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Her Voice



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Henry Street
Settlement

The NYCHA JOURNAL

PICTURES WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

New murals depict what's in the hearts and minds of young people.

BROOKLYN-BASED ARTS organization Groundswell works with young people throughout the city to create public works of art that make a statement on issues of importance to the artists. This summer, young residents from Castle Hills, Polo Grounds Houses, and Tompkins Houses created vivid murals at their developments as part of Groundswell's Summer Leadership Institute. "The Summer Leadership Institute provides young people with a voice by allowing them to transform blank walls located in public spaces into sites of community dialogue...solutions for social justice issues that are important

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)



Bronxchester Houses' renovated outdoor community space.

A View of the Future

Betances residents tour Bronxchester to see potential renovations for their own development.

ROBERT, A LONG-TIME Betances resident, snapped photos of everything he saw on a tour of renovations made to Bronxchester Houses. Some of the photos he snapped were of the new outdoor space, the lobby and security desk, laundry room and new elevators. He planned to show

them to his mom back home at Betances.

Robert, and a small group of other Betances residents, toured Bronxchester Houses on August 23. The tour was organized by NYCHA's Department of Community Development and led by C+C Apartment Management, who now

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

BUILDING STRONGER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

FIVE YEARS AGO Superstorm Sandy devastated many New York City neighborhoods, impacting 80,000 NYCHA residents at 33 developments and 400 buildings.

Last month, we broke ground on our largest Sandy Recovery to Resiliency project, a \$550 million program at Red Hook Houses East and West. The first phase is a \$63 million replacement of all 28 roofs at the developments.

To date, preliminary work has been done at 23 Sandy-damaged developments and major recovery work has begun at 15 developments. It's our responsibility to make sure our developments are safe and protected against future severe weather events and climate change.

We all know how devastating hurricanes have been so far this year; many of you have family and loved ones still suffering the damaging effects of Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Our thoughts are with all those who have been impacted.

It's up to each of us to be prepared. Think about the things you can do to keep yourself, your family, and your community safe, including knowing your evacuation zone, creating an evacuation plan, and packing go bags for your family.



Every New Yorker has a role to play when it comes to building stronger, safer, and healthier communities.

NYCHA residents throughout the five boroughs are doing their part to fortify our communities. In this issue of the *Journal*, you'll read about the recipients of the 2017 NYCHA-CUNY scholarships, many of them first-generation and the first in their families to attend college; they all have big dreams for the future.

You'll meet Angie Pitts, a survivor of domestic violence who now works in teaching self-defense and spreading awareness about domestic violence.

And you'll learn about residents who are beautifying their communities, creating gorgeous murals at Tompkins and Castle Hill Houses, as well as children at Pomonok Houses who are helping to design their dream playground.

Let's all of us keep up this good work!

Shola Olatoye
Chair and CEO

NYCHA BOARD MEETINGS

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

Copies of the calendar for the upcoming board meeting are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary, 250 Broadway, 12th floor, after 3 p.m. on the Monday before the meeting. Copies of the dispositions of prior meetings are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3 p.m. on the Thursday after the board meeting. Any person requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at **212-306-6088** no later than five business days prior to the

meeting. For additional information regarding the calendar of meetings, dispositions, dates, and times, please call **212-306-6088**.

For those unable to attend the board meetings, please visit <http://on.nyc.gov/boardmeetings> at the time of the meeting to watch live. You may also watch past board meetings by visiting NYCHAnnel, NYCHA's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/c/nycha>.

Upcoming Meetings:

October 25, 2017 November 29, 2017 December 20, 2017

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www.nyc.gov/nycha

Hurricane Preparedness



What Seniors Should Know About Being Prepared

SENIORS MAY BE especially vulnerable in emergencies. Here are some tips to help them get prepared and stay safe.

Stay on Top of the News

- Tune in to local TV and radio stations for emergency information, including severe weather forecasts, as well as evacuation instructions.

Make a Plan

- Create an emergency plan that addresses any special assistance seniors may need to prepare or evacuate, including communications and mobility issues.
- Develop a support network of family, friends, and neighbors who can assist during an emergency. Share and practice the emergency plan with them. Make sure

they have a spare home key and know the location of emergency supplies and how to use lifesaving equipment or administer medication.

- Find out the emergency plans of any hospitals/clinics that provide routine treatments, and identify backup service providers.
- Every individual in a senior's household should have an emergency kit. Pets and service animals need plans too.

Get Benefits Electronically

A disaster can disrupt mail service for days or even weeks. Seniors who depend on Social Security or other regular benefits should switch to electronic payments to ensure uninterrupted payments and eliminate the risk of stolen checks.

