



Journal

City Harvest's Mobile Market Launch At Melrose Houses

By Eileen Elliott

Undaunted by the low temperatures, more than 600 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents lined up outside of the Classic Center at Melrose Houses in the Morrisania section of the Bronx in the early morning hours of January 25th, to receive their free fresh fruits and vegetables from City Harvest's Mobile Market. As NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. commented during the official launch of the Mobile Market program, which began at 10:30 that morning, "When people line up so early, you know the program is successful!" He added, "This program is very unique and very necessary."

The goal of the nonprofit City Harvest, the nation's oldest "food rescue" program, is to end hunger in communities throughout New York City by distributing food which is donated by local businesses. Through a special initiative with the New York City Housing Authority beginning in October 2004, City Harvest's Mobile Market has been bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to the parking lot

outside of the Classic Center twice a month, for the residents of Jackson, Morrisania and Melrose Houses, serving 619 families.

Surrounded by snowbanks, with the green-and-white City Harvest truck as a backdrop, Mr. Andrews was joined by City Harvest Chairperson Sue Marks, Executive Chef and owner of the famous Le Bernardin restaurant,

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BONDING Shown here are some of the 25 seniors from the Jewish Association of Services for the Aged Senior Center in Williamsburg, who joined (center to right) Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. (partially hidden), and Assemblyman Vito Lopez, following the press conference to announce \$2 billion for modernization.

MAYOR ANNOUNCES \$2 BILLION FOR MODERNIZATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE CITY'S PUBLIC HOUSING

By Eileen Elliott

In a time of diminishing funds for public housing, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg joined U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regional Director for New York Mirza Negron Morales, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman Tino Hernandez, New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC) President Emily Youssof, and State Assemblyman Vito Lopez at Brooklyn's Williamsburg Community Center on January 31st to announce a bond transaction that will provide the Authority with a mammoth \$600 million for the maintenance and modernization of its aging buildings and infrastructure. In addition, NYCHA expects to receive a capital allocation of approximately \$1.4 billion from HUD over the next four years, bringing the total capital investment in NYCHA developments to \$2 billion.

"All in all virtually every public housing development in the City will be markedly improved by some element of this historic capital program," the Mayor proclaimed. He called the work the \$2 billion will fund, the most comprehensive capital program in the Housing Authority's history, and thanked Ms. Negron Morales for HUD's support of the bond issuance.

\$300 million transactions, most likely beginning this month, and then again in 2006. The first \$300 million will finance exterior brick

work and roofing on 500 buildings in 129 developments in the five boroughs. The second phase will

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MANGOES were among the fruits and vegetables available to NYCHA residents at the Mobile Market in the South Bronx.

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Celebrate Women's History Month!

Message From The Mayor

New Complex on 125th Street Will Include Marriott Courtyard Hotel and Create 2,500 Jobs



Last month I joined Governor George E. Pataki, the Majic Development Group, and 1800 Park Ave. LLC development teams to break ground on Harlem Park, a 660,000 square-foot mixed use complex that will combine a 34-story Marriott Courtyard Hotel with retail, office and 109,000 square feet for residential use on a vacant lot at 125th Street and Park Avenue.

The \$236 million project will create 1,500 construction jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs and is expected to open in late 2006. Breaking ground on this magnificent project marks another great step in the economic revival of Harlem.

With crime falling to historic lows, our schools improving and our streets getting cleaner, Harlem is becoming more vibrant and better than ever. This new facility with its hotel, shops and apartments proves beyond a doubt that Harlem's renaissance is moving forward at full speed.

Designed by world-renowned architect Enrique Norton of TEN Arquitectos/MDA Designgroup, Harlem Park will feature The Offices at Harlem Park (167,000 square feet of office space), The Shoppes at Harlem Park (a 62,000 square-foot retail center), 100 apartments, a 1,200-seat meeting/banquet facility, a health club and spa with an outdoor pool, and a two-level underground parking garage. At street level, the retail section will wrap around the building to attract pedestrian activity.

The Marriott will commit to hiring Harlem residents for 25% of its jobs and to minority employment of 50% of the hourly employees. They will also commit to 25% of Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) participation in procurement of goods and services to the hotel and will sponsor a Harlem Recruitment Day before they launch their general outreach.

As Majic Development Corporation Chairman Michael Caridi said at the groundbreaking, Harlem is more than a community with a rich history, it is a community that has helped to set the course of history. This new project will honor that history for generations to come.

