



# Journal

## TINO HERNANDEZ REAPPOINTED



Chairman Tino Hernandez

New York City's 108th Mayor, Michael R. Bloomberg, has chosen New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman Tino Hernandez to join his team of the "best and the brightest," as he kicks off his term. Mayor Bloomberg announced Mr. Hernandez's reappointment as the Housing Authority's 19th Chairman at a press conference while he was still Mayor-elect, in his Manhattan office, on December 19.

"I have a long history working for the City with a variety of different agencies," Mr. Hernandez said, "and all of it has been very rewarding but so far my work with the New York City Housing Authority has been the most exciting."

Mr. Hernandez has held positions at City Hall, the Department of Homeless Services and most recently before joining NYCHA, as Commissioner for the Department of Juvenile Justice. In all of these he collaborated with the Housing Authority from time to time.

But his connection with NYCHA is personal as well as professional. Tino Hernandez resided at Jacob Riis Houses, on Manhattan's Lower East Side, when he was a teenager.

## DROUGHT WATCH DECLARED FOR NEW YORK CITY WATER SUPPLY

### NYCHA Residents Asked To Conserve Water

On December 27, The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Joel A. Miele, Sr., declared an official Drought Watch for the City's Water Supply system, that by the end of the month will probably turn into a Drought Warning.



The City declares a Drought Watch when there is less than a 50% chance that either the Delaware System or the Catskill System reservoirs will be full by June 1, the start of the "water year" when the reservoirs are normally full.

"That means all of us who rely on the City's water supply – over 8 million consumers in the City, and another million in four upstate counties — must make concerted efforts to conserve water."

The goal during a Drought Watch is to reduce water consumption by 15%. If that goal is not met and the water supplies are not replenished, the Drought Watch could evolve into a Drought Warning, and then a Drought Emergency.

The 425,000 New Yorkers who live in New York City Housing Authority developments in all five boroughs can do a lot to help extend the City's current water supply by following these simple directions.

1. Report any leaking faucets or toilet tanks to their Management Office *immediately*. These will be designated as priority items for maintenance workers.
2. Report leaking fire hydrants on or near NYCHA property to the DEP by calling (718) 337-4357. Note that it is illegal to use a hose or fire hydrant for washing vehicles. It is also to use a New York City fire hydrant without a permit for any purpose other than fire protection.
3. Take shorter showers or fill the tub only halfway.
4. Don't run the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.
5. Don't let the water run while washing dishes. Kitchen faucets use 2 or 3 gallons a minute.
6. Keep chilled water in the refrigerator. Don't run water to make it cold.
7. Run the washing machine only when full. Use short cycles if available.
8. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. Each unnecessary flush can waste 1.6 to 5 gallons of water.
9. Take advantage of the DEP's free water survey. To apply, call (718) DEP-HELP.
10. And lastly, please cooperate with your Resident Association leaders by participating in water conservation efforts.

## NYCHA HAS FULL BOARD AGAIN

On December 26, Earl Andrews, Jr. was reappointed and Deputy General Manager for Operations JoAnna Aniello was appointed to the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) three-member Board, which also includes Chairman Tino Hernandez.

"I'm pleased to have been reappointed," Mr. Andrews said, "and I look forward to working with Chairman Hernandez and Board Member Aniello to ensure that residents get the best service possible."

Mr. Andrews helped found the First Harlem Securities Corporation, which was the first minority-owned member of the New York City Stock Exchange, and was Managing Director at First Boston, Bear Stearns and W.R. Lazard Laidlaw & Mead. Among his many achievements was his appointment as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Business Services in 1996.

Ms. Aniello has been with NYCHA for seven years and most recently served as NYCHA's Deputy General Manager for Operations. Before joining NYCHA she had an impressive career with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, which lasted for nearly 20 years.

"I am delighted to have been selected as a member of the Board of the New York City Housing Authority," Ms. Aniello said. "It is a great honor and I intend to serve to the best of my ability and in the best interest of the Authority."



Board Members JoAnna Aniello and Earl Andrews, Jr.

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# HAVE A GREAT 2002 NYCHA AND NYC!

**Message From The Mayor**

**New Yorkers Don't Quit**

**H**ere in New York we understand all too well the price of our liberty. On the worst day of our City's history we were at our best. We saw the spirit of New York in our unity of purpose.