- Federal benefit recipients can sign up for direct deposit to a checking or savings account by calling **800-333-1795** or by going here: **fiscal.treasury.gov/godirect**.
- Recipients of benefits from New York City can sign up here: **www.connectebt.com/nyebtclient**.

Visit **www.ready.gov/seniors** for more information on how seniors can get prepared for emergencies.

Coastal Storm Q&A

It's hurricane season—here's important information you need to know to keep yourself and your family safe.



☑ How can I find out if I need to evacuate?

Visit **nyc.gov/knowyourzone** or call **311** to see if you live in one of six Hurricane Evacuation Zones (HEZ) in New York City.

☑ Should I evacuate if my building has flood protections or if I live on a high floor?

Yes. Some NYCHA buildings will be equipped with flood mitigation protections, but these are not life-saving and do not prevent storm dangers or damage.

Even if your apartment does not experience flooding, services to your building may be impacted. These include electricity, land lines and cell phone service, internet service, public transportation, paratransit, and elevators.

☑ When and how do I evacuate?

Evacuate as soon as possible, before elevators and public transportation are shut down. If your building has flood protection measures, it will be harder to evacuate once these protections are activated. Do not evacuate by car, if possible – high car volume on roads causes extensive delays during evacuations. If you do drive:

1. Have a full tank of gas and allow plenty of time.
2. Follow evacuation route signs which point to high ground.
3. Be aware that certain roads, bridges, or tunnels may shut down early due to storm hazards.

4. NEVER drive through flooded roads.

☑ Where do I evacuate to?

If at all possible, stay with family or friends outside the evacuation zones. If that is not possible, visit **nyc.gov/knowyourzone** or call **311** to find your closest evacuation center and how to get there.

☑ Can I take my service animal or pet to the City evacuation centers?

Yes. Make sure your pet has proper identification, a carrier, and a leash and muzzle if applicable. A full listing of what should be in your pet's Go Bag can be found at **PlanNowNYC.Cityof-NewYork.US/have-a-go-bag**.

☑ Are evacuation centers accessible? What if I need help evacuating because I am disabled?

Evacuation centers include accessible facilities and accommodations. Visit **nyc.gov/knowyourzone** or call **311** to locate them. If you are not able to evacuate safely from your apartment on your own or with the assistance of neighbors, friends or family, call 311. You will be taken to an accessible evacuation shelter or a hospital outside of the evacuation zone via ambulance depending on your need. You may request this assistance even if you do not regularly receive paratransit services.



Class Acts | Meet the 2017 NYCHA-CUNY Scholars

EACH YEAR, THE NYCHA-CUNY RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, funded by the New York City Council, offers \$1,000 scholarships to NYCHA residents enrolled full-time at the City University of New York (CUNY) to help support their studies. The program includes the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship for residents with disabilities and the Levine Family Scholarship, funded by NYCHA/City College alumnus Jeffrey Levine. New this year is the Kofi Hormeku Scholarship provided by Nehemiah Economic Development, Inc., for NYCHA residents from Brownsville, East New York, or Ocean Hill, Brooklyn who are attending CUNY colleges. Five scholars received this award.

Kofi Hormeku Scholarship



Marianna Cole
Unity Plaza
Brooklyn College,
Accounting

"I am inspired by alumni from my school. I've had the pleasure of meeting with former accounting students who share the same interests and career goals. They explained the steps it takes to become successful and they give me hope that I can have a bright future and become part of a competitive industry."



Vanisha Cosby-Billups
Breukelen Houses
John Jay College
of Criminal
Justice, Forensic

Psychology
"I've had a handful of instructors that were a huge inspiration for me. They did not hesitate to throw a line when I needed advice. They understood me when it seemed like no one else did. They were down to earth and they encouraged me to always shoot for a better version of me."



Sabiha Khawja
Breukelen Houses
John Jay College
of Criminal Justice,
Criminology

"My best memory of living at NYCHA has to be the day we moved in with all of our stuff still in boxes, but I had a space to my own for the first time. I specifically remember all the closet space surprising me. I was eight or nine years old and it was amazing to me."



Yanisleidy Lewis Magan
Van Dyke I
Brooklyn College,
Early Childhood
Education/Children

and Youth Studies
"In 2027, I want to be a principal at an elementary school. I am studying early childhood education and youth studies, and I want to help young children."



Diane Simmons
Brownsville Houses,
Kingsborough
Community
College, Nursing

"When I first moved into NYCHA, I didn't know the community or my neighbors. One day when my son was upset getting off the school bus that had arrived early and I

wasn't there yet, the neighbors all came together. One kid ran to my door to get me while the rest forced the bus to wait and comforted my son. Ever since then, I've made an effort to be part of the community."

Levine Family Scholarship



Jessenia Baez
Borinquen Plaza
City College of
New York,
Political Science

"I want to work for an immigration law firm helping undocumented immigrants get visas and citizenship. And I want to build a community center focused on government and law because, if you want to make a difference in the justice system, you have to get involved, too."