Michael R. Bloomberg

PSA # 1 Satellite Opens In Red Hook



FASTER SERVICE is the promise of the new PSA #1 Satellite Office in Red Hook. Shown here are (left to right) Red Hook Senior Center Director Rosemary Bland, Red Hook Houses West Resident Association (RA) President Lillian Marshall, NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, Red Hook East RA President Dorothy Shields, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Coney Island Houses RA President Rosia Wyche, Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe, PSA #1 Community Council President and Surfside Houses RA President Emily Sterling, and NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

By Allan Leicht

Police officers in ceremonial dress uniforms joined civic, elected and resident leaders assembled at Red Hook Houses in Brooklyn on a blustery February 10th to dedicate a new Satellite Office of Police Service Area (PSA) #1. Noting the 11-mile distance between PSA #1, which is located in Coney Island, and the Red Hook neighborhood, New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told the gathering that the introduction of the new Satellite Office would mean better, faster more efficient delivery of police services.

"Crime is down 50% in the City in the last decade. It is down 10% from last year here in Red Hook," the Commissioner said, "and that is thanks to the cooperation between the Housing Bureau of the Police Department under Chief Joanne Jaffe and the New York City Housing Authority under Chairman Tino Hernandez. But this Satellite Office has been here since last December," said Mr. Kelly, "and already vertical patrols are up 27% and arrests are up 14%." The Commissioner praised Chief Jaffe for choosing Red Hook Houses as the site for the new office, which will house 38 police officers who will no longer report to the main PSA #1 headquarters but directly to the Red Hook satellite.

Chairman Hernandez thanked Commissioner Kelly for always responding to the needs of NYCHA residents and made special mention of the Commissioner's selection of Joanne Jaffe as Chief of the Housing Bureau. Chief Jaffe received a particularly enthusiastic round of applause from the resident leaders, which was later amplified upon by Rosia Wyche, COP Chair for Brooklyn South and Coney Island Houses Resident Association President, who had come to Red Hook for the ceremonies.

"Chief Jaffe and Tino did it," said Ms. Wyche, "we were asking for this and this Chair and this Chief made it happen."

Ms. Wyche was joined at the dedication by Resident Association Presidents Lillian Marshall of Red Hook West, Dorothy Shields of Red Hook East, and PSA Community Council President and President of Surfside Resident Association Emily Sterling. The Satellite Office will also serve the NYCHA developments of Gowanus Houses, Wyckoff Gardens and 572 Warren Street. Also in attendance were State Senator Velmanette Montgomery and City Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez.

The Chairman publicly commended NYCHA's Deputy General Manger Robert Podmore and the NYCHA Department of Technical (Continued on page 8)

2005 RESIDENT ART SHOW CITYWIDE ART COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS. NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY OPERATIONS CITYWIDE PROGRAMS and CONTRACT MANAGEMENT. ARTWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM MONDAY APRIL 11TH THROUGH FRIDAY APRIL 29TH, 2005 FOR INFORMATION AND/OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL: (212) 306-3358

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*Message From The Chairman***March Is Women's History And National Social Workers Month**

Spring is practically here already and there is so much happening at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and at NYCHA developments throughout the City. Last month residents in every borough turned out to celebrate Black History month with educational programs, dance, drama, music, and even a special field trip to the Bronx Zoo. Following right up on Black History Month, this month we celebrate Women's History.

In typical NYCHA fashion, I'm sure there will be a host of activities throughout March to honor the accomplishments of women. Interested residents should keep an eye open for information about any special activities at your local community center as well as in the larger community.

But really, we don't need a special occasion to honor the women of NYCHA. The success of this great enterprise, the New York City Housing Authority, can be directly attributed to the hard work and vision of women who currently live and work in our developments and at Central Office (and some do both), as well as the contributions of women historically.

Social reformer Mary K. Simkhovitch was one of the five prominent New Yorkers to be sworn in by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia on the steps of City Hall in 1934, as NYCHA's very first Board. And First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was there with Mayor LaGuardia and Governor Herbert Lehman back in 1935 to dedicate NYCHA's very first development – First Houses.

No NYCHA resident can overlook the huge contribution made by women who live in our developments, many of whom are mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers. Whether they are part of the Resident Association or sit Tenant Patrol, or serve on the Resident Advisory Board to help NYCHA chart a course for the coming year with the Annual Plan, their hard work and commitment has helped shape the Housing Authority into what it is today.

Women play an indispensable role in the day-to-day operations of NYCHA, filling positions at all levels here at Central Office and in the field, from Board Member to Deputy General Managers to development Managers and Caretakers. A significant number of those women also grew up in public housing.

But there's more to March than Women's History. It's also National Social Workers Month. Readers of this column may not be aware that in addition to serving as Chairman for the Housing Authority, I am also a trained social worker. As such, I am particularly aware of the valuable role social workers play in our society, the positive effects they can have on the lives of those they assist, as well as the joys and difficulties associated with the profession.