Our police, firefighters, and emergency service workers exemplified the highest ideal of our national character. And the New York City Housing Authority's staff was right there with the best of them, providing unfailing support immediately after the disaster.

That sacrifice continues today. Americans are fighting terrorism around the world and here at home our uniformed services continue the task of ensuring our safety.

I pledge that my administration will strive, in everything we do, to honor the memory of those we have lost and honor those now fighting for our freedoms. We will rebuild, renew and remain the capital of the free world.

To meet the challenges facing our City we must continue to work together to draw upon the energy, entrepreneurship and talents of all New Yorkers. We are the toughest, most resilient and most determined people on the planet. Throughout our history New Yorkers have always made the sacrifices necessary to achieve a better tomorrow.

As Mayor, I will form a new partnership with Washington, with Albany, with our City Council, with our borough presidents, with our community boards, with our municipal unions, with businesses and with all New Yorkers, not the least of whom are NYCHA residents. The people have asked us to set aside differences to overcome traditional barriers and to cooperate in this new partnership. This is an historic moment. We cannot afford to fight with each other. We must work together.

As Toni Morrison said, New York is the last true city. And it is the vitality of our neighborhoods that defines us. With a total of 365 NYCHA developments providing homes for 425,000 New Yorkers, NYCHA's contribution to that vitality is immeasurable. The combined energies and talents of the Housing Authority's residents and its administration led by Tino Hernandez, whom it was my pleasure to reappoint as Chairman, have continued to make NYCHA the best large public housing authority in the country. I look forward to adding my support to New York City's public housing community over the course of the next four years.

I have said it before and I want to say it again: New York is safe, strong, open for business and ready to lead the world in the 21st century. We will continue to improve our quality of life. We will stimulate investment in housing, schools, and when we can afford them, the world's best cultural and athletic facilities. We will focus on public safety. We will work tirelessly to provide safe streets and homes for all New Yorkers.

This is a city where 140 languages are spoken. Since the days of the Dutch, wave after wave of immigrants have transformed this City. They have flourished because of the culture of tolerance and acceptance that characterizes New York. Our challenge is to strengthen that culture and fight bigotry in any form, wherever it may happen. I will not allow any form of bias to drain our energy or divide our communities.

In the next four years I will devote myself to building a better New York. I promise that I will govern free from partisanship and prejudice. I promise that I will listen and whether you ultimately agree with my decisions, you will know that your voice has been heard.

But government alone can't find the solutions to all of our problems. It is not in City Hall but in the Rockaways, Bay Ridge, Washington Heights, New Dorp and Belmont, there and in the hundred of neighborhoods, including the hundreds of NYCHA neighborhoods throughout this great city where our answers lie. Together we can make the choices and form the partnerships that bind all New Yorkers to meet our challenges head on.

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**More Apartments Than Ever Before For Residents With Mobility Impairments and Other Physical Disabilities**

**I**n 1996, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) made a commitment to low-income New Yorkers with mobility impairments and other physical disabilities when it signed the Voluntary Compliance Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). That commitment was to convert and make fully accessible 5% of its total housing stock, or 9,100 apartments, at the rate of 600 per year.

The Voluntary Compliance Agreement governs NYCHA's compliance with Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act and related federal law, stating that "no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

*So, how are we doing?*

As of December 2001, the number of apartments that have been fully converted and made fully accessible is 6,341, with conversions averaging at over 1,000 a year. Of those 6,341 apartments, a total of 5,695 have been rented. In the year 2001 alone, 719 fully converted apartments were rented, and 299 of those rentals were transfers within NYCHA.

Often building entrances and elevators must be renovated to make an apartment fully accessible to a resident with a mobility impairment or other physical disability. The resident must be able to reach his or her apartment from the street without any obstruction. To make this possible, the entrances to over 1,510 buildings have been made barrier-free and NYCHA is in the process of renovating or plans to renovate another 450. In addition, over 500 elevators at 50 developments have been made accessible or provided with accessibility features. Elevator rehabilitation is currently ongoing on 411 elevators in 38 developments.

**The Community Center Program**

Through the Community Center Program, the Housing Authority has been busy renovating or modifying its community centers, senior centers and day care centers, along with its training and educational facilities, to provide equal access to non-housing programs for persons with mobility impairments and other physical disabilities. So far, 41 centers have been renovated, 23 are currently being renovated, 15 are in the design stage and another 30 are scheduled for renovation in the next few years. New fully accessible facilities are also being built.

