



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



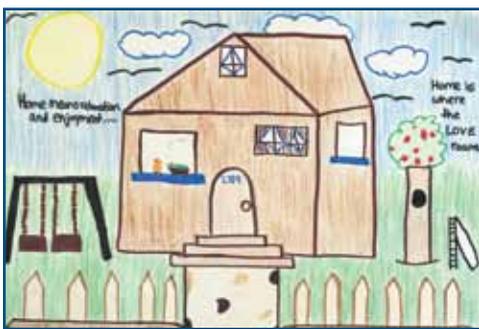
### NYCHA FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

**EXPANDS** to Bronx, Manhattan  
» read more on **page 5**



### SPEAKING GREEN LECTURE

**FOCUSES ON** City Planning  
» read more on **page 3**



### WHAT 'HOME' MEANS:

**NYCHA YOUTH** Express Themselves  
Through Art  
» read more on **page 8**

### SAFETY & SECURITY TASK FORCE:

**NEW HOUSE RULES** & Regulations  
Taking Effect  
» read more on **page 2**

## FAST FACTS

**More than 1,000 residents on 49 Green Committees have pledged to lead a low-carbon lifestyle.**

**South Jamaica I Houses in Queens were completed on August 1, 1940.**

## Music Mavens Join with NYCHA to Empower Young Women

*Mary J. Blige's Foundation Partners with NYCHA*

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the Foundation For the Advancement of Women Now (FFAWN) are teaming up to help young women living in public housing to realize their full potential. The Teen Girls' Initiative will connect 84 girls and teens, ages 12-15, with mentors who will provide them with support and encouragement to pursue their dreams and conquer the obstacles life can bring. The six-month program kicked off on November 30 at a mixer event held at Donna Karan's Urban Zen Center in Manhattan.

FFAWN was founded and is led by Grammy Award-winning singer Mary J. Blige and music executive Steve Stoute. FFAWN's motto, "Where Education is



Grammy Award-winning singer Mary J. Blige speaks to the girls chosen to participate in the NYCHA-FFAWN Teen Girls' Initiative at the program's kickoff event on November 30, 2010.

Empowerment," speaks to their mission of helping women overcome personal challenges and break persistent barriers. The Teen Girls' Initiative came about through the work of NYCHA's Office of Public-Private Partnerships.

"It's no secret that I've had a hard life, but once I finally got my life together and my career continued to blossom, neither was enough to keep me both *continued on page 2* ▶

## NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly to Head Philadelphia Housing Authority on Interim Basis



Hylan Houses (Brooklyn) Residents Yvonne Lee (Resident Association President) and Shirley Marshall meet with NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly this past summer.

NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly will be on temporary leave from the Authority to serve as Executive Director of the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) for an interim period. General

Manager Kelly, who accepted the assignment at the request of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, will fill the role while

the Philadelphia agency searches for a permanent director.

The assignment has the approval of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. During General Manager Kelly's absence, NYCHA will not temporarily fill the position. Instead, his duties will be divided among the Authority Board and Deputy General Managers. "This request from HUD is a tribute not only to Mike's ability and expertise, but also a tribute to the superior management staff that we have in place here at NYCHA," said Chairman Rhea. "While we will miss Mike during this period, we are confident that our very strong team that he has helped put together will continue to operate at the top of their game."

"I share *continued on page 4* ▶

# Safety & Security Task Force Clarifies House Rules, Lease Policies

Result of collaboration among CCOP, NYCHA, NYPD

One of the concerns being tackled by the NYCHA Safety and Security Task Force is a lack of consistency among developments of informing residents about what the standards are for living in a NYCHA apartment. With the vital participation and input of the Citywide Council of Presidents, several new policies will improve safety and standardize the distribution of information.

- Residents will receive a mailing every year of the *Highlights of Houses Rules, Lease Terms and Policy*. The document will inform and remind residents of certain important

Housing Authority rules and policies that relate to obligations as a NYCHA resident.

- By the summer of 2011, signs will be posted in every lobby and front entrance stating that NYCHA property is for the use only of residents, their guests and people with legitimate business.
- Residents will need to obtain a NYCHA Moving Permit, at no charge, from their Property Management Office before moving in or out. To minimize the inconvenience to their neighbors, residents moving in or out of NYCHA apartments will have to do

so from Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. This policy will be in effect by the end of 2010.

- The rules and regulations that guide the use of parks, playgrounds and sitting, sprinkler and water park areas on NYCHA property will be posted clearly by the summer of 2011.
- A pilot program in several developments will begin by early 2011 to remove unauthorized vehicles from NYCHA parking spots, parking lots and non-parking areas. This includes vehicles without NYCHA parking permits or with inaccurate or expired permits, improperly parked vehicles and vehicles under repair.
- All dogs on NYCHA property must have the NYCHA dog tag on them at all times for safety and identification. Residents who have dogs on NYCHA property without NYCHA dog tags will be in violation of their lease and subject to termination of tenancy. This policy went into effect this past summer.



Ann Cotton-Morris (Queens District Chair), John Johnson (Bronx South District Chair) and NYCHA Director of Security Patrick O'Hagan discuss how to improve the quality of life in public housing at the Safety and Security Task Force meeting held on November 4, 2010.