I am proud to say that NYCHA has 60 social workers on staff who assist residents of all ages, in a variety of capacities. We also partner with numerous social service agencies.

In keeping with the theme of this year's National Social Workers Month, "Social Workers. Help Starts Here," I want to remind all residents that social workers can connect people to a variety of resources in their communities. If you are a NYCHA resident who feels that you might benefit from the services of a social worker, I encourage you to reach out by calling your Borough's Social Services Office. (See page 5.)

Please join with me as we celebrate Women's History Month and National Social Workers Month. I'd like to extend my personal thanks to all of the women and social workers out there, and thanks on behalf of the Housing Authority for all you do to help make the Housing Authority what it is today. Keep up the good work!

Tino Hernandez

THE TAX DEADLINE IS April 15th... Don't Forget The Earned Income Tax Credit

The Income Tax Deadline, April 15th, will be here before you know it, and the New York City Housing Authority wants to remind all eligible residents not to forget to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, or the EITC, when filling out their tax forms.

The EITC is a cash refund from the federal, state and city governments that can pay as much as \$5,800 for each year that you qualify. The average refund per NYCHA family is expected to be around \$3,000, and an estimated 30,000 families are eligible.

In fact, if all qualified NYCHA families and individuals filed for the EITC, the New York City economy would get a boost of approximately \$90 million! That's a lot of money to be left unclaimed.



It is important to keep in mind that NYCHA will not count any money from the EITC as income, when determining your rent. The EITC will also not affect other government benefits such as public assistance, nor will it be counted as income for purposes of Medicaid, Food Stamps or SSI. However, you must spend the money by the end of the month following the month it is received in order to retain eligibility for these benefits.

To be eligible for the EITC, a family with one qualifying child must have earned less than \$30,338 annually, and a family with more than one qualifying child must have earned less than \$34,458 annually. Individuals 24 years of age and older who do not have a qualifying child, and who made less than \$11,490 annually, are also eligible.

If you are a NYCHA resident and earned less than \$35,000 in 2004, you can get FREE HELP preparing your taxes at many locations throughout the City, including some NYCHA locations. To find the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site nearest you, please call 311. VITA sites are staffed by volunteers trained by the Internal Revenue Service.



Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

An Actor's Life—It all began back in November of 2004, when 60 NYCHA residents ages 17 to 70 registered with NYCHA's Performing Arts Unit for the chance to win an acting scholarship to study at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, a comprehensive theatre program that was created by the late Lee Strasberg, the legendary teacher of method acting. These talented individuals all had the same dream — to one day become part of the world of entertainment. Twenty-five of the 60 residents who registered gathered at the Taft Houses rehearsal space on November 14, 2004, for an audition. In the end, only 17 aspiring actors/actresses would go on for the final review with Anna Strasberg, Lee Strasberg's wife, who founded the Lee Strasberg Theatre Scholarship Program. The competition was intense as each candidate performed a short dramatic reading and discussed why they wanted to study at the Institute. On January 15, 2005, final auditions were held and judged by Anna Strasberg and the Institute's Administrative Director Maureen McNiel, with each candidate performing a short monologue. There was also a brief interview and some were asked to sing. When all was said and done, four NYCHA residents were selected for scholarships. It is my pleasure to congratulate Damion Brown of Gun Hill Houses in the Bronx, Nicole Persall of Red Hook Houses and Deidre Ephraim of Seth Low Houses, both in Brooklyn, for their full-year scholarships, as well as Brigitte Smith of Douglass Houses in Manhattan, who won a twelve-week scholarship. *Well, this is a great opportunity to develop your talent. Remember, study hard and stay focused. In the words of actress/dancer Debbie Allen as the instructor in the old television show, "Fame," "If you want fame, well fame costs!" It can all start with the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute. Again, congratulations! I wish you continued success.*

