



Journal

NYCHA HOLIDAY CONCERT



The NYCHA Youth Chorus at the Schomburg Center.

By Deborah Williams

The second annual Sounds of NYCHA Holiday Concert was an evening of sheer delight — with music, song, drama and dance it proved to be a holiday extravaganza. On December 9, 2003 co-workers, friends and family members gathered at the Schomburg Center's Langston Hughes Theater in Harlem and watched as the NYCHA Symphony Orchestra, Youth and Senior Choruses put on performances that liberated the spirit and brought the holidays to life.

It was a treat to the audience's ears to hear the spectacular voices of the Youth Chorus sing Christmas classics like "Carol of the Bells," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Home for the Holidays," and much more. Smiles broke out on the faces in the audience as the NYCHA Senior Chorus sang "Silent Night," "This Christmas," and "Give Love on Christmas Day."

The NYCHA Symphony Orchestra's former Executive Director, Janet Wolfe, gleamed with pride as she was presented with a plaque and bouquet of flowers for her outstanding achievements with the NYCHA Symphony Orchestra. It was a trip down memory lane for Ms. Wolfe as she listened to the orchestra play the "Festive Sounds of Hanukkah," and

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HARLEM CHRISTMAS CAROL Johnny Spencer and Sandy McCarney from NYCHA's Performing Arts Unit sang a duet.

Bronx River Community and Senior Center Dedicated



MAKING IT OFFICIAL Chair of the Community Center Advisory Committee Catherine Bruno (center) joins (to her right) Borough Administrator Elizabeth Davis, Assembly Member Ruben Diaz, Jr., NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello, NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence, Bronx Borough Community Operations Deputy Director Iliia Figueroa, City Council Member Pedro Espada, and NYCHA Department of Design Director David Burney, along with (to Ms. Bruno's left) Community Operations Bronx Borough Director Deidra Gilliard, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Community Operations ADGM Michelle Pinnock-Clerk, Bronx Borough Management Director Patricia Lawler, PSA #8 Commanding Officer Captain Brendan Bain, and Community Center Director Norma Saunders to cut the ribbon on the new center.

By Allan Leicht

Every inch of the 22,000-square-foot Bronx River Community Center has been made to shine in a complete rehabilitation that was celebrated by New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents, executives and honored guests with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 6, 2003.

Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence took the opportunity to announce that, "We are now 60% complete on a multi-year project to expand, revitalize or build NYCHA's community centers. Next year alone," said Mr. Spence, "there will be several openings like this one." NYCHA will invest a total of \$275 million in its citywide Community Center Project, of which \$3.3 million was allocated to Bronx River.

"We deserve this," said New York State Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr. "A facility like this one — where not one single corner was cut, where we are going to cut the ribbon for the very best — this helps to change the psyches of young people. This facility sends a message," he said, "that we believe in them and they should believe in themselves and be proud of the environment they live in."

Mr. Diaz concluded by prompting a ringing ovation for Bronx River Community Center Director Norma Saunders, who was on the dais with City Council Member Pedro Espada, NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, General Manager Douglas Apple, PSA #8 Commanding Officer NYPD Captain Brendan Bane, Bronx Community Operations Deputy Director Iliia Figueroa and Community Operations Administrator Elizabeth Davis.

Bronx River resident Lenny Brockington, a NYCHA Talent

Search Contest winner in the 1980s, sang the National Anthem and "Lift Every Voice," and Community Center teen participants Janelle Brunson and Shawn Williams performed a dance, providing a musical frame for the program hosted by Bronx Community Operations Director Deidra Gilliard.

NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. paid tribute to the Community Center Advisory Committee's Catherine Bruno, as, "the driving force behind the

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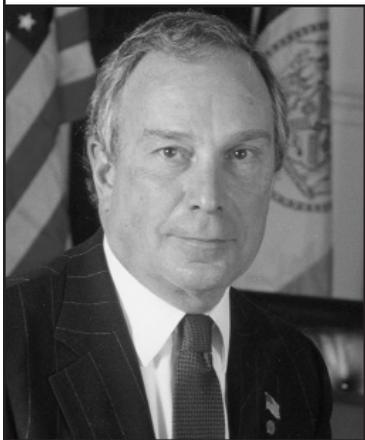
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Cutting The Ribbon On A Very NYCHA New Year!

Message From The Mayor

Starting The New Year With Safer Schools



At City Hall, we are very concerned about safety in New York City schools and we know that school safety is an important issue for NYCHA residents as well. Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and I have recently announced that 12 "Impact Schools" have been identified for the first phase of a new school safety plan designed to reduce school violence and disorder, and create safe learning environments in all City public schools.