## NYCHA Board Meetings



Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 12th floor of 250 Broadway, New York, NY (unless otherwise noted). The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2010 are as follows:

**December 8, 2010**  
**December 22, 2010**

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha) to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration at least 45 minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting is required by all speakers. Comments are limited to the items on the Calendar. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

Copies of the Calendar are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, NY, no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the upcoming Board Meeting. Copies of the Disposition are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday after the Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting should contact the Office of the Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five business days before the Board Meeting. For additional information, please visit NYCHA's website or call (212) 306-6088.

Comments? Questions? E-mail [Journal@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Journal@nycha.nyc.gov).



NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY  
**Journal**

**76**  
years  
of Public Housing  
in New York City

ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000

Published monthly by the New York City Housing Authority  
Department of Communications  
250 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007  
Tel (212) 306-3322 • Fax (212) 577-1358  
[nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha)

Michael R. Bloomberg ..... Mayor  
John B. Rhea ..... Chair  
Earl Andrews, Jr. .... Vice-Chair  
Margarita López ..... Board Member  
Wilma Huertas ..... Secretary  
Michael Kelly ..... General Manager  
Lynn Godfrey ..... Chief Communications Officer  
Sheila Stainback ..... Communications Officer  
Eric Deutsch ..... Editor  
Heidi Morales ..... Editor, Spanish Edition  
Tischelle George ..... Online News Editor  
Peter Mikoleski, Leticia Barboza ..... Photography  
Christian Nwachukwu ..... Staff Writer  
Brent Grier ..... Staff Writer

If you are interested in placing an advertisement in the *Journal*, please call our marketing representatives in the Office of Business and Revenue Development at (212) 306-6614. The inclusion of any advertisement in this *Journal* does not constitute any endorsement by the Housing Authority of the advertiser or its products or services or any other representation by the Housing Authority with respect to such products or services.

◀ continued from page 1

## Music Mavens Join with NYCHA to Empower Young Women

happy and fulfilled," said Mary J. Blige. "I wanted to use my fame and influence to improve the lives of women, thus helping them avoid the same mistakes that I made. Working with the young women and educating them is the best way I think I can give back to them."

This first collaboration between NYCHA and FFAWN will include residents from the Bronx and Manhattan. The residents selected to participate went through an application process that included an interview and an essay about where they

see themselves in the future. The Bronx program will be held at the Sonia Sotomayor Community Center and the Manhattan program will be held at the Manhattanville Community Center.

"During the interview process, each young lady was asked to describe how she could benefit from the program. Their responses were as varied and distinct as they are. What a promising group of girls!" said NYCHA Assistant Deputy General Manager for Community Operations, Deidra Gilliard. "After months of intense planning, I am excited to see this come to fruition. I thank our collaborators who worked hard to help make this program a reality."

Participants will take part in two-and-a-half hour long workshops that will provide them with information needed to tackle life's many challenges. The workshops will be based on FFAWN's 3E Junior Wings program, which features themes inspired by Mary J. Blige's lyrics – *Work in Progress* focuses on self-esteem development; *No More Drama* focuses on relationships and women's health; and *Rainy Days* focuses on financial literacy. Through conversation and partnership, 3E provides an open and safe forum where women can share personal stories, encourage one another and form a support network for their lives beyond the program.



## Message from the Chairman

One year ago, resident leaders, NYCHA staff and NYPD officials gathered to discuss how to make public housing developments and their surrounding communities in New York City safer and more secure. Since that first meeting of the Safety and Security Task Force in December 2009, this partnership has

strengthened the relationships among residents, the Authority and the police. As part of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, which will set NYCHA's goals through 2015, the Task Force focuses on five key areas: a resident survey; resident engagement; NYCHA rules and regulations; security measures; and NYPD policies and relationships with residents.

To address the relationship specifically between residents and police officers, the NYPD Housing Bureau developed new patrol guidelines, created with the participation of residents. The guidelines position officers as "service providers." More than 2,000 officers have received the new training, with more to come. In addition, a new training video will be developed for Housing Bureau officers that will focus on respect and customer service.

One of the first Task Force recommendations to come to fruition was repurposing the Tenant Patrol into Resident Watch. Resident volunteers monitor their developments and report and discourage any negative behavior. Volunteers will receive training tailored specifically to Resident Watch that will be based on the training given to NYPD Auxiliary Police Officers. Another early success of the Task Force was revamping Family Days this past summer. New rules,

including mandatory orientation for resident organizers, led to a very safe summer of celebrations, including 19 more Family Day events held than the year before with far fewer reported incidents.

A very important focus of the Task Force is on NYCHA youth. More than 600 summer seasonal and full-time staff received anti-bullying training this year, with the goals of decreasing combative situations and behavioral problems and forming a safe environment. Police officers participated in an annual overnight camping program for the first time this year, with more than 100 youths directly interacting with NYPD officers, helping to break down misconceptions that residents and officers may feel towards each other. And as you can read about in this issue of the *Journal* on page 8, several hundred children took part in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials poster contest, which aimed to motivate participants to take a greater interest in their home's safety and security.

The Task Force has achieved many of its goals, but its work continues. The results of a survey to measure how residents feel about the safety and security in their development will be released early next year, which is expected to influence future decisions. An extensive overhaul of how residents enter buildings is under development, which would include electromagnetic locks, new intercoms and closed circuit television. And in this issue of the *Journal* on page 2, you can read about new regulations for residents moving in and out and the posting of new signage about house rules that will be in place in the coming months.