**Reasonable Accommodations**

In addition to the structural changes NYCHA is making to apartments, building entrances, elevators and community centers to accommodate individuals with mobility impairments and other physical disabilities, it must also make "reasonable accommodations." These are defined as non-structural or partial modifications to conventional apartments, or changes in policies, procedures, or practices so that persons with mobility impairments and other physical disabilities have the same opportunities to participate in and benefit from NYCHA's housing programs.

Some examples include widening doorways, lowering kitchen cabinets and counters, the installation of bathroom grab bars, roll-in showers, lever handles for faucets and apartment doors, raised or lowered toilet seats, and

enhanced audio-visual alarms. So far, the Housing Authority has met over 8,900 requests for partial modifications, 708 of them within the year 2001.

**To Find Out More**

If you have a disability that prevents you from getting full use and enjoyment of your apartment or any other NYCHA facility or program and you do not wish to move from your current apartment, you may request a reasonable accommodation by completing the form in your annual recertification package or by speaking with a housing assistant. If you have a mobility impairment and would like to transfer to a fully converted apartment, call or visit your management office and fill out a Tenant Request for Transfer. For further information, please contact your housing assistant or Management Office, or call the Department of Equal Opportunity at (212) 306-4652 or TDD (212) 306-4445.

**New York City Health Code Minimum Heating Requirements October 1 through May 31**

**6:00 AM to 10:00 PM**

Outside Temperature Below 55 Degrees Fahrenheit  
Minimum Inside Temperature 68 Degrees Fahrenheit

**10 PM to 6:00 AM**

Outside Temperature Below 40 Degrees Fahrenheit  
Minimum Inside Temperature 55 Degrees Fahrenheit

**The Housing Authority Journal**

**68**  
years  
of Public Housing  
in New York City

**ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000**

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**Message From The Chairman****Taking A Lesson From History**

The quality of leadership is not always easy to describe but we certainly know it when we see it. Even more difficult to identify is the extraordinary leader who will leave a great legacy, whose vision lifts society to higher levels of justice and compassion and whose inspiration benefits generations far into the future.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life we celebrate this month, and U.S. Presidents George Washington and Abraham

Lincoln, whose lives we celebrate next month, were leaders who transformed America and the world. They were three very different individuals who lived in very different times, but they shared basic attributes.

Each had an abiding respect for tradition and at the same time a genius for new ideas, the judgment to evaluate them and the willpower to carry them out. No one would argue that our lives would be very different today without these three leaders. In fact, taking them chronologically, one could chart the progress of American liberty using the milestone achievements of Washington, Lincoln and King.

As we all know, George Washington, a native Virginian born in 1732, was the first president of the United States. Washington began his military career in 1753. He was named commander in chief of the Continental Army by the Continental Congress in 1775. During the American Revolution Washington was a stern, resourceful leader, who developed his military skill by trial and error. He became chairman of the Federal Constitutional Convention of 1787, where he played a significant role in the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. In 1789, he became the country's first president.

Our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, had a humble beginning. He was born in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1809, the son of a carpenter. Lincoln began his political career in the Illinois General Assembly in 1834. He was reelected three more times. Lincoln became a lawyer and was admitted to the bar in 1837. He served in Congress from 1847–1849. In 1860, he was nominated for president by the Republican party on an anti-slavery platform, and won the election. At the same time, South Carolina seceded from the Union, as did 10 more Southern states the following year. The Civil War broke out on April 12, 1861. Lincoln is perhaps best remembered for his Emancipation Proclamation, delivered in 1862, in which he announced that slaves in territory that was in rebellion would be set free, and for his Gettysburg Address, delivered after the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., born in 1929, was a Baptist minister. His eloquence and commitment to nonviolence led him to set up the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which formed the foundation of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Reverend King led thousands on peaceful marches, making nonviolence a mighty weapon in the battle for human rights. Like a statesman, he moved millions with the power of ideas and the awe-inspiring eloquence to express them. Among the many peaceful demonstrations he led was the 1963 March on Washington, at which he delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech. In 1964, Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize.