The ten high schools and two middle schools were selected through a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of data from both the NYPD and the Department of Education (DOE). These schools will immediately receive additional school safety agents and the number of permanently assigned police officers will be doubled. The NYPD will also create a school safety task force made up of 150 uniformed police officers dedicated to Impact Schools to begin at the start of the semester. Suspension procedures have also been modified to expedite the removal of violent students. In addition, new school safety intervention teams made up of NYPD and DOE representatives have been appointed to evaluate and revise current school safety conditions and procedures at all Impact Schools.

The Impact Schools are as follows: Evander Childs, Adlai Stevenson and Christopher Columbus High Schools in the Bronx; South Shore, Canarsie, Thomas Jefferson, Sheepshead Bay, Franklin K. Lane High Schools in Brooklyn; Washington Irving High School in Manhattan; and Far Rockaway High School in Queens. Two Bronx middle schools, JHS-22 and IS-222, were also included.

The overwhelming majority of NYCHA students attend our public schools and I want every NYCHA resident to know that we are cracking down on the schools with the worst safety records. They will be getting more police officers and a top-to-bottom review of all safety and disciplinary procedures. Disruptive students will not be tolerated. We have a responsibility to provide an environment free from violence and fear so children can learn. We simply won't allow a few people to destroy the educational opportunities of others.

Schools with serious crime levels were identified by examining the total number of incidents, incidents involving assaults (felonies and misdemeanors), incidents involving weapons or dangerous instruments and total number of major crimes for both last year and the first few months of this school year. NYPD data helped identify schools with emerging problems in the current school year. Troubled schools were also identified through a review of data on safety-related transfers, superintendent suspensions, attendance and supervisory visits, along with input from regional directors, regional superintendents and senior administrators.

Beginning immediately any student possessing a weapon or causing serious bodily injury will be removed from school and placed in a Second Opportunity School location. These students will not be allowed to return to their school pending their suspension, hearing and transfer to a new academic setting.

DOE will also begin a policy under which students who have two principal's or superintendent's suspensions will, upon the receipt of another suspension, be removed from school and placed in another instructional site while awaiting their hearing. As part of the hearing, it will be requested that these students not be permitted to return to their school but rather transferred to a new setting to address their academic and behavioral issues.

In February, DOE will be opening additional sites for student suspensions. These include additional After-School Suspension Sites, four Off-Site Suspension Centers and four additional New Beginnings sites.

The schoolchildren of New York City deserve a safe learning environment and we will do everything in our power to give it to them.

Michael R. Bloomberg

SUMNER COMMUNITY CENTER RIBBON-CUTTING Summer "At Its Finest Shining Hour"



CUTTING THE RIBBON at Sumner are: (left to right) Community Operations ADGM Michelle Pinnock-Clerk, Brooklyn Borough Director Gloria Finkelman, Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Assembly Member Darryl C. Towns, Chairman Tino Hernandez, Brooklyn Borough Community Operations Director Carl Billington, Resident Association President Raymond Ballard, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., General Manager Douglas Apple, Community Operations DGM Hugh Spence, Operations DGM Robert Podmore, and Design Director David Burney.

By Eileen Elliott

After three-and-a-half years, the newly renovated and expanded Sumner Houses Community Center in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn opened with a joyful ribbon-cutting ceremony held on the early evening of November 20, 2003. The community room of the center was jam packed with residents, elected officials, and NYCHA staff who came to celebrate.

The \$1.4 million renovation of what is now an 8,500 square-foot space features computer, arts-and-crafts, game, sewing, and recreation rooms, an expanded dining area and new offices. The facility is now fully accessible to people with mobility impairments and other disabilities.

It also features, in the words of NYCHA's Department of Design Director David Burney, "the Housing Authority's most exciting elevator." The elevator is completely enclosed in glass and affords riders a view of the outdoors.

Of the many people who were commended for the roles they played, Sumner Houses Resident Association President and Council of Presidents (COP) Chair for West Brooklyn, Raymond Ballard, stood out as a driving force.

"I feel as though this is the phoenix risen from the ashes," Mr. Ballard told the room. He was quick to give credit to others saying, "No good leader is any better than his followers and I have some loyal followers."

Of those loyal followers, Mr. Ballard thanked Resident Association Vice-President Leroy Smith and Resident Association Corresponding Secretary Frank A. Jones. Mr. Ballard also thanked the residents, "who remained faithful for three-and-a-half years."

Brooklyn Borough Community Operations Director Carl Billington served as Master of Ceremonies, providing warm introductions to each of the speakers.

The first speaker, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, congratulated everyone involved in

the "totally renovated and rejuvenated Sumner Houses Community Center," on behalf of the NYCHA Board. Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Member JoAnna Aniello, who were also present.

Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence emphasized the role played by residents in the design and re-design of NYCHA community centers across the City.

"None of the community centers would look the way they do without substantial input from the residents," Mr. Spence said. He asked residents to take care of the facilities and to use them to the best of their abilities to ensure that they would serve "the next three to four generations."

Wearing colorful traditional African dress, the Senior Choir provided musical entertainment, and Sumner youth participant Daysha Williams performed a graceful "Praise Dance." The evening culminated with the ribbon-cutting at the Community Center's front entrance.

Bishop Bernard Williams of St. Stephen's Church said it best in his invocation when he called the evening a celebration of "Sumner Houses at its finest shining hour."

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**Message From The Chairman And
NYC Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
Commissioner Gretchen Dykstra**



File for the Earned Income Tax Credit

Was your household income less than \$35,000 last year? If so, yours could be one of the 31,000 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) families who qualify to get money back from the government on your income taxes through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). All you have to do is file for the EITC, including a copy of Schedule EIC with your 1040 tax form. NYCHA will be sending letters out to those families who may qualify.

The EITC returns federal and state tax dollars to working families and individuals either through tax credits, or as cash refunds. If you qualify and file, it could mean thousands of dollars in your pocket. In fact, the average EITC return is over \$2,000, with some families receiving as much as \$5,000. That's money that can help you catch up on your bills, pay educational expenses or even help you buy a home!

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is spearheading the New York City EITC Coalition made up of more than 80 government agencies, including the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), non-profit organizations, private businesses and others, to increase awareness of the EITC, and encourage eligible filers (that could be you) to utilize sites that will prepare taxes for free. NYCHA urges all residents who qualify to either use one of the Coalition's free sites or to ask your tax preparer about the EITC.

Call 311 — the City's 24-hour hotline, for instant information and the location of sites nearest you. The hotline is available seven days a week, with representatives speaking more than 170 languages.

Last year, the Coalition helped more than 12,000 New Yorkers file their taxes and claim the EITC refunds they deserve. More than two million pieces of informational material were distributed and ads blanketed buses, subways and newspapers with the tagline "IT'S YOUR MONEY, COME AND GET IT!"

Look for that slogan again this year as the number of free sites citywide have doubled. Free tax preparation centers are available in all five boroughs through April 15th — the income tax filing deadline. If you have your taxes done by a friend, or pay a service provider to do them for you, make sure to ask if you qualify for the EITC. Beware of rapid refund products that claim to get you back "instant money," and make sure your tax preparer gives you a copy of the "Taxpayer's Bill of Rights," which is required by law. In most cases, that "instant money" is a high interest loan. You can get your refund just as quickly by filing online at www.irs.gov, where free forms and information are available.

It's projected that NYCHA residents could receive over \$50 million in refunds by filing. Don't be left out. It's your money, come and get it! Call 311 or go online to www.nyc.gov for more information.

*Tino Hernandez
Gretchen Dykstra*

Bronx Centers

(Continued from page 1)

center." Mr. Andrews praised the NYCHA Capital Projects for another architectural transformation. He also congratulated Pathways for Youth Executive Director Neil Berger, sponsor of the Bronx River Senior Center, and Senior Center Director Ruth Eneluss.

"Just walking around this beautiful building," said Mr. Andrews, "you can just feel the great energy." This sentiment was reinforced by Bronx River Resident Association President Louis Andrus.

Bronx River resident Jimmy Graham provided some historical perspective at the reception following the formal program.

"I remember when Senator Robert Kennedy and Mayor John Lindsay came down here to dedicate the center after it was built in 1965," said Mr. Graham, who has lived at Bronx River Houses since 1962. "Then it got run down, you know, during the time when people were scared to come out. When Giuliani became the mayor it all turned around and they began working on this center, and now look at it. People love to come here now."

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clock on
weekends.**



Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

We Thank You — To all of the men and women who have left the sanctuary of their homes and put their lives on the line to protect the rest of us from acts of terrorism — we thank you! We thank young men like Petty Officer 3rd Class Clarence Malachi of Tompkins Houses in Brooklyn, who works as a gunner's mate on a naval vessel. Petty Officer Malachi has no easy task. As a gunner's mate he is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all of the weapon systems on the ship. In January 2003, Petty Officer Malachi began his tour on the USS Firebolt, protecting the coastal waters of the Middle East, by searching out and seizing foreign vessels. One can only imagine how dangerous that must be. But for Officer Malachi it's part of his daily routine. His most important contribution to recent operations was helping with the discovery and capture of 86 mines in the Northern Arabian Gulf. In a Navy Public Affairs Center "America's Eye on the Fleet" press release, Officer Malachi stated, "The people I have encountered are honest people trying to survive like everyone else." *Officer Malachi—there's no greater gift in the world than the one you have given to your country. You have chosen to stand strong in the face of adversity. Men and women like you embody the words "strength," "courage" and "commitment." It is a comfort to know that people like you are part of the armed forces and are committed to ending terrorism. Again, thank you!*