I look forward to seeing what the Task Force will accomplish in the coming year. One thing is for sure: the dialogue we've begun already led to concrete benefits – the most important of which is a partnership among residents, NYCHA and the NYPD to improve safety and security.

## Green Planning → More Sustainable Future

By Howard Silver

The head of New York City's planning efforts often looks at her responsibilities of preparing the City for its future through green-tinted glasses. Amanda M. Burden, the Chair of the City Planning Commission and Director of the Department of City Planning, spoke to approximately 200 residents, employees and community members at the Authority's most recent Speaking Green Lecture on November 16, held in P.S. 126 near Smith Houses in Manhattan.

Ms. Burden is charged with designing and implementing a planning strategy for a projected increase in the City's population to more than nine million people by 2030. One-fifth of the City's blocks already have been rezoned, and plans are underway for new communities,

business districts and industrial lands, as well as better use of waterfronts, all while preserving the character of neighborhoods and improving environmental quality.

NYCHA, with its more than 2,600 apartment buildings, is a key partner in Ms. Burden's efforts. "Eighty percent of energy consumption comes from buildings, so making them more efficient and even capable of creating their own energy with solar panels and other means is our next challenge," said Ms. Burden.

That drew the interest of Manhattanville Houses (Manhattan) resident Dorothy Ballard. "I am interested in what she said about solar panels. I would like to know more about that," said Ms. Ballard.

A large part of planning focuses on limiting the City's use of fossil fuels to achieve Mayor Bloomberg's goal of reducing greenhouse gasses by 30 percent by 2030. "New York already is the greenest city in the country," Ms. Burden said, with its public transportation networks that reduce reliance on cars. As a result, New York City uses two-thirds less carbon per person than the national average. "We all need to understand the impact of our daily choices on the environment and make New York greener for future generations," she said.

Margaret Wells, who lives in Manhattanville Houses, echoed those feelings. "We have to get on board with trying to do something. We all live in NYCHA and are interested in our environment."

*Amanda M. Burden, Chair of the New York City Planning Commission and Director of the Department of City Planning, speaks with NYCHA residents after her Speaking Green Lecture on November 16, 2010.*

## Speaking Green Lecture Series Comes to an End

NYCHA Commissioner and Environmental Coordinator Margarita López announced to the crowd on November 16 that this speech is the last of the Speaking Green Lecture Series. Initiated in August 2008 by NYCHA and the Clinton Climate Initiative, the series was designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas between diverse experts and the community to heighten awareness of the Authority's environmental impact and the pressing need to reduce energy consumption. "We have fulfilled our objective," said Commissioner López. "We are ready for the next level, which is to call for a national conference on the greening of public housing."

James Hearne, Vice President of the Resident Green Committee at Wise Towers (Manhattan), has learned a lot from the Speaking Green lectures. "They made me more aware of taking the environment seriously. Every lecture I attended added to my knowledge," he said.



## THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

In this issue we continue publishing the names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from our public housing developments. The purpose of this list is to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. What follows is a partial list of the people excluded after hearings were held on April 29, May 5 and May 12, 2010.

### Prohibited as of April 29, 2010

- Reginald Levy** case 2332/08 formerly associated with the 18th fl., 272 Wyckoff Street, Wyckoff Garden Homes, Brooklyn
- Cyril Hamlet** case 2332/08 formerly associated with the 18th fl., 272 Wyckoff Street, Wyckoff Garden Homes, Brooklyn
- William Rivera** case 2886/10 formerly associated with the 6th fl., 383 East 141 Street, Mott Haven Houses, Bronx
- Julio Aviles** case 8691/09 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 1115 F.D.R. Drive, Riis Houses, Manhattan
- Eric Aviles** case 8691/09 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 1115 F.D.R. Drive, Riis Houses, Manhattan
- Terence Johnson** case 2976/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 5905 Shore Parkway, Bayview Houses, Brooklyn
- Francisco Maysonet** case 2996/10 formerly associated with the 12th fl., 1734 Madison Avenue, Taft Houses, Manhattan
- Cory Cain** case 2882/10 formerly associated with the 4th fl., 535 Havenmeyer Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, Bronx
- Darnell Robinson** case 266/10 formerly associated with the 1st fl., 345 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn
- Dwayne Clarke** case 266/10 formerly associated with the 1st fl., 345 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn

### Prohibited as of May 5, 2010

- Waverly Griffin** case 3067/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 807 Schenck Avenue, Boulevard Houses, Brooklyn
- Miguel Viruet** case 3060/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 2926 West 25th Street, Surfside Gardens Houses, Brooklyn
- Brian Garrido** case 3157/10 formerly associated with the 7th fl., 240 West 65th Street, Amsterdam Houses, Manhattan
- Raymond Williams** case 3190/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 44 Jackson Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan
- Jemela Daniels** case 3093/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 395 Livonia Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn
- George McNeil** case 3147/10 formerly associated with the 23rd fl., 303 Vernon Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn
- Dennis Joachin** case 3122/10 formerly associated with the 4th fl., 2949 West 28th Street, Coney Island Houses, Brooklyn