Jannatul Ferdous Brishty
Woodside Houses
City College of
New York, Com-
puter Engineering

"When I came to New York City for the first time in 2013, NYCHA was the first place I came to directly from the airport. This is the place I started a new chapter of my life, and I will always remember it no matter where I go."



Chanthini Butler
Fulton Houses
City College of
New York,
Psychology

"NYCHA is my safety net. I grew up at Fulton Houses with a single mom, but all the ladies took care of me. I don't have just one great memory—the overall sense of camaraderie from all of us living at NYCHA is what I think of most."



Hatumata Gumane
Morris Houses
City College of
New York, English

"Ten years from now I see myself as a high-school English teacher in the City. I also want to create different community programs and events to get people to come together and be there for each other."



Hamad Haider
Castle Hill Houses
City College of
New York,
Chemical Engi-
neering

"My best friend's older brother is my inspiration—he works as a senior engineer at Johnson & Johnson; I'm following in his footsteps."



Bianca Johnson
Wagner Houses
City College of
New York,
Childhood
Education/Litera-

ture and Language

"One of my favorite memories of living at NYCHA is of my little brother joining Green City Force. He used to say, 'I'm not going to college.' He joined GCF and I saw him working and now he applied to college. That program saved him."



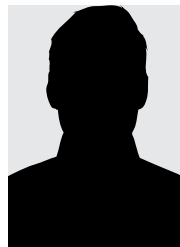
Xiao Mei
Campos Plaza/
City College
of New York,
Biology

"Three months after we moved into NYCHA, my dad had to go to the hospital because of his lungs and couldn't work for several months. I was thankful for NYCHA because we were still able to afford our rent."



**Michelle
Pereyra Reyes**
Adams Houses
City College of
New York,
Psychology

"I'm inspired by the thousands of undocumented children that come to this country to get a better education to make better lives for themselves and their family. I've met many undocumented students at CUNY that face obstacles every day, yet they manage to overcome many of them. There is nothing more inspirational, and the ambition and dedication these students have is truly motivational."



Mahutin Paul
Castle Hill Houses
City College of
New York,
Mechanical
Engineering

"I've never wanted to be anyone else but me, however when the term 'role model' comes up, I think of my older brother. He has lived a harsh life, yet has been able to laugh, smile, and most importantly continue living despite his hardships. That's the kind of person I wish to be."



Belkis Pimentel
Melrose Houses
City College of
New York,
Political Science

"I'm honored to say that the person who inspires me is my grandmother, Luisa. With all of her love, life lessons, and respect, she has helped me become who I am. She taught me to respect others and my surroundings, to be thankful for all my blessings, and to always be humble."

NYCHA-CUNY Scholarship



Yawa Agbakla
Mott Haven
Houses, Lehman
College, Nursing

"Before living at NYCHA, I was facing serious housing issues. I was working two to three jobs with my four kids. When they called me that I had received an apartment, I asked if they had the right person. I didn't believe it. Because of that, I am now only working one job and able to go to school. That is my best NYCHA memory by far."



Geneva Hildago
Taft Houses
City College of
New York,
Psychology



**Mohammad
Zahirul Islam**
Stapleton Houses
The College of
Staten Island,
Psychology

"My inspiration is Dr. Robert Hanning, Professor Emeritus of Columbia University, who taught a college prep course to ready me for college and assisted me in achieving my TASC diploma. He believes in me more than I do in myself at times!"



Clara Peña
Butler Houses
City College of
New York, Biology

"Besides my parents, my cousin Dayla inspires me because of her dedication and determination to complete her career and become a successful independent woman. She is studying medicine and is the first one in the family to pursue a medical career."



**Jesenia
Rodriguez**
Baruch Houses
John Jay College
of Criminal Justice,
Fraud Examination
and Financial Forensics

"Singer Selena Quintanilla-Pérez inspires me. She was defrauded by a friend/co-worker and murdered. I want to contribute to combating fraud because

it could lead to very serious crimes. Selena's music gives me motivation to achieve my goals. She lives on through her music."



**Margarita
Santana**
Tompkins Houses
John Jay College
of Criminal Justice,
Law and Society/
Dispute Resolution

"My brother has always been an inspiration. He had a severe motorcycle accident which broke his arms and legs, a hole in his back, but he didn't let this stop him. He has continued to work hard and is now at school to get his bachelor's so he can be an RN."



Stella Tse
Vladeck Houses
Hunter College,
Adolescent
Mathematics
Education/Busi-

ness Management & Finance
"In 2027, I will be a data analyst in a top business firm. Not only do I see myself pursuing the career of my dreams, but I also see myself starting my own tutoring company as well."