We can all be inspired by the lives of these great leaders. The ripple effects of leadership hold true everywhere. The New York City Housing Authority's resident leaders improve the quality of lives around them and those still to come. A Resident Patrol member, a member of the Resident Advisory Board, a Resident Association officer, all the way to Council Of President Chairs may seem to be working in a very contained corner of the world but rest assured that NYCHA's resident leaders make things happen. I would like to thank them and all residents who work to improve the quality of life in our developments.

Tino Hernandez

**Residents Give NYCHA High Marks In Survey**

By Allan Leicht

In the opinions of NYCHA residents, NYCHA is doing very well. That is the result of a survey by the federal government, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), known as the Resident Assessment Subsystem or R.A.S.S. This is the second year of the R.A.S.S. initiative, which evaluates every public housing authority in the country. The survey is conducted by a private company that distributes questionnaires to public housing residents who are chosen at random and who remain anonymous as the forms are sent only to apartment numbers, no names used.

"Not only are we doing well but we are steadily improving," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, referring to the fact that in this second year NYCHA's residents gave the Authority higher approval ratings for the year 2000 than they did for 1999, in every category.

A score of 100% means "very satisfied" and 0% means "very dissatisfied."

In the area of Maintenance and Repair, resident satisfaction was 79% for the year 2000, up from 72% in 1999. In the category of Communication, residents gave NYCHA a 66% for the year 2000, 63% for Safety, and 56% for Neighborhood Appearance — all several points above the 1999 ratings. And the biggest improvement in resident satisfaction came with an 84% approval rating in the category of Services, a jump from 63% in 1999.

Mr. Hernandez said, "The entire NYCHA staff, from central office to everywhere in the field, should feel very proud to have won the approval of our residents. But we must continue to improve and build on our accomplishments."

Victor Edwards, NYCHA's Deputy Director for Operations Initiatives, works with the survey specialists to coordinate and facilitate the assessment, providing the addresses and apartment numbers to which questionnaires are sent. "When you compare our scores to other housing authorities across the country, they are even more impressive," said Mr. Edwards.

Residents from 308 of NYCHA's 345 developments participated in the survey, and a total of 14,642 residents received questionnaires. Of these, 5,346 surveys were

(Continued on page 7)

**Deborah's Diary**

By Deborah Williams

**Artistic Talent Emerges**—At the young age of twelve, Jennifer Williams is letting everyone know just how talented she is. As a resident of Prospect Plaza Houses, in Brooklyn, she was able to participate in the Hope VI Logo Contest. On November 14, 2001, at the Task Force meeting she was announced as the winner of the Logo Contest and was presented with a \$100.00 US Savings Bond. The Logo will be used on all future Hope VI Newsletters and other Prospect Plaza informational items. NYCHA's Department of Housing Finance and Development sponsored the event. *Well, Jennifer, you keep drawing and creating and I know great things will come your way. Congratulations on your logo. It looks great!*

**A Sign of Life, A Glimmer of Hope**—For many, September 11 will be remembered as a day of despair and loss but for one NYCHA resident, it was a day that brought new life. Angeline Swinton, of Hope Gardens in Brooklyn, gave birth to Kareem James-Swinton Carey, Jr. at 10:30 AM on September 11, 2001 at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. Kareem made his appearance weighing in at 10 pounds, 12 ounces. (Wow!) So, although, this may have been a cursed day, some folks like Angeline Swinton and Kareem Carey, Sr., were blessed. First-time grandma, Thomasina Swinton, is overjoyed with her new grandson and says, "The birth of a child brings hope for the future and gives you a new outlook on life. More importantly, it adds a ray of sunshine to your day." In addition to caring for her new baby, Angeline will also be attending St. Francis College and is expected to graduate with her Bachelor's Degree in May 2002. *To Angeline and Kareem, I wish you the very best with your little big guy, and Angeline, I hope to be writing more about you again in May when you graduate!*

**A Special Thanks**—This article was submitted to me from Rahsaan Wiggins of Linden Houses in Brooklyn, about his mother. "I am writing this about a special lady who is physically challenged from the waist down. Stricken with polio at the age of two-and-a-half, my mom, Carmen Wichard, has never let her disability become an obstacle. She is always ready to take on any challenge that may come her way. My mom walks on crutches going from floor to floor within our 14-story building, along long hallways, making notes on things that need to be repaired. When she goes outside, she sometimes rides her scooter inspecting the grounds and buildings for things that need attention and talking to residents. She spends a lot of time writing letters to our Manager, Mr. Melfa, our Superintendent Mr. Prono, and Brooklyn Borough Director Gloria Finkelman to share the results of her inspections and surveys. Sometimes the residents, in a joking way, laugh at the number of letters that she has sent out, and how persistent she is, but she has gotten results! It is my hope that this article inspires others to work for the betterment of their communities. Sometimes it has been discouraging for my mother, but through her faith and determination she has overcome every challenge just as she has her disability." *Ms. Wichard you are truly an amazing woman and I commend you on all your efforts! I'm sure your community thanks you for a job well done! And thank you, Rashaan, for bringing this story to my attention.*

