

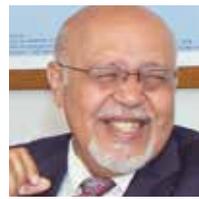


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# The NYCHA JOURNAL

## Meet Robert White: NYCHA Recovery to Resiliency Community Outreach Worker and Resident of Red Hook Houses East

### What do you do as a Community Outreach Worker?

As a Community Outreach Worker we visit residents in Sandy-impacted developments to see how the storm affected them. These housing developments are people's homes and the team respects that. We bring info to the residents, if they're looking for work, if they're looking for training, if they have issues with NYCHA, with the conditions in their building, outside of their building, we're there to listen. And we always follow-up.

### What's today's meeting about?

I'm facilitating a meeting where the PMO (Project Management Office) informs the Resident Association president, the maintenance superintendent, and property managers the scope of work to take place in their development. We want to make sure that what we do is approved and informed because it's disrespectful to come on site without giving residents the information, so it's a courtesy and a responsibility. We don't want to displace trees, we don't want to displace where kids have been playing, and we don't want large structures blocking someone's window—so we have to understand (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



# Beauty in the Bronx



The new Bronxchester façade.

**A**S PATRICIA LAMONDA recalls, people were skeptical. "We just didn't understand what they were talking about," the Tenant Association President of Bronxchester explains. "NYCHA said it didn't have money to fix our buildings so they were going to sell the building so they could fix it. Well, you know, how exactly was that supposed to work? It just didn't make sense."

Bronxchester is one of six Section 8 properties NYCHA received from the City of New York in the 1970s. In 2012 NYCHA entered a partnership with two developers in which NYCHA relinquished a 50 percent stake in ownership in these developments in return for the developers' commitment to renovate and maintain the properties. Residents retain all of their rights, including rent capped at 30 percent of their income.

According to Ms. Lamonda, despite many community meetings, no one could sufficiently explain to residents



All apartments now have new windows and screens, plus air conditioning and heating units that tenants can control themselves.

how this arrangement was really going to benefit them. Residents worried that their rent would increase, or they would lose their housing, or both. Fortunately, what has actually come to pass has turned out to be a real crowd pleaser.

Development partner L+M began renovations in June 2015 and are due to wrap up this December. Work includes a new building envelope significantly updating the look and feel of the exterior; landscap- (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP



**BRAND NEW DREAM** Charter School, the Harlem RBI headquarters, and the Yomo Toro Apartments for low-income households, this new 143,000 square-foot complex is the result of collaboration with a variety of non-profit, private and City organizations and agencies who collaborated with NYCHA to accomplish something none of us could have done alone. Sixty percent of the children who attend the DREAM charter school and a quarter of the people who will live in Yomo Toro homes are NYCHA residents.

Partnerships are integral to NextGeneration NYCHA in every imaginable way. I am grateful to NYCHA's many partners—elected officials, community and private organizations, and most importantly you, our residents—for working together to accomplish our goals.

In this issue of the *Journal*, you'll read the stories of residents who are helping NYCHA create safe, clean, and connected communities.

October 29 marked the third anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. Robert White, Red Hook East resident and one of NYCHA's Recovery to Resiliency Community Outreach Workers is profiled in this issue. As an outreach worker, Robert assists residents in Superstorm

Sandy-impacted developments by finding out how they were affected, helping to facilitate repairs for them, informing them of what work is planned to repair the damage to their developments, and acting as a resource and sounding board. Robert is one of the almost 80,000 NYCHA residents who were impacted by Sandy. I admire his dedication to helping his fellow residents and community.

You'll also read about how NYCHA is partnering with residents to address safety concerns. NYCHA Resident Board Members Beatrice Byrd, Victor Gonzalez, and Willie Mae Lewis sat down for a lengthy discussion with Gerald Nelson, NYCHA's new VP for Public Safety, to examine safety issues at NYCHA developments, the first of many conversations to make sure your concerns are heard and addressed. Additionally, throughout October we held workshops to provide safety training to NYCHA Resident Watch volunteers. 900 residents attended, demonstrating how committed you are to increasing safety at your developments.

I also want to thank our 3,500 resident gardeners who tend NYCHA's 700 individual and community gardens. Many were recognized at the 52nd Annual Citywide Garden Competition Awards, including Marian Dolphus, 84, winner of the 2015 NYCHA Garden and Greening Program Lifetime Achievement Award. She has been keeping South Jamaica Houses beautiful and stocked with fresh vegetables since 1975. Marian: I hear you grow the City's best collard greens!

In this season of reflection and gratitude, I am deeply grateful for your partnership. NYCHA is stronger and more resilient because of it. Thank you for helping us build a better Housing Authority for the next generation of New Yorkers.

**Shola Olatoye**  
Chair and CEO

## A Life of Advocacy From a North Carolina Lunch Counter to the NYCHA Boardroom

**WILLIE MAE LEWIS**, one of the three resident members of NYCHA's board, has a fascinating story to tell about the beginnings of her lifelong commitment to progress and opportunity. "I was a student at North Carolina State in the early Sixties, where I was studying classical singing on a scholarship. Black people were not allowed to eat at the local lunch counters at that time. Through the NAACP, which was on campus, volunteers were requested for demonstrations, which started in Greensboro, North Carolina, and had spread throughout the South. We met in the basement of a Baptist church and got banners, five dollars or so to order with, and our instructions. Some students from Duke University also joined us. Together, we marched in front of a store in Durham. Then the white students went in, sat down, and ordered club sandwiches, which they could cut up into squares and share with us. We went in after they ordered; we just sat down without saying anything. It was like I committed a murder when I put a straw into the same glass as a white student. The police came, arrested us, took us to jail, and fingerprinted us. Eventually, though, they threw out the case."

After moving to New York in 1963, Ms. Lewis met the man who later became her husband. She lived in what's now called King Towers, and moved to St. Nicholas



Houses in 1968. "When I came to New York, I didn't have any political ties. But a neighbor took interest in me and asked if I wanted to run for president of the Resident Association. I said no, but every time I saw him, he said they needed people like me. It was because I was outspoken — about the right things. He kept pestering me and so I finally ran for president in 1979. Once I pursue

something, and if I believe in it, I really go after it. I got to learn a lot of things, just as I am now as a board member. And I got to help people, which I really enjoy and have always done from a very young age. I'm not the type of person to sit by idly."

Ms. Lewis served as St. Nicholas' president for a total of 27 years, taking a six-year break toward the end of her tenure to go back to school to get her bachelor's degree in psychology. In 2013, she was appointed to NYCHA's board by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "As a resident board member, my pledge is to NYCHA first of all as well as to the residents. It's been very interesting and educational, and I'm enjoying it."

While working for the Housing Authority as a community center director and then as a family worker for the Board of Education, Ms. Lewis raised two successful daughters. "I'm very blessed. I've had some ups and downs in my life, but I've had more ups than downs!"

## NYCHA BOARD MEETINGS

**NYCHA'S BOARD MEETINGS**, open to the public, take place on Wednesdays at 10 am in the NYCHA 12th floor conference room at 250 Broadway. People who wish to speak during the public comment period must pre-register at least 45 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin and can only comment about items on that meeting's agenda. Each speaker's time is limited to three minutes. The public comment period concludes either when all speakers are finished or after the 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever comes first.

