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FAST FACTS

The Resident Safety and Security Survey had more than 1,100 residents participate.

More than 100 NYCHA residents are 100 years old or older.

Safety and Security Task Force Reports on Accomplishments



Young NYCHA residents stand with officers from the New York City Police Department at a NYCHA Family Day event in 2010. The Safety and Security Task Force created new rules and clear guidelines that help ensure Family Days are safe and fun for residents.

The Safety and Security Task Force, a partnership among NYCHA, the Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP) and New York City Police Department (NYPD), released its first detailed report on the work it has accomplished to make public housing in New York City safer and more secure for residents. The Safety and Security Task Force convened for the first time in December 2009, brought about by a collaboration between NYCHA and the CCOP.

"The Safety and Security Task Force is a milestone in resident engagement best practices that continues to position public housing residents and NYCHA as partners in shaping the future for the residents of public housing in the city of New York," said Reginald Bowman, President of the CCOP and a Task Force member. "The Task Force produced tremendously improved results for relations among NYCHA, NYPD and the resident leadership."

The Task Force developed a resident safety and security survey, to gauge a wide range of opinions on the issues

residents face on a day-to-day basis. The survey found that 50 percent of respondents reported a broken intercom in their building, 48 percent reported unsecured lobby doors and 48 percent reported broken locks. Based on the work of the Security Measures subcommittee, NYCHA plans to install "multi-layered" access control, consisting of mechanical door locking hardware, electronic access control and direct call intercoms. Mott Haven Houses in the Bronx received a \$250,000 grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for new building entrance door locks and a new wireless intercom system. Installation is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2011.

The NYPD Policies and Relationships with Residents subcommittee provided input on new patrol guidelines for the NYPD in public housing. The guidelines are based on the principle that police officers are "service providers." Nearly 3,000 officers already have been trained, and the new guidelines have been added to the required curriculum for all new police recruits.

"The Safety and Security Task Force has allowed NYCHA, the CCOP and NYPD to work within a very positive atmosphere and develop strong feelings of mutual respect," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "We will continue to work together to find solutions that improve safety in NYCHA developments and strengthen relations among residents, NYCHA management and police officers."

While the Safety and Security Task Force originally was intended to be a temporary initiative, resident leaders expressed a desire to continue to meet on a regular basis. The Task Force now is an integral part *continued on page 2* ▶

The Safety and Security Task Force is made up of NYCHA residents, NYCHA staff, NYPD officials and representatives from partner organizations.



NYCHA on Target with Federal Stimulus Projects

Authority Ahead of Schedule with Construction and Rehabilitation

NYCHA continues to move forward with extensive work at more than 200 developments with the funds received in 2009 from the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), commonly known as the Stimulus Bill. Construction and rehabilitation upgrades are ongoing in all five boroughs, with 75 developments receiving “major” work. This includes brick work, roof rehabilitation, elevator replacement and heating upgrades. Other developments are receiving “minor” work, which includes new refrigerators and gas ranges and replacing floor tiles.

To qualify for the full \$423 million committed to NYCHA in Stimulus funding, the Authority had to meet a deadline of spending at least 60 percent of the money by March 17, 2011. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) certified NYCHA meeting this goal on February 9. The



Armstrong Houses in Brooklyn shows off part of its exterior makeover, completed with federal stimulus funding, even as more rehabilitation work continues.

remaining 40 percent of the funds must be spent by March 17, 2012.

“We are well on the way to completing the 95 projects funded Authority-wide by the Stimulus funds – 45 of them are completed or ready to be closed out, and another 37 are more than 50 percent complete,” said Eve Michel, Assistant Deputy General Manager of Capital Projects. “I am very pleased we have been able to efficiently perform this work for the benefit of the residents.”

The Stimulus funding also created job opportunities for residents. Through the end of 2010, there were 395 placements on ARRA-funded projects through NYCHA’s Department of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability.

NYCHA Board Meetings

Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority’s 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, New York (unless otherwise noted). The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2011 are as follows:

March 16	June 22	September 28
March 30	July 6	October 12
April 13	July 20	October 26
April 27	August 3	November 9
May 11	August 17	November 23
May 25	August 31	December 7
June 7 (Tuesday)	September 14	December 21

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA’s website at 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, New York, no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday 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.

NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative Moves Into Fourth Borough

The NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative, which focuses on helping fathers strengthen connections with their children, and in turn improve their family life, now is available in Queens. The Fatherhood Initiative offers fathers job training, resume building, GED assistance, child development skills courses, social services and family counseling. The program is available in the Bronx at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Com-

munity Center, in Brooklyn at the Williamsburg Houses Community Center and in Manhattan at the Rutgers Houses Community Center. For more information about the NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative in Queens, call the Queens Borough Community Operations office at **718-969-6240**, the Beach 41st Community Center at **718-471-0971** or the Woodside Community Center at **718-932-0771**.