Exceeding Expectations—Sometimes in life, hard work, dedication and commitment are rewarded, and so it was for resident Edwin Belen, Jr. of Sumner Houses in Brooklyn. When Edwin spotted a flyer that read: "DID YOU EVER WISH YOU COULD SEE INTO THE FUTURE?" it piqued his curiosity. The flyer was making reference to the TEACH, or Technology Essentials At Community Housing program, sponsored by NYCHA's Department of Community Operations. This 12-week course for NYCHA residents ages 13 to 21, covers computer technology, job training and life skills, college preparation and guidance, literacy training, GED preparation, and goal setting. Edwin, who was a junior at Paul Robeson High School in Brooklyn at the time, immediately enrolled in the program, attending in the Spring of 2004. He surpassed his own as well as his instructor's expectations. "He never missed a day; he was always on time; he stayed focused; and if he was going to be late he'd call and let us know. He was an exemplary student and a mentor to all," said Sumner Houses Community Associate and TEACH Coordinator Martha Jackson. With the TEACH program's overwhelming success, a second phase was launched. The second phase would have a hired Resident Trainer — a highly qualified resident student serve as a mentor to new students. Edwin more than qualified for the position. So Edwin became the Resident Trainer for the second phase of the program, from September through December 2004. "It was a great opportunity to teach. I learned a lot and wouldn't mind doing it again," said Edwin. Even though the second phase of the TEACH program has ended, Edwin returns to the Sumner Community Center every day to volunteer his services as a counselor. He spends so much time there in fact that the Center has become a second home. "I started attending the Center as a child so I basically grew up there. The atmosphere is warm and I always feel welcome. Besides, I love being with children," said Edwin. Edwin plans to attend the Polytechnic Institute of New York, where he will major in computer science and engineering. *Well Edwin, everyone was right when they raved about what a great guy you are. You simultaneously took on day and night classes and at the age of 17 that takes a lot of discipline. So I applaud you; I know it wasn't easy. All I can say is, you seem to know what you want in life and are determined to get it. That's a great way to be. Don't let anyone keep you from accomplishing your goals. Stay strong and congratulations on all of your past, present and future accomplishments!*

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. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on November 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2003. **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 5, 2003

Charles Lorenzo Case 4802/03 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of Elliott-Chelsea Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of November 12, 2003

Johnny Coella Case 7768/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2326 West 8th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.

Uasia Davis Case 1959/03 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 433 Lafayette Avenue, Lafayette Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.

Jermaine Nelson Case 7572/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 564 Park Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.

Anthony Sumpter Case 7573/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 185 Scholes Street, Williamsburg Houses, Brooklyn.

Rene Ramirez Case 7576/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 761 Manor Road, Todd Hill Houses, Staten Island.

Jose Millan Case 1124/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 1762 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

Raul Martinez Case 7732/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 937 East 56th Street, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.

Leon Codrington Case 4271/03 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 95 Old Broadway, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.

Daken Hannon Case 7784/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 875 Columbus Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.

Keyon Richardson Case 7803/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 234 Ralph Avenue, Brevoort Houses, Brooklyn.

Steven Wilson Case 7768/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 451 Columbia Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.

Lameck Blocker Case 7802/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 1043 Myrtle Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of November 19, 2003

Derrick Selby Case 7997/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2275 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

Jahoba Thompson Case 8020/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1458-1460 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, the Bronx.

Jose Rolda Case 8022/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 553 Kings 5th Walk, Kingsborough Houses, Brooklyn.

Anthony Jaessny Case 8186/03 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 301 East 156th Street, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.

Shaskera Smith Case 6182/03 formerly associated with second floor of 90 West Brighton/Markham Gardens, Staten Island.

Prohibited as of November 26, 2003

Danny Brewington Case 8280/03 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 865 Columbus Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.

New Trespass Policy Goes Into Effect In Queens

Drug dealers, beware! Early this year, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the NYPD began implementing a new Trespass Policy to combat drug dealing and drug-related crime in NYCHA developments.

Under the new Policy, persons who have been arrested for felony drug sales on NYCHA property will be banned and denied access to development grounds. If the excluded person arrested for selling drugs resides in a NYCHA apartment, he or she will be allowed to return to that apartment and the common areas of his or her development until an eviction proceeding is completed.

The Trespass Policy allows someone to challenge an exclusion and includes an administrative mechanism for a grant of limited access to NYCHA property if the excluded person can justify the need for such access and does not pose a threat to residents.

In June of last year, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced a new four-pronged crime fighting program in public housing — Operation Safe Housing — which targets drug dealers and sex offenders, and promises to make NYCHA residents safer in their own homes. The Trespass Policy is one part of Operation Safe Housing. The new Policy is being implemented in Queens first, and then will expand to other boroughs in the coming months.

Federal law provides for every public housing authority to maintain its housing developments in safe condition. Federal law also requires each public housing resident to ensure that his or her guests do not engage in any drug-related criminal activity that threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents.

Through the combined effort of NYCHA and the NYPD, crime in NYCHA developments has dropped a full 50% since 1996.

NYCHA requests resident cooperation as the new Trespass Policy gets underway and thanks you for your continued support in making NYCHA developments a safer place to live.

To find out more about the Trespass Policy and Operation Safe Housing, visit NYCHA's web site at: nyc.gov/nycha.



From the Chief's Corner

COMBATING GRAFFITI

The New York City Police Department, in keeping with its pledge to aggressively pursue and apprehend quality of life offenders, is focusing on graffiti vandalism. In an effort to address this issue, a new Anti-Graffiti Initiative is underway.