Regina A. Figueroa Scholarship



**Yekaterina
Bourova**
Stanley Isaacs
The College of
Staten Island,
Accounting

"In 2027, I want to be a CPA who owns my own firm. I have volunteered at the 116th Street Food Bank, assisting with people's taxes and I want that to be my career."

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Visit the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) to find out about events and a directory of resources www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence.



A Domestic Violence Survivor Finds Power in Her Voice

IT'S NATIONAL DOMESTIC Violence Awareness Month and one survivor is sharing how she found strength and empowerment through self-defense training and by telling her story to others.

Rutland Towers resident Angie Pitts, a mother of three, experienced domestic violence at the hands of a former partner who verbally harassed her on numerous occasions and eventually physically assaulted her. Afterwards she sought out resources for herself and her children.

While she was at Safe Horizons, a nonprofit agency that provides support to victims of crime and abuse, Ms. Pitts saw a flyer for a

five-week self-defense class at the Center for Anti-Violence Education (CAE), a nonprofit whose onsite and offsite violence prevention programs include education, physical empowerment, and leadership development. She signed up, not knowing CAE would end up becoming a second home.

"Ever since I took the self-defense class, I feel empowered and confident," Ms. Pitts says. "Luckily, I haven't had to use any of the physical techniques I've learned but I've done the verbal techniques and self-defense really taught me to speak up more, to use my voice."

Ms. Pitts not only learned physical moves and practiced

yelling loudly; she also learned about safety. That includes being aware of your surroundings, knowing how to negotiate with your attacker, knowing how to get away from your attacker, and knowing how to get help. CAE's self-defense classes are free for domestic abuse, sexual assault and child abuse survivors, and child care is provided.

After the class ended, Ms. Pitts wanted to do more. She helped found a group at CAE called Survivors Action Network (SAN) which brings together survivors to "raise awareness of gender-based violence and to educate, uplift, and motivate—with prevention being the ultimate goal." Through the group she has shared her story at high schools, health and community fairs, and special events on do-



mestic violence awareness.

She also trained to become an apprentice self-defense instructor, assisting with self-defense classes on-site and at numerous organizations around the City.

Ms. Pitts enjoys this volunteer work because it's a way for her to give back. Her advice to survivors is to speak out about their experiences and that those who are experiencing domestic violence should seek out resources: "There are so many resources out there, look for them. It's not going to be easy but you are not in this alone."

Preventing Stalking

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) formulates policies and programs, coordinates the citywide delivery of domestic violence services and works with diverse communities and community leaders to increase awareness of domestic violence. One such program is the NYC Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS) program.

While many people think of "stalking" in the context of a stranger or a celebrity, most stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. Nationally, 61 percent of female victims and 44 percent of male victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.¹ In conjunction with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and local District Attorney's offices, OCDV developed the CAPS model to identify intimate partner stalking cases and provide appropriate criminal justice and social services interventions before stalking behavior escalates.

For more information about the CAPS program, please visit the OCDV website at www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence or call 212-788-3156.

1. MATTHEW J. BREIDING ET AL., "PREVALENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, STALKING, AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION - NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY, UNITED STATES, 2011," CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT, VOL. 63, NO. 8 (2014)

Family Justice Centers: Supporting the Needs of Domestic Violence Survivors

NYC Family Justice Centers (FJC) are free and confidential walk-in centers for survivors of intimate partner violence, elder abuse and sex trafficking, and their children.

Bronx

198 East 161st Street
718-508-1220

Brooklyn

350 Jay Street
718-250-5111

Manhattan

80 Centre Street
212-602-2800

Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue
718-575-4545

Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place
718-697-4300

For more info about the FJCs, please call 311 or 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)

REES Recognized As Community Ambassador

CONGRATULATIONS TO NYCHA'S Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) office, which recently received the Community Ambassador Award from Year Up, an educational and training program for young adults and one of REES' program partners.

Year Up provides 18- to 24-year olds with a combination of hands-on skills development, coursework eligible for college credit, corporate internships, and wraparound support. Participants receive six months of professional training in IT,

finance, or customer service, followed by a six-month internship at a top corporation, and can earn up to 24 college credits while receiving a weekly stipend and support from mentors.

Lisa Jaradat, Zone Coordinator for Zone 10/Lower East Side, who manages this partnership, accepted the award on behalf of REES. Ms. Jaradat, along with other REES staff members, connects NYCHA residents to job training, adult education, financial empowerment, and business development services close to home. She thinks Year Up is a phenomenal program because

85 percent of participants are placed in jobs and 25 percent of the class is NYCHA residents.