Copies of the calendar for the upcoming board meeting are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary, 250 Broadway, 12th floor after 3 pm on the Monday before the meeting. Copies of the dispositions of prior meetings are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3 pm on the Thursday after the board meeting. Any person requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at **212.306.6088** no later than five business days prior to the meeting. For additional information regarding the calendar of meetings, dispositions, dates and times, please call **212.306.6088**.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**November 18, 2015**  
**December 23, 2015**

\* Note: There will be no board meeting in August. The November and December board meetings are scheduled for the second-to-last Wednesday.

The NYCHA **JOURNAL**

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# Annie Cotton Morris Elected as CCOP Chair



**ANNIE COTTON MORRIS** was elected Chair of the NYCHA Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP) in August 2015. A NYCHA resident for over 60 years, she has served as the president of Woodside Houses for over 30 years; as the District Chair of Queens for nine years; and Vice-Chairperson of CCOP for four years. An active community leader, Ms. Cotton Morris was Vice President of the Regular Democratic Club for 10 years and a member of ERDA (Urban Upward Bound).

"Our main desire is to live in a place

we can proudly call home. I want to bring our communities, along with NYCHA as transparent partners, into the future with stability and assurance that our homes are safe and secure places to raise our families," says Ms. Cotton Morris. "I want to make sure our residents are informed on all the changes and new initiatives that are being presented to us so we can have a voice in how we need to be governed."

During her tenure as a resident leader, Ms. Cotton Morris founded numerous programs that have enhanced resident life and connected them with the community, including: Sister in the Hood, which enabled young women, ages 13-21, to set goals and recognize their full potential; Sister 2 Sister, a women's activism group challenged issues that residents faced in the community; and Woodside Gents, which connected adolescent males with adult men to mentor them through sports and education.

Ms. Cotton Morris was educated in New York City public schools and majored in Early Childhood Education at City College of New York. After a three-decade career at Verizon, she retired in 2002. In addition to spending time on her extensive community service, Ms. Cotton Morris and her husband are the proud parents of one adult son, Julius, who is a former NYCHA employee, and grandparents of Jazmine, Ahje, D'anna, and Jules. Ms. Cotton Morris also has a step-daughter, Shaneek Morris.

## 100 DAYS OF NEXTGENERATION NYCHA

**NYCHA IS TAKING** meaningful actions to change the way it does business and become a more modern, effective, and efficient landlord. Recently, the Authority launched **Transparency & Reports**, a webpage that provides residents and the public with up-to-date, straightforward information about NYCHA's repair performance, how many apartments are occupied or vacant, the physical state of each development, what kind of capital projects the Authority is working on, and more.

### Key parts of NYCHA's Transparency page:

- **NYCHA Metrics:** This database tracks repairs and also includes program data by development and is updated monthly. Some of the information on NYCHA Metrics includes:
  - how many NYCHA apartments are occupied or available to move into
  - how many apartments are rented by people with Section 8 vouchers

- the average number of days it takes NYCHA workers to complete repairs. You can also compare current wait times to last year's to see if NYCHA is meeting its response goals.
- NYCHA's repair requests response rate in days. Currently, NYCHA responds to repair requests within 10 days—the response rate has improved compared to last year.
- **Physical Needs Assessment (PNA):** A summary of current building conditions at each development. The PNA is conducted every five years and an updated assessment is currently in progress.
- **Contract Disclosure:** Details on all open capital construction contracts from the past five years.
- **Award Results:** Monthly updates on award results on all contracts, proposals and bids.

View the webpage here: [www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/about/reports.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/about/reports.page).

# A Home Run for Harlem

## The East Harlem Center for Living and Learning Makes Its Debut

**IT WAS A** day of celebration in East Harlem on October 15 as the ribbon was cut to officially welcome community members to the new East Harlem Center for Living and Learning, home to the DREAM Charter School and the Yomo Toro Apartments for low-income households.

The East Harlem Center is a project of Jonathan Rose Companies, Harlem RBI and Dream Charter School, and Civic Builders and this unique development is the product of a wide range of partnerships including NYCHA, New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, New York City Housing Development Corporation, Enterprise, and Chase. The new \$82 million, 143,000 square-foot complex, located at 1991 Second Avenue, is home to:

- A beautiful, state-of-the-art 54,000 square-foot home for the DREAM Charter School, serving almost 500 children in grades K-8; DREAM Charter School is the first new school to be built in East Harlem in 30 years
- 88 affordable housing units; the Yomo Toro Apartments, named for the late Puerto Rican musician Yomo Toro, "The King of Cuatro"
- Office and program space—6,000 square-feet—for Harlem RBI

- A newly renovated Blake Hobbs public park

In addition to NYCHA chair & CEO Shola Olatoye, speakers at the ribbon-cutting ceremony included U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel; New York State Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez; New York Yankee & Harlem RBI Board Member Mark Teixeira; Richard Berlin, Executive Director of Harlem RBI & Chair of the DREAM Charter School; Jonathan F.P. Rose, president of Jonathan Rose Companies; and David Umanski, CEO & Co-founder of Civic Builders.

"I'm pleased to celebrate a partnership that has brought vital investment to the East Harlem community," Chair Olatoye said. "We're thrilled that our residents are beneficiaries of this good work. A quarter of the homes have been designated for NYCHA residents, and more than half of the DREAM Charter School's student body is NYCHA children."

The event included special performances by famed jazz musician Wynton Marsalis and Carlos Henriquez, former band mate of Yomo Toro, as well as the Dream Charter School Chorus. Following the program, community members were invited to tour the school, office space, and housing.



NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye (third from left) joins representatives from Harlem RBI and DREAM Charter School, Jonathan Rose Companies, Civic Builders, New York City Housing Development Corporation, and JP Morgan Chase cutting the ribbon.

## Have You Downloaded the MyNYCHA App Yet?

**SINCE THE LAUNCH** of MyNYCHA in September, more than 9,400 residents have downloaded the app. With the free app residents can create, schedule, and manage work tickets from their mobile devices, including smartphones and tablets. Nearly 11,900 work tickets have been created and almost 8,000 tickets scheduled through the app. Residents can also subscribe to NYCHA Alerts for outages in their developments and view inspection appointments. The free app is available for NYCHA residents citywide; download it now from Apple's App Store or Google Play.





## RESIDENTS KEEP AN EYE ON SAFETY Resident Watch 2015

**A**LMOST 3,600 RESIDENTS volunteer their time to help increase safety at their developments as members of Resident Watch. To keep these committed volunteers prepared, NYCHA has hosted an annual training since 2012. This year's training was held from October 5 to October 22 in community centers throughout the five boroughs and over 900 Resident Watch volunteers registered to attend.

"We train our volunteers in order to equip them with indispensable information and widen their scope of knowledge," said Zulenmi Castillo-Martinez, Resident Watch Citywide Coordinator. "When knowledge is gained, volunteers are transformed into community leaders."

The four-hour training developed by the Family Services Department and the New York City Police Department included two presentations from the NYPD's Housing Bureau Community Affairs: Police Officer Kenneth C. Moore talked about the history of gangs and how to identify them, while Detective P. Simone Redrick discussed how to help victims of a crime, communicate with others, and how to provide accurate descriptions of suspects to police.