The New York City Police Department has established a Citywide Vandals Task Force. The Task Force has implemented strategies and tactics for dealing with graffiti vandalism and the defacement of public and private property. The Task Force is utilizing the 311 system to track and monitor all graffiti complaints on a daily basis. In addition, each Police Service Area has designated an Anti-Graffiti Coordinator to oversee graffiti enforcement, clean up, and public education initiatives within housing developments.

If property is defaced with graffiti, we request that you immediately report the incident to the police. Housing Bureau personnel will prepare a report, and in coordination with the New York City Housing Authority, ensure prompt removal of the graffiti. The immediate removal of graffiti will prevent long-term display of markings, and discourage this type of vandalism. Experience has shown that attention to immediate clean up effectively deters the recurrence of graffiti.

The NYPD is also seeking the public's help and cooperation to combat graffiti vandalism through a Graffiti Reward Program. **Members of the public are eligible for a reward up to \$500.00 for reporting graffiti in progress through 911 or providing information regarding past graffiti vandalism to the Citywide Vandals Task Force through 311.** Information provided must lead to the arrest and conviction of individual(s) for graffiti crimes. This program is administered by the Citywide Vandals Task Force.

PSA Community Affairs officers will be making Anti-Graffiti Initiative presentations at community meetings, and youth officers have been trained to educate young people at youth forums.

Graffiti is a destructive offense. It is a nationwide problem that causes extensive property damage and communicates a message of disorder in neighborhoods. Graffiti is a crime punishable by imprisonment, a fine and/or community service. Any person apprehended defacing property without the permission of the owner is subject to arrest. The Housing Bureau is asking residents to assist us in this endeavor. By working together, New York City will not only be the safest largest city in America, it will also be the cleanest.



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

Pretends they were hurt on Housing property?

Doesn't report their income or pretends to be unemployed?

Doesn't report everyone in the household?

Rents out their apartment?

If you do, money is being wasted!

LET'S KEEP THE \$\$\$ WHERE IT BELONGS

AT WORK IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT

... after school programs... play areas...

senior activities...

landscaping... a fresh coat of paint

If You Know of any Fraud or Corruption Committed Against NYCHA by any NYCHA Resident, Employee, Contractor or Vendor

CALL NYCHA'S INSPECTOR GENERAL at

(212) 306-3355

or the DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION at

(212)-3-NYC-DOI / (212) 825-5050

(all calls kept confidential)

Manhattan North Council Of Presidents Hosts Resident Participation Activities Workshops



MAKING IT HAPPEN (left to right) NYCHA DGM for Community Operations Hugh Spence, Manhattan North Council Of Presidents (COP) Chair Barbara G. Barber and NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez at the December 11, 2004 Tenant Participation Fund Workshop, hosted by Ms. Barber.

By Allan Leicht

On December 11, 2004 and again on January 11, 2005, the Manhattan North District Council of Presidents held the first workshops in New York City to prepare NYCHA residents to implement the Resident Participation Program, known as the "TPA" ("Tenant" being official language for "Resident"). The TPA is a joint project of public housing residents and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to promote community involvement and improvement, self-sufficiency and leadership.

Under this program, funds allocated by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) can be used for a variety of resident participation activities such as household training, new resident orientation, and entrepreneurial and job training. The Manhattan North Council of Presidents (COP), under the leadership of Chair Barbara G. Barber, with technical assistance from NYCHA's Department of Community Operations, especially Manhattan Borough Office Deputy Director Patricia Paisley, convened the meetings at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building.

At the initial meeting on December 11, over 100 area resident leaders participated in structured workshops and learned, among many other things, about TPA funding and the NYCHA budget process from NYCHA's Department of Budget and Financial Planning Director Jose Mercado, about contracting services and consultants from Deputy General Council for Corporate Matters John de Clef Piniero, and about how to develop effective proposals from Ms. Lesley C. Esters, a non-profit management consultant.

Ms. Esters' workshop continued into the second session in January, at which time there were also presentations by NYCHA General Counsel Ricardo E. Morales, who set the tone by telling the residents that NYCHA would ensure that TPA funds would be made available, and



Resident Leaders from Manhattan North at the TPA Workshop.

instructed them on the tools they could use to make the best use of them. NYCHA Inspector General (IG) Judith Abruzzo, who spoke on the subject of "Maintaining Integrity when Procuring Services" and the role of the IG and NYCHA Assistant Deputy General Manager for Community Operations Michelle Pinnock, who addressed the gathering on program monitoring and policy requirements. Ms. Barber, who was very pleased with the turnout for the workshops, told the residents that, "Together, there is a lot of work to be done in a short time to ensure the proper roll out of the TPA. We want to make as many Resident Associations as possible eligible for this funding." The Executive Board of the Manhattan North Council of Presidents was instrumental in making the two events successful.