**In Memoriam**—I am very sorry to have to report that Frank LiCausi of First Houses passed away on December 4, 2001. Mr. LiCausi, born in 1915, was the last remaining original resident of First Houses. He moved into the development with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Frances, in 1935. Mrs. LiCausi later gave birth to a son, James. Mr. LiCausi was voted president of the development's Resident Association when it was started in 1936. He remained active and concerned about his development and community all through the many years that he lived there. Mary LiCausi passed away in 1997. Frank LiCausi is survived by his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and his daughter-in-law Jeanne LiCausi. *I extend my sincerest condolences to the LiCausi family on behalf of the entire NYCHA community.*

## 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 the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on November 8, 15, and 22, 2000. **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 8, 2000

Chris Hudgins	Case 4375/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 80 Roxbury Street, Mariner's Harbor Houses, Staten Island.
Leonard Brown	Case 4315/00 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2275 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Ronald Roper	Case 4316/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 1414 Bergen Street, Albany Houses, Brooklyn.
Robert Rich	Case 4423/00 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 3-06 Astoria Blvd., Astoria Houses, Queens.
Jamel Albritton	Case 4430/00 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 1786 Prospect Place, Prospect Plaza, Brooklyn.

### Prohibited as of November 15, 2000

Steven Garcia	Case 4438/00 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 1734 Madison Avenue, Taft Houses, New York.
Nashawn Pearson	Case 4480/00 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 754 Henry Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Darryl Wilson	Case 4484/00 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 117 North Oxford Walk, Walt Whitman Houses, Brooklyn.
David Rogelio	Case 4472/00 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 765 Courtlandt Avenue, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.

### Prohibited as of November 22, 2000

Christian Ludd	Case 4489/00 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1763 Prospect Place, Prospect Houses, Brooklyn.
Randy Harris	Case 4519/00 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 300 Dumont Avenue, Tilden Houses, Brooklyn.
Anthony Rich	Case 4520/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 2660 Eighth Avenue, Drew Hamilton Houses, New York.
Anthony Dash	Case 4526/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 290 Frost Street, Cooper Park Houses, Brooklyn.
Kamel Green	Case 4602/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 429 Dumont Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn.

# Five More NYCHA Residents Charged With Housing Fraud

Two New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and three participants in the federally funded Section 8 housing voucher program administered by NYCHA have been charged with misrepresenting their income and fraudulently receiving a total of nearly \$75,000 in government housing benefits. The investigations resulting in their arrests were led by Department Of Investigation (DOI) Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and his staff.

DOI Commissioner Edward J. Kuriansky announced the charges on December 5, 2001, at which time he expressed his appreciation to NYCHA's Borough Management and Leased Housing Departments and to Police Commissioner Bernard B. Kerik for their cooperation with the investigation.

"The lesson these defendants and others would be wise to learn," Commissioner Kuriansky said, "is that with so many needy New Yorkers on long waiting lists for affordable housing, the City will not be duped into providing subsidized apartments to people who can well afford to pay more or even live elsewhere."

Both conventional public housing residents live in East Harlem. Two of the Section 8 participants are from Glendale, Queens, and one is from Borough Park, Brooklyn.

Michelle Clarke of Taft Houses on East 112th Street, an NYPD School Safety Officer since 1999, was charged with failing to report the presence of her fiancé in her four-room apartment and the income he earned. The fiancé worked as a Corrections Officer from 1993 to 1997 and as a Police Officer beginning in 1997. From 1996 to 1999, Clarke fraudulently reported that her sole source of income was from public assistance, and that she lived alone in her apartment with her four children. Because Ms. Clarke's fiancé earned an annual income ranging from \$19,639 to \$36,005 during this time, she should have paid the maximum rent for the apartment, \$495 a month, instead of \$137.