Aida Vasquez and Iris Serra from LaGuardia Houses Resident Watch attended the training at Rutgers Houses

Community Center together. Vasquez has been a Resident Watch member since 2004, Serra for more than 20 years. This was the first training both women attended. Vasquez said, "We have to be aware and really observant of what's going on around us." Serra agreed and said that she was glad she attended because there was a lot of good information.

The training also included fire safety with Lieutenant Jeff Scherer from the FDNY, who talked to residents about carbon dioxide alarms, using baking soda to put out small grease fires, and the dangers of heating their apartments with the oven and using candles. Maya Milanytch from the NYC Office of Emergency Management talked to the group about emergency preparedness and encouraged them to join New York City Community Emergency Response Teams and help prepare their communities for various disasters.

Harold W. Smith, Captain of Resident Watch at Amsterdam Houses since 2002 said he's been to every training and though some of the information has been covered in the past, "It's information that needs to be repeated because it helps people address problems they have, this training is important."

If you are interested in joining the Resident Watch in your development, contact your Management Office.

### ***FREE 14-week job training program for homeless & low-income women***

#### **First Step Program**

Computer Training - Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook  
 Internet Research • Resume Writing • Interviewing Skills  
 Job Placement Assistance • Self-Esteem Building  
 2 Month Internship • Case Management • Typing  
 Literacy Building • Mentoring • Yoga & Meditation  
 Support Groups • Empowerment

GED not required • New class starting soon!

**FREE Continental Breakfast & Metrocards Provided**

For more information, please call (212) 776-2074



## I am NextGeneration NYCHA



"We need to make sure our seniors are healthy and eating well, but out here in East New York, we live in a fresh food desert. So we started our own farm."

—Caroline Thunder, Master Gardener, Pink Houses Farm



*I earned Social Security and Medicare, and when I couldn't afford healthy food, SNAP HELPED.*

- ANDRES, RETIRED BUSINESS OWNER  
Harlem

▶ WATCH MY STORY AT [FoodHelp.nyc](http://FoodHelp.nyc)

Now it's easier to apply online at [FoodHelp.nyc](http://FoodHelp.nyc)

Need help applying for food help or public health insurance, or having trouble making rent? Call 929.221.0050 to reach an Outreach Specialist, available on-site at several NYCHA developments in all five boroughs.

Call 311 for more information



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# Gardeners' Delight

## The 52nd Annual Citywide Garden Competition Awards Ceremony bloomed with joy.

**T**HE SUN SHONE bright on October 16, a picture perfect day for the annual Citywide Garden Competition Awards Ceremony, held this year at Williamsburg Community Center. Over 200 gardeners filled the festive, flower- and balloon-filled hall, enjoying a pre-awards catered luncheon, music provided by DJ Andre Cirillo, a passionate performance from the NYCHA Senior Choir under the direction of Linda Brockington, and, most of all, the company of like-minded folks from developments across the City.

NYCHA's Garden and Greening Program is one of the oldest urban gardening programs in the country. It provides year-round technical assistance, free seeds and flowering bulbs and other garden resources to resident gardeners citywide.

NYCHA Creative Arts staffer Delores Martin performed a stirring rendition of the National Anthem before Master of Ceremonies and NYCHA Garden Program Director Lee Trotman introduced keynote speaker Rasmia Kirmani-Frye, NYCHA's Director of Public Private Partnerships. She thanked the more than 3,500 gardeners who tend over 670 gardens at about 200 developments, saying "you're showing our children what it means to turn a seed into

something beautiful, or something nutritious, you are making our developments greener, more beautiful, and healthier places to live." Then came the presentation of the awards.

In 2015 the Garden and Greening Program provided gardening and greening education and support to over 3,500 adult, children, and senior resident gardeners. The program's expanded mission includes: the planting of large trees and shrubs; a year-round environmental education program; increased production of and access to nutritional organic produce; increased efforts to harvest storm water; and promoting low maintenance pollinator gardens.

Most resident gardeners enter the Annual Citywide Garden Competition. Their gardens are judged by a diverse panel of horticultural professionals who choose a citywide winner in each category from among first-place borough winners. During this year's preliminary judging phase, about 700 NYCHA gardens were identified.

This year's judges included: Greg Anderson, Just Food; Jared Sessum and Jessie Kerr-Vanderslice, Grow NYC; Jobe Walker, NYC Parks and Recreation; John Reddick, NYCHA Garden & Greening Program; Nancy Kohn, Green Thumb Community Gardens Program/City of New York Department Parks & Recreation; Onika Abraham, Farm School NYC; and Rasheed Hislop, GreenThumb Community Gardens Program/City of New York Department Parks & Recreation.

### CITYWIDE WINNERS:

**FLOWER:** Breukelen Sight, Breukelen Houses

**VEGETABLE:** Cabbage Patch Garden, Walt Whitman Houses

**THEME:** Dreams Do Come True, Beach 41st Houses

### BRONX FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

**1ST PRIZE:** Peace Garden of Breath & Love, Parkside Houses

**2ND PRIZE:** Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Union Avenue Consolidated

**3RD PRIZE:** Tina's Paradise, McKinley Houses

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Garden of Eden, Throggs Neck Houses

### BRONX VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

**1ST PRIZE:** Maria's Vegetable Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation Houses

**2ND PRIZE:** El Bohio, Union Avenue Consolidation Houses

**3RD PRIZE:** Tina's Paradise Garden, McKinley Houses

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Pelham Organics, Pelham Parkway Houses

### BRONX THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

**1ST PRIZE:** Butterflies are Free, Soundview Houses

**2ND PRIZE:** Bright Lights, Gun Hill Houses

**3RD PRIZE:** Miriam's Community Garden, Throggs Neck Houses



Citywide Vegetable Garden Winner: "Cabbage Patch Garden," Walt Whitman Houses

### MANHATTAN FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

**1ST PRIZE:** A Magical Garden Two, Fulton Houses

**2ND PRIZE:** Sweet Success, Manhattanville Houses

**3RD PRIZE:** Bernadette's Garden, Chelsea Elliot Houses

**HONORABLE MENTION:** 950 East 4th Walk, Wald Houses

### MANHATTAN VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

**1ST PRIZE:** Morning Glory Vegetable Garden, Polo Grounds Houses

**2ND PRIZE:** Skyward Garden 1, Fred Samuel Houses

**3RD PRIZE:** Fatima Garden, Johnson Houses

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Grant Resident Community Garden, Grant Houses



South Jamaica Houses resident Marian Dolphus, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Citywide Theme Garden Winner: "Dreams Do Come True," Beach 41st Houses



Citywide Flower Garden Winner "Breukelen Sight," Breukelen Houses



Citywide winners (front row, left to right) Janet Roldan, Best Theme Garden; Prince English, Best Vegetable Garden; and Anna Maria Rameau, Best Flower Garden, with NYCHA staff and Resident Board Members.