◀ continued from page 1

Safety and Security Task Force Reports on Accomplishments

of working collaboratively to improve public housing communities. The Task Force has many recommendations still to be implemented, including a training video for NYPD officers, a pilot program for enhanced parking enforcement and forming Welcome Committees. In addition, the results from the resident safety and security survey will be analyzed and used to determine future courses of action.

“The creation of the task force is one of the best decisions made, this is a venue that gives residents and resident leaders alike the oppor-

tunity to have our voices heard and our concerns addressed,” said Charlene Nimmons, Resident Association President of Wyckoff Gardens in Brooklyn and a Task Force member. “I believe this committee can help foster a much needed partnership between those who manage and those who reside in NYCHA.”

The Safety and Security Task Force fits with NYCHA’s current efforts to produce a new Plan to Preserve Public

Housing. Scheduled to be finalized in late spring of 2011, the Plan to Preserve Public Housing includes increasing safety and security in housing developments as one of the mandates that will steer the Authority’s course of action for the next five years.

To read the full Safety and Security Task Force Report, go to the ‘News, Events and Publications’ page on NYCHA’s website at www.nyc.gov/nycha and click on ‘Publications.’



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Message from the Chairman

At NYCHA, we have developed a strategy to empower residents to reach their financial goals that includes a focus on job training and placement. When residents are employed in work that pays a decent wage, they have a greater ability to care for their families. This is vital to our mission to improve resident quality

of life and self-sufficiency, one of the principles of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, NYCHA's comprehensive five-year strategic plan. The Authority's efforts to connect residents with job opportunities are administered by the Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability.

The NYCHA Resident Training Academy, funded by Robin Hood and run in collaboration with non-profit training partners, has graduated 96 residents to date from janitorial or construction training programs. Eighty-two of them are working at NYCHA or for NYCHA contractors.

Green City Force, an AmeriCorps job readiness and training program for young people from the ages of 18-24, helps participants develop the employment skills needed to tackle urban environmental issues through a full-time, paid, six-month training and public service program. I am thrilled that 30 NYCHA residents will be part of the corps this spring, earning real skills and on their way to careers in the green economy.

Jobs-Plus offers on-site employment and training services specifically for public housing residents in one development or a cluster of developments. The East River Development Alliance in Western Queens and Jefferson Houses Jobs-Plus currently are operating. A new Jobs-Plus site in the South Bronx

will open soon, and you can read more about it on page 5 of this issue.

For Coney Island residents, we are thrilled to partner again with the City Economic Development Corporation and local community-based partners and resident leaders to connect residents to local jobs generated from a new amusement park and the food service industry. More than 70 residents were hired in 2010.

For residents on Manhattan's West Side, we have launched the Lincoln Center Collaborative, an initiative to connect local businesses and employers to our neighborhoods. You can read more about the Collaborative on page 9 of this issue. And we successfully facilitated the hiring of residents as part of Fashion Week.

In the Rockaways, residents can receive local workforce development and job placement services through one of NYCHA's partners, the Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation. Also, within the next couple of months, NYCHA will be implementing a broadband technology grant to provide computer and job readiness training services throughout the City.

We are connecting more residents with the Workforce 1 Centers run by the City Department of Small Business Services, which connects employers with skilled job candidates and provides job placement services to the City's workforce.

The work we do today for residents will help ensure that a foundation exists for future generations of residents to soar even higher. That is why NYCHA cares so deeply about providing assistance to our residents to reach their financial goals by having a successful career.

To contact the Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability, call 718-289-8100.

Bronx River Houses Joins Mayoral Green Infrastructure Plan

As the move into the new decade continues, NYCHA is moving forward its Green Agenda through a strategic partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and PlaNYC, Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan for the sustainability of New York City. For the benefit of Bronx River Houses residents, this latest Green Agenda effort occurs right over their heads.

Water flowing from rain and snow, residential and commercial use and street runoffs, is collected in combined sewers and diverted to wastewater treatment plants. However, during heavy rainfall, stormwater runoff can overwhelm the City's combined sewer system, causing untreated water to overflow into City waterways, such as the Bronx River. These combined sewer overflows can harm New York City water quality. DEP strategically selected Bronx River Houses to participate in its stormwater program because of its location within the Bronx River watershed. Controlling stormwater onsite and before it enters the City's sewer system can help minimize localized street flooding and sewer back-ups.

The stormwater program at Bronx River Houses consists of a pilot program with four best management practices – a blue roof, vegetated infiltration swales, a perforated pipe storage system and stormwater chambers. The program aims to slow and reduce stormwater runoff that enters the combined sewer system, creating more space in the system during storms.