P.O. Clarence Malachi

'Tis the season for giving — For the past 10 years, residents of 131 St. Nicholas Avenue have kept the spirit of giving in their hearts. Each year the Resident Association Executive Board sponsors a fund-raising event to benefit the 20 seniors living among them. On October 18, 2003, under the leadership of Resident Association President Gloria Wright, a cake sale was held. All the residents of 131 St. Nicholas Avenue came out to show their support. The residents purchased \$345 worth of cookies, cake, banana pudding and pies. That money was used to purchase 20 thanksgiving baskets from the Share New York Foundation. Each basket contained a 19 to 20-lb. turkey, sweet potatoes, vegetables, dressing, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and a pie. On Thanksgiving Day the seniors were able to enjoy a scrumptious dinner that they otherwise might not have had without the generosity of the residents of 131 St. Nicholas Avenue. *Therefore, I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for caring. It's great to hear of a community coming together for a great cause. Congratulations to the Resident Association Executive Board!*

Perfect Attendance — Addrena Jones, mother of four, and resident of Linden Houses in Brooklyn, knows how important attendance is to education. "If they are not in school, they can't learn. That's why my children have never missed a day of school since pre-kindergarten," said Ms. Jones. Now, folks, this is an incredible accomplishment because her oldest child is 17-years-old! In 17 years, Chaquita Jones has never missed a day of school — wow! Ms. Jones not only makes sure her children are in school every day, she also plays an active role in their education serving as president of the Parent/Teachers Association at her youngest child's school — P.S. 306. The children have received numerous trophies and awards for perfect attendance and Chaquita is artistically talented. Chaquita's paintings were on exhibit at the school's Multi-Cultural Arts Festival, and one was even sold. Addrena Jones is also the Recording Secretary for the Tenant Association at Linden Houses. *Well, the Jones family needs more than just congratulations — they need a round of applause! Stand up and take a bow: Chaquita Jones, junior at Thomas Jefferson High School; Anthony Jones, sophomore at EBC High School; Lamont Jones, eighth-grader, at Intermediate School 166, and Addrena Jones, fifth-grader at P.S. 306.*

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The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follow a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on November 13, 20 and 27, and December 4 and 11, 2002. REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LISTING IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.

Prohibited as of November 13, 2002

- Maximo Torres Case 5784/02 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 921 Myrtle Avenue, Tompkins Houses, Brooklyn.
- Nkrumah Loving Case 5802/02 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 169 Cypress Avenue, MillBrook Houses, the Bronx.
- Nakeya Williams Case 5815/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 451 East 102nd Street, East River Houses, Manhattan.
- Alex Morales Case 5830/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 1465 Madison Avenue, Carver Houses, Manhattan.
- Willie Spencer Case 5836/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of Carleton Manor Houses, Arverne, New York.

Prohibited as of November 20, 2002

- Johnny Claudio Case 5944/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 20 West 115th Street, King Towers, Manhattan.
- Patrick White Case 5976/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 67-36 Parson Blvd., Pomonok Houses, Flushing, New York.
- Felicia Knight Case 4763/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 142 Brabant Street, Mariner's Harbor Houses, Staten Island.
- Angel Velez Case 5975/02 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 30 Avenue V, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of November 27, 2002

- Sheena M. Loadholt Case 6087/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 75 Bush Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.
- James White Case 6088/02 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 730 East 165th Street, Forest Houses, the Bronx.
- Edgar Figueroa Case 6073/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 360-362 East 137th Street, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of December 4, 2002

- Darkeisha Jaudon Case 6183/02 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1635 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
- Marcos Vel Case 6149/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 175-177 Alexander Avenue, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.
- Mark Barnhill Case 6208/02 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 1595 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
- Tyuan Parham Case 6208/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 107-18 159th Street, South Jamaica Houses, Jamaica, New York.
- Alexander Rivera Case 3977/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 903 East 6th Street, Riis Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of December 11, 2002

- Anthony Doucet Case 6331/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 180 South Street, Smith Houses, Manhattan.
- Felix Martinez Case 6356/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 1790 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

PSS GrandParent Family Apartments Groundbreaking In The Bronx



Breaking Ground for the new PSS GrandParent Family Apartments are (left to right): Dr. Rose Dobrof, Dr. Thelma Adair, Ms. Elgie Powell and Ms. Maria Zapata of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group, WSFSSH Board of Directors President Sheldon Fine, Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., PSS Executive Director David Taylor, Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr., DFTA Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, and NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple.