To Year Up, Ms. Jaradat says, "NYCHA REES and I deeply believe in Year Up's mission. I highly appreciate you and your team's dedication to connecting NYC young adults, specifically young NYCHA residents, to Year Up's phenomenal program. It's a great opportunity and we look forward to our continuing partnership to positively impact the lives of young adults to reach their potential."

The award was presented at Year Up's 21st graduation



On behalf of REES, Lisa Jaradat accepted the Community Ambassador Award from Ryan Overton, Year Up's Director of Recruitment.

ceremony at Borough of Manhattan Community College on August 1, which included NYCHA residents.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) A VIEW OF THE FUTURE

manages Bronxchester. Betances is scheduled for renovation through the PACT program, and the tour provided residents with a sense of what is possible for renovations at their development. They were wowed by many of the features, including the laundry room, security guard presence in the lobby, and the new back yard and community space.

PACT is Permanent Affordability Commitment Together, the Authority's program to protect residents and improve their quality of life by identifying new resources and partnerships to renovate developments in need of major repairs while rent remains capped at 30 percent and residents retain their public housing rights. Under PACT, NYCHA keeps ownership of the land and enters into a long-term lease with developers who make

extensive repairs and manage the development.

Robert says he was "a skeptic at first, but I'm more impressed after being on the tour." He had attended community meetings about possible renovations. "I hope these changes happen, not just for my mom and myself, but for everyone. We need everything done – repairs to the apartment, more safety. I hope this benefits everyone."

Betances resident Ms. Perkins, who has lived there for 21 years, said it was good to be on the tour because now she can envision the changes. "It's helpful. Maybe this will have a positive impact, hopefully bring a different feel and allow people to really envision their lives in NYCHA. Our buildings need a lot of repairs and this effort with RAD and NYCHA trying to find money to fix the buildings



Betances residents tour newly renovated kitchen in an apartment at Bronxchester Houses.

is a good start."

During the question and answer part of the tour, the group wanted to know how soon renovations could get started at their development. The next stage includes resident meetings, organized by NYCHA's Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) office and its zone partners, to discuss con-

struction and management jobs and job training. Later this year, the developer will be introduced to residents and will take over as the lead on resident engagement on the project. Renovations at Betances will begin in 2018 or 2019.

If you would like to find out more about PACT, please contact 212-306-8433 or e-mail pact@nycha.nyc.gov.



“We Need to Fight Climate Change”

NYCHA Resident & Sandy Recovery Employee Joins Mayor at Green Press Conference

ON SEPTEMBER 14, Red Hook Houses resident Robert White introduced Mayor Bill de Blasio at a special announcement of the first-ever citywide order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. White is a member of NYCHA's Sandy Recovery and Resilience Community Outreach Team, and experienced the effects of Superstorm Sandy at his development. The Mayor's plan will require owners of buildings larger than 25,000 square feet—which account for 24 percent of the city's total greenhouse emissions—to reduce their fossil fuel emissions through upgrades to boilers, water heaters, roofs, and windows by 2030. Read more about the plan here: <http://on.nyc.gov/2xKUV81>.

The 2016 Annual Water Supply and Quality Report is now available for viewing at: www.nyc.gov/dep/2016waterquality

This website contains important information about your drinking water.

這個網站包含了關於您的飲用水的重要資訊。

Ce site contient d'importantes informations sur l'eau que vous buvez tous les jours.

Sitwèb sa a gen enfòmasyon enpòtan sou dlo pou bwè.

Il sito contiene informazioni importanti sull'acqua che bevete ogni giorno.

이 웹 사이트에는 음용수에 대한 중요한 정보가 나와 있습니다.

Na tej stronie zawarte są ważne informacje dotyczące wody, którą pijesz.

На этом веб-сайте содержится важная информация о питьевой воде.

Este sitio web contiene información importante sobre su agua potable.

এই প্রতিবেদনে আপনার পানীয় জল সম্পর্কে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য রয়েছে



www.nyc.gov/dep/2016waterquality



From left to right in the photo above: City Council Member Carlos Menchaca, Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Red Hook West RA President Lillie Marshall, Red Hook East RA President Frances Brown, and Assembly Member Felix Ortiz.

Breaking Ground on New Roofs

NYCHA Begins Sandy Recovery Work at Red Hook Houses

ON THE DAY after Labor Day, NYCHA “broke ground” on a \$63 million project to replace all 28 roofs at Red Hook Houses (East and West), which will benefit more than 6,000 residents.

It's the first phase of a nearly \$550 million investment in the development as part of NYCHA's Sandy recovery and resiliency program. The work is expected to be completed by mid-2021.

FREE 15-week training program for women **First Step Program**

Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and Publisher
Resume Writing • Interviewing Skills • Case Management Support
2 Month Administrative Internship • Job Placement Assistance

GED not required • HRA approved!

Continental Breakfast & Metrocards Provided

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



Tech 51 Program Brings IT Training to Residents

Move over Silicon Valley, here comes NYCHA!