Installed on the roof of the Community Center, the blue roof temporarily stores stormwater, slow-

ing down how fast the water runs off and filtering leaves and debris before the water enters the combined sewer. The vegetated infiltration swales built around the Community Center irrigate areas in the surrounding landscaped green space, and provide storage space to help stormwater infiltrate or seep into the ground. The storage chambers



The blue roof trays installed on top of the Bronx River Houses Community Center help slow down how fast water runs off the roof before entering the City's combined sewer system.

have been installed underneath the north parking lot and the perforated pipe soon will be installed under the south parking lot. Both will store stormwater, filtrate pollutants, leaves and debris, and slowly release the stormwater into the ground and to the combined sewer. DEP will maintain the pilot program, track performance and provide data reports for two years.

"NYCHA is a high volume consumer of water so we have an ethical responsibility to reduce pollutants in the river," said Commissioner Margarita López, NYCHA's Environmental Coordinator. "If this particular project brings the right data, then it would be beneficial to replicate it in other developments."

NYCHA carried out this strategic partnership with full engagement of the residents. In the summer of 2010, NYCHA and DEP representatives visited the development to inform residents of the benefits and incorporated residents' feedback in the plans. Commissioner López praised the residents' participation. "They came to learn and to be a part of what is believed to be a solution worthy of serious consideration," she said.

The stormwater pilot programs are part of Mayor Bloomberg's Green Infrastructure Plan. Launched in September 2010, the Plan utilizes "green infrastructure" like the Bronx River Houses program to improve waterways around the City. Along with participating in the other two Mayoral green initiatives, MillionTreesNYC and Cool Roofs, NYCHA continues to contribute to making New York City greener and greater.

THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from NYCHA's public housing developments. This list keeps residents informed of the Authority's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of its facilities. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of June 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2010.

Prohibited as of June 2, 2010

Brandon Bell Monroe Houses, 1790 Story Ave., 8th fl., Bronx
Edith Collazo Morris Houses, 1358 Washington Ave., 12th fl., Bronx
Anthony Gales South Jamaica Houses, 106-14 160th St., 1st fl., Bronx
Charles Hartfield Lafayette Gardens Houses, 325 Classon Ave., 2nd fl., Brooklyn
Christopher Landmark Jefferson Houses, 2227 Second Ave., 4th fl., Manhattan
Tyshawn McMillan Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 5th fl., Bronx
Nakima Norman Gowanus Houses, 235 Hoyt St., 11th fl., Brooklyn
Jonathan Perez Morris Houses, 1343 Washington Ave., 5th fl., Bronx
Jorge Ramos Berry Houses, 209 Jefferson St., 4th fl., Staten Island
Jovel Roman Vladeck Houses, 676 Water St., 4th fl., Manhattan
Sakaie Scott Gowanus Houses, 235 Hoyt St., 11th fl., Brooklyn
Latell Wilson Park Rock Consolidated Houses, 545 Ralph Ave., 1st fl., Brooklyn

Prohibited as of June 9, 2010

Deron Archer Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Elliot Burch Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Michael Coats Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Stacey Diggs Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Tameek Floyd Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Demond Gray Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Michael Grotjahn Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Rashun Hill Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Jason Lewis Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Roberto Mejia-Bisono Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Enny Mendoza Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Cornell Neilly Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Donovan Singleton Mill Brook Extension Houses, 169 Cypress Ave., 7th fl., Bronx
Clifton Terry Mill Brook Extension Houses, 1539 Lexington Ave., 7th fl., Bronx

Prohibited as of June 16, 2010

Erika Braxton aka Erika Cooper West Brighton I Houses, 778 Henderson Ave., 8th fl., Staten Island
Shante Davis Drew Hamilton Houses, 2680 8th Ave., 18th fl., Manhattan
Lequan Eley Monroe Houses, 1760 Story Ave., 4th fl., Bronx
Joseph Hardy Bushwick / Hyland Houses, 24 Humboldt St., 4th fl., Brooklyn
Naquan Howard Sumner Houses, 10 Lewis Ave., 2nd fl., Brooklyn
Malik Jones Sheepshead Bay Houses, 2238 Batchelder St., 2nd fl., Manhattan
John Rivera Pelham Parkway Houses, 815 Pelham Pkwy N, 2nd fl., Bronx
Rhonda Rodriguez Rutgers Houses, 38 Rutgers St., 11th fl., Manhattan
Cahnard Roundtree Johnson Houses, 1850 Lexington Ave., 5th fl., Manhattan
Carmen Vanlandingham Rutgers Houses, 38 Rutgers St., 11th fl., Manhattan
Ernesto Vasquez Washington/Lexington Houses, 1539 Lexington Ave., 5th fl., Manhattan