Similarly, Rosa Lewis, of Carver Houses on East 106th Street, a public housing assistance recipient, was charged with failing to report that she was living with a friend in her five-bedroom apartment, and failing to report income from the friend's Supplemental Security Income (SSI), from 1995 to 2000. The SSI ranged from \$6,528 to \$7,188 per year. Ms. Lewis paid \$153 per month when she should have paid \$247 to \$291 per month.

"The arrests we made underscore our commitment to aggressively enforce the law and should act as a further inducement to those residents who have not provided full disclosure of their

income and assets to take advantage of the Amnesty Program currently being offered," Mr. Pasichow said.

During the six months prior to this announcement a total of 32 residents were arrested for stealing nearly \$500,000 in government benefits by concealing their employment or actual household income from NYCHA.

### THE RENT AMNESTY PROGRAM

The Rent Amnesty Program allows NYCHA residents and Section 8 participants who have not accurately reported their income and assets to do so without

fear of criminal or civil prosecution. Participants will not have their tenancy or subsidy terminated unless they are otherwise ineligible, and will not be arrested and charged with a crime as a result of their failure to report income information accurately. Individuals who are under criminal investigation, have criminal charges related to tenant fraud pending against them, or have helped others commit this type of fraud are not eligible for the Program. To find out how you can apply, contact your Management Office or call the Amnesty Hotline at 212-306-6600. The deadline is January 31, 2002.

## NYCHA's RENTAL ASSISTANCE

# AMNESTY PROGRAM

IF YOU HAVE FAILED TO ACCURATELY REPORT YOUR INCOME OR ASSETS, THIS PROGRAM GIVES YOU ONE CHANCE TO AVOID PENALTY.



- NO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION
- KEEP YOUR APARTMENT
- PAYBACK WITH NO INTEREST
- SELF ESTEEM

CONTACT YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR CALL OUR

**HOTLINE (212) 306-6600**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2001 thru JANUARY 31, 2002

### SPEAK OUT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION!

If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption committed against the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) by any NYCHA employee, contractor, vendor, or tenant, we urge you to call the NYCHA Inspector General (IG) at 212-306-3355. The IG is supervised by the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI). Although the DOI and the IG initiate and develop their own investigations they encourage and rely upon NYCHA employees, tenants, people who do business with NYCHA, and the public at large, to report fraudulent and corrupt activity they see or hear. **TO REPORT FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CALL THE IG at 212-306-3355, or DOI at 212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959.**

# YOUR CHILD IS NO ANGEL.



**Angels don't need health coverage.** Your child does. That's why at HEALTH PLUS we offer you Child Health Plus; a New York State program that provides your child or teenager with **FREE or low cost health coverage** regardless of your financial situation. To find out if your child qualifies, call **HEALTH PLUS** at **1-888-809-8009**.

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Since 1984.**



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# SANTA VISITS MANHATTANVILLE CC *Aftercare Party For Victims Of Domestic Violence At Campos*



(Left to Right) Community Operations Deputy Director Christine Zeni as Mrs. Claus, Performing Arts Coordinator Keir Nelson as Santa, Citywide Programs Director Deidra Gilliard, Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, Manhattan North Council of Presidents Chair Barbara G. Barber and NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, join children at Manhattanville for a special Christmas celebration.

By Eileen Elliott

Christmas came early for 500 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) children who trooped into the Manhattanville Houses Community Center on the early evening of December 17, thanks to NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Citywide Programs and a host of companies and organizations that contributed money, gifts, or staff. Festivities included music by the NYCHA Youth Chorus, a reading by Santa and Mrs. Claus, and the presentation of a special Christmas stocking to NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez by two young Manhattanville residents.

And before the party was over, the 1,000 teddy bears that flanked the gymnasium nestled in their colorful holiday gift bags all found new homes in public housing. The bears were donated to the children of New York City by children from around the country as part of the disaster relief effort after the attacks on the World Trade Center.

"I'm only known because of my husband," a bespectacled Mrs. Claus, played by Community Operations Deputy Director Christine Zeni complained. No wonder. This Santa, who is also Community Operations Citywide Programs Performing Arts Coordinator Keir Nelson, on the off-season, had *attitude*.

"Are you ready to have a good time?" he asked the children sitting obediently on almost every bit of available floor space. "I said, are you ready to have a good time?" he asked again, dissatisfied with their response, and needless to say the children were ready.

