigration status, and would like to assure all of our partners, clients and supporters that there will be no change in the level or quality of services we provide to our clients.

From the NYC NFP family to yours, we wish you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season, and hope that time spent with your loved ones provides you with joy, comfort and healing during these uncertain times.

To join our mailing list, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to nycnfp@health.nyc.gov.

FACEBOOK PAGE: OUR LITTLEST NEW YORKERS



Keep up with NYC NFP and all of the Division of Family and Child Health on the [“Our Littlest New Yorkers” Facebook page](#), where NYC parents and families are talking about the joys and challenges of raising young children. Visit it daily for tips, events, photos and more: www.facebook.com/LittlestNYers!

ABOUT US

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based nationwide nurse home visiting program committed to improving the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income first-time mothers and their children ([national NFP website](#)). The program is voluntary and there is no cost to the client. NYC NFP is the largest urban program in the country, having served approximately 14,000 clients since its inception in 2003 and currently serving approximately 1,700 clients across all five boroughs.



*The New York City Nurse-Family Partnership is administered by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which contracts with the following agencies to provide services: **Harlem Hospital Center, Public Health Solutions, Richmond Home Need Services, SCO Family of Services** and **Visiting Nurse Service of New York**. The program is funded by New York City and State as well as with federal Medicaid, MIECHV (Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program) and TANF dollars. In addition, since 2003 it has received generous support from dedicated individual donors and private foundations, including the **Altman Foundation, The Arthur Foundation, The Dunn Foundation, the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, the New York State Health Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation, The Pinkerton Foundation, Robin Hood, the Samberg Family Foundation, Schwartz Cousins Fund, The Edith Glick Shoolman Children's Foundation** and **Starr International Foundation**. All private grants for NYC NFP are managed by the Fund for Public Health in New York, a nonprofit organization that works with the NYC Health Department to develop innovative, valuable and lasting public-private partnerships that increase the agency's capacity and reach.*

NYC Nurse-Family Partnership | Call 311 | nycnfp@health.nyc.gov