Prohibited as of June 23, 2010

Ulyses Beary 2949 W 28th St., 6th fl., Brooklyn
Alice Brooks Seth Low Houses, 131 Belmont Ave., 1st fl., Brooklyn
Christopher Brooks Seth Low Houses, 131 Belmont Ave., 1st fl., Brooklyn
Shamar Calloway Hammel Houses, 84-14 Rockaway Beach Blvd., 3rd fl., Queens
Gabriel Carmichael Queensbridge North Houses, 40-07 12th St., 5th fl., Queens
James Gibbons Mariner's Harbor Houses, 153 Brabant St., 4th fl., Staten Island
Tommy Hymes Hammel Houses, 81-04 Rockaway Beach Blvd., 7th fl., Queens
Antwan Jack Hammel-Carleton Manor Houses, 71-15 Beach Channel Dr., 2nd fl., Queens
Robert Johnson Twin Parks West Consolidated Houses, 365 Ford St., 4th fl., Bronx
Kevin Leader Pelham Pkwy Houses, 2215 Bronxwood Ave., 6th fl., Bronx
Solne Martinez Wald Houses, 40 Avenue D, 8th fl., Manhattan
Wade Murray East River Houses, 442 East 105th St., 6th fl., Manhattan
James Parker Bushwick Houses, 131 Moore St., 18th fl., Brooklyn
Richard Randolph Mitchel Houses, 175-177 Willis Ave., 9th fl., Bronx
Valencia Ray Pink Houses, 2726 Linden Blvd, 8th fl., Brooklyn
Henry Robinson Castle Hill Houses, 2175 Lacombe Ave., 5th fl., Bronx
Jonathan Ryals Marcy Houses, 53 Nostrand Ave., 3rd fl., Brooklyn
Linda Seawright aka Linda Jackson Mott Haven Houses, 340 Alexander Ave., 21st fl., Bronx
Clarence Stephens Bedford-Stuyvesant Rehab Houses, 701 Willoughby Ave., 4th fl., Brooklyn
Kevin Terry Mott Haven Houses, 340 Alexander Ave., 21st fl., Bronx

NYCHA-FFAWN Workshops for Teen Girls Begin

More than 50 eager girls gathered in late January for the first class of the Teen Girls' Initiative. The Teen Girls' Initiative connects girls and teens who live in New York City public housing, ages 12-15, with mentors who provide them with support and encouragement to pursue their dreams and conquer the obstacles life can bring. The program is run by NYCHA and the Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now (FFAWN), which was founded by singer Mary J. Blige and music executive Steve Stoute.

The first of six, two-hour workshop sessions focused on educating the participants about how to manage their money, including how their spending habits are influenced, setting short-term and long-term financial goals and learning the basics, such as bank accounts, loans, credit

cards, paychecks and taxes.

"I want to enhance the good things about me and grow into a mature, young woman. The program is going to help me stay stronger and help me compose myself as a young lady," said Shalaine Foster, 13, from Grant Houses in Manhattan.

The workshops are held once a month in the Justice Sonia Sotomayor (Bronx) and Manhattanville Houses (Manhattan) Community Centers. Future workshops will focus on building relationships, sexual health issues and improving confidence. A graduation ceremony is scheduled for June.



Many Options at Tax Time for NYCHA Residents

Thanks to several City programs, eligible New Yorkers have several options to file their taxes for free or at a very low cost, and can get help to access tax credits. New York City's Tax Credit Coalition Campaign, which NYCHA is a partner of, helped more than 72,000 New Yorkers file their taxes for free in 2010.

New Yorkers who earn less than \$57,000 a year can file their taxes online for free through the City's tax-prep website at www.nyc.gov/tax-prep. New Yorkers earning less than \$48,000 a year can visit 19 sites around the City where they can prepare their taxes for free online with assistance from a trained guide. A list of the sites is on the tax-prep website.

For people who want a professional to prepare their taxes, there are free and low-cost options. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites have

certified volunteers who will prepare taxes for free. To be eligible, residents with children must earn less than \$50,000 a year and those without children must earn less than \$18,000 a year. In addition, H&R Block will prepare taxes for \$29 for residents with children who earn less than \$41,000 a year and those without children who earn less than \$31,000 a year. To take advantage of the H&R Block offer, go to www.nyc.gov/tax-prep and follow the instructions to print a coupon which can be turned in at participating sites.

New Yorkers also can find out if they qualify for important tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the New York City Child Care Tax Credit. Working New Yorkers with children earning up to \$48,362 a year could be eligible for up to \$7,600 from the EITC. Working New Yorkers with no children earning up to \$18,470

a year could be eligible for up to \$600. A working family earning up to \$30,000 a year who pays child care costs for children three years old or younger could be eligible for up to \$1,733 from the New York City Child Care Tax Credit.

"With the EITC and other tax credits, many of our residents are able to receive a refund that helps them to stabilize their finances and makes it a little easier to put something aside to save," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "NYCHA is committed to making sure residents have access to free and affordable high quality financial products and services."