ON AUGUST 15, New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito announced a pilot program that will train NYCHA residents in IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, and software development. The Speaker has allocated \$90,000 to NYCHA to hire an outreach specialist to help identify NYCHA residents who will receive extensive IT training and then be placed in the tech workforce.

NYCHA's tech partners, Coalition 4 Queens and Per Scholas, have committed to enrolling 35 residents each into their trainings next year. Eleven employer part-

ners have pledged to consider candidates from the training in lieu of a college degree.

"Investment in the economic empowerment of New Yorkers yields far more than just a job; it will have a collective impact within the communities that they live and work," said Speaker Mark-Viverito at the program launch breakfast event. "This pilot program will help connect NYCHA residents with access to the cities' most innovative tech companies to help them break into the tech sector."

Tech 51 will also work closely with NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and



NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye (second from left) with City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (fourth from left) and NYCHA Residents participating in the Tech 51 pilot.

Sustainability (REES) to assist with workforce development opportunities and support residents who are interested in tech careers, but have previously been unable to access critical training and placement support.

NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye said, "When we launched our NextGen NYCHA strategic plan, one of our goals was to

connect residents to economic opportunities and that includes the growing tech field. Now, with Speaker Mark-Viverito's partnership, the NYCHA community has increased access to training and support for careers in tech, including IT infrastructure, cybersecurity and software development. We're investing in job training and in the future of New Yorkers."

A New NYCHA-CUNY Scholarship for Brooklyn Residents Attention Brownsville, East New York, and Ocean Hill Residents!

A REVERED BROOKLYN ORGANIZATION has stepped up its community commitment by establishing a scholarship to help NYCHA residents achieve their goals of college education.

Nehemiah Economic Development, Inc. (NED) will provide \$50,000 over 10 years towards the Kofi Hormeku Scholarship, which will annually award \$1,000 to five NYCHA residents living in Brownsville, East New York, or Ocean Hill who attend a City University of New York college. The scholarship falls under the umbrella of the NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship program.

"It is an honor and an obliga-

tion to provide this scholarship," NED Executive Director Mawuli K. Hormeku said. "We live in an area with a high concentration of NYCHA developments so we created this scholarship for the benefit of the surrounding community. These are our neighbors and we have to be accountable for what happens in our neighborhood, we have to make sure everyone in our community has the same opportunities."

NED is a non-profit dedicated to uplifting the Brownsville and East New York community through education, economic opportunities, and the redevelopment of abandoned properties in the area. It was founded

by Kofi Hormeku, a former international banker, in 1994. The elder Hormeku immigrated to Brooklyn from Ghana and was one of the first homeowners of a Nehemiah house, affordable homes built in the 1980s in the Brownsville area through a partnership between the City of New York, local churches, and community organizers.

Mawuli Hormeku says that naming the scholarship after his father is a way to "give him his roses before he's gone. My father is a humble man who's spent his whole life giving back to the community. He always wanted to make sure the community had the same opportunities as his children: we had a



Kofi Hormeku (left) and his son Mawuli K. Hormeku.

backyard, so he built Nehemiah Park, we went to college, and so he wants to see everyone else do the same."

NED also funds a merit scholarship to high school seniors from the community who are attending four-year colleges. Visit www.nehemiahed.org/scholarships for more information.

Improving Access to Food Programs for Low-Income Seniors

MAYOR BILL de Blasio recently signed a new local law that will help seniors ages 60 and above learn more about and enroll in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps people with low-incomes buy food.

“With some of the highest rates of food insecure seniors nationally, increasing coordination between the Department of Social Services and the Department for the Aging to increase awareness of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is a vital



initiative to be taking on,” said Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. “I thank my colleagues on the

City Council for their work in developing these items, and I thank Mayor de Blasio for signing them into law today.”

The Department of Social Services will work with the Department for the Aging on a public campaign that informs seniors and their caregivers about the benefits of SNAP, as well provide SNAP programming to allow seniors to enroll in the program and recertify at all of New York City’s senior centers.

Mayor de Blasio signed the bill into law on August 8, 2017. The bill was sponsored by City Council

Member Karen Koslowitz.

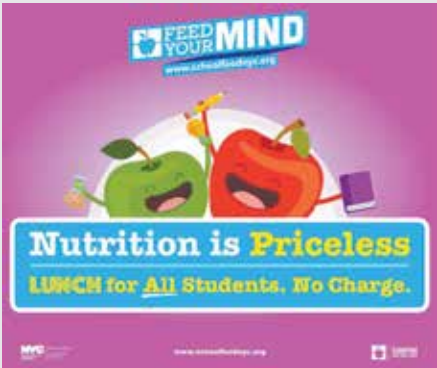
“Currently couples with a pre-tax monthly income of \$1,736 receive a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit of \$357,” Council Member Koslowitz said. “It is readily apparent how critical this benefit is. Yet, we have too many needy seniors who are not availing themselves of this SNAP benefit. I believe this bill is an important step in expanding the nutritional safety net for seniors in our city.”