At the December 11th meeting, Chairman Hernandez addressed the resident leaders and encouraged them to take full advantage of the program. "This is another chance to bring residents and management together to do good work and make life better in NYCHA developments," the Chairman said.

Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence told the residents that NYCHA would offer full support and technical assistance for this new initiative and he stressed the importance of working as a cohesive group to achieve results. Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., and Board Member JoAnna Aniello also attended the December 11th meeting where General Manager Doug Apple addressed the gathering.

NYCHA's Borough Social Service Offices

If you are a NYCHA residents who needs the assistance of a social worker, please call one of our Borough Social Services Offices, or call 311.

For domestic violence incidents and emergencies, call 911.

Bronx
(718) 402-7050
Brooklyn
(718) 498-3243
Manhattan
(212) 423-9449
Queens
(718) 206-3286
Staten Island
(718) 816-1521

Health Matters

Drawing from the vast resources of New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), in this issue of the *NYCHA Journal*, we introduce a new column focusing on health issues which may disproportionately affect residents. We begin with a serious illness that has reached epidemic proportions – diabetes. Diabetes is increasing rapidly in New York City and around the country. In just the past eight years, the number of New Yorkers with diabetes has doubled. Nearly 1 in 11 New Yorkers — more than half a million people — have been diagnosed with diabetes, and about 265,000 others have diabetes but don't yet know it.

Diabetes is a serious, life-long illness in which the body has trouble making or using insulin, causing glucose (sugar) to build up in the blood. There are three major types of diabetes: **Type 1 Diabetes** can develop at any age, but is usually diagnosed in children or young adults. It can be successfully managed, but not prevented. **Type 2 Diabetes** can often be prevented or delayed. (Most people with diabetes have Type 2.) **Gestational (pregnancy-related) Diabetes** occurs in about 7% of pregnant women. About half of these women will develop type 2 diabetes within 10 years. If untreated or poorly controlled, gestational diabetes can harm a developing baby. **Pre-diabetes** is also a problem. People with pre-diabetes have higher-than-normal blood sugar levels. They are more likely than those with normal blood sugar levels to have a heart attack or stroke. Unless they take steps to control weight and increase physical activity, most people with pre-diabetes will develop type 2 diabetes.

Risk Factors...

Being overweight is a major risk factor for Type 2 diabetes. Other risk factors include:

- Lack of physical activity
- Older age
- Family history of diabetes, or prior gestational diabetes
- Low levels of HDL ("good") cholesterol or high levels of triglycerides (fats) in the blood
- Race/ethnicity — African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and some Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are at higher risk.

To Prevent Diabetes...

People with pre-diabetes may delay the disease or even prevent it altogether if they:

- Maintain a healthy weight. Overweight or obese people should lose at least 5%-10% of their body weight
- Get at least 30 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (such as a brisk walk) on all or most days
- Eat a diet high in fiber, fruits, and vegetables, and low in saturated fats.

Managing Diabetes...

People with diabetes can successfully manage their illness — prevent complications and lead longer and healthier lives by knowing and controlling their blood sugar levels and blood pressure, by quitting smoking and by staying away from second-hand smoke.

Diabetes Often Has No Symptoms

Many people with diabetes have no symptoms, symptoms that develop gradually over months or even years, or symptoms so mild they go unnoticed. These may include:

- Frequent urination
- Excessive thirst and hunger
- Weight loss
- Weakness and fatigue
- Nausea and vomiting
- Sudden vision changes
- Tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- Frequent or slow-healing sores or infections.

Diabetes Is Worth Controlling

Unless they control their illness, people with diabetes are at risk for serious complications, including:

- Heart disease and atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries)
- Stroke
- Eye problems and blindness
- Kidney disease
- Poor circulation
- Nerve damage
- Foot and leg problems, which can lead to amputation
- Skin problems (infections, boils, scaly skin, itching)
- Gum disease and other oral health problems
- Depression
- Premature death.

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MAYOR ANNOUNCES \$2 BILLION FOR MODERNIZATION AND PRESERVATION OF CITY'S PUBLIC HOUSING

(Continued from page 1)

focus on major system replacements to extend the life of the buildings' infrastructures including heating and plumbing, the installation of automated boilers, elevator replacements, and modernization of intercom systems.

Standing in the gleaming, glass-walled gymnasium of the award-winning Williamsburg Community Center, and addressing an audience of NYCHA residents and staff, and the media, the Mayor provided a historical context for the news of the day, emphasizing New York City's long-standing commitment to providing decent housing for its residents.

"Seventy years ago we were in the middle of the Great Depression and unlike other cities, New York City began building public housing," the Mayor began. "You must remember that in those days people lived in poverty we can scarcely imagine. Williamsburg Houses, opened in 1938, offered tenants the kinds of basic comforts that most only dreamed of: modern kitchens, full baths, ample light and ventilation, and safe and convenient playgrounds for their children.