For more information, including tax preparation locations, eligibility for tax credits and which documents are required, call 311 and ask for tax preparation assistance or visit www.nyc.gov/taxprep.

Jobs-Plus Program Comes to the Bronx



Joel Polanco stands outside the Jefferson Houses Jobs-Plus site, where he got help to find a job at a grocery store in Queens.

NYCHA residents in the Bronx neighborhood of Mott Haven soon will have a new tool to assist them in training for and finding a job. A new Jobs-Plus site is scheduled to open this spring thanks to grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service, financial services company Morgan Stanley and other private foundations.

Jobs-Plus provides job

training and work experience for unemployed and employed public housing residents. The new Jobs-Plus site will be operated by BronxWorks, in partnership with NYCHA, the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity and the Department of Consumer Affairs Office of Financial Empowerment. BronxWorks will work with as many as 600 residents every year from Betances Houses I, Betances Houses II 9A, Betances Houses III 9A, Betances Houses IV, Betances Houses V, Betances Houses VI, Moore Houses and East 152nd Street-Courtlandt Avenue. Jobs-Plus participants will be eligible for employment placement, retention and advancement services, training and education, including pre-GED, GED and ESL classes and financial counseling, among other services.

The East River Development Alliance operates a Jobs-Plus site in Western

Queens, and a City-sponsored site opened in October 2009 at Thomas Jefferson Houses in Manhattan. Joel Polanco is one of the residents who received services at Jobs-Plus, and now is an assistant manager at a grocery store in Queens.

"Jobs-Plus is awesome!" said Mr. Polanco. "The staff gives resources and job opportunities to get people where they want to go. Being involved with Jobs-Plus and the staff has proved that it just takes dedication and believing that you can do whatever you want to do."

"NYCHA is thrilled to support the replication of the proven, evidence-based Jobs-Plus model in the Bronx and is grateful to our partners and funders for their investment in public housing residents and neighborhoods," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "We are committed to providing residents access

to the tools and resources needed for economic self-sufficiency and success."

The \$500,000 Morgan Stanley grant also will support the first-time addition of financial counseling to Jobs-Plus services. Counselors

trained by the City's Department of Consumer Affairs Office of Financial Empowerment will provide participants on-site financial counseling, focusing on issues like debt, credit, savings, budgeting and financial literacy.