### 2015 COMMUNITY BUILDER AND PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

#### Manhattan Community Builder Award

Straus Addition – Maria Trinidad

#### Queens Community Builder Award

Beach 41st Houses – Elise Archer

#### Staten Island Community Builder Award

Cassidy – Lafayette Houses – Ms. Dorothy Skylar

#### Bronx Community Builder Award

Parkside Houses – Lilithe Lozano, Parkside Resident Association Leader

#### Brooklyn Community Builder Award

Pink Houses – Caroline Thunder, Resident Green Committee Captain

#### The 2015 NYCHA Garden & Greening Program Citywide Partner of the Year

New York Restoration Project

#### The 2015 NYCHA Garden & Greening Program

1st Time Gardener of the Year

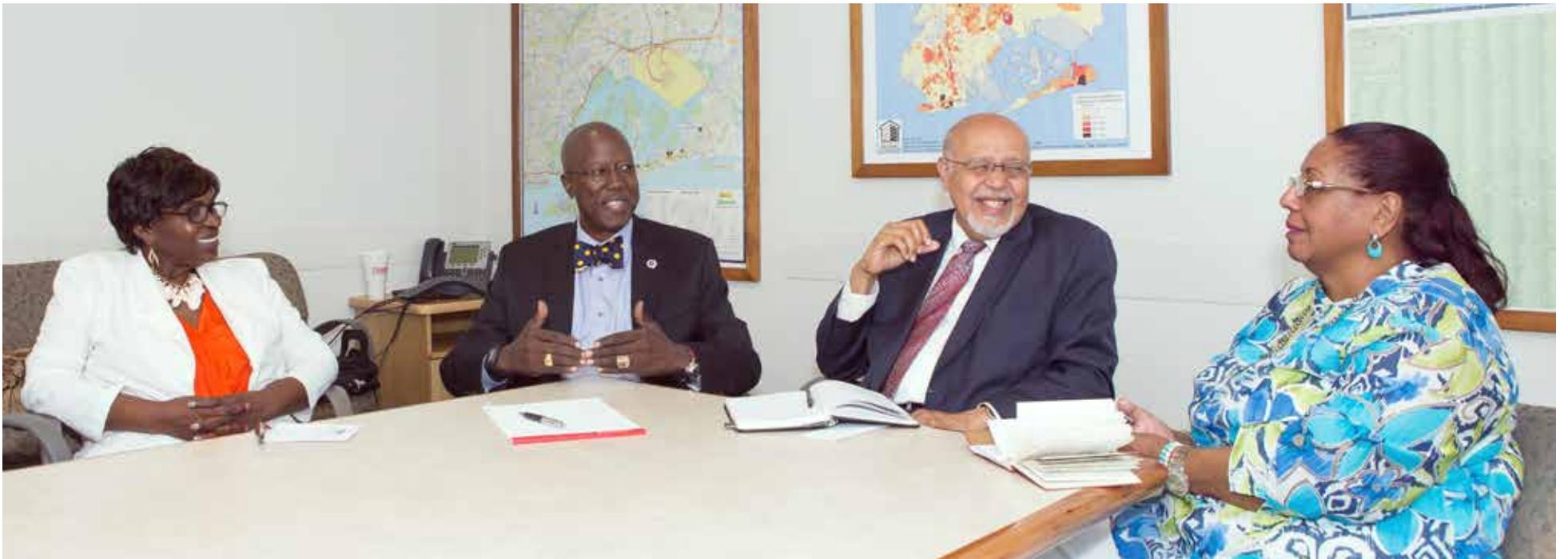
Boulevard Houses – Latoya Druck

#### The 2015 NYCHA Garden & Greening Program Life-Time Achievement Award

South Jamaica Houses – Marian Dolphus

# A Roundtable Discussion About Safety

## NYCHA's New VP for Public Safety Gerald Nelson Meets with Resident Board Members



From left to right: Willie Mae Lewis, Resident Board Member; Gerald Nelson, VP for Public Safety; Victor Gonzalez, Resident Board Member; and Beatrice Byrd, Resident Board Member.

**Gerald Nelson (GN):** Thank you all for taking time to come meet me here at NYCHA. As you know I'm new on the job. I want you to know that this is a partnership, I'm here to work with you.

**Victor Gonzalez (VG):** One of the concerns that I feel should be addressed as far as safety and security is laundry rooms. You want to bring a smile to a resident, you tell them, "Listen, we're putting a laundry room in your development and we've got cameras and we've got a system in place where you can just go and do your thing."

**GN:** I understand what you're saying, that is a serious issue. If NYCHA is in the business of opening up laundry rooms like they used to, I will make sure this is put on the Housing Bureau's list to check periodically to make sure everything is okay. A walk-in will keep people off guard because you never know when the housing officer is going to walk in.

**Beatrice Byrd (BB):** The police officers should visit the managers' office. I know they go to the managers' office when there's a shooting or there's something happened detrimental in the community. My concern for the residents yes, but I just want to focus in on management and workers. In Red Hook our whole management team had to be moved out because they were threatened by drug dealers.

**GN:** Part of making a safe environment within NYCHA is protecting our employees. A person who doesn't feel safe in his or her environment, how can they produce? There was a recent law that NYCHA employees will be treated just like any other city worker—

**BB:** Yeah, it's in the NYCHA paper.

**GN:** So if an employee is assaulted, it's no longer harassment, it's kicked up to an assault two, which would be a felony.

Part of my job is to make sure that if a NYCHA employee has been assaulted by somebody, a resident, or even somebody off the street, an arrest is made. It's not just crime issues, it's quality of life, the betterment of the community.

**Willie Mae Lewis (WL):** The vertical patrol needs to come back because you have a lot of undesirables that hang out in the lobbies, as well as on the floors that don't live there and they cause a lot of problems. You can't patrol from the streets. Another thing, they don't send policemen out on a regular basis. Now we may get two policemen, say the day is Monday. Tuesday you may not see them. Maybe Wednesday or Thursday they may come back. It needs to be more of a constant thing, where you have visibility.

**BB:** We just got two in Red Hook and they introduced themselves. They said, "We are the community officers and our office hours are from this to this." So, that was something that I wanted because like you said, back in the day we were used to this, they knew us we knew them, it cut down on a lot of escalating issues because they could nip it in the bud.

**GN:** If I may, you bring up a good point, of course you do. What you're looking for is the old-fashioned cop on the beat.

**WL:** People don't know, like Ms. Byrd just said, back in the day the policemen knew the residents and not only that, if they saw little Johnny doing something he didn't have no business doing, they took him by the nap of whatever, took him up to his parents.

**VG:** Now that we've done the back in the day, now let's go to the current issues I believe should also be addressed.

**GN:** Sure.

**VG:** And that is modern day technology. Some of the residents took it upon themselves to install security cameras on NYCHA property. We have to find a way where the police have access to these cameras and that becomes a problem. We asked NYCHA to come up with their IT people, we've asked NYPD to come up with their IT people. We need to sit down and bear down and get this access to the NYPD to those cameras.

**WL:** Can I just interject? CCT Cameras: they have them in a lot of developments, we have them in our development. The managers don't really like to look at those cameras unless you have a robbery or shooting or something, I think that's wrong. Also, with the CCT cameras it only last for seven days. So, now if you're going to watch it you know they'll ask you what time you know this incident happened. Usually if it happened the night before you can actually give them that date and it should be on the camera. But after I think they say seven or 14 days, it erases, it's no longer there. So, what we need to do is to sit down with captains and they need to at least watch and look at those cameras.