Lisa Rose and Kareem Goubran, volunteers from the Metro Baptist Association, said they were excited to be doing something for the community as they twirled fluffy, pink cotton candy onto white paper cones.

NYCHA extends its thanks to the Metro Baptist Association and all of the people and organizations that lent their support. They include Basic Fun, Costco, Teddy

Bear Program Directors Dr. John LaNoue and Dr. Kaywin LaNoue, the New York City Fire Department, the Maramont Corporation, which donated the refreshments, and Alpak Industries.

The event was attended by NYCHA Chief of Staff Natalie Rivers, Community Operations (CO) Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, CO Citywide Programs Director Deidra Gilliard, Manhattan CO Director Luis Soler, Manhattan Borough Administrator Nathaniel Parris, Brooklyn Borough CO Director Mary Starks, Public and Community Relations Director Millie Molina, and Resident Association President Ann Morris.

## **SLEIGH BELLS RING AT BREVOORT HOUSES!**



**STOP SANTA, THERE'S THE GRINCH!** That was the mantra chanted by the 50 or so children who trailed behind Santa and Mrs. Claus as Rudolph and the other reindeer pulled their sleigh through the grounds at Brevoort Houses in Brooklyn on a chilly December 21st evening. The sleigh (which was really pulled by a tractor) was made by Julius Tivens in 1996 when he was Superintendent of the development. The tradition has been kept alive each year since then largely by the efforts of Brevoort Caretaker Charles Turrell and the Brevoort staff. "The children love it," said Resident Association President Geneva Montgomery who has lived at the development for the past 47 years. But the whole event was in danger of not happening this year for a not-so-surprising reason — *that's right, the Grinch* — who made his very first appearance at Brevoort.

## *Aftercare Party For Victims Of Domestic Violence At Campos*

By Allan Leicht

They have lived in fear, often without hope of ever feeling happy and carefree, but on December 19 the clients of NYCHA's Domestic Violence Aftercare Program went to a party. It was the annual holiday party hosted by NYCHA's Department for Social Services. Not so very long ago these partygoers endured traumatic and life-threatening experiences — some of them fleeing abusive homes with just the clothes on their backs.

The 60 residents, representing 19 families who gathered at the Campos Plaza Community Center, are among those who have been assisted by the Aftercare Program, which provides relocation assistance, advocacy, referrals, safety planning and emotional support and counseling to NYCHA residents who have been approved for emergency transfers because of domestic violence. This year-end has been particularly difficult for the Aftercare Program because the terrorist attacks of September 11 made its 90 Church Street facility unreachable, cutting off access to its entire database and files, and to the toys received earlier in the year for this year's party. Additionally, area merchants were unable to give their usual donations of food and sweets towards the holiday party. Despite these setbacks, the Aftercare Program staff worked diligently to reconstruct the database, reconnect with their clients and organize a gathering of good cheer and fun.

The difficulties only added to the meaning of the event and a sense of achievement for the NYCHA staff. Nora Cephas-Armstead, a secretary at Manhattan Housing Applications, Andre Cirilo, Community Coordinator at the Department of Economic and Business Initiatives, Michael McCaffrey, Deputy Director of Technical Services, and Cathy Rubin, secretary with the Lead Abatement Unit, all helped make the day extra special by donating their talents to help entertain the children.

The Aftercare Program is currently serving 57 families with approximately 170 children. NYCHA's staff treated those who attended the holiday festivities to a magician, toys, gala décor, music and joy. "We even had a DJ for dancing," said Lauren Antoine, Assistant Coordinator of the Aftercare Program. Those who were not fortunate enough to attend this year's party will be receiving gifts as well.

After warm welcome remarks from Ms. Antoine and Ruth Mejia, an Aftercare Program Social Worker, guests were treated to music, games, face painting, arts, crafts, food and cake. Michelle Pinnock-Clerk, NYCHA's Director of Social Services, together with Nora Reissig-Lazzaro, her Deputy Director, and Chezia Carraway, the Aftercare Program Coordinator, joined in welcoming the families who had good reason to look forward to bright new chapters in their lives. Sharing the good feeling at this fourth annual party were three officers of the NYPD and a Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Intervention and Education Program counselor who works with the Police Service Areas. NYCHA employees and Housing Police Officers raised spirits even higher with generous donations of toys and clothing for the children. Ed Chin of NYCHA Computer Services made a generous donation of toys and money.