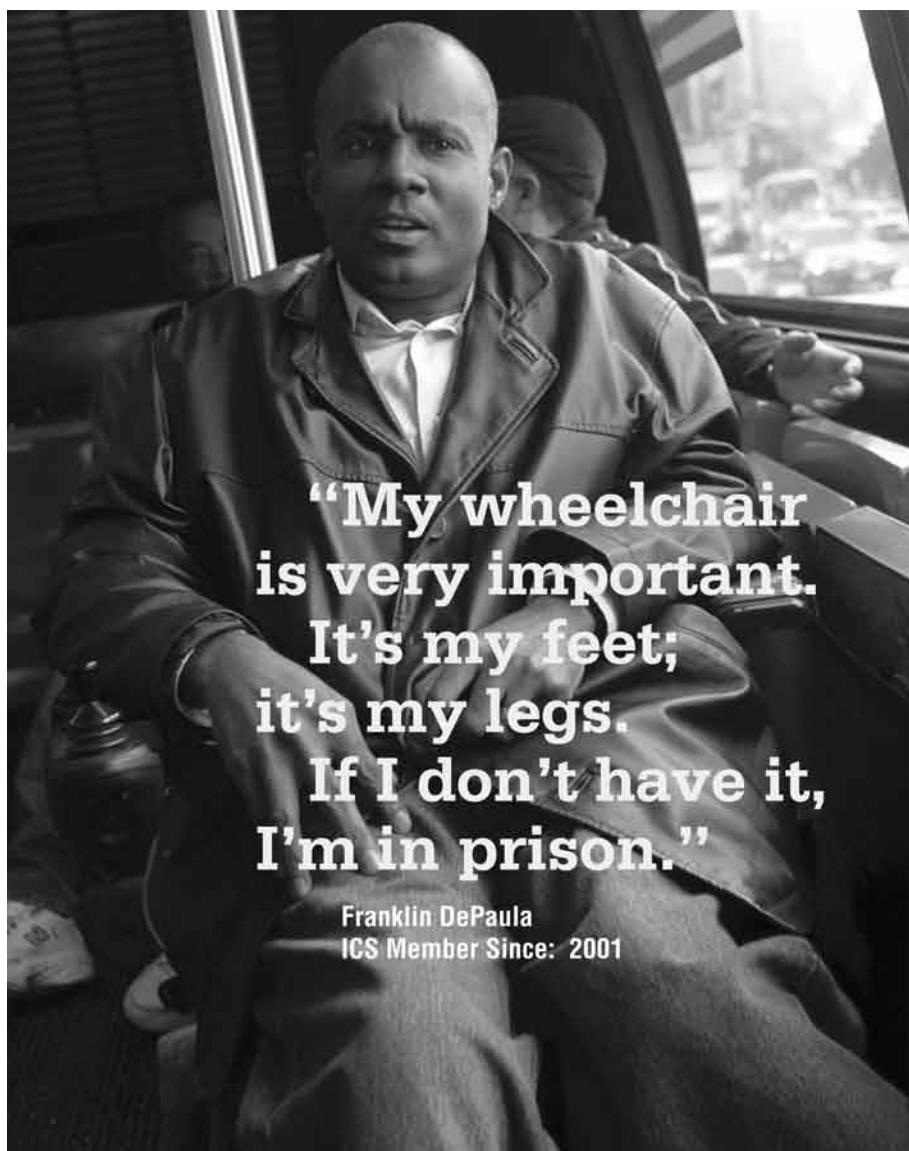


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Gloria Finkelman, Deputy General Manager for Operations, Retires

After 32 years of service at NYCHA, Gloria Finkelman, well-known to tens of thousands of residents as the Deputy General Manager for Operations, has retired. In her position, Ms. Finkelman oversaw the day-to-day operations of all 334 developments. She started at NYCHA as a Housing

Assistant, and worked her way up through the ranks as an Assistant Manager, then a Manager, and then Borough Director in Brooklyn before being named Deputy General Manager.

Throughout her career at NYCHA, Ms. Finkelman has prided herself on doing everything it takes to care for

residents. "I loved working in the field. It felt good to go to someone's door, find out what they needed, and help provide them with services that made their life easier," Ms. Finkelman said. "I love helping people."

It was not unusual for Ms. Finkelman's days to begin at 7:00 a.m. and end by 11:00 p.m. Now, however, the long days and nights have come to an end, and Ms. Finkelman is looking forward to relaxing, seeing movies, traveling and setting her own schedule.

Will she miss NYCHA? "Of course!" Ms. Finkelman said. "It has been wonderful. But, I never look back."

Carlos Laboy is NYCHA's New Deputy General Manager for Operations

Carlos Laboy, who has led NYCHA's federalization efforts of 21 developments, began serving as the Deputy General Manager for Operations on March 1, 2011. Mr. Laboy joined NYCHA in August 2010 as the Managing Director for Mixed Finance Asset Management, and he will keep these duties in addition to serving in his new position.

Mr. Laboy has more than 20 years of service in the public housing and real estate industries, most recently serving as Director of Business Development at Omega Realty Co., in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Prior to that, he was the Administrator of the Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration (PRPHA), where he led the largest modernization effort in PRPHA's history



with the modernization of more than 19,000 units, and implemented the largest Resident Service Program in the United States.

"I look forward to working with Resident Association Presidents, residents and the dedicated NYCHA staff to continue improvements and to ensure residents receive the highest level of service," Mr. Laboy said.

SENIOR NEWS

Take Nine Steps To Prevent Falls

1. Exercise daily and be physically active
2. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to review all of your medications
3. Get your vision checked at least once a year
4. Increase the lighting in your apartment
5. Keep floors clear in your apartment
6. Avoid going barefoot or wearing slippers
7. Never use a chair as a step stool
8. Use a non-slip mat in your bathtub
9. Install grab bars next to the tub and toilet – contact your management office to request the installation of grab bars in your bathroom

For more information, call (212) 720-7136 and request a FREE copy of the "How to Prevent Falls" health bulletin. It is published by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.



Happy 100th Mami!

Gavina Guadarrama, who has lived at Vandalia Avenue in Brooklyn since 1983, celebrated her 100th birthday on February 19 at the Vandalia Senior Center. Born in 1911 in Puerto Rico, Ms. Guadarrama was the oldest daughter in her family and helped raise her 10 brothers and sisters. She married Juan (Galfio) Guadarrama in 1940, and eventually moved to New York City. Mr. Guadarrama passed away

in 1988. Ms. Guadarrama and her husband have a far-reaching legacy, with three daughters, seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren, with another due in March. All generations of the family affectionately call her "Mami."