By Eileen Elliott

You may be surprised to learn that there are 83,000 seniors in the City who have the sole responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. If all goes according to schedule, one year from now 50 of these non-traditional families will have new homes in a facility that has been specially designed to meet their needs. Located in the Morrisania section of the Bronx, the single, six-story building will be called the Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) GrandParent Family Apartments, and not only will it be the first inter-generational public housing development in New York State built from the ground up, it will also be the first in the country. And the New York City Housing Authority is making the project possible by leasing the land to PSS for \$1 a year and providing the operating subsidy.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the \$12 million facility was held in a heated tent at the corner of 163rd Street and Prospect Avenue on a frosty December 4th morning. Staff from the two organizations that are driving the project — Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) and the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc. (WSFSSH) — joined representatives from a variety of public and private entities including the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), elected officials, and seniors from NYCHA's nearby Davidson Houses to celebrate.

"We have here in this tent a true representation of the coalition of people and energies that are required today to accomplish a task such as the construction of this building," said PSS Board President Louis L. Knowles in his greeting.

The project will benefit people like guest speaker Lillian Harrison, a grandparent participant in the PSS Kinship Program. "We've put our lives on hold to help the little people," said Ms. Harrison, "because they're our future."

DHCR Commissioner Judith Calogero expressed her enthusiasm and hopes for the project. "We couldn't be more proud to be your financial partner along with the many others," the Commissioner said. "We are going to use

this as a model throughout the state to do more of these types of projects. I hope we're going to be back here in 12 months to see this beautiful project completed."

In addition to NYCHA and DHCR, capital funding for the PSS GrandParent Family Apartments is also being provided by the New York Community Preservation Corporation, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the National Equity Fund, and J.P. Morgan Chase, among others.

The GrandParent Family Apartments will house a resource center equipped with computer and exercise rooms, and program areas. There will also be a landscaped green space in the rear of the building and an 8,000 square foot green roof.

The idea for the GrandParent Family Apartments said WSFSSH Director Laura R. Jervis, "sprang from witnessing the strains, the daily challenges, the economic pressures, and the anxiety of valiant older adults who were doing what they had to do."

Ms. Jervis thanked PSS Executive Director David S. Taylor, as did many others that morning, for listening to the grandparents, and credited him for having the vision to turn the PSS GrandParent Family Apartments into a reality.

In his brief remarks, Mr. Taylor called NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez and General Manager Douglas Apple, "The primary reasons this building is being built on

this piece of property. They immediately embraced the vision and have committed the resources of the Housing Authority," he said.

NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple emphasized the importance of facilities such as the GrandParent Family Apartments by pointing out that one-third of NYCHA's 419,000 residents are seniors, and seniors are the Housing Authority's fastest growing population. The General Manager also thanked many people, including Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, DHCR Commissioner Judith Calogero, Department for the Aging Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, Assembly Member Michael Benjamin, and NYCHA's (now former) Director of Housing Finance and Development Sharon Ebert, "for getting us to this place."

Commissioner Mendez-Santiago remarked that housing is the number one concern among New York City's seniors. The Commissioner also thanked NYCHA for providing \$29 million to keep 100 of DFTA's 330 senior centers open.

Other speakers included Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr., Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., Assembly Member Michael Benjamin, City Council Member Jose M. Serrano and WSFSSH Board of Directors President Sheldon J. Fine.

If you are interested in finding out more, call Cliff Flanders at 212-721-6032, ext. 248.

BMCC/NYCHA DIRECT CARE TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATION

By John Escribano

Fourteen NYCHA residents were awarded Direct Care Counselor Training Program Certificates by the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) in a graduation ceremony at the Harlem State Office Building on December 15, 2003. The program, a collaboration between NYCHA and the BMCC, prepares NYCHA residents for positions as Direct Care Workers trained in providing daily care for clients with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

NYCHA and BMCC first collaborated on a health care training program in 1996. When HUD funding became available in 2003, NYCHA and the BMCC again collaborated on a proposal and received a grant.

“Through contract programs like this one, hundreds of residents are finding employment in positions that offer not the minimum wage, but salaries anywhere between \$7 to \$13 an hour,” said NYCHA’s Department of Resident Employment Services (formerly the Department of Economic and Business Initiatives) Chief Ruth A. Boddie.

Ms. Boddie explained to the audience that the program will provide 20 weeks of training for a total of 180 participants in six cycles. It is available to all NYCHA residents who: 1) have a high school diploma or a GED; 2) have a driver’s license or permit; 3) are available to train Monday through Friday, from 9AM to 5PM; 4) are legal residents in good standing at NYCHA; and 5) are willing to accept employment after training.