### Prohibited as of May 12, 2010

- Richard Randolph** a/k/a **Richard Hasson** a/k/a **Randolph Tarig** case 3213/10 formerly associated with the 8th fl., 2926 West 25th Street, Coney Island MGD, by Surfside Houses, Brooklyn
- Sharief** a/k/a **Sha-Reif Jackson** case 3210/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 807 Schenck Avenue, Boulevard Houses, Brooklyn
- Emanuel Johnson** case 3240/10 formerly associated with the 1st fl., 429 Dumont Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn
- Percell German** case 3250/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 309 Patchen Avenue, Brevoort Houses, Brooklyn
- Ariel Gomez** case 3271/10 formerly associated with the 13th fl., 159-26 Harlem River Drive, Rangel Houses, Manhattan
- Naquan McLeod** case 3287/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 472 Marcy Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn
- Jason Price** case 1915/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 807 Schenck Avenue, Boulevard Houses, Brooklyn
- James Smith** case 3290/10 formerly associated with the 4th fl., 721 Tinton Avenue, Adams Houses, Bronx
- Jason Lauguer** case 3302/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 807 Schenck Avenue, Boulevard Houses, Brooklyn
- William Daniels** case 3360/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 40-10 10th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Long Island City



## A Message from the New York City Fire Department

The holidays are a joyous time, filled with shopping, planning and decorating. But you should remember that the holiday season also is fire season! More than one-third of residential fires happen during the months of December, January and February. By taking precautions, you can make the difference between a safe holiday and a holiday tragedy. Both live and artificial trees pose an increased risk of fire. Defective lighting, including electrical cords and plugs, cause almost half of all tree fires. You can lower the risk of a tree fire by following these tips:

- \* When choosing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.
- \* Buy your live tree early. Tree lots receive only one shipment of trees. Trees don't become fresher sitting in a lot.
- \* Keep the water level above the cut and check the water level daily. (Initially, a fresh tree may soak up a gallon of water per day.)
- \* Plain tap water is best! No water additives such as aspirin, sugar or commercial fire retardant are necessary.
- \* Place the tree at least three feet away from any heat source.
- \* Position the tree near an electrical outlet to minimize use of temporary extension cords.
- \* Do not place the tree where it may obstruct or block exits.
- \* Inspect new and used lights for cracks or frayed wires. Do not use lights with broken bulbs.
- \* Use lights that have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark.
- \* Never place electrical cords under rugs or in paths of travel.
- \* Never use lighted candles or other flaming devices on or near your tree.
- \* Unplug the tree lights when out of the room and before going to sleep.
- \* Live trees will dry out naturally, even if you keep it properly watered. Discard the tree immediately after the holiday.

◀ continued from page 1

### NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly to Head Philadelphia Housing Authority on Interim Basis

Chairman Rhea's confidence in the staff at NYCHA," said General Manager Kelly, who also has led the housing authorities of San Francisco, New Orleans and Washington, D.C. "My experience at NYCHA, coupled with my 20-plus years managing large and complex housing authorities, will allow me to quickly step in and provide temporary leadership at the Philadelphia Housing Authority."

General Manager Kelly's leave began on December 6, and will last for six months to a year.



### Stapleton Houses Honors Resident Watch Volunteers

The Resident Watch at Stapleton Houses (Staten Island) held their annual Resident Watch Awards Dinner on November 18. The ceremony honored all the volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort to improve the quality of life in the development and surrounding community. Joined by their neighbors and NYCHA staff, the six building captains are seated in front, from left to right: Clerie Barnes (Resident Watch Supervisor), Evelyn Davis, Geraldine Parker (Resident Association President and Citywide Council of Presidents Staten Island District Chair), Caroline Navarro (honored for 25 years of service on Resident Watch), Shirley McRae and Daisy Batista.



As his child watches in amazement, an insect crawls up Justice Sonia Sotomayor Houses resident Anthony Scruggs' arm at the kickoff of the Bronx NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative site at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community Center on November 6, 2010.

## NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative Expands Into Two More Boroughs

The NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative, which focuses on helping fathers reconnect with their children and strengthening families, now is available in the Bronx and Manhattan. The Fatherhood Initiative offers fathers job training, resume building, GED assistance, child development skills courses, social services and family counseling. The Bronx site is based out of the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community Center, and the Manhattan site is based out of the Rutgers Houses Community Center.

The program began this past summer at the Williamsburg Houses Community Center in Brooklyn, and is part of a larger, citywide effort called for by Mayor Michael Bloomberg earlier this year. There will be additional locations for the NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative in community centers around the five boroughs that are scheduled to come onboard over the next year. For more information about the NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative at either site, contact NYCHA's Brooklyn Community Operations office at (718) 453-1296.

## Plan to Preserve Public Housing Brings NYCHA to Other Cities

What can NYCHA learn from other public housing authorities? This is a question Authority staff is looking to answer as part of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, NYCHA's ambitious plan to set its goals for the next five years.

As NYCHA continues to develop the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, staff is conducting site visits to other cities to explore industry-leading standards and practices. These site visits will enable NYCHA to recognize key success factors and possible obstacles for implementing new strategies and initiatives, and also engage experts from across the country throughout the planning process.

The team of NYCHA staff focusing on how to preserve public housing gained first-hand knowledge of Baltimore's and Washington, D.C.'s Housing Authorities. In late October, the team visited Baltimore, where they learned

about the city's approach to managing public housing operations, Housing Choice Voucher Program and supportive information systems.