Sign up for SNAP here: www.ny.gov/services/apply-snap.

Free Lunch for All NYC Public School Students

“WE KNOW THAT students cannot learn or thrive in school if they are hungry all day,” said Mayor Bill de Blasio. “Free school lunch will not only ensure that every kid in New York City has the fuel they need to succeed but also further our goal of providing an excellent and equitable education for all students.”

Last school year, 75 percent of students were eligible for free lunch and now, 100 percent of families are eligible to receive free lunch. This means over 200,000 more students



will have access to a free, healthy meal at school. Breakfast is already provided free of charge to all students.

Visit: schoolfoodnyc.org/freelunch for more information.



FAMILY FUN DAY INCLUDES BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

International Tower residents held their annual Family Day on July 21, 2017. The event was highlighted by the birthday celebration of one of the development’s eldest residents, Elisa Merle, 92. There was plenty of great food, music, and games for everyone. Pictured with Ms. Merle are Resident Engagement’s Nadia Donaldson and Deborah Scott, PSA 9 Detectives Darryl Johnson and Latoya McLeod, NYC Mayor’s Office representative Nicole Johnson, and Resident Association Leader Addie Williams.



New CCC Features

Getting help is easier than ever!

CALL the Customer Contact Center (CCC) at **718-707-7771**, push a few buttons, and automatically get help for a whole list of problems: toilet stoppages, plumbing leaks, malfunctioning refrigerators, pest infestations, broken lights, broken locks, electrical issues, and heat and hot water issues.

Fall into This Delicious Recipe

HERE'S A DELICIOUS TREAT

and comforting recipe for the fall season from The Sylvia Center, a non-profit that teaches young people and families about cooking, healthy eating habits, and nutrition. The Sylvia Center works with NYCHA partner Green City Force on The Food Educator Program, which trains GCF Corps Members on kitchen etiquette and culinary technique and the skills necessary to lead a successful food demonstration. Residents, pick up a couple of zucchinis from one of NYCHA's farms or your local farmers market, and try this recipe with your family. Kids will love it!

www.sylviacenter.org.

Zucchini Muffins

Serves 12

Ingredients:

½ cup sugar
½ cup brown sugar
3 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil (you can substitute applesauce for ½ the oil)
3 teaspoons vanilla extract
1.5 cups all-purpose flour
1.5 cups whole wheat flour
1 tsp nutmeg

Directions:

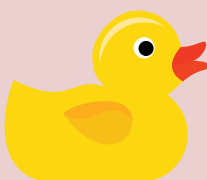
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Insert cupcake papers into muffin pan.
2. Mix flour, salt, baking powder, soda, nutmeg and cinnamon together in a bowl. Set aside.
3. In a separate bowl, beat eggs, oil, vanilla, and sugar together.
4. Add dry ingredients to the egg mixture and stir until combined.
5. Grate zucchini. Fold into batter and divide among muffin tins.
6. Bake for 35-40 minutes, turning the pan midway through baking.
7. Cool in pan on rack for 20 minutes. Remove bread from pan, and completely cool. Enjoy!



1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups grated zucchini

New Resources for Parents

Check out some of the resources available for new and expecting parents in NYC!



THINKING ABOUT BREASTFEEDING?

Mobile Milk is a text messaging service that provides free breastfeeding support and information starting in your third trimester until your baby is 4 months old. Join any time by texting "MILK" to 877877.

Learn more about the **Employee Lactation Program**. Employers are required by law to provide a private, non-bathroom location and reasonable time for employees to express or pump breast milk for their babies when they return to work.

You have a right to breastfeed anytime, anywhere. Visit

nyc.gov/health and search "breastfeeding" to find a community lactation room near you.

If you need a crib for your baby but can't afford one, call **311** to see if you may be eligible for a free crib through one of the City's **Safe Sleep** programs.

Child Care Connect can help you find child care outside your home. You can also call 311 for assistance.

If you're worried about your baby's development (for instance, if they are not smiling or making eye contact after three months) tell your doctor and learn more about the **Early Intervention Program**.



“Whatever ails you, we help you down here.”

A Henry Street Settlement Instructor Gives Lives Meaning One Stitch at a Time

ON THIS WEDNESDAY afternoon, Ruth Taube holds court with a group of five women working at ancient sewing machines in the basement of Vladeck Houses. Colorful fabrics work against the backdrop of mundane white. This is where Taube, now in her 90s, has been coming every week for nearly 50 years. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Taube teaches women who live in nearby NYCHA developments to knit, sew, and embroider as an instructor for the nonprofit social services agency, Henry Street Settlement.