"Today more than 420,00 New Yorkers live in public housing, representing a population greater than the entire cities of Pittsburgh and St. Louis." In introducing Chairman Hernandez, the Mayor pointed out that with one in 20 New Yorkers living in public housing, Mr. Hernandez, also a former NYCHA resident, is the fourth largest landlord in the country.

Chairman Hernandez welcomed everyone to the beautiful, new Williamsburg Community Center, completed in July 2003, calling it an example of what NYCHA can do to improve the quality of life for public housing residents in New York City. "NYCHA's commitment to providing affordable housing takes a major step forward today," the Chairman remarked. "The proceeds from this bond will allow us to finance and accelerate vital construction initiatives such as building facade, repairs and roof replacements. This would not have been possible without Mayor Bloomberg's leadership and vision to preserve and expand affordable housing in New York City."

In addition to thanking the Mayor, Chairman Hernandez thanked HUD Assistant Secretary Michael Liu, and the staffs of NYCHA and HDC. He pointed out that the bond transaction would not have been possible without the support of Assemblyman Vito Lopez, Chair of the Housing Committee, and State Senator Frank Padavan, who together championed legislation to raise HDC's debt cap.

HDC President Emily Youssouf commented on the collaboration between NYCHA and the HDC. "As the largest issuer of affordable housing bonds in the country, it makes perfect sense to work with the largest and best public housing authority in the country — NYCHA. Starting the year with this \$300 million issuance goes a long way in keeping New York in the forefront of creating affordable housing."

The value of the \$2 billion to public housing in New York City became jarringly apparent when Assemblyman Lopez cited the plight of other public housing authorities in the state. "The Housing Authority in Middletown, will be the ninth in the state to privatize," the Assemblyman said, "while other cities, such as Buffalo have demolished their public housing."

Applause broke out when the Assemblyman emphasized that the City has made a commitment to public housing despite what he sees as inevitable pressure to privatize. "This is a remarkable day for public housing," the Assemblyman concluded. Williamsburg Houses Resident Association President Betty Jones thanked the Mayor for coming and she also thanked the Assemblyman for everything he's done for Williamsburg Houses. "I've been here for 34 years," Ms. Jones told the crowd. "Williamsburg is a beautiful place to live."

Projects that will be funded by the overall infusion of money include kitchen and bathroom repairs at Edenwald Houses in the Bronx; the renovation of 3,500 living spaces, bathrooms, kitchens and elevators at Whitman and Ingersoll Houses in Brooklyn; the gutting and renovation of 36 aging walkup buildings and the conversion of small studios into larger, more desirable apartments at Randolph Houses in Manhattan; the upgrade of all building facades, and the rehabilitation and expansion of the day care center, a new community center and new sewers at Ocean Bay Houses in Queens. At Staten Island's Mariner's Harbor, kitchens and entrances will be renovated.

Williamsburg Houses won New York City Landmark Status four years ago after a \$63 million renovation. The Williamsburg Community Center won the 2004 Public Project of the Year Award from the NY Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation Will Provide Resident Services In Far Rockaway



DEVELOPING COMMUNITY (left to right) NYPD Organized Crime Control Bureau Chief Douglas Zeigler, OBCDC Acting President Michael Daly, OBCDC Secretary Delores Sadler, Congressman Gregory Meeks, OBCDC Board Member Eileen Auld, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, OBCDC Board Member Connie Taylor, OBCDC Treasurer Patricia Simmons, and OBCDC Executive Director Patricia Simon line up for this photo at the OBCDC launch on January 27th.

Residents who live in the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Ocean Bay Apartments in Rockaway, Queens have a new community resource — the Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation (OBCDC). The nonprofit OBCDC held its official launch at The Beach Club in Far Rockaway on the evening of January 27th. Funded by NYCHA and other sources, the OBCDC will provide a variety of services to promote economic self-sufficiency for residents of the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Ocean Bay Apartments, Beach 41st Street Houses, and the surrounding community. In his remarks, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez called the creation of the OBCDC, "another important step in the revitalization of the Ocean Bay area and the entire Far Rockaway peninsula."

"I wanted to shout, this is what community building is all about, having everyone at the table," said OBCDC's Executive Director Patricia Simon enthusiastically, the day after the event

Currently operating from temporary offices in both Oceanside and Bayside Houses, the OBCDC plans to have programs focusing on youth development, employment training and public safety. "Our goal is to make the community safer and more prosperous," Ms. Simon explained.