The committee then headed to Washington, D.C. to hear how the nation's capital deploys skilled trades, performs physical needs analyses and uses technology to advance their capital program. They also reviewed recently completed projects including lobby renovations, energy efficient lighting, heating and cooling system upgrades and the expanded

use of closed-circuit television.

The committee charged with addressing the safety and well-being of residents and staff toured the Newark Housing Authority (NHA) on November 3, focusing on Newark's layered security access system. Newark uses electronic access control, intercoms, mechanical door locks and closed-circuit television monitored 24 hours a day to control who gets into buildings – all options being considered as part of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing.



NYCHA staff members observe part of the Newark Housing Authority's security operations for controlling building entrance access. Closed-circuit television allows Newark security staff to monitor live video of lobbies and other areas 24 hours a day.

# Protect Your Right to Choose!

Soon, all Social Security and SSI recipients will automatically be issued the government's prepaid debit card.

**DON'T WORRY, YOU HAVE A BETTER CHOICE!**

**Get your Benefits money your way!**

### PAPER

- You can still get a paper check delivered to our store days sooner
- Never have to worry about your check being stolen or lost in the mail
- Walk out with cash to manage your money – nothing really changes!

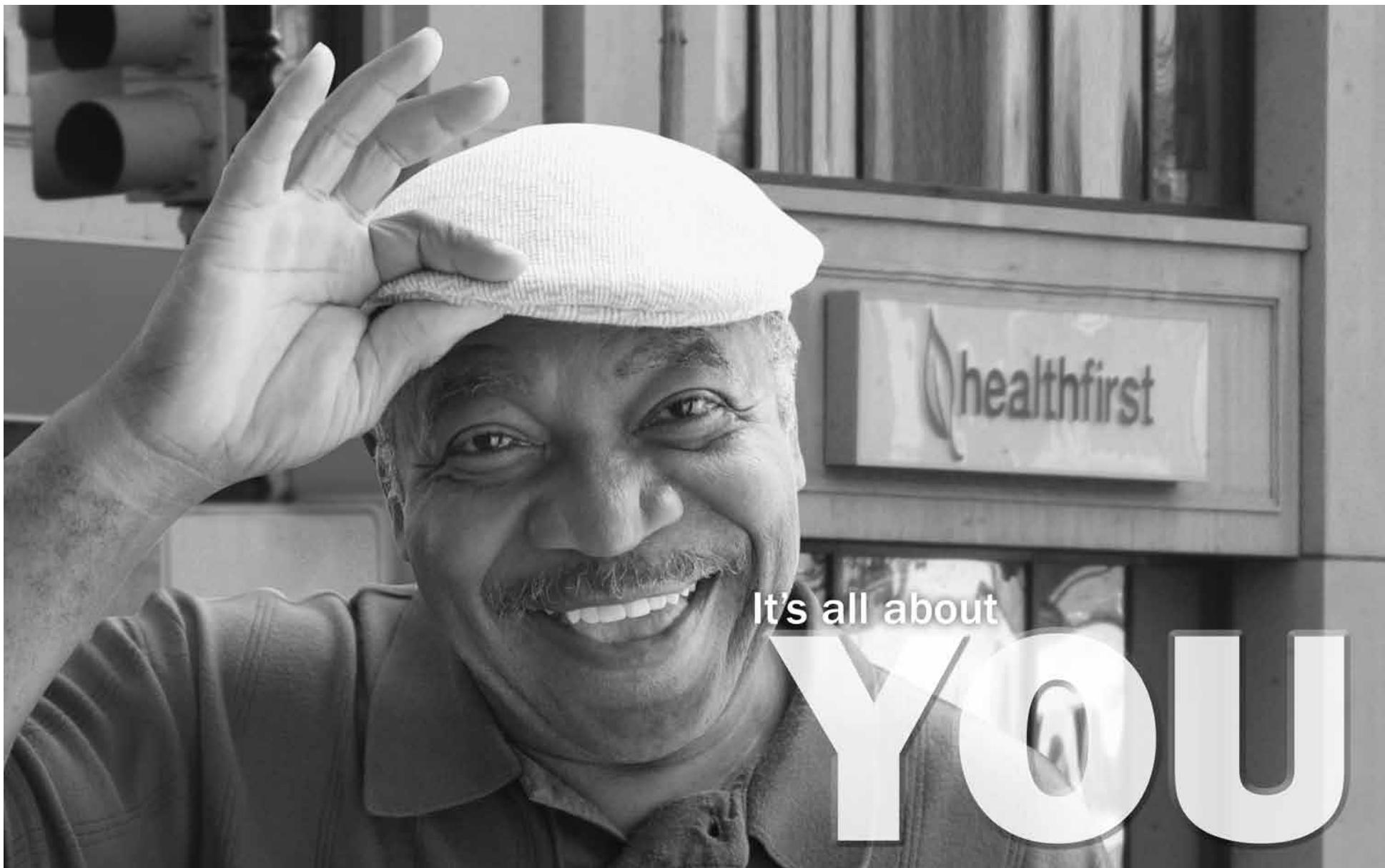
### PLASTIC

- Your funds are automatically loaded onto a prepaid debit card
- Use it for purchases anywhere debit cards are accepted
- Safer than carrying cash!
- Access cash 24/7 from thousands of ATMs anywhere

**Make your choice at Pay-O-Matic. It's Safe, Fast and Easy!**

Over 130 Locations • [www.payomatic.com](http://www.payomatic.com) • 1 (888) PAY-3773





We work hard to earn our members' **respect** and give it back through our neighborhood-based member services, and access to some of the top doctors and hospitals in your community.