Even as technology and machinery has advanced to make many of her teachings obsolete, and funding for her programming has gradually diminished, Taube still finds great meaning and purpose in her work.



“It makes me very happy, because I can reach all these people. Most of the women here are seniors citizens who find sitting at home and watching TV is not enough for them,” Taube said. “Crocheting and knitting is my hobby and livelihood.”

For Taube, every day brings a new surprise. It is what keeps her old job young. On this particular afternoon, Patricia Brown, a Jacob Riis House resident battling cancer whom Taube has not seen in 10 years, walked in to visit.

“I was working, my client that I took care of for private care died, and I had my busi-



Ruth Taube poses with NYCHA students Patricia Brown and Cesera Quadrado. Brown, who has been fighting cancer, came to Taube’s class for the first time in over 10 years.

ness, then I was diagnosed with cancer. I’m taking it one day at a time,” Brown said on her absence. “But it is great to see Ruth. She is still here, she is still sewing. You always learn new things with Ruth, and she enjoys what she do. She’s a very compassionate person.”

Taube’s students aren’t the only ones that have praised her commitment to NYCHA and Henry Street. In 2009, Taube was profiled in a full page feature for *The*

New York Times. She has been honored by the Fashion Institute of Technology and the NYCHA Tenants Association, and appeared on the Cooking Channel’s *My Grandmother’s Ravioli*.

When Taube was named NY1’s New Yorker of The Week in 2015, her story generated the most twitter activity in the NY1 history. “Internet me,” the 93-year-old said as this writer was leaving. Take her advice, you’ll be glad you did.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) PICTURES WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

to them,” says Groundswell Executive Director Robyne Walker Murphy. Thought-provoking, vivid, and beautiful, these murals make clear what’s on their minds and in their hearts, and viewers can’t help but listen.

Groundswell mural dedications were held this summer at Castle Hill Houses, Polo Grounds Towers, and Tompkins Houses.



A Deep and Meaningful Partnership

A conversation with David Garza, Executive Director of Henry Street Settlement

Q: In what ways does Henry Street work with NYCHA?

A: We have been inextricably linked with NYCHA since the developments were built in the 1930s and 40s. Our organization is 125 years old, so we were here literally from day one. Half of our organization is physically operated out of NYCHA developments. Our partnership is deep, authentic, and meaningful.

Q: How did Henry Street begin to operate in NYCHA buildings?

A: The settlement house model of service is based on delivering services where people need them. In each NYCHA location we deliver a very target-

ed, comprehensive service, and operating out of NYCHA helps extend that place-based quality in a critically important way.

Q: How has your partnership with NYCHA changed over the years?

A: Our relationship with NYCHA now extends past the brick and mortar. The fact that I'm on a first name basis with the NYCHA employees I work with speaks to the quality of the relationship. In regular day-to-day operations, in special collaborations and targeted efforts, and in exceptional circumstances, our relationship with NYCHA functions well at all levels. We carry out very similar missions and services because we serve the same people.

Q: Moving forward, what can people do to make sure NYCHA residents are better served?

A: Like NYCHA is doing in the community to roll out NextGen, I think what communities can do is really to continue focus on engagement of residents and people that live in the community and care about the community to create appropriate for that conversation and for issues to be identified. We have a deep commitment to community engagement at Henry Street.

Q: Who works at Henry Street?

A: People who work in the nonprofit sector and people that work are Henry Street are not

HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT



here for the money. They are here because of a deep commitment to helping their neighbors, helping their communities, and helping individuals lead better lives. Nobody is more effective in delivering human services than the people that actually live in the neighborhood you serve.

Planning Their Own Playground

WHO KNOWS BEST what should be in a playground? Kids, of course! On August 29, 12 children at Pomonok Houses sat down with the folks from KaBOOM! NYCHA's partners in play, to draw their perfect playgrounds. Elements of those drawings will become real pieces of the new playground to be constructed at Pomonok Houses on Saturday, November 4. Funders JetBlue and Playword are enabling NYCHA, the Fund for Public

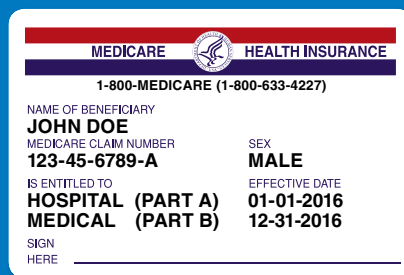


Housing and our NextGen NYCHA Plays partner KaBOOM! to create the first of what they hope will be many child-designed playgrounds at NYCHA developments.

KABOOM!



Young designers show their plans for swing sets, slides and more.



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