“Working in the field with people with developmental disabilities is a very important and exciting job,” said BMCC Direct Care Worker Training Program Director Linda Roma. “These graduates represent the doctors,

nurses, physical therapists and dieticians of our future.”

“During the 1930’s in the Great Depression, the US government reached out to all of the community colleges in the nation and asked them to help dislocated workers find new jobs,” said BMCC’s Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development Dean Acté Maldonado. “We do not work by ourselves but we reach out to the community, in this case the New York City Housing Authority, the biggest City agency.”

If you are a NYCHA resident who is interested in learning more about the Direct Care Counselor Training Program, please call NYCHA’s Department of Resident Employment Services: (718) 250-5904.



Some of the NYCHA certificate recipients are shown above: (not in order) Bonita Anderson, Bonita Brown, Carmen Freeman, Sileah Grant, Angela Hernandez, Jacklyn Joye, Yvonne Lee, Deborah Lopez, Jacquelyn Medina, Salina Price, Zenaida Santiago, Kirk Sharpe, Kim Tucker and Valdora Wimberly.

Start Your Own Business

If you want to start your own business, please call NYCHA’s Business Development Division. We are particularly interested in residents with the following skills: painting, electrical installation and maintenance, plumbing, door and cabinet hanging, building maintenance, general construction, landscaping, welding, and iron work. However, please call, whatever your business idea is.

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GROUNDBREAKING FOR JOHN LOVEJOY ELLIOTT CENTER

NYCHA To Waive Rent And Utilities In Exchange For Resident Services



NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Hudson Guild Executive Director Janice McGuire, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Hudson Guild Board of Trustees President Lee Buckley, Senator Thomas Duane, Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, Community Works Campaign Co-Chairs Nathaniel Bohrer and Paul Balsler gathered for this photo beneath the mural depicting the completed John Lovejoy Elliott Center.

By Eileen Elliott

The winds were high, and so was enthusiasm among a crowd of friends and supporters who gathered outside of the entrance of the Hudson Guild's community center on the morning of November 13, 2003, at the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Elliott/Chelsea Houses in Manhattan. Staff from the Hudson Guild and NYCHA joined residents, elected officials, community advocates and volunteers for a groundbreaking ceremony there, to mark the beginning of the renovation of the 20,000 square foot space at 441 West 26th Street, and to kick off the Guild's new \$10 million "Community Works" capital fundraising campaign, which will pay for the center's renovation and maintenance.

"This is an exciting morning for me and for all of you who are here who have so many different links to the Hudson Guild," said Guild Executive Director Janice McGuire, speaking from a podium facing 26th Street. In her introductory remarks, Ms. McGuire announced that the community center, which had gone by a variety of names such as "the main building, or 441, or Hudson Guild," would henceforth be called the John Lovejoy Elliott Center, "in honor of the person who is really responsible for the founding of the Hudson Guild."

The Hudson Guild is a 108-year-old settlement house that provides a variety of services to Chelsea's residents. The main center is at Elliott/Chelsea Houses, but there is also a senior center at Robert Fulton Houses, an Education Center and Children's Center near the main center, and the Guild's Beacon Program in the City's O. Henry Learning Center, also in Chelsea.

The Guild provides childcare and mental health services, and early education, youth, arts, recreational, nutritional and senior programs. Its history with the Housing Authority goes way back. In the words of Ms. McGuire, "Just about 40 years ago, the Guild traded in its buildings on 26th Street to

the Housing Authority in its efforts to create Elliott/Chelsea Houses."

Community was the central theme of the brief but jubilant ceremony, highlighted by the unveiling, or the unrolling, of a giant mural from the roof of 441 West 26th Street, depicting the new John Lovejoy Elliott Center.

"It's going to be quite a different look," Ms. McGuire commented, turning to the mural behind her. "Quite beautiful, full of glass, fully handicapped accessible, with three times as many meeting rooms, a new cooling system, tile floors and bright colors."

As the first official speaker, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez commended the Hudson Guild on behalf of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, and NYCHA's Executive Staff, "for the tremendous work you do day in and day out for this community. You've had the reputation of being the premier agency in providing services to this community for a long time and you really do deserve an enormous amount of credit for the development and the evolution of housing in New York City."

The Chairman also thanked Resident Association President Phyllis Gonzalez for her dedication and commitment.

He then went on to thank advocates for the community, including New York State Senator Thomas K. Duane, and Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, who also spoke, as well as New York City Council Member Christine Quinn. Ms. Quinn was responsible for \$1 million in funding.

The brief speeches were broken up by a musical performance by the children from the Guild's Children's Center.