We are Healthfirst Medicare Plan.  
Part of **your community** since 1993.

---

To learn more about Healthfirst Medicare Plan for 2011 or to enroll, call:  
**1-877-737-8450 | TDD/TTY 1-800-662-1220**  
(for the hearing or speech impaired)

Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 6:00pm

[www.healthfirstny.org](http://www.healthfirstny.org)

---

A Federally-Qualified HMO with a Medicare contract.

Healthfirst Medicare Plan's service area includes the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, and Nassau and Westchester counties. Plans may vary by county.

## New Mediation Program Helps Resolve Conflicts for NYCHA Residents

**N**YCHA is collaborating with the Safe Horizon Mediation Program to resolve resident disputes through the use of mediation. The program, available to residents in Brooklyn and Manhattan, is meant to reduce the number of recurring resident disputes, and prevent the escalation of conflicts that can lead to more serious safety issues. These conflicts include friction between neighbors involving noise, harassment, minor assaults or personal property damage; issues between family members, such as miscommunication, custody or visitation; problems at school, such as truancy or Special Education; and workplace conflicts.

Residents can contact a Mediation Center at any time to self-refer a dispute they are involved in, and NYCHA staff and law enforcement personnel also may refer cases. Once all parties involved agree in writing to participate, Safe Horizon will contact them to schedule a mediation session within a few weeks. The sessions usually last a couple of hours, and parties are welcome to return if that

time is not enough. With the help of a trained mediator, parties discuss whatever is relevant to them to try to resolve the problem at hand. Safe Horizon mediators are rigorously trained in various techniques and tools for active listening and facilitation, and come from many backgrounds and segments of the community.

"The Safe Horizon Mediation Program is an excellent way for both residents and staff to resolve conflict before it escalates," said Nora Reissig, Director of NYCHA's Social Services Department. "Individuals who go through mediation also report improved relationships with others in general as a result of learning new communication tools and conflict resolution approaches."

Through mediation, parties report regularly that their feelings of safety and security are enhanced, tensions are diffused, they find opportunities for understanding when seemingly none existed before and they are given a voice in creating action plans that affect their own future.

To find out more about the Safe Horizon Mediation Program, call (212) 577-1740 in Manhattan, call (718) 834-6671 in Brooklyn, or go to [www.safehorizon.org](http://www.safehorizon.org). If residents in other boroughs desire a similar

service, they can call the Department of Social Services and receive a referral to other mediation programs. In the Bronx, call (718) 409-8699, in Queens, call (718) 206-3286, in Staten Island, call (718) 816-1521.

### ***FREE 15-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



Your neighborhood is now **our** neighborhood.

Our Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly lets you continue to live independently, in the comfort of your own home, delivering personalized care from a team of qualified health professionals.

**To learn more, call CCM today!**

**877-226-8500, (TTY: 1-800-650-2774)**

Seven days a week from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Call to find out about your closest CCM site and meet the team that would deliver your health care!



Comprehensive Care Management Corporation

A Member of the Beth Abraham Family of Health Services

CCM PACE has an approved contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and NY State. Additional benefits and restrictions may apply. Members are liable for the cost of services not authorized by CCM program.

## What Does “Home” Mean to You?



Seven-year old Alliyah Garcia from Wagner Houses incorporated many hearts into her poster to demonstrate what home means to her.

The artistic works of six NYCHA youth represented New York City in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials’ (NAHRO) poster contest. Held specifically for children associated with affordable housing and community development programs, the contest asked children to create a poster that embodies the phrase “What Home Means to Me.”

With the backing of the NYCHA Safety and Security Task Force, more than 260 children created posters. Participants focused on NYCHA housing being not just a development, but a home, instilling pride in their community and motivating them to take a greater interest in their home’s safety and security.

“I felt surprised, it was the first time being selected for

anything that I have done. I didn’t think that this painting would have a big impact on the judges,” said 12-year old Andre Delgado of Parkside Houses in the Bronx. “I always will remember this.”

The other five children whose entries were

submitted to the national competition were Jhane Coello, 12, Parkside (Bronx); Alliyah Garcia, 7, Wagner (Manhattan); Rasheen

Knight, 12, O’Dwyer (Brooklyn); Sajdah Nieves, 9, Clinton (Manhattan); and Janice Rodrigues, 6, Highbridge (Bronx).

## A Message from the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board

The Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is the City agency that investigates complaints from the public about police misconduct. We are an independent City agency and not a part of the Police Department. The CCRB investigates complaints about unnecessary or excessive force, abuse of authority (such as an improper stop or frisk), discourtesy and offensive language. You have several options to file a complaint with the CCRB:

- File online through our website, at [www.nyc.gov/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/ccrb) and click on “How to File a Complaint” on the left hand side of the page.
- Come to our offices at 40 Rector Street, 2nd floor, New York, NY, 10006, from Monday–Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Send a letter to the address above.
- Call 311 anytime and they will direct your call to us.

If you would like a speaker from the CCRB to come to your community center or any other group, please contact Dawn Fuentes, the CCRB’s Director of Community Relations at [dfuentes@ccrb.nyc.gov](mailto:dfuentes@ccrb.nyc.gov) or (212) 442-8848.