**GN:** I heard you all and I get it, I get it. Giving the NYPD access to all the stand alone cameras in NYCHA or within this city is not as easy as everyone would think. There are so many video operations throughout NYCHA from so many different units. It is a hodgepodge of everything you could think of. Some of it's very up to date technical, some of it is not. We're working on this, what you were talking about, because we would like to be able to tap in to those various cameras, so that we could know what's going on. Next topic.

**BB:** Vandalism. In Coney Island, they're renovating for Sandy. The first floor apartments were destroyed so they renovate them, they put in new stoves,

new refrigerators, and then they get broken into and they take the stoves out, they take the refrigerators, they take the cabinets out, so the thousands of dollars that you spent—

**GN:** It hurts me when I see things like that. In locations when they're building homes for the community you have to have a guard because the moment they put in certain things the bad element will come take it out, that's something that NYCHA has to provide the coverage to make sure that doesn't happen.

**BB:** So you're suggesting that it's the coalition workers who want those Section 3 jobs and because they're not getting the jobs, they figure "I can't get the job so then I'm going to destroy what you fix?"

**GN:** I would say to things like that, if anybody should have any inkling or suspicion that something like that is happening, report it to the local police, report it to the management, and now you know who I am, report it to me.

**BB:** The position you're holding now, was there a predecessor or you're the first to have this?

**GN:** NYCHA felt there was a need for this position. It doesn't just entail fighting crime or things of that nature, it covers the gamut in terms of public safety within the Housing Authority.

**BB:** Where are you at?

**GN:** Right here in this building, on the 10th floor!

**WL:** I wish you the best of luck.

**GN:** Thank you so much ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much.

# Fast Track to 21st Century Careers

High Tech Job Training for NYCHA Youth



**N**YCHA'S OFFICE OF Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) is proud to be part of a new grant-funded program to recruit 250 youth, ages 18-24, to receive training to pursue careers in technology. REES partner Per Scholas received \$250,000 from the Youth Opportunity Fund to assist city programs that prepare low-income youth for future career success.

Per Scholas already provides free technology job training, placement, and career development to underserved communities. The organization will work with REES and The Bronx Youth Center to expand TechPortal, an education and career path option for low-income young adults who have graduated from high school or received their equivalency degree to pursue careers in technology. NYCHA will refer youth to BYC and BYC will direct participants

into one of three possible paths: 1) Per Scholas' IT Support training program; 2) a prep course for IT Support that helps people gain the necessary math and English skills; and 3) alternative BYC programs to help participants finish school, attend college, and/or start a career.

Per Scholas has partnered with NYCHA REES for several years and has trained more than 5,000 individuals through its free IT job training programs from which 85% of participants graduate and 80% of graduates become employed. The average starting wages in these jobs are 400% more than pre-training incomes—and no debt to the student.

NYCHA, Per Scholas, and BYC are currently in the planning phase and will begin recruiting youth for the program in November. For more information, about TechPortal contact REES at **718-289-8100**.



## RED HOOK SENIOR CENTER RENOVATIONS BEGIN

On October 29, the third anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, Chair Shola Olatoye (second from left) welcomed residents and reporters to view the renovation in progress at the new Red Hook Houses Senior Center. The original senior center was flooded during the storm, destroying the building's infrastructure, furniture, computer equipment, and more. This \$2.9 million project is an important sign of progress for Red Hook Houses residents, who will be able to learn, socialize, dine, and exercise in a beautiful new facility.

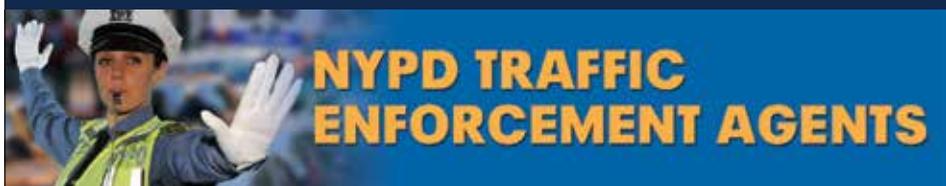


## NYPD SCHOOL SAFETY AGENTS

### Protecting Tomorrow's Future Today

NYPD is recognized by industry experts as the nation's leader in crime reduction. Build your career with us and learn law enforcement from the best in the industry. The mission of the School Safety Division is to provide a safe environment, conducive to learning, where students and faculty can be free from hostility and disruptions which can negatively impact the educational process. If you are a US Citizen with a HS Diploma (or GED) and are at least 21 years old, you might want to consider a career with the NYPD as a School Safety Agent.

School Safety Agents earn over \$31,000 to start, enjoy a competitive benefits package including optional pension plans, and have the opportunity for advancement.



## NYPD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AGENTS

### Play a vital role in keeping the streets of New York City safe and moving.

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Traffic Enforcement Agents earn over \$33,000 after 2 years, enjoy a competitive benefits package including a retirement plan, and have the opportunity for advancement.

**ONE NYPD  
MANY  
WAYS TO SERVE**

For detailed information on these opportunities to join the New York City Police the first step is to take the exam for your position of interest at one of the New York City Computerized Testing Centers in Lower Manhattan or in Downtown Brooklyn.



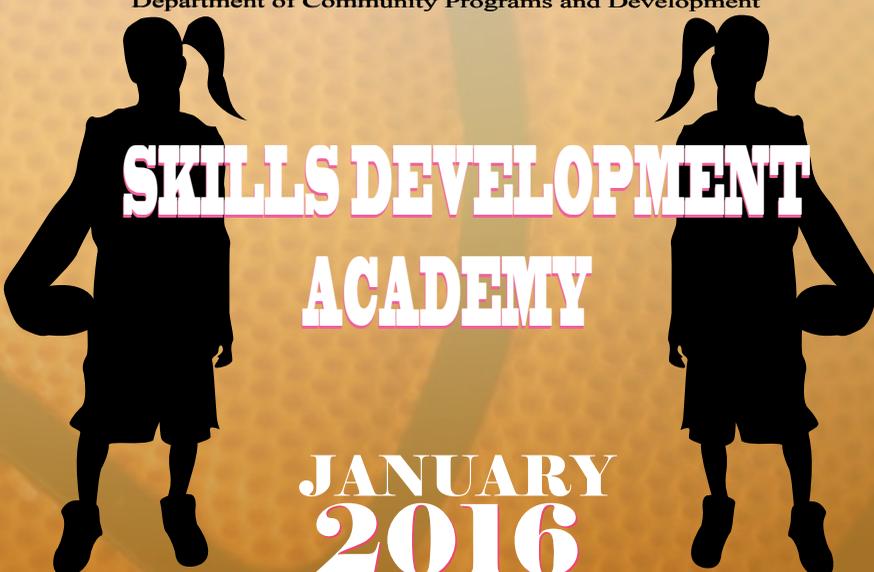
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NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY  
Department of Community Programs and Development

GIRLS
GIRLS



# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

## JANUARY 2016

SHOOTING  
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COMPREHENSIVE  
TRAINING SESSIONS  
**FOR GIRLS**

Ages  
**8 - 13**

**TO REGISTER, ALL PARENTS & COACHES  
MUST ATTEND OUR ORIENTATION SESSION ON:**

**DECEMBER 16, 2015**  
**90 CHURCH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10007**  
**5TH FLOOR, CEREMONIAL ROOM 7:00PM**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE EDUCATION THROUGH SPORTS UNIT  
(212) 306-3338 or (212) 306-3351

Approved for Posting

# "I Have A Dream"—NY: Making College a Reality

**I**T'S ALMOST THE end of the first semester for freshmen at colleges across the country. Some of these freshmen, kids from NYCHA's DeHostos Towers and Ravenswood Houses, knew since third grade that they'd be attending college thanks to the encouragement they received as Dreamers with the "I Have A Dream" Foundation-New York (IHDF-NY).