Chairman Hernandez then read a letter to the Hudson Guild from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. "This is a wonderful example of the importance of our City's public/private partnerships," the Chairman read. "It is always gratifying to unite with those who share my commitment to giving back to the community and to making a difference in the lives of others."

Hudson Guild Board of Trustees President Lee Buckley, who was the last to speak, summed up the core sentiment of the morning. "This project couldn't be done if the true sense of community hadn't already been built here with all of you," she said. "I hope you share my pride in reflecting on where we are here today."

The renovation is expected to be completed in one year.

SANTA VISITS BROOKLYN



NYCHA'S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE PARTY took place at the beautiful new Williamsburg Community Center in Brooklyn on December 16. Approximately 550 children from 13 community centers citywide came to sing songs, dance, and receive presents made possible by donations from the NY Life Insurance Company, Mason Organization, Toys For Tots and NYCHA employees. NYCHA's Harborview Visual Arts Program was responsible for turning the glass enclosed gymnasium into a winter wonderland with beautiful holiday decorations. Board Member JoAnna Aniello had just enough time to welcome all of the children before Santa Claus, played by an enthusiastic Cornell Hampton from Community Operations, came onto the stage, creating squeals of delight in the audience.



BROOKLYN'S SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION was held on December 18, 2003 at the Hope Gardens Community Center. A total of 300 youth between the ages of 6 and 12 from the afterschool programs at eight Brooklyn community centers came to celebrate Three Kings Day, Kwanzaa and Christmas. Highlights included a skit by the children illustrating the seven principles of Kwanzaa and a sing-a-long led by officers from PSA's #1, #2 and #3. Children from the Wycoff Gardens, Hope Gardens, Cypress Hills, Sumner, O'Dwyer, Gravesend, Tompkins and Kingsborough Houses Community Centers attended. Each child received a gift bag, with a gift donated by Verizon, Con Ed, Moshood, the Ms. Foundation, Brookdale Hospital, the Dept. of Environmental Protection, Vera Hudson, the New York Mets, Rudolph Eruce, Sylvan Education Solutions and Center Care Health Plan.

Ribbon Cutting At Hammel Houses Community Center

By Allan Leicht



NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello, State Senator Malcolm Smith, Chairman Tino Hernandez, Hammel Houses Resident Association President Peggy Thomas and Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. celebrate the opening of the new Hammel Houses Community Center.

NYCHA CELEBRATES 70 YEARS!

On January 20, 1934, New York City Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia filed a certificate establishing the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) as the first public housing authority in the country. Less than one year later, on December 3, 1935, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for First Houses, the city's first public housing development. Where tenements had once been, there were now 123 new apartments, each with a private kitchen and bath, electrical outlets, an electric refrigerator and a stove. Eleven-thousand New Yorkers submitted applications for the first apartments.

NYCHA's first Board — Langdon Post, Louis H. Pink, B. Charney Vladeck, Mary K. Simkhovitch and the Reverend E.T. Roberts Moore — couldn't have known that 70 years later, NYCHA would be the premier public housing authority in the country and the largest in North America.

Today, nearly 419,000 New Yorkers make their homes in 346 NYCHA developments throughout the five boroughs. NYCHA has remained true to its mission to provide decent and affordable housing in a safe and secure living

environment for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. But NYCHA is more than bricks and mortar. Every NYCHA resident has access to an array of community, educational, employment, and social service programs.

NYCHA's 70th year promises to be an exciting one as the Housing Authority prepares to meet its challenges while ensuring the existence of public housing for future generations.



First Houses Dedication Ceremony, 1935

On December 2, 2003 in Far Rockaway, Queens, Chairman Tino Hernandez, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello and NYCHA senior staff played ping-pong. As much fun as it was, this was official business: the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the revitalized, greatly expanded Hammel Houses Community Center within sight of the Atlantic Ocean on Rockaway Beach Boulevard.

"This center is a dream come true for this community," the Chairman told the assembled NYCHA residents, staff and guests. "It's nearly twice as big as it was." The prime leader of that dream, the Chairman said, was Hammel Houses Resident Association President Peggy Thomas.

"I look out my window at night and I see them using this center and I am so proud of our home," said Ms. Thomas when her turn came at the microphone. "And now we have to use this community center as a bridge, a bridge to unite us all, from all the developments here and the entire neighborhood. With God's help and NYCHA's money, it can be done."

Ms. Thomas was referring to over 200 Hammel Houses and neighborhood teenagers who since the Community Center's re-opening on October 6th have already registered to use the many activity rooms and the towering, gleaming new gymnasium, which is encased in glass, inviting those on the outside to come in and join the fun. Visibility was precisely the objective Design Architect Peter John Locascio aimed for in close collaboration with NYCHA's Design Department.