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CCOP Elections Keep Eight District Chair Members in Office

The Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP), the group of elected residents who represent one of nine districts across the City, completed elections for their District Chair positions. In eight of the districts, the current District

Chairs were re-elected by their fellow Resident Association Presidents. Brooklyn South is the one district with a new representative on the CCOP, as Lillie Marshall replaced Rosia Wyche, who retired. "I am honored and humbled to

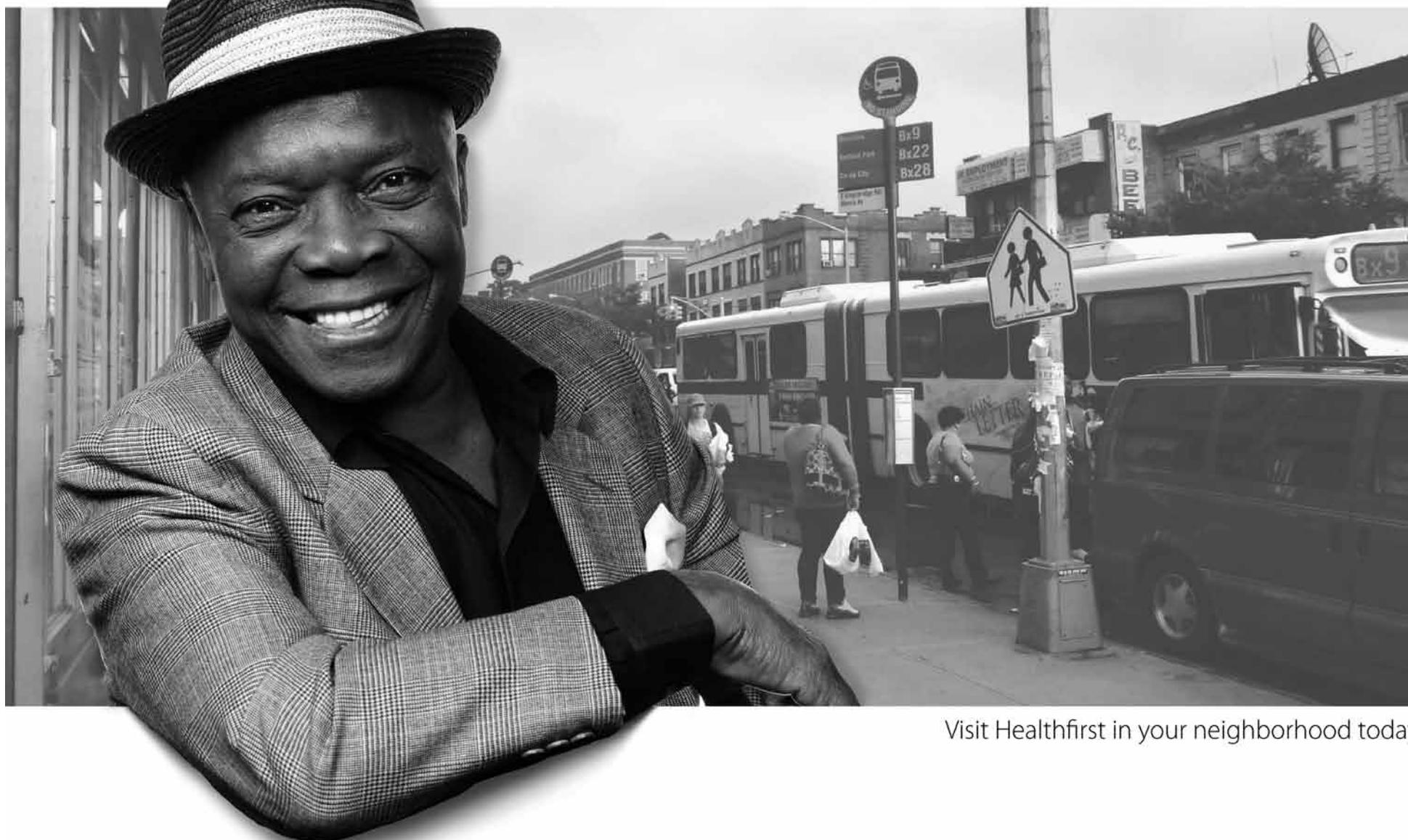
be elected Chair," said Ms. Marshall. "I will support the Resident Association Presidents, and we will work together at all times. I am looking forward to a wonderful relationship with everyone involved."

The CCOP District Chairs, pictured from left to right, are Ann Cotton Morris (Queens), Herma Williams (Bronx North), Geraldine Parker (Staten Island), John Johnson (Bronx South), Reginald Bowman (Brooklyn East and CCOP President), Raymond Ballard (Brooklyn West), Ethel Velez (Manhattan North), Lillie Marshall (Brooklyn South) and Rose Bergin (Manhattan South).



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NYCHA youths eagerly await the start of the Life in Fashion Forum at Lincoln Center.

Young NYCHA Residents Prepare for Fashion Careers

attended the panel, which was a preamble to Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week.

"I like the way the panelists expressed their passion for fashion," said 13-year old Shaline Zapata from King Towers.

Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week producer IMG Fashion and Lincoln Center sponsored the forum with the support of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. The forum was a result of a collaboration among NYCHA, Lincoln Center and the New York City Department of Education. It continues

the work of the partnership between NYCHA and the Lincoln Center Collaborative, composed of approximately 20 private, academic and non-profit organizations around Lincoln Center. The goal of the Collaborative is to connect the

area public housing neighborhoods with the surrounding communities with a focus on employment. Five of the 15 NYCHA youths were identified as candidates for jobs, and two of them were hired to work during Fashion Week.

If only we all could be so lucky to get career advice from some of the biggest people in the industry we want to pursue. Fifteen NYCHA youths were part of a group of high school students interested in a career

in fashion who heard from top designers and industry leaders at the second Life in Fashion Forum on February 8, 2011, at Lincoln Center. Teens living in Amsterdam Houses, DeHos-tos Houses and King Towers

Brooklyn Community Rallies to Assist Residents Relocated After Fire

The NYCHA Social Services Department partners with community-based organizations to provide food, water and other needed items to residents during crises. The Social Services Department thanks the following neighborhood organizations and merchants who assisted residents after a fire on February 11, 2011, at Lenox Road-Rockaway Parkway

in Brooklyn. These groups provided food, clothing, blankets and linens to residents who temporarily had to vacate their apartments due to the fire.

- Brooklyn Finest Navi Club
- Men Elevating Leadership for Youth
- Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District
- Shoppers' World

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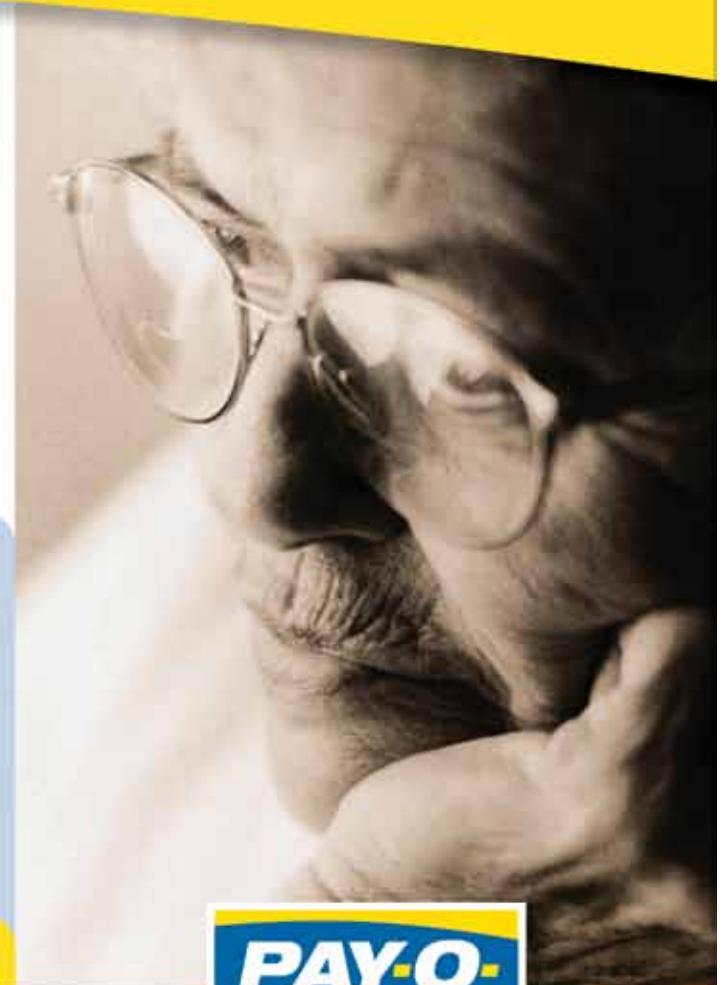
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PAL Teen Impact Center Opens at Brooklyn's Albany Houses

Teens living in a couple of developments in Brooklyn now have expanded recreational, educational and cultural opportunities. The new Police Athletic League Teen Impact Center, located at the Albany Houses Community Center, will serve teens living in Albany Houses and the

Weeksville Gardens Houses. The Teen Impact Center will offer activities such as Cops and Kids Basketball, a community fashion show, computer literacy training and education programs about gang awareness and drugs.

The center is a result of a collaboration among NYCHA,

the New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor, the New York City Police Athletic League, the Kings County District Attorney and the New York City Police Department. Its mission meets the goals of the NYCHA Safety and Security Task Force (see page 1 of this issue). The Center will receive financial support derived from forfeited narcotics trafficking proceeds obtained during criminal prosecutions.



Anthony Manly tries out the pool table at the Albany Houses Community Center, which has been expanded to include the new Teen Impact Center run by the New York City Police Athletic League.

"NYCHA recognizes that proper delivery of social services often is a pillar of individual well-being and overall community health, and the work at this Teen Impact Center will go a long way towards achieving

that goal," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea.

An open house for parents who wish to learn more about the program will be held on March 3 at the Albany Houses Community Center.



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