IHDF-NY's mission is to motivate and empower children in low-income communities to succeed in school and their future careers by providing them with comprehensive mentoring, academic support, community service, college preparation, life skills education, mental health services, health and wellness programming, arts programming, and more beginning in elementary school. It was founded in 1981 by businessman Eugene Lang and has affiliates nationwide and in New Zealand, serving more than 16,000 Dreamers.

"We do so much more than academics, we provide everything you can imagine a young person would need to be prepared for college and go off to have successful careers and do great things with their lives," said Thierry Cazeau, Executive Director of IHDF-NY. "We work with them for ten to 12 years, every year building on what they learned the year before. We are a holistic organization, focusing on a healthy mind, body, and spirit."

In addition to DeHostos (Class of 2014/2015) and Ravenswood (Class of 2015/2016), IHDF-NY cohorts include Chelsea Elliott (Class of 2016/2017) and East Harlem (Class of 2023/2024). IHDF-NY would like to start a second program at DeHostos next year.

DeHostos Program Director Leslie Gately, LMSW has worked with her 36 Dreamers for the past six years. Currently, 29 are enrolled in college, one starts in the spring, one is in the Navy, and one is a senior in high school.

"There have been a lot of tears this last year," Gately said. "They are doing

pretty well so far and it's nice to know I had a part in it, but so much of it was them and the organization telling them that they were going to college and that that's what they need to do for their lives."

The Ravenswood II Program is directed by Karlisle Honore and Matthew Wright. They have worked with their cohort of 58 since the Dreamers began in third grade; 32 are high-school seniors and 23 are currently enrolled in college.

Dreamers receive financial assistance with college through IHDF-NY. Some of the colleges Dreamers attend include CUNY schools, such as Borough of Manhattan Community College, Brooklyn College, Hunter College; SUNY schools, including Albany, New Paltz, Oneonta, and private colleges such as Haverford College, Delaware State University, the University of Connecticut, and Skidmore College.

IHDF-NY recently began the College Success Program, where Dreamers receive additional support through the first three years of college to ensure college success. To learn more about IHDF-NY visit [www.ihaveadreamny.org](http://www.ihaveadreamny.org).

Hear from three Dreamers about their invaluable experience with IHDF-NY.



**Janssen Espinal, DeHostos-Wise**  
Freshman at SUNY Genesee  
Wants to study economics  
The best thing about being a Dreamer

is having a second family. There is always going to be someone there for you no matter what. One of the most memorable experiences I've had through the program was attending my first Dreamer Conference in Denton, Texas at University of Northern Texas. It was my first time in Midwest and it was a great experience. I got to attend a rodeo and explore other parts of Texas, including Dallas. The greatest lesson I have learned from being a Dreamer is: know where to seek help so that when you're in a predicament, you're not as overwhelmed.



**Jakira Custodio, DeHostos-Wise**  
Freshman at Saint John's University  
Communications and TV/film production major

The best thing about being a Dreamer is discovering new aspects about yourself through the memorable experiences the program provides. I am proud of the strong, intelligent young woman I have developed into today. "I Have A Dream" has shaped me to prepare and conquer whatever obstacle gets thrown at me through the power of knowledge and self-confidence. One of the most memorable experiences I've had through the program was the overnight college trip where we visited different colleges, such as Buffalo State College and Syracuse University. It was fun to visit parts of New York that we would not otherwise visit on our own and

was a wonderful bonding experience. The greatest lesson I learned from being a Dreamer is staying focused on your goals no matter how difficult the ride might be. Life is not perfect, but with a positive mindset and a strong willingness, any dream is attainable.



**Karina Carino, Ravenswood II**  
Senior at Cascades High School in Manhattan  
Would like to attend Hamilton College or Guttman Community College

I've been a Dreamer for practically all my life. I think the best part is that Matt and Ms. Honore (program directors) are like family to me... they've been with me through thick and thin, helped me out not only academically but also with personal issues. There have been so many memorable experiences and all impacted me greatly. One time we worked with blind people for the day. My mentor and I helped a woman named Sharon; we helped her do shopping, we took her to Starbucks and the park. I thought it was going to be hard to figure out how to help, but it turned out to be fun. Sharon didn't see her blindness as a disability. I am more appreciative about what I have in my life. Through "I Have A Dream" I learned how to be a better person, not just for yourself but for the people around you and the ones you care for.

(MEET ROBERT WHITE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) what the community wants but also provide what's necessary.

## How long have you been a Sandy Community Outreach Worker?

I have been a Community Outreach Worker for over a year. I was in Red Hook for the storm. I was without heat, without electricity for over a month so when I joined the team, I brought that background. When I address residents I come to them as a worker and a resident that's experienced what they have.

## What is one issue you run into as a Community Outreach Worker?

A lot of people are cautious; they didn't want to have any repairs done

to their units because they think they're going to be in trouble. We're not trying to catch you with a washing machine and raise your rent. The old way of NYCHA has a lot of people fearful but we're changing minds and hearts. People tell us, "It's never been done, nobody ever called us just to say, "Did that repair happen?" But this is the new NYCHA. I think it's because this is from the top down. Because my immediate supervisor, her immediate supervisor, and all the way up to Shola Olatoye and the General Manager—they don't play around. They're out here in the community just as well. So, lots of things are happening and we're a part of it, everyone is working together.

(BEAUTY IN THE BRONX, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) ing and outdoor seating, new playground and basketball courts; an open, lighter, brighter lobby with enhanced security; new paints, lighting fixtures, and floor tiles in every hallways; new laundry rooms, plus a laundry card with \$5 preloaded onto it for each resident; 5,000 square feet of additional common areas on the ground floor housing new programs provided by Bronxworks. And of course, new kitchens and bathrooms in every apartment.

"This has been just great for Bronxchester: we have a super on premises 24/7, we get repairs done right away. We can control our own heat and air conditioning. We have brand new kitchens and bathrooms, new windows and new screens we didn't have to buy ourselves. We have new community



The just completed Tenants Association room, complete with a full kitchen.

rooms — we have been wanting those for years." Ms. Lamonda says. "If NYCHA was smart, they'd do the same thing they did at Bronxchester at all of the smaller developments. We are really, really happy here."



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# Pomonok Dreams

## Reminiscing about the Good Old Days

"POMONOK DREAMS," IS a new documentary that tells the story of the early days of Pomonok Houses through the eyes of the first residents. The film was a four-year labor of love that is a love letter to Pomonok Houses and an amazing example of how affordable housing builds community.

Pomonok Houses was completed in 1952; it has 35 buildings, 2,070 apartments, and houses about 4,200 people. Filmmakers Terry Katz and Alan Stark both grew up at Pomonok, though their time overlapped—Katz lived there from 1954 to 1979 and Stark lived there from 1954 to 1977—the two knew each other back then but didn't hang out together because of a three-year age difference.