Oceanside Resident Association President Connie Taylor, and resident Delores Sadler, serve on the OBCDC Board, as do Bayside Residents Lynne Harrison and Kim Roberson. Ultimately the 11 member Board will include three

residents from each of the two developments, as well as five board members who do not live in either of the developments, but are able to provide useful experience and expertise.

The renovation of Arverne and Edgemere Houses, now known as Oceanside and Bayside Apartments, respectively, and together known as Ocean Bay, is part of a huge revitalization effort in the Rockaways, fuelled by \$67 million in federal HOPE VI funding. Congress and HUD created the HOPE VI grant program in 1992 to provide for the revitalization of the nation's most severely distressed public housing.

Elected officials were among the estimated 60 guests attending the event, including Congress

Member Gregory Meeks and State Assembly Members Michele R. Titus and Audrey Pheffer. They were joined by police officers, residents, service providers and others involved in the revitalization effort.

The former OBCDC President Sylvia Jackson, who was also Resident Association President of Bayside Houses, recently passed away. Michael Daly who is Security Director for Queens Libraries, has taken over the position as Acting OBCDC President. Mr. Daly presented Ms. Jackson's children with a plaque during the brief ceremony.

For more information about the OBCDC, please call (917) 345-3642.



PRESS CONFERENCE (Left to right) Chairman Tino Hernandez, HUD Regional Director Mirza Negron Morales (partially hidden), Mayor Bloomberg and Williamsburg RA President Betty Jones.

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PSA # 1 Satellite Opens In Red Hook

(Continued from page 2)

Services for transforming the ground floor space in Red Hook Houses into a working PSA satellite station and acknowledged the support of Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and General Manager Douglas Apple. The renovation, which the Chairman described as having been done in "record time," was completed at a cost of \$250,000.

Police Captain Thomas Delahanty, commanding officer of PSA #1 in Coney Island, stressed the importance of tenant patrols, encouraging their expansion from the current 28 buildings of the Brooklyn South community to all NYCHA buildings in the neighborhood. Captain Delahanty also cited the importance of police officers' familiarity with their neighborhoods and how vital it is for residents to get to know their police and "see their friendly faces."

The Satellite Office will be under the command of Captain Brian McGinn, who was urged by Chief Jaffe to "treat the satellite office as his own department. It's not just going out on patrol," the Chief advised Captain McGinn, "it's getting to know the people, putting notes under doors, getting anonymous tips – you can't believe the difference it makes, and this office is going to make a big difference."

Ms. Wyche agreed and so did Rachel McNair, 84, a Red Hook resident since 1951. With five children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, Ms. McNair observed, "I have seen the best and the worst, seen it go down and I've seen it come back, and now it is going up." The great-grandmother is also godmother to James McBride, author of the best-selling "The Color Of Water," who, Ms. McNair proudly said, "grew up here in Red Hook Houses on Hicks Street."

City Harvest's Mobile Market

(Continued from page 1)

Eric Ripert, who is also on City Harvest's Board, and NYCHA's Citywide Program's Director Ernesto Lozano. Mr. Ripert prepared a special broccoli dish for the occasion, which he served, accompanied with the recipe.

"This program is needed," Mr. Andrews said. "It's not always easy for many people in low-income communities to get access to or afford healthy food, like the produce here today. We have a policy at the Authority of fostering relationships with organizations like City Harvest. It's a win/win situation for everyone."

City Harvest Chairperson Susan Marks called it an honor to be partnering with NYCHA. "Hunger is not always recognized," she said, citing the surprising statistic that one in five New Yorkers relies on food programs. Ms. Marks thanked the

volunteers who run the Mobile Market and NYCHA's staff, especially the Melrose Community Center staff, and in closing reaffirmed the mission of City Harvest. "Our goal is to stop hunger in New York City," she stated, "one person at a time." She also commented that City Harvest now serves 800 food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the city.

Each family that registers for the program receives a key tag with a bar code indicating the number of pounds of food that family is eligible to receive. The food is donated from a variety of sources including farmers, grocers, restaurants, and corporate cafeterias.

Melrose Tenant Patrol Supervisor Ellawouise Bligen, who has been living at the development for 35 years and has raised a son and two daughters there, was one of

seven NYCHA resident volunteers helping to distribute food on the morning of the launch.

"It's beautiful," she said. "We can service so many people in the community, a lot of seniors."

Geraldine Hardy, a resident of Andrew Jackson Houses since 1974, is entitled to 85 pounds of food per month. Ms. Hardy has 11 children and 26 grandchildren. "It's a big help to me," she said. "I wouldn't get as much fresh food without this program. The kids love it."

City Harvest also provides informational handouts on the food which include nutritional information, instructions on proper storage and handling, and recipes.

Stapleton Houses in Staten Island is the next NYCHA development slated for the Mobile Market program.

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