Northern Queens NFP Nurse and Client Pay a Visit to Albany Lawmakers

On February 7th, two NYC NFP clients—one each from our Brooklyn and Northern Queens sites*—traveled to Albany to take part in the NFP National Service Office (NSO) annual NFP Advocacy Day. The client from Northern Queens NFP was Kiara Chiquito, 23, who, with eight-month-old daughter Miascarlett Juardo in tow, had volunteered to meet with New York State legislators in order to convey to them firsthand the tremendous impact NFP has had on her life. Accompanying Kiara was her nurse, Ella Harris, from NYC NFP’s Northern Queens site, which is run by Public Health Solutions (PHS) under contract with the Health Department.

With Ella by her side, Kiara took part in six scheduled meetings, sharing her story with Assemblies members Michael Blake, Ellen Jaffee and Michaele Solages, and staff from the offices of Assemblymember Jeffrion Aubry, Senator Pamela Helming and Senator Jose Peralta.

It was a long day, but they agreed the meetings had gone well, and Ella was very impressed with Kiara's poise and self-assuredness. “With each meeting,” she said, “Kiara became more confident in speaking and sharing how she has grown into the mom she strives to be. It was a very empowering experience for her, and legislators and their staff were
supportive in listening, and overall responded positively to the program."

Reflecting on the day’s activities while preparing to catch the late afternoon train back to the city, Kiara told Ella she was grateful for the opportunity to have participated. Her wish, she said, was that every NFP client could do the same, so that they too would understand the amount of effort involved in bringing the program to its clients.

*The client from NYC NFP’s Brooklyn site, which is run by SCO Family of Services, was Safiya Franklyn, who participated with her daughter, Jahmiah, and her nurse, Cherry Sam.

NYC NFP Expansion Brings Queens a New Nurse and a Renewed Service Area

One of the many benefits of the coming NYC NFP expansion (see our October and November issues for details) is that many of our sites will be able to hire new nurses to round out their teams. Ever since the program experienced budget cuts in 2010, several sites have functioned with fewer than the eight nurses that is standard for an NFP team. During this time, Northern Queens NFP had to scale back its program. With just six nurses, it was no longer able to serve the Rockaways, which had been part of its service area since the site was established in 2008. Because this is one of the areas of highest need in the city, the site is especially pleased that its recent hiring of a seventh nurse enables it to bring NYC NFP back to this community.

Northern Queens NFP’s newest nurse, Leslie Frazier-Lacey, spent the past 18 years working for PHS’s MIC Women’s Health Services, a network of clinics providing prenatal and reproductive health care to women and girls in Central Brooklyn. Her time at MIC provided Leslie—who holds bachelor’s degrees in both Nursing and Biology as well as a Master of Public Health in Community Health Education—with a variety of experiences that will serve her well as an NYC NFP nurse. She is skilled in motivational interviewing, a key strategy used by NFP nurses to strengthen a client’s own motivation and commitment to making important and empowering changes in her life.
NYC NFP is pleased to welcome veteran nurse Leslie Frazier-Lacey, who recently joined the Northern Queens NFP team.

In addition, she was integral to the clinic’s implementation of the Health Department’s Healthy Teens Initiative, the goal of which was to increase teens’ access to and use of contraception. In Leslie's previous position as an ante- and post-partum nurse at New York Presbyterian Medical Center, she assisted families coping with high-risk births, and educated patients on prenatal care, contraception and pregnancy-related health issues—practices she will employ in her new role as NYC NFP nurse.

Noting that her clinical rotation in Community Health Nursing at the City College of NY solidified her desire to work in women's health and, particularly, with high-need populations, Leslie says that her goal is “to help clients in the program empower themselves to improve their lives and the lives of their children,” and looks forward to working with the Northern Queens NFP team to fulfill this goal.

After completing her NFP training in Denver in March, Leslie will already have her first client ready and waiting for her: a first-time mom with a high-risk pregnancy due to health complications who lives in Far Rockaway. Northern Queens NFP Director Marci Rosa says she couldn't be more pleased. "We are so excited to be back, as there is a dearth of services there, and we are thrilled to have Leslie as the nurse serving the area. Given her two decades of experience providing outpatient women’s services, I have complete confidence in her ability to meet the needs of one of New York City’s most isolated communities. Her skill set also makes her an excellent addition to our team, which benefits from a great mix of nurses with different specialties."

We couldn't agree more. Please join us in welcoming Leslie Frazier-Lacey to the NYC NFP family!

**Northern Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island NYC NFP Sites to Host March Career Fair**

Open nursing and administrative positions at the NYC NFP Central Office and sites around the city are listed in the sidebar to the right. In addition, we are excited to announce an upcoming career fair for nurses hosted jointly by NYC NFP's Northern Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island sites, which are run by PHS, SCO Family of Services and Richmond Home Need Services, respectively.
As indicated in the ad above, the fair will take place Tuesday, March 7th on the fifth floor of PHS’s offices at 40 Worth Street in Manhattan. In addition, be on the lookout for further opportunities to join the NYC NFP team. We also encourage watching the video, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurses: Changing Lives, Every Day, which provides a window into what it's like to be an NFP nurse.

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

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.