Also donating toys and clothing were Time Warner Cable, the New York City Conflict of Interest Board, the Teddy Bear Program, Toys for Tots, and the New York City Firefighters Hockey Team, as well as NYCHA's Catholic Guild. NYCHA's Community Operations Citywide Programs also contributed toys and assistance purchasing the food. The GAP donated gift certificates, Sasson Perez and Pete's-a-Place both donated some of the food, making for a plentiful feast.

These have been challenging times for our City, but that has not prevented NYCHA employees, in partnership with the NYPD, Safe Horizon, and a host of businesses, from coming out in full force to bring happiness and joyful memories to the most vulnerable of our residents, the children and families who have been forced to relocate because of domestic violence.

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CITYWIDE PROGRAMS AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

**IS REGISTERING RESIDENTS FOR ITS UPCOMING**



The Talent Search is open only to Housing Authority residents over the age of 6.

Full-time NYCHA employees are NOT eligible.

Each Contestant may select one of the following:

- Vocalist / Instrumental: Pop \* Rock \* Hip Hop \* Classical \* Religious
- Drama / Readings
- Dance / Pop \* Hip Hop \* Jazz
- Comedy

Registration Forms Will Be Accepted Through February 18, 2002

By: The Department of Community Operations Citywide Programs and Contract Management  
250 Broadway 11th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10007

For further information and additional Registration Forms, please contact **(212) 306-4085 or 8851.**

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**TRYOUTS FOR  
NYCHA GYMNASTIC SCHOLARSHIPS**

At Sutton Gymnastic Training Center in Manhattan

- **DO YOU HAVE A CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 9 LIVING IN A NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT?**
- **IS HE OR SHE MENTALLY FOCUSED AND PHYSICALLY TALENTED? (STRONG, FLEXIBLE AND FAST! )**
- **ARE YOU OR ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT WILLING TO COMMIT TO HELPING YOUR CHILD ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE? ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!**
- **DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A MINIMUM OF 4 HOURS A WEEK TO GIVE TO ATTAINING THAT EXCELLENCE?**



**IF THE ANSWERS ARE "YES"...**

**SUTTON GYMNASTIC TRAINING CENTER** and the **NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY** are offering full gymnastic scholarships to children who qualify. **THIS IS A FULL SCHOLARSHIP.** If your child is selected, is willing to work hard, and meets all requirements, he or she will become a part of the Sutton Gymnastics/ NYCHA Gymnastics Competitive Team Program.

Our girls and boys compete in the USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Development Program and the USA Independent Gymnastics Clubs competitions. This program trains gymnasts from local level to the national and international levels of competition.

Team members are instructed by nationally recognized USA Gymnastics certified coaches, meet many new friends, travel, and if they maintain high scholastic standards, have the opportunity for scholarships at many fine colleges and universities.



**TO AUDITION**

**All auditions will be held at Sutton Gymnastics.**

**Address: 20 Cooper Square 7th floor**  
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Telephone: **212-533-9393**

**Appointments begin at 2PM and are by reservation ONLY.**

**AUDITIONS ARE ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS.**

**Saturday December 29, 2001**  
**Saturday January 26, 2002**  
**Saturday February 23, 2002**

**New Dates**

**All auditions begin at 2:00 pm and are by reservation only.**  
Please call Sutton Gymnastics between the hours of 9AM and 1PM. We will schedule your time and appointment date. The phone can be busy so please keep trying.

Included on the current team roster are NYCHA boys and girls who have **WON** local, state, regional meets and even earned a place on the **TOPS** national team.



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*The New York City Housing Authority Youth Chorus is holding*  
**AUDITIONS!**

*Our program draws youth from the entire city. YOU may be one of them! These youngsters are given a forum to showcase their talent, they tour and perform at many exciting high profiled events throughout New York City.*

**NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE YOUTH CHORUS**

**AT (212) 427-6648**

**Resident Survey**  
*(Continued from page 3)*

returned, representing a 37% response rate. That means there are quite a number of NYCHA residents who take the time to participate in the improvements of their developments.

“More and more residents are more satisfied,” said NYCHA Chairman Hernandez, “and that’s the goal of everything we do, to improve the quality of life for the people who live in NYCHA.”

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NYCHA's  
Web Site  
www.nyc.gov/nycha**

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