Katz created a Facebook page because he had the idea to tell the story of Pomonok Houses with a focus on a neighborhood fixture back then, Jack, the ice cream man. Katz has worked for over 30 years as a film and television editor and teaches at St. John's University and Fashion Institute of Technology. Stark, who had been thinking of doing a film on Pomonok since the 1980s, reconnected with Katz through the Facebook page and presented the idea of doing a larger project. Stark is the Director of the M.S. 216 Beacon Program in Fresh Meadows, where he has served in various roles for the past 21 years. The two men met over coffee on the P.S. 201 playground and began mapping out a plan for the film.

"We didn't have a budget or a money person directing us which way to go—this was mine and Al's vision," Katz said. "We basically wanted to tell the story of our childhood, tell the story of a great community. The film touches on the importance of affordable housing for working class people. When you have the resources to do it right, it breeds good community."

The filmmakers interviewed more than 120 people, including former and current Pomonok Houses residents; they also collected lots of vintage photos and super-8 home movie footage. In reminiscing with people about Pomonok's past they found that they weren't the only ones who thought they had a special thing going at Pomonok—many former residents formed lifelong friendships because they felt the community was open, people looked out for each other, and everyone felt safe.

Katz recalled how Pomonok had a mixture of people coming together after having lived in homogenous ethnic communities and how, "Pomonok helped create the diversity that helped make Queens the most diverse area in the country."

The film was first screened at the National Museum of Public Housing in Chicago in April and an official private screening was held in June at Queens College for current and former Pomonok residents, close friends, and family of the filmmakers. They are currently entering the film in film festivals.

The filmmakers say the film is not just for Pomonok residents—it's for anyone who grew up in public housing, for anyone who has an interest in affordable housing for the working class.

"I hope that people today living in public housing could watch the film and get some of the sense of what we had back then," Stark said. "I know times are different, I know life has changed in so many different ways. We were very lucky, the buildings were new, the services were there, the infrastructure was strong and we had a lot of advantages that I'm wishing many people today in public housing could have the same feelings."

For more information visit [www.pomonokdreams.com](http://www.pomonokdreams.com)



Alan Stark (left) and Terry Katz (right) are the filmmakers behind "Pomonok Dreams." They are currently entering film festivals and screening the film around the City.

# NYCHA Digital Van Schedule

**OPERATING THROUGHOUT** the five boroughs, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the NYCHA Digital Vans provide NYCHA residents and other members of the community with free internet and a mobile hot spot. Each van has an instructor on site and is equipped with eight laptops, wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) and printers. For more information about the NYCHA Digital Vans e-mail:



[digitalvan@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:digitalvan@nycha.nyc.gov). Schedules are subject to change or cancellation.

## BRONX

### MITCHEL HOUSES

Also serving Mott Haven and Mill Brook.  
200 Alexander Avenue at 137th Street

#### Mondays

11/30/15  
12/14/15

### CASTLE HILL

625 Castle Hill Avenue

#### Mondays

11/23/15  
12/21/15  
01/04/16

### MELROSE

Also serving Jackson and Morrisania Air Rights.  
Morris Avenue between 153rd and 156th Streets near Classic Center

#### Mondays

11/23/15  
12/21/15  
01/04/16

### FOREST

Also serving McKinley.  
Between 980 and 1000 Trinity Avenue

#### Tuesdays

12/01/15  
12/15/15  
12/29/15

### MORRIS

Also serving Butler and Webster.  
3673 Third Avenue near boiler room rear entrance

#### Tuesdays

11/24/15  
12/22/15  
01/05/16  
01/19/16

### PATTERSON

On 143rd Street between 3rd Avenue and Morris Avenue

#### Wednesdays

12/02/15  
12/16/15  
12/30/15

### EDENWALD

In front of Management Office  
1145 East 229th Street

#### Thursdays

12/24/15  
01/07/16  
01/21/16

## BROOKLYN

### STUYVESANT GARDENS SENIOR CENTER

150 Malcolm X Boulevard between Gates Avenue and Monroe Street

#### Mondays

11/30/15  
12/14/15  
12/28/15

### OCEAN HILL

Parking Lot at Building #1, 24 Mother Gaston Boulevard

#### Tuesdays

12/01/15  
12/15/15  
12/29/15

### KINGSBOROUGH

Kingsborough 3rd Walk, between 1880 Pacific Street and Bergen Street

#### Tuesdays

11/24/15  
12/22/15  
01/05/16  
01/19/16

### WARREN STREET HOUSES

572 Warren Street, between 3rd and 4th Avenues

#### Wednesdays

11/25/15  
12/23/15  
01/06/16  
01/20/16

### MARCY

Park Avenue between Marcy and Nostrand Avenues

#### Thursdays

01/07/16  
01/21/16

### TOMPKINS

Myrtle Avenue between Throop and Tompkins Avenues (close to Throop Avenue)

#### Fridays

12/04/15  
12/18/15

### BUSHWICK

372 Bushwick Avenue, in front of baseball field

#### Fridays

01/08/16  
01/22/16

## MANHATTAN

### EAST RIVER

Also serving Wilson and Metro-North.  
425 East 105th Street

#### Wednesdays

12/23/15  
01/06/16  
01/20/16

### LEXINGTON/ WASHINGTON

Near 1773 3rd Avenue or Ground Shop on 3rd Avenue between 98th-99th Streets

#### Thursdays

12/03/15  
12/17/15

### LINCOLN

Tenant Annual Review Recertification Near 60 East 135th Street

#### Mondays

12/07/15  
01/11/16  
01/25/16

#### Tuesdays

12/08/15  
01/12/16  
01/26/16

#### Wednesdays

12/09/15  
01/13/16  
01/27/16

#### Thursdays

12/10/15  
01/14/16  
01/28/16

#### Fridays

12/11/15  
01/15/16  
01/29/16

## QUEENS

### ASTORIA HOUSES

4-20 Astoria Boulevard, at Maintenance parking lot

#### Wednesdays

12/02/15  
12/16/15  
12/30/15

## STATEN ISLAND

### NEW LANE

70 New Lane

#### Thursdays

12/03/15  
12/17/15  
12/31/15

# New Staten Island Family Justice Center Announced

## Facility will open in 2016

**I**N OCTOBER, DOMESTIC Violence Awareness Month, Mayor Bill de Blasio, First Lady Chirlane McCray, Commissioner Rosemonde Pierre-Louis of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) and Acting Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Master celebrated the groundbreaking of the City's fifth Family Justice Center, and the first in Staten Island.

"Today we have a simple message for any New Yorker suffering from domestic abuse: you are not alone," Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "All of the City's Family Justice Centers offer free, confidential services, regardless of income, sexual orientation or immigration status. I am proud to break ground today to bring that same support to Staten Island, and cement NYC as the largest network of Family Justice Centers anywhere in the country. We stand ready and willing to give all those who need it access to justice, to safety, and to hope, and are coming closer to the day when every New Yorker can live their life with dignity and security."