## Geo-Thermal Heat Comes to the East Side

NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea discusses the installment of a geo-thermal heating system at 344 East 28th Street in Manhattan. The heating system will supply the development with hot water year-round, significantly cutting energy costs. Joining him on October 28, 2010, from left to right, were Congressman Charles Rangel, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, NYCHA Commissioner Margarita López and Resident Association President Dominga Lanzo.



### The path to your first home.

The State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) offers first-time homebuyers:

- 30- or 40- year fixed interest rates that are typically below market;
- Financing up to 97%;
- Flexible underwriting guidelines;
- Down payment assistance (higher of \$3,000 or 3% of the loan amount or up to \$10,000);
- No points;
- No financing add ons.

For more information, call 1-800-382-HOME (4663) or visit [www.housing.ny.gov](http://www.housing.ny.gov)



## Slicing and Dicing at Rutgers Houses

**N**YCHA youth from Rutgers Houses in Manhattan chop potatoes as they prepare a vegetarian meal that also included cold melon soup and sautéed string beans with caramelized onions. The children were in a cooking class this Fall as part of a pilot program for nine and 10-year olds meant to inspire young people to discover good nutrition through direct experiences with fresh food. The program is sponsored by celebrity chef Rachel Ray's non-profit organization, Yum-o!, in collaboration with The Sylvia Center, Children's Aid and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.



## NYCHA Residents Use the 'Force' to Green the City



The Green City Force team, including 12 NYCHA residents, were honored at a graduation ceremony on November 9 at the Whitman-Ingersoll Community Center. NYCHA Commissioner Margarita López (center front) spoke at the ceremony.

**A**dozen NYCHA young adults recently completed a six-month stretch of working to move New York City to a greener lifestyle. They served as members of the Green City Force (GCF), a nonprofit that combines service-learning and job training to foster environmentally healthy communities while preparing young people for careers in the emerging green economy.

As part of GCF's Clean Energy Corps, members spent four days a week on projects to reduce energy usage – participating in the NYC CoolRoofs Program by coating rooftops with reflective coating; conducting home health, safety and energy inspections in low and moderate-income homes; and informing more than 8,000 families about ways to upgrade energy efficiency that can save money. The Clean Energy Corps spent one day every week being trained in job readiness, technical training and eco-literacy. They also were challenged to develop sustainable living practices in their personal lives, based on NYCHA's Green Guide (the Guide can be seen in the "Green Initiatives" section of NYCHA's website, [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha)).

NYCHA residents made up two-thirds of the Clean Energy Corps, which was honored at a graduation ceremony on November 9. NYCHA resident Desiree Pabon received the Sustainability Award for her leadership in learning about and modeling

a low-carbon lifestyle.

Most of the graduates have been placed in green collar jobs, thus embracing a sustainable career path for themselves while making New York City more sustainable. "I truly believe that if not for Green City Force, I would not have the confidence and knowledge that I have gained here," Mark Arroyo, one of the NYCHA residents who participated on

the Clean Energy Corps, said in the ceremony's program. "Our work makes a difference in a time that is full of non-green methods that are destroying the world we live in."

Recruiting will begin soon for next year's Green City Force. For more information, go to [www.greencityforce.org](http://www.greencityforce.org), call (718) 923-1400 ext. 277, or e-mail [simonette@greencityforce.org](mailto:simonette@greencityforce.org).

## SENIOR NEWS



### Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment Period January 1–March 31

**T**he General Enrollment Period for Medicare Advantage Plans runs from January 1 to March 31. Seniors interested in enrolling in a Medicare Advantage Plan can do so at this time. Seniors currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan can change plans during this period as well.

There will be 15 plans to choose from in 2011. Before signing up or changing plans we recommend that you:

1. Compare the plans' benefits with those you may currently have or speak with a plan benefits representative;
2. Check to see if your current doctors participate in the plans;
3. Find out if the plans are affiliated with your preferred hospital.

For additional information, call the Medicare Rights Center at (212) 869-3850 or the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) at (212) 341-3978.



## Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott: "There is a New World Outlook Here"

**N**ew York City Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott visited NYCHA on October 21 to discuss the present and future of the Authority. He told staff that NYCHA should focus on four key goals: ensure residents live in safety and comfort; fully engage residents in the City's workforce efforts for employment; balance NYCHA's budget in a manner that does not put the burden solely on residents, by maximizing use of land, creative partnerships and developing various income streams; and improve the imagery and reputation of what NYCHA represents. "This last goal helps the other three goals," Deputy Mayor Walcott said. "It brings beneficial results on the grounds for residents, and for employment and safety, by maximizing private and other resources to make sure that NYCHA is a stable entity."

**jbfc's** KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM All services are free of charge.

**ARE YOU CARING FOR A RELATIVE'S CHILD ?**

**We have many services including:**  
Financial Advocacy  
Support for Caregivers and Children

**For a complete list of services and to learn more call:**  
Diana Masri 718.676.4319 x417 or John Watkins 718.676.4251

## DEVELOPMENTS COMMEMORATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



### Bushwick and Hylan Houses Turn 50

Bushwick Houses (Brooklyn) reached its 50th anniversary on April 1, and Hylan Houses (Brooklyn) reached its 50th anniversary on June 30. Both developments commemorated the occasion on August 14 and were presented resolutions by State Assembly Member Vito Lopez and State Senator Martin Malave Dilan.