"It is very gratifying," Mr. Locascio said, "to hear how happy people are and especially that it is being used." NYCHA's architectural team for the Hammel Community Center was Anthony Whaley, Alexander Massey and George Joseph.

In addition to teenagers in the evenings, the new Hammel Community Center welcomes over 90 afterschool children for a full program of education and recreation accompanied by up-to-the-minute computer technology and facilities.

"It won't be long before you can come here," Ms. Thomas told a group of kindergartners who came over from the Hammel Houses Day Care Center for the

occasion. "When you're six years old you can come here and play and learn." She added, "The children must have something to call their own."

Queens Council Of Presidents Chair and Oceanside Houses Resident Association President Connie Taylor congratulated Ms. Thomas, observing, "Some of the best people live in public housing." Ms. Taylor issued a call for everyone to "come out and help Peggy Thomas do what she is so dedicated to doing."

State Senator Malcolm Smith underscored the children's theme and brought good wishes from all the elected officials who represent the district. "It's a great day for the children and everybody at Hammel." And Chief of Staff for Assembly Member Michele R. Titus, Evan Grey, was especially pleased to join in the cutting of the ribbon, as Mr. Grey once lived in Hammel Houses.

Queens Community Operations Director Anthony Richburg served as Master of Ceremonies for the formal program, which included the National Anthem and a musical selection sung by Community Assistant Patrick Credle of the Woodside Community Center.

Deputy General Manager for Community Operations Hugh B. Spence confessed his envy of Hammel Community Center Director Kenneth Layne: "He gets to come to work here every day." Mr. Spence also predicted, "Generations will come through this facility and one day someone will be standing here remembering when this beautiful building opened many years before."

Mr. Spence praised the residents, noting that the community centers "look this way because you sit down with NYCHA's Design Department staff and you tell them what you need."

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HOLIDAY CONCERT

(Continued from page 1)

“Feliz Navidad,” as she had so many times in the past.

In addition to the music, the Performing Arts Unit delighted the audience with an adaptation of the classic tale, “A Christmas Carol,” entitled, “A Christmas Carol Comes to Harlem.”

The evening concluded with remarks from Community Operations’ Deputy Director Christine Zeni, thanking everyone for coming out and sharing the holiday experience. Also in attendance were Chairman Tino Hernandez, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Member JoAnna Aniello, Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence, and Assistant Deputy General Manager Michelle Pinnock-Clerk.

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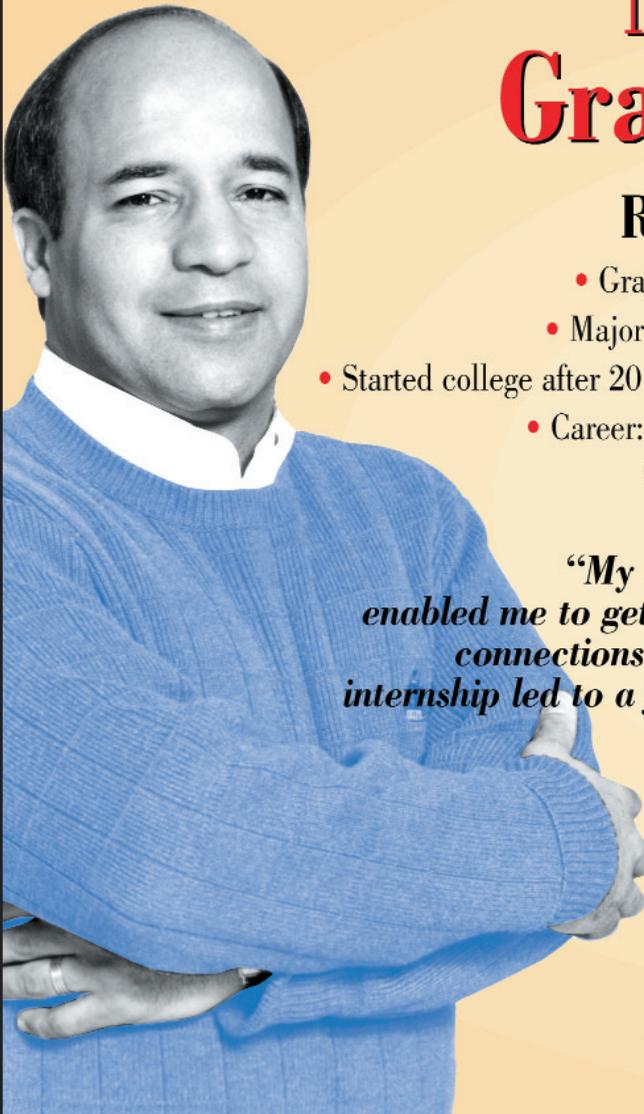
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