The estimated \$5.9 million, 10,000-square-foot Family Justice Center will be located at 126 Stuyvesant Place in close proximity to various court buildings, including Criminal, Family and Supreme Courts, and the District Attorney will co-locate Assistant District Attorneys from the Domestic Violence Bureau. NYPD Domestic Violence Prevention Officers and staff from multiple community organization partners offering a variety of supportive services will be on site.

OCDV currently operates four NYC Family Justice Centers in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. In total, they have served 129,630 clients and have had 337,051 client visits over the past 10 years. These walk-in facilities provide free and confidential services, including: civil legal representation for immigration and Family Court matters, prosecution of domestic violence crimes, safety planning and risk assessment, assistance with emergency shelter and housing, assistance with filing police reports, public benefits,



Mayor Bill de Blasio and First Lady Chirlane McCray greet attendees at the groundbreaking for the Family Justice Center in Staten Island. Photographer/Mayoral Photography Office.

on-site childcare, counseling for victims and child witnesses, support groups, financial literacy, and job and vocational training.

For more information, go to [www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence](http://www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence) and follow

OCDV on Twitter @NYCagainstabuse. For help from the Family Justice Center near you or to support the Family Justice Center Initiative visit [www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence](http://www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence) or call 212-788-3156.

## Get Your Holiday Treats from NYCHA's Food Business Pathways Graduates!



Looking for some delicious food and desserts for your holiday gatherings? Check out some of the scrumptious fare made by NYCHA's Food Business Pathways Graduates and treat your guests this holiday season.

### NYC's Best Dressed Cupcakes LLC

A bakery/catering company that provides an assortment of baked goods, pastries, and chocolate confections such as cakes, cupcakes, pies, fruit tarts, puddings, mousse, alcohol infused cupcakes and chocolate covered strawberries, chocolate lollipops, and more.



**Web:** [www.nycsbestdressedcupcakes.com](http://www.nycsbestdressedcupcakes.com)  
**Phone:** 917-733-4077  
**Facebook:** NYC's Best Dressed Cupcakes LLC  
**Twitter:** @Joanncakes  
**Instagram:** @nycsbestdressedcupcakes

### ImVictoriouz Creationz

Offers services in event and party planning, catering of soul food, and homemade cakes, set-up & decorating, hosting, serving and clean-up. ImVictoriouz Creationz can create "Creationz Just For U." Located in Brooklyn.

**Web:** [www.imvictoriouzcreationzllc.biz](http://www.imvictoriouzcreationzllc.biz)  
**Phone:** 347-356-0529  
**Instagram:** @imvictoriouzcreationz



### Taylor Made Creations for All Occasions Inc.

A bakery that produces comfort and specialized baked goods that taste good and are economically correct for the community. The company's tagline is "Baking A Difference in The Bronx."

**Phone:** 646-228-6088  
**Twitter:** TM\_\_Creations  
**Instagram:** @TMCREATIONSJT

### Ritta's Treats LLC

An affordable, custom pork-free treat creator. Ritta's Treats take the ordinary and make it extraordinary. Located in Brooklyn.

**Phone:** 929-265-1733  
**Email:** [rittastreats@gmail.com](mailto:rittastreats@gmail.com)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/RittasTreats](https://www.facebook.com/RittasTreats)

### Chef Sherri's Catering LLC

Providers of soul food that is good for your soul, as well as hand crafted holiday candies and cocoa made to order. Located in Brooklyn.

**Phone:** 347-435-6446  
**Email:** [chefsherricooks@gmail.com](mailto:chefsherricooks@gmail.com)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/chefsherriscatering](https://www.facebook.com/chefsherriscatering)  
**Instagram:** @chefsherriscatering

## REES Programs

### NRTA Janitorial Training Is Currently Recruiting

Successful applicants will receive 4 and a half weeks of FREE full-time training which includes OSHA 10 certification, equipment and compactor operation, floor stripping and finishing and other hands on cleaning techniques; job placement assistance for Caretaker J positions. Sessions fill up fast, don't miss your chance.

### Interested in owning your own home or apartment?

Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA) is partnering with REES to host a mortgage and homeownership workshop for NYCHA residents and NYCHA Section 8 voucher holders. Participants will learn about NACA's low interest rate mortgage program that enables thousands of working people to buy an affordable home or an apartment. **Note: Invited attendees will come from the waitlist compiled in August 2015. If you would like to be added to the waitlist for future workshops, please call REES at 718-289-8100. Thursday, December 3, 5:30 p.m. 90 Church St., NY, NY, 10007**

### Move your business forward with FREE and Low-Cost services!

Resident Business Development orientation, connect to: Free legal services, financing, fee-free business checking accounts, business planning services, and special industry programs.  
**Wednesday, December 9, 6 p.m. REES Office, 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Fl., BK, NY 11238**

### FREE Healthcare Training and Education Information Session (18-24 Years Old)

Jewish Home Lifecare is recruiting NYCHA residents for their Geriatric Career Development Program: hands-on paid internship at Jewish Home Lifecare, 3-week HHA training and HHA certification, job placement assistance and transition services following HHA Training, Metro cards and free lunch. You must be 18-24 years of age, pass a background check and medical screening, have a desire to help others, and NO High School Diploma or GED is required.

**Tuesday, December 8, 10 a.m. Bronxworks Job Plus, 391 East 149th St., Suite 520, BX, NY 10455**

### Take the Right Steps to Getting Ahead

FREE PERSONAL FINANCE CLASS for Brooklyn NYCHA Residents sponsored by Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union. Classes meet for 2 hours each week for 5 consecutive weeks. Residents who complete all 5 workshops will receive a certificate that will allow them to access services from Neighborhood Trusts' network of community partners. The first class is open enrollment.

**Thursday, January 7, 6 p.m. Brooklyn Cooperative – DeKalb, 834 DeKalb Avenue, BK, NY 11221**  
**If you are interested in any of these events please call the Hotline at 718-289-8100.**



# Holiday Fire Safety Tips

## Cooking

- Keep flammable items away from the stove.
- Never use the oven to heat your apartment.
- Unplug appliances when you aren't using them.
- Don't leave the kitchen when you're cooking.
- Never cook when sleepy or after drinking alcohol.
- Use a timer to check food on the stove or in the oven.



## Smoke Detectors

- Replace the batteries in your smoke detector if it is "chirping."
- If it continues to chirp, call the CCC and request a service visit.
- In the event of a fire, follow the instructions on the sticker located behind your apartment entrance door.
- Smoke alarms can be set off by bathroom steam or cooking vapors. Open the windows and turn on vent fans to clear the air. Or, quiet the alarm by pushing the "hush" button.
- Make sure everyone in your home recognizes what the smoke alarm sounds like.



## Decorating

- Only use fire-resistant artificial trees.
- Fresh green trees are safer than dry trees.
- Place a tree away from radiators and other heat sources.
- Keep the tree in a stand that is always filled with water.
- Use only indoor lights on an indoor tree.
- Never use electric lights on an artificial tree.
- Artificial snow sprays cause lung injuries if inhaled.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree.



## Extension Cords

- Never use 3-pronged plugs in outlets with two slots.
- Do not cut off the ground pin to force a fit.
- Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Don't use a cord with a wattage rating lower than the appliance plugged into it.
- Unplug any extension cord that feels hot.
- Only one appliance per extension cord.
- Multiple plugs cannot be chained together.