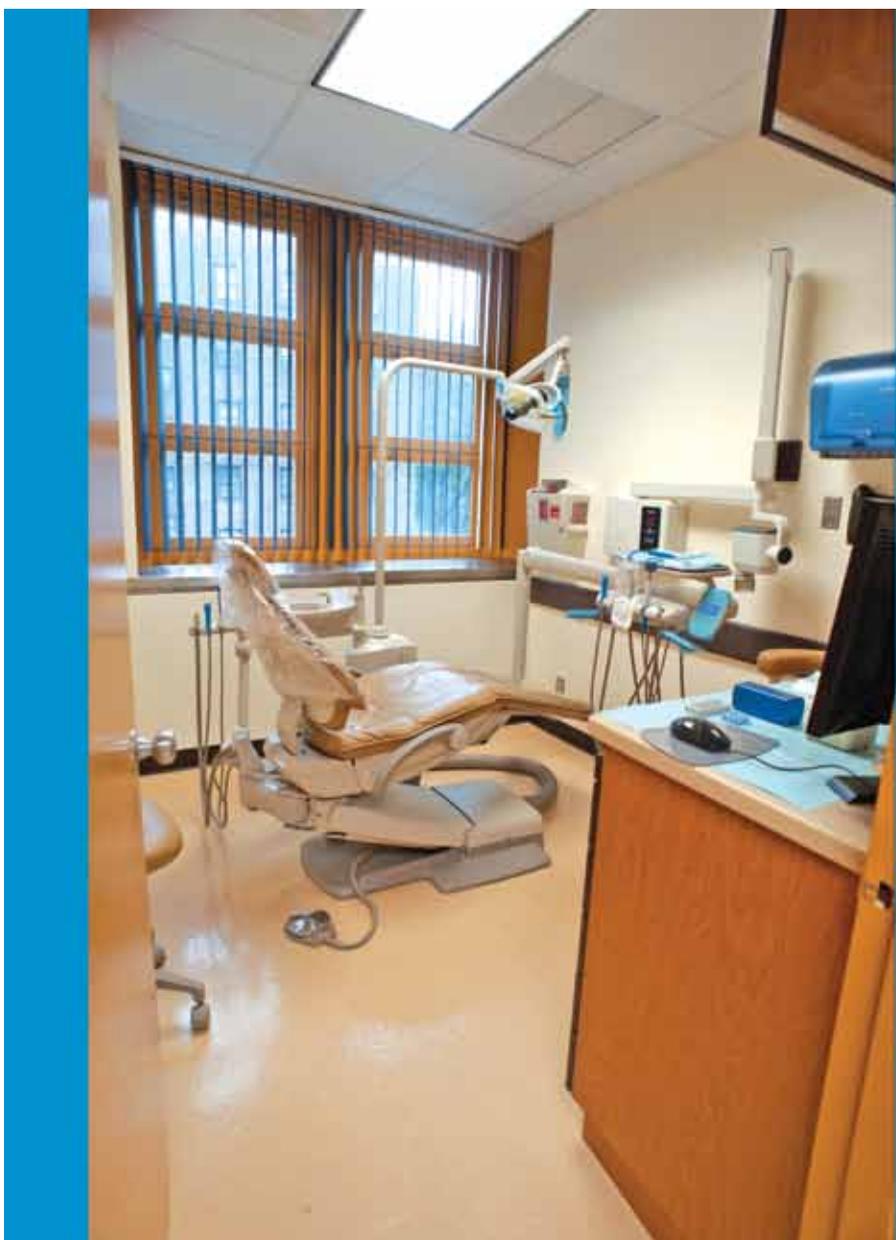
On hand to celebrate at Bushwick (left photo) were Gloria Padin, Resident Association Treasurer; Evelyn Cruz, Community Coordinator for Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez; Philip Calandrillo, Brooklyn Borough Management Deputy Director; Erenisse Tavarez, Brooklyn Borough Community Operations Deputy Director; Gloria Bonilla, Resident Association President; Valerie Hill, Resident Association Secretary; and Pamela Hockett, Resident Association Financial Secretary.

Celebrating at Hylan (right photo) were Evelyn Cruz, Community Coordinator for Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez; Philip Calandrillo, Brooklyn Borough Management Deputy Director; Erenisse Tavarez, Brooklyn Borough Community Operations Deputy Director; Kim Bush, Resident Association Vice President; Yvonne Lee, Resident Association President; Milquela Cedeno, Resident Association Recording Secretary; and Kevin Darby, Development Superintendent.



### South Jamaica I Houses Turns 70

Residents and NYCHA staff of all ages gathered in August to commemorate South Jamaica I's 70th anniversary, including Marlene Reed, Resident Association President; Michele Reed, Resident Association Vice President; Dawn Blake, Assistant Property Supervisor; Margo Madden, Property Manager; Eddie Pinero, Supervisor of Caretakers; and Sherraine Wingate, Property Maintenance Supervisor.



## Family Dental Care

Visit our newly renovated state of the art dental facility, with dental services for the whole family!

We have bilingual staff and accept most insurance. Assistance is also available for uninsured patients.

Please call **718.260.7750** to make an appointment or for more information.

### Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center

100 North Portland Avenue  
Between Myrtle and Park Avenues  
Brooklyn